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WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2000

25p

INSIDE



Sex bombs



Will wor Lisa succumb to a lesbian romp?

TODAY

PLUS: Flipper-ing heck - there's a real life dolphin up for grabs

HELP US NAIL BABY KILLER

Mystery students may hold key

By LAURA THACKRAY

POLICE have issued a plea to Newcastle students for help in investigating the murder of a baby at Manors Metro station.

CCTV shots of two possible witnesses have been released this week, and cops suspect the pair pictured are likely to be Uni students.

Murder squad detectives contacted The Courier in the hope that readers will be able to identify the mystery witnesses.

The two were at Manors station around the time of the incident, and are being urged to come forward to aid police with their enquiries.

Five month old tot Connor McDonald suffered severe head and facial injuries on the Metro platform at around 4pm on Sunday 9th April. He died two days later at Newcastle General Hospital.

The baby's father, Trevor McDonald, of Whitley Bay, has been charged in connection with the death of his son.

But Northumbria Police are still very anxious to speak to the people who were filmed on security cameras at around 4pm on the day of the brutal attack.

Detective Sergeant Janet Richards, who is

Turn to page 2



HORROR ATTACK... Station where tragic tot Connor was struck



WITNESSES...Cops think these two may be students and could hold clues

The voice of Newcastle students since 1948

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

Got a story?
E-mail us on:
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or call us:
0191 232 4050

Street fighters call in Uni refs

By JO JOHNSTON
and OLIVIA RICHWALD

FURIOUS locals have lashed out at rowdy Jesmond students for causing excessive noise, vandalism and litter in their street.

Desperate residents of Sanderson Road sent a petition to the Uni complaining about disturbances caused by students in the area.

Around thirty students - all of whom have private landlords - were asked to attend a meeting with Uni staff last week, but many claim that the letter was the first they knew of any problem.

And they have hit back at the locals for over-reacting and taking the issue over their heads to the Uni too soon.

Becky Upham said: "Yes, we come in late like all students, but there have been no direct

comments about it, so how were we to know that we were making too much noise? We've only had one party this year but there weren't even any complaints then."

Neighbour Sam Henley blasted: "It's pathetic really. The letter from Uni was the first that we knew of any problem."

Housemate Tom Fyson continued: "We're adults and should be treated like it. We will keep the noise down if we're asked to, so it's harsh that the residents have gone to the Uni without speaking to us first."

"Students have caused problems in this street since long before we moved in so I think that we're being treated as scapegoats."

But angry resident Julian Hargreaves said: "Awarding a degree is more than academic, it is the University giving their seal of approval to the individual, so this behaviour shouldn't be tolerated."

He mentioned noise, vandalism and litter, claiming that one resident had even had a bag of vomit thrown into their garden. He said that he had spoken to his neighbours but had been met with little success.

"If we ask them to keep it down they are penitent for a while but things get back to normal within two weeks."

"We have called the police out once but they have better things to do, so we felt we had no choice but to contact the Uni."



LEAF US IN PEACE... Both sides want wrangle to end in the greenery-clad street

But fellow resident Karina Spink said: "The students don't have any direct access to the back lane where our rubbish is collected, so it does pile up in their front garden and make a terrible mess, but that's down to the landlord, not them."

"The alternative to having students there would be DSS families and I wouldn't think that would be any better."

Uni Deputy Registrar Paul Mitchell said: "We are concerned to maintain good relations with the Community and we were being responsible in responding. We have a responsibility to maintain the good name of the University."

"In response to comments from residents we've had a meeting with them and one with the students - we've listened to both views."

"This was not a disciplinary

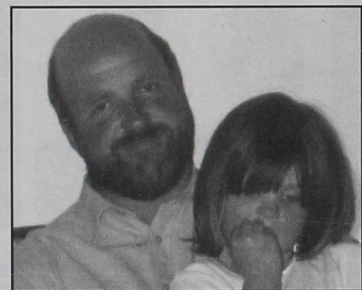
meeting, but the University has a range of options and sanctions which can be applied."

Mitchell confirmed that the Uni has the power to stop students from graduating because of such issues, but stressed this was not yet being considered in this case.

Sanderson Road student James Townley said: "It would be fair enough for the Council to get involved but we have a private landlord so it's really got nothing to do with the Uni."

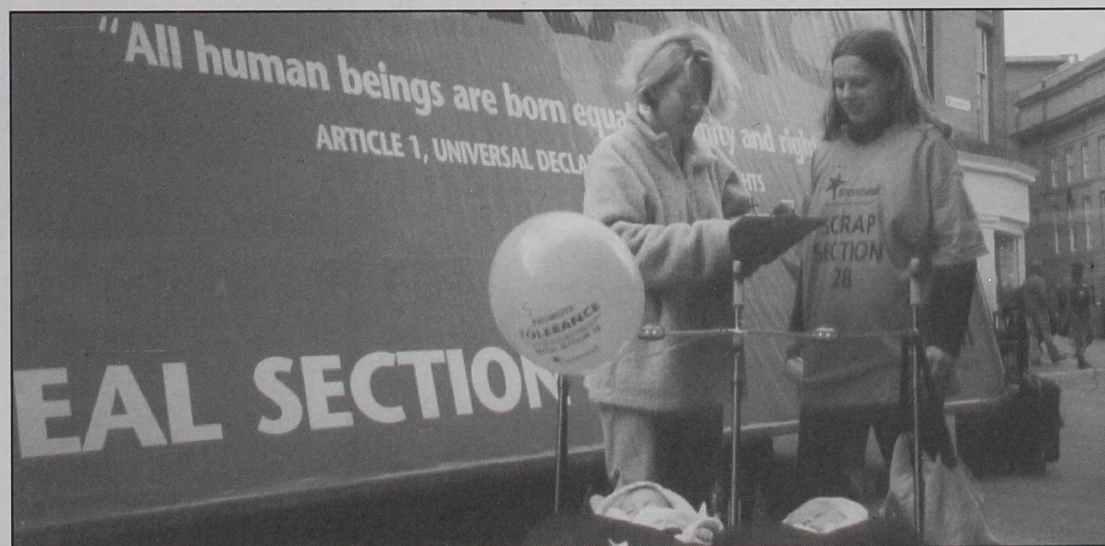
"A fine would be okay if things have really been that bad, but kicking us out of uni would be taking things too far considering how little warning we've had."

But Julian Hargreaves said: "They are limited in the sanctions that they can take so perhaps they feel failing to award degrees is justified."



ANGRY... Resident Julian Hargreaves

CAMPAIGN IS A GOOD SIGN



By ALAN J. SOADY

HUNDREDS of students added their names to a gay rights petition last week which will be taken to Downing Street.

Gay and lesbian students also collected signatures from locals as spent all day drumming up support at Monument last Thursday.

The campaign was organised by Stonewall as part of their fight against Section 28, which brands

homosexuals as unsuitable role models for children.

Spokesperson Lisa Harvey-Smith said: "There was a really great response from both students and locals."

"It was fantastic to see so many people there from LGB standing in the middle of Newcastle wearing bright orange T-shirts."

"Some of them haven't come out, and some of those are from the area so could have been seen by people they know. They deserve every credit."

Over 400 signatures were gathered at the University, and hundreds more from locals.

From front page

part of the murder squad, told The Courier: "I would stress that the people pictured can come forward in the strictest confidence, no-one will be in any trouble."

"We would also appeal for anybody who was in the area at the time to contact us even if they saw nothing so that we can have a chat about it."

A poster campaign for the appeal showing the two photos has also been launched around Newcastle this week.

The first picture shows a young white person with short, cropped, dark hair. He or she is wearing a dark top with a celtic motif and carrying a burgandy rucksack.

The second is of a white male with receding dark hair. He is wearing a grey or blue top and darker trousers.

If anyone recognises either of these individuals or was at the Manors Metro station, Bridge Street on 9th April at 4pm you should contact the police incident room on 0191 214 6555 ext. 62103.

Alternatively you can call The Courier Office on 0191 239 3940 or e-mail us on <courier.news@newcastle.ac.uk>.

WE CAN DO IT

The Courier CAMPAIGN FOR A NEW GYM
FIGHTING FIT

New Uni gym closer

By ROSS SMITH
DEPUTY EDITOR

A NEW gym is closer to becoming a reality thanks to The Courier - that's the verdict of sports head honcho Graham Rayner.

And AU boss Ali Brown has also given a big thumbs up to our campaign for bringing the plight of the Uni's undersized Sports Centre to the top of the agenda.

Since we launched our fight just after Christmas, a host of Uni sports stars have come on board to call for improved facilities.

And Rayner claims that Uni bigwigs have had to take on board the views of students across campus as a result.

He said: "There is no doubt in my mind that the Courier campaign has been extremely beneficial and has raised the awareness of the needs and requirements for a new sports centre within the University.

"Having said that, I do accept that sports may not be top of everybody's shopping list when the University is faced with very limited resources.

"The onus is on the centre to come with new and

inventive ways of funding.

"The current Vice Chancellor is retiring at the end of the year and an incoming Vice Chancellor will need time to assess expenditure - only time will tell.

"It's important to try to maintain the momentum the Courier has established."

AU boss Ali Brown added: "The Courier campaign has succeeded in increasing awareness - it's the voice of the people.

"It's obviously been high on the agenda and people have been taking notice.

"It's important to so many of our students and it's great we're getting so much recognition."

Sports Centre membership has doubled in recent years, leaving 6,500 students to battle it out to use the King's Walk gym's cramped facilities.

But the Uni has so far failed to come up with the £3.5 million needed to fund a new plan that has been drawn up to develop the Claremont Sports Centre.

In the weeks since we took up the campaign, we have received messages of support from Rayner, Brown, top Uni sports captains, and thousands of ordinary fitness conscious students from across campus.

Thanks to these high-profile backers, a big gym for Newcastle may soon become a reality.



THE BIG PUSH...We helped Rayner flex his muscles against tight-fisted bigwigs

DEBT LOST, SAYS DINNER LADY



POVERTY stricken students flocked to the Union last week in a bid to secure a place on a new TV programme.

Dicing With Debt is a new gameshow for Channel 4, where winners have all of their student debts cancelled in a stroke.

Producers spent last Friday in the Union to speak

to hopefuls, and those selected will be whisked away for filming next month.

The programme makers also recruited the help of popular Cochrane Lounge dinner lady Anne Potts to record links for the show.

Pizza queen Anne, 31 (pictured), said: "I felt like a right prat. My jaw's still aching from all the smiling I had to do."

Flesh is moor for sex beast

By LIZ TODD and
VERONICA OAKESHOTT

A FRESH safety alert has been sparked after five Leazes Parade students were flashed at returning from a night out.

The freshers were walking home across Leazes Moor when a naked man appeared from Leazes Park.

Zoology student Madeline Hutchinson said: "We saw a bloke walking parallel with us in the park, then he walked out of the bushes towards us.

Excited

"He was still quite excited when he went past."

Flatmate Peggy Nuttall, who saw the man first, told The Courier: "We kind of didn't take it very seriously at first, and I shouted 'Watch out for the naked bloke!'."

Socks

"He was in front of us only wearing his socks.

"The bloke disappeared then walked back out from the park fully clothed. He smirked at us as he went by."

But the shocked girls realised a friend had dropped behind and was by herself.

Worried Sophie Nicholson, 19, explained: "We thought we'd wait

for her and then we saw a taxi on Richardson Road. The cab driver phoned the police from his mobile."

Psychology fresher Peggy added: "The police arrived in a riot van - they were very nice, but they didn't offer us a lift home, which I was a bit surprised at."

Eerie

Madeline said: "Even though there were five of us we were still quite scared. He might not have done anything but you just don't know."

