

The Courier

courier.news@ncl.ac.uk

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Archives 23/2/01

NOT TO BE REMOVED

FREE

Use this coupon to claim your second Cheeseburger absolutely free!!! 100% pure beef flame-grilled cheeseburger served with ketchup in a sesame seed bun... and on special offer for a limited period only!

Valid only at 24 Northumberland Street, and 100 Clayton Street, Newcastle.
Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer

No. 1032

WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2001

25p

INSIDE



Exclusive interview

With Falcons' rugby star Tom May

TODAY

Plus: All the latest cinema and theatre reviews p9-11

SHOOTING IN STUDENT AREA

Uni grad in kidnap terror

By COURIER NEWS STAFF

By PAUL CROTHWAITE
NEWS EDITOR

RESIDENTS IN one of Newcastle's most popular student suburbs have been shocked by the brutal murder of a drugs tycoon, which may be linked to the IRA.

Peter Beaumont Gowling was repeatedly shot in the back in his plush apartment on Osborne Road in Jesmond.

The 52-year-old millionaire, also known as David Simpson, had just been released from an 11-year jail sentence for laundering drugs money.

He was last seen alive on Valentine's Day leaving Scalini's restaurant on Osborne Road at 1.30 pm.

Just over 10 hours later, his girlfriend found him shot dead on the floor of his flat at 123 Osborne Road and made a desperate 999 call to alert police.

Det Supt Derek Storey, who is leading the hunt for the killer, said: "There appears to be no apparent motive for this barbaric killing."

"However, because of his lifestyle, we are looking at the possibility this was revenge or a vendetta against him."

Beaumont Gowling had recently been released from prison after serving less than six years of an 11-

year jail term for his part in laundering millions of pounds in drugs money.

The money was linked to the IRA and one theory is that they wanted cash that Gowling was thought to have stashed away.

Police have refused to speculate on motives for the killing, but the shooting shows the hallmarks of a professional execution.

Det Supt Storey said: "A post mortem has revealed he died from several gunshot wounds."

"I am still waiting for forensic tests to establish what sort of weapon was used to carry out the murder."

"We need to trace anyone who may have information about the killing or the reasons behind it."

The security at the converted flats building at 123 Osborne Road is tight and police believe Beaumont Gowling would have checked any callers by using the intercom system, which connects the communal door to his private door entrance.

He could also have viewed any callers through a spy hole in his door.

The killer may have been known to Beaumont Gowling, or may have posed as a trader to get in.

Police want to trace a mystery man who was seen leaving Scalini's with the murdered man earlier in the day.

No-one has yet given a description of the companion, but Beaumont Gowling did not appear

to be uneasy in his company.

A friend of the millionaire playboy, who did not want to be named because she fears for her safety, said: "Peter's death has shocked a lot of people because, whatever had happened to him in the past, everybody thought it was done and finished."

"He had a lot of friends, lots of people knew and liked him. There was nothing untoward about Peter as a person. I am sure this is a shock to anyone that knew him."

A post-grad student resident of Osborne Road, who asked not to be named, said:

"My housemates and I are really shocked. You think of Jesmond as a safe, quiet area to live, and now we're hearing about a drugs tycoon

being assassinated, possibly by the IRA.

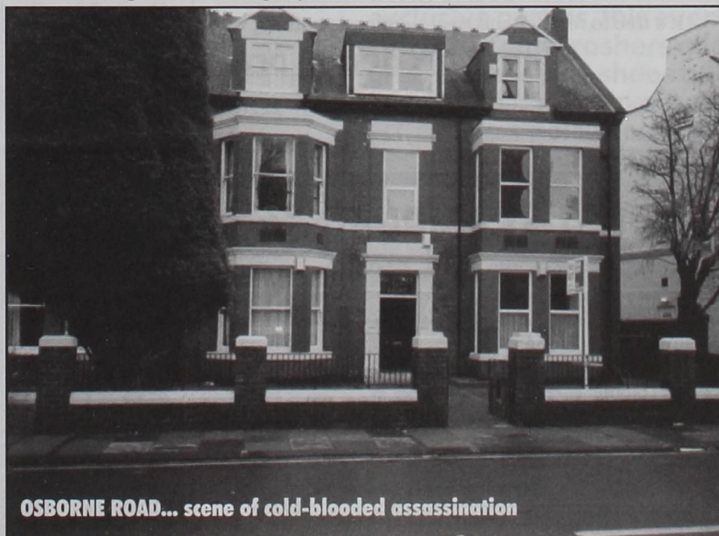
"It just seems unreal."

"We're definitely going to be more wary when we go out on Osborne Road in future - you don't know who you could be standing next to."

Jesmond has traditionally enjoyed an upmarket reputation, making it a popular area for more affluent students.

But this killing follows several violent incidents, which have led some to brand the suburb a "ghetto".

■ Anyone with information about the murder of Peter Beaumont Gowling can ring in complete confidence on (0191) 214 655 ex 62501 or 62512.



OSBORNE ROAD... scene of cold-blooded assassination

A NEWCASTLE UNI graduate is being held hostage after he was kidnapped by armed terrorists demanding a £1.2m ransom for his release.

Tim Selby, an Engineering graduate, was abducted by tribal guerillas in Bangladesh.

He was ambushed along with two Danish companions as they drove between villages.

It is now feared the group is being held deep in the jungle.

Tim, 28, a resident of West Jesmond, came to study at Newcastle Uni in 1991 and remained in the city after completing a post-graduate course.

He works in Newcastle for engineering firm Babbie Ross Silcock.

He was in Bangladesh to carry out a subcontract for the Danish aid organisation, Camsac.

Tim's brother Jon, 30, said: "We are all obviously very concerned and very shocked."

"We're very upset but we are taking guidance from the Foreign Office who tell us it may well be a long process."

Bangladeshi officials are said to suspect a small group of former Shanti Bahini rebels who opposed a 1997 peace deal with the government.

The rebels are drawn from the Chittagong Hill Tribes and are protesting at the immigration of people from the plains. They want independence for their people.

The voice of Newcastle students since 1948

The Courier
courier.news@ncl.ac.uk

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

Editor:

Dan Gregson

Deputy Editors:

Jacqui Butler
Lisa Nandy

News Editor:

Paul Crosthwaite

Sports Editor:

Chris Hurst

Music Editor:

Mike Seaton

Arts Editor:

Wyl Menmuir

Letters Editor:

Gaz Newhall

Chief Reporters:

Jo Johnston
Catherine Bruce
Ann Clifford

Staff Reporters:

Olivia Richwald
Jake Lee
Natalie Bogusch
Louise Baty

Music Correspondents:

Tom Fenwick
Tom Horder

Photographers:

Rachel Godschalk
Niall Riddell

Advertising

Manager:

Arlene Sutherland



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.

www.union.ncl.ac.uk

Got a story?
E-mail us on:
courier.news@ncl.ac.uk
or call us:
0191 232 4050

SANDYFORD STUDENTS IN DRUGS BUST DRAMA

By JULE WILSON
and LOUISE BATY

TWO NEWCASTLE students were arrested for possession of drugs, after police were called to their flat following noise complaints.

The student flat on Greystoke Avenue in Sandyford was searched by 5 officers using sniffer dogs at approximately 4am on Saturday 10 February.

The two lads were questioned for three and a half hours but were released without charge.

A spokeswoman for the Press Office at Northumbria Police confirmed that "drugs

paraphernalia" was seen by officers entering the premises.

"The officers' suspicions were raised and they had no choice but to act."

She went on to deny claims that students are being singled out in a police crackdown against drugs. "We generally focus our attentions on dealers of illegal substances. However, if there is reasonable suspicion of drug activity, officers must take action."

The neighbour who initially alerted the police asked not to be named but was unsympathetic to the accidental bust.

"The noise from their decks has been going on for months now. They're just a bunch of wannabe DJ's who are no good at it anyway. It's their own fault for ignoring all the complaints and being so careless in the first place."



BABYKILLER DAD PLEADS GUILTY

By CATHERINE BRUCE and
KATIE MOORE

A NEWCASTLE DAD pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of his baby at Manors Metro.

Trevor McDonald battered his five-month-old son, Connor, to death in a fit of rage last April.

The infant was abandoned at the busy station with horrific head and facial injuries and died two days later.

The Courier launched an appeal in April for students who may have witnessed the tragic

event.

Witnesses did come forward but were not necessary as McDonald's story fell apart and he admitted the crime.

A spokesperson from Newcastle Crown Court could not reveal whether the witnesses were students who had come forward as a direct result of our appeal.

Whitley Bay resident McDonald will be sentenced for the crime in March.

Connor's mother, Caroline Wood, told the press: "We were happy together as a family. I can never forgive him for what he's done. I have no feelings for him anymore."



TEETHING TROUBLES?

Don't worry - be happy!

Emergency appointments • Check ups and cleanings •
Wisdom teeth removal (sedation available)

It's free to register and treatment costs nothing with an HC2 certificate

kingswalk dental practice

Above the University Medical Practice,
Claremont road, Newcastle upon Tyne

2220725 or 2226000 ext 6285
kingswalk.dentist@ncl.ac.uk

usit CAMPUS 0870 240 1010
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - NOW OPEN TILL 8pm MON-FRI
www.usitcampus.co.uk

DESTINATION AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND	EUROPE	WORLDWIDE
AUSTRALIA from £545 with 2 FREE stops Exclusive Offers	Amsterdam £86	Bangkok £342 Los Angeles £221
NEW ZEALAND from £595 with 2 FREE stops	Athens £123	Boston £199 Mexico £335
ROUND THE WORLD from £815 with 6 FREE stops	Barcelona £118	Cairo £206 Nairobi £323
*FREE City Breaks, Rail Passes or Accommodation (in conjunction with some BA/QF flights)	Budapest £180	Chicago £171 New York £169
DOMESTIC OZ AIR PASS from £40 per flight (Minimum 3 flights)	Dublin £78	Dubai £225 Rio £395
GREAT GROUND DEALS! Loads of discounts and free extras on our range of oz & kiwi travel, accommodation and tour products.	Paris £89	Gao £277 Singapore £367
	Prague £89	Hong Kong £375 Tokyo £409
	Rome £119	Ja'burg £352 Vancouver £279

VISIT US
@ Independent Travellers World
Islington Design Centre
Feb 23, 24, 25

Check www.usitcampus.co.uk for full details or pick up
a free publication from one of our 48 branches
Newcastle University, Union Building,
Kings Walk, Newcastle Upon Tyne

• all pre-paid taxes included • departures from London • restrictions apply •

CATERING SPECIALS

GLOBAL

FREE Large Tea or Coffee with All Day Breakfast

MLK

10AM - 11AM

Rombouts Filter Coffee & Toasted Teacake with Butter
or Flora Portion ONLY 90p

MEAL DEALS

TOO GOOD TO MISS

ONLY £1.65

Available from: Airport/Cochrane Lounge/Union
Shop/Bassment Kiosk & Salad Bar

READERS LOUNGE

ROBINSON LIBRARY 9AM - 11AM

FREE Cinnamon Doughnut with every Large Costa Coffee

STOTTIE OF THE WEEK

Cheese Salad

Cash bonanza

RAG week hauls in over £8000

By COURIER STAFF

RAG ORGANISERS are jubilant after pulling in over £8,000 for charity, EIGHT times the amount raised at last year's miserable wash-out.

