NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
Archives - 4 DEC 2001
NOT TO BE REMOVED

The Courier
courier.news@ncl.ac.uk

Buy a Cheeseburger and get one
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. 1047 WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2001 25p

INSIDE



The Rolling Stoners!

Weed-fuelled heroes Jay and Silent Bob return in Kevin Smith's latest comedy - p. 9

Out-STAN-ding!

Check out the Uni's chances of Calvert Cup glory in our preview - back page



TODAY

Win an MP3 player with TheSite.org's Youth Census - p. 11

STUDENTS STORM BIGWIGS' MEETING

Politics students express anger over restructuring plans

By NATALIE BOGUSCH
FEATURES EDITOR

ANGRY NEWCASTLE Politics students stormed a Faculty meeting in a bid to make their voices heard on the issue of Uni restructuring.

The second year Politics students came together after hearing rumours that current plans to restructure the whole University could negatively affect them.

One concerned second year, Alison Harvie, said: "We were completely unaware of the restructuring that is under way until last week.

"It seems like no effort was made by the University to inform students properly about what is going to happen to us."

Some of the second years decided to take a stand and formed the "Student Grassroots Campaign". Tom McHenry blasted: "We felt there was a danger that our interests were not taken into consideration and that the restructuring would leave us short-changed.

"The lack of information given to us on the issue and the possibility of teaching standards going down in favour of more profitable research were our main concerns."

He added: "Clearly students form an integral part of any University and have a right to be informed in time of major plans to change the current system. Only then is it possible to protest against decisions that would have a negative impact on us all."

The campaigners managed to get together a group of around twenty students within the space of less than 24 hours to storm the Law, Environment and Social Sciences Faculty meeting that was held last Wednesday at 4pm. They nominated second year Johnny Corbet as speaker to convey their main concerns.

Campaigner Alison Harvie confessed: "We were all nervous as hell going in... All the lecturers were staring at us. It was definitely quite scary!"

The boffins let Johnny Corbet make his points to the meeting after overcoming their initial shock at such a large group of students interrupting their meeting.

In addition, the Head of Politics, Professor Peter Jones immediately arranged a meeting for all Politics students to provide as much information as he could the next day.

continued p.6



PROTESTERS... Politics students make sure their concerns are heard

Clamp down



A MOVE brought in by Newcastle City Council to stop drinking on city centre streets may be extended to cover the popular student haunt of Osborne Road, home to bars including Osbornes (above).

The ban is expected to come into force in three months' time.

Full story p. 5

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

Deputy Music Editor:
Arthur Heard

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

Advertising Manager:
Lee Hogan

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

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

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

MENINGITIS HITS HENDERSON AGAIN

Two cases this term "not related", says expert

By JENNIE LAWRENCE
CHIEF REPORTER

MENINGITIS HAS struck Henderson Hall for the second time this term. A first year Geography student has been confirmed as having meningococcal meningitis.

The girl, who has not been named, is said to be recovering well and staff at Henderson have been praised for their quick actions in ensuring the student was admitted to hospital.

The case comes after another student contracted meningitis six weeks ago. The girl was a first year English Literature student who also lived at Henderson Hall. However, doctors believe there is no link between the two cases.

Nurse consultant Janet Gibson of the CDCU (Communicable Diseases Control Unit) told the Courier: "The two cases are not related. The students involved do not know each other. They are on different courses and live in different parts of the halls of residence."

Three or four close friends of the student have been treated with antibiotics as a precautionary measure.

Gibson praised the University for their actions saying: "The University does a sterling job every year in raising awareness about meningitis."

Letters were sent to all the residents at Henderson Hall as well as a special edition of staff newsletter Update being sent to all Heads of Department. Lecturers have also been asked to make students aware of the symptoms.

A spokeswoman for the University said: "We are doing all we can do."

"It's great that everyone who has had meningitis has been fine."

One in ten people carry the meningococcal virus in the back of their throats and experts are unsure what triggers the illness.

Although most students have been vaccinated against the C strain of the virus, decreasing cases by 70%, there is still no vaccine for B-strain meningococcal infection.

It is vital that students remain aware of the symptoms of meningitis and meningococcal infection.

■ Anyone worried about the risk of meningitis or who have questions can ring the CDCU on 0191 273 3584 between 9.00am and 5.00pm, or if urgent, out of hours, via the Newcastle General Hospital Switchboard on 0191 273 8811.



HENDERSON HALL... Rocked by another case of the killer bug

IT IS vital to be aware of the symptoms of meningitis especially as early signs of the disease are similar to flu or a hangover and early detection could mean the difference between life and death.

Symptoms include:
- Severe headache
- Vomiting
- Very high temperature
- Dislike of bright lights
- Drowsiness or lack or energy
- Back or joint pain
- Stiff neck
- Rash with purplish spots which does not turn white when pressed

Note that not all the symptoms will necessarily occur.

To do the glass test:
Press the rash with a clear tumbler. If the rash does not disappear, contact your doctor or nearest casualty department immediately.

General information on Meningitis is available from 24 hour helplines Meningitis Trust - 0845 6000 800 or the Meningitis Research Foundation Freephone on 0808 800 3344

Putting thieves on the rack

By PAUL CROSTHWAITE
EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY'S Head of Security has urged students to make use of new bike racks that offer improved security after an increase in bike thefts.