Politics student Sophie added: "It was eerie walking back - there weren't many people around."

Welfare officer Sarah Wilson said: "The girls did the right thing by walking home in a group, but it's important to try to stick to well lit areas.

Report

"Students should report all incidents to the police so they are aware of the problem."

This latest sex pest is not the first flasher to have terrorised shocked Uni girls close to campus this year.

Back in October Ricky Road freshers were told to be on the alert after a spate of indecent exposures in the area.

And in November a flasher whipped out his tackle as a lone second year walked home to West Jesmond through Exhibition Park.



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...and win yourself your own dolphin!



We've given away some crazy shit in our time, but this one takes the biscuit. Yep! Your little beady eyes do not deceive you. In association with **lastminute.com**, one lucky *Courier* reader could actually adopt their own dolphin. Wanna know more? Well, it's a bottle-nosed dolphin as found off the North East coast of Scotland, and the idea behind your adoption is to help preserve the population in these waters. Of course you won't be able to spend all your precious time with the little fishy darling, so included in the prize is a designer t-shirt, a picture of the dolphin and regular updates on its progress throughout the year. If you feel like having a porpoise in your life then read on...

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The answer can be found at www.lastminute.com/students

You want more? Well while you're logged on, if you register on the site you can go on to win a round the world trip, plus spending money! Whoooooaaarrrrrrr!!! So get logged on, find the answer, and then e-mail it through to us (courier.news@ncl.ac.uk) by 24th May. We'll pass on a winners details to the folks at lastminute.com asap.

All entrants will be the first to hear about lastminute.com's great deals free of charge through the legendary lastminute.com weekly email newsletter. The newsletter can be cancelled at any time. All prizes are subject to availability.

Courier Comment

Spin doctors

THE University's refereeing in the Sanderson Road war is very noble on the surface.

Angry locals have bombarded Kensington Terrace with complaints, so they just want to help resolve the problems.

But in reality their chief concern is a little more selfish - it is the "image" of the University.

Just like politics, the Uni is increasingly run by PR-obsessed managers concerned more with the outward appearance of the place than what goes on beneath the surface.

But this obsession risks crossing swords with simple freedom and civil liberties.

How can it be that the University has the power to punish people for playing their music too loud at home?

If you worked in a shop, would your neighbours complain to the manager about you? And if they did, would you expect to be sacked because of it?

It's time Uni bosses realised there is a place for "image", and it's not at the top of the list.

End of an era

TODAY The Courier publishes this, the last edition of the year.

It is time to thank you for supporting us.

The paper will enter its 52nd year in September under a new editor... best of luck to the team.

UNI FLAT RAP

Outraged flatmates say Accommodation Office bigwigs refuse to carry out maintenance work

By CATHERINE BRUCE

ANGRY students have slammed the University Accommodation Office over repairs they say have not been done to their flat.

Maiya Arkilla, who lives in a property maintained by the University, claims a catalogue of problems have been ignored.

Collapsed

Their dissatisfaction began only five days after moving in when a kitchen cupboard collapsed on top of Maiya.

The students say they lost £50 worth of food and crockery and claim it took the Uni four and a half months to fix it.

Electric

Now they say water runs down the bathroom wall from the shower and drips into the downstairs flat causing an electrical hazard.

They also claim that when they signed the contract in March 1999 they asked for the gas fire in the living room to be mended, but it is STILL broken.

Finnish-born Maiya, a third year Government and European

studies student, blasted: "The carpets are not properly laid and the carpet grips are dangerous. We have to wear shoes or slippers all the time.

Frustrated

"We are getting so frustrated. The Accommodation Office don't do what they say they will. They have just ignored us."

Service

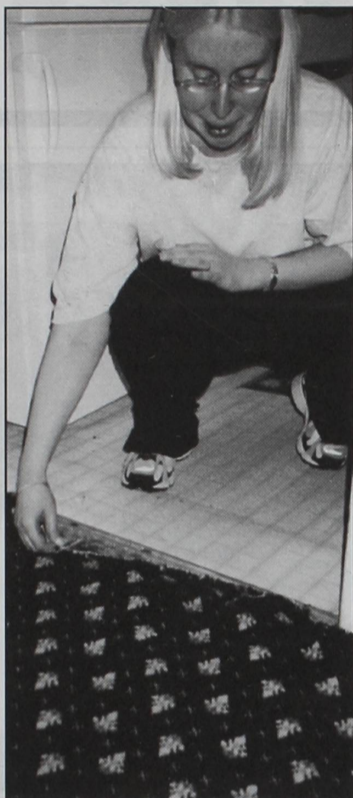
The students have sent four letters to the Accommodation Office complaining about their service, as well as countless phone calls. They have also spoken to the Student Advice Centre.

Their landlord - who does not live in the North East - is part of a scheme which means the University is responsible for carrying out repairs and ensuring the property is up to standard.

Refused

"The University blame the problems on the landlord but he is just the property owner. Their disputes with him should not effect us," Maiya said.

A spokesperson for the University Accommodation Office refused to comment on the matter.



RUG OF WAR... Maiya feels floor-ious

Race is axed for safety

SAFETY fears have meant last Saturday's Dragonboat race on the Tyne had to be cancelled before it even started.

Over 350 competitors were due to take part in the Chinese extravaganza.

But police advised the Port of Tyne Authority to block the event because of the the giant concrete legs of the Millennium Bridge.

They decided the large numbers of competitors paddling towards the pillars in 40 feet long boats was too risky.

The Union hired Peterborough's Gable Events to organise the race.

But the firm was unaware of the bridge supports, which were installed since their last visit to Tyneside a year ago.

Event organiser Ben Ricketts blames a breakdown of communications for the cancellation of the race.

The event was expected to raise £4,000 for charity.

Last week Ben said: "I'm disappointed that the race isn't going ahead, but you can't afford to take chances with safety."



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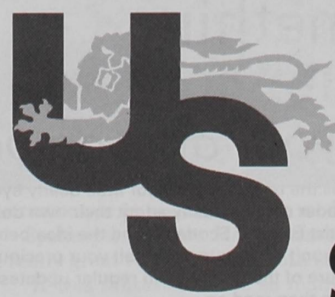
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Ali Brown AU Officer, Sarah Wilson Welfare Officer, Alan Soady Editor of The Courier, Shauna Doherty Education Officer, Shelley Ogle Communications Officer, Kate Vicary Finance & Admin Officer



FROM YOUR
UNION SOCIETY

SABBATICAL OFFICERS

Hunt for student's killer to go on TV



MYSTERY... Police will piece together Sara's last moments for TV witness plea

By PAUL CROSTHWAITE

POLICE are to go on TV's Crimewatch in a bid to catch the killer of Northumbria student Sara Cameron.

A reconstruction of Sara's last known movements is also being filmed.

Unless a breakthrough is made in the investigation the appeal will be broadcast on the BBC1 crime show on 24 May.

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

Her naked body was found beside a hedge on the A186 early on Good Friday morning, yards from the flat she shared in Earsdon.

And Finnish students are now boycotting Newcastle in the wake of her death.

Her former sports coach has revealed that the murder has tarnished the city's reputation abroad.

Raao Siiponen, a director and coach at the Helsinki Kisa-Veikot running club, said: "Sara's death has been a very sad and nasty surprise.

"We hardly get anything like this happening in Finland. It is a very peaceful country.

"English is a second language to most Finns and it is popular for students to go to English universities, but this is making people think twice."

A Northumbria University spokeswoman said: "What happened to Sara Cameron has caused a great deal of distress and anxiety to many people."

A man was spotted following Sara at around midnight on the night of the murder. 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.

Police are still hunting for the handbag Sara was carrying. It is a brown, rectangular leather bag, 8 inches by 10 inches, with a fold-over flap and buckle.

As reported in last week's Courier, Det Supt Steve Bolam has appealed for any students with information on the attack or who shared Sara's interests to come forward.

He said: "We have had a good response from the public so far and the possible use of Crimewatch will take our appeals for information a step further."

■ Anyone with information is asked to call the incident room on 0191 214 6555 ext. 63101/63105.



SCARRED... Village tainted by tragedy

CCTV TO ROLL AT UNI

CCTV cameras will soon be filming around university in a bid to increase student safety.

The new cameras are being put in place and will be watched around the clock in a central control room.

This news comes after the shock revelation that some Metro Stations record just nine seconds of footage every two minutes.

This means vital information can be missed if the film is needed for solving crimes - as may have happened in the Sara Cameron murder case.

Uni bosses have confirmed the cameras around campus will be working 24 hours a day.

UNION CASH BOOST

By JO JOHNSTON

HARD UP students are being urged to come forward and apply for FREE money from the Union.

Access Fund Bosses are appealing for students who need financial assistance to place an application as they still have a lot of cash to distribute before the end of the year.

Since the demise of the student grant system, there has been a huge increase in the lump sum the government gives the Uni for individuals each year.

This means far more people than before can benefit.

Stigma

Welfare Officer Sarah Wilson said: "There used to be a stigma attached to the Access Award as funds were so low.

"But the end of the grants has meant that there is a lot more cash available, and we'd like to encourage those who do need some money to come forward."

Priority

Fund Administrator Karin Alderson added: "Obviously priority tends to be given to mature students, those with dependents or those who are disabled.

"But we still have substantial amounts of money left and consider every application individually. There are no firm rules."

Depending on your situation, you may either qualify for a

hardship loan, which has to be paid back, a donation from the Access Fund, or a combination of the two.

Undergraduates who came to Uni in 1998, or more recently, must already have a full student loan to be eligible, and there are several other restrictions.

Pinch

But the message is that if you're feeling the pinch at the moment and can promise not to spend it all in the Mens bar, there's no harm in having a go.

Any money left at the end of the year must be returned to the Government and may lead to a reduction in the amount available next year.

Application forms are available from the Welfare Office and the Registrars Office.



CHEERS... Sarah toasts funds handout

Women boffins in low pay row

By ANN CLIFFORD

A SURVEY has shown that female lecturers at Newcastle are being paid an average of £5,576 less than their male counterparts.

Lecturer's union NATFHE, which collected the statistics, has estimated that the Uni would have to spend more than £3 million to eliminate the gender divide.

Newcastle Uni has an official Equal Opportunities policy, which states that the Uni opposes "unfair discrimination on the grounds of sex."

Equal

The policy also says that it is "designed to ensure that present and prospective employees receive equal treatment and are not disadvantaged by conditions...that cannot be properly justified."

But Dr. Linda Anderson, head of the English department, explained: "There is an Equal Opportunities policy, the problem is how to implement it. Positive discrimination is illegal.

"It is difficult for institutions to drop out of the pattern of favouring the people who reflect who they are.

"Interview committees would be mostly made up of men. Sometimes one doesn't have to look far to see that reflected in the structure of the University."

Disparity

Union Women's Officer Helen Child told The Courier: "It's symptomatic of the general situation - there is a general disparity between male and female salaries.

"It doesn't surprise me. It's the same for female graduates."

NATFHE has suggested that the wage divide is due to the fact that female lecturers with families have less time available to produce published research.

"I don't think there's deliberate discrimination going on," said Dr. Anderson.

Changes

"It will be interesting to see what changes the new V-C brings in."

Uni bigwigs are currently hunting for a replacement for current Vice Chancellor James Wright, who will retire at the end of this year.

Last week part-time lecturers and post-grads staged a demo backed by boffins' union AUT o protest against unequal treatment.

Toon to go green with festival fun

NEWCASTLE'S very own two day festival makes a welcome return to Leazes Park in June.

The Newcastle Community Green Festival will take place on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 June and promises more attractions than ever.

