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INSIDE



Justin Robertson

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Better than Potter!

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TODAY

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STUDENTS SAY NO TO LAP-DANCE CLUB

They take to the streets to protest at opening of For Your Eyes Only

By ANN CLIFFORD
DEPUTY EDITOR

NEWCASTLE STUDENTS joined local residents last week to protest against the opening of lap-dancing club For Your Eyes Only.

Around 200 protesters, bearing flags, banners and placards and beating makeshift drums, stopped traffic as they voiced their anger at the club's VIP launch night last Wednesday.

The demonstration began with a women's march from the Haymarket to Monument via the Bigg Market.

The campaigners then met up with male supporters before marching on to the club, which is based near the city library.

The protest was organised by the Student Unions at both Newcastle and Northumbria universities, Rape Crisis and other local groups.

Although not all onlookers were in favour of the campaign, some passers-by showed their support by joining the protest.

Union Welfare Officer Kate Thorpe said: "OK, so 30,000 people didn't storm the streets of

Newcastle, but there's a significant range of people from across the community, and we had some fantastic shouts of encouragement from random passers by."

"The people who were prepared to march in the cold and the rain were a dedicated, noisy bunch and a lot of other supporters would have turned out had the weather been reasonable."

"We're reclaiming the night," Newcastle student and former LGB Officer Lisa Harvey-Smith told The Courier.

"This city should be safe for everyone. This club is endemic of the pub and club situation in Newcastle whereby men with

money run everything and there are no community spaces."

Chris Davis, Chair of Union Council, said: "If women are concerned then there's a problem."

"If some of our students were tempted to work there it would be tragic."

Former Union Women's Officer Carrie Sharman claimed some men heading towards the club turned away when they saw the protesters.

"It was really positive," she said. "Everyone felt it was a victory in a way."

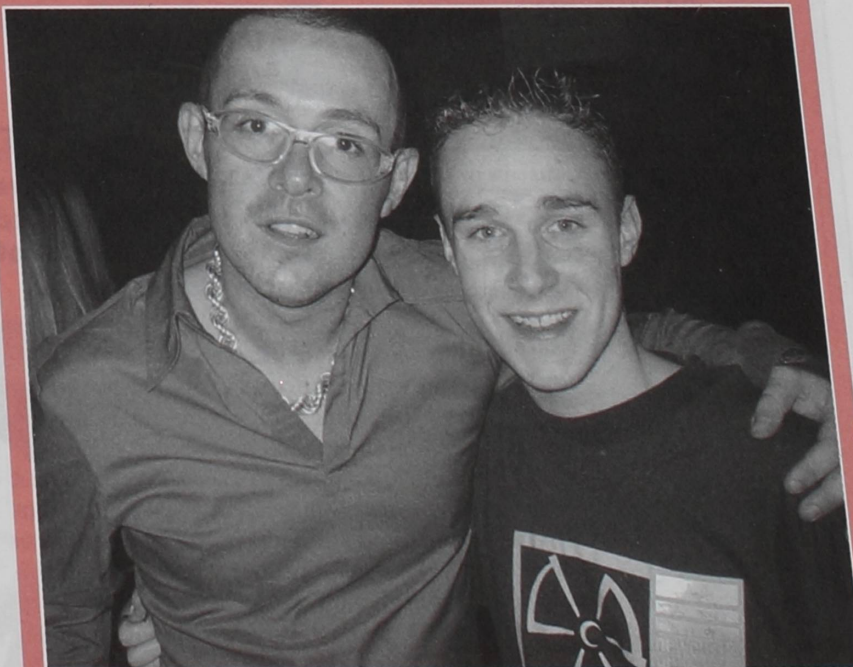
The protesters are planning to build on their efforts so far with another demonstration this Friday.



PIC: Frances Wood

PROTESTORS... Oppose the opening of Newcastle's first lap-dance club

Judge the job!



NSR DJ Tim Monckton had a dream come true last week as he was drafted in to support top DJ Judge Jules just hours before his gig in the Bassment.

And many revellers were so impressed by Tim's turntable dexterity that they rated him BETTER than the mighty Judge himself.

Full story p. 3

The
Courier
courier.news@ncl.ac.uk

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

Editor:

Paul Crosthwaite

Deputy Editor:

Ann Clifford

News Editor:

Jake Lee

Features Editor:

Natalie Bogusch

Arts Editor:

Kara Byers

Music Editor:

Al Smith

Letters Editor:

Shervene
Shahbazkhani

Sports Editors:

Geraldine Mole
Dan Foley

Chief Reporters:

James Garbett
Jennie Lawrence

Staff Reporters:

Anna Pollitt
Sara Ariff
Lisa Bruen
Jess Gooch

Photographers:

Niall Riddell
Matthew Seeto

Advertising

Manager:

Lee Hogan



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

UNION ADDS SUBSTANCE TO DRINKS CAMPAIGN

New initiative launched to highlight risk of drink spiking

By **JENNIE LAWRENCE**
CHIEF REPORTER

SHOCK TACTICS are being used in a new Union campaign aimed at promoting awareness about drink spiking.

Plastic stirrers bearing the words "This could have been Rohypnol" will be placed in drinks if students turn their backs for just a few minutes in order to alert people to the dangers of the date-rape drug. The campaign is due to be launched next term to coincide with Alcoholism Awareness week.

Campaigns Officer Matthew 'Basil' Long said: "We want to make sure people are aware of where their drinks are on a night out."

"It's also to make sure people look after their friend's drinks while they're not looking."

Kate Thorpe, Welfare Officer, told The Courier: "It's easy to assume that date rape won't happen to you. We need to use shock tactics to make students less complacent."

She said: "It's a very important issue. People see the Union as a safe place but we need to raise awareness of date-rape drugs like Rohypnol."

A group of volunteers working 'undercover' will put the stirrers in drinks when people aren't looking.

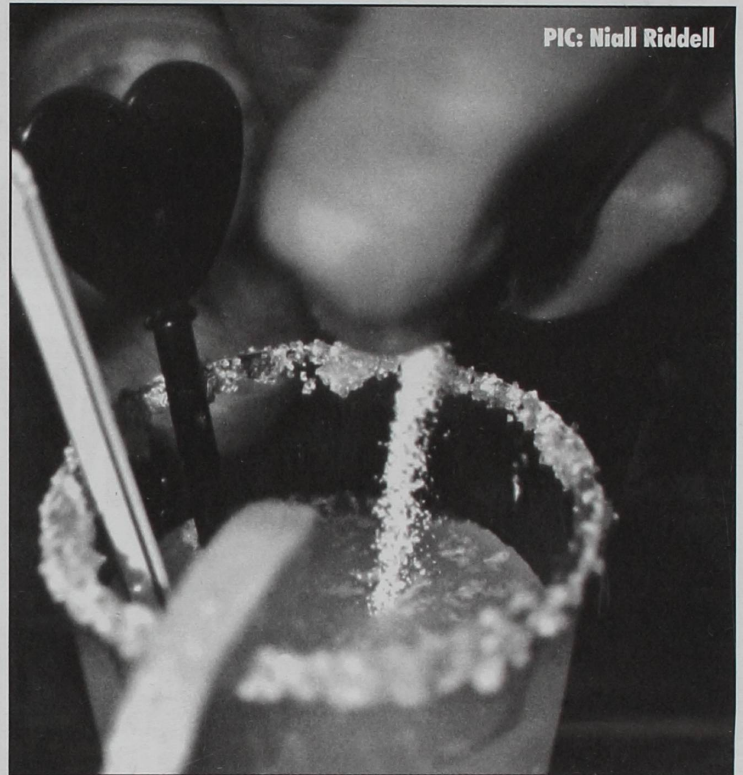
"We want to use shock tactics without scaring people. The idea has worked well in other unions," says Kate.

Phil Walls, Newcastle Union Bar Manager, agrees with the campaign. He told The Courier: "We need to raise awareness of date-rape drugs by any means, so this is great idea."

One second year student has experienced drink-spiking after Valium was slipped into his drink at a house party.

"I passed out on the floor for about five or six hours," he said. "It was really bad."

However, some students at Newcastle have mixed feelings about the idea. Stephanie Stanley, a first year Accounting and Finance student, says: "It's a good idea but I don't think it would work when people are drunk - no-one will take any notice."



PIC: Niall Riddell

DRINKS DANGER... It's all too easy for unattended drinks to be spiked

Toff luck for Uni students

History students forced to travel to Durham to find essential reading materials

By **JAMES GARBETT**
CHIEF REPORTER

HISTORY students have been forced to trek to Durham TWICE in search of vital course material.

Students searching the Robinson Library for course texts for a second year module on Imperial China were left frustrated as they failed to find a single book.

The course general reading list contains a whopping 237 books but many students have been unable to find a single one outside of the Student Text Collection.

One concerned student told The Courier: "There are one or two

books in Student Texts, but that feels ridiculous when you consider that there's about 60 students on the course sharing the same deadlines.

"It's crazy when Durham's the nearest place we can get the info we need to pass the course.

Fellow student Sarah Roberts slammed: "What's the point in paying tuition fees to Newcastle University when we have to drive all the way to Durham to study our course?"

"I asked in the library but they said that many of the books were still on order and had yet to reach the library, but that's crazy as the course was running last year as well.

"It's unfair, there's no point in having a charter mark if they're going to send you elsewhere for the

books you need."

Furthermore, module leader Dr Niomi Standen blasted students for not using their initiative - telling worried undergraduates to sort their own problems out.

"We had to spend two days in Durham's library making notes and photocopying sections out of textbooks, otherwise there's no way we could have written our essays let alone prepare for seminars and lectures," Sarah Roberts raged.

"It's such a waste of time and petrol money. I'm not too worried about losing grades but obviously it was much worse for students without cars - there's nothing they

could have done."

A trawl around Blackwells and Waterstones - as well as Northumbria's library - proved fruitless, indicating some kind of breakdown in communication in terms of distributing reading lists.

A library supervisor said he was unaware of any problem, and claimed that the responsibility lay with the module leader and faculty Library Liaison officers.