Organiser Rebecca Hopkins told *The Courier*: "We're delighted with the amount raised."

"It goes to show that with hard work and imagination students can really make a difference."

Co-Organiser Joanne Winter added: "I think the fact that we had great weather, compared to continual rain last year, helped."

"But, more importantly, we had better promotion and sponsorship and really exciting events."

"We advertised the week as 'FYC for everyone', and I think that's how people

treated it."

For love-starved students the Valentine's Party in the Global provided an ideal opportunity to drown sorrows, take a chance in a dating game and relax to the smooth sounds of jazz.

The Magical Mystery Pub Tour turned out to be an epic coach trip around the region's pubs, taking in Gosforth, Whitley Bay and Tynemouth.

One happy Tourist said: "It was really well planned - we went to places students don't usually go, rather than yet another trip to the Bigg Market or the Quayside."

"It was really good fun - everyone was supporting RAG and out for a good laugh and a few beers."

On Friday tannoy calls for "hairy men", rather than the more traditional "cellar man", to head for the Mens Bar heralded the beginning of the sponsored Waxathon.

A long-standing RAG favourite, the chest-waxing

extravaganza was re-instated after being controversially ditched last year.

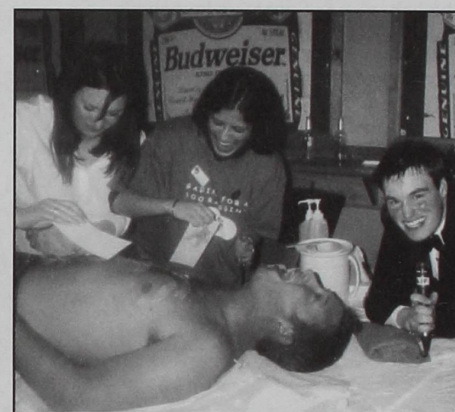
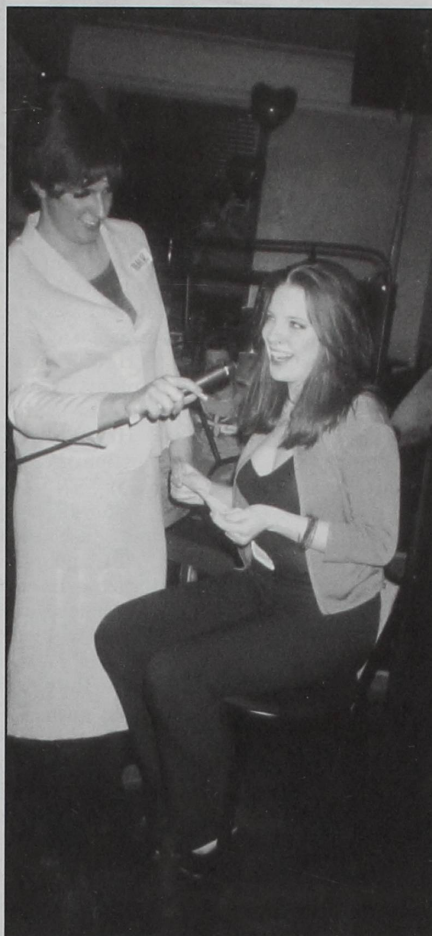
A newly-hairless volunteer told *The Courier*: "Not only did I raise cash for charity, but my girlfriend can now just about stomach seeing me in the buff. Result!"

Adrenaline junkies headed for the Quayside on Saturday intent on hurling themselves from the top of a crane with only a thin length of elastic to break their fall.

Inexplicably, those who took part seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience.

One second-year Maths student enthused: "It was a real rush. I've bungee'd before but this was the best - the setting and the weather were great."

The Organisers want to say a big thankyou to everyone who received a good raggin' over the course of the week and especially to all the fantastic stewards.



Duckin Good

By LISA NANDY and
JACQUI BUTLER

ANIMAL ANTICS hit the Basement on Saturday night with the arrival of Orville and Cuddles.

The ex-rated show written specially for students went down a storm. Keith Harris told *The Courier*: "We've had that reaction nearly everywhere. It's given me a whole new lease of life. People always remember and love it."

Cuddles opened the show with a string of filthy jokes that included him pissing on the audience as well as old favourites like his rivalry with Orville.

And it looked like Cuddles has reason for concern - the audience went mad for the Duck. When it comes to the green stuff, crowds just can't get enough.

But in an exclusive backstage interview Keith Harris admitted that

Cuddles was his favourite of the pair: "to be honest, it's got to be Cuddles. He's the naughtier of the two and he's been with me longer".

The climax of the night was Orville's rendition of the number one hit single "I Wish I Could Fly".

The crowd went crazy when Harris went off-stage leaving Orville

alone in the spotlight singing and flapping his little green wings.

One RAG reveller said "Cuddles said everything you'd always expected him to say but probably never could on kids tv".

But the hero of the night was undoubtedly Orville. The Duck's still got it.



Jessica, Michelle, Darius, Taz & Claire Been rejected by Nasty Nisael?

Well pick yourself up, set yourself some hair extensions and start all over again with the Careers Service. If you've got the talent, we've got the breaks:

Comins up

Strut your funky stuff at the Media Careers Information Day next Wednesday, 28th Feb www.career.ncl.ac.uk/mediaday Like all phatt and exclusive parties, this event is BY INVITATION ONLY - strictly no gatecrashers allowed. So all you wannabies, grab your boogie shoes and get on down to the Careers Service Reception to purchase your ticket to stardom, price £2, a small price to pay to be a media celeb. Ant, Dec and Cat will have nothing on you.

Comins up

Didn't make the final 10? Make sure it's you they choose next time by attending one of our Clued Up sessions. Find out how to savvy your CV and brush up on your interview technique for that crucial audition. Further details www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/students

Comins up

Audition for that vital role by attending one of our employer presentations. This week PriceWaterhouseCoopers Consulting at St James's Park on 1st March. Sign up at the Careers Service or miss out on the opportunity of a lifetime.

Reach for the Stars

THE NAKED AND THE DEAD

Psychology students' dissertations are sure to get volunteers' pulses racing but for very different reasons

By PAUL CROSTHWAITE
NEWS EDITOR

PSYCHOLOGY FINALIST Jamie Halliday's dissertation is a real life X-File: he's investigating ouija boards.

Jamie is trying to understand the behaviour of people who believe they can use the boards to get in

contact with the spirit world.

He explained: "I'm looking at the unconscious processes that cause people to spell out messages without realising they're doing it."

Jamie is using a board set up in the Psychology department, with the letters of the alphabet and the words "yes" and "no" arranged in a circle.

In the middle is a cup on a pendulum, which is linked to a computer that records where it

travels.

Each time he conducts the experiment Jamie has three volunteers who put their fingers on the cup.

He reads out a brief introduction and then invites them to ask the board questions.

He said: "After they ask a question the cup usually starts to move."

"It hasn't spelt out any full words, just random letters."

"But people who've conducted the experiment in the past have had whole sentences spelt out."

The volunteers always tell Jamie it doesn't feel as if they're moving the cup themselves.

He said: "I think it works because people want it to work."

"Also, people are always amazed when recognisable words are spelt out."

"But it's not so surprising when you remember that the average person can spell reasonably well - they know that if the cup moves to 'D' then it shouldn't move to 'Q' next."

"So, without realising they're doing it, they move it to a more appropriate letter."

To take part in the study email Jamie at J.S.Halliday@ncl.ac.uk.

A THIRD-YEAR Psychology student has come up with a cunning way of getting blokes to take part in her research: showing them pictures of naked women.

Julie Richardson is trying to find out if there is a match between the attractiveness of faces and bodies.

Her subjects enter a private viewing room and are shown separate pictures of women's heads and naked bodies.

They are then asked to rate the different shots from one to seven, with seven being the most attractive.

Julie needs sixty volunteers for her study and has so far had around forty.

She told *The Courier*: "I've mainly got friends to take part. When I've told them what I'm doing for my dissertation they've been pleasantly surprised - it's much less boring than some others."

"The offer of naked women has definitely helped to attract volunteers!"

"They're supposed to be all men, but I've had a few women, too, to make up the numbers. They

weren't lesbians - it's not supposed to be a measure of sexual attractiveness, but of how pleasant or appealing a person's appearance is."

Julie got the pictures on a CD from America.

She said: "They were originally taken by an academic over there who was doing a similar study."

"He put an advert in the paper for women willing to be photographed naked and paid them \$50 each."

Julie doesn't expect to find a connection between the attractiveness of faces and bodies.

She said: "They're isn't supposed to be a match, at least with black and white photos."

"In colour pictures it might make a difference that you can see whether the woman has a sun-tan or not."

If you want to help Julie out by ogling naked pics in the name of science call 07956 389351 or email julie.richardson@ncl.ac.uk.

■ Are you doing an unusual or bizarre dissertation or essay? *The Courier* wants to hear from you! Call (0191) 232 4050 or email courier.news@ncl.ac.uk.



Sorry state!

By JENNIE LAWRENCE

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY has been slated for being one of the top ten worst universities for admitting state school pupils.

It ranks alongside universities such as Cambridge, Oxford, Bristol and Exeter in failing to reach the national target of undergraduates recruited from state education.

The figures come after a government report in which MPs suggested that every university should have to set targets in order to become "more socially inclusive." In a new government proposal, 'elite' universities could be paid up to £2000 a year per student for admitting students from a disadvantaged background with

low A-level scores.

Currently at Newcastle, two-thirds of undergraduates are recruited from state-schools or colleges but this is below the national average and 'benchmark'. Ann Clifford, a third year English student and former state school pupil said: "I'm proud that I didn't pay for my grades."

Nationwide, although 80% of the children of professional work groups go to university, only 17% of lower socio-economic groups are admitted.

The University told *The Courier* that "the University's widening access programme has been expanded since these figures were compiled and that they believe they are recruiting excellent students from a broad cross-section of backgrounds."

