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No. 1018

WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2000

25p

INSIDE



Time travellers

The students who stepped back 4,000 yrs

TODAY

PLUS: We go behind the scenes at UCS to see how it all works

WIN



Knightrider, The A-Team & Incredible Hulk on video

WIN



A share of our mountain of Kevin & Perry goodies

WIN



A life-size cut out of famous virtual sexy stunner Lara

SARA MURDER WITNESS PLEA



DETECTIVES investigating the murder of a student this week turned to the university for help to find her killer.

Sara Cameron, 23, was attacked after getting the Metro home from a night out on the Quayside.

Her naked body was found in a field early on Good Friday morning, yards from the flat she shared.

Sara - in her second year of a sports science degree at Northumbria - was a member of Newcastle University Canoe Club, and had been due to start a dream job at the Sydney Olympics.

Det Supt Steve Bolam, who is leading the inquiry, has appealed for any students with information on the attack or who shared Sara's interests to come forward.

FULL STORY: PAGE 5

The voice of Newcastle students since 1948

The
Courier

Union Society
King's Walk
Newcastle
NE1 8QB
tel: 0191 232 4050
fax: 0191 239 3991

Editor:

Alan J. Soady

Deputy Editor:

Ross Smith

Associate Editor:

Liz Todd

News Editor:

Duncan Woodside

Sports Editor:

Chris Hurst

Music Editor:

Mike Seaton

Arts Editor:

Dan Gregson

Letters Editor:

Lisa Nandy

Pictures Editor:

Jacqui Butler

Chief Reporter:

Rosalind Malthouse

Staff Reporters:

Paul Crosthwaite
Laura Thackray
Catherine Bruce
Ann Clifford
Olivia Richwald
James Taylor
Janey Branscombe
Matthew Cox
Jo Johnston

Chief Sports Writer:

Michael Walsh

Photographers:

Kit Wolf
Rachel Godschalk

Senior Arts Critic:

Wyl Menmuir

Advertising

Manager:

Jonathan Munro



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.

Got a story?
E-mail us on:
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ncl.ac.uk
or call us:
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Lad in knifepoint mugging trauma

By ALAN J. SOADY

VICIOUS thugs held a student at knifepoint as he walked home from the Robinson Library.

A gang of three youths wearing hooded tops blocked the victim before robbing him of his wallet, watch and a signet ring worth £700.

They also tried to make off with the final year student's bag which contained vital lecture notes and his lap-top computer.

Lonely

It happened as the victim - who asked not to be named - was walking along a lonely pathway next to Jesmond Parish Church, near Jesmond Metro station, at around 9.30pm last Wednesday.

He told The Courier: "Two guys came in front of me and stopped me from going any further.

"They said they were both carrying knives and told me they would use them unless I did exactly as they said.

"There was another bloke a bit

further down the path behind me, so between the three of them they'd blocked me in.

"The whole thing took what seemed like quite a long time because I had to search through my bag to find my wallet.

"I had my laptop and all my work in my bag. They were sort of grabbing the bag and the cable nearly fell out, but luckily I don't think they noticed it was there.

Threatened

"After they'd taken my wallet I really didn't know what was going to happen - they'd threatened repeatedly to knife me and kept going for my neck. They might have been trying to see if I had a neck chain.

"Eventually the two of them standing in front of me moved apart. I saw the gap and just pegged it home then called the police."

Escaped

The muggers escaped with £20 in cash from the victim's wallet as well as the solid gold signet ring - which had been a birthday present - and his watch worth around £90.



SCENE OF ATTACK... The lonely path near the library where the muggers struck

The victim added: "I haven't walked back along that path on my own yet, but there aren't many options to get from the library to Jesmond."

Union Welfare Officer Sarah Wilson has warned students to be on their guard when walking alone. She said: "People mustn't get

lulled into a false sense of security. If you can possibly avoid walking alone at night then do it.

"It's worth bearing in mind that the safety bus runs from the Robinson Library at 9pm and 10pm Mondays-Fridays during term time and will take students directly to their front door."

Landlord fined HOUSES RISKED STUDENT LIVES

By ANN CLIFFORD

A FENHAM landlord has been fined £6,000 after being found guilty of breaching health and safety regulations and risking the lives of his tenants.

Malaia Singh Lally, of Moorside North, was also ordered to pay £600 costs after his trial at Newcastle Crown Court during the Easter break.

But it will only take him FOUR WEEKS to pay off his fine with the money he rakes in from students' rent.

Raking

Lally, 80, was raking in £85,000 a year from his 80 properties in the West End of the city.

The Court heard he had failed to carry out annual safety checks on gas appliances in some of the properties he controlled, leaving tenants at risk from fatal carbon monoxide poisoning.

One gas fire had been reconnected three times despite the flue being faulty.

In his defence, Lally claimed that his tenants had not looked after properties as well as he insisted.

He was also discovered to have fraudulently claimed housing benefit on one of his empty flats.

Refused

The Accommodation Office has refused to include any of Lally's properties on their accredited list.

Accommodation Officer Grant Jackson said: "The Accommodation Office and the accreditation scheme are there for the benefit of students.

"If they have any concerns or queries about signing a contract in the private sector they should come to the Office for advice."

Mr Lally is now planning to wind up his property management business after 40 years as a landlord.

SOULT UPBEAT AFTER COUNCIL POLL DEFEAT

By ROSS SMITH

WANNABE PM Graham Sout missed out again on a Council seat in last week's local elections.

But the Architecture post grad was in an upbeat mood after increasing the Liberal Democrat vote in the student heavy Moorside ward.

And he also heralded the success of his party's student manifesto, which aimed to pull votes by highlighting issues important to undergraduates.

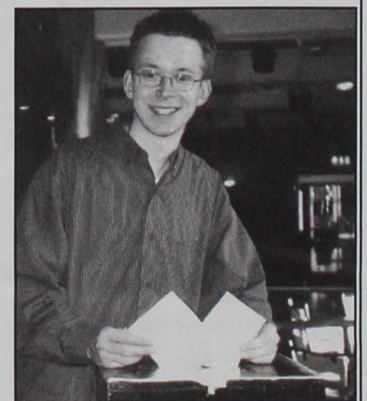
"The student manifesto went down extremely well and was very positively received," said Sout.

"The students we spoke to were pleased we were doing something addressing important issues and trying to involve and inform students."

And despite losing out in his ward, which includes Castle

Leazes and Ricky Road, he claimed the student vote could have swung it for the Lib Dems in Jesmond.

But some students remained uninterested in Thursday's polls. Second year Iain Parry said: "Council elections make no difference to me so I didn't bother voting."



ALL SMILES...Sout pleased with polls

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THANKS FOR THE MAMMAMARIES!

Simon's porn project is luvly jubblics



PORN TO BE FILED...It's a sticky business for management student Simon as he presses the flesh to make sure his dissertation about porn doesn't go fits up

By LIZ TODD
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CHEEKY third year Simon Francis is working his fingers to the bone... because his dissertation is on PORN.

While most final year students have their heads stuck in crusty books, eager beaver Simon has special permission to view hardcore porn on Uni computers.

Romping

And the business management student is also looking at images

of nude women romping in pervy magazines.

Simon, 22, hit upon the idea after his lecturer said he could write about anything he chose.

And the dedicated researcher got a big thumbs up from his lecturer Dr Norman Jackson.

Naked

Drained Simon told The Courier: "I thought I'd do something that would motivate me to study, something to grab my attention. What better than pictures of naked ladies?"

Simon has to write over 10,000 words for the double credit module

linking his topic to business.

"It's about obscene material throughout history, from the Romans - who were pretty dirty - to the present day.

Huge

"I'm looking at how it's changed, about what we think of pornography as the huge business it is today.

"I'm looking at the feminist argument too, that porn is degrading and encourages violence to women. No one's proven it's harmful - it's not real life.

"My argument is that I'm basically saying you should be free

to decide, so I'm sitting on the fence really."

But Simon has had a few funny looks as he slaves away in the library. And some sites won't let users exit... instead they link to MORE porn.

He said: "I've been on the internet looking for material and I've had girls coming up to me who I don't even know saying, 'That's disgusting'."

"I don't say anything to them - it's none of their business. I know it's for academic use."

Behind the scenes at UCS

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Net porn teacher's court rap

By CATHERINE BRUCE

AN UNEMPLOYED teacher has been caught using Newcastle Uni computers to access porn.

Ex-student John Ellis used computers that students had forgotten to log off from in order to look at the pervy websites.

Ellis had already been banned from using library equipment but told magistrates that he believed being a member of the ex-student association entitled him to use Uni computers.

The 39 year old was found guilty on three counts of gaining unauthorised access to the computers.

He was caught viewing porn by security. Over 1,500 porn addresses were found in his bag. Ellis was fined £150.

Uni bosses claim to have tightened up security in the light of his actions.

Spokesman Chris Harris said: "This is the first time the university has prosecuted a student or former student for this sort of activity.

"Since Mr Ellis was caught we have introduced a robust system with a smart card which stops this from happening.

"We don't have a problem whereby people gain access to pornographic sites, but if a site gets a lot of accesses then a web master will go into that particular site and look into the matter."

**Jolly good Roger
sticks up for our
big gym call
>>>Back Page>>>**

Courier

UNION boss Shelley Ogle was in good spirits over the weekend, as she spent a cosy afternoon in the sun with colleague Kate Vicary.

Friendly local kids approached the pair in Heaton Park and splashed a few drops of their orange squash onto them.

"All children should be cuffed like seagulls," ranted Shelley as she called the police.

She explained later: "They were waving their shoes at us in a very menacing way."

Quip

Mark's telly fib rattles Cilla

By PAUL CROSTHWAITE

A UNI soccer star's appearance on Blind Date ended in controversy after he refused to admit that he has a girlfriend.

As reported by The Courier in March, football captain Mark Batty took part in the show despite his long-standing relationship with second year Claire Patterson.

During Saturday night's broadcast Mark and his date Hannah were questioned by host

Cilla Black about their skiing trip in Sheffield.

Cilla asked Mark whether the "rumour" that he is attached was true. As the audience whistled and booed Mark sheepishly replied "No."

When pressed he said: "I've got a lot of close girlfriends, but no-one that affected anything on the date."

Cilla was clearly unconvinced by Mark's denial, telling him to "invite me to the wedding to this other bird!"

Hannah admitted that she had heard about Mark's relationship,

but the pair still claimed the date was a success.