Sarah continued: "I don't know whose responsibility it is, but I pay to go to this university and study and I shouldn't need to rely on Durham to pass my exams."



DURHAM... Pretty, but less handy than the Robinson Library

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STUDENT DJ FACES HIS DAY OF JUDGE-MENT

Wannabe student DJ plays with master on wheels of steel

By JAKE LEE
NEWS EDITOR

A FRANTIC last minute phone call gave Newcastle student DJ Tim Monckton the chance to perform with superstar Judge Jules at the Union last week, with most clubbers reckoning student Tim to be better than the Judge.

Already on his way home to Leeds last Wednesday night, Tim had to jump on the next train back to Newcastle, after the Union Ents. Office asked him to warm up for the

international jet-set DJ Judge Jules.

Tim couldn't believe his luck when he got the phone call. "I said to the Ents. Office 'You're joking'."

"Really", exclaimed an amazed Tim, "I'm just a little DJ. I'm only at University to get a degree. It was a dream come true."

Those attending the night reckoned Tim's harder House set was better than famous Judge Jules.

"He's better than Jules" shouted one clubber to The Courier's intrepid reporter at the night.

"People were asking me to sign autographs. I thought I was going to need security to get me out. It was unbelievable"

said Tim, still in a state of shock some 12 hours after the event.

And the Judge even took time out to speak to the 2nd year Politics Student and discuss the merits of student radio. Judge Jules, so called after completing a degree in Law, started DJ-ing at University.

"The setup at the Union was excellent, the monitors were superb. That put my mind at rest. Nothing like that is going to happen again," said Tim.

Despite this chance of a lifetime, Tim has his feet firmly on the ground.

"DJ-ing is really unpredictable. You can't be too sure."



DIAMOND GEEZER... Jules and new buddy Tim

Study is the toast of the Toon

Free oats & toast lure students to make 9am lectures for wholegrain research

By JESS GOOCH
STAFF REPORTER

HUNGRY NEWCASTLE students are being offered free breakfasts in the name of research.

Enterprising postgrad Ailbhe Smith has transformed the department of Biological and Nutritional Science into a breakie bar. Ailbhe will be serving up early morning treats for students to munch on, as part of her PhD study into the role of wholegrain foods in our diet.

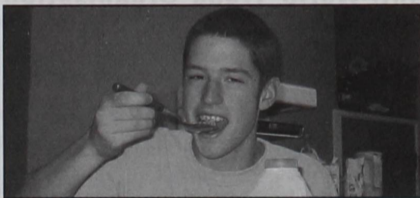
In an age where the staple student diet seems to consist of burgers, baltis, baked-beans and booze, Ailbhe feels that more wholegrain foods are just what our bodies are crying out for.

"We're looking at wholegrains and ways of incorporating them into the diet. Our target group is both men and women

between the ages of 18 and 25 as it is the younger age groups that tend to eat the smallest amount of wholegrains," she told The Courier.

Four different breakfasts are being served up each week to try and see which foodstuffs are most successful at keeping hunger locked up until lunchtime.

First year Physiology student Ged Desforges reckons this is just the jump-start he's looking for to make those 9am lectures: "I think it's a great idea. If students can eat well for free it's definitely a good thing!"



BREKKIE... Ged Desforges is a cereal filler



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LAST ORDERS?

Uni researchers claim the traditional pub is under threat from trendy new bars

By AL SMITH

NEWCASTLE COULD be about to call time on the traditional pub if University researchers Dr Paul Chatterton and Dr Robert Hollands are correct.

The boffins from the Centre of Urban and Regional Development Studies have uncovered a shift towards trendy "style bars" which looks set to threaten local pubs.

Researchers studying the drinking habits of people in Newcastle, Bristol and Leeds identified a movement towards chains of trendy bars like

Revolution and Bar 38.

Dr Robert Hollands believes that the branding of these large national chains attracts the more well-off and stylish drinkers.

"This 'off-the-shelf' approach of branded outlets is aimed at a wealthier, discerning clientele. The result is that smaller scale and traditional outlets can be undermined or pushed to the fringe."

The study revealed the existence of a two-tier system in place in many cities based around what people wear. It suggests people who wear designer labels tend to head towards the "style bars" whereas those people more comfortable in Ben Sherman shirts and Rockport shoes head towards

the nearest Geordie pub. The distinction is apparently also clear in the music played in the bars with more modern style bars likely to play House, Garage or Acid Jazz.

Local landlords appear unsurprised by the findings, but feel that traditional pubs will survive. Rob Brewis, Assistant Manager of the Duke of Wellington in the town centre said: "I doubt very much the Duke of Wellington will be at risk from trendy wine bars... Most of the people who come in here come in because they want a good pint."

Matt Haygarth, assistant manager of the Pitcher and Piano agreed: "There are enough people going out drinking in Newcastle to support both types of pubs."



PACIFIC... One of the swanky new bars luring boozers away from the local

Student squatters take over

They set up anti-WTO centre in stately building

By JAKE LEE
NEWS EDITOR

STUDENTS WERE among the squatters in central Newcastle who occupied a 60-room stately building as a venue for a forum on anti-World Trade Organisation discussions.

Quasi-bouncers guarded the entrance, whilst upstairs the second floor was converted into sleeping quarters, meeting rooms and kitchens.

Scott, one of the organisers spoke to The Courier about why they had chosen the building, adjacent to Gotham Town opposite Central Station:

"What they want to do is make these into

yuppie flats, but we think it should be made into a homeless hostel."

Draped across many of the walls were banners saying 'Debt, Exploitations, Homelessness: A Price Worth Paying?', 'Tyneside Action Cannabis' and 'Respect, not Sexism'.

The occupation started last Friday and despite police efforts to remove the occupants on the opening night, the squatters were able to remain.

A student who didn't wish to be named said: "I've been really impressed by how welcoming it is. They've even got rotas up for cleaning."

On Saturday night, one large room was turned into a club room, with DJ's and live MC's. On the following days, there was expected to be a quiz night, story telling, WTO talks and films.



SQ-WHAT A GOOD PARTY... DJs and MCs create a relaxed vibe at the city centre squat

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To stand a chance of winning, answer this question: Up to how much money could your Club/Society win with Unilever Club Challenge? The answer can be found on the Unilever Companies Management Development Scheme web-site: www.UCMDs.com.

Send / drop-in entries on a postcard to The Courier office by Wednesday 21 November. Include your name, telephone number, and email address. Unilever will not use the details of the winners for any other purpose than for booking the tickets.



Unilever Companies Management Development Scheme

HAPPY NUDE YEAR

Newcastle students encouraged to get their kits off for charity

By **JAKE LEE**
NEWS EDITOR

STUDENTS ARE being asked to rip off their clothes and do "their bit with their bits" for Newcastle University's first ever Naked Calendar.

It's the brainchild of three female students - Veronica Oakeshott, Sophie Nicolson and Peggy Nuttal - who are seeking exhibitionist students to pose naked and help raise money for a local charity for the homeless.

"This isn't pornography," urged Oakeshott.

"Students will have strategically placed props to cover their bits. For instance, Mr English will pose with the Complete Works of Shakespeare."

Other ideas currently include a Psychology student raunchily stretched out on a Freudian couch, and an Economics student naked apart from a massive cheque.

To get students in the mood they will be

plied with alcohol beforehand and will even be given the choice to pose naked in groups.

"We're not looking for people with any particular look - as long as you have a sense of humour, you qualify," says Nicolson.

But the three lovely ladies organising the calendar, who will all be posing themselves, are baffled that nobody from Accounting, Law and many of the Sciences has come forward.

"We still really need first and second years" says third year Nicolson.

They are also eager to recruit from a variety of departments.

The girls will actually be producing two calendars, one of boys and one of girls.

"We aim to have the calendars out in the last two weeks of term and sell it campus wide," said Oakeshott.

"We're hoping to make it an annual tradition."

Anyone who fancies themselves as next year's pin-up in student houses across Newcastle should contact Sophie Nicolson at s.e.nicolson@ncl.ac.uk



EXHIBITIONISTS... Are you prepared to show your support for charity like these lads?

GET IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRITS

... And beer, and wine, and punch... Xmas Uncovered wants to follow YOUR celebrations

By **JENNIE LAWRENCE**
CHIEF REPORTER

CALLING ALL those who want their fifteen minutes of fame - Xmas Uncovered is coming to Newcastle!

The same people who created ' Ibiza Uncovered ' are looking for "a larger than life" group of students who are willing to let LWT's cameras follow them around for a night.

Josh Elliott, Associate Producer, told The Courier: "We want to uncover how people celebrate the festive season in Newcastle."

"We're looking for students planning a very big night out or party soon."

The programme is set to be broadcast this

Christmas on Sky One with filming taking place in the next month.

Reaction to the news has been mixed. "I like the idea of being famous, but I don't really want my mum to see what I get up to," one student said.

But an enthusiastic fresher said: "I'd love to be featured. I'm a bit of a show-off, and where better to show off than on national TV?"

■ If you think you have what it takes, contact Josh Elliott on 0207 2613065 or email: Josh.Elliott@granadamedia.com



DEBAUCHERY... Students drunken antics could soon be broadcast to the nation

Northumbria student killed in footbridge fall

Police appeal for witnesses after tragic incident

By **JENNIE LAWRENCE**
CHIEF REPORTER

A NORTHUMBRIA University student fell to her death from a footbridge crossing the Central Motorway in the early hours of Sunday morning.

20 year old Laura Cliff, who came from the Liverpool area and lived in Spital Tongues, was certified dead after police were called to the scene following reports of a woman falling.

Police were called at 1.39am

on Sunday morning to a footbridge overlooking the northbound carriageway, north of New Bridge Street.

Both carriageways of the motorway were closed between Gosforth and the Tyne Bridge until 10am on Sunday morning.

An investigation has been launched, led by Det. Supt. Derek Storey.

Police have already spoken to a group of witnesses, but want to talk to anyone else who was in the area.