By PAUL CROSTHWAITE
NEWS EDITOR

A VAMPIRE-LOVING Uni academic has spoken to The Courier about her obsession with the blood-sucker myth.

Gail-Nina Anderson, a lecturer in Art History, is a member of the Dracula Society and an expert on all things ghoulish.

One of her particular areas of interest is everyone's favourite high-kicking vamp-basher, Buffy.

Gail said: "Buffy is an example of a generic cross-over: it's part high school drama and part vampire adventure."

"I think Buffy is a positive figure. She's not perfect - she has problems."

"The series as a whole is a good model for interactive social behaviour. It endorses ideas like friendship and the group."

Gail's Buffy day course has been warmly received across the country by teenagers and adults alike.

As a member of the Dracula Society, Gail makes frequent pilgrimages to Whitby - the setting of much of the novel.

One particularly scary tradition

is the ritual dip in the north sea.

Gail said: "We've done it in January before, but most people are so well insulated with booze that they don't notice the cold."

Gail says her fascination with the macabre isn't a problem for most people she meets: "I don't usually get negative responses. Most people assume it's a scholarly thing or a humorous game."

But she told *The Courier*: "In 1997 the society had some problems with the Church of England."

"We wanted to parade up the steps to Whitby Abbey, but the Church owns the steps and refused permission - they were worried that there were Satanic elements in the group and that we would damage or deface the building."

"The irony is that goths adore interesting gothic monuments - why would we want to damage them?"

She added: "In Whitby some shops and cafes have signs saying 'Goths welcome', which says something about the other places."

Gail claims to have met several vampire-enthusiasts who take their obsession a step further by actually drinking each other's blood.

She commented: "I don't think it's very sensible, but if two people find that drinking blood is their

bonding mechanism then who am I to say no?"

She admits to having had no experience of the supernatural, but remains open minded:

"We don't know it all - we've drawn the lines between the natural and the supernatural, but they may not be in the right place."

But she added: "I'm definitely not sensitive to psychic forces."

"I've been around a few haunted houses and other people have noticed massive temperature drops, but I just walk around saying 'I'm boiling!'"

Gail is currently running a ten-week evening course at the Tyneside Cinema entitled 'Ghoul Britannia'.

It traces the history of British horror films from the '20s to the '80s.

For more details contact the Tyneside on (0191) 232 8289.



WANTED

for a study into the effect of the menstrual cycle on memory

WOMEN, not currently taking the pill, aged 18-30 Must be native english speakers and be right handed Volunteers will be paid expenses

Contact Cathy Symonds at c.s.symonds@ncl.ac.uk or Tel: 0191 282 5736

YOU'LL BE TURNING DOWN LOTS OF OFFERS.

BUT NOT THIS ONE.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTATION AND COMPETITION TO WIN £500 6.15PM ON THURSDAY 1ST MARCH NEWCASTLE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

This is your opportunity to find out about a future in Management Consulting with PricewaterhouseCoopers. And after just a couple of hours in our company, you'll see how much we have to offer, including the chance to win £500.

Working in partnership with our clients to deliver change that improves the way businesses work, we're one of the world's most successful Management Consultancies with over 55,000 employees.

You could join us, providing services to a wide range of businesses on a global scale and enjoying a highly

competitive salary, attractive benefits and constant development. You'll start with an induction course that introduces you to the company, then your training will be tailored according to your needs.

Don't worry if you don't want to start immediately after graduation; we can defer entry or adapt to your plans.

If you'd like to come along to our presentation, please sign up with your Careers Service first.

For an application form and more information, please call freephone on 0800 282 208 or visit our website.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS 

Join us. Together we can change the world.

www.pwcglobal.com/uk/mcs_graduates

DEPT BOWS TO PRESSURE

By GERALDINE ENGLAND

ANGRY STUDENTS created such a stir that the French Department was forced to bow to student pressure and review their Examination Marking System.

The dispute began after the French Marking System was made available to students. They saw this as unjust due to the fact that even if the paper was marked as being totally correct, the student could still only achieve 80%.

The French students, in their final year, refused to keep the situation quiet and decided to take the matter further with the Department.

Tutors were approached and the students demanded that they explain the reasons for the marks being pushed down, despite accuracy.

Initially, the Tutors seemed fairly dismissive of the problem. One student explained that they were "not really happy with the

system but stated that it was just the way things were done."

Unwilling to accept this as a final comment, the students continued to voice their unhappiness and brought the matter to the attention of *The Courier*.

They explained: "True abilities should be reflected in your mark, this system seems completely illogical."

The Department finally decided to review the problem but took their time in actually getting back to the students with a definite solution.

However, persistence was rewarded and success achieved. The French Department agreed to change the marking system and to make the full range of marks available. They even stated that the course would be substantially reviewed next year.

The students were thanked for their "input into improving the course". Head of Department, Hugh Dauncey, stated that, "whatever problems there were, they have been addressed."

POLI-TICKS

By OLIVIA RICHWALD

POLITICS GRADUATES from Newcastle nab more top jobs than those from other departments according to one uni boffin.

According to Professor Tim Gray from the Politics Department: "Politics graduates are disproportionately more likely to get the jobs than graduates from other departments."

Last year's employment figures suggest Professor Gray is correct

and not simply boosting his students' egos.

The national statistics show that only 1.4% of last year's Politics alumni were unemployed 6 months after graduating.

Professor Gray said: "I have heard that Politics students over the years seem to have projected better at interviews than students from other departments."

"We speculated that perhaps they are more expressive and confident."

The figures also show that Politics graduates from Newcastle are more employable than Politics

grads nationally with 7.3% unemployed after six months.

Karen Parkhouse from the Careers Service said: "Statistics can only give a superficial picture, employability depends on the individual and how they have used their time at University."

But she had to admit: "Last year's unemployment rate for Newcastle graduates was very low."

The Politics Department boasts famous alumni such as Alex Downer the Foreign Minister of Australia and Jarrow MP Stephen Hepburn.



'NO TO NATO'

By JAKE LEE

STUDENT PROTESTORS shouting "No to NATO" seriously disrupted the University's most controversial public lecture to date, inviting Lord Robertson, head of NATO to attend.

Accompanied by his chum, Chancellor Chris Patten, the former Defence Minister Robertson was heckled, booed, described as unintelligent, and pounced on by an ITN camera crew immediately afterwards. One protestor was even said to have brought a cake to throw at Robertson but was persuaded against it by an OTC member sitting next to him.

The lecture detailed current NATO actions, from the peace efforts in the troubled former Yugoslavia, to current negotiations debating whether to bring Russia into the NATO club.

CND supporters held up banners throughout the lecture, with one saying "Innocent Civilians Killed". Protestors had leafleted all attendees and continually shouted Robertson down. Some leaflets even made Robertson look like Hitler, surrounded by Swastika signs.

Vice Chancellor Christopher Edwards was forced to take the stage a number of times to insist Lord Robertson should be allowed to continue. V-C Edwards was to host the big wigs and local MPs to a luxurious supper afterwards.

Heavy security and armed bodyguards were needed to escort Lord Robertson and Chris Patten away on a day when terrorism had again stuck Kosovo, and renewed attacks on Iraq from the US and Britain took place.

In an exclusive interview with *The Courier*, Lord Robertson explained his desire to extend awareness of NATO, especially to students. Newcastle ranks alongside universities in Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan where he recently given similar lectures.

"Even in Kazakhstan, students always seem to have incredible knowledge. I'm always amazed"

Asked about his relationship with opposing political party member Chris Patten, he said:

"Even if the daftest days of the Labour Party in the 1980's, myself and Chris Patten were great friends. We've got a lot in common."

"Thanks to NATO we've got the ability to speak freely." Similar protests had occurred in Edinburgh the night before.

TOFF LUCK

By CATHERINE BRUCE

DURHAM'S STUDENT rag Palatinate has sunk to new depths to sell their paper - plagiarism.

The Courier was shocked to find an almost identical replica of our popular competition 'Get ringed in the Men's Bar' pathetically retitled 'Spot the Sounder' in the pages of a rival.

Red-faced toff, John Nelson, editor of Palatinate stuttered: "I do deny that we have to steal ideas from *The Courier* to sell papers."

Nelson also claimed "It's resurrecting a competition we used

to run two years ago called 'Facing the crowd'. The competition is probably a one-off anyway."

This is despite the paper printing 'Palatinate' is proud to announce the launch of its sensational Spot the Sounder Competition".

While imitation is the greatest form of flattery the posh paper appears to be taking it a little far.

Last year Durham students scandalously used a *Courier* photograph of a stalker victim, claiming the snap was of a prostitute from their Uni.

The Shame-faced editor of the time, Jonah Fisher, admitted: "we just used *The Courier's* image" before apologising in their next issue.

Spot the Sounder



PALATINATE: Spot the Toff



Spectrum Imaging
"Outstanding Photos
for Everyone!"

Dissertation
Print, Copy,
& Binding.

While U Wait!

10% Student
Discount

8, St. Mary's Place,
Haymarket. Newcastle.

PAYING FOR THEIR PISS UP?

LISA NANDY asks if societies are a waste of our money

CHANCES ARE, you're a member of a society. Newcastle has over 90 active societies which should make us some of the most diverse and interesting students in the country. But for every People and Planet fighting for a good cause, there's an 'Oh, Behave' society, founded to 'celebrate' Austin Powers in the wake of the latest film.

Funny? Yes it is, but not so funny when you think that between them societies swallow up £34,000 of the Union's money every year. Are some of them wasting our money?

According to James Hecker, one of this year's societies officers, there is some truth to this: "Obviously some societies are of more worth than others." Those which attract some of the most criticism are departmental societies, notoriously thought to be populated by people

"societies swallow up £34,000 of our money every year"

who need something to put on their CV but can't be bothered to do anything useful. Some of them don't bother to register with the Union, but are those that do wasting our money?

Sean Sankey, former President of the Politics Society, disagrees: "I'm sure there are some people who just do it for something to put on their CV. Some people use as piss-up clubs with for them and their mates. But from my experience, departmental societies have a lot to do with the social aspect of uni. They introduce people who wouldn't otherwise meet. For many foreign

students these events are the only opportunity they get to meet English students."

And those who register with the Union are likely to be more organised than those that don't. The societies who can be bothered to register for funding are probably those who actually do something useful with the money.

But while many departmental societies have a useful role to play, what about those that actually do

"departmental societies are run by people who can't be bothered to do something useful."

irrelevant.

Amy Stewart from People and Planet, one of the largest societies, agrees. "Different societies have different roles to play in the Uni," she explains. "Some are about active campaigning and awareness, like People and Planet, whereas others are about shared interests, or simply socialising."

And there are safety mechanisms in the system to prevent abuse of funds. Union

(Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual) Society for example, doesn't accept straight members but we still have to pay for it, something many find unacceptable.