George Westwater has installed two CCTV cameras and a set of white lights under the Daysh Bridge to discourage thieves from targetting bikes left chained to the racks there.

Cameras have also been installed to provide surveillance of the racks at the front of the Herschel, Agriculture and Stephenson buildings.

The cameras are monitored and recorded 24 hours a day, seven days a week,

More than ten bikes have been stolen from around campus since mid-October.

Mr Westwater told The Courier: "I'm not saying that if you leave your bike here it won't go, but we've tried to make life more difficult for the thieves.

"If students use these areas, there's a reduced chance of their cycle being stolen."

Mr Westwater has plans to expand the programme, but he stressed that this will be dictated by use of the existing sites.

He said: "If students don't use the facilities, what's the point in expanding them?"

Community Beat Officers Dave Slade and Paul Williamson, who have responsibility for the University campus, are backing the scheme.

PC Slade said: "When students leave their bikes at lunchtime they should think about how vulnerable to theft it will be six hours later when it's dark."

PC Williamson added: "Students can further reduce the risk of having their cycle stolen by getting a good quality bike lock and marking the cycle with a UV pen.

"Look out for locks with the 'Sold Secure' logo."

In addition to the static cameras aimed at the bike racks, the University is continuing to install pan-tilting zoom cameras around campus.

Two cameras have been installed at the bottom of King's Walk to provide reassurance to students using the Sports Centre and the cash point.

All the CCTV cameras are now linked to the Market Street Police Station so that they can be monitored by the Police.

Mr Westwater said: "If students feel more comfortable around the campus than they did a couple of years ago then we're achieving our objectives."



RACK... A safer place for your bike

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

Ghoul-slaw and salad s-cream in Union kitchen

Discover What Lies Beneath the Bassment! Don't be chicken!

By DAVE BARTLETT

THE LATEST stotties of the Week-at-the-knees: Cheese and ham ghostie and cheese unsavoury!

Repeated sightings of GHOSTS are occurring in the Union kitchen - located beneath the Bassment - according to kitchen staff. They believe that there might be up to FOUR resident ghosts present.

Liz Dixon, one of the kitchen staff, says she saw a five foot figure that "was there one minute and gone the next." She told The Courier it must have been a ghost.

Liz Dixon was talking to Yvonne Taylor at the time of the sighting, whilst waiting for an engineer to come to fix the lift. Liz said that the hairs stood up on her arms and legs. "I'm sure I went chalk white," she said.

The kitchen staff have suspected supernatural activity in the kitchen for some time, but have not seen sightings on this scale before. In keeping with earlier recordings, the ghosts tend to stir the most near the end of term.

Yvonne Taylor, another member of the kitchen staff, claimed that in the past she heard the voice of a member of staff who is deceased calling her name.

Yvonne and Liz heard foot steps about five weeks ago, but when they looked there was no one there. Another member of staff has seen "a monk" in brown robes. "It feels like there is somebody constantly watching," said Liz.



SHE SEES DEAD PEOPLE... Liz recreates her sighting in the kitchen of fear

Music Department celebrates 21st century with night of popular music

By JESS GOOCH
STAFF REPORTER

AN UNSEEN side of the music department is to be showcased in the Global, with music from Hip-Hop to Indie performed by music students.

Songs Of All Genres (a.k.a. SOAG) will be a night of performances by music department students dedicated to the popular music genres of today. In an eclectic mix of Hip-hop, Funk, Drum 'n' bass, Indie and the electronic sounds of the DJ you can expect more than the usual Mozart or Beethoven that's on offer!

Music lecturer, Professor Richard Middleton told the Courier: "Like most music departments we've always had the standard classical music groups, but during the last few years we have begun to look towards popular music as well."

"It is hoped that the SOAG gig will bring the work of our Popular Music students in front of a wider audience - the Global Cafe seemed a more appropriate venue than King's Hall!"

In the last year the department has spent a significant amount of money on updating the department with new studios and practicing facilities that can cope with the demands of the popular music course. Second year music student Tracey Kelly believes that next Tuesday's performance will be a good chance for the department to showcase it's new look: "We're now also geared towards the Popular music education. Tuesday will be a gig instead of a sit-down concert for anybody who's interested in new music."

R U sorted 4 when U gradu8?

If U R still looking 4 a gr8 GradU8 job, the Careers Service is here 2 help U.

4 GR8 jobs and wrk exp C www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/vacancies. U can register 2 have vacancies sent 2 U. It's EZ.

C www.careers.ncl.ac.uk 4 info on events, occupations, employers, enterprise, professional contacts, making applications & much, much more.

WOT R U waiting 4? We'll BCNU soon

Careers Service
Don't B %-) B ☺☺

SCAN
MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS

Does Your CV look a little empty?

Have you more to offer than just your academic qualifications?
Would you like to fill up your CV and offer more to those you work with?
Would you like to get involved in the local community?

Then come to SCAN and get some volunteer experience.
scan@ncl.ac.uk, 0191 232 2003

MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS
SCAN

RALLYING THE TROOPS

NUS bosses hit Newcastle to drum up support for "Grants Not Fees" campaign

By GAIL WILSON and KATHRYN PARTRIDGE

NEWCASTLE STUDENTS joined with students from all over the North East last Wednesday in support of the NUS's "Grants not Fees" rally.