■ Anyone with information can contact Newcastle Central CID on 0191 214 6555 Ext: 62076

STUDENTS RUBBISH CLAIM OF "TOO DIRTY" AND TIDY UP

Growing tensions in Heaton are appeased by SCAN clean-up

By JESS GOOCH

SCAN VOLUNTEERS worked to tidy up the Heaton area last Wednesday as part of an initiative to bring students and local residents together.

Good Clean Fun Day, organised by the Heaton Residents' Association, aimed to improve the quality of the area.

After residents complained about the state of their gardens and surrounding environment, students from the University were asked to take on the challenge of cleaning up.



LENDING A HAND... These SCAN volunteers were happy to help out with the project



SHEAR CLASS... Neatening up residents' gardens was an important task

The event will also raise awareness of the ongoing improvements taking place in the Heaton area.

Third year Psychology student, Heather Leonard told The Courier: "It's been brilliant. The people organising it have been fantastic."

"It's a really good idea to get students and residents working together for such a good

cause. That's why I responded to it."

Students were really put through their paces as they set about digging up flower beds and chopping down hedges.

Claire Leake, a first year History student enthused: "I've loved it - using the shears was particularly fun!"

Bras: support needed

Women's Officer left baffled as to why girls aren't claiming back bras



WATSON... Left with over a hundred bras

By ANN CLIFFORD
DEPUTY EDITOR

APPROXIMATELY TWO thirds of the bras donated for last month's charity bra chain still haven't been claimed.

Around 100 items of lingerie - handed in for the record attempt during Breast and Test Week - remain ownerless, despite a number of 'Get Your Bra Back' sessions.

Women's Officer Cate Watson told The Courier: "I have been trying to make myself available in the Equal Opps Office, but I am a part time officer and I have got a degree to do."

"I'm sorry if people are annoyed."

Cate urged donors to collect their bras in

person in order to identify them, as some have lost their tickets.

"I'm hoping they'll all be gone by Christmas," she said.

Any bras that are not claimed by January 2002 at the very latest will be donated to a local refugee organisation.

Two more 'Get Your Bra Back' sessions are being held this week:

Wednesday 14th - 12-1pm Committee Rm A
Thursday 15th - 2-3pm Committee Room A

■ To contact Cate, phone the Equal Opps Office on 0191 239 3900 or e-mail: C.A.L.Watson@ncl.ac.uk



BRAS... If this is your underwear, please come and claim it!

Dear Shervene

Words from a wise wee Scottish lass

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES, genuine queries, ranting and plain weirdness - we've got the lot this week. Not that I'm complaining of course, it gives me something to do. Keep 'em coming in!

Shervene
The Courier
Union Society
King's Walk
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8QB

Say no to FYEO

Dear Shervene,

This is directed at "Name supplied" who wrote about his fondness of lap-dancing clubs in last week's letters page. As one of the protestors against the opening of FYEO, the new lap-dancing club due to open in Newcastle next week, I felt I needed to respond to your letter.

Firstly, you seem to have a misconception that women who are paid for something are therefore not being exploited. The fact that the club creates an environment where women can consider their own bodies as commodities that can be bought and sold is in itself exploitative. As is the mentality the club encourages in the women working there, ie: that women should define their own self-value by how much men will pay them. Defining oneself in terms of an oppressor is a key issue in exploitation.

I also wish to refute claims that those of us protesting against the club believe that "all men come out of these clubs as horny, half-cut, leching rapists." Nothing is this black and white, but studies have shown that men who have raped women have tended to have one-dimensional stereotypical views of women. It is these stereotypes; that women are little more than sex objects, that the club helps promote.

I believe that men who already have the potential to carry out violent attacks on women are egged-on by the mentality of the club.

Also, the fact that you have not heard any complaints about Baja's, where women wear bikinis, simply means you haven't been listening hard enough! I certainly don't like Baja's and have said so many times, but a club which is entirely centred around women stripping for men, as FYEO is, deserves more attention and protest in my opinion.

Finally, having told us all (incorrectly) what little opinion

protestors have of men, you go on to conclude that, "We ARE pathetic and we ARE sad... We can't help it, we're just men." This is perhaps the most insulting comment you make! Many male friends of mine are NOT pathetic OR sad and fulfil their sexual fantasies without paying for it, and with consenting partners. Perhaps they could give you some tips...?

Carrie Sharman
3rd year Psychology student and lap-dancing club protester

Shervene says:

It's a right old can of worms, this one. I think I made my feelings about lap dancing clubs clear last week, so I won't repeat myself. Personally, I'm of the opinion that if these women don't feel they're being exploited - and apparently they don't - it's rather patronising to suggest that they are but just don't realise it. It implies that these women haven't got the intelligence to make up their own minds, and I'm sure that isn't the case. I expect you've never visited one of these clubs yourself, so are you really in a position to pass judgement in such a dogmatic manner?

A mystery solved

Dear Shervene,

Who is Soloman, and why is he always getting called to the Mens Bar?

Jealous,
Henderson Hall.

Shervene says:

Ah, the age-old question! I've spoken to someone with inside knowledge of the Union and now the truth can be revealed...

Contrary to popular opinion (i.e. that Soloman lives in the mysterious hidden bar down in the Bassment, surviving on beer waste and pizza crusts from the Cochrane), the person to whom the announcements refer is the CELLARMAN. He spends all his time in the Union bars because he's needed to change barrels.

Of course, now I've told you, I'll have to kill you....

Return of the killjoys

Dear Shervene,

I want to complain about the first years. They're taking over the Union. Surely I am not the only person who feels old and out of place on Friday nights? I'm sick of the fresh-faced, debt-free first years swanning round like they own the place in corridor-sized gangs, desperate to pull. No wonder St. John Ambulance have to be there - first years obviously can't handle their drink.

Please someone take them out and show them the Toon so that the rest of us can enjoy the Union like it was in the good old days.

The Oldies But Goldies Society

Shervene says:

Oh please - you sound 21 going on 40. Don't you think it should be you going out on the town? Take your own advice. Positive may be over-run with first years but it always has been. I bet you weren't complaining back in the olden days when you were a lad and you and your mates ran amok at the Union every Friday. Anyway, I think you'll find this is a convenient excuse to get absolutely plastered in an attempt to forget how angry and bitter you are. Why are you complaining?

Love letter

Dear Shervene,

There is something that I have wanted to tell you for a while now. I am totally besotted with you and have been since the first day I met you. Will you go out with me?

Love,
A secret admirer

Shervene says:

You haven't included your name. That would suggest that you are ashamed of admitting to these feelings and that, frankly, is an insult. Try harder.

The Courier **NOTICE BOARD**

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


Room for rent in 4 bedroom house on Coast Road. £36 p.w. plus bills to share with one male and two female students. Contact Laura on 0775 1676368.

Bring ads/messages to Courier Office on Ground Floor, Union, by Thursday afternoon. Ads. charged at 3p per word. Minimum charge 30p.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAN FOLEY!
Are you impressed we remembered? It was written on the calendar...
Have a great day on Friday!

LGB
Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Society meets 7.30pm Thursday, MLK Room, 1st Floor, Union. For more info contact LGB Officers Ruth Conroy (ruth.conroy@ncl.ac.uk) or James Hecker (j.m.hecker@ncl.ac.uk). Equal Opps Unit, 1st Floor Union. Tel: 0191 239 3936.

Caption Corner



We've trawled the paper's picture archives, home to some of the oddest snaps ever committed to film. All you have to do is come up with a caption to fit them. The funniest caption each week will win its writer £15 worth of Union drinks vouchers, and the respect of our readers. Entries on a postcard to the Courier office on the ground floor of the Union by next Wednesday please.

Last week's winner (see inset): **Texas Pete had gone too far this time! Superted was becoming increasingly worried and Spotty Man was no where to be seen..** Congratulations to Dom Gray.

Spooksville USA

Ghost World is a funny and profound examination of adolescence

FILM OF THE WEEK

Ghost World

@ Tyneside Cinema, from 16 November

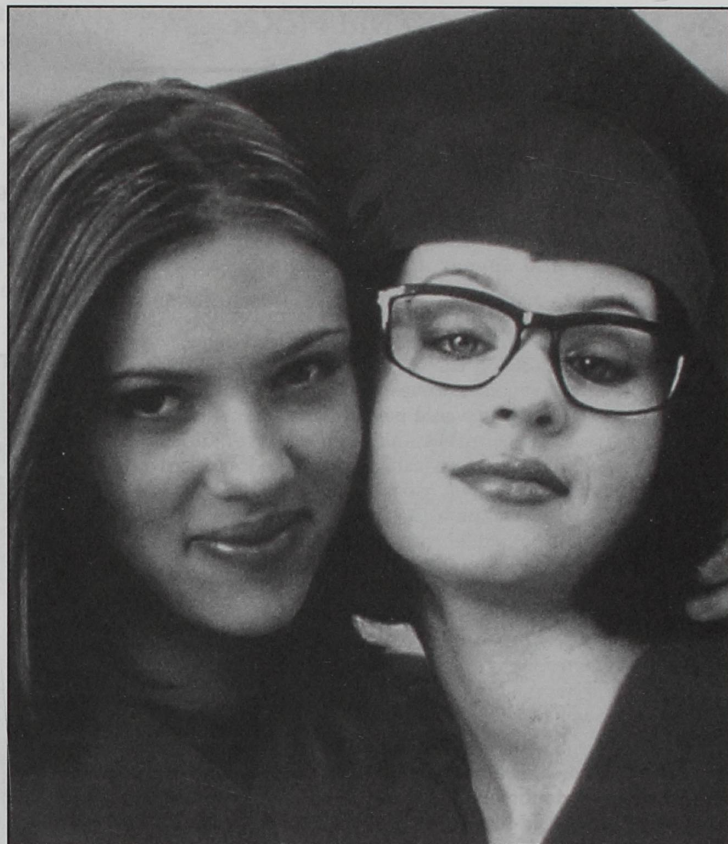
EVERY ONCE in a while, a film comes along which manages to stick in your mind far beyond the original experience. They usually make you laugh, more than a couple of times. They also make you feel a little sad, either because they relate in some way to your own existence, because nobody ends up happy, or because nobody takes their clothes off. And they usually have Steve Buscemi in it. Fortunately Ghost World is no Con Air, and it satisfies all of the above criteria (thank god Buscemi keeps his clothes on!)