Amongst the acts already confirmed are Bagdaddies, North East Porn Priests, Rubberneck, Blu Honey, The Groovy Movie Theatre, The Pictish State Circus and the Uni's own Jazz Orchestra.

The free event will also feature dance, theatre, art and alternative therapy.

The organisers aim to bring together a wide range of the community in an event that aims to promote environmental ideas without shoving them down punters' throats.


The festival, which is now in its fifth year, attracted over 8,000 people last summer.

This summer's Arcane line-up is revealed
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Uni rowers splash out as LIZ TODD mounts their vessel



PICTURE: Kate Harding

DIFFERENT STROKES... The rowing team practice on the Tyne in addition to working out everyday, and they have got behind The Courier's fight for a new gym

"IF YOU wanna be the best, if you wanna beat the rest, ooh ooh dedication's what ya need." Few people would argue that the Uni Boat Club are just as committed as any of Roy Castle's record breakers.

But do they REALLY train eight days a week? Can they REALLY lift twice their body weight? And did they REALLY all row at Eton/Harrow/Gordonstoun? I tracked down the senior men's crew to see how preparations for the Newcastle/Durham Boat race were coming along.

A quick glance at their training schedule confirmed that, yes, they do spend inhuman amounts of time at the gym. Captain Colm Tolan ran through a typical week: "Monday we do an hour's Ergo at the gym in our free time [they're the rowing machines - ed.], then an hour long heavy weights session. Tuesday is a 25 minute race ergo and on Wednesday we'll be out on the water for one and a half hours followed by endurance weights immediately after. Thursday is a day off; Friday we'll have an hour's ergo and an hour muscular endurance."

That's seven hours of intensive training already, more than your average smokin', drinkin' student waster does in a term. But it's not over even then, because at the weekend the crew are back out on the Tyne from 8am until after lunch. Saturday AND Sunday.

What scares me is that this is week in, week out commitment - none of your turning up for a bit of footie in the park every once in a while. My definition of a heavy weights session is carrying the shopping back from the supermarket. On leg presses some of the guys lift the whole stack of weights - 120 kilos. That's the equivalent of two whole people (well, maybe not twice the size of your average rower, but certainly a hefty amount all the same.)

The club welcome The Courier's Campaign for a new gym. "We seem to live in Claremont Sports Hall, especially during the winter season," admitted rower Jay Roberts. Team mate Andy Hamilton added: "It would be great for the Boat Club and sports clubs in

general if we were to get a new gym. It would mean there were more facilities to be shared between so many people."

But there's more to the senior men's crew than eight guys sweating away in the gym at all hours. Cox Mayleen Albert is just as important as the rest of them, as she explained: "Coxing is a mental challenge instead of a physical one. It's partly a coaching role - knowing how to get the best out of the crew, and of course I have to steer. Because I'd rowed before, I know what I'm doing. What keeps you going in training is the racing."

Okay, rowers train outrageously hard, and lift unbelievable amounts in the gym. But are they all sloaney types who rowed with Prince William at school? Jay insists: "There's this image that we're all public schoolboys and we're not." Most of this year's senior men's crew started as novice rowers once they came to Newcastle. And they certainly don't fit the toff stereotype of the Cambridge/Oxford/Durham set. Andy said: "I reckon we spend around a grand a year each, on things like kit, transport, accommodation. There's this stereotype that rowers are all sloanes and can afford it, and we're not at all. It's difficult to manage."

The training's like torture, it involves staying off the booze and getting up at 5am, and you could have a Caribbean holiday on the money it costs. So why on earth would anyone sane take up rowing? Jay said: "It's like flying, it's one of the most addictive things. Winning a race is the most amazing feeling."

It was time for me to go for a trip out on the water and see for myself. Obviously being put in charge of coxing the crew of eight would have been far too dangerous, so instead I was allowed to zoom along the Tyne with coach Drew Robertson in the launch boat. The fear of being flung at high speed into a murky river made me very glad I was wearing a life jacket. And it really does feel like you're flying across the water. Of course, a little jaunt in a dinghy is hardly the same as having to row my way along the Tyne. But the looks of agony on the crew's faces made me glad I wasn't in the same boat.

The Courier CAMPAIGN FOR A NEW GYM
FIGHTING FIT

THE BIG RACE

- Newcastle/Durham Boat Race is the biggest grudge match of the season
- It's taking place on Sunday 4th June
- The 1500m sprints start upstream from the Tyne Bridge
- The finish line is at The Pitcher and Piano - expect a nail biting climax
- The senior men have yet to beat Durham in the race's four year history
- Novice men are on at 5pm
- Senior women row at 5.15pm
- All eyes will be on the senior men's race at 5.30pm where they hope to beat arch rivals Durham

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Newcastle Graduate Recruitment Fair

www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/ngrf

What is it?

The Newcastle Graduate Recruitment Fair is one of the series of AgCAS university careers service summer fairs.

It brings to the North East employers from all over the UK who have vacancies to fill. There will also be other organisations offering further study and training.

Who can attend?

All students and graduates from any university or college are welcome to attend. There will be vacancies open to students of all disciplines.

Which recruiters will be there?

The NGRF website will provide an up to the minute list of attending organisations and the opportunities and vacancies they are offering.

www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/ngrf

11 am - 4pm
27th June 2000
Castle Leazes
Newcastle upon Tyne

Sponsored by

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Just Packet In

GARETH BURCHER FINDS OUT HOW ONE LAD QUIT THE CIGGIES

Non-Smoking Day has been and gone in a blaze of fag-tastic glory. Every year puffed out smokers take the opportunity to quit but few manage to kick the expensive habit.

Students are one of the most targeted groups by tobacco companies, receiving gifts of branded ashtrays and even free fags. Nicotine is not the only addictive part of smoking.

The size of the Cochrane Lounge in relation to the Union reflects just how many of us enjoy smoking despite the dangers to health - not to mention the bank balance.

Even if you do want to quit how do you resist when friends who put the Marlboro Man to shame surround you?

But it is possible to give up the ciggies. It's now eight weeks since 2nd year Andrew Hopper kicked the habit. He had got used to puffing his way through up to 15 a day, but once he decided to give up, he did it overnight.

Combined Studies student Andrew said: "I started smoking very casually when I was about 14, but it wasn't until I went on my gap year that I smoked properly. Cigarettes were so cheap in Africa so it became far less of a social thing and more of a need.

"Curiosity made me start smoking. I suppose, as a teenager, you want to know

what all the fuss is about. All the anti-smoking campaigns make you think that smoking is so bad that you feel that you have to know why. It's also a good social habit in terms of when you meet new people, if you both smoke it's a starting point. If they don't smoke then it doesn't help at all, obviously! Also, I've worked in some restaurants where you didn't get a

“Take each week at a time... it's better than saying that's it”

break unless it was for a fag.”

So why is it that the habit which most of us consolidate at University is also the one that by the end of our Uni years we try to break? For Andrew, it was largely a financial consideration.

He said: "To spend £4 on cigarettes every day is a lot of money. Also, I looked back and realised I'd been smoking for far longer than I ever intended. It had ceased to be as enjoyable and I was starting to feel far more tired than ever before. Since giving up I've noticed a huge difference in

the way I feel.”

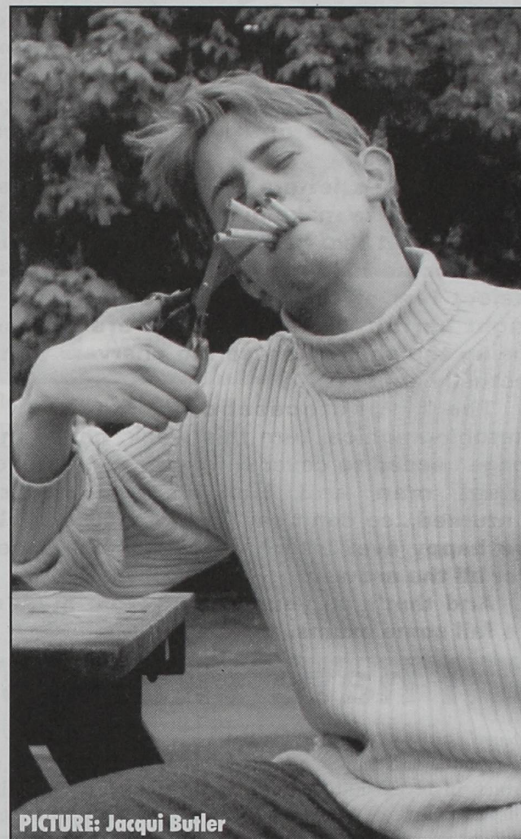
When Andrew decided to quit, he had no idea he would manage to do it all in one go.

He continued: "I thought at first I'd just start by cutting down. But then I managed to go for a few days without a cigarette at all, then it was a couple of weeks, and I thought why start again now?"

"To give up takes quite a bit of will power, so I'd say if you don't want to stop then don't even try. That sounds a bit stupid but I used to try and stop because I felt like I had to rather than I wanted to and it just doesn't work.

"If you really do want to quit then just take each week at a time. If you make yourself reasonable goals then it seems far less daunting than saying you'll never smoke again in your entire life. As the weeks go by you become more determined and the effect on your health gives you a lot of encouragement.”

And so the key question is: will this new-found healthy living continue? Andrew said: "If people were smoking Marlboro Lights in my house then it would be a lot harder but my housemates smoke Sovereign Lights or rollies so the urge is considerably lessened. I do miss smoking but I've got this far so I might as well keep going - I'm not some kind of born again anti-smoker!"



PICTURE: Jacqui Butler

UP IN SMOKE... Andrew has given his cigarettes the chop

THE YEAR THAT WAS...

Courier Editor ALAN J. SOADY reviews the news and puns of the last year



ANOTHER year has passed by at the good ship Courier, and with it another bag of exclusives and bad puns.

'Boob Lecturer Made Me Strip' was our first front page scoop of the year - the revelation that a medic had been made to whip her top off in front of classmates during a clinical chest lecture.

One term later and the Med School was involved in a boob of a different kind - this time a blunder in which computers gave would-be doctors the wrong answers to crucial medical questions.

The very beginning of the year also saw FYC's bid to break the world snogging record axed because of a meningitis scare - though we still managed to slip in our planned 'Snog On The Tyne' headline.

FYC hit problems up at Henderson Hall too where a warden threatened to ban freshers week unless stewards agree not to drink any alcohol. He was firmly told by organisers to FYC Off!

This was the year in which Newcastle freshers became the standard bearers of the Free Matt Rose campaign. Touched by the Eastenders storyline, the Ricky Road soap fans ended up taking their protest to Albert Square itself... and, of course, our snappers followed them as they had a swift bevvy in

the Queen Vic.

Castle Leazes freshers also made a name for themselves. First, there was a boozy punch up in Leazes bar (our headline: 'I'll Take You Hall On'); then cheeky residents took to nicking corridor phones to avoid queueing to use them ('Ring It Back' was our pun-packed call).

Up at St Mary's College, meanwhile, Ghoul Power was causing something strange in the neighbourhood. Residents were convinced they were being haunted by 12 ghosts. Always at the cutting edge of journalism, The Courier even set up a reconstruction of the daunting haunting.

Former Hong Kong governor Chris Patten was entooled as the University's new chancellor back in October, although not without angry protests against his appointment outside the ceremony.

Just a few weeks later and the Uni's Vice-Chancellor James Wright announced his retirement. Within minutes of his announcement, profs were e-mailing The Courier with their suggestions of who should replace him.

But little did they expect second year physics student Dave Wilkinson to throw his hat into the ring. 'Super Dave,' who is already on University Senate, pledged to slash his own pay as V-C to put right the incumbent's controversial 22 per cent salary

hike three years ago.