This is an exception, however. Other societies must have open membership policies to qualify for funding. But there are some whose views people may not want to subsidise. Catholic Society Organiser, Joanna Wenham claims

"some people do use them as piss-up clubs for their mates"

this is unfair. She argues everyone is welcome in the Catholic Society and they even boast a couple of non-Catholics on their contact list. They also liaise with other societies to promote causes like cancellation of Third World Debt, giving members further opportunities to integrate. The aim is not to promote Catholicism but "for people with similar backgrounds to have a chance to socialise."

And surely this is what uni's all about? Different, sometimes incompatible, groups are not merely represented, but positively encouraged from one end of the spectrum to the other. It gives everyone a chance to find something they identify with. As an expression of the diversity that exists at this university these societies speak volumes. Their continuing existence, whether for a social purpose or much more, is well worth the money.

Want to get involved in something? E-mail the Societies Officers Nick or James on
n.h.cranfield@ncl.ac.uk or
j.m.hecker@ncl.ac.uk



"the LGB society doesn't accept straight members but we still have to pay for it"

Council has to decide a society is worth giving money to before it's ratified. Money can't be spent on food and drink, or used for profit. Hecker argues that the Guinness and Real Ale Society is one of the best run societies in the Union, serving an educative purpose. Likely? You decide.

But what about societies that are controversial, whose views some might find offensive? Should they receive money - or at least as much money as others? The LGB

something? Surely groups with a more worthwhile cause should get more money than glorified drinking clubs?

Hecker suggests this is missing the point. Even if students are only involved to enhance their CV they still develop organisational skills and many others, and find opportunities to widen their circle of friends. The point of societies is the development of these skills and making new friends. What they're aiming at is often largely

The Masked Monkey

Setting the world to rights on your behalf

There was monkey trouble in the Bassment this week with the arrival of Cuddles, Orville's sidekick.

Got that, ya big orangutan? Sidekick. That's right.

The Monkey would like it to be known that Orville is a true star: charming, friendly, fluffy. In an exclusive backstage interview, the Monkey met Cuddles and Orville and took an instant dislike to the orange

one who insisted on flinging his overlong arms about all over the place.

Keith Harris made a big mistake naming Cuddles as his favourite.

The big orange furball hasn't been seen since. You can thank me for that. That'll teach him for pissing on people.

There's only room for one monkey in this Union. The Masked one will not be aped.

GOT A PROBLEM WITH THIS?

LISA'S NOT BOTHERED

GAZ WANTS TO HEAR IT

E-MAIL HIM ON
COURIER.NEWS@NCL.AC.UK

Check out all of the latest sports results on pages 14-16

Dear Gaz



the voice of a generation...

Hi Guys,

Welcome back to the literary marvel that is the letters page. This week we've got one big RAG fan, someone who can't cope with living in a gangland and someone else who just can't cope. If all else fails, reading this will make you feel better about your own life. If you have anything better to say, write to me and save me from these people. Please.

RAG's a good 'un

Dear Gaz,

I just wanted to say that I thought this year's RAG events were way better than either of the other two years that I've been here.

I went to see Orville the Duck and it was class. I might not have wanted to jump off the Tyne Bridge for charity but going to the union and getting pissed to aid the crusade of RAG, now that I can handle.

And it was even harder for these guys because there was no day off from lectures and they had to convince people to give up their week-ends and come into uni.. On top of that they picked events that appealed to all sorts of people who wanted to do all sorts of things.

Congratulations should go to the organisers for breaking the mould and saving RAG day from being its usual flop.

Yours,

Anthony Williams, 3rd Year Dentistry.

Gaz Says: Yeah Orville was good. Everyone seemed to like it in the office. Everyone, that is apart from the Courier's own Masked Monkey who had a bit of ruck with Cuddles - see p.7.

Housemate rant

Dear Gaz,

I need to rant about my housemates. They are pissing me off and I want them to all stop being tossers.

Mike, 2nd year biology

Gaz says: OK, you've done it now. Happy? Now go and make up and go on the piss with them, you'll either love 'em or fight 'em and then it'll be sorted out once and for all.

Jesmond ghetto?

Dear Gaz,

When I first read your front page about Jesmond turning into a ghetto a few weeks ago, I thought you were taking the piss. But now I'm not so sure - is Jesmond really turning nasty?

I moved there this year and I forked up an extra tanner a month rent that I couldn't really afford, because I thought Jesmond would be the safest area of Newcastle to live in.

Since I moved in last September, one of my friends has been attacked, some people down the street had their car vandalised and another friend had his house burgled.

Is Jesmond getting worse or is this to be expected when you move to a city? Is anywhere safe? Where do YOU live and can I move in. I left Manchester to get away from this sort of shit.

Cheers,

A second year Jesmond resident.

Gaz says: It's not about living in a dangerzone, it's about gaining that valuable life experience that you can use for your CV. Just think of all of those transferable skills you can acquire. Dodging bullets is something that'll come in pretty handy when you're older - if you move back to Manchester that is. You need never walk the streets in fear again. Living in Jesmond, you've seen it all. You're like an urban Crocodile Dundee. Just think of all those poor people living their sheltered little lives in Fenham, oblivious to the dangers you face on a daily visit to Tesco. And if that doesn't help, think of all the soft sods from Harrogate who aren't conditioned for this kind of violence. Stop moaning and be grateful your mate has a car to be vandalised in the first place.

P.S. I'm from Manchester too so there's not much hope for you there.

Laptop lunacy

Dear Gaz,

I read about the possibility of us all having to own a laptop in future. Now I can see a number of positives coming from this; in the first place it means I can look at porn wherever I am (my WAP phone doesn't yet have this facility). It also means that I can play Championship Manager when I'm in the library. After all, we need a break from the books sometime.

yours, Gary

Gaz says: It really is no exaggeration when I say that we get all sorts in this place.

With people like your freakish self around it's no wonder that the internet comprises of basically porn. I mean I put a search in the other week for the Whitehouse for an essay, and I got porn. And then when I closed that, another porn site opened.

Fuckin hell, and it's all because of people like you. I can live with the footy games with all the tricks and shit but when you're the manager of a team on a game, I can't see the attraction. I hope you get the sack. Leave the laptop for a while and go and speak to some real people.

Down dooby down

Dear Gaz,

I'm depressed. It's third year and I spend every waking moment in the library. I never see my housemates and I never get drunk any more. All I can think about are my ever-nearing finals. Whatever happened to first year when you could drink every day of the week, miss lectures and have a laugh? Is this is what the real world is really like? How do I put an end to this misery without failing my degree? I've already given up applying for jobs because i was on the verge of a nervous breakdown trying to balance application forms with my dissertation.

PLEASE HELP ME,

Yours,

3rd year Geography student.

Gaz Says: Oh for fucks sake. Since when was going to university about getting a degree? Shut your whiney trap and get your arse back into Men's Bar. What kind of loser are you? There again you probably won't be able to find anyone to get drunk with you if you're half as boring as you sound. Still, it's not too late. The answer is in the bottom of a pint glass. You just have to keep drinking until you find the right one.

E-mail Gaz on:
courier.news
@ncl.ac.uk

Gaz's personal bits - the coolest place to let it hang out

NIGHTLINE
For information or a chat
RING
261 2905
"We don't sleep 'til you do"
8pm to 8am

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Society
Meets 7.30pm Thursday, MLK Room, 1st floor
Union Building.
For more info contact Lisa Harvey-Smith or
Geoff Frost, LGB Officers, Equal opps unit 1st
floor Union.
Tel: 239 3936

Italy,

Pennine Suite
dickheads...

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
Wednesday 21st February
6PM in the Clement Stephenson Lecture Theatre,
Ground Floor, Agriculture Building
Ben Gill - President of the National Farmers Union
"British Agriculture - A Sunset Industry?"
Please indicate your intention to attend by telephone: 0191
2226574/01207 505884/07930 672414 or email: w.j.lister@ncl.ac.uk

To The Sheep,
Thought you might die of
excitement when you saw
this.
Love Your Girlfriend

GET RINGED IN THE MENS BAR



Every week The Courier will take some pics around the union bars. If you're the one circled then you've got lucky. You have won 10 drinks vouchers to be used in anyone of the Union bars and is worth £15! So to claim your prize then come into The Courier office on the ground floor of the Union. It's that simple.

MOVIE TYNE

TYNESIDE PREVIEW

SHOWING from the 21st Feb at the Tyneside is The Claim.

Oh, no, not another god-awful Thomas Hardy adaptation (if anyone wonders what I mean, see Michael Winterbottom's *Jude* from a few years ago).

Thomas Hardy was a depressing bastard at best, and in this adaptation of *The Mayor of Casterbridge* I wouldn't go expecting a bundle of laughs. Director Michael Winterbottom seems to have a penchant for Hardy and relocates the action from Hardy's Wessex to the days of the Californian goldrush.

But it's worth remembering that this is by the same Michael Winterbottom who directed the fantastic *Welcome to Sarajevo*.

The Claim is showing at the Tyneside from the 23rd

February.

In *State and Main* Sarah Jessica Parker, who is best known for her role as Carrie in *Sex in the City* returns to us in this brand spanking new comedy directed by David Marmet.

It's about the making of a 19th Century period drama. The film crew descend on a small outback town to make their huge budget Hollywood

flick, and it turns into one of those comedies where everything that can go wrong does. Showing until 1st March.

O Brother Where Art Thou makes a return to the Tyneside due to popular demand from 23rd to 26th February. This is a Coen brothers classic about three escaped convicts on the run in the deep South during the



Depression, and if you didn't see it when it came out last year this is another chance.

If you have seen this next film, it at almost certainly won't have been legally; and 25 years after its release, *Salo* or the 120 Days of Sodom has been given a certificate. Depraved to the maximum and even more worrying than that, based on actual events at the close of World War Two, a group of Mussolini's followers reenact the Marquis de Sade's infamous novel '120 Days of Sodom'. They kidnap a group of young men and women to torture, murder and generally be grim to.

This is a film that contains the warning 'contains scenes that some

people may find disturbing' and it's a warning it's probably advisable to heed.

For the adventurous, or French, people out there are two French flicks. On Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd February is *Drole de Felix* - a road movie about Felix who goes in search of his father. As is the norm, the journey comes to mean more than its end, and it's all heart-warming stuff

(in comparison to the rather dubiously moraled *Salo*).

On Wednesday 28th February *Les Gleaners et la Glaneuse* is showing - a documentary on a group of 'real characters' who spend their time gathering the leftovers of society, from rubbish bins to vineyards.

So, basically there's something for everyone - the depressed, the comic, the depraved and the French.