The story is not your standard teen comedy. Two girls, Enid and Rebecca, have graduated from High School and rather than go to College, decide to set out and forge their own lives. Faced with poor job prospects and even worse romantic ones, they struggle to keep their ideals and friendship in a merciless consumer world. The pair's tentative steps towards adulthood are

coloured by several encounters with a selection of weirdos, against which the girls maintain their identity. But when Enid (Thora Birch) latches onto cardigan-suited Seymour (Buscemi), the girls' relationship starts to drift further and further apart. Rebecca (Scarlett Johansson) is the more level-headed of the two and settles into an existence of mundane normality. But Enid flounders amidst her struggling artistic talent, her isolated family life, and her growing friendship with Seymour, and ends up challenging all those who are close to her. The film ends on a very profound note, (not telling,) with each of these well-drawn characters finding some kind of direction for their lives.

And Ghost World is bloody excellent! The several themes that Director Terry Zwigoff explores, like the struggle for identity amidst the mass consumerism of society, apply equally to Britain as much as America. And Steve Buscemi is mint! As usual he plays himself, i.e. the weirdo, but manages to give this seedy character a touching depth with consummate skill. Thora Birch is fast becoming the personification of depressed American youth, (following on from her performance in American Beauty) and her witty bitchings and teenage soul-searchings are at their peak in this film. But the varied cast of weirdos that Zwigoff presents really steal the show: Sunburnt mulleted ninjas; ageing satanists; failed record collectors; the hippy art teacher. Go and see this and be pleasantly surprised, and try not to wince when you see yourself on the screen.

Sam Croft



VERY PROMISING!

Jack Nicholson stars in a dark tale of obsession and murder

The Pledge

Out now

JACK NICHOLSON portrays a grizzled retired cop named Jerry who is determined to keep a promise. The struggle begins when a nasty string of serial murders provokes his interest, even though he's in the middle of his going-away party. He was born a cop and he will die a cop, so he plunges into the case as if he never retired... The mother of the first victim, in her desperation, asks him to promise that he will find the killer. This promise gives the tired old retiree a great purpose in life that becomes his undying obsession.

The Pledge has all the elements of an

average crime mystery, but an additional layer automatically lifts it above the genre. The film's most elaborate characterisation is the one fashioned by Nicholson. Playing his age, the famed thespian is gumshoe Jerry Black. Of course, Nicholson's troubled sleuth amounts to more than a detective tale cliché. There's a personal note here. Wrestling with his past, Jerry's need for vindication is his most telling trait.

Granted, Detective Black may be an altruist. And remember, he did make that promise to the little girl's mom. But to what end will he go to get his man, or woman for that matter? Unfortunately, the length and breadth of his obsession begins to challenge the murder plot for control of the movie. Nicholson nonetheless competently etches the heartfelt metaphor about a man's need to be useful and still deemed vital. The story delves into Jerry's psyche and truly understands him and his mission; only at the end does it truly reveal the moral corruption that occurred during the course of the film. Until that point, Jerry's world is the only sane world and his mission means everything.

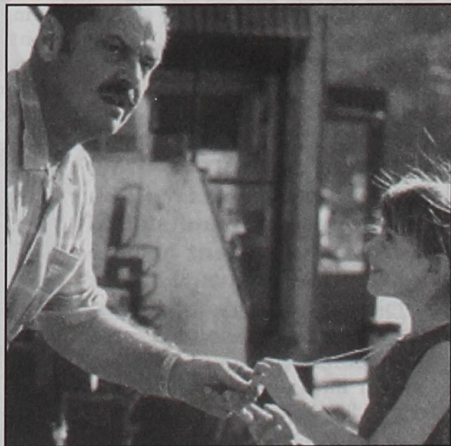
Also putting in a good turn is Robin

Wright Penn as Lori, a potential love interest who just happens to be the mother of a blonde little girl who fits the killer's preference list. An abused waitress, she is the prototypical heroine of every country western song ever written. Nevertheless, Ms. Wright Penn plays the rural heartbreak with refreshing confidence. Problem is the relationship that ensues between Jerry and Lori implies much too outlandish a question about Jerry's crime-solving zeal. Draw your own conclusions.

Director Sean Penn helps to cultivate the character study that ultimately fuels the movie, and Nicholson is flawless and effective in his role. The film is beautifully and ambitiously photographed, capturing essential moods and rendering critical emotions. The subject matter and the nature of the murders are sometimes distracting and could be the breaking point for many sensitive viewers, and it's certainly not a feel-good movie. The Pledge has plenty of tension. Oodles of it. But not the good kind. It doesn't seem to be the filmmaker's desire to have us successfully guess 'whodunit?' There are no clues per se; just trips up numerous blind alleys with little satisfaction or conclusion,

the movie has a secret, and it isn't telling. And since we don't get to see things through the killer's eyes, this can be no psychological thriller either. Instead, a planned paranoia grips the atmosphere. It could be anyone. A deeply stirring and thought-provoking experience.

Kara Byers



Arts pages in association with

ODEON
FANATICAL ABOUT FILM

THE MAN BENEATH THE HAT

Mr Benn's psyche explored - and you thought this stuff was for kids...

Mr Benn's Little Book of Life

By Tessa Read and David McKee

FIRST BROADCAST in 1972, only 13 episodes of Mr. Benn were ever made.

Each weekend Mr. Benn, a London based businessman complete with suit and bowler hat, would visit the curious costume shop he had discovered. 'As if by magic' the Shopkeeper would appear and aid him in his choice of costume.

Ushered into the changing room Mr. Benn would try on the costume and go through another door, to find himself in a different world, befitting the costume. So a suit of armour would take him to medieval times, and a cowboy outfit to the Wild West, etc. There he would perform good deeds - helping mermaids, dragons, hunters and even a genie, and have adventures, which were inevitably interrupted at a crucial moment by the Shopkeeper, who would lure Mr Benn back into the changing rooms and back into reality, usually immediately after he had learned a valuable moral lesson.

Sounds very innocent, doesn't it. But is it really? The simple structure of a children's story could so easily be concealing a deeper truth, a hidden message behind the sweet, almost naive facade. We know what Mr Benn does. But what is he trying to tell us? Read on, and wonder...

The Religious Theory

Mr Benn is a religious parable. Mr Benn's life is directionless and unfulfilled, and his experience of the everyday world causes him to doubt and question. However, through the mediation of the god-like figure of the Shopkeeper, he is able to experience a higher level of existence, and eventually find an explanation for his questions, solace from his troubles and relief from his doubts.

The Freudian Theory

The dressing room where Mr Benn changes has a dark red interior, and is therefore clearly a symbolic womb, through

which Mr Benn is repeatedly 're-born' into other possible lives. Mr Benn therefore manages to repeatedly live out the fantasy of regression to the mother's womb through the mediation of the surrogate father figure (the Shopkeeper). Or something like that.

The Political Theory

The series was concocted merely as Conservative Party propaganda, intended to damage Tony Benn's reputation by portraying him as a lonely individual whose political opinions were nought but sheer fantasy and bore no relevance at all to the modern world.

The Drug-Addled Theory

Yes, in common with The Magic Roundabout, and loads of other shows, Mr Benn's remarkable appeal to people who are off their heads has led some to believe that the show is explicable entirely by chemical means.

Here you have a somewhat bizarre and reclusive

character living in a small semi detached house. The only time he appears to venture out is to visit the "Shop" where he meets with a strange man wearing a Fez.

Here is the pivotal point.... They exchange words and the "shopkeeper" then takes Mr Benn off to show him the "merchandise". Now, suppose this was a thinly disguised cover for the handover of ACID. It makes sense from here on, doesn't it?

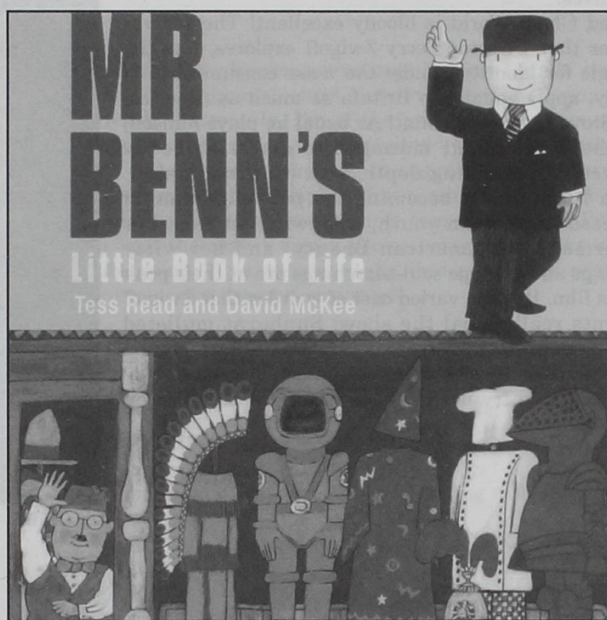
Mr Benn then takes the clothing into the changing room (or should that be the "chill-out" room?), the clothing has the ACID in the pocket to avoid either of the participants being nicked in the hand over process. Mr Benn then drops the acid and heads off into a bizarre hallucination. He stays in the "Chill-out" room until he gets to the happy stage of his comedown and then leaves with a smile on his face and feeling better for the experience. He returns to his house to sleep off the after effects.

Is it mere coincidence, then, that anyone wishing to trip out in an enclosed space such as a changing cubicle would probably be at high risk of doing themselves actual physical injury, but that injuries could be minimised by use of tough protective headwear... such as a bowler hat? Think about it.