Student power also reached new heights when the History department allowed undergraduates to have a say on which candidate for a lecturership should be appointed.

And some existing profs found new tactics to get students to actually do some work - by giving them free wine. 'Sum Like It Hock' was our headline for the story of Maths chief Kevin Glazebrook dishing out free booze to the best number crunchers.

Dr George Erdos didn't have quite as much luck in the Psychology department, though. His similar wine-giving scheme failed to attract any takers. But it did lend itself to the pun 'A Question Of Port'.

The Courier was honoured this year at The Independent/ NUS Student Media Awards when we came runner up as Campaigning Newspaper of the Year.

That award was in recognition of our coverage of the semesters issue last year. We then used our reputation as strong campaigners to launch a new crusade this year - the Fighting Fit campaign for a new, bigger gym at the University ('New Gym'll Fix It' being the obvious pun).

But the current struggling facilities didn't stop our football lads storming to national cup glory and winning the BUSA league. The Royal Blues won in style with a

4-1 victory in the final against Crewe and Alsager.

Victories were also notched up by Newcastle's University Challenge Team who became the first Toon team for many a year to make it through to the quarter finals, and even managing to beat geeky toffs from Cambridge.

Agrics made a come-back into the headlines this year after eating live goldfish in the Mens Bar.

The Greek Society also gained some notoriety for themselves by smashing the wrong kind of plates during a party in the Bassment ('Greek Bash Comes A Cropper-lis'; 'Shish hits the fan'...etc, easy puns).

"Oh, Behave!" was the new phrase to be heard in the Union with the creation of an Austin Powers society - groovy, baby.

Not so groovy was the sailing club's lack of beds for visiting mariners after both the University and the Union refused to put them up. Eventually they were saved by the Hand of Cod, er God, when the Uni Chaplain came to their rescue.

Crocodiles, snakes and flashers have all been on the loose and chasing after students, topping off another year which has seen the usual scandals, disciplinary action protests.

All that in just 19 editions of The Courier.

Dear Lisa



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

It's the last Courier of the year, and the last time ever that you get the pleasure of my rantings. I'm not in a good mood this week, directly due to the lack of marriage proposals that have landed on my desk even after last week's appeal.

Next year's letters ed has already taken his opportunity to make himself known, the cheeky bastard, but I've had fun putting him straight. I don't come in for a bashing though, unlike a select few of the student officers who get a right earful. Oh, and skaters are accused of being the shell-suit wearing charvers that they actually are.

The photocasebook takes an autobiographical turn this week, hence the full page needed to cover it. I'm on the hunt for the ideal man and I'm leaving no stone unturned...so don't say I didn't warn you. Will it be happy ever after? Check out the casebook for all the answers.

And that's all your getting from me. I'm off to fail some exams.

I hate skaters

Dear Lisa,

What's this fad some people seem to have at the minute which involves skateboarding between lectures and down at the Haymarket? Once this was the pastime of seven year olds, back in the '80s when skateboards were first invented.

Then in the '90s it became the preserve of annoying, cider-swinging, shellsuit-clad charvers.

But now the new Millennium has dawned, it's fucking annoying bastard students who clatter past you before falling off and trying to make out it was an ultra-cool, fully intentional manoeuvre.

Is it just me, or does this phenomenon make no sense?

Yours sincerely,
Roly Blade

Lisa says: Y'see, what with the advent of ticket inspectors on the metro, there's really a limit to the transport options. I blame the council. Let us students travel for free! Bring on the Courier campaign. Seriously, though, you say it's "some people" skateboarding. Not quite specific enough - it's boys. You don't see women skateboarding round the place. You don't even see real men skateboarding. It's boys, and this fucking Uni's full of them. Grow up lads.

Red letter day

Dear Lisa,

I know you will probably not print this and will verbally slap me around campus in your reply whether you do or don't, but I thought I may as well try... if you do decide to print, PLEASE DON'T EDIT IT.....

Attention all, these 5 people are "enemies of students" every were (sic) & should be treated with suspicion, not to mention contempt.

1) Shelley Ogle - 'Communications Officer', translated into plain English this means "Reactionary Right Wing Activist". Has a burning hatred of the working classes ever since being told that her great, great grandfather was infact a miner that supported Macclesfield and won the cross pennines ferret racing championship in 1843.

2) Ben Ricketts - 'Convener of Debates', Ben hates 'left wingers' and believes that one day the whole world will live as one, with no borders...just a free market driven global village populated by a 6ft, blue eyed, blond haired ayrian (sic) race that will happily extol the virtues of capatalism (sic) and consider the act of paying for ones education the duty of all Englishmen every were (sic). His father was committed in '64 for complaining his shadow was a Russian agent that was following him around. When asked if he thought Bolivia could ever win the World Cup, he replied, "It's possible you know."

3) Tony Mee - 'Chair of Council', Very freindly (sic), so, hard to hate, but this makes him all the more dangerous. Tony is very insecure about life, ever since being repeatedly raped in public school, due to his feminine ways. Has to constantly tell the working clases (sic) to 'get off their knees' (and get a job), as he still has the words of the rugby captain, "Get on your knees" imprinted on his mind. Tony was diagnosed by his GP as being "a thick c*nt" in 1995.

4)Shauna Doherty - 'Union Education Officer', was possibly once a staunch socialist until she fell in love with a 'soccer casual' at St James Park. Now she smokes Lambert and Butler and has a tattoo of 'wor Kevin' on her arm.

5) Andrew Bickerdike - 'Chair of the Environment and Ethical Group', Not much is known about this suspiciously named man, claims to be sympathetic towards 'left' issues... only time will tell - TREAT WITH EXTREME CAUTION.

Anon,
bolshy_student@coolmail.net

Lisa says: That's a bit lame, slagging people off in a letter you're too cowardly to put your name on. There's nothing like standing by your convictions. Anyway, union politics is far too boring for me to get involved in so, seeing as it's the last edition, I've passed it over to the subversives themselves...

Up yer Junta

Dear Lisa,

We'd all love to respond to this letter from bolshy_student, but I'm afraid we're all far too busy.

Shelley is preoccupied finding new ferrets to race, Shauna is off having laser tattoo removal, Ben is chasing some Russian agents, Andrew is looking in the mirror sussing out how to lose that suspicious look, and Tony is trying to get a second opinion from a different GP.

However, a new spell checker on offer to anybody coming forward to claim the mystery e-mail.

Luv and hugs,
Shelley Ogle
Ben Ricketts
Tony Mee

Shauna Doherty
Andrew Bickerdike
'ENEMIES OF STUDENTS'

P.S. Shelley's message is: "Oooh, fuck you, your mamma too and your daddy..."

Lisa says: No doubt you all think they're joking. But Shelley has actually been spotted around campus with a few furry creatures in tow. Seriously. Make it what you will...

Has-been Lisa

Dear Lisa,

Please, please help me!

As the man who has the (un)enviable job of filling out your well-worn boots in next year's soaraway Courier I'm hoping that you'll be able to be offer me some of your wise, much-needed advice on how to fill the whole page.

Don't let me down Lisa,

Gaz 'The Fairy' Newhall

Lisa says: Would you jump in my grave as quick? I haven't even typed my final words yet. Basically, you always need a back up plan for when you can't be arsed. 'Lisa's colouring competition' was nearly used on several occasions. If the editor asks if you've done it, always lie. And slag everyone off, no matter who they are or what they're on about. They deserve it. Finally, make no sense in your replies. That way less people disagree and you'll get a (relatively) hassle free life. Now fuck off. You'll have enough space of your own next year. Take yourself and your boots off my territory.

Union Catering

Reader's Lounge, Robinson Library

Weekend Opening: Saturday 9am - 4pm Sunday 11am - 4pm

Keeping Newcastle students
from hunger...7 days a week

LISA'S PERSONAL BITS

Oi, listen up you bastards. Huge hugs and kisses to everyone who has worked on the Courier this year (except Dan - too stubbly). You're all cunts but I couldn't have done it without you.
Cheers, Alan

Thanks to everyone who has supported me over the past two years, especially Shelley.
Love, Kate

Here's to the Union starrfff party - hope there's no repeat of a certain incident in Bar Oz at the bar staff do last year... No names, but P and K know who they are!

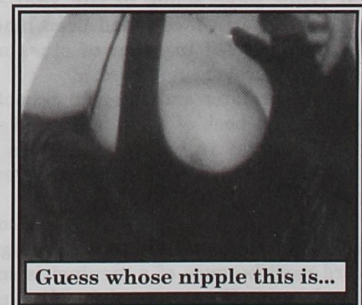
Kate H - Thanks for all your help.
Good luck on June 4.
Liz.

Lisa - that's it girl - you're on the scrap heap. No letters page, in a relationship... it's all wrong!

Dan - Best of luck Met. Make sure you keep up the fine tradition of upsetting as many cunts as possible - especially Union and University!

To my housemates - please don't ever go to Ikon again! Love, Ross

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



Guess whose nipple this is...

NIGHTLINE

For Information or a Chat

Ring

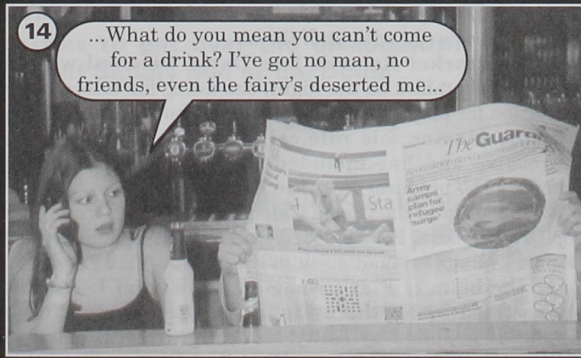
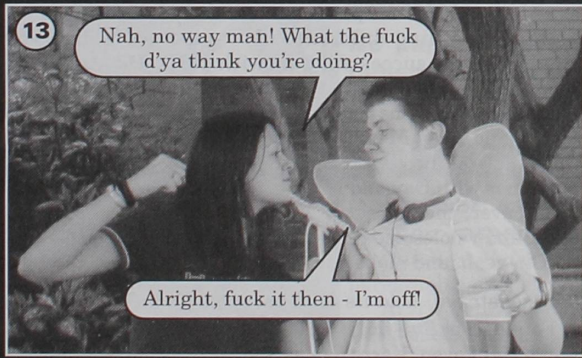
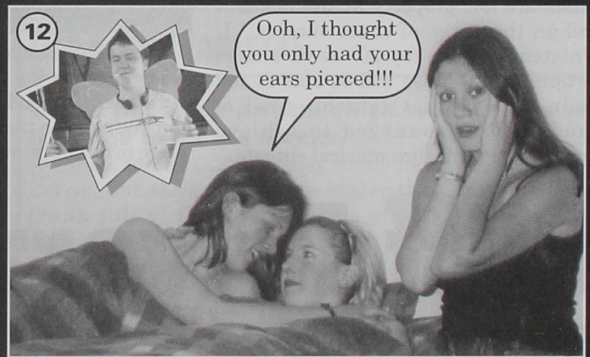
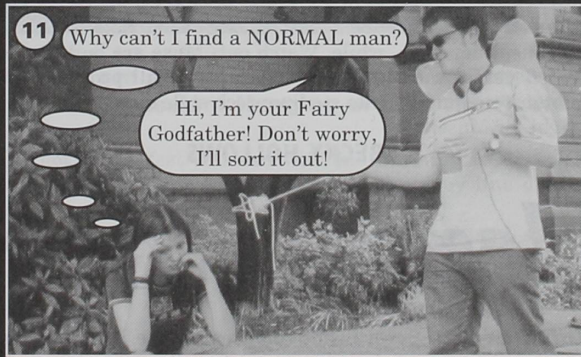
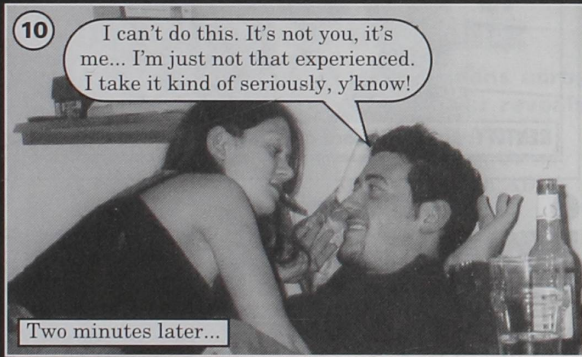
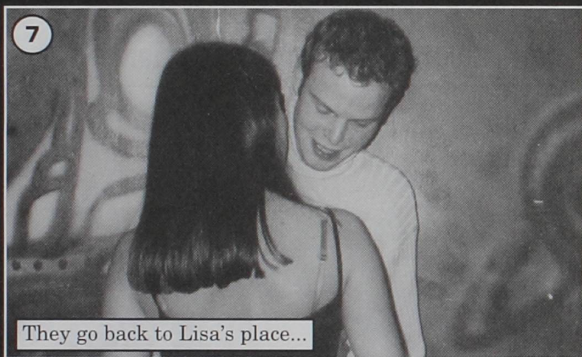
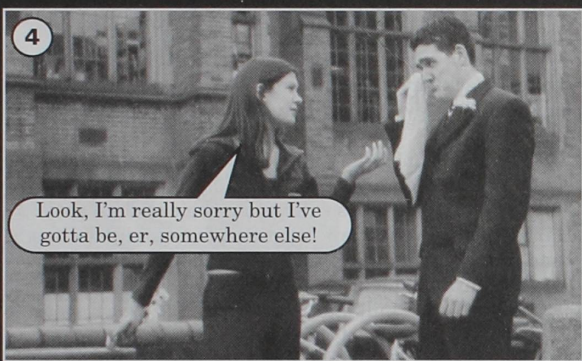
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"We don't sleep 'til you do"
8pm to 8am