'Nu talent

THE DEATH OF VISHNU Bloomsbury Press

MANIL Suri's debut novel, *Death of Vishnu*, enjoyed rave reviews on its release in America.

Vishnu is an odd-job man in a block of flats in Bombay, lying on the verge of death on a landing of the staircase.

He watches life in the block of flats pass around him, while he weighs-up his past.

Suri does a fantastic job making Vishnu's apartment block a microcosm of human life, and his style is dry, humorous, and insightful. The range of characters in the flats span from Mrs Asrani, who grudgingly looks after Vishnu, through her belief that if she doesn't, something bad may happen to her, to Salim and Kavita, the budding Romeo and Juliet.

His narrative explores what it is to live in Indian society, the religions, superstitions, and the

everyday nuances of Indian culture.

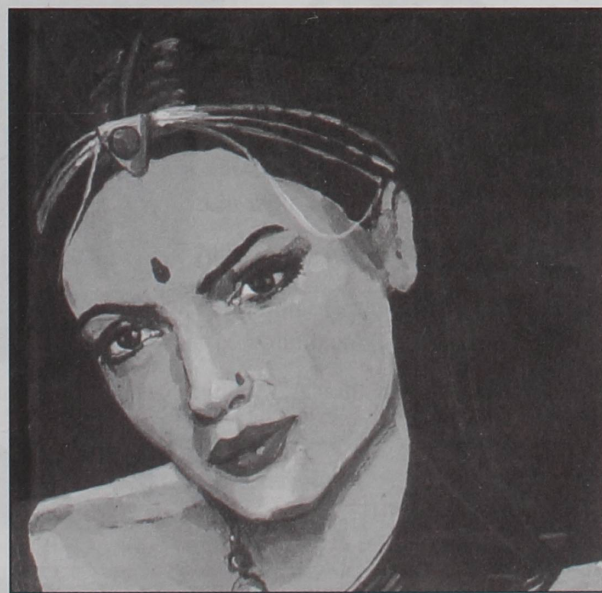
If you feel the need to check out a new writer, Manil Suri is a man to look out for. An unlikely candidate for a promising new author, Suri is Professor of mathematics at Maryland University.

This is definately one to be filed under the heading Essential Reading.

If you're planning that typically student spiritual voyage, year out, skive from

getting a proper job, or it's just a stop off on your round the world trip, this is a novel that gets you down to the nitty gritty of Indian life in all its excesses and variety, in all its brutality and glory.

Novels about India are en-vogue at the moment anyway - who are you if you haven't got *God of Small Things* or *Vikram Seth* on your coffee table or bookshelf?



Top Man Vouchers

Up For Grabs

TOPMAN are getting together with The Courier to celebrate the launch of their Spring/Summer 2001 collection in stores all over the country.

To guarantee you look the business this summer, Topman are offering you the chance to win £200 worth of vouchers for up to the minute fashion.

To enter this fantastic competition just tell us how much of a Topshop discount you get with your NUS card.

Write down your answers on a postcard along with your name and contact number or e mail address.

Make sure your entries are handed into the Courier office by 28th February and you could be in with a chance of winning!

NUS TOPSHOP TOPMAN
students pay less!
10% discount
Save 10% on every purchase
plus additional offers throughout the year. See our website for further details.
Excludes sale items and some special offers. See our website for further details.

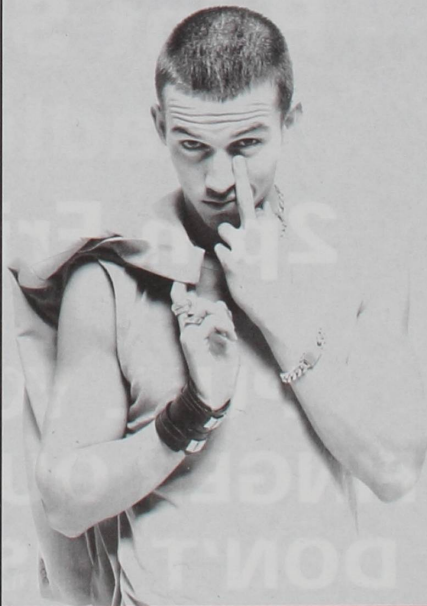


Fig up yourself

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

Theatre Royal

VALENTINE'S may be yet another creation of Hallmark, but romantic fever occasionally hits even the most hardened hearted of us, and that's me none-withstanding.

So, suited-up and accompanied by my sexy lady friend, I set out for an evening of culture and class to see Mozart's most famous opera The Marriage of Figaro.

The performance was (as predictable as the plot) a sell-out, following its success at the Theatre Royal only four months ago.

Figaro wants to marry the love of his life Susanna, but the wicked and womanising Don Basilio plans to thwart their marriage by seducing Susanna. However, Figaro finds out about the Count's philandering plans and plots to fool him into blessing the marriage.

But what's so good about opera you might say? Well, opera looks

good and sounds good, even if the plots are a little predictable, not to say in some cases a little wanky (no offence to Mr Mozart). For a jumped up musical it's not 'alf bad- and it has the added bonus of rising a mile above anything bearing the detestful title of Gilbert and Sullivan.

What hit me about this performance though was the length of the thing- three and a half hours is enough to daunt the hardest of theatre-goers, even those who enjoy the wailing phenomenon known as opera such as myself.

And, I know it's not the point, but about 2 hours into an ever entangling plot of men dressing as women, and plans that go

hilariously awry, I knew what was going to happen in the end. And I'd go so far as to say that for the last half hour I was mainly thinking about making last orders at the Vineyard.

I had a few problems with the translation, and unless I got things very wrong, the last song was entitled 'Let's all go and make whoopee'. This, as well as a plethora of strange and unused archaisms made me smile more than the jokes that were intended.

But on the whole, the performance was strong, the direction a little ordinary but solid nonetheless and the evening an enjoyable one.



BIG APPLE FOR BREKKIE

Breakfast at Tiffany's

WE'VE all heard of it. Some of us have seen it. Most of us haven't.

Some smart bloke or woman has realised that this film can make use of its massive kudos on a different, and possibly younger

audience by re-releasing this romantic classic.

It's also got two of the great Hollywood icons of 20th century, George Peppard and Audrey Hepburn. Okay, one of the great icons, I'm not sure Hannibal from the A-Team counts.

You really should go and see this film just because it's a must see classic.

And then if you don't like it, you can tell those arrogant 'i've watched all the classic types' what you think of it. Because you can.



LAST CHANCE SALOON

**Nominations
Deadline
3pm Thursday**

**Print Shop
Deadline
2pm Friday**

**PULL YOUR
FINGER OUT AND
DON'T MISS 'EM**

Terrible beauty

YERMA

The Playhouse

ON THE EVE of Valentine's Day I get sent to see a tragedy. Is someone trying to tell me something?

Yerma is a young Nigerian woman, married to a man that provides her with everything except her one true desire: a baby. And without a child she is nothing both in her own eyes and in those of the rural community in which she lives.

Originally written by the Spanish dramatic poet Federico Garcia Lorca this play is an attack on the oppressive Catholicism and social mores of 1930s Andalusia; the same forces that were responsible for the poet's murder at the start of the Spanish Civil War.

This production however has been transplanted to present day Nigeria where the same mixture of passion and strict social control still exists.

The man charged with adapting and transplanting the original is the excessively talented Nigerian poet Biyi Bandele. With consummate skill he manages to capture all the passion, power and wit of Lorca's writing while adding to it from his own poetry and culture.

The cast is a blend of both African and British acting talent whose most luminous star is Sesan Ogunledun in the title role. Not only is she

powerful and persuasive as the tragic heroine but also stunningly beautiful.

This play was thoroughly enjoyable and provided a fascinating insight into both Nigerian and Spanish culture. The only problem is that by the time you get to read this the production's weeklong run will have already ended.

Fortunately, however, the next few months promise some cracking theatre. At the Playhouse there is an adaptation of Orwell's 1984 while the Gulbenkian Studio offers Bertold Brecht's The Mother. It is all set to be unmissable stuff.

CHARLIE WEBB



NICE TO EAT YOU

HANNIBAL

Out Now

THE SUSPENSE has been lingering like that post curry smell you can't get rid of, whilst Hannibal the Cannibal has been roaming free.

It is quite intriguing that Hannibal comes a decade after Silence of the Lambs - Lecter too has also been on

the loose for 10 years.

Hannibal is a tense psychological horror, but unfortunately the mystery and eeriness that made Silence of the Lambs so good is not duplicated. Hannibal the Cannibal seems to have mellowed in his old age. He has become even more charming, intelligent and almost generous - you actually like him in the sequel.

People might have seen this film differently if it wasn't a sequel to an Oscar winning, hugely scary thriller. It is pretty obvious that the hype Hannibal has

generated will pull in the punters anyway. Plus there is always the expectation of blood and guts. That phrase, by the way, perfectly describes the gross bits in this man-eating serial killing ensemble.

At the end of Silence of the Lambs, Hannibal had escaped from high-security prison. He removed a guard's face, and placed it on his own face in order to make his getaway in an ambulance. Lecter has been on the run for a decade and meanwhile made himself comfortable in Florence - maybe pizza reminds him of

skin and blood. In his own words Lecter says claims he's bored with his comfortable life he says, "I'm ready to enter public life again." Meanwhile one of Lecter's early victims who survived, wants revenge. Mason Verger was a sex criminal assigned to Hannibal for treatment, but the evil Dr Lecter conned him into slicing his face off and feeding it to some dogs. Verger has been left with no face - check out some pretty ugly make-up here. Yet again Clarice Starling is put back on Hannibal's trail. So with the FBI and millionaire Verger chasing him, how long can Hannibal survive? And more importantly how many people can he eat on the way?