The confused sexuality theory

It is also possible to interpret Mr Benn as a thinly veiled allegory of repressed homosexuality and/or transvestitism. He leads a fantasy life that his neighbours know nothing about, which involves visiting a dingy cubby-hole where he can dress up exotically and parade around to his heart's content.

Kara Byers and a Mysterious Shopkeeper



MR BENN... You wouldn't see him at the Careers Service

WIN! Mr Benn books

As if by magic, The Courier has five copies of Mr Benn's Little Book of Life to give away. All you have to do is answer this simple question:

If you were going to make another episode of Mr Benn, what costume would you have him change into?

Put your answer, name and contact details on a postcard and drop it into the Courier office before 21st November. The most inventive suggestion wins!

Art of claw

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (Video)

Starring: Michelle Yeoh, Chow Yun Fat

MICHELLE YEOH (Tomorrow Never Dies) stars as Yu Shu Lien, a beautiful and skilled warrior who's spent her life fighting for justice.

Lien's deeply in love with Li Mu Bai (Chow Yun Fat), an undefeatable Wudan master, but the pair have never declared their feelings for each other. Bai has tired of his life as a warrior and asks Lien

to deliver his sword, the immaculate Green Destiny, to Peking, while he hunts down one last adversary, the devious Jade Fox.

The sword is stolen and when Lien fights the masked thief, she finds her foe is almost her equal. Bai too battles the skilled fighter and offers to tutor the youngster in the ways of the Wudan, but the mysterious warrior flees before giving him an answer. Lien and Bai hunt Fox and her young charge across the country until a final showdown decides all their destinies.



Regal treat

MAKE A cuppa, budge up on the sofa and turn on the telly in preparation for The Royle Family - the Complete 3rd Series on video.

Shown on BBC1 last autumn, bone idle mum Denise and doting dad Dave are now the proud parents of a bouncing baby - and there is enough talk of nappies and breast-feeding to send Jim straight down to The Feathers. Meanwhile Barbara is preparing for baby David Keanu Ronan Best's christening, Nana is in sombre mood after the death of her best friend, and there's a surprise announcement from Anthony. As the series builds up to the big day and the proud father grows a goatee to mark the occasion, catch all the action - or lack of it - and win a Royle family book or video!

Jim Royle: Pearls of Wisdom

Over three unmissable series, the show has spawned a wealth of hilarious one-liners and classic quotable scenes. It's the stuff of mimicking, rewinding and re-reading. Bloody Brilliant!

Denise: "Dad, stop fiddling with yerself."
Jim: "I'm not fiddling with meself. I paid a quid for

these underpants and I've got 50 pence worth stuck up my arse."

Jim on Anne Robinson: "Anne Robinson, my arse. Watchdog? I am watching a bloody dog."

■ To win a copy of The Royle Family 3rd series on video and The Royle Family: My Arse book just answer this simple question:

What is Jim Royle's favourite pub? Pop the answer, your name and contact details on a postcard and drop it into the Courier office by 21st November.



Arts pages in association with

ODEON
FANATICAL ABOUT FILM

The return of JR

EXCLUSIVE We tracked down Mr Lionrock for a quick interrogation

JUSTIN ROBERTSON HAS released his debut solo album, Revtone. Different from his earlier Lionrock efforts, but it still retains his own distinct style.

Justin has proven his production credentials time and again. Both with Lionrock, and as a solo artist with 'Have Mercy' on Bugged Out recordings.

Even so he still thinks he's in the wrong career. When I asked him about his fondness for detective stories (He set up a record label called Gentleman Thief and used a picture of Sherlock Holmes on the cover of one of his earlier releases 'An Instinct For Detection'. He also used the moniker 'Master Thief' in a previous incarnation.) Justin told me he was in the wrong job and he should probably be working for MI5!

Revtone is quite a retrospective album, drawing on Justin's earlier influences but also hinting at the future of electronic music. It's a fine example of dark twisted house, with moments of clarity and happiness. Most notably on 'The Brightest Thing', the album's opener.

Although this album does have its own distinctive sound, it isn't a concept album "I haven't got an overriding concept really it's just a collection of kind of organic electronic records inspired by raw early house, trying to get back to something quite quirky I suppose."

It's inspired by Justin's own (expansive) record collection. "There are quite a few different influences there, it's got that New York experimental feel, going back to my old records old disco things, like old Public Image records, ESG all that kind of New York experimental house. With a kind of up to date thing - there's bits of Carl Craig, that kind of vibe."

Justin used his current situation, free from record label ties to create something which sounds more free. "Because of the situation

I'm in now I'm not signed to anyone particularly, so it's good to be able to do little projects that are more coherent rather than trying to do lots of different things in one album."

You couldn't really call this album a Deep House album, it darts between different styles and reference points, taking in soundtrack stylings on 'Everpresent' to sleazy, bass driven house on 'Crawling to You'. This album will not fit comfortably into any music magazine pigeonhole "It's hard to describe it really it's sort of leftfield electronics but with some pop elements as well, I guess."

This album is much more than just a tool to be used at one of Justin's many popular DJ appearances. There are certain tracks that would work on the floor at Bugged Out! but it's also an album designed to work on your stereo at home. (If you can get rid of your flatmates Britney CD that is!) "Rather than just straight dance, it's got sort of a dance sort of edge but it's not made purely for dancefloors like Bugged Out."

Free from his label ties, Justin decided to work with one of the UK's best dance music labels for this project, Nuphonic. This was a conscious decision on Justin's part as he appreciated the style and quality of the label. "I've known James Hill who runs Nuphonic for years, we're best mates, so I played him some of the demos of some of the stuff I'd done and he was interested. I suppose it's kind of a very appropriate sound for that label as well so it felt comfortable doing that particular album for Nuphonic."

Justin's own label, Gentleman Thief, which folded some time ago is not about to be resurrected unfortunately. Justin's time commitments and the cost of running a label proved very constrictive, but Justin expressed a wish to start it up again.

The Revtone project is a fantastic album for so many

reasons, it's eclecticism and scope combined with Justin's apparent love of electronic music and organic sounds shine through. It appears as a retro album, the artwork compliments this, as do the influences and many of the sounds on show, but it reflects music today. Some tracks you can imagine being played on a Friday night out at Bugged Out!

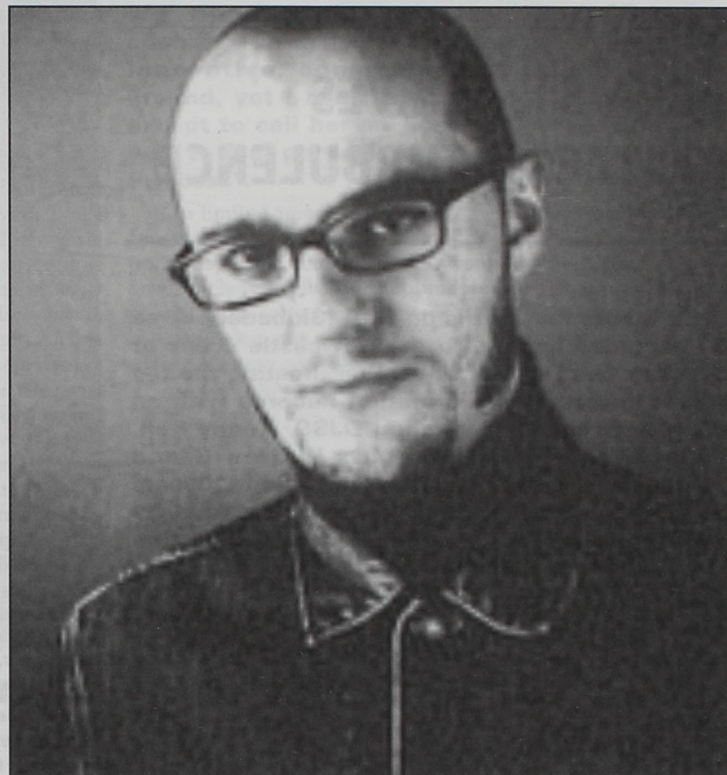
The album is sleazy yet warm and welcoming. Moments of dancefloor chaos combine with moments of perfect headphone music, a rich tapestry of sounds and techniques from a seasoned professional.

It's a good job Justin didn't end up as part of MI5, or we would have missed out on this cracker.

The Gentleman Thief has struck again, catch him if you can.

Justin Robertson presents Revtone is out now on Nuphonic records.

AL SMITH



ROBERTSON... One of the most respected artists in dance music

THE VINYL FRONTIER

THE BEST GROOVES FOR THE BEST GROOVERS IN TOWN

ADAM GOLDSTONE - ALTERNATIONS (NUPHONIC)

NEW YORK DJ and producer of some merit Adam Goldstone has produced this gem of a record, guaranteed to shake the party.

Alternations is taken from Goldstone's superb debut album 'Lower East Side Stories' and is certainly a standout track from it.

It draws influence both from New York's diverse musical history, most notably the Paradise Garage and the Sound Factory, and New York's diverse racial heritage. The Lower East Side is a ghetto, with an immense multi cultural population. These influences are clear to see in Goldstone's music, making it music for the mind as well as the feet.

This track is getting loads of play from many of New York's legendary DJs including Danny Krivit and Joe Claussell. Try it yourself.

AL SMITH

Recommended nights

A great night out in Newcastle EVERY night - guaranteed!

- **Wednesday 14th - Juice DJ 2002 and Boss @Union - The Daily Telegraph's DJ Contest kicks off a free night out in the Global, and will be followed by a night of House Trance and Hard House at Boss with Sundissential NE residents and special guests. See preview p.12.**
- **Thursday 15th - Up and Coming @ Union - The Bush The Tree and Me currently touring to promote their new album are joined by Newcastle University's own Betsy Owen. The best night to check out the stars of the future.**
- **Friday 16th - Bulletproof @ Rockshots - Indie shenanigans with Big Niall and occasional special guests.**
- **Saturday 17th - Turbulence with DJ Storm and Konflikt @ Union - With the unfortunate news that Andy C couldn't play at this month's Turbulence, the Union went out and booked some even better dj's! Let's make sure their Newcastle debut is a very memorable one. Check out the feature on the Newcastle d'n'b scene on p.12**
- **Sunday 18th - Pub Quiz @ The Hancock - Join Nev and many other clever people for a great quiz with great prizes. Great!**
- **Monday 19th - 311@ Union - This rock band are absolutely massive in the States. Over here they're relatively unknown, get your tickets now before they get so big you'd sell your granny for one.**
- **Tuesday 20th - Curves @ WHQ - Upstairs drum and bass downstairs cheeky beats, it's a simple formula. Curves is one of the best underground d'n'b nights in Newcastle, and it's easy to see why. See feature p.12.**

ROCK SOUND

Competition!