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

LISA'S personal PHOTO CASEBOOK



LISA'S FINAL WORDS OF WISDOM: So it's all true love then, with me and the Fresher's Week Geek and we both live happily ever after. Don't be silly. As if that ever happens. He's bound to turn out to be more interested in the fairy (and who could blame him - Fairy). It all goes to show if you're determined to have any standards at all, you might as well become celibate. As I've said many times over the course of this year, **THERE ARE NO FIT MEN AT THIS UNIVERSITY.** (However, the fairy wishes me to point out that he's not bad as they go.) There's a lot of diversity in a University - virgins, slimy bastards who offer to buy you a drink but have no intention of doing any such thing, geeks, the lot. The trick is how to spot them. You can usually identify a virgin from a thousand paces, cos they'll be trendy dressers and well into dance music. Then again, it's not so easy for the nice blokes out there cos at some point you're bound to encounter a ruthless chick who's just after one thing. The only solution is to quit the manhunt and wait til after Uni when you're back amongst normal people.



Mused and abused

PREVIEW...

PREVIEW...
MUSE @ UNION
31/05/00

AS winners of the NME's Best New Band award this February, Muse have been causing something of a stir in the music industry this the last year.

Their angst-driven guitar music is what everyone holding out for the next OK Computer has been waiting for, combining sensitive lyrics with impressive guitar work and driving bass and drums.

The three-piece from Devon have an average age of just 20, yet astonishingly have 4 international record deals, including a lucrative major deal on Madonna's Maverick label. Their debut album 'Showbiz' was released to critical acclaim last November, this was reflected in chart success earlier in the year when 'Sunburn' entered the singles chart at number 22. New single 'Unintended' is released on June 5th and is expected to achieve the same level of success, after having been championed by Steve Lamacq on the Evening Session.

The post-Radiohead comparisons crop-up frequently when talking about Muse, but there are other unrecognised influences (Jeff Buckley, Nirvana and Tom Waits come to mind). The guitars are heavy yet never overbearing, and lead singer Matt has perfected his Thom Yorke wail, sitting comfortably over the music.

First band up on the night, Coldplay, are a well-suited support for Muse as they've been compared to, yep you've guessed it, Radiohead. True enough their music is in the same vein, albeit more restrained.

So why go to the gig? Well, both bands are hot property at the moment and on the verge of chart success. If 'Unintended' goes top 20 (as it almost certainly will) Muse will be able to add their name to that vanishing list of bands who've managed to achieve something in this dire musical climate.



Radiohead have been conspicuous in their absence for the last 3 years, and with their impending album remaining impending, the time is right for Muse to step into their mentors size 9s for a

while. Watch out- Muse are building up a loyal fanbase who will project them into stadium rock style dimensions.

Ruff Driverz 'cane it in final Stretch

PREVIEW... **ARCANE @ UNION 10/6/00**

What does the summer Arcane mean to you?



To me, it's the ultimate night out with the hottest turntable twisters around. Arcane's line-up is always impressive and this summer is no exception.

If you plan on heading to the Basement you can catch **Stretch & Vern** strutting their housey stuff. For those who didn't already know, they're responsible for the nu-disco stomper 'I'm Alive' and are bound to pack a punch.

The heavyweight title, though, really has to go to the

Ruff Driverz. Several hot releases on the Inferno label secured these guys chart success, as well as earning them some serious respect from DJs the world over. You won't be able to keep your hands out of the air.

Black Market Records boss **David Piccioni** will also grace the turntables on the night, extending his international reputation for playing quality no-bullshit house music. David is a true master, his role-call of past collaborators is impressive and has included **David Morales** and the legendary DJ/producer **Frankie Knuckles**.

We head up to the Global Cafe now and it's a night of non-stop Drum & Bass. **Flex Records** are in charge, and they have got a new album to shout about in the form of 'Flex Files'.

At the helm is Flex's commander-in-chief **L Double**, accompanied by Northern Lights' **DJ Revolver**. Full-on support is supplied by **Andy Mc.Loughlin** (Chrome). In addition, Turbulence residents **Phobia & Piper** will continue their notoriously up-front style.

Those wanting to get down to some Techno are adequately provided for in the Irish Bar. On those tantalising technics

TRENDY WENDY: MUSIC CRITICS

Those who can, do.

Those who can't teach. So went the old adage. Nowhere is this more appropriate than with regard to Wendy's last ever victims- those unscrupulously lax word-smiths: Music journalists.

Can't sing? Can't dance?...Then welcome to the music pages.

First of all some essentials: Fill that pen with bile, place a reefer between your lips, don your retro leather jacket and use incomprehensible language about

BENTLEY RHYTHM ACE @ FOUNDATION

The Ace must be big fans of the Toon after two stonking DJ sets at our very own Eclectic.

BRA returned for Eclectic's second birthday with another storming set of eighties anthems, jungle, and 60's TV theme tunes.

Anyone who got bored of hearing Betty Boo being mixed with Jurassic 5 and segued seamlessly into Fatboy Slim wasn't there.

This scorching mix rocked a packed out basement proving that only the Ace can fill the Bass. Although tight security forbade us from dancing around the DJ's this was a night to remember

This time around the Bentley's are playing a long awaited live set for the Newcastle massive, touring their equally anticipated new album (whose name I can't quite remember, but its goes something like 'On Her Majesty's Secret Spleen').

Anyway, whatever, its bound to be another choppy, poppy, wacky meat beat manifesto that will only help to confirm Bentley's reputation as dance music's favourite madmen.

While labelmate Fatboy Slim has been hogging all the glory of late, Bentley Rhythm Ace have preferred simply to stay on the sidelines cultivating their oddball antics to fantastically weird new heights, playing gigs left right and centre and dressing up as Dr.Seuss for laughs.

Your exams might be getting you down, your dog has run off with the milkman, your girlfriend won't speak to you no more because of the dog.

You either need happy music or happy pills, or both. So go to B.R.A, and you won't be disappointed!

HRH THOMAS OF FENWICK AND EMPIRE



BENTLEY: About to board our previewer's private plane

are **Jonathan Miles**, Resonate's **Ed Bond**, Hybrid's **Alex Gaskill** and **Dick Dee**. If you're in need of a high-energy experience, this is the place to come.

For something different check out the Nu Jazz room. Having had a successful run with NSR, **DJ Aaron C** is renowned for his eclectic style and depth of musical expertise. His brother-in-arms are **James Clarke**, **Nick Mills**, **Rich Usher** and **Paul Merrick**. However, if you just wanna chill, then there's always the reggae room boasting big-booming bass lines with Gav and Marcus.

As ever, the cafes will be open supplying cold things to drink and wholesome things to eat (leave an ice pop for me!).

Oh, yeah, and make sure you get a ticket A.S.A.P

■ Resonate will hold its final party on Wednesday 14th June @ Foundation. Full-on Hard House and Techno with Djs Ed Bond, Kai Foyen, Kerry James and Graeme E-UK. Doors 10-3 am. £3.50

ED BOND

inconsequential bands.

Now learn these words: Crap, arse, shit, bollocks, not, as, good, The Beatles (delete as appropriate)

Then it's time to get down to some work: Sit in the bar, sip a pint, make shit jokes about Status Quo and moan endlessly about the demise of The Roses.

If you interview someone just remember the basics: (a) don't get too mashed (mentioning no names!) (b) bring a pen, and (c) don't forget their name!

Its all too easy - any fool can do it (and judging by the above pages, usually does).

GAZ'S YEAR IN MUSIC

1999-2000 as seen through the warped eyes of Gaz 'Best of the Rest' Newhall



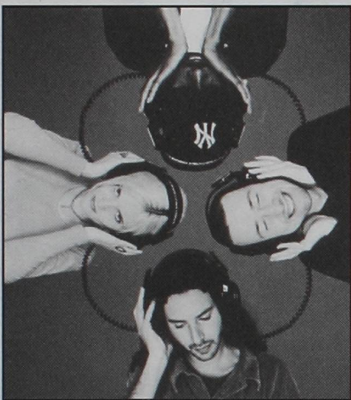
SEPTEMBER

The start of a new year and a brand new look for the music page!

The seeds were sown for a term of quality live action as Drum 'n Bass pioneer LTJ Bukem, Oxford chimp-boys Supergrass and, erm, Bryan Adams all entertained the Toon.

NYC continued their trend of attracting the latest innovative talent to the freshers band night, with Shed Seven and Phats and Smalls' Big Ben singing to a backing tape (Though not, unfortunately, at the same time).

Our intrepid new music editor led from the front, carrying out the unenviable task of spending 5 minutes alone with the Shed's Rick Shitter. The front page led with Med School drama but we had shock revelations of our own as Rick revealed that those personal hygiene jibes really hurt his ego: "Its not what the kids want to hear," the singer protested. Yeah, Rick, but they don't want to hear that the pissed guy in the red suit is really dad either



OCTOBER

The second month of the year and still no Gaz Newhall. Questions were asked...

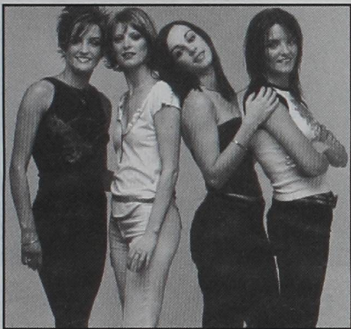
On a lighter note, The Beta Band gave us an interview and announced the news of their split exclusively to *The Courier*. The NME came knocking on our door as hundreds cried into their corn flakes.