Around 200 attended the speeches at Northumbria's Union and were joined later by revellers for the Wiggle vs Footloose club night.

The event kicked off with a march from Newcastle Union to the Poly's Union. It was followed with speeches by representatives from all sectors of the education system including the President of the NUS, Owain James, and Paul Novak of the Trade Union Congress.

They explained the problems faced by students and the solutions the government are considering in their current funding review.



SUPPORT... Students from institutions across the North East attended the rally at the Poly



RALLYING CALL... NUS President Owain James gives his views on student finance

The Vice Chancellor of Northumbria Uni blasted the government: "More money needs to be put into the education system.

"It's not just about the abolition of fees or bringing back of grants... you can't solve the problem of fees by taking money out of the higher education system."

An A-level student from a local sixth form college told of the difficult decisions now faced by school leavers considering higher education: "I have applied to university but it is disheartening to realise that my university choice may be made not on the universities' merits but on the financial considerations."

The rally left protesters in a jubilant mood as they headed for the bar.

Paul Briggs, a 3rd year Software Engineering student from Bradford University who attended the event told The Courier: "I think the event has been a success but everyone who came, came for a piss-up, so the real issues weren't really valid for them.

"If students are so hard up, how can they spend so much money at the bar tonight?"

Police called over ex-student's leaflet

Former student found guilty of assaulting lecturer claims conviction unsafe

By COURIER NEWS STAFF

A FORMER Newcastle student found guilty of assaulting a lecturer returned to the University last week claiming his conviction was unsafe.

David Miller was given a 12 month conditional discharge in February 2000 after being found guilty of attacking Politics lecturer Philip Daniels.

However, Miller - who was studying for a PhD at the time of the attack in February 1999 - returned last week to distribute leaflets relating to the case outside the Politics department.

The Courier is unable to repeat any of the allegations made by Miller in the leaflet as they may violate libel laws.

Although Miller was not committing any criminal offence a police officer advised him to leave the site as there were concerns that his actions could lead to a breach of the peace.

When asked why he was handing out leaflets so long after the events to which they refer, Miller told The Courier: "Last year is hardly a 'considerable period of time' where my rights are concerned."



POLITICS DEPT... Attended by Miller as a student, and the site of his hand-out

Commons debate over murder in student area

By ALISON HOLGATE and SIAN LEWIS-WILLIAMS

A DEBATE HAS been sparked in the House of Commons by a critical report on the handling of a paedophile murder in a popular student area.

Three years ago Dominic McKilligan raped and murdered eleven-year-old Wesley Neailey in Arthur's Hill, Fenham, just months after being released from Aycliffe Young Offenders Institute for thirteen previous sex attacks.

On McKilligan's release, authorities failed to warn Newcastle police and social workers of his past convictions as he enrolled at Newcastle College and moved into a local flat.

The victim's family lived at Arthur's Hill in Fenham, a popular area for students and families alike, and it was here that McKilligan found his next victim.

Last week's report, "Childhood Lost" by the Department of Health, highlighted loopholes in the law and mistakes by the relevant authorities in dealing with the re-introduction of violent criminals into the community.

The chairman of the report warned: "There are other Dominic McKilligans out there that could kill.

"Every local authority will have at least one if not more sex or violent offenders living in flats in the community."

Campaigns by the Neailey family and local groups brought about a change in the law in July this year.

As a result of this all convicted sex offenders will be registered and made known to local authorities. Liz Neailey, Wesley's mother, said: "We are so happy the new law will protect other children and vulnerable people."

A debate in the House of Commons last week came after Newcastle Central MP Jim Cousins' criticism of the authorities' handling of the case.

He said: "This is an appalling story of lack of co-ordination between the relevant authorities.

"The main responsibility lies with Aycliffe's optimistic assessment of McKilligan, which proved to be horribly, cruelly over-optimistic about the scale of the problem."

This debate will highlight the need for local authorities to reassess their policies regarding paedophiles and hopefully prevent such tragic oversights in the future.

The Courier
28 November 2001

POSH BARS CALL TIME ON STREET DRINKING

Only three months left to swig booze on Osborne Road before ban

By JESS GOOCH
STAFF REPORTER

BOOZING BETWEEN bars on Osborne Road could soon be a thing of the past if new plans to ban alcohol on the streets of Jesmond are enforced.

A drinking ban that covers the centre of Newcastle may soon be stretched to the local student haunt of Osborne Road. Under the Crime and Disorder Act the city council hopes to put a stop to people taking their drinks and bottles from one bar to the next.

This new plan seems to have been inspired by complaints from the Jesmond Residents' Association concerning crowds of young people swigging booze as they move from bar to bar.

Councillor Linda Wright told The Courier: "We're not trying to stop the ordinary drinker from having a good time but rather the unruly element that cause the problems."

"It's a residential area so we have to try and get a balance between the social side and the trouble-makers."

It is not only the council and residents who are supporting the initiative as bar owners and workers also seem to be in favour. Alex Robinson, assistant manager of Spy Bar enthused: "I'm all for it. I don't think it looks good when people walk around the streets with bottles in their hands. All the bars on Osborne Road have signed a petition that will stop people leaving with a drink and then taking it on somewhere else."

It is thought that the new drinking measures will be in place in Osborne Road within the next three months so this might be your last chance for that bar crawl through Jesmond.