ROCK SOUND magazine for "music with attitude" have given you lot a chance to win one of 5 fantastic goodie bags containing two copies of the magazine, a t-shirt, loads of CD's, stickers and a very flash lighter/bottle opener combo.

To get your hands on one of these highly sought after prizes, all you have to do is tell us the most rock 'n' roll thing you've ever done, whether it's throwing a TV out of a hotel window or eating one of Elvis' famed sandwiches. We'll print the best ones next week so get scribbling!

Put your answer on the back of a postcard (or a stuck down envelope as they say on Blue Peter) along with your name and mobile number, and hand it in to the Courier office by Wednesday for a chance to secure your place alongside Ozzy and Keith in rock history!

JUNGLE FEVER!

Special report on Newcastle's thriving d'n'b scene

AREA 51, CURVES RESTLESS, TURBULENCE

"THE ROOF, the roof is on fire" (Skibadee). Area 51 exploded back onto the Newcastle scene at Scotland Yard on 1st November, hosting the ten year anniversary of Formation Records with an impressive line-up including DJSS, Kenny Ken, Twisted Individual and MCs Warren G and Skibadee. Warm up for the Formation '10years in the game' celebration was resident Area 51 crew Blackout&Ality. Followed by Generation Dub, featuring MC Mizzbee stealing the show with her excellent vocals. This lass is on her way to the top, and I don't just mean to the high notes.

Having moved to Scotland Yard from Foundation, the club layout allows the crowd to get right up to the DJ box, with the MCs, which means there's no distinction between us and them. The stage did get a bit packed and Warren G asked it to be cleared, but the high energy atmosphere continued: keeping the people bouncing to the diverse range of jump up

tunes, booty shakin' beats and cutting edge tracks served up by SS and Kenny Ken to celebrate a decade of breaks. The back rooms were a live hip hop bar with Adika Jeb and a Goodlooking room with Rantoul, from Bukem's label. One of the best nights in ages.

Next up, Curves, the fortnightly World Head Quarters event. Last Tuesday was a play-off: Curves vs Area51 and as usual the house was jumpin' enough to bring the ceiling down! First up was Area51's DJ Dom who eased in the crowd with jazzy, chilled dnb, then Blackout and Ality started the Curves soundtrack of the finest cuts, followed by Dark Skies vs Generation Dub... and yes Mizzbee made a guest appearance at the end with the superb MCXS. Curves brings you old skool jungle, hardcore breakbeat and nu d'n'b with cheeky growling basslines. Downstairs, Loki&Mullarky and Kristo&the Imposter create an alternative of hip hop and funky grooves.

Last week's turnout was not as big as usual, but the phenomenon that is Curves always attracts likeminded people - one big happy family - with free vodka jellies as an added bonus. It's also worth checking out the limited edition CDs, compiled by the Curves crew, most recently by resident Calaco and duo Dark Skies.

Sounds like your cup of tea? Then you should check out Restless nights, a monthly event brought to you by the people who gave you OnOne. Also taking place in WHQ, presents Parallel Forces, Area51's Blackout and Ality, Curves' Dark Skies, and another local outfit Elementz of Noize. A long list of MCs includes XS and Enuff and downstairs sees the long awaited return of reggae legends Skyjuice Dub Soundsystem. Bringing together "the cream of Newcastle underground" (Restless Promotions).

Don't forget that the Union also has its own night,

Turbulence, with residents Phobia&Piper (Flex). The 17th November sees DJ Storm (Metalheadz) and Konflikt (Renegade Hardware, famous for his teardown track 'Messiah'), and the return of DJ Hype and L Double on 15th December. Also check out Turbulence backrooms at Eclectic and Arcane.

So look out for the weekly Area51 nights and their monthly Formation Records specials, Curves fortnightly (birthday bonanza coming soon) and monthly Restless events. Drum 'n' bass has arrived in Newcastle big stylee. This certainly is Champion Sound.

FI CLARK



WIND OF CHANGE... Turbulence in the Union Bassment

Juicy new talent

Tonight Matthew, I'm going to be... Pete Tong! We continue...

JUICE DJ 2002 & BOSS @ GLOBAL CAFE, TONIGHT

ONE OF THOSE rare things in Newcastle, a FREE night out. This night is the first event to be staged by the Dance Music Society. Kicking off straight after the Daily Telegraph's Juice DJ 2002 Competition, the Society have brought together some of Newcastle's finest House, Trance and Hard House DJs as well as promoting talent from within the University. This echoes the DJ contest's aim to discover the best student talent from all over the country - and we're not talking about the women's netball team.

Juice DJ 2002 is sponsored by the Daily Telegraph, Ministry of Sound and Vestax, and will take the best student DJs from each heat and play them off against each other in a regional final. The winners of this will go through to the grand final at MOS/NUS, Ministry's very own student night to compete for the top prize of £1000 cash, 2 Vestax decks and a Vestax Pro 6 Mixer, plus an agency deal with a string of guaranteed bookings.

Those of you who thought Hard House was dead in

Newcastle could not be more wrong. With the confirmation that Sundissential will not be leaving Newcastle, merely moving from Ikon to Cuba Cuba, Boss will press this issue home, by reuniting Sundissential North East residents Tim Monckton and Chris Green. Tim is no stranger to the Union, being a Newcastle student himself and a rising star on the Trance scene. He has his own show on NSR and a list of residencies longer than a rah's scarf. Last week Tim supported Judge Jules in the Bassment, a huge honour for a Newcastle student.

Joining Tim and Chris will be Newcastle's own Little Jimbo bringing us more hard house than the Benwell estate. But it's not all hard dance, the night will start on a house tip with Little Al, then NSR's Pete Dolukhanov will take over and pick up the pace a little. In short, the night will begin with house and end with ear splitting hard dance, and will cover all points in between.

In tying this event in with the DJ 2002 competition there will be a large number of University based DJs on show, hopefully indicating a bright future for Newcastle Uni students, and the dance music scene in general.

This is the first in a series of Dance Music Society nights aimed at promoting local and student talent. The next event in December will feature electro, tech-house and techno with Reverb residents Anthony Daly and Justin Mills and Eclectic main man Aaron C. With an ever changing music policy, cheap door prices and up and coming talent, this night is sure to be a hit with students, and may even launch some of you to superstar DJ status.

Hard House is far from dead, it's alive and kicking. To find out why, make sure you come to the Union tonight. Go on, it's free. What else would you be doing? Baja's isn't an option.



TIM MONCKTON... If he's good enough for Judge Jules...

AL SMITH

ALBUMS...

KENDALL PAYNE 1/5

CLOSER TO MYSELF

AAAAAAAAGGGGGGGHHHHHHH! This is so apple pie, and was predictably tipped as "hot new album for the year" by USA Today.

Pure cheese, and probably the squeezable sort at that, none of yer slow matured English Cheddar.

Over produced, over hyped and over here. No thanks. Lyrical honesty and musical maturity that connects with her audience, my arse. Shouldn't that read: 'bland middle of the road, and corny lyrics perfectly blended to appeal to Shania Twain fans everywhere'?

JAMES BROWN

DONN LETTS 4/5

DREAD MEETS PUNK ROCKERS UPTOWN, SOCIAL CLASSICS VOLUME 2

Superstar DJs? Seems like any old Judge, Erick or Lottie can lay claim to that title these days.

Superstar DJs? They'll earn a lot, but how many will go down in history? Don Letts on the other hand earned a pittance, but he made history.

Letts was a DJ at London's Roxy before the punk explosion, a key figure in the scene, managing the bands (The Slits - now there's girl power), setting the fashion with his shop Acme, documenting it, and even starring in it himself (Big Audio Dynamite, P.I.L.). But it was his work at the Roxy, spinning the reggae that influenced a generation which this, the second album in the Social Classics series, celebrates.

An indispensable source of good time vibes and low down dirty dub. As excellent and relevant as it was a quarter century ago, it's clear that Letts, unlike most modern pretenders earned the title superstar DJ.

ARTHUR HEARD

ANDREW W. K. 2/5

I GET WET

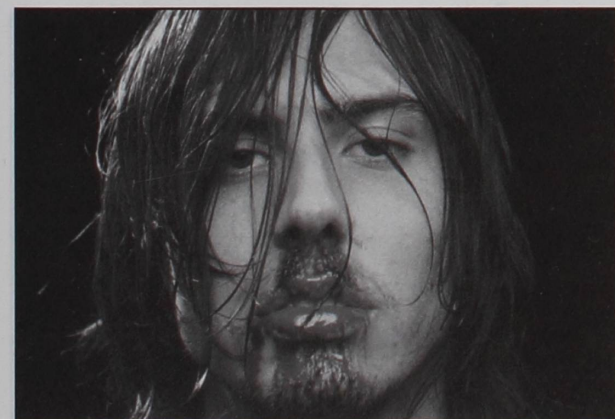
WHAT CAN I say - I am speechless!

If you've heard his debut single taken from this album, 'Party Hard', then you've heard the whole album. I really was expecting good things from the man hyped as the future of rock - but I'm shocked.