Hannibal is bound to be a bit of a disappointment, most films that are this eagerly anticipated are a let down - especially if they are sequels. The Hannibal phenomenon is a little like your sixteenth birthday: you are excited for weeks, you get up thinking you are now a grown-up and then your mum tells you to tidy your bedroom, a big hype for another number. Anyone going to see this film



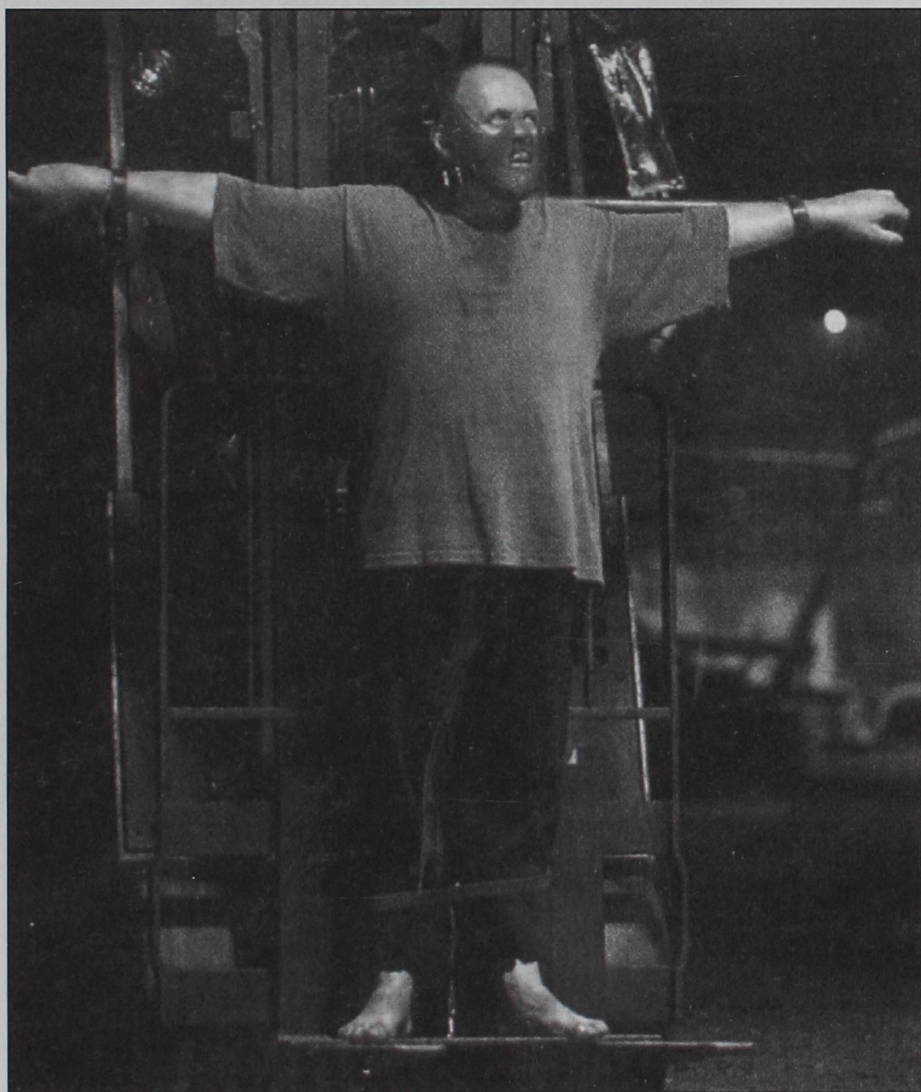
expecting it to live up to Silence of the Lambs is likely to feel that "oh, is that all" feeling.

You can't go and see this film without expectation, we all know it is going to get gory. Especially when you hear that Jodie Foster refused to do the sequel because it was too macabre. In Silence of the Lambs, Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins were phenomenal together. In Hannibal one half of that team has gone, and it is just not the same. Clarice Starling is played by

Julianne Moore this time round, and although she is quite good, the chemistry is not there.

The film is not as dark and psychological as Silence of the Lambs, it is more like a difficult jigsaw, but you know that when completed, the picture will be shocking, disturbing and quite likely gory. Which is exactly why we are all going to go see it anyway.

OLIVIA RICHWALD



SCAN

MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS

Student Community Action Newcastle Millennium Volunteers
want you to join in with

Student community action week 2001 (19th - 25th February)

SCA Week is the first ever nation-wide celebration of student volunteers and part of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV)

Make this your year to volunteer and join SCAN during SCA week

MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS

SCAN

CONFIDENCE BUILDING A COURSE FOR MEN

TO HELP YOU:

Cope with criticism

Learn to say no

Put your point across

Increase your self-confidence

WHERE:

**Student Counselling Service
Barras Buildings**

WHEN:

March 2001

7th, 14th & 21st

1.30 PM - 3.30 PM

TO BOOK A PLACE either call in, telephone 222 7699 or e-mail:
student-counselling@ncl.ac.uk

Unlucky: 13

THIRTEEN:13 INTERVIEW

FOR ANY of you who followed their plummet from fame, Gay Dad's sob story had a lesson to be learnt.

Their hyped-up appearance on the music scene gave them cover stories and headlining festival slots nationwide. A short 'Gay Who?' while later they'd sunk to performing in a pizza parlour on their American tour.

Is it possible that unhyped, My Vitriol supporting Thirteen:13 went one depressing stage lower, performing an acoustic set for lurching students in the Union's Bassment on Monday 12th?

They certainly seem disheartened immediately afterwards. Singer Wayne Murray gazes gloomily into the middle distance, taking in the hot

food kiosk, while bassist Toby McFarlane painstakingly explains why this is part of the plan.

The idea is that Thirteen:13 will ease themselves into the listener's subconscious with their music rather than "going to the Bahamas and shooting a £10,000 video with us on the beach".

A lesson has been learnt from Wayne's former housemate, Simon from Menswear - a band that crashed and burned after being serenaded as the next big thing because of their novelty value.

While it's all very well wanting to go to "grass roots" in their music, I'm dying to ask whether they feel they have anything new to offer the music industry.

The A-side of single 'Perfect Imperfection' released last October, and described by the NME as a "classic, sunny pop song", reeks to me of the kind of indie guitar music I hoped had become extinct by 1994.

I go as far as saying I can't make out the lyrics - a shame because they're supposed to be rather clever and subtle.

Wayne starts to reel them off, slightly too fast to write down.

Never mind. But why the fascination with stalkers?

"I'm quite into voyeurism". A pause. "Not in a sick way or anything though". No, I'm sure you're into the healthiest type of voyeurism out there.

The B-sides of the single indicate a more interesting side to the band. In particular 'Under the Table', a song describing being defeated by a girl in a drinking contest.

With its soft acoustic guitar and delicate harmonies, it's a paradox to its subject and a more original sound than the single's title song. So there is hope.

The album is expected out in the Summer and will be called 'Deny Everything'. Interesting.

I can't say that Thirteen:13 will be a shining light for new guitar music in the "easing themselves in" direction they are currently pursuing.

However, there is evidence of some good song-writing there, so, with a little luck, they won't ever be performing for the Bassment lunch crowd again.

Would you want to?

EMILY YOSSARIAN



QUACK-FORCE

FORCE FEAT. UGLY DUCKLING WEDNESDAY

THE LATEST instalment of international Hip Hop talent to Newcastle will come in the form of LA old-schoolers Ugly Duckling.

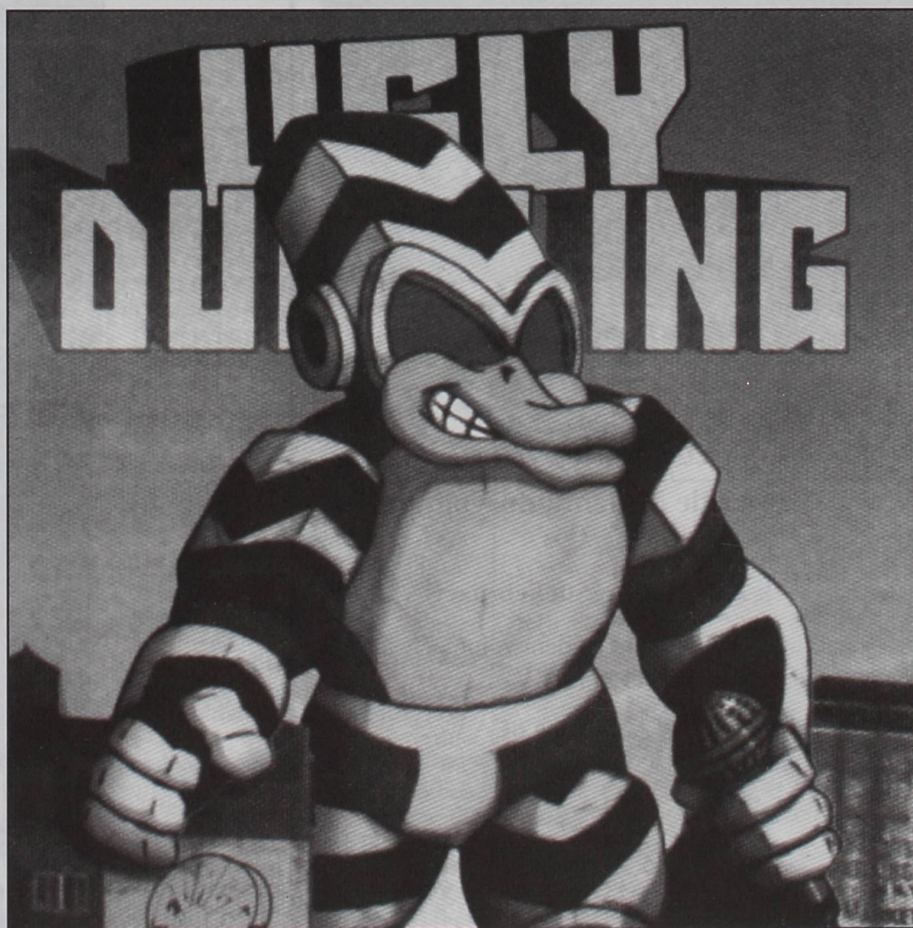
This trio had the questionable fortune of forming in late 1993, at the height of the "G-Funk" era. As the gangsta stylings bred in UD's native Long Beach became the principle rap sound of the time, their members Andy, Dizzy and Young Einstein were battling for a sound far removed from the slick chart-driven sounds of Warren G et al.

And while, for the most parts, these "fake-assed R&B muthafuckas" (as the Wu-Tang like to call this G-Funk mob) have faded away, Ugly Duckling's positive and melodic old-school approach to Hip Hop has come into its own in recent years.

While Force events tend to revolve around turntabism, the prospect of powerful MC delivery also pounding out of the soundsystem should set this night apart.

Anyone who was fortunate enough to catch Jeru the Damaja last year will know exactly what I'm talking about. UD has already toured the UK three times in the last two years, along with acts such as the Roots, Kool Keith, Black Eyed Peas and Jurassic 5 to name but a few.

They've even devoted lyrics to us: "I heard they bootleg our record in the UK / That's okay, we rock on top like a toupee." Interesting rhyme scheme!



So, for anyone who hasn't been converted by their show already, do not expect the mainstream sensationalism of the likes of Eminem.

As frontman Andy quacks: "We want to make this artform fun again because it has become so mean and nasty. It's not even about the music anymore - it's about trying to shock the listeners into buying a CD, and we're gonna change that".