Trendy Wendy was born setting the world straight with a timely attack on the "rampaging medusan monster": the Latino revival. The agreement was resounding, little did we know that Santana was hiding around the corner.

13th October... The music page led with two exclusives, but Faithless would have to wait in the wings as our Tom Horder spoke to the legendary Quo about hair transplants and Oasis.

Gaz Newhall's Best of the Rest column quietly entered the pages and took its unassuming, but highly influential, spot on bottom-left.

The Super Furrries say sorry for taking the piss at Sound City last year and Mel C receives shock pie-light treatment for hideously cack 'Northern Star' album. It wasn't me.



NOVEMBER

A quiet month for gigs as TOTP's favourite leprechauns B*Witched receive the full preview treatment. Fortunately, our home-grown student nights didn't let us down with Resonate, Hybrid and Turbulence keeping dance fans happy.

On the album front, the almighty Guns and Roses release a live album to shit on all others, Metallica try to do the same but fail and the Beastie Boys capture their groundbreaking career with greatest hits LP 'The Sounds of Silence'.

Trendy Wendy reports on the world of student bands and its "sad story of attempted sex, shit drugs and bad rock and roll". Bang on.

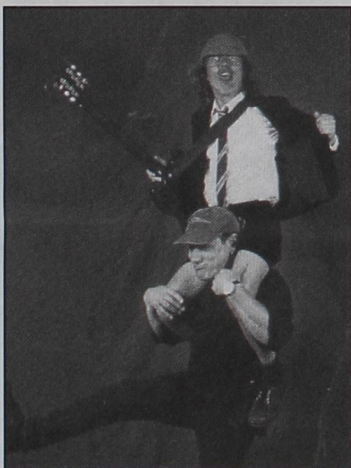


DECEMBER

Hall Wardens across the Uni are put on extra vigilance as Therapy?'s bass player reveals his bizarre passion: Hanging around the floors of student flats.

Elsewhere, Trendy Wendy got into a festive mood with his Christmas Cacker and rumours of an ABBA reunion abound, followed by a record sell-out by line dancing superstars Steps.

A bewildered public mourns the filing of the last Best of the Rest column. A sad, sad day. And music headline of the year must surely go to the one for Stereophonics: 'Sheep the Faith'.



JANUARY

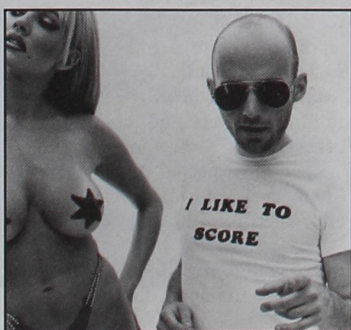
No paper as everyone tries to get over the disappointment of the millennium and the shock of Simply Red at the Dome

FEBRUARY

It was war, as dance guru Ed Bond and Indie Kid Becky Hollows gave us their respective tips for the top in year the year 2K.

Our Becky gets in the mood as she mentions 'attitude' and Noelly G in the same paragraph as Belle and Sebastian.

AC/DC returned to the music scene- 34 albums and no disappointments. The Courier's Oasis backlash starts in earnest as Trendy Wendy sticks the knife in. Outside these pages Robbie Williams offered Liam a hundred grand of his own money for a scrap. Attempts to raise double that just to shut the arsehole up unfortunately fall at the first hurdle.



MARCH

Oasis released 4th album 'Standing On the Shoulder of Giants'.

No-one gives a shit.

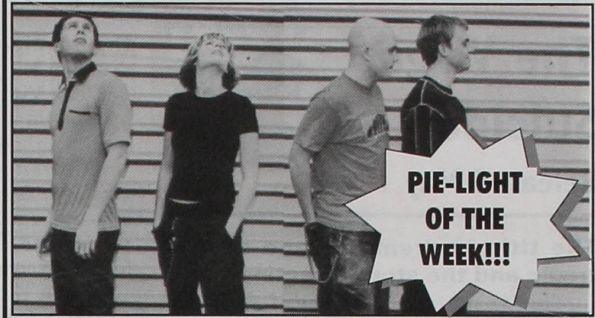
Gaz Newhall unleashes an unwarranted attack on Dead Legend Elvis Presley. Rather than taking back his outrageous comments Our Gaz promises Macca will receive the same treatment next year (He's not dead yet, but there's time).

Moby and Hardknox both play a stormer down in the Bassment as we use **that** Moby photo yet again.

Finally, the last nail was hammered into the coffin of Britpop as the Courier ran an exclusive Oasis obituary. As the wise men once said: Don't look back in anger.

REVIEWS

SINGLES...



PIE-LIGHT
OF THE
WEEK!!!

FUNGUS



REAL ME

Swedish Axe-Maniacs Fungus grunge it up on new single "Real Me."

The Brits like their rock ever so slightly Scandinavian. Maybe its their ear for a tune, the blonde hair and the comic lack of mastery of the English Language.

This single is rock by numbers but its not 'alf bad, in a primitive sort of way, of course. This Fungus is growing on me.

H.R.H. THOMAS FENWICK

THE DANDY WARHOLS

GET OFF (PARLOPHONE)

One question- Why Bother?

The Dandy Arseholes pump out the same inane throwaway guitar wank as every other US feel-good rock band.

Except this is much, much worse. They've nicked The Levellers' worst guitar riffs and, worst of all, added hippy-arsed cries of 'hey-hey' at every opportunity.

In a word: Fucking crap

TOM HORDER

ANGIE STONE



LIFE STORY (ARISTA)

Who's the black private chick who's like a sex machine to all the Macks?

Angie Stone! O.K. she may sound like a character from Corrie, but she's got a voice bigger than her hair and a trunk full of funk. Commence pimping this instant.

CHRIS DAVIES

ALBUMS...



JACKNIFE LEE



PUNK ROCH HUGH ROLLER (PALM PICTURES)

With songs about oral sex, 70's dictators and BMXs you can't go far wrong.

And here, oddball Mr. Lee gives us possibly the craziest album you'll hear this year.

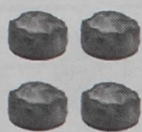
Its got the swing of Beck, the humour of The Divine Comedy and the quirkiness of Bentley Rhythm Ace all rolled into one. The result: a 70's style jazz-disco-funk monster. Not for the faint hearted

TOM HORDER

VIRGIN ON DEATH

The Virgin Suicides

Released May 19th



The title is dramatic, the demise tragic and the story affecting.

This is not a film to see if you want mindless, escapist entertainment. However, it is the kind of film to see if you like value for money. You will leave the theatre moved, think about the film that night, and the next day and the days after - in other words you get a lot of mileage from the hour and a half movie.

The bizarre combination, of deadpan humour with tragic demise is a mixture I found disturbing. "The Virgin Suicides" can be best described as the "American Beauty" of the teen angst genre.

It is about distopia and tragedy - yet centered wholly around the five teenage sisters and the neighbourhood boys. The issues which made us cackle in "American Pie" are present in this film, but without the vulgarity of erections and apple pies. There is

the requisite high school prom/party, drunken sex plus the added bonus of suicide.

"The Virgin Suicides" follows the stories of two sets of teenagers who live in the same neighbourhood. It is set in the 70's at a time when teenagers were being given more freedom, an issue central to the film. Five sisters, aged 13-17 live with their over-protective and deeply religious parents (James Woods and Kathleen Turner).

When the youngest of the sisters kills herself, the melodrama begins. The story follows the boy's obsessions with the girls, the girls isolation and their parents being blind to the situation. I don't want to say anymore because it is the expectation throughout the film that makes it so good.

This film is striking, involving and deeply moving. It is happy to mock itself, honest and believable. It was the directing debut for Sofia Coppola, yes the daughter of Mr Francis Ford, and it is an impressive effort first up.

The feeling of impending doom is built up throughout, so makes the ending circumstances even more affecting. It did make me laugh out loud, and I didn't cry but the overall sense of melancholy is extremely effective.



WIN *Virgin Suicides* GOODIES

To celebrate the release of *The Virgin Suicides*, our friends at Beatwax have given us a pile of nice things to give away to our lucky, lucky readers. The winner will receive a skinny fit girls t-shirt, a copy of the original novel by Jeffrey Eugenides, a copy of the original soundtrack produced, composed, and performed by Air and a *Virgin Suicides* film poster. Runners-up will receive a t-shirt, CD and film poster. To win, what we want you to do is name one film directed by Sofia Coppola's famous father. This has got to be an offer that you can't refuse (That's a clue dimwits). Answers on a postcard and into The Courier office asap, please.

Heaving bosoms are chest the breast in cherry losing

Les Liaisons Dangereuses

Theatre Royal Tuesday 9th May

Heaving bosoms, the deflowering of virgins, and innuendo galore. What more could I ask of an evening at the theatre?

From the period costumes and scenery to the deceit and treachery of the characters *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* is a thrilling visual feast.

As an exploration of cruelty and revenge it is superb - the characters are a stunning study of an amoral society in a thrilling story of sexual manipulation that ends (as thrilling stories of sexual manipulation must do) in tragedy.

A high profile cast was lead by Siobhan Redmond, wonderful in her role as the scheming Marquise de Merteuil, and although I was anticipating Clive Wood in the role of Valmont, Andrew Whipp who stepped in for the part did an admirable job.

If you don't know the story... well basically Le Vicomte de Valmont, whose claims of pulling power are second to none, is encouraged by his former mistress, La Marquise de Merteuil to seduce the innocent Cecile and Mme de Tourvel (the gorgeous Sophie Ward) for her own devious motives of revenge. Valmont succeeds, but finds himself, totally against his will, in love with Tourvel, a situation the scheming Marquise is less than happy with.

It should be easy to condemn Merteuil and her scheming partner for destroying the lives of 'innocent' aristocrats, but instead it is hard not to sympathise with the witty, yet thoroughly immoral villains of the play, even when corrupting the chaste Cecile (who comes to decide that her deflowerment is less than a bad thing).

Intrigue amongst aristocrats in the parlours and bedrooms of pre-revolutionary France doesn't come much better than this, and as a piece of theatre it is magnificent.



There's always the small screen versions..plus Pfeiffer and Gellar!

If you don't make it to the theatre to see this one, there's always the film versions, the latest of which is *Cruel Intentions*, which goes to show *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* has something to say over 200 years after it was written to the scandal and outrage of, well just about everyone.

Cruel Intentions is an updated film version of Laclos's 18th Century novel that sticks remarkably close to its source, making studying the original that bit more interesting if you don't go for the period pieces.

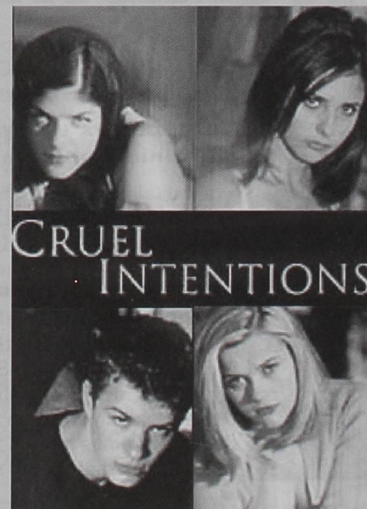
Sarah Michelle Gellar (or more popularly Buffy) and Ryan Phillippe (little more than a run-of-the mill himbo) play two spoiled teenagers most definitely from the upper crust of America's debutantes, having the effect of making them both a little too disinterested for the parts, and their cruelty seem a little more 'high-school vicious fun' than sexual power games amongst the upper classes.

This film sees Gellar shed her goody-good vampire slayer image and emerge as the coke-snorting, dirty talking 'I'll fuck your brains out' Kathryn Merteuil.

This film, although it makes a wonderfully subversive work into absolute trash is fun to watch, and whether you know it or not, there's culture in there somewhere.