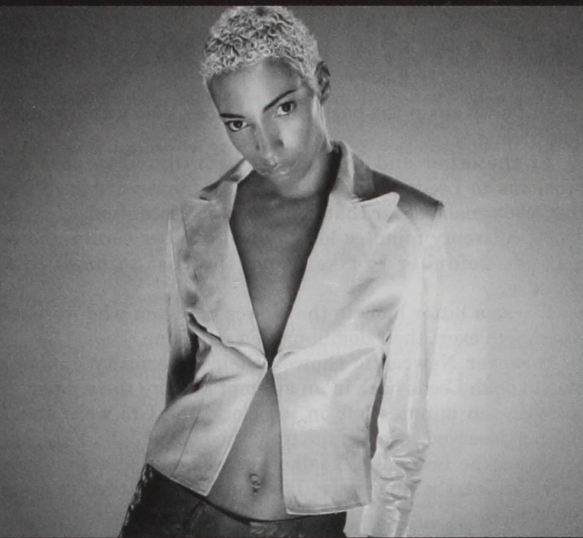
It is twelve songs all sounding exactly the same: a Status Quo/ Bon Jovi sound (with a hint of the tune from the kids' TV gameshow 'Funhouse') with the vocals of Rob Zombie! Every aspect of the band is on full volume and partying hard, but the song lyrics could all be put together to make one big song called 'Party Hard, Ready To Die, Take It Off, She Is Beautiful, I Get Wet' and so on.

I would have to say a sphincter says what?! Party Hard, Wayne!

FI CLARK.



RECORD OF THE WEEK



BAZ 5/5

BELIEVERS

A QUESTION for you to ponder.

When your brother is renowned DJ Dave Angel, and your sister Monie Love, has been described by no less than Trevor Nelson as the only female rap star Blighty ever produced, would you really try to compete? Well Baz did, and d'ya know what? I don't think she'll settle for silver.

'Believers', Baz's introductory single, is the sum of eclectic influences. Beautiful, intelligent lyrics, sung with rare individuality and emotion coupled with a jazzy, soulful production including the filthiest, funkier guitar playing this side of a seventies pimp, create one of the most refreshing debuts for years.

This is sure-fire gold, which deservedly sees Baz step out of her families shadow and well and truly into the limelight.

ARTHUR HEARD

PINK FLOYD 1/5

ECHOES (THE BEST OF...)

THE GREAT behemoth that is Pink Floyd returns to flog the dead horse one more time to cash in on their legacy.

This double CD will hopefully be the last we hear of these bitter sell-outs. Spanning the length of their career, from the novelty Syd Barrett days to the pretentious days of the Gilmour and Waters spats, this is Pink Floyd condensed to pure shit.

Early songs are crap and it shows up where things were really happening in the music world. In the underground scene in London you had Pink Floyd, in New York it was The Velvet Underground. The former came armed with architecture degrees and bullshit nursery rhymes, the latter ripped up the rulebook and produced the finest works ever.

As Pink Floyd progressed, you can see where the inspiration for those shit 80's German soundtracks came from.

After fighting to stay interested in this twaddle I recommend no-one lets their dad buy it.

Every song starts too damn quietly.

JAMES COLLINS

SINGLES...

BJORK 4/5

PAGAN POETRY

THE TROUBLE with reviewing a Bjork CD is the clichés. The artist herself is one of the most innovative, consistently excellent artists around, yet I can't think of anything to write except to call her an "Icelandic Nymph" or, if I was to feel particularly crazy, maybe an "Elfin Princess".

My limited imagination by no means does justice to the breathtaking beauty of this latest offering. The second single from Vespertine, and one of the strongest tracks, the stripped down melody perfectly compliments the range and intense passion of Bjork's haunting voice. As if this wasn't enough also included are some first rate remixes and a typically superb video by photographer Nick Knight.

Another sterling effort from the Icelandic-fairy-pixie-queen!

ARTHUR HEARD



PPK 4/5

RESURRECTION

IT'S NICE to see that the Russians can bring us something good in the way of dance music! PPK launches us into orbit with Resurrection.

With the decline of good trance, a Russian duo though it necessary to save this genre with a space-themed stormer. The rumours are that while DJ-ing in Moscow, Paul Oakenfold was handed a copy of this, which he instantly mixed into his set to an enormous response, and the rest, as they say, is history!

Already big in the clubs and through radio-play, it's getting quite a following here in the UK, and is set for bigger things. So, Perestroika, the Revolution is on!

PETE DOLUKHANOV

THE FUTURE SOUND OF LONDON 3/5

PAPUA NEW GUINEA TRANSLATIONS

THE FSOL have released a collection of re-workings, or 'Translations' of their original 1992 mix of Papua New Guinea.

The original has all the hallmarks of FSOL but the rest of the record is an attempt to create a new sound, veering away from the ambient grooves. Translation 3: 'The Lovers' is a funky little number that builds nicely, at first giving a real seventies feel with guitar samples and keyboards before melting into sitars and strings.

Like all remixes, each translation takes a little of the original and provides a completely new perspective on it. However, the outcomes are as diverse in quality as in sound.

ED CONNOR

FORM CONTINUES FOR FOOTBALLERS

Impressive Newcastle team chalk up another victory against Leeds Met

By PAUL CAIRNS

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY first team continued their recent run of wins in the BUSA league with a hard fought 3-2 victory over Leeds Met at Cochrane Park.

Newcastle dominated the early stages of the game and were rewarded for their efforts when John Doyle put Denis Barbe through to score the opener.

Having unsettled Leeds, the Uni were able to capitalise when Chris Grant was allowed space on the left wing.

His deep cross was headed back across the face of the goal by Paul Cairns, allowing Denis Barbe to react quickly, driving it into the bottom corner from a left footed shot.

At 2-0 Newcastle to be heading for a comfortable victory, but to their credit Leeds Met replied positively.

They started to look more confident on the ball and put immense pressure on the Royal Blue defence.

This pressure finally paid off when, just before half-time, Leeds Met pulled a goal back from a corner after the Uni failed to clear their line.

The second half started in a similar fashion as Leeds continued their attempt to reduce the deficit.

But once again the back three of Rose, Jones and Minchin held strong.

At the other end Denis Barbe continued to pose real problems to Leeds and it was only an impressive save from the Leeds goalkeeper that kept them in contention.

With twenty minutes left to play, another corner allowed a Leeds defender to rise above the rest to head in an equaliser.

It was a bitter blow to the Newcastle team who were just starting to exert their dominance on the game.

However Newcastle showed their superiority and were able to push Leeds back in an attempt to score the winner.

With ten minutes left on the clock, the Uni were able to claim a deserved three points from the boot of John Pearson.

When the Leeds Met goalkeeper was only able to parry a Barbe strike, the impressive Pearson coolly followed in on the rebound.

It was a tremendous result for the team who have continued to show great improvement this season, and it reaffirms the confidence and character that is growing in the side.

The result puts Newcastle in a strong position to take on their fiercest rivals Northumbria this week.

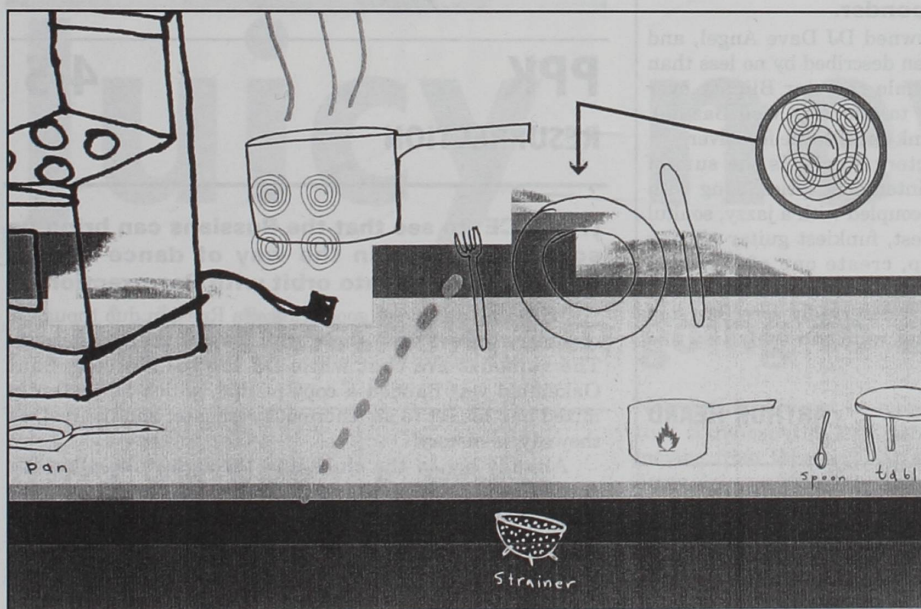
Simon Kent said: "It was the best game we have played this season."

"We had a stronger team this week with most of our key players back from injury, and it showed on the pitch.

"There are still a few players left to return and given the performance I think we have a good chance of beating Northumbria this week."

A good day was experienced by all the Uni football teams who picked up vital victories.

The seconds destroyed Hull 4-1 away and the thirds also won 4-1 at home to Ripon and York.



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Basketball blow

By AILEEN MILL

SEVEN WEEKS into term, Newcastle Womens Basketball Team finally played their first match but conceded to Bradford 42-27.

Despite the score line it was one of the best matches the team has had in recent years.

Newcastle get off to an impressive start, scoring a string of unanswered points in succession.

Bradford fast ran into foul trouble, allowing Newcastle to take the lead with Emma Simmons and Captain Aileen Mill sinking four easy free throws.

But Newcastle's lack of patience allowed Bradford to steal several turnovers and scores, pushing them well into the lead by the third quarter.

However, the continuous fouling on Bradford's part saw two players relegated to the bench.

A disputed call from one referee awarded

Bradford an offensive foul and the subsequent basket, which technically is not possible.

The referee's decision being final, this brought Bradford to 38-18 at the start of the last quarter.

Late in the final quarter Newcastle started their comeback.

After a blue timeout the starting five were back on court and with a tightened defence they slowly clawed back the points, albeit too late.

Rosie Fok, who had shown great stamina by not being subbed off once, deservedly scored the last basket of the match, bringing the final score to 42-27.

As this was the first match since March after a series of cancellations, the Newcastle side played well as a team and were technically better than the opposition.