Mark said that despite her glasses, his first impression was that Hannah was "quite tasty."

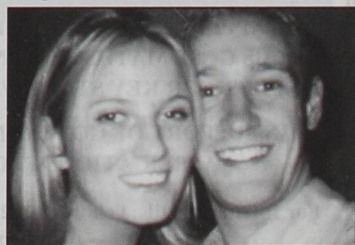
And he admitted there was some "friendly flirting" on the date and that the pair "kissed on the lips when we said good night."

"If Hannah had made a move I wouldn't have said no," he added.

But Hannah said: "It was just a goodnight kiss. There was no romance behind it. It was a 'see you in the morning' type of kiss."

The pair plan to keep in touch,

but Mark's girlfriend Claire shouldn't have too much cause for concern. Hannah said: "I'm going to go for someone who's definitely single next time."



DOUBLE TROUBLE... Mark and his lass

Courier Comment

Safety check

THIS week The Courier reports how landlord Malaia Singh Lally has finally been brought to justice.

The crimes Lally has been convicted of put students in danger.

But The Courier suspects many tenants in the properties of other landlords are risking their lives because of rogues who cut corners on safety.

We all need to be aware of our housing rights and make sure the proper safety measures are implemented.

And that means insisting on vital checks on gas appliances, wiring, and so on.

The usual student way is to sweep it all under the beer stained carpet and hope for the best.

But where lives are concerned that isn't good enough.

If you suspect something's not right, hassle your landlord constantly until they check it out AND prove that it's safe.

To find out what your rights are, get yourself to the Student Advice Centre in the Union.

Porn again

TOP marks to Simon Francis for squeezing a porn dissertation into business management.

Doubtless there'll be a spurt of copy cat project outlines from people in other departments... like English Tit or Muffematics!

PART TIME BOFFINS BLAST UNI BIGWIGS Campus demo over contracts row

By DAN GREGSON

PART-TIME lecturers have hit out at the uni for treating them like second rate workers.

Members of lecturers' union AUT staged a demo across campus last Wednesday to protest against the conditions for hourly paid staff.

Even boffins who have worked in uni departments for years receive no sick pay at all and have no guarantee of work under the terms of their contracts.

Service

Jean Crocker of the AUT blasted: "Even after 20 years of service we get no recognition and no chance of promotion."

"We just want to be treated like everybody else."

Some post-grads are also feeling the sharp end of cost cutting tactics which mean they can get paid well below the going rate.

And in some cases contracts don't even cover the whole course time.

English post grad Maria Maza said: "They're loading lots of work onto us to keep it cheap."



CAMPUS CRUSADE... Lecturers and post grads fighting Uni for equal treatment

"Any scrap of work and they get post-grads to do it. They know we need the money and so we have to take the work."

Scores of students came out in support of the teaching staff as they collected signatures for a petition

stating their case.

A University spokesman said: "The University is aware that there are issues of real concern to hourly paid teaching staff and it is addressing problems in discussion with these staff in a positive spirit."

Sex fiend caged for attacking student

By OLIVIA RICHWALD

A SEX beast was convicted last week of subjecting a Newcastle student to a terrifying ordeal.

The student was on her way home after a night out in the city centre when Leigh Tarry, 18, followed her off the bus.

Punched

Tarry sexually molested the victim, then after a struggle, punched her in the face.

Passers-by ran to her assistance, scaring the attacker off.

One of them later recognised and identified Tarry who was arrested soon after.

Nightmares

The student told how she has suffered constant nightmares and panic attacks since the assault took place.

Tarry was given three years probation after the judge decided it was the only way to stop him committing a similar sex attack in the future.

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LOCUSTS have been made to watch Star Wars films at the Uni in an attempt to discover how their brains work.

Neurobiology boffin Dr Claire Rind, pictured, wanted to know why the insects are so good at avoiding approaching objects.

She showed them the films whilst monitoring activity in their brains. Star Wars was chosen because it has good shots of objects heading towards the viewer.

WIN FREE BEER FOR A YEAR WITH loaded

Followers of Loaded magazine will already know that May is a very special time for celebrities and readers alike. Why? Because that's when the annual loaded Carling Good Work Fella awards take place. This is the time when lad culture decides who it favours in the fields of music, sport, TV, cinema and life in general. Oh, and they all have a great big piss-up together in London. And to help you celebrate up here, The Courier has been offered a year's supply of Carling lager to give away to a lucky reader. Yes. You read that right - A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF LAGER! FREE! FOR YOU!

You'll probably have to fight us in the office to get it away but worth a try anyway, huh? To win this unbelievable prize what you need to do is tell us, on a postcard, who the cover star of May's loaded is. Simple or what? Now you're gonna have to be quick for this one, so answers to the office by Friday 12th please.

*Free Beer for a year will consist of 365 cans of Carling (500ml cans) to be delivered over a 6 month period in the UK. Claimants must be aged 18 or over. This prize cannot be exchanged for a cash alternative. This offer is not open to employees of Bass Brewers, Skiland & Co, Loaded and their families. Only one entry per person.

Murder of our friend Sara makes no sense



ALWAYS CHEERFUL... Friends have paid tribute to tragic Sara who was killed as she walked home from a night out on the Quayside after getting off the Metro

By ALAN J. SOADY

GRIEVING friends of murdered student Sara Cameron have spoken this week of their shock at her death.

Finnish-born Sara, 23, was killed as she walked home after a night out with pals at the Quayside.

She headed home alone shortly after pub closing time the night before Good Friday and got on a Metro at Monument station.

Walk

Blonde-haired Sara got off the train at Shiremoor, near Whitley Bay, just before midnight and began the half-mile walk to the house she shared in Earsdon Village, North Tyneside.

She was attacked as she walked alongside a field just yards from her front door. She was discovered naked under a hedge by two people out walking a dog the following morning.

A post mortem examination confirmed she died of asphyxiation.

Dream

It happened just days before Sara - who was studying Sports Science at Northumbria - was due to jet off to Australia for a dream job at the Sydney Olympics.

She was also a member of Newcastle University's Canoe Club and had a close-knit group of pals at the uni.

Club committee member Ben Ricketts, a 2nd year Marine Biologist at Newcastle and qualified canoeing instructor, became friends with Sara while teaching her water skills every week.

Shellshocked

He told The Courier: "Everyone is absolutely devastated. We were just shellshocked when we heard the news."

"She was absolutely lovely, tremendously enthusiastic, always smiling, always cheerful -

one of those people it's always good to have there.

"Her number is still in my mobile. I scroll past it most times I use my phone, but I just haven't got the heart to delete it."

Members of the club last week sent a letter of sympathy to her parents, joining scores of friends to pay tribute to their only daughter. Flowers lined the entrance to Garden Terrace, Earsdon, where she lived.

Attacked

Ben continued: "Sara is the third person I know to have been seriously attacked in the last 18 months or so."

"One of my friends in Newcastle was raped in just about every way possible."

"The irony is that I had told Sara about what had happened to that friend and we'd spoken about how careful you have to be."

"It sounds strange to say it, but if someone is killed in a car crash you can come to understand it, but this just makes no sense."

Police investigating the murder this week appealed to students for help in their hunt for the killer.

Detective Superintendent Steve Bolam, who is leading the inquiry, told The Courier: "We've been in touch with staff at the University of Northumbria since the outset and we've written to students who shared Sara's interests at university."

Lifestyle

"We're asking them to contact the incident room if they have any information which can help us complete the picture we're building up about Sara's lifestyle or the events leading up to her murder."

In particular the 35-strong murder squad are keen to hear from anyone who was on board the same Metro which Sara took to Shiremoor the night of her death.

The train left Monument at 11.35pm and headed towards the coast, via the popular student areas of Jesmond, West Jesmond and

Ilford Road.

Police revealed their prime suspect is a young man in his late teens or 20s who was seen following Sara alongside the A186 Earsdon Road, next to the fields in which she was choked to death.

He is described as white, of medium height, and was wearing a fleece top with light and dark shades, dark trousers and possibly trainers with white parts.

Crucial

Det Supt Bolam said: "It is crucial he is traced. I'd expect the person responsible to have come in during the early hours of Good Friday with mud on his shoes and possibly his clothes. There were signs of a struggle."

Sara's clothes were found in the grounds of a nearby school, but her handbag - which detectives believe could hold vital clues - is still missing. It is a brown, rectangular leather bag, 8ins by 10 ins, with a fold-over flap and buckle.

Officers are keeping an open mind as to the motive for Sara's killing. They have not ruled out a sexual motive, although confirmed that she was not sexually assaulted.

Anyone with information is asked to call the incident room on 0191 214 6555 ext. 63101.

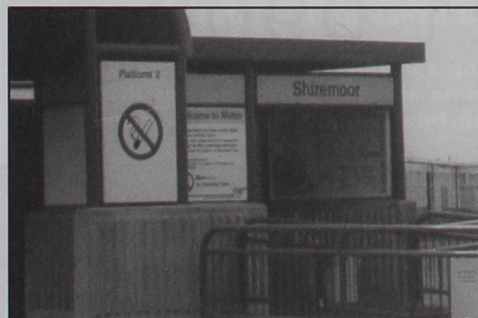
Safety warning

STUDENTS have been reminded of some key safety steps in the wake of the Sara Cameron murder. Chief Inspector Judith Common, from Northumbria Police's Community Safety office, gave The Courier some of the most important advice:

- Ideally take a cab to and from a night out. Make sure the cab has a council logo on it to show it is properly registered.
- Try to book taxis in advance. You can request a female driver if you prefer.
- The Union runs a safety bus from the Robinson Library, Medical School and Union, which takes you to your door.
- If you have to walk somewhere at night, try to arrange to walk with someone else and avoid any poorly lit areas.
- Walk tall and confidently with a sense of purpose. If you feel threatened, walk quickly. It is often best not to run. Wear sensible shoes.
- Carry an attack alarm with you in case you need to summon help. They are available at a subsidised price in the Union Shop.



TRIBUTE... Flowers and cards at the entrance to Sara's street **SCENE...** Cops seal off field



LAST JOURNEY... Shiremoor station near Sara's home

CCTV MAY HAVE MISSED VITAL CLUES

GAPS in CCTV footage on the Metro system could mean vital clues were missed from Sara Cameron's final movements, it has been revealed.

Metro operator Nexus

admitted only four of the system's 46 stations are monitored continuously.