Perhaps he's on to something. Forthcoming album 'Journey to Anywhere', released on Wall of Sound's Bad Magic imprint, could well be a touchstone along the route to a new era of Hip Hop, one which is currently nurturing the emergence of interesting and creative new forces, not to mention the resurgence of classic artists and styles from rap's early days.

Check dis!

HARRY WALKER

REVIEWS ALBUMS...

LABRADFORD:

FIXED CONTENT

THE FIRST track is 18 mins 24 secs long. Exactly. According to their monumentally biased press release, this a record that fits in with the new post rock scene in the US.

I think it will fit in just perfectly with the scene in my house's kitchen bin, just between the month-old baked beans and mould-infested bottles of milk.

AL MILLAR

EAT STATIC:

IN THE NUDE! (MESMOBEAT)

THIS PACKS a powerful retro punch. A combination of 60's party atmosphere, 80's electronica and 90's experimentalism, this is what the future sounded like in 1991.

For dance music you can't really dance to, this is quite funky. It's never going to change the world, but could pleasantly soundtrack an evening of lounging around a lava-lap.

Selected highlights include the Orb-like title track, and the cocktail party chic of 'Salon Kitty'. The title claims this is 'In the Nude', but in fact this music is definitely wearing underwear, probably from Agent Provocateur.

EMILY YOSSARIAN



RAE AND CHRISTIAN:

SLEEPWALKING
(GRAND CENTRAL RECORDS)

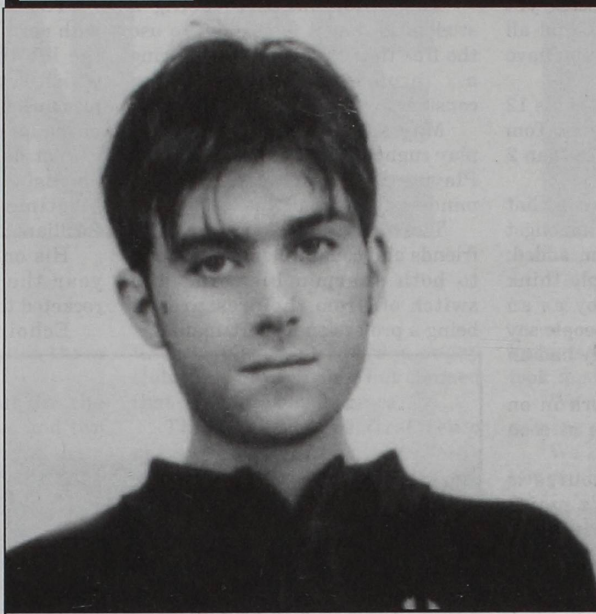
AND on the eighth day God created Rae and Christian. And lo, they looked at the dancefloor and saw that it was not good. And they said "Let there be tunes." And there were tunes.

This is the second album from Manchester's most fine, the kings of UK Hip Hop. This album takes in soul (Bobby Womack - yes!), vintage Hip Hop (The Pharcyde - yeeess!!) as well as with the Home Grown vibe of Kate Rogers and Tania Maria.

From the scratch-tastic intro of 'Blazing the Crop' to the final echo of 'Salvation', this will provide you with all the God exists! and his name is Manchester.

TOM FENWICK

PIE-LIGHT OF THE WEEK



GORILLAZ:

CLINT EASTWOOD (PARLOPHONE)

DAMON ALBARN on a rap song? What's next - Badly Drawn Boy goes Techno?

It shouldn't work but it does, as Albarn's lazy sounding voice fits perfectly on top of a chilled out backdrop of a simple beat and a sulky piano sample.

With its insouciance and deliberate charm this song will hang around your head like a group of thirteen year olds around Burger King.

Think 'Ghost Town' by The Specials for a haunted house atmosphere mixed with summery hip-hop.

At the very least you have to nod your head. Go on, waste your money on this.

EMILY YOSSARIAN

SINGLES..

KING ADORA:

SUFFOCATE (SUPERIOR QUALITY)

DOES the indie world actually move on at all?

This sounds like it could have come out in 1994, and received continuous airplay on Lurpak and Whiley's Evening Session.

All well and good, but like drinking cider and liking Stiltskin, some things are best left to the mid-nineties.

Sub-Travis wankery.

CHRIS DAVIES

king adora



MANIC STREET PREACHERS:

FOUND THAT SOUL (SONY)

THE BIGGEST gob ever to fit between the Welsh valleys, namely that belonging to lyricist Nicky Wire, admires communist Cuba - where they will soon play - as the last place to "hold out against the Americanisation of the world."

A good place to plug the new record, then.

Perhaps suitably, this single punks along like a good old McDonalds-trashing street party. Snarling riffs are convincingly glued together with an angsty lyric informing us that the Manics have - somehow - found their soul among the demons of global capitalism.

That's why they're signed to Sony.

AL MILLAR



CHRISTIAN VOGEL:

LAS ISLA PISCOLA (MUTE)

THIS REMINDS ME of the days when I had to review musicians funded by the National Lottery.

Anyone with a pair of spoons was up for a grant, anyone with a broken casio a genius.

Then things went Dome shaped.

Yet still individuals like Christian demand our charity.

Is this techno? Is this the sound of a cat being slowly fed into a magimix.

Beats me. This music is indescribable. I dare you to buy it.

TOM FENWICK

STEREOPHONICS:

MR. WRITER
(V2)

THE STEREOPHONICS are so middle of the road, they make Alan Partridge look like Ol' Dirty Bastard.

You'll be amazed, then, to hear their new experimental jazz funk / ambient noisescore direction - except you won't because it sounds exactly like every other song they've ever done.

About as exciting as Cardiff.

CHRIS DAVIES

MAY HE BE A STAR?

By CHARLIE WEBB

SINCE the start of this season, Tom May's form at inside centre for the Newcastle Falcons has been simply sensational.

So good in fact that the Newcastle University student is an integral part of the England A squad and has effectively become, at the tender age of 21, the fourth best inside centre in the country.

The only problem with all this is that it has become increasingly difficult for him to devote sufficient time to his course in Business Management.

Indeed Tom describes the combination of being a rugby pro and full-time student as being "near on impossible."

Partly this is due to the intensive physical nature of the twelve hours a week he has to spend training.

May said: "Sometimes I get back into the changing room and I just flop; I can't move and I'm knackered. It's the hardest thing in the world to study after you've been training."

And it's not just the constant exhaustion that creates problems for his studies but also the other commitments of a professional rugby player: the constant travelling to and from training and away matches, the organisation of contracts and insurance policies

and the time-consuming yet rewarding community work that all members of the Falcons squad have to perform.

All these mean that out of his 12 scheduled lectures every week Tom is rarely able to attend more than 2 or 3.

And aware of the criticism that this admission will attract amongst students and lecturers Tom added: "I can see how some people think that I'm just using rugby as an excuse- and I have heard people say that- but I've never actually had an extension."

"I always have my work in on time and try to get it done as soon as I get it."

However, while his course is undeniably one of Tom's major priorities so is his passion for rugby.

He said: "I used to say to my mum that I was going to play rugby as a job and she would say: 'No you're not; it's not even professional.'"

"And since it has gone professional it's all I've wanted to do. And now I've got the chance I don't want to let it go."

But despite this determination to succeed as a rugby pro he still realises the importance of finishing his degree. His greatest fear is of a career threatening injury.

He said: "It's all fine when it's going well but one Saturday afternoon it could all end."

And if this should happen he has his degree to fall back on.

The other bonus to being a student is that it forces him to use the free time that comes with being a professional sportsman constructively.

May said: "A lot of guys just play rugby, train, get back and play Playstation, which can get a bit mind-numbing really."

Therefore his student life, friends and commitments allow him to both sharpen his mind and switch off from the pressures of being a professional sportsman.

The only downside to mixing with normal students is temptation: the life that most students enjoy which revolves around all-night piss ups, greasy kebabs and dreamy duvet days is strictly off-limits.

Yet despite these sacrifices to his rugby career Tom still describes his time at the Uni so far as "brilliant".

His one real gripe is that this year the gym membership has rocketed to £50.

Echoing the views of many

students he complained: "It's a lot of money for a student to pay and especially when it's not really that good."

"Now if the Uni had a gym like at Northumbria that would be great."

But for the moment, May has more important things on his mind as he goes to Twickenham on Saturday, trying to help the Falcons capture the Tetley Bitter's Cup.



MAY...In recent action against Bath

Dami Praises Team

By CHRIS HURST
SPORTS EDITOR

WHILE NEWCASTLE has always been well known for its men's rugby side, this season has seen the emergence of a successful women's side.

And one girl in particular has been creating quite a lot of attention for herself and the club.

Dami Erinle has been in outstanding form all season and has transformed the women's rugby club into a successful force at university level.

And the effervescent first-year Genetics student has enjoyed every single minute of the experience.

She said: "It's been quite brilliant. It's been a really good experience for me as I normally play on the wing."

"Playing for the University I have been involved with managing the backs and it has improved my game a lot and given me a lot of confidence."

"The season has gone really well and surprisingly, as a lot of people hadn't played really before coming to University, we've got a good standard of rugby."

Erinle has reveled in imparting the knowledge that she has

acquired when representing Emerging England and England Students.

And she has also enjoyed the fact she can play fly-half for the Uni, which is so different to her normal position on the wing.

"It's nice to give information to other people who don't know about things and it also improved my knowledge as well."

"You get to know about other positions as well as you have to see what they are doing and try to help them improve."

Erinle has also been pleasantly surprised at the standard of rugby from her team mates.

She said: "When we started I was one of the few people who had actually had some experience and I was worried a lot of people wouldn't know how to play."

"But I play with an amazing bunch of girls. Every time I finish a game I'm always amazed at our standard."

The women's rugby star has also been delighted at the support she has received from the university.

Indeed the elite athlete squad was one of the main attractions for Dami in coming to Newcastle University, as she wanted to assist her flourishing rugby career.

"I had, before I came to Newcastle, looked up for any scholarships or bursaries, as due to what I'd done the year before I knew I had a good chance of getting

one.

"But it is a big university and a lot of people are applying for it so I was absolutely thrilled when I got through."

And Erinle argues one of the biggest effects of the elite athlete squad has been making her more efficient.

"I was told at the start to write down what I do during the day. It made me realize how much time during the day you waste and how you could be doing other things. It makes you become much more efficient."

But despite her meteoric rise which saw her catapulted into the Emerging England side last year, she is not sure about her future in rugby.

"I'm still only nineteen so I've got a long time yet to decide."

But for the moment, Erinle can content herself with terrorizing the defenses of other university teams across the country.



CHAMPS

By GERALDINE MOLE
WOMEN'S RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IN their most important match of the season, Newcastle outplayed Sheffield Hallam crushing them 86-0.