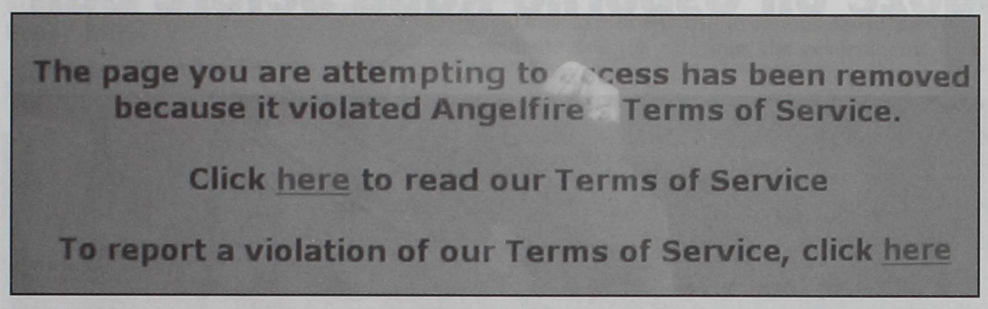


BAR BLANC... One of the bars that have vowed to clamp down on customers leaving with drinks



LAP-DANCING WEBSITE IS A HIT WITH YOUNG MEN

... but is closed down after just one week and a rival sets-up



WEBSITES... The protestors site now closed (top) and the club's supporters fight back (bottom)

By JAKE LEE
NEWS EDITOR

A WEBSITE set up by lap dancing protestors has become successful for all the wrong reasons - and was then forced to close, as it violated the internet server's rules.

The campaigners aimed to take mug shots of men visiting the For Your Eyes Only club, and post them on the internet to shame them, but it sensationally backfired. The website "has brought fellas flocking from miles around - with many admitting they only visited (the club) to get their faces on the internet," according to The Daily Star .

But men eager to get on the internet were to be disappointed as the hosting website Angelfire closed it down. The site had issued a disclaimer saying "Don't take any of this too seriously. It's just a bit of fun, isn't it?", but this wasn't deemed sufficient to counter the fact they broke privacy rules. Type in www.theyhavetopayforit.com and you'll be redirected to a page saying "The page you are attempting to access has been removed because it has violated Angelfire's Terms of Service."

And just as that site closed down, a rival site named www.thesewomencantgiveitaway.com - describing itself as a "the antidote to the party poopers who are objecting to the table dancing club" - appeared on the web.

Student protestors had been suspicious of a man taking pictures at previous protests, and photos of Newcastle student female protestors are now linked from a site, asking viewers to e-mail their comments to mingers@thesewomencantgiveitaway.com .

Newcastle students join protests in the capital

By SAM CROFT

AROUND 100 Newcastle students journeyed to London last week to protest against homophobic discrimination and the war in Afghanistan.

Representatives from the University were amongst the crowd of 300 who took part in the NUS Lesbian and Gay rights march on 17 November.

Protestors marched from the Imperial War Museum, past Downing Street and the Houses of Parliament to protest against the controversial Section 28 of the Education Act and its marginalisation of LGB people.



PROTESTERS... Newcastle students are seen and heard at the LGB march in London

The march ended at Trafalgar Square, where the demonstrators - chanting 'We're here, we're queer, and we're not going shopping' - heard several speeches on the importance of equality from supportive organisations.

One protestor said the demo was about: "Making people aware that LGB people in this country still face discrimination at school, at work and in law.

"LGB relationships and families must be recognised in law and Section 28 abolished so that young LGB receive the education and support they are entitled to."

On Sunday 18 November, the demonstrators joined a diverse crowd to protest against the war in Afghanistan.

The organisers estimate that around 100,000 protestors took part in the demonstration - double that of previous marches, making this march was one the biggest Anti-War demonstrations since the 1970s.

Dan Bridge, Secretary of the Newcastle University branch of Stop The War Coalition observed: "It was incredible be part of a movement from such a diverse background, telling Bush and Blair we will not stand for this."

"Students storm meeting" cont. from p.1

One campaigner, Julia Powell commented: "This was not about blindly and radically trying to halt restructuring, but about being informed. We feel better after taking this action to make our point, and Peter Jones could reassure us about some of our worries."

The campaigners also spoke to Education Officer Andrew Jackman, who was able to explain the process of restructuring to them but admitted that he knew of no other students taking similar group actions.

Andrew Jackman himself added: "The most important thing is that students get information and are being consulted. That consultation process is about to begin. If students then feel failed by the process we could see more such actions by students."

Tom McHenry thought that the campaign was a success but was not over yet: "We have shown people that we have opinions and can organise ourselves to make these heard. This is not the end! We will continue to talk to people and recommend to anyone feeling concerned to talk to Andrew Jackman or maybe their student reps. We ARE the 'customers' as they like to call us - and our interests need to be catered for!"

Poly pips student at awards

By JAKE LEE
NEWS EDITOR

A NEWCASTLE student was pipped to the post in the North East's Undergraduate Achiever Award, and had to settle with being runner-up.

Announced at a glittering award's ceremony at St James Park, Newcastle student Ailsa Hall narrowly lost out to Poly student Stuart Linden. Organised by the Evening Chronicle, this was the inaugural year that the prestigious Young Achiever Awards has been held.