Cameras record just nine seconds out of every two and a half minutes at other stations.

They include Shiremoor where Sara got off a train just minutes before she was

attacked.

It gives police officers investigating serious crimes only a one in 17 chance of finding what could turn out to be key evidence.

Nexus customer security manager David Hogg said: "There might be crucial

minutes missed, yes, we are not saying that there isn't.

"It is possible that something might not be there. We would love to have maximum coverage and maximum recording and we will expand towards that as fast as we can."

STONE AGE KICKS

Back to basics for student diggers

By ROSALIND MALTHOUSE
CHIEF REPORTER

AN Archaeology boffin has stepped back in time to the stone age with some of his students.

Dr Clive Waddington led a group of volunteers in their quest to rebuild a neolithic temple not only using stone age technology, but actually living as people did over 4,500 years ago.

This meant living in the woods, eating whatever they could find, and lots of digging with animal bones.

The volunteers included a five Newcastle students, as well as a wood carver, a doctor, a leather worker and several archaeologists.

Antler

A main feature of the henge, which is at Milfield in Northumberland, is a deep circular ditch which they dug using antler picks and shovels made from ox

shoulder blades.

Dr Waddington said: "It was bloody hard work.

"Added to that it rained almost non-stop the whole time we were there, and we spent a lot of time just trying to stay dry and warm."

Sarah Groves, one of the students taking part, explained: "We only wore wool, linen, or leather, and had to make our own shoes.

Cold

"I wore 8 layers, but I was still always cold and wet."

Food was also fairly basic. "There was a lot of porridge, sweetened with honey, parsnips and carrots," she said.

Dr Waddington added: "The forest commission also gave us a deer which we skinned and gutted using flints, and it lasted us a fairly long time."

Cheated

There was some cheating though - they reverted to trainers after their hand-made shoes fell apart.

And they did resort to using a tarpaulin in their shelter in the woods.

"Our original shelter was entirely authentic, and it lasted a good long time considering the horrific weather we had," the boffin



SUPERGRASS...Sarah enjoyed the trip explained.

"But in neolithic times of course they would have had animal skins to keep out the rain and we didn't have time to get any of those for ourselves."

And despite the weather, the very basic food and clothing, and the hard work they had to put in, the volunteers got on surprisingly well.

Sarah said: "Tempers frayed occasionally but we really enjoyed ourselves, and still stay in touch."



WHAT A CARVE UP... Archaeology students were proud of their huge erection

SCAN-tastic

CHARITY champs at SCAN are celebrating after raking in almost £300 for good causes in just one day.

Fundraisers from the project joined with tin rattlers from RAG and the Leonard Cheshire Foundation in a procession through the city centre on March 25.

SCAN co-ordinator Bob Milan said: "The day was a huge success, fun was had by all, and £320.03 was raised for various community-based projects run through SCAN.

"These include work with disadvantaged children through creative arts and environmental activities, helping the homeless, and providing support for the disabled."

Film gong

By CATHERINE BRUCE

A PROMISING student filmmaker from the Uni has achieved success in a national competition.

Adam Ball, a third year Fine Art student, beat several hundred entrants from universities all over Britain to bag fourth place in the Becks Future Film Prize.

The Jesmond resident has been awarded £500 and his film was shown along with the other six prizewinning films at the London Institute of Contemporary Art at a four day film festival in April.

His film, based on the art of painter Mondrian, and named 'Boogie Woogie 2000', has now moved to the Manchester Centre of Contemporary Art.

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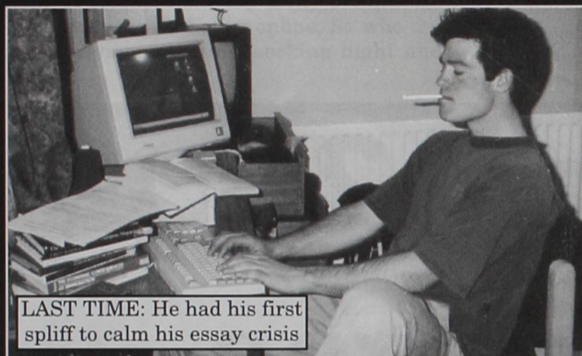
Dear Lisa



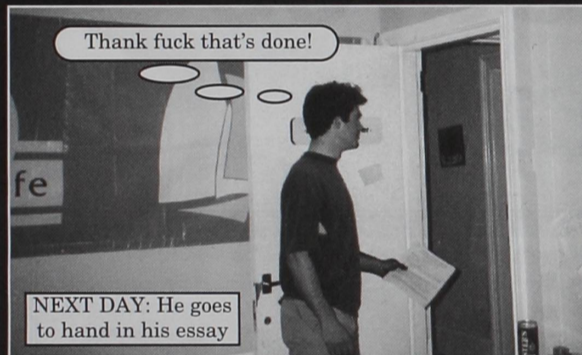
the woman who likes a bit of hot mail...

LISA'S PHOTO CASEBOOK

My final year stress - week 2



LAST TIME: He had his first spliff to calm his essay crisis



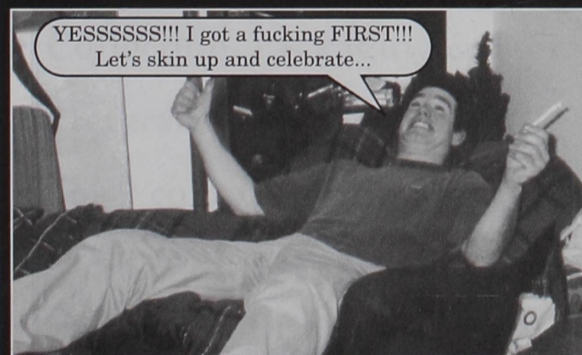
Thank fuck that's done!

NEXT DAY: He goes to hand in his essay



Oh, shit! I get my essay mark back today. I bet I've done really badly

A week later...



YESSSSSS!!! I got a fucking FIRST!!! Let's skin up and celebrate...

LISA'S WORDS OF WISDOM: So before the anti-drugs lobby gets straight on my case, I am not about to advocate getting caned before a deadline.

But only cos most of us haven't got mates who'll still tell us to get off our arses when we've been smoking for hours and go do an essay.

The main thing is to chill out and you'll breeze it. Everyone's got different ways of relaxing though so it may be worth experimenting...if you know what I mean. Enjoy.

If YOU would like to star in Lisa's Photo Casebook e-mail <courier.news@ncl.ac.uk> or call 239 3940

Photo casebook pictures by Jacqui Butler

Doubtless you'll be slogging away for coursework deadlines this week, so here's a whole load of light relief to cheer you up. I'm asking for trouble this week by trying to draw a close to the RAG Day debate, and you'll find some top tips in the photocasebook for making essay writing less painful. And if you can't take any more of the library, get a load of the water police. Next week's your last chance to engage in friendly banter with me, so get your marriage proposals sent to Courier.news@ncl.ac.uk - not that I'm desperate or anything.

Bouncer trouncer

Dear Lisa,

On Friday 31/3/00 I was deeply shocked and disturbed by the behaviour of some Union stewards during an incident that occurred towards the end of a great night. Blow Out was coming to a close and my friend and I were queueing for our coats at the bottom of the steps in the Basement. We noticed two men engaging in some aggressive banter but thought nothing of it. Then one of the men called his hefty-looking friend over from where he was standing at the bar. We moved on, assuming the four or so stewards there would sort it.

Then I turned around and witnessed the well-built man holding the other against the wall with a tight grip around his neck. The victim's face was red and the veins of his neck were bulging. I observed a steward watching this disturbance and not stepping in to break it up, just awkwardly watching on. At this point a friend of the man who was being choked was escorted out and I thought that the argument had come to an end. Not so. Fearing that the stewards had gotten rid of the sole companion of the victim being strangled I returned to the bottom of the stairs where the man remained pinned against the wall, looking extremely shocked and seemingly unable to speak or move.

The thing that made me really angry was that the steward was still standing around pathetically NOT DOING ANYTHING! I ran to the main entrance to tell another steward. As we proceeded downstairs a few people were being led away and he said that the situation seemed to be sorted.

It would have been sorted much more quickly had the stewards who had been on site at the time of the disturbance done their job, and taken speedy action to separate the two parties. It seems to me that some, not all, stewards are unable to cope with serious situations like this, which could have evolved into something very nasty. I am appalled by the behaviour of some of the stewards who stood by without the guts, decency or, perhaps, the training to step in and do the right thing, namely to intercept the opposing parties and ensure that it didn't go any further.

Yours Faithfully,
Hannah Davies

Lisa says: To be fair, it's gotta be pretty difficult to tell what's going on when there's about a million pissed people falling down the steps of the Basement. And it's worth bearing in mind that most of the complaints about stewards are to do with them diving in too quickly when people are just messing about. It's a bit of a no-win situation. Obviously if the stewards were just ignoring it that's a reason for taking it further. You could turn this into an opportunity to test the complaints procedure in the Union, by talking to Kate Vicary on 239 3964.

Wat-er disgrace

Dear Lisa,

The UCS are at it again. The chocolate teapot UCS advisers are here among us. Only the other day in a busy library, I asked one of the more "mature" advisers about a computer problem I had.

When he came up to my computer, he noticed a bottle of water IN MY JACKET POCKET and disabled my login! What a wanker. Is there any need to do that or was he just a mature, power tripping sad loser with no life? The mind boggles.

It wasn't as if I was drinking the water near the computer. Thanks to him, my Economics essay had to be put on hold. I nearly didn't make the deadline.

Thanks for listening,
Luke Edwards

Lisa says: Don't be silly. It's not as if water's essential for life or anything. You'll be demanding oxygen next. I wouldn't get too upset about it anyway, I'm sure it wasn't vindictive. He probably just didn't know the answer to your question. Or maybe he wanted the water to wash his chocolate teapot.

A bridge too far

Dear Lisa,

As a member of the Caving Club, I am writing to clarify events surrounding the cancelled Rag Day abseil. Yes, I know it is now May and this letter would appear long overdue, but it was only felt necessary to put pen to paper when the Club received some undeserved bad press towards the end of March.

The abseil, scheduled for Thursday 9th of March was cancelled at the last minute due to Rag Officers informing us on the Wednesday evening, that a liability certificate was required for insurance purposes. Throughout the week preceding Rag Day, the President of the Club, Dave Coulson, had been in correspondence with the Rag Officers who had assured him that everything was fine for the event to go ahead. This was obviously not the case.