The 1988 *Dangerous Liaisons* is a period piece starring John Malkovitch, Glen Close and Michelle Pfeiffer- the acting's better, it's a more classic film, but not half as fun as *Cruel Intentions*.

In the end it all comes down to what you're looking for. For the better film choose *Dangerous Liaisons*, for the cooler one choose *Cruel Intentions*.



LET IT RIP!

THE FEARSOME 5 FORTNIGHT RETURNS



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JUNE 5TH-16TH



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Chickens shafted by summertime Cruise

Cop Summer This

Nationwide

Impossible as it may be to believe, it is that time of year again when the nights get longer, stress levels begin to peak and you begin to regret the fact that you spent most of the year watching the turbulent and, at times, harrowing lives of Felicity Scully (don't tell me you wouldn't) and the other residents of Ramsay Street.

It is also time for The Courier to make its last stand for the year in this, the final issue.

On that bombshell it seems quite appropriate to furnish you with details of this summer's potential blockbusters in an attempt to ease the pain and sense of loss.

First to roll off the hollywood gravytrain is the Wallace And Gromit inspired 'Chicken Run', an epic tale of...plasticine chickens. The tag team combo of Nick Park and Steven Spielberg with help from Peter Lord (the man who breathed life into Tony Hart's nemesis, Morph) have produced an animated

adventure centering around the escape of chickens from a hen-house. Sounds a bit quirky but could be a surprise package.

But even better is the mighty midget himself, Tom Cruise in the second Mission Impossible film. Apparently this time the plot is relatively easy to follow unlike the first installment which, rumour has it, even challenged the international man of space, Stephen Hawkins. With some hi-tech special effects and cunning stunts you could do worse.

August sees the release of the Marvel superheroes inspired X-men which has been hotly tipped as this summer's big hit. The producers have so much faith in it they have already written three further stories and penned in three sequels. A well calculated strategy or blatant over confidence? Only time will tell.

Finally, coming up the rear is possibly the hippest film of them all...Shaft Returns. Samuel L Jackson plays the nephew of John Shaft, the original suave investigator in a re-vamped version of the classic tale of blaxploitation. What? I hear you cry. Well, imagine a cross between the Bill and the Jackson Five and you're almost there.

And so ends the list of this summer's cinematic gems. Take it or leave it...the choice is yours.



Union Catering

Week Commencing 22/05/00

Stottie of the Week

Paté Salad

Fillings of the Week

Global - Jamaican Jerk Chicken

MLK Room - Cheese Savoury

Salad Bar - Cottage Cheese

Check out special offers on all counters

Tasty Bites

Cochrane Food

on Friday Nights
9pm - 1am

Pizzas, Hot Dogs, Burgers,
Spicy Potato Wedges and more

BOOTY-FUL

Honest

Released 26th May

Yes, honest, you'll be seeing this film for the storyline. Honest my ass. The prospect of the All-Saints baring all for the cinema going public is bound to attract more than a few to see this flower power flick I would think.

Not that there's anything wrong with that, it's just, well that's about all there is to seeing this film.

The three remaining girls from All-Saints star as three down on luck sisters living in the East-End in the late 60s, looking to improve their circumstances robbing from the posh boys of the West End. They hit a spot of bother when one falls in love with an Oxford graduate and they start a turf war with some

of the East End heavies.

Fitting the predictable roles of the innocent one (Melanie), the less than innocent one (Natalie) and the older one who falls for a sloane (Nicole) the characters don't gel as they should.

Both love story and social commentary, the film does neither well, and as a comedy it very nearly fails as well.

A Doors-Moviesque acid trip scene probably taken from director Dave (Eurhythmics) Stewart's own memories of the sixties is more than a little on the cringy side.

That said, the ever pleasing All-Saints don't put in a bad show, especially Melanie in her role as the understated and innocent Jo who manages to outshine the other girls even though her role is smaller.

This isn't going to blow your mind in a 60s tie-die whirl of psychedelia, but at the same time it's not terrible.

And there won't be any saddos wanking off in cinemas all over Britain. Honest.



The Courier 1999-2000 SPORTS AWARD WINNERS



ALAN Brown's side have had a remarkable season winning the BUSA Cup and achieving promotion in their highly competitive local league.

Unbeaten throughout their North East Merit One league, including a 6-2 spanking of their closest rivals Leeds Met, the Royal Blues were always going to be contenders for the Cup competition.

MEN'S FOOTBALL

With an impressive victory over Bath and a last-gasp win against Edinburgh in the semi-final, only Crewe and Alsager stood between Newcastle and the BUSA crown.

Goals from Hall, Felton, Barbe and Cryer ensured that it would be the Geordies celebrating success at Valley Parade after a stunning 4-1 win.



THE men's volleyball team have been one of the surprise packages of the sporting year at Newcastle.

Helped by increased funding from the Athletic Union which allowed them to get a coach, Ed Pinguey's side rewarded Ali Brown's generosity by capturing the BUSA Shield.

In a fantastic finals weekend at Loughborough University, the Royal Blues showed they were a force to be reckoned with by crushing UWIC in straight sets.

They then showed their strength of character against Oxford Brookes, winning the final in a five set classic.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL



JAMIE WHITWORTH

JAMIE Whitworth has been outstanding all season for the BUSA cup-winning Uni football side.

While the likes of Chesters, Batty and Hall have taken the glory in front of goal, it has been the dogged determination at the back that has been the real reason for the team's glorious 1999-2000 campaign.

A no nonsense defender, Whitworth has formed an impressive partnership at the heart of the Royal Blues defence with Greg Rock.

His outstanding reading of the game has saved the side on many occasions and his aerial ability has reaped reward at both ends of the field.

Best blaggers!

IF only Fenhambache were as good at football as they are in organising people to vote for them in The Courier Sports Awards.

Despite losing half their games in their Intra-Mural League Div Two, they managed to win piles of votes in our poll. Well blagged, lads!



LAURA WESTMACOTT

NOT many students can claim to be national champion at their chosen sport, yet Laura Westmacott has managed to achieve that feat while doing a German degree.

She gained national media recognition for her feat of becoming British women's skiing champion at Saalbach Hinterglemm in Austria in January.

Despite dislocating her shoulder the previous week she also achieved second place in the women's giant slalom at the BUSA championships at Easter.

So successful has Laura been this year, she has decided to take a year out as she bids to win a place at the Winter Olympics in 2002.

AU boss hails top sporting year

By **CHRIS HURST**
SPORTS EDITOR

IN a record breaking year for Newcastle sport it is hardly a surprise to find AU chief Ali Brown has been delighted both by her own efforts and that of her team.

Brown said: "This year has been absolutely brilliant both personally and for clubs and teams across the board."

It hasn't just been the award winning footballers who have pleased Brown, but a number of teams across the A.U.

"I've been glad to see an increase in general membership. Obviously it has also

been brilliant to see loads of different champions and individuals.

"As far as securing a bit more money, that is still in the process, so that still may be another achievement and improving communication between clubs and the Athletic Union has also been good.

"It's been a really good commercial experience for me."

Brown seems to have enjoyed every minute of her job, even the open day talks to sixth-form students, and will take many fond memories from her days at Newcastle with her.

Newcastle's AU officer believes the fact Newcastle is now well represented in the Premier League, despite financial

limitations, has also put the Royal Blues back on the map as one of the leading sports universities.

"We're right up there with the best" said Brown. "We couldn't hope for anything more.

"The way we're set up we're still lagging behind a bit in terms of facilities and money available both to clubs and individuals.

"In terms of what we've achieved with what we've got we're indisputably one of the best sports universities.

"Compared to similar institutions the amount of final help we get is quite limited."

Despite all her enjoyment in her job, she has found her some aspects frustrating.

"It has been frustrating and extremely hard work.

"It's frustrating that we don't have the man power or the money to organise certain things better as we can't always fully subsidise teams on Wednesday afternoons.

"Hopefully the new vice-chancellor will be pro sport and we'll get a new sports centre and loads more money."

Brown was also happy to pass advice onto her successor - current men's tennis captain Ben Stanbury.

"Ben should keep his head, be objective, don't put money into sports that will get best PR as we are here to provide sport for all" said Brown.

And as Sarah Wilson, Welfare Officer, said at the Athletic Union ball, Stanbury does have a lot to live up to.

COODE IT BE MAGIC NOW

Uni graduate chases Olympic rowing gold

By CHRIS HURST
SPORTS EDITOR

MANY people are swayed to join a university club for its social life, but few find themselves on the road to Olympic gold as a result.

Ed Coode, a Newcastle graduate, is currently preparing for a summer of tough training before heading to Sydney with a realistic chance of bringing a medal home when he takes part in the Coxless Pairs with Greg Searle.

Yet it all could have been so different for the former Marine Biology student had he not decided to join the boat club, with his interest in rowing after A-levels at a low.

Social

Coode said: "I only enjoyed the Boat Club for the social life - I wasn't really planning to carry on rowing. I just thought I should keep fit."

"I started really enjoying it again, did national trials, rowed a few races, got some lucky breaks and got a place in the world championship eight."

Coode was in the running to get a place in the much fancied Redgrave and Pinsent boat, after he took gold in the coxless fours at the World Championships in Canada last August, but in the end he was to lose out to Tim Foster for a place in the boat.

Coode said: "I wasn't disappointed at all on the day the team was announced as the selection process had been ongoing for six months."

"I'm now in a pair with Greg Searle for the World Cup regattas and hopefully for Sydney."

"Greg won a gold medal in 92 and took a bronze in a fairly blanket finish in Atlanta. I'm looking forward to it and have as good a



ED-ING FOR THE TOP... Former Newcastle student Coode gets some practise in with Olympic gold medallists Redgrave and Pinsent in his bid for gold

chance of winning a gold medal with Greg as I did in the four."

Coode admits he finds it difficult to believe how his life has been transformed in the last five years since he started rowing again at Newcastle.

"I went to Oxford after Newcastle and learnt a lot there, and after Oxford I managed to get a place in the world championships in the eight."

Gamble

"I decided to give up trying to get a job, got funding from Barclaycard and the National Lottery and took a gamble to get to the Olympics."

"Now eighteen months later I have a very, very realistic chance of getting a medal."

"I'm looking forward to the Olympics to see it and find out what it is about."

Amongst all his training, Coode often reminisces about his student days in Newcastle.

Coode said: "I miss the town at Newcastle

and I've still got friends up there and I love going back up there."

"Student life - everyone is always envious of that. I had a blast of a three years."

Coode also credits much of his success to the help he received at the university from the sports centre and also of course to the boat club which revived his interest in the sport.

Coode admits: "The Elite Athlete squad was just starting out and was very helpful. It's not the be all and end all but it made me slightly recognised."

"It offered basic, practical advice on how to get the best out of yourself."

When asked whether he could have got where he did without the Elite Athlete Squad, although not crediting all his success down to the group he admits they had a huge part to play.

"You can never tell. It helped and I feel very lucky so I would say I couldn't have got as far without it, but the Boat Club was the

really important thing."

With memories of his university days still very much in his mind, Coode was keen to back The Courier campaign for a new university gym.

Problems

"We had problems in the weights room when we were part of the boat club and it makes the whole training experience less fun than it is anyway."

"You need a couple of weight-training rooms as everyone wants to use them at the same time after lectures, and you want to use them at the same time as the rest of the club."

"It's a fantastic campaign and one that I hope succeeds in persuading the university."

With rowing one of the many medal hopes for Britain in the Sydney Olympics in September, if Coode does win gold it may leave some students wondering what might have been.

If only they'd joined a sports club in freshers week.

WHEELY GOOD WIN



KARREN Pepper has won the women's downhill title for Newcastle at the BUSA National Mountain Bike Championships.