Alisa is frantically busy, involved in three projects. She is a keen St John Ambulance volunteer, works at the People's Kitchen - a drop-in centre for the homeless and works with a boy who has autistic spectrum disorder.

After putting in over 150 hours work with Links (St John's Ambulance) she was invited to the Links conference in York as a Newcastle representative.

Winner Stuart Linden from Northumbria Student was awarded £1000 by Newcastle Falcons manager Rob Andrew. Newcastle United manager Bobby Robson and six of his players were also present to pay tribute to the achievements of all the finalists.

The Courier
28 November 2001

THE STUDENTS ARE NOT REVOLTING

As Politics students take direct action, we ask why more aren't following them

By WILLIAM BARRIE

IN MAY 1968 Parisian students rioted, trying to initiate a social and cultural revolution. When workers in the public sector joined them, France was paralysed. The dreaded and ruthless CRS riot police had to be brought in, so committed were the students to their beliefs.

In Newcastle, in 2001 students are willing to take the back seat and give other people power, without question. Politics students, a group one would expect to hold strong views, understanding the concepts of power and democracy,

"Students are willing to take the back seat and give other people power, without question"

were prepared to make one of their number their Staff-Student Committee representative, simply because he was willing to do it! They did not question what the representative would do and the limits to his power.

Despite a tradition of debating, there has been no debating society at our University in recent years (However, Alex Ward, a Newcastle Fresher, saw this deficiency and started one which now has sixteen members.) Furthermore, there are only two official student political parties, the Labour Party and the Liberals, the Labour Party being the bigger and more established of the two. (The Socialist Worker Students are unofficial, at time of going to press)

Are students at Newcastle really so ambivalent (or lazy?!) that they do not care what kind of country they live in? Do they honestly believe that Tony Blair and his successors will create the country that they want? We are at 'War' with a country (in effect!), even though only one man and his group of fellow lunatics committed the crime (allegedly - Features Ed.). All this is happening and students here don't care enough to do anything about it. Only 37% of the people I interviewed voted at the last election (and 1% because they claimed to fancy Tony Blair!).

"Students concentrate on their CVs and their future careers rather than protesting for something they believe in"

However, Andrew Jackman, the Education Officer, thinks that things are changing and that students are taking more interest in their world. He believes that the deficiencies in the Staff-Student Committees are due to the departments. However he adds: "For the first time the General Meeting was quorate and this year all the Union Officer positions are filled. Moreover, a huge number of Newcastle students went all the way to London last weekend to protest against the war and for Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual rights."

But surely the General Meeting was held just after September 11th, and many people felt about this issue. Thus it would be fair to argue that the meeting was a one-off in response to an incredible act, rather than a long term interest in politics.

Why the ambivalence? In an article in the Guardian on October 18th it was proposed that students now don't have the chance to be radical, as students concentrate on their CV's and their future careers, rather than protesting for something they believe in. I think most students would rebuff this.

"There's a lot of pressure to concentrate on employment and do impressive extracurricular stuff with your career in mind. Stuff that isn't political. And, also, a lot of people think they can't make a difference." Carrie Sharman, Newcastle Psychology student and President of the 'Stop the War' Coalition. (Guardian, October 18th)



DEMONSTRATION... But do students really think that protesting will change anything?

"People are wrong if they think that protests go unnoticed. Politicians hate unpopular policies"

I would say Carrie's second point about people thinking that they can not influence the political machine might be more of a reason. But people are wrong if they think that protests go unnoticed. Politicians hate unpopular policies. They will do a lot to avoid them, as they are very damaging to both party and individual. If lots of people organize themselves and make a stand on an issue, then politicians HAVE to react to that, if they want to get elected again. So it IS possible to alter the status quo. All that is needed is a little effort and a little thought about life, and what sort of a future you want yourself and your society to have!

If this has roused the political activist in you, try getting in touch with this one or more of this lot:

- Debating Society, Thursdays 7pm in the Union. justsaypm@yahoo.co.uk
- Labour Society, Tuesdays 7pm in the Union. labour.club@ncl.ac.uk
- Liberal Democrats, c.a.pearson@ncl.ac.uk
- 'Stop the War' Coalition, C.A.Sharman@ncl.ac.uk

GOT A VIEW ON THIS?

SHERVENE WANTS TO HEAR IT.

EMAIL:
COURIER.NEWS@NCL.AC.UK

RENEGADE RANT

Angry, anonymous and always on the look out for aggro...

SO, STUDENTS are apathetic then (see above)? It's a constant accusation of students today that we don't care enough.

We have to get jobs to get through Uni. We have to do all sorts of stuff in order to make ourselves "employable". We're too busy to get radical.

Just look at last week's anti-fees rally at the Poly. A handful of Union Officers and the activist "usual suspects". A sure sign that no-one gives a shit.

But maybe that's not a sign of apathy. Maybe, just maybe, it's got more to do with NUS's "piss-up in a brewery" standard of organisation.

Firstly, they took it upon themselves to put on this kind of event without asking students or officers what they wanted. Maybe if they'd kept Unions informed of the event, they could have promoted it.

Maybe it would have been wiser to chant about "grants not fees" somewhere that non-students could have heard us.

Maybe there is a better audience for speeches on student debt than a few Officers, all of whom were thinking: "We know!"