Despite losing, the team came away in high spirits in preparation for this weeks home fixture against Hull.

Vice Captain Rosie Fok said: "It was a spirited performance, especially for our first match and it has set us up well for our game against Hull."



HOCKEY BOOST

Women's firsts bounce back with convincing victory

By DAN FOLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

THE WOMEN'S first XI hockey team cruised to a 3-0 win over De Montford Bedford last Wednesday, taking them to fourth in the Premier Division.

Having been beaten by title favourites Loughborough by the same score-line the week before, the team was in need of a boost.

De Montford made the journey to Newcastle but must have wished they had stayed in Bedford after a commanding performance by the home side.

Newcastle started well, pushing deep into the Bedford half with slick passing.

Jenny McDonough made two early runs which took her into the semi-circle, but was crowded out on both occasions.

McDonough has just returned from international duty, representing Ireland in a World

Cup qualifier.

Her performance was outstanding and she provided the creative spark that led to much of the team's good work.

It wasn't long before Newcastle created their first chance, but Suzy Richmond's shot from a short corner was well saved.

De Montford managed to create some pressure mid-way into the second-half, but with Ruth Glodowski and Jo Seargent solid in defence, Newcastle never looked troubled.

Newcastle were soon back on top, intercepting poor De Montford passes, while picking out their own players with ease.

Their next clear chance came after McDonough got to the byline and crossed the ball across the face of the goal, but no-one could connect.

Newcastle's luck finally came after they had won a number of short corners in succession.

The initial routine saw McDonough's shot saved, but a goal mouth scramble ended with Jane Langworth scoring for the Uni.

The second half was dominated

by Newcastle with both possession and territory far more than in the first.

They were close to scoring immediately when Langworth made a good run but was impeded.

The resulting short corner ended in the back of the net, but was ruled out because the ball had not been stopped dead outside the D.

Newcastle were in total control now, and they created chance after chance.

The second goal was all down to the work of McDonough as she dribbled the ball deep into the D from 30 yards out.

She then let fly with a reverse stick shot, which Suzy Richmond got a touch on to claim the goal.

McDonough got a deserved goal five minutes from time after a well worked short corner left her with the time and space to finish.

Captain Ruth Glodowski was pleased with the result and said: "The second half was much better than the first and although we didn't expect to win we were favourites before the match.

"We had a really hard match

against Loughborough last week but we are improving with every game and can only get better."

This season is only the team's second in the top flight, and although the title is probably out of reach, Glodowski remains positive.

She said: "Loughborough and Birmingham are definitely the best,

but if we can take advantage of our home games against them then second place is a possibility."

The men crashed to a 16-0 defeat against Birmingham at home, and no, they don't want to talk about it.



League lads off to positive start

Two trophies down, three to go for Uni's Rugby League team

By MICHAEL SHEERAN

THE NEWCASTLE University Rugby League team have made a solid start to the new season.

The lads have already claimed two pieces of silverware this season; the Ray French Trophy and the Sainsbury Sevens. They now are striving for more success on three other fronts.

Presently Newcastle are joint top of the North East division of the BUSA league with two wins and one loss.

Both victories have come against Durham University, with the team winning 46-8 away and 46-18 at home.

The defeat came against Northumbria at Cochrane Park when the lads lost narrowly 22-24.

However, with games against Leeds and the return fixture against Northumbria, the lads are confident of finishing top of the table and achieving home advantage in the playoffs.

The league lads are presently at the third round stage of the BUSA Cup.

With a first round 40-4 hammering of York University, the Newcastle team were expecting a tough home fixture against Hull University last week.

However, Hull dubiously could not raise a side and therefore Newcastle progressed to the third round.

A fixture against one of the university national league sides is possible in the next round.

As the reigning North East champions, Newcastle have qualified for the National Challenge Cup competition once again, with the first round taking place on the 1st December.

Last year saw a memorable effort from the lads in defeating the Yorkshire amateur champions Hunslet Warriors at Cochrane Park.

Unfortunately the lads were defeated in the next round by Leigh Miner Rangers, just two rounds short of playing against the country's rugby league elite.

With the core of last year's side still

intact, the side is looking for another good cup run after last year's effort.

Yorkshire man Manny Riaz has had a fantastic start to the season, scoring 7 tries and making 94 tackles in just 5 games, earning him the player of the month award.

The team have been well lead in the pack by two England internationals, Eamonn Ruane and Andy Raleigh.

Newcomer Rob Line from Cheshire has also been a rock since joining the squad.

In the backs, the evergreen Mike Shires has had another good start to the season, especially against Leeds in the Ray French trophy.

First year Rob Spurr has already proved a valuable asset as well as Cumbrian born Harry Gee who has been a revelation in the centres.

More success is expected for the University Rugby League team for the rest of the season, especially promotion to the elite of the student rugby league in the national league.

York squeezed out as squash stars triumph

By LYNDSEY WOOD

NEWCASTLE WOMEN'S squash team continued to build on their early success in the BUSA league, thrashing York 5-0.

The team remain unbeaten, having defeated both Durham and Leeds.

With only 15 points dropped against York, Newcastle are proving themselves to be a difficult team to beat.

The team got off to a terrific start with number one player Kia Paasivirta refusing to concede a single point in her 3/0 victory.

In her first game her opponent was unable to return her serve.

Captain Lyndsey Wood turned out a solid performance by winning 9/3, 9/6, 9/1 at number two.

Both fresher and Club secretary Bekki Jeffries dropped just one point each respectively to cruise to a 9/0, 9/1, 9/0 triumph.

Finally Vicki Wood was brought in as a reserve for team regular Annabelle Stead who was unable to travel to York.

However this did not weaken the squad as Vicki went on to produce a confident performance by beating her opponent 9/0, 9/3, 9/0.

Reflecting on the match, Bekki said: "I am very optimistic about the team's performance this year.

"I hope that this season we will be able to progress to the championship cup competition."

Having had such an impressive start to the season, the Newcastle ladies are hoping to continue their run of good luck and contend for the top spot in their league.

WEDNESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2001

AGONY FOR RUGBY LADS

They lose out in tense encounter with rivals Durham

By **GERALDINE MOLE**
SPORTS EDITOR

NEWCASTLE MEN'S rugby union team had their unbeaten record broken last week as they went down 11-17 to Durham.

Newcastle suffered mainly from a lack of discipline in their own half, handing Durham penalties within easy kicking distance.

However it was the Royal Blues who applied greater pressure throughout the match and were only denied more tries by the strong Durham defence.

Although Newcastle started aggressively, they were caught off-guard in the tenth minute from a Durham scrum.

Peeling off from the back foot of the scrum, Durham managed to initiate a rolling maul which drew in the Uni players.

Finding space out wide, Durham passed to their unmarked outside-centre who sprinted over the line to give the visitors a 0-5 advantage.

Undeterred, Newcastle began to reapply pressure but Durham's defence held strong.

A well taken Newcastle line-out gave Amaveer Ladhaar his first of many storming runs, but it was turned over when he went into contact.

Durham were awarded a scrum deep in their own half and nervously cleared it down the middle of the pitch, only to be picked up neatly by Tom Scott.

He offloaded to Ladhaar who stormed upfield, sidestepping numerous Durham

players only to be brought down on the five metre line.

Dominating the first half and containing Durham's attacks, Newcastle deserved points which came in the last few minutes.

Newcastle were able to force Durham to concede a penalty from sustained pressure and Simon Rolf slotted the ball between the posts to end the half 3-5.

Newcastle started the second half brightly demonstrating their superiority in the line-outs.

Opting to drive the ball from the line-out they managed to create space and Ladhaar was able to put in a good run, handing-off a Durham opponent.

A perfectly placed kick to the corner post gave Durham a line-out, but their clearance kick was too flat and Newcastle were able to send it straight back.

Kicking dominated the second-half and Newcastle squandered possession by relying on this tactic too heavily.

Newcastle uncharacteristically began to give away more balls in open play through some poorly-timed passes but Durham found it hard to break through the Uni backline.

With Newcastle putting in some big tackles, they were able to apply pressure again although their support to rucks let them down on occasions.

Finding it hard to reach the try line, the Uni attempted a drop goal but it fell just below the cross bar.

Newcastle continued to dominate the set pieces throughout, and spun a Durham scrum 90 degrees to be awarded a scrum.

A quick ball allowed Jim Beck to find a gap in the Durham defence and cut through the backline to storm over for a deserved try.

Unfortunately they could only stretch the lead to 8-5 after Simon Rolf's conversion was chased down.

At the other end Newcastle then conceded a penalty allowing Durham to score the first of three penalties.

After two penalties and the score at 8-11 Newcastle were awarded a scrum from a knock-on.

This allowed quick ball for Haswell who spun into contact and forced Durham to concede a penalty.

With Rolf within kicking distance, he took the Royal Blues back to a level score.

Although Newcastle kept applying pressure on Durham, they let themselves down with poor discipline whenever Durham broke into their half.

After handing Durham another three points, Newcastle again fought back with another clear chance on the right flank.

A driven Uni line-out created space on the wings and Tom Scott took full advantage.

But unfortunately he gave a bad pass to substitute Tobias Brewster-Mackinnon who was unable to reach it.

With an impressive dive Rolf managed to get his hands on the ball but momentum carried him over the line into touch.

But again their lapses in discipline allowed Durham to take full advantage.

With space in front of them, Durham had the time to score a drop goal in the last minute of normal time, bringing the final score to 11-17.

Despite a concerted team effort in extra time, with Rowan Brown and Scott making dangerous runs, Newcastle were denied a match-saving try.

Walter Scott said: "It was always going to be a close game.

"There were a few periods of ill discipline and it was these penalties that lost us the game.

"It could have gone either way but they won't beat us next time."

The mens seconds lost to Leeds seconds 15-17, and the thirds beat Sheffield Hallam seconds 28-18.

The women keep their unbeaten record with a 26-12 win away at Bangor.



RUCKING GOOD MATCH... Newcastle and Durham players battle it out in an engrossing clash

Check out the latest movie reviews - p. 9