And their remarkable points tally, handed the Royal Blues the Division Two title and a place in the BUSA Shield.

The Uni enjoyed an amazing start in the opening minute when Gill Ross took advantage of a fumbled ball to storm over for a try.

Camilla Nicholson then went over for a score of her own, before the spectacular speed and side-stepping of the brilliant Dami Erinle ensured two more tries for Newcastle.

Newcastle dominated in the scrums and stole numerous balls in the set pieces.

With the Hallam defence constantly allowing gaps to open, Jane Williams managed to score two tries within 3 minutes by bursting through the back line.

Erinle then added another two tries, to give the Royal Blues an

incredible 42-0 lead at the break.

Sheffield Hallam started the second-half strongly, before Erinle scored again 15 minutes into the second-half.

And Zoe Cowell extended Newcastle's lead when she scored the Royal Blues 10th try of the game.

Erinle, Sarah Martin, Sarah Western and Katie Storie completed the rout to give Newcastle an outstanding victory.

Captain Anna Pickles said: "It was an outstanding performance by everyone."

"It is unbelievable that we started the year with only 6 players remaining from last year and end this year top of the table."



ROYAL BLUES BOUNCE BACK

By COURIER SPORTS STAFF

NEWCASTLE recovered from a mauling from the Poly, by recording a pleasing 35-21 victory over Harper Adams at Cochrane Park.

Skipper Rowan Brown said: "It was a very, very physical game. I think we had them for skill."

"But they were very fired up and very committed and for 60 minutes we were under the cosh."

"At times the game appeared to be hanging in the balance, but in the end fitness told."

"We managed to get a bit of cohesion in our game, found our stride and started playing."

"We finished strongly with four quite nicely taken tries."

Newcastle opened up a 6-0 lead, but the visitors to Cochrane Park responded with two tries of their own.

But a try from George Finch

reduced the deficit to just three points before the interval.

Newcastle came out in the second half much stronger and two tries from Will Spriggs put them into the lead.

Captain Brown then got his name on the score sheet to help the team complete a valuable victory.

Harper Adams got a consolation try in the last five minutes, but by then Newcastle had secured another home win.

But despite the victory, when asked whether he was pleased with his side's performance Brown was far from happy.

He said: "We had a very hard game against the Poly three days ago leaving a lot of aches and pains from that."

"In most parts of the game we had difficulty in getting our play's together."

"But now we are in the knock-out stages we'll have to knuckle down and look to expand our game."

Brown admitted he wasn't exactly pleased to lose 42-0 against Northumbria in a rearranged

fixture played at Blaydon rugby club three days earlier, but claimed that defeat was no disgrace.

The Royal Blues first team skipper admitted: "It was disappointing, but it was a game we

knew we didn't have to win which took the heat off a bit."

"We also had quite a few players missing as well."

"We tried a few different things, but you have to say the Poly are the

best team in the country."

"They have to be the BUSA favourites by miles."

"Overall it was disappointing, but it was great to come back and win today."



Pics: Andy Wright

UNI CRASH

By CAMILLA TABOR
HOCKEY CORRESPONDENT

THERE'S not much that can be said in defence of Newcastle's 1-0 defeat at the hands of Leeds.

On paper it looked a fair result, having previously been beaten by Leeds 4-0, and it was a much more respectable score line than against Loughborough.

But Newcastle should have won by a comfortable margin and skipper Laura Stone was understandably frustrated by the lack of goals.

As soon as the first whistle went, Newcastle dominated the game and continued to do so for most of the first half.

Stone's side were constantly on the offensive and any threats from the Leeds attack were easily dealt with by the Royal Blues defence.

But it seemed as if there was an invisible barrier surrounding the goal, or to the more cynical

that Newcastle really did not want to score.

Newcastle had no less than nine short corners in the first half, of which none produced the desired result.

Although they were unlucky a couple of times, Newcastle revealed this area to be their serious weakness, as a failure to stop the ball dead and shooting off target ruined many chances.

A dangerous last two minutes of the half, which saw Leeds suddenly spring to life and come the closest to scoring, was to be indicative of events in the second half.

The second half pretty much followed the pattern of the first, where Newcastle yet again were awarded nine short corners and failed to convert them.

The midfield did a great job in feeding the ball up, but it just would not go into the back of the net.

Aerial shots, reverse stick, everything was tried, but to no avail.

At this stage it seemed that

Leeds might come away with a lucky draw, but they had other things in mind, and showed Newcastle how short corners are supposed to be taken.

Goalkeeper Helen Clarke made two fine saves to keep Leeds at bay.

But two minutes later on their second short corner Leeds decisively put the ball in the back of the net.

Newcastle tried to come back, but somewhat predictably their attacks and short corners did not produce the goods.

After the game Laura Stone could offer no excuses and admitted that: "We gave the game away and didn't take our chances."

The only consolation of the game was that the Royal Blues place in the BUSA Cup was already guaranteed, but it looks like short corner practice is going to be top of the agenda in training.

If the firsts were suffering from scoring constipation then the thirds were yet again inflicted with diarrhea as they thrashed Teeside 8-0.

Swimmers' success

PREPERATIONS for the BUSA Swimming Nationals at the end of February, continued in confident fashion as Newcastle recorded an impressive win at the Staffs Gala.

At the eleventh hour Rob Whittle came out of semi-retirement to complete a small but determined men's side.

A team of Whittle, David Baldwin, Conor Boyd and Scott Watson combined to secure victory in the 4x50m mens freestyle relay.

There were also a number of promising performances from the Royal Blues female swimmers - particularly from the freshers in

their team.

Caroline Boyle came 2nd in the 100m backstroke, Nicola Elgie came 2nd in the 100m breaststroke, Michelle Hepples came 3rd in the 100m butterfly and Carlota Rosales came 2nd in the 100m freestyle.

In addition to these superb performances, Molly Anderson and Tori Jackson supplied valuable experience and leadership to the side.

Captain Tori Jackson said: "I'm really proud of the way we competed and it's very rewarding to see all our training pay off."

Attention now switches to Leeds and the BUSA long course nationals this weekend.

TENNIS CUP HOPES DASHED

NEWCASTLE tennis club's hopes of entry into the BUSA Cup were dashed after a disappointing display against UMIST.

The Royal Blues, needing a comprehensive victory to give them any chance of getting in the Cup, were beaten 4-2.

Matt Parry endured a straight sets defeat, while Andy Hawke will

be disappointed to have the lost the third set of his match 6-4 in the 3rd.

Stanbury triumphed 7-5, 3-6 6-0 in his singles, while Bell lost 6-2 6-4 in his singles.

Parry and Hawke then teamed up to take their doubles game 8-6.

But Stanbury and Bell completed a miserable day for Newcastle when they lost 8-3.

WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2001

UNI'S BIG BEN STRIKES TWICE

By **CHRIS HURST**
SPORTS EDITOR

TWO goals from Ben Chesters helped the defending champions in their quest to remain unbeaten in the league stages of BUSA competition.

The Royal Blues recorded a 3-0 win over Sheffield Hallam, but for much of the game Alan Brown's side struggled to play to their full potential.

And it was only two late goals that sealed victory in a closely fought game.

Chesters said: "We had loads of chance in the first-half but just didn't take them."

"It was a relief when Denis [Barbe] scored late on."

Newcastle had much of the play in the opening period, but found it difficult to convert their chances.

The Royal Blues had been forced to field a makeshift attack of Denis Barbe and Alex Bunn, as Mark

Batty and Jon Hall were missing from the side due to injury and academic commitments.

Barbe had a good chance to open the scoring on 15 minutes, but failed to take advantage of his excellent opportunity.

And Bunn somehow managed to put the ball wide from less than 6 yards, when it seemed easier to score.

Barbe looked lively up front throughout the opening period and was unlucky to see his volley, following a lovely Chesters pass, rebound to safety off the inside of the post.

As another effort from Chesters went wide off the post, it looked as if Newcastle were never going to score.

But a powerful run from Alex Houlby into the box was upended illegally and after 30 minutes of the game, Chesters coolly slipped his spot-kick past the keeper.

Yet for all Newcastle's attacking superiority, at 1-0 just one slip could have proved costly.

And it needed a fabulous point-blank range from skipper Rick Sellers to keep the scores level at the interval.

Newcastle continued to

dominate after the break, but still found it difficult to convert their opportunities which created.

And as the second half wore on, Hallam began to play with more composure and enjoyed a fair share of possession.

Sellers was once again called into action on 67 minutes when he acrobatically tipped a fierce effort onto the woodwork.

And Hallam missed another excellent opportunity to pull level a minute later after Newcastle's offside trap failed.

With five minutes to go and Newcastle desperate for another goal to seal the game, Chesters showed great skill and vision to flight a cross onto the head of Denis Barbe who finished with style.

And a late counter-attack sealed the game when Chesters swept the ball past two defenders on the line, after he had made hard work of finishing his initial one on one chance.

While the performance may not have been great, it was still another good win for Newcastle.

And it would be a brave man to bet against the Royal Blues regaining their BUSA crown at Meadow Lane in March.

Crewe crushed by Newcastle stars

By **DAN FOLEY**
SPORTS WRITER

NEWCASTLE ended their league season with an easy 3-1 victory over Crewe Alsager.

And having finished in second place in such a strong league, ahead of defending champions Birmingham, they have every reason to feel confident for the Cup campaign.

Newcastle started the match needing a win to help them finish second, while Crewe and Alsager needed the points to avoid finishing bottom of the table.

But the Royal Blues were not in a charitable mood, and overwhelmed the visitors despite the effects of a long season.

Captain Christian Standage said: "We're knackered. The end of season has been tough, and today it took its toll."

Not that you could tell.

Newcastle started positively, passing the ball well and exposing Crewe's lack of width.

They went ahead after eleven minutes.

Centre-forward Andy Fry pressed the Crewe and Alsager defence and won a short corner.

From there, a slick set piece saw Tristan Craddock drill home from five yards.

Newcastle continued to dominate the first half, but lost

their composure in the last ten minutes when the visitors began to dominate.

The second half saw renewed ambition from the Royal Blues, and despite conceding a goal, Newcastle were in complete control.

Standage dominated the midfield, and constant pressure led to a goal in the ninth minute.

A Crewe and Alsager defender kicked a goal-bound ball, and Adam Berman dispatched the flick to the top left corner.

He got his second 15 minutes later, when another short corner routine saw the initial shot blocked, only for Berman to bury the loose ball.

Newcastle were denied a clean sheet when the visitors scored a consolation goal with five minutes left.

Christian Standage was delighted with the season, and said: "Despite not having the best individuals in the league, our fighting spirit gives us a real chance in the cup."



Pics: Andy Wright