Maybe they could have avoided charging students a quid for indoctrination. Maybe they shouldn't have hosted a "student debt" event in a fucking bar.

NUS say students must get public support for this campaign. And you can just imagine the PR strategy meeting at NUS HQ: "Hey, I know, let's organise a huge piss up to...erm...show that students have no cash." Genius.

Fun, maybe, but not great image-making. It's not exactly going to persuade the unemployed labourer in Benwell that students should get government cash.

If radicalism is to survive anywhere, we need NUS support. This Union pays them £45,000 a year for exactly that.

NUS - stop, look, listen and think. We want to help. But give us something worth helping!

Catch up on the latest arts reviews - p. 9-10

Dear Shervene



Words from a wise wee Scottish lass

IT SEEMS people have got a lot to say this week, so instead of waffling I'll get on with it.

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

Davis returns

Dear Shervene,

Thank you for your characteristically "blunt" critique of my letter. It's probably foolish of me to respond, given that you will inevitably get the final word. I hope I haven't given the impression that I am some kind of intransigent hot-head for whom placard-waving is a hobby. My views are generally tolerant, moderate and certainly not ideological. It is most unlike me to get involved in public disputes of this kind. But you have irritated me Ms Shahbazkhani: I feel somewhat taunted, and though I should try to rise above it I am not going to.

My job as chair of union council often means I have to put up with rather poor arguments from people who know very little about the matter at hand. My ability to deal with this comes in handy when I am reading certain parts of certain newspapers.

I'm sorry if you've been bored by the debate on the issue. Perhaps you should complain to your fellow journalists who have printed articles on FYEO in at least three consecutive editions of the Courier.

Finally I would applaud the unshakeable nature of your views on the topic. As someone who initially had no problems with the idea of the club, but was convinced by the persuasive arguments of the broad opposition against it, I admire your ability to stick to your views come what may. I hope that your visit to FYEO will not be spoiled by the arguments of its opponents.
Sincerely,
Chris Davis

Shervene says:

Chris, I don't think you were paying attention to last week's response, or maybe you were too busy thinking up a smart reply, but just to reiterate, I don't want you writing to me - ever. Save it.

The backlash begins

Dear Shervene,

Sorry to drag this out further, but this whole FYEO campaign is really starting to piss me off. First off, in response to Chris Davis' letter. It's a shame that you seem to think Shervene has a "lack of understanding" about the situation, and that the student body is apathetic to this issue. This is an incredibly insulting comment to make. Did it not cross your mind that the majority simply do not agree with your protest, that they have looked at the evidence and drawn their own conclusions? If we ARE all missing the point, then isn't this a failure of you, and your fellow campaigners?

So these women are being exploited, you say, that may well be the case. The real question is, do they really care? Who are you trying to protect in this campaign? The women who work there? If so, they may not be very appreciative if the club closed down tomorrow and they're out of a job. I've heard rape mentioned quite a few times in association with this campaign, that potential rapists are "egged on" by clubs such as these. Rape is an horrific crime commited by violent men, not horny ones. The causes are far deeper than porn mags or cheesy strip clubs.
Sincerely,
Anon

Shervene says:

Thanks for that opinion, it's nice to see a reply from the ordinary student rather than a student rep (like the chair of council for example) who feels the need to voice their opinion over and over again.

Let's all be friends...

Dear Shervene,

This is a reply to the 'Midnight Toker' letter printed in the Courier last week. In your reply you called the stewards 'power hungry' and implied we looked to throw as many people out as possible. As a steward I dispute this.

We are employed for the students safety. We are the people that separate the fights, help the drunk and keep the building as hazard free as possible. This includes the use of drugs.

I admit that smoking a joint is not high on our list of priorities but it is still illegal and the union must obey the law. If you must smoke joints just don't do it in the building, it's that simple. Just remember who comes to you when you or your friends are in trouble, and many of us enjoy a conversation, so come and say hello.
A Steward.

Shervene says:

Now, wasn't that a lovely letter (unlike Chris Davis's)? You have made a lot of valid points here. A little birdy told me which steward you are and you are one of the nice ones. Indeed, there are some really nice friendly stewards in the Union (like yourself!) However, there are - and a lot of people will agree with me - some stewards who act as if they are bouncers and let the little bit of authority get to their head. This however is not you, so next time you're working, I'll be sure to say hello.

Bar wars

Dear Shervene,

Upon reading the article last week "Union staff blast student drinkers" and the comments made by Sarah Bennet, I felt it was time to write to you, the true voice of Newcastle students. The comments made by the bar staff represent a minority in the Union, as a whole Newcastle students are a good lot and we have a lot of fun working behind the bar. It is unfortunate that the minority is growling as it is and we have to speak out.

Those who feel the solution to long waits at the bar is more staff are clearly deluded, does the expression "too many cooks.." ring any bells? If you find you are waiting over 20mins, in one of the bars then I suggest you try on of the other five in the building.

If anyone, especially Miss Bennet, still feels the solution is more staff then I invite you to join us in giving up your Friday night and working your arse off for very little customer recognition and see what difference you make.
Tim Read, Mens Bar

Shervene says:

Again, it's nice to see that the students are taking no shit from the people who don't know their facts. Keep up the good work, I don't think I could ever work in the Mens Bar during Positive, my hat goes off to ya.