The Rag Officers recently presented an end of term report to Union Council (copies of which are available to any student and make very interesting reading). The report contains snide comments stating that the 'excuse' for the cancellation was given as high winds around the bridge. Even if insurance had not been a problem, this in itself would be a perfectly valid reason to cancel an abseil. The Caving Club's prime concern is, and always has been, the safety of the people it is responsible for.

My final point concerns the time that Dave, and other committee members put in to try and obtain a liability certificate on the evening prior to Rag Day and that Dave still felt obliged to stand on the Tyne Bridge early on Thursday morning to inform people of the cancellation. When a lack of communication between the Rag Officers results in Dave being accused of shameful behaviour (see Phil Newon's letter, Courier 22.03.00) then I believe this letter is justified.

Nicci Crofts

Lisa says: Having never contemplated, even remotely, chucking myself off a bridge for charity, let alone fun, I'm staying well out of it. The whole thing sounds like a right mess, but now everyone's had their say let's have an end to it.

LISA'S PERSONAL BITS

Well done Ali - you played a blinder with the AU Ball. Love, the sabbs

The winner of the 'Your Views on Mobile Phones' prize draw was notified on 26/04/00 by email. Commiserations to everyone else who entered and thanks again for filling in the questionnaires.

PROMOTE TOLERANCE

STONEWALL REPEAL SECTION 28 RALLY

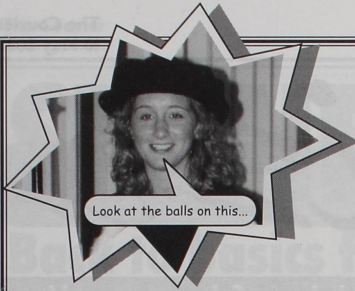
THURS 11TH MAY
@NEWCASTLE MONUMENT
SPEECHES 6PM
Please come and support us.

Do you speak a foreign language?

NECFAR (North East Campaign For Asylum Rights) urgently need volunteers with language skills (especially Turkish, Kurdish and Czech) to help with translation work. Written skills would be particularly helpful. If you can help please contact NECFAR, PO Box 787, Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 1DJ

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



The Official **Graduation Ball**

Tuesday 13th June 2000

**Gosforth Racecourse
7.30 - 2.00am**

Tickets on sale:

Thursday 11th May

10am to 4pm from Reception, Union Building

£42.00 including:

- **4 Course Meal**
- **Casino**
- **Entertainment (Steps & Robbie Williams*)**
- **Free bus from the Union to the racecourse**
- **And much, much more**

Tables of 10

Cheques accepted. Cash preferred. NO SWITCH.

Behind the screens

Techno-dunce LIZ TODD goes to UCS HQ to see where our essays are saved

COMPUTERS. We can't live with them and we can't live without them. They're the bane of every student's life as it gets nearer those end of term deadlines and we're frantically searching for a computer somewhere. Anywhere.

It's only when something goes wrong (3000 words/ 5pm deadline/ no PC) that the average student starts to curse the University Computing Service. But there's an army of workers slaving away behind the scenes keeping us happy online. So who are the anonymous boffins working night and day?

UCS Information Officer John Law and Assistant Director Dr Clive Gerrard offered to take The Courier on a behind the scenes tour. And sending the biggest technophobe in the office (me) guarantees everyone will be able to understand how it works. First stop was the Old Library cluster, but before we settled in front of a PC we were whisked away to a cramped room, hidden away in some kind of cupboard near to the computer cluster. Things were getting a bit technical already as Clive explained how an individual PC's network cable led to a patch panel serving each cluster. It looked like some kind of switchboard and the general idea is that these rooms house the servers, one per

cluster.

As we all know servers tend to have a habit of crashing, but not as often as we think. And if they do there are back ups which automatically take over. So although the computers seem to be going slow, at least they've not died altogether. If there were a power cut it wouldn't be the end of the world either. Okay, so students would be plunged into darkness and the monitors wouldn't work. But the service can carry on for up to an hour which allows a careful shut down of the servers. Phew.

It's hard to imagine how information from up to 80 computers is sent through one single fibre optic across campus. Each server is connected through cables to network rooms hidden deep in Claremont Tower. And these network rooms really are hidden. We went down several flights of stairs, through umpteen corridors, round a few corners until we were 30 feet below the ground somewhere under campus. The networks are there to provide resilience against problems, and as Clive explained: "If things go wrong it's because it's gone beyond the built in resilience. The more network rooms there are, the more the resilience."

As we went further underground Clive tried to tell me about someone important called Janet, who links up with other universities across the North East. But when we walked into her room I was a bit surprised to learn that Janet's not exactly human. She's the Joint Academic Network hub, and Sunderland, Durham, Teesside, Stockton and Northumbria all rely on our university for their online service. Somehow I didn't think behind the scenes of the UCS would involve anything more than a couple of boffins in white coats wielding a tool kit.

Information officer John said: "The UCS has been a victim of its own success in some

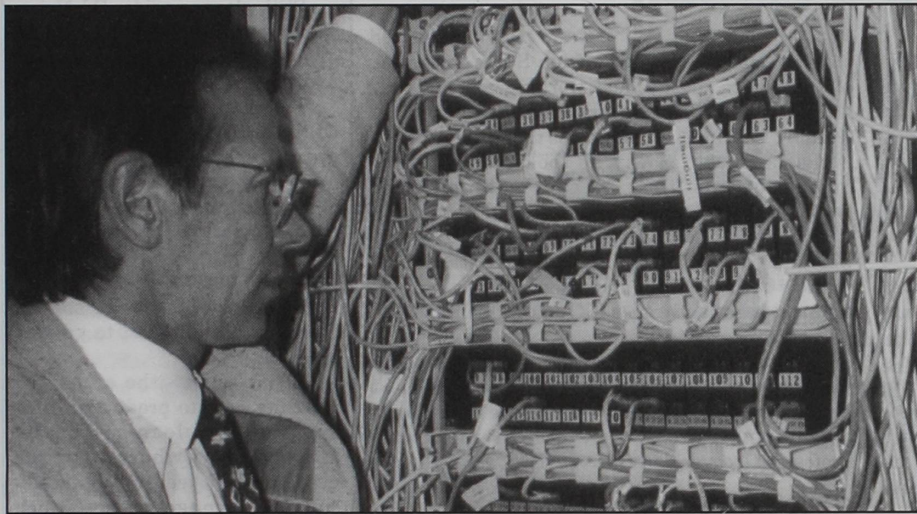
ways. It's a bit like turning the tap on in the bathroom. If the water didn't come out you'd be astonished. We provide a service 99 percent of the time so when it's not there people complain." The service has been online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week since 1992. But there are under 30 programming staff which is fewer than there were in 1975.

Of course, there are the usual student complaints about the less than perfect system but the UCS do have method behind their madness. And although we complain about login penalties, the truth is that without them the system would be crashing on an hourly basis.

No one likes paying 6p a sheet printer costs, especially when lecturers demand double spaced projects. But then, the UCS has to keep up with new technology. And academic departments are keeping quiet about why they don't contribute to printing costs. Lecturers tell us to print our notes off the web, but they don't mention anything about spending a bit of their allocated printing funds.

It might seem a bit petty to be chucked off the PC for even thinking about having a Mars bar. But Clive defends the UCS rules, saying: "We're trying to maximise availability. We have to share the resource out fairly and we're proud of the environment for the PCs."

So after a tour round the UCS nerve centre where did we end up? Right in front of a solitary monitor in the corner of a room. The computer that is ncl.ac.uk itself. This little machine stores the most frequently used websites so when we download information it's simply called up from here, rather than trawling back through the net all the time. Only thing is, it's not only sites of academic interest that are stored. Any porn sites viewed are kept in the system too!



PLUGGED IN... John Law casts his eye over some of the mountains of cables in Claremont Tower HQ

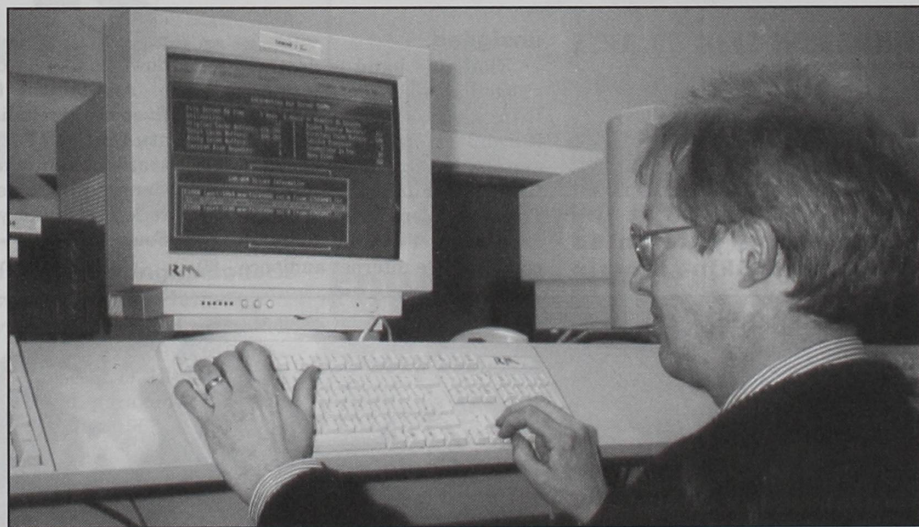
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VISA



MEMORY IS MADE OF THIS... Clive Gerrard at the Town 6 server, one of 12 which hold students' files

WIN YOUR OWN LARA!



Just hold on tight to your bytes there cyber geeks. Your electric dreams are about to come true. 'Cos our good good friends at Lucozade energy have decided to give us all a treat. Sitting right here in The Courier office putting away is a LIFE-SIZE cut out of virtual cyber-babe Lara Croft for us to give away to one lucky reader. Calm down, calm down. There's more. We've also got a spanking new copy of Tomb Raider 4 for the Playstation. Stop it, stop it. There's more. For runners-up there is also a pair of rather fetching Lara T-shirts. People are going to be going crazy for these goodies, so Lara's going to make you work for it, you scum. Now assume the position and read on...

Lucozade energy and Lara have a got a hot new website waiting for you to tap into. So what you've got to do now is log on at www.lucozade.com and find the answer to this fiendishly difficult question:

Why is Lucozade Energy not like other soft drinks?
Find the answer, take a pen in your trembling mits, and write it on a postcard for delivery to The Courier office. Do it before 17th May and we'll decide which one of you deserves this mega prize. Get going...