Pepper annihilated the opposition, with a winning margin

of fifteen seconds. She followed up this performance with a third place in the x-country.

In the men's downhill event Tim Green came an impressive 6th and James Adamson was close behind in 16th.

Girls caught out by rain

By MICHAEL WALSH
CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

A WEEK of sunshine has come too late for this year's Women's Cricket squad.

Poor weather has meant that both their BUSA games so far have had to be cancelled, leaving their season over before it had started.

Not surprisingly, this is being highly disappointing to Club captain Kate Sheeham, particularly given the strength of the current squad.

"It's definitely an improvement from last year, mainly due to our new coach. We've got some really good players such as Rachel Godschalk who's been selected to go

to the British University trials which has made it a great shame we haven't got to play any BUSA games," she said.

With no competitive games to play, the side hopes to gain some experience in friendlies.

Like their male counterparts, the women suffer from the problem that the cricket season hardly fits in well with the University calendar.

"It's not like a game of hockey where it's over in a couple of hours. We were going to play in Sheffield and that would have involved leaving early in the morning and not returning until late at night", Kate explained.

"The problem is that a lot of people are not prepared to do that

with exams and essay deadlines looming."

As part of a growing sport, the squad face considerably more problems than other teams in attracting members.

Kate added: "We do struggle to get people involved, but we've done a lot better this year than last year."

"A lot of people haven't played before and are worried that they will embarrass themselves."

"Also, nets don't start until January so the Freshers Fair is of little use to us - a lot sign up but have then forgotten about it by January."

"And of course there's the more general problem that most still don't recognise it as a women's sport."

RICH PICKINGS FOR CRICKETERS

By CHRIS HURST
SPORTS EDITOR

WHATEVER reason the semester system was designed for at Newcastle, it certainly wasn't to help the cricket team.

Forced to fit in five matches in the space of three weeks at the busiest times for students, and under the mercy of the unpredictable weather, it is hardly the recipe for success.

Results are even less likely to be achieved when there are no umpires to officiate the match as in the case of the Bradford game.

Confident

But with an excellent win over Teeside already in the bag, Uni cricket captain Rich Little is confident of still achieving some success this season.

Little said: "Our aim is to get back in the Premier League but due to the five week term it is difficult to get continuity."

Havoc

"We had two friendlies called off because of the weather but a five week term plays havoc with cricket."

"Exam period is hell as it hard for me to get people to come and play games."

Although currently in tier one

of the BUSA league, Little believes his side is capable of giving Premier league teams such as Northumbria and Leeds a good game.

Little said: "Durham are above and beyond everyone else. Last year they had a couple of people hoping to get county contracts."

Desire

"Between us, Northumbria and Leeds there is very little difference and one thing Durham hasn't got is a desire to win."

"The league we're in at the moment we're too good for."

Although without some of the outstanding individuals of last year's team this is a still a very strong squad.

Little said: "Last year we had a guy, Matt Mountain, who had played for Lincolnshire and Northern Universities. This year there are good team players, but may not in the same class."

Aims

Little is certainly sure of what his aims are for the rest of the season.

"Win the last three league games, qualify to the shield, win that, but ultimately get into the Premier League."

"Newcastle deserves to be in the Premier League and once you're there it is easier to stay there."

There's no rudder way as sailors win



By LIZ TODD

NEWCASTLE'S Sailors are celebrating their victory after being crowned Club of the Year at the AU Ball.

The 60 strong group were awarded the title after a year of hard work and impressive achievements.

Club Captain John Date said: "We were really surprised but it's great to have been recognised. It's been a fantastic year of sailing."

And Club Commodore Ceri Lewis added: "It's really nice when we've put in the work all year round - we've made a conscious effort to get noticed."

"It really made my night!"

AU officer Ali Brown said: "The award is about all aspects of a club, not just winning competitions."

"Clubs need to make new members welcome, as well as concentrating on competing."

She added: "The Sailing Club have been really successful this year on every level."

Trophy gatherers men's football won team of the year after a victorious season saw them storm to BUSA Cup glory in March

Rugby League moved up through the ranks to be named most improved club and swimming and water polo's president Chris Rollings was named club administrator of the year.

SUCCESS FOR UNI RUNNERS

ELITE athlete Neil Jennings was one of Newcastle's top performers at the BUSA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Stoke-on-Trent.

Jennings, a final year Medic, ran a solid heat and semi-final in a highly competitive 400m competition and despite running 47.6 in the final finished just outside the medals.

Fellow elite athlete Cecily Hall was one of a number of leading Newcastle athletes to miss the meeting.

Denied

After excellent preparation in Portugal, Hall was denied a chance to show others her form because of flu.

Rudi von Grot, a German student, finished a respectable 5th in the men's steeplechase clocking 9:12:48.

Pipped

Susie Rutherford performed strongly and was just pipped for fifth place in the 1500m.

But sadly team-mates John McCole and James Mackenzie failed to reach their respective finals.

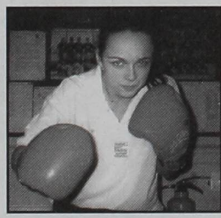
THANKS TO ALL THE STAFF!



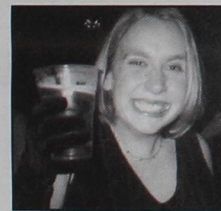
Shelley
Communications
Officer



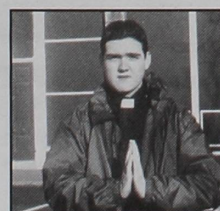
Kate
Finance & Admin
Officer



Ali
AU
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Sarah
Welfare
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Alan
Editor of
The Courier



Shauna
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Officer



FROM ALL THE
**UNION
SABBS**

Union Catering

Graduation

Wednesday 12th until Saturday 15th July



MLK Room

1st Floor

Union Building

**Open for morning coffee,
snacks and cream teas**

Hours: 10am-3.30pm Wednesday to Friday
9.30am-12.00 Noon on Saturday

Also

Cochrane Lounge

Open for food and drink

9am - 3pm Monday -Friday
9am - Noon Saturday

WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2000

GOING UP!

Royal Blues seal promotion in style

Cullercoats 0
Newcastle Uni 6

CULLERCOATS were hammered 6-0 by Newcastle as Alan Brown's football side sealed promotion to the Northern Alliance Premier League.

But promotion hopes could be dashed if necessary ground improvements at Cochrane Park aren't made in the next few weeks.

Knowing that only a miracle would stop them going up, the Royal Blues were expected to come out playing some excellent football in the first-half.

Struggled

But their opposition had other ideas as Newcastle struggled to come to terms with Cullercoats bumpy pitch and the Royal Blues were indeed lucky to go in at the break with the scores tied at 0-0.

The second-half was a very different affair as the Cullercoats keeper helped the Royal Blues to one of their most convincing wins of the season.

Dreadful

A dreadful mistake by the keeper allowed Batty to sneak in for the first goal and when the keeper picked up a back pass, Ben Chesters set up Batty for his second.

The Cullercoats keeper then tried to take on one of the Newcastle players on the edge of the area and Chesters deservedly got his first goal of the game.

Chesters then got his second and Newcastle's fourth after a strong run down the left-wing, finishing it off with a sweetly timed shot which flew into the far corner.

Batty then completed his hat-trick when the keeper flapped at a cross and Jon Hall made it six

when he fired a volley on the turn into the top corner.

The Royal Blues had gone a long way to sealing promotion the previous Saturday with a crushing 4-1 win of Prudhoe.

Mark Batty gave the Uni a dream start when he opened the scoring after just five minutes.

Luck

But the Uni rode their luck when their opposition missed two golden opportunities straight after, before the teams exchanged goals just before the interval - Chesters netting for the Uni.

Knowing the importance of the game, the Uni could have become nervous but luckily Batty increased Alan Brown's side advantage.

With the pressure off, Newcastle played some of their best football of recent weeks.

Chesters sealed the game for the Royal Blues when he curled in a left-footed shot from the corner of the box.

Football captain, Adam Hodge, said he was delighted by his club's season.

Hodge said: "I don't think we could have done any more than we did."

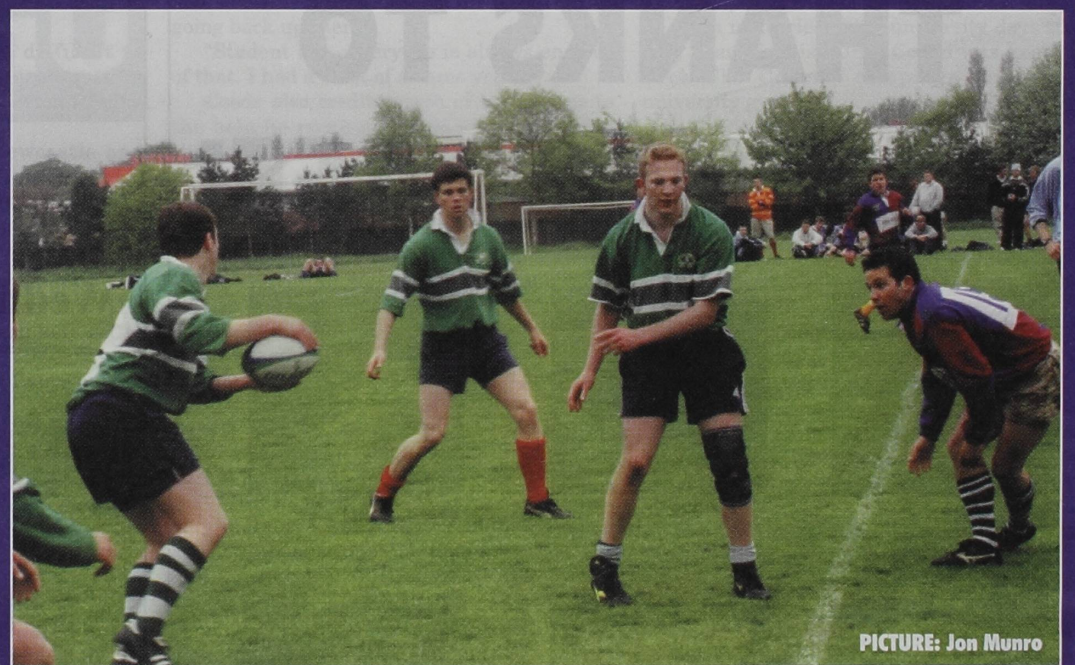
Best

"We won the BUSA Cup which means we are the best university side and we also won promotion in our local league."

Hodge, in his final year at Newcastle, admitted he will take many fond memories with him of his time in the Royal Blue shirt.

Hodge said: "It's been good. As well as the football side of things, the social side has been excellent and sport is one of the most enjoyable things about university."

Sevens heaven for Jags in sports fest



PICTURE: Jon Munro

ABOUT seven hundred students put essay and exam worries aside for a few hours last Wednesday when they turned out in force for the Intra-Mural tournament.

Jesmond Jags were the stars of the show as they took the rugby sevens title.

Others winners included Shieldfield Wednesday in the football sevens, Netball Ninjas, Mavericks in the mixed hockey and Beckingsdale and Davies in the golf pairs.

Head of Recreation, Bess Evans, was obviously very pleased with how the day went.

Evans said: "I'm absolutely delighted. This is the first time a game has been scheduled on one day. The whole idea is to have a culmination to the intra-mural program."

Evans rightly claimed that intra-mural sport is one of the strengths of the university.

She said: "Intra-mural sport at this university is one of the best and in the top ten of all universities."

She also highlighted the benefit of taking part in intra-mural sport.

"You function better, you socialise more, you become a more rounded, confident person."

Sports award winners - page 17