The Courier NOTICE BOARD

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

HAVE YOU GOT A FUNNY STORY ABOUT A CELEBRITY? EVER HAD A RUN IN WITH SOMEONE FAMOUS? TV COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO YOU. CALL 0207 6332679

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

LAP DANCING QUESTION TIME

Do you have strong opinions on the lap dancing club? Are you strongly against the club or do you think it is a great fuss made of nothing? Cate Watson, Women's Officer, is organising a Question Time style session on the lap dancing club and is looking for people to make up a panel.

If interested, you can contact Cate by emailing: c.a.l.watson@ncl.ac.uk or by dropping your details into the Equal Opps office.

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, Ist 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): **A sharp pinch of the bum was the only way Julie could get back the rugby ball.** Congratulations to Jeff Banks. Please drop by the Courier office to pick up your prize.

Silent is golden!

Jay and Silent Bob strike back in, erm... Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back!

KEVIN SMITH is a name synonymous with independent film, but as writer/director of the award-winning Clerks, the dubiously acclaimed Mallrats, the critically honoured Chasing Amy and the controversial Dogma, Kevin Smith is known to the world at large as the pre-eminent king of the '90s indie film scene.

Nothing, no matter how outrageous is beyond Smith, and his willingness to flaunt cinematic taboos is one of the reasons why his debut film, Clerks, was such an unqualified success.

he let go. And finally, in Dogma, Jay and Silent Bob play two unlikely prophets trying to help save the world from destruction.

In Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back, the two learn that a 'Bluntman and Chronic' movie is being made featuring their comic book counterparts, they drool at the thought of fat movie cheques rolling in. But when the pair find that there won't be any royalties coming their way, they set out to sabotage the flick at all costs.

The stoner duo makes the cross-country trip from New Jersey to Hollywood. Along the way they meet up with some interesting characters. George Carlin (who played Cardinal Glick in Dogma) is a hitchhiker who gives them pointers on getting rides. Carrie Fischer (she of Star Wars fame) as a nun who picks them up. And C.L.I.T., a band of five women international jewel thieves.

As hilariously wonderful as the movie is, there were a couple of things that I found unsuccessful. Several times in the movie the people on screen turn to look incredulously at the audience, the first time this happens it's very effective. But the second and third time the gimmick falters. The second and last problem I had with the film was Chris Rock's (who plays Rufus, the thirteenth apostle in Dogma) portrayal as the angry black director of the Bluntman and Chronic movie. Smith wrote a similar diatribe in Chasing Amy where Hooper X explains on a comic book panel how Star Wars is merely about 'how the white man tries to keep the brother man down, even in a galaxy far far away.' Rock's black rage was somewhat tired, and the themes are now overused, which is very disappointing and surprising, considering how funny Rock is most of the time.

Many people have criticised Smith for his use of Star Wars references. And I must admit, sometimes it is not as funny as it could be. But this is not the case in Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back. From the title ('Strike Back', get it?), to Mark Hamill's laugh-inducing cameo, it never fails to get a laugh from the audience. We're in on the joke.

And Jay and Silent Bob get their wish. With the cheque they receive for the movie, they travel across the country knocking on the doors and beating up the Internet geeks who slandered them.

To the outsider this may all seem very confusing, but I urge you all to take a look anyway. And if you like it, you are now well informed of Smith's other movies and can stop at any video shop and screen them for yourself. Except RST Video in New Jersey. I've heard the employees there are disgruntled.

Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back is a movie for the fans and novices alike.

Kara Byers

FILM OF THE WEEK

Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back

Out 30th November

JAY AND SILENT Bob have made cameos and had supporting roles in Smith's other four films. We first met the duo in Clerks.

Jay talks trash, makes vulgar remarks and gestures, and steals from the convenience store he deals drugs in front of. Silent Bob is the muscle and the very effective Greek chorus. He speaks only when it matters. In Mallrats, the drug-dealing duo meet up with two lovelorn guys in a mall. Silent Bob gives Chasing Amy it's moniker with his tale of Amy, the girl





Kevin Smith... the story so far...

Clerks

Smith made this low-budget black and white film at the Quick Stop shop where he worked. The comedy is raw and ribald, varying from somewhat off-colour to truly tasteless. Where else can you find an explicit discussion of



certain sexual practices immediately preceding an argument over a unique interpretation of the ending of Return of the Jedi?

Mallrats

For Jersey guys T.S. and Brodie - who, we are told, lack "shopping motivation" - the mall is hangout heaven, the perfect place to sample fare at the cookie kiosk, bemoan the fate of escalator-abusing kids and, most important, win back their fed-up girlfriends.

The side-show is where the best bits are found, including a topless psychic, an



optically challenged slob who stares in mute frustration at Magic Eye 3-D posters and Smith himself, reprising his Jedi-in-leather Silent Bob.

Chasing Amy

In Chasing Amy, Holden falls for Alyssa, a sexy young woman who also writes comic books. Alyssa, however, doesn't share Holden's interest in a romance, as she is gay. Despite this, the two grow closer and begin to look upon one another as friends. It's an alien concept to Holden that he can be friends with a woman, especially one he's not sleeping with, and even more surprising for Alyssa that she feels the same way about a man. Yet, adventurous by nature, she has left herself open to finding her soulmate. Gradually their friendship turns to love, which disrupts their lives.