WWW.LUCOZADE.COM

INTO THE GROOVE!

PREVIEW...

FORCE (WORLD LAB TOUR FEATURING RODNEY P)
@UNION: 18/5/00

Force is back, all set to whip up a wild storm next Thursday as it plays host to the UK World Lab Tour with some of the UK's finest hip-hop stars.

And this student-run night has special reason to celebrate, as it's close to entering its third year.

If hip-hop culture for some once entailed American Bronxsters wearing jeans tied around their knees, these days at the Union you'd be forgiven for thinking its become the new bourgeoisie bloodsport.

Still, sloanes aside, DJ Noise, The Arsonists, and a host of other DJ's have ensured some top nights this year.

Warming up at the Quay Club tonight, Force organisers are on track for a smooth one.

Big man, phat man and overall top man Rodney P stars as the headline. Don't think Trigger and Del Boy, think...legend.

But first, The Mixologists and Nextmen are on hand to provide excellent backup.

That's right - the acclaimed Nextmen, a duo production unit spitting out clean-cut beats, kicking arses wherever arses need to be kicked, and generally causing carnage on the dance floors. Laid-back rhymes, graceful lyrics, chilled out tunes - this is hip-hop back to its roots.

While hip-hop on the other side of the big pond dominates the mainstream over here, Force regularly checks out the British grassroots. And this night will be no exception.

You'll find no charlatans here, just some founding fathers, the cutting edge and of course the rude-boys.

So strap on your baggiest jeans, a loose fitting t-shirt and those comfy trainers mumsy got you for Christmas, and get at Force. Purely for those that know. And those that need to know.

And some that don't.

JAKE LEE



PREVIEW...
TURBULENCE (FEAT. GROOVERIDER)
@ UNION: SATURDAY

Radio One's come a long way, baby.

Gone are the hard times of "hairy cornflake" DLT and co, that merry band of bearded pranksters shoving their zaniness down the nation's gorge.

Now it's all: "One love! One station! One...nation!!" The suits employ folks who actually like music...and music-lovers actually rather like the folks.

So it's with great pleasure that we can announce that Grooverider is headlining Turbulence on Saturday, while Saville, Blackburn and Edmonds most probably "Wiggle" it at the poly.

Mmmm, Grooverider - the man's come on some since the days when he was an unknown South London pirate, spinning hit 'n' run funk between the towerblocks.

Since then, he's hooked up with partner in beats Fabio, moved to Kiss FM in the days before it became Capital, and transformed Radio One from bandwagon jumpin' wannabes to zeitgeist-straddlin' liquid funk trendsetters.

In the drum 'n' bass royal family, he's second only to King Goldie. But the king is dead - long live the, er, prince regent.

Grooverider's the man who broke Bond's latest villain in the first place, so while the Goldster's busy disappearing up his own arse, we can enjoy the sounds of the hardest-working man in the jungle, and listen to him show us exactly how Metalheadz came to rip clubland apart.

He's remixed everyone from Stone Roses to Moby, and is the hardest working man in the jungle - he and Fabio are currently double-teaming multiple venues across the country.

Perhaps that's why he took two years to bring out his first 'proper' album, the horrifyingly underrated 'Mysteries of Funk'.

But even if he took his time, the results were well and truly worth it - his characteristic liquid funk is both credible and deep, hard-stepping drum 'n' bass that waves its funk influences like a flag.

It'll have the dancefloor heaving with both rude boys and wiggaz alike. So take a respite from exams. In fact, fuck 'em. On the 13th, take the advance paper in Applied Funk from Professor Grooverider. Start revising now.

CHRIS DAVIES

Cinnamon's new flava

CINNAMON SKIN @ ARTS REVIEW CENTRE: 19/4/00

It remains inexplicable and frankly an act of incredible negligence by the British music industry, that the outrageously talented Cinnamon Skin remain

unsigned.

That this band is destined for great things is a surety. A taste of things to come was last year's Edinburgh Festival, where they appeared in the Battle of the Bands final, watched by hundreds in Princes Street Gardens, thousands on Cable TV and by a huge potential live internet audience - 80

million, at least those not downloading hardcore pornography.

And tonight, the up-and-coming fivepiece (including uni Physiology student Dave Williams) transformed the drab toon Arts Centre into a veritable cavern of rock 'n' roll. Eat your heart out, Fab Four.

Potentially huge barnstormer

"Sick of this game" could see Cinnamon as the new Travis, which would leave Travis as the new Oasis, and God knows where that leaves the Burnage Boys.

Other hits include non sequitur "High Speed sleep", a trend continued with "Hiding in Plain view". "Million Faces" doubtless refers to their Internet performance.

Many an adoring girl have been seen "losing themselves" in Huggie's angst ridden, hair clenching, rock-star persona. Parents and pregnant mothers take note!

Inspired, but by no means derivative of Peral Jam, Bush, The Goo Goo Dolls, this band knows how to play guitars very loud indeed.

But they remain melodic to the core, a fan announced "my foot was tapping and my head was jerking-you'd suppose I was at home with a copy of Abba Gold!"

Quite whether that mans they perform in silvery disco boots and are intending to marry each other is not for this reviewer to say.

But you will be moving your booty to their leopard skin guitar straps.



TRENDY WENDY: DIY FESTIVAL

You know it's that time of year again, when girls you'd never look twice at suddenly seem quite fit.

Yep, it's summer - time for cricket, skimpy vest tops and...FESTIVALS.

These are springing up at the rate of new boy bands - V00, Leeds Weekend, Creamfields, Homelands, the big one, the little one, etc etc.

Seems any fool can (and usually does) set them up - it's easy.

All you need is...:


- A fuck-off large muddy field.
- A hole in the fence...so people actually come.
- An ageing rocker (Billy Bragg should do).
- 100s of salmonella-infested, organic janet new age noodle bars.

- A Welsh band - you'll get a million flag-waving Welsh kids coming.

- A few filthy portaloos. Will inevitably be pushed over by anarchist hippies, trapping said Welsh kids inside.
- A PC, hip sponsor - British Aerospace should do.

...then all you need to do is sit back, watch everyone get trench foot and count your dosh.

REVIEWS ALBUMS...

ME ONE: 
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED (ISLAND)

Brit-hop and UK soul are undergoing something of a boom period at the moment - and lordy, here's an artist who combines the best of both.

Funk licks and crisp beats shimmer underneath a lyrical flow smoother than anything since A Tribe Called Quest's heyday.

It's punchy, too, with short, sweet tracks that beg to be blasted out down the park with some herbal amplification.

"The sun is shining / the weather is sweet..."

CHRIS DAVIES

KIRSTY MacCOLL: 
TROPICAL BRAINSTORM (VIRGIN)


As Andy Warhol once said, everyone has five minutes of fame.

Kirsty MacColl's seems to have come and gone with her duet on The Pogues' legendary yuletide single 'Fairytale of New York'.

Since then, our Kirsty's had a Shania Twain makeover, and gone Latin, following in the illustrious footsteps of Geri Halliwell and the fat bird from Eastenders.

Sonic syphilis.

TOM HORDER

**RANDALL & HOPKIRK
(DECEASED):** 
SOUNDTRACK

Soundtracks to TV shows were once made for fanatics and know-nothings only - never for noisemakers.







But it's getting better (man)...

Forget Ally MacBeal and Dawsons Creek - Vic and Bob promote their new TV show with a quirky offering which includes contributions from Pulp and The Orb.

TV's strangest detectives, British music's strangest soundtrack. Fair play.

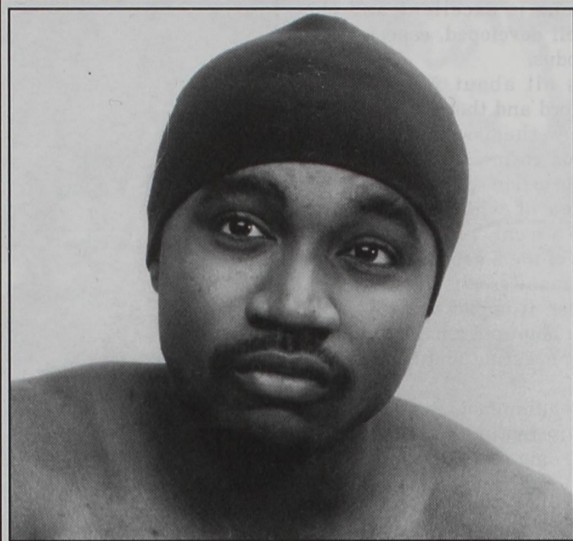
JAKE LEE



PIE CHART

-  BSE-infested, Nasty
-  Ooh..aah..crust a little bit!
-  Just TWO bad
-  Porky but nice
-  It does it for me
-  Top of the pies

RATINGS

PIE-LIGHT OF THE WEEK



KELVIN CLETUS: 
PRESSURE (RUNAWAY) 

Fans of Tupac's 'Changes', the mellower side of hip-hop or at least the sharper end of R 'n'B may have found their May Day anthem.

This is driven by some easy on the ear rhymes, but most of all an infectious tune that sounds perfectly lazy and not over-produced.

If Garage is Sex on the Beach, then this is a Long Island Ice Tea.

Buy.

TOM FENWICK

SINGLES...

THE CHARLATANS: 
IMPOSSIBLE

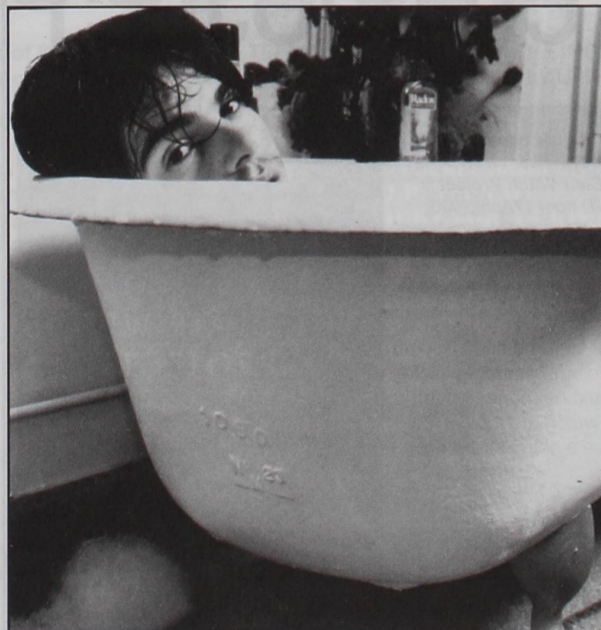
A voice that sounds like it's breaking...acoustic guitars...a harmonica - it can only be Hanson.

Luckily not, as monkey boy Tim Burgess and co ape folk hero Bob Dylan on their latest.

It's a mellow affair, more reminiscent of 'Blowing in the Wind' than all that "modern", turgid, garage-fused electro 'Rolling Stone' crap he came out with after 1963.

Vote Conservative.

JAKE LEE



FREDI KRUGA: 
FEEL OUR FLOW (WU-TANG INT'L)

For some, hip-hop is the new death metal.

Enter Fredi, the man who looks R 'n' B but raps like RZA, but is only original in his spelling.

This will rock the black t-shirt wearing posse, the pretty fly for a white guy massif, and the kung-fu loving WU-TANG bad boyz who like their hip-hop dark.

To me it's still too cartoon. A bit of a limp biscuit.

TOM FENWICK


STELLA BROWNE: 
EVERY WOMAN NEEDS LOVE (PERFECTO)

Stella used to be 187 Lowdown - you know, that two-step nonsense from ages ago with the sampled gunshots.

They seem to have some out of the closet in the meantime, as this is a glitter-showered girly speed queen, with an ultra-catchy string hook and drag-queen vocals.

Moderately banging, but so '96, darling.

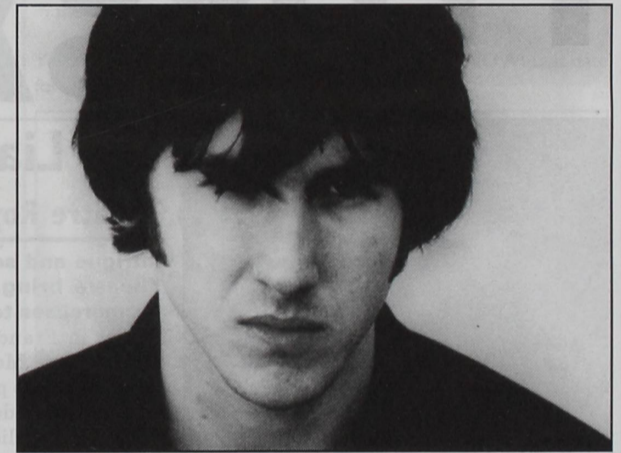
CHRIS DAVIES

MATTHEW JAY: 
FRIENDLY FIRE (FOOD)

You can tell it's summer - this fragile, melodic folky piece of nothing sounds great in the sun.

Jay's wispy voice and guitar are just upbeat enough to avoid blowing away in the wind, but tragically Matthew loses a pie for employing an accordian. Shame.

CHRIS DAVIES



**UTAH SAINTS FEATURING
EDWIN STARR:** 
FUNKY MUSIC (ECHO)

It's all change in the ready money round - and those who picked off their sound - Fatboy, Chemicals, Underworld, are making dollars so Utah are back for a piece of well deserved pie.

This features gravelly-tongued funkstar Edwin Starr, memorable for his piercing political diatribe 'War (Huh! What is it good for?)'

The video features 500 Dancers in an alley which is probably more fun than this piece of amyl house funk.

Nevertheless, the pill popping Ben Sherman-ites have spoken, Jules loves it. And hey, that's dance.

The Duke of FENWICK

**Wanna work in the music industry?
-of course you do!**

Those wonderful people at Vitaminic are offering what must be one of the best student competitions ever run. Blur are working with Vitaminic in trying to find 5 regional winners who will each become the proud owners of a very serious prize - an opportunity to become a representative to help Vitaminic in their quest to spread the word of the digital revolution and recruit bands to join the Vitaminic 'family'. It is a great way to get a foot in the door in the internet industry and to establish yourself in the music industry as well.

And as if Vitaminic are not doing enough...There could be the chance of turning that into a full-time job! That's right, a job with one of the hottest new music companies in the World Wide Wotsit.

All we want you to do is in no more than 100 words tell us why you think Vitaminic should employ YOU!

Answers should be emailed to competition@vitaminic.co.uk

ROMANS & CUNTERYMEN

Gladiator

Released May 12th



Don't let the title of this film put you off, it has nothing to do with Wolf and Lightning chasing a couple of P.E teachers around Birmingham's Indoor Arena.

If you haven't heard of Gladiator, the latest epic everyone is talking about, then you must have been doing far too much work, or at least not have been listening to Radio 1. It is the latest in the genre of big budget epics, and it certainly lives up to its billing.

But despite the length it is a very good film and even if like me you hate action films, it's worth seeing.

Gladiator is set in the Roman Empire at a time when they were stomping across half of the world, it is Spartacus, meeting a mad Mel Gibson, dressed in silly tunics and body armour, all running around like Rocky in the desert, and like the title suggests, chopping each other to pieces in the Gladiator arena.

It is predictable, emotional and

traumatising but well worth a look. Russell Crowe as Maximus is excellent and the characters are well developed, especially in the case of Commodus.

Gladiators is all about revenge and keeping to your word and though they might not be exactly new themes, it's nothing a touch of Hollywood cosmetic surgery, laser treatment, and liposuction couldn't sort out.

To get an idea of what kind of film Gladiator is, there are only two women in the film, and only one of them gets to speak. And there are twice as many credits for stunt staff than the actual cast. It is packed with battle scenes, perhaps an hour and a half of the film is blokes stabbing, spearing and bleeding all over each other.

But to be fair the film-makers made a real effort on this film, recreating Rome, including the Colosseum, burning real forests in Surrey (why stop there?) and hiring thousands of extras, not to mention the 103 million dollars spent on it.

Even if you normally hate fighting films, Gladiator has a much deeper story to offer and after all, everyone is talking about it.

OLIVIA RICHWALD



Froggy style BINGO!



Les Liaisons Dangereuses

Theatre Royal Until Sat 13 May

Intrigue and sensual sensuousness are all the rage as Mobil Touring Theatre bring the much loved and sexually charged Les Liaisons Dangereuses to the stage in Newcastle this week.

Set in France of the 18th Century, Les Liaisons is about the scheming Marquise de Merteuil and her scheming and plotting lover Le Vicomte de Valmont whose prowess in the sack is equalled only by his love of conivance and manipulation, doing a lot of scheming and plotting. Beneath the respectable surface of public life machinations of a distinctly sexual nature are slowly building into a sweaty climax.

A stimulating plot is augmented by an impressive set and superb costumes, and the play has been a firm favourite (oo-er, missus) in the theatre since its adaptation to the stage in the early nineties.

But you'll probably know this thrilling tale of sexual power games better for the Oscar winning film of the same name, and the play itself has won five best play awards in its time so it might just be worth getting down to it if you get the chance (oooh, the innuendo of it all).

Steamy period drama at its best, and a definite must if that sort of thing turns you on, flicks your switch, or just makes you downright horny.

WYL MENMUIR

House

Out Now



Homegrown is the way it should be. At least that's what I'm trying to convince myself.

Up against the latest offering of truly epic proportions from the wadded end of movie making this rather budget Welsh picture about the fight to keep a bingo hall from closure may seem a little weak.

And I'm loathe to admit it, but I sat through this wishing I'd done the Gladiator review (me bitter? don't be ridiculous)

Not that it's a bad film by any means. Kelly McDonald (Trainspotting's Diane) seamlessly swaps her Scots accent for a broad Welsh one, playing Linda, a bartender at the dilapidated La Scala bingo hall. With the opening of the Mega Pleasure Bingo Complex it looks like it could be the end for the skank ridden La Scala.

Luckily for Mr Alenzi (the club's owner) the threat to the bingo playing massive coincides with Linda's discovery she can psychically predict winning bingo numbers and so offering a chance to save the hugely in-debt club.

Funded by National Lottery money, House is appropriately about the less than thrilling world of low key gambling. And in keeping with the Lottery it's a film about low budget entertainment (supplied with most appropriate cameos from Bruce Forsyth and Keith (Crazy Cheggers) Chegwin) and you're unlikely to get charming lines like "If it gets much colder I'll be pissing hailstones" in Gladiator.

If you thought that 1997's Welsh offering Twin Town encouraged drug use there's no need for immediate worry here, if you see this one you probably won't feel inclined to don tweed slacks, get a blue rinse and mosey on down to your local Gala. And if you do it's a sign there's something truly wrong, you need help.

I hate to admit it, but I love a feel-good film. I want to see the good-guys win and the money-grabbing aunts repent for their wickedness. And feel-good this certainly is; to the extent of wanting to vomit to rid myself of the sickly-sweet taste it left, similar to that post-Easter desire to chunder after massive chocolate overdose. But it must be good for you. Otherwise we wouldn't do it. Right?

WYL MENMUIR

THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT

The Phenomenon continues...

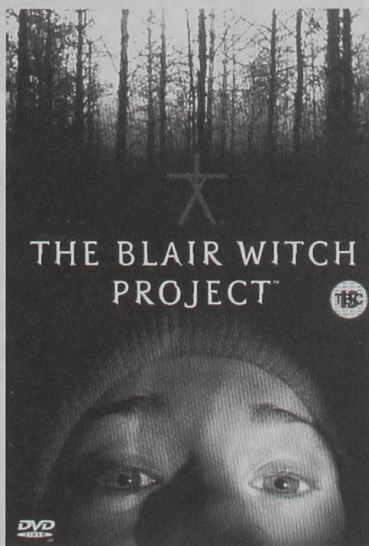
On October 21, 1994, Heather Donohue, Joshua Leonard and Michael Williams hiked into Maryland's Black Hills Forest to shoot a documentary film on a local legend, "The Blair Witch". They were never heard from again. One year later their footage was found. **The Blair Witch Project** is their legacy and has been available to rent on video and buy and rent on DVD from 17 April 2000 courtesy of Pathé Distribution Ltd.

Containing newly discovered footage, director and producer commentary, interviews, excerpts from psychological experts and a host of additional 'extras'. **The Blair Witch Project** is a 'must own' DVD and is sure to be the No.1 choice for every DVD fan!

An amateur film, made on video and deliberately lacking in technical flair and finesse. And now you want to watch it on your spanking state-of-the-art digital system. Mmmmm... Well you can go out and buy it for £19.99 right now. But perhaps that would be money better spent on the rubber underwear that you're going to need when you watch the movie. So the good old Courier has teamed up with Pathé Distribution and have a shiny brand new copy of the DVD to give away to one of our lucky readers.

What you've got to do is tell us the first name of our illustrious prime minister's wife. Answers on a postcard and into the Courier office as soon as possible, folks.

Visit www.blairwitch.co.uk for the full story



Movie On Down



Newcastle 2000 Music film season

Tyneside cinema from 10th May

To celebrate Newcastle 2000 music festival Tyneside Cinema is showing a selection of worthy music movies throughout May.

And luckily for all of us there's no mention whatsoever of Julie Andrews or the hills being alive with the sound of anything.

Instead, we're offered the slightly more credible Westway To The World, last year's celebrated BBC documentary of The Clash, incorporating some classic Clash moments live in concert. Made by long time Clash collaborator Don Letts, Westway To The World is a treat for fans and the perfect introduction to the band for those new to their music. Using archive footage as well as



contemporary interviews the pure energy and heartfelt commitment of the band shines through. Unmissable.

Buena Vista Social Club is the superb docu-film with Ry Cooder searching out Cuban veteran musicians for a special show; and if you didn't get to see this the first time round it is really worth watching. Class music and a superb film.

If you've taken too many mind-altering substances since starting uni you will probably appreciate The Beatle's psychedelic masterpiece more than most, and the chance to see Yellow Submarine on the big screen opens up the prospect for much viewing fun as well as a rare opportunity to see all the stoners in Newcastle in one room.

And finally, if you're a Sex Pistol's fan (are there any out there?) you won't want to miss the new release The Filth and the Fury following the career of Sid Vicious and his cronies, which draws on concert footage, newsreels and interviews to track the punk phenomenon.

The Pistols' only other celluloid outing to date, The Great Rock and Roll Swindle, was made under the control of their manager svengali Malcolm McLaren and was little more than an ego-trip for the ginger prankster. This time, director Julian Temple has set out to tell the story from the band's side, while also using masses of genuine 1970's TV footage from his own collection to evoke the atmosphere of the time. Go see if you want to see what one of the most important cultural phenomenons of the late twentieth century was all about.

You can contact the Tyneside Cinema on (0191)232 1507 or www.tynecine.org.

WYL MENHUIR

KEVIN & PERRY GO LARGE

It's been in the cinemas for a couple of weeks now, and it's already shaping up to be one of the biggest comedies of the year. Kevin and Perry

Go Large is packed with nob gags and follows our two heroes on a quest to lose their virginity and become top DJ mixmasters. Where else could they go then, than to the home of hedonism, dance music and dubious nob gags - Ibiza. They've bought their condoms, packed their top gear, and they're set to go. just one problem - Mr and Mrs Patterson are coming too! The consequences and potential for nob gags couldn't be anything but hilarious...

And true to form we've got a top notch competition for you lovely readers. Here in the office we've got some extra special Kevin & Perry goodies bags featuring a t-shirt, poster, book and an exclusive album sampler courtesy of Virgin/EMI records. There's one goodie bag for boys and one for girls, so nobody should feel left out-nob gags for everyone!

You want one? Well you're gonna have to amuse us for it...

What we want you to do is let us see your holiday photographs. Don't worry, we're not the vice squad, so the weirder, more perverted or outrageous the better. Drop them in the Courier office and the photos that amuse or amaze us the most will win the prizes. Even better, subject to decency laws, we'll print the winners in the next issue.

You're going to move fast for this one so go go go NOW! Last date for photo submission is Friday 12th.



WIN CLASSIC 80's CULT VIDEOS



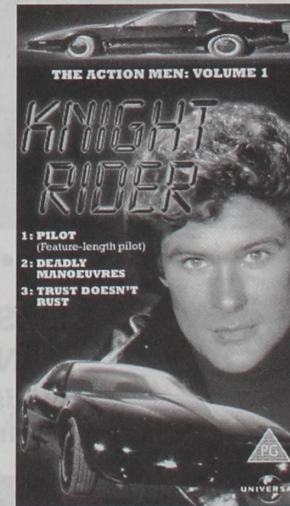
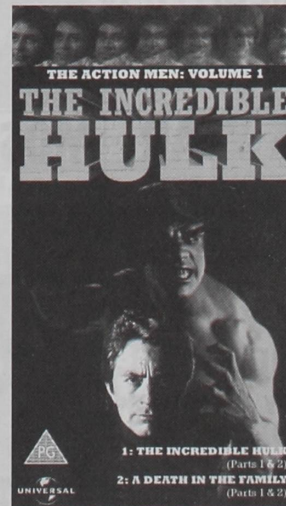
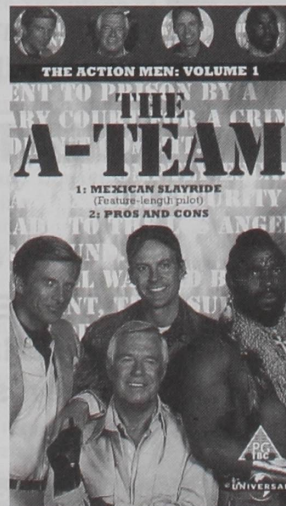
Oh yes. This is the one. They're back. The creme de la creme of 80's TV action THE A TEAM, KNIGHT RIDER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK. This is the first time that these classics have been available on video, and each features over 140 minutes of top class action for a mere £ 9.99. Brought to you by Universal Playback tv classics on video -Nuff respect!

Once again you can root for Hannibal Smith, BA Baracus and their chums in the A Team as they survive by selling their manly services in the LA underground. You can swoon to the cool and hunky action of David Hasselhoff as he continues his close relationship with, erm, a car. And you can thrill to the entirely believable metamorphosis of mild-mannered physician David Banner into a great big fuck off green hulking dastard. Here at The Courier we love it when a plan comes together, and this time it truly has. We've got two sets of these marvellous vids to give away to those who deserve them, but you've got to prove your knowledge to us...

Sullen master mechanic BA Baracus of the A Team became an icon of the 80's with his trademark mohican and excessive gold jewelry. What we want to know is the name of the actor who played this mercenary behemoth.

- Was it?
A. Mr Methane
B. Mr Humphries
C. Mr T

Now you don't want to make us angry, 'cos you wouldn't like us when we're angry. So get your answers into the office by 17th May where we will bombard them with gamma radiation until a pair of winners assert themselves. And remember, one man can make a difference...



NEWCASTLE SLIP UP IN PROMOTION BID

PROCTOR and Gamble dented Newcastle's hopes of league promotion when they held the BUSA Cup winners to a 1-1 draw.

The Royal Blues went one goal down after just five minutes when they failed to deal with a long ball into the box and were punished by a powerful shot which rifled into the back of the net.

Mark Batty's men soon got into their stride and although they dominated the midfield they weren't really creating enough chances to score.



ON TARGET...James Felton scored a vital goal in a 2-1 win

But the Uni levelled on the half hour when a cross from Batty somehow ended up in the back of the net. Although they dominated much of the second-half they struggled to break down a tough P and G defence.

Dangerous

Batty's dangerous corners, looking for the likes of Jamie Whitworth and Baz Cryer, always looked threatening but luck simply wasn't on their side.

Newcastle had kept their promotion hopes alive the previous Saturday with a 2-1 win over relegation strugglers Rutherford.

In difficult conditions at Cochrane Park and without a number of stars, such as Rock, Ward and Chesters, the university found the going tough early on.

Struggled

With the excesses of the Easter vacation clearly visible, the Royal Blues struggled to break down their visitors.

Mark Batty calmed Uni nerves when he gave them the lead, although their opposition really should have levelled from the spot but Jonny Reeh pulled off a brilliant save.

However Reeh could do nothing about the Rutherford equaliser when he was left unsighted from a long range shot.

It needed something special to get Newcastle back into the lead and James Felton supplied it with a stunning 20 yard strike, although Alan Brown's men had to endure a nervous last twenty minutes.



DON'T BLUE IT...Newcastle fight back as they aim to complete a perfect season

The Courier 1999-2000

LAST CHANCE TO VOTE!

SPORTS AWARDS

Vote now for the stars of the season
After another fine year of sport at Newcastle, it's time to nominate who YOU think deserve the prestigious Courier awards.

TEAM OF THE YEAR MAN OF THE YEAR



LAST YEAR'S WINNER:
Men's Rugby



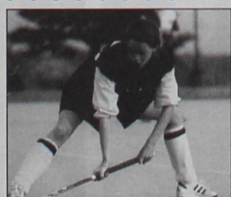
LAST YEAR'S WINNER:
Mark Batty
(Football)

WOMAN OF THE YEAR



LAST YEAR'S WINNER:
Lindsay Rawling
(Tennis)

MOST IMPROVED TEAM



LAST YEAR'S WINNER:
Women's Hockey

Drop your nominations into the Courier office, or e-mail them to courier.news@ncl.ac.uk

Cast-a-net to Spanish win!

KATE Mulvana scored a dramatic golden goal to give the Uni netball second team a brilliant victory over Teesside in Barcelona at Easter.

Both Newcastle teams qualified for the semi-finals after some excellent performances at the group stage.

Teesside proved too strong for Newcastle A in the semi-finals, but Newcastle B thrashed Aston University 13-7.

Punished

In the final Teesside failed to take advantage of some early opportunities and Susanne Low punished these mistakes with some excellent shooting of her own.

Lindsay Flatman and Val Andersson worked valiantly in defence and these efforts were rewarded when the Uni took the game into extra-time.

Teesside went into a 10-8 lead, although Newcastle pulled these goals back which meant the game would be decided by a golden goal.

After Teesside failed to take advantage of their opportunity to score, the Uni girls went straight down the court and a penalty was awarded against the Teesside defence.

Kate Mulvana, who had come on as sub after Abby Barber had twisted her ankle, was left with a penalty shot to win the tournament and she converted the chance to give the Royal Blues the trophy.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

UNIVERSITY of Newcastle Orienteering Club (UNOC), followed up their successes at this year's BUSA Championships in Birmingham, by winning the JK Trophy award in British Orienteering.

Although UNOC managed to get a third in the individual race, a second in the relay, and won the Beer Race at

BUSA, some of UNOC left feeling they had under achieved.

But the squad realised its full potential with a spectacular performance at the Jan Kjellstrom Festival, a premier British orienteering event, with strong international standing.

UNOC became only the third university team to win the JK Trophy in its 33 years of history.

Ski's the limit

UNI LASS HAS A LAURA LAURA LUCK



By **CHRIS HURST**
SPORTS EDITOR

ELITE athlete Laura Westmacott followed up her success at the British championships with an impressive performance for Newcastle at a university ski festival over Easter.

1200 students from all over the country headed to Saalbach Hinterglemm in Austria, with over 350 skiers and snowboarders taking part in competitive action.

Westmacott, whose place in the competition was highly doubtful after she had dislocated her shoulder the previous week, bravely skied in the competition despite advice from her coach that she should rest her injury.

With Westmacott's efforts in the team competition virtually worthless, due to the fact

she had only one team-mate in the women's competition, it was in the individual competition that she had a real chance of success.

But her hopes of victory in her favourite event, the slalom, were dashed when she was controversially disqualified.

Westmacott said: "I was disqualified which means I straddled a gate."

"You can protest but it is generally considered bad sportsmanship, but the guy who won the men's competition did exactly the same and he was reinstated."

But there was greater success in the women's giant slalom for Laura when she came second behind Tessa Pirie of Edinburgh.

Pirie took the overall women's title - hardly surprising when she had finished a brilliant 13th in the recent world championship.

Indeed it was the Scottish universities who would dominate much of the competition as they

won 13 out of the 23 titles that were on offer at the event.

Even though she did not win an event, Westmacott was delighted by her performances and admitted it was nice not to ski in a high pressure event.

She said: "Despite my coach not wanting me to go, I really wanted to ski for fun for a change."

"It's just a shame that Newcastle couldn't do better."

Westmacott, a member of the Northumbria Officer Training Corps, also achieved second place in the Scottish Army Championships and took the honour of being the first woman home in the event.

The second year student, who still plans to take a year out to concentrate on her skiing career next year, was also recently crowned the North-East's Rising Young Sports Star at a prestigious ceremony.

OH WHAT A KNIGHT FOR UNI!

SALLY Knight produced some of the best tennis of her life to reach the ladies final of the Lacoste 13th International Student Tennis Championships in Holland.

With Lynsey Davison and Lindsay Rawling not travelling at Easter, it gave a chance for other members of Newcastle's highly successful team to shine.

Sally Knight stormed through the group stages, defeating team-mate Sophie Wright on the way, to qualify for the semi-final.

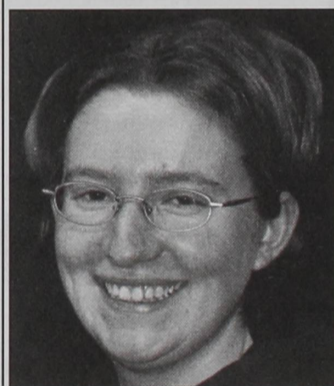
Whilst Wright went down 6-3 6-3 in her semi-final, Knight overcame Toon skipper Catherine Risebro in three sets.

Had Knight played in the final like she had in the proceedings round she probably would have returned to Britain with the trophy in her possession, but unfortunately it wasn't to be as she lost 6-3 6-4.

In the men's tournament there was a stunning performance by Chris Rolfe to reach the Tier Two final.

Rolfe was outstanding throughout and can consider himself unfortunate to face such a good opponent in the final who came out on top in the three set final.

In an all Newcastle final in the ladies doubles, Fiona McLaren and Wright overcame Risebro and Knight 6-3 7-6.



DUTCH COURAGE... Sally made final

From back page

funding specifically allocated for academic facilities, Uni bosses only have a limited number of funds to spend on other areas.

Dye said: "If the university wants to do things it actually has to raise the money itself."

"In a sense the university has no money for this new gym, apart from money the people in it could raise."

The pro vice-chancellor is keen to add to university facilities, but to do this admits he will have to rely on the imagination of Uni sports chiefs - even if it means opening sports facilities up to the general public in order to gain lottery funding.

Dye said: "The university would love this new gym, but it doesn't have the money to give."

"Therefore the money has to be raised. One would expect people like Graham Rayner to be imaginative in raising funds."

"I think Graham is a good appointment. He has been here for three to four years. He has been involved with local authorities before and he has been involved in sports provision."

"I've heard it suggested, and I'm not proposing this, but you could put 2p on a pint of beer and give 1p to the new sports hall and 1p to the union society."

Dye believes Newcastle should look at the example of other universities who have been successful in building sports facilities and copy their ideas.

"If you find people who have been successful you find out what sources they have used and I imagine Graham Rayner is doing that sort of thing."

Dye also admits he is concerned about the financial implications of building a new facility only to see it fail.

He said: "I would be delighted if they got enough money to do it in a way that meant we had the facilities at a level that were good and that we didn't have a permanent headache about recurrent costs."

"It's not just a question of having a new sports hall, but having the staff and the recurrent costs of doing it and there are also the costs of health and safety and disabled provision."

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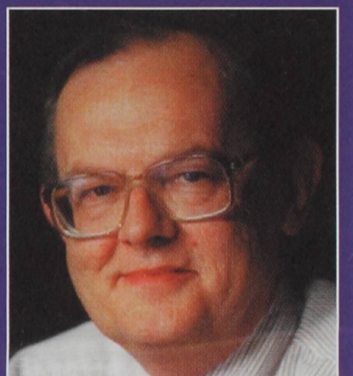
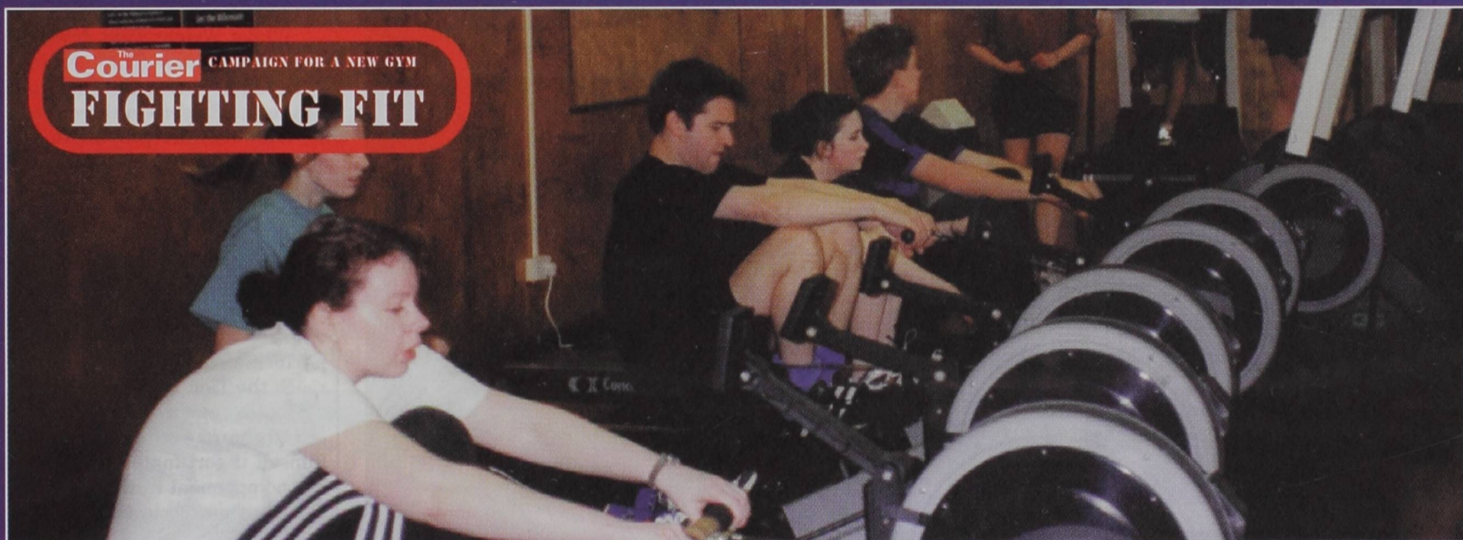
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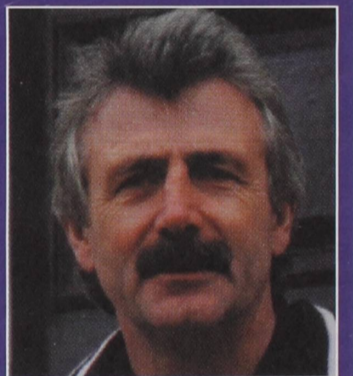
WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2000

G'DYE SPORT

Campus money man Roger greets new gym plan



IN FAVOUR... Roger Dye wants gym



CASH... Graham Rayner needs funds

IMAGINATION... That's what you need to get a new, bigger gym, according to University Pro Vice-Chancellor Roger Dye who looks after non-academic finance

By CHRIS HURST
SPORTS EDITOR

PRO Vice-Chancellor Roger Dye has said there is a chance that the university will get a new gym.

But he also warned Uni sports

chiefs will have to find much of the funding themselves if the proposed £3.5 million gym on the existing Claremont Sports Hall is to become a reality.

Dye, who is also head of ASSA - the group responsible for allocating funding to non-academic services - when asked

about the realistic probability of a new gym said: "There's a chance. I wouldn't like to put the number of years on it.

"It will depend on how keen the people who want it are in finding funds and that will be difficult. I'm a mathematician and I'm not prepared to put a

probability to it."

With plans already in place to build a new gym, the cost of the project is the main stumbling block behind sports chief Graham Rayner's dream of improving university sports facilities.

With much of university
Turn to page 15

Coode it be gold for Ed?

NEWCASTLE graduate, Ed Coode, has failed to win a place in the British coxless fours boat for Sydney 2000.

Coode, who graduated last year, narrowly missed out on selection for the boat that will carry Steve Redgrave's hopes of fourth Olympic gold.

British men's chief coach, Jurgen Grobler, was pleased with Coode's reaction to the news.

He said: "It was very tough for him but he took it very well. He is a great athlete who has gained good experience from his year in the four."

Coode is now expected to combine with Greg Searle in the coxless pairs - an event which still gives him a realistic chance of winning a medal.

Newcastle's Director of Sport, Graham Rayner, who spoke to Coode at Easter when the top athlete was a speaker at a conference on university sport in Newcastle, still holds great ambitions for the former member of the elite athlete squad.

Rayner said: "True to form, Ed took his inclusion in the pairs with Greg Searle to be a great honour and one that will give him as strong a medal opportunity, including a gold, as had he been selected in the four."

Who says Valentines Day can only be on Feb 14th?

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February 2000

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