Peppered with the writer/director's trademark whip-smart wit, Chasing Amy is a



love story about two seemingly incompatible lovers. The film is Smith's take on the muddled topic of courtship and contemporary sexual politics but in this era of "political correctness," with potentially explosive twists. Both Alyssa and Holden are given emotional dilemmas: hers that she falls in love with a man, his that love cannot save him from himself.

Dogma

The latest battle in the eternal war between Good and Evil has come to New Jersey in the late, late 20th Century. In Kevin Smith's comic fantasia Dogma angels, demons,



apostles and prophets (of a sort) walk among the cynics and innocents of America and battle it out for the fate of humankind.

Few comedies have at stake the very fate of humankind, but Dogma is not your usual comedy. It is an imaginative and surreal adult fable bursting with wild ideas, fantastical creations and boisterously funny characters.

Arts pages in association with ODEON
FANATICAL ABOUT FILM

Food of love

A delicious tale of good food and wild passion

Like Water For Chocolate

THIS FILM adaptation from Laura Esquivel's novel, tells the story of a tragic love story.

Set in Mexico in the early 1900's, the tale is seen through the eyes of Tita (Lumi Cavazos) and narrated by her grand-niece. When Tita finds true love with Pedro (Marco Leonardi) she agrees to marry him and it all seems like they will live happily ever after. But a family tradition means that Tita, the youngest of three daughters, must look after her widowed mother, Dod-niece. But Tita finds true love with Pedro - bizarre solution: Pedro marries Rosaura, Tita's oldest sister, to be close to Tita!

Tita continues to express her emotions through her food as a way of communicating her love to Pedro. In one incident she makes a meal with the roses that Pedro had given her and when her other sister, Gertudis, eats the meal she is overcome with sensuality. The recipes hold an ability to arouse senses, emotions and memories. But a recipe does not guarantee the same result, and when a friend of the family asks for Tita's secret of making such exquisite food she replies that 'it must be made with love'.

The director, Alfonso Arau ('A Walk in The Clouds') manages to bring the magic of the passion behind the food to life and the humour is also conveyed magnificently. One ridiculous aspect is the quilt which Tita has spent nights knitting, and ends up practically stretching the length of the driveway to the family's ranch! The overdramatic plot and theatrical music is true of Latin American drama and also adds humour.

However, the film does manage to keep the spectator intrigued when event after event finally leads to the lovers being able to be together, but the twists and turns of the story are often very unpredictable and a lot of the characters meet very odd endings. Hungry yet? Well, unrequited love and passionate food make up the ingredients for a perfect feast. Sí, Ses bei.

Fi Clark



Creep it up

The Others

Out now

CHILEAN-BORN, Madrid-based Alejandro Amenabar, writes, directs and scores his English speaking debut. It seems Amenabar wants to have a finger in all his pies and keep them sweet, no surprise then that he is unsuccessful. Well known for Abre Los Ojos, The Others - his supernatural thriller - seems to fall a little flat.

Set in Jersey at the end of the Second World War, Grace (Kidman) is left waiting for her husband to return, looking after her two children, excellently played by Alakina Mann and James Bentley, who suffer from photosensitivity. Any exposure to light causes blistering, casting the perfect setting, a perpetual atmosphere of the dimmed shadows of oil lamps. The strange appearance of three servants out of nowhere triggers off the series of haunted house complaints - strange sounds, mysterious ghostly appearances, a piano playing itself, a frankly bewildering stumbling across her husband, and a constant eerie fog. The sub-plots and tangled hints surrounding the supernatural presence lead up us around the garden path a few tediously drawn out times. Its 'Sixth Sense' twist is disappointing as, unlike the earlier film which left many of us quaking in our boots, this leaves a lot to be desired.

The suspense is built up excellently, it's a shame then that it doesn't deliver. The scariest factor is Grace's implied insanity, which I found myself wishing was the case. Suspense, atmosphere and light and dark all add to the formula of a gothic haunted house yarn. Unfortunately for Amenabar, good atmospheric horror is hard to achieve and although the suspense is phenomenal, it seems that nothing is to become of it. It has class but no thrills, suspense but no release, and Kidman's portrayal of Victorian repressed womanhood is sometimes a little brittle. But if you like eerie circumstances and things that go bump in the night, it's scarier than its current competition Jeepers Creepers, so you might want to take a look.

Louise Mitton



night : life

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
FASHION SHOW 2001

Tuesday 4th & Wednesday 5th December
Tickets £4, available on the door
Doors - 7.30pm • The Basement • Union Building

FEATURING:
Clothing from the original Levis Store, Traveller,
1st Sport, Kookai at Fenwick, Bainbridge, Reiss and many more.

Fantastic Raffle Prizes, including
Newcastle United Tickets and
flights on Go Airways

The La Senza Girls and Every Woman's Fantasy from Dandy

SPECIAL GUESTS - NEWCASTLE FALCONS

Fashion bash

Newcastle Uni Fashion Show

Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th December

FORGET MODEL Behaviour. Who cares about Kate Moss? Gisele who? Next Tuesday and Wednesday (4th and 5th December) sees our own Newcastle Uni guys and girls strut their stuff down the catwalk, and it's all for "charidy, mate" (sorry, couldn't resist!)

The University Fashion Show has been a huge success for the last four years and this year's event will be even bigger and better than usual. Whether you're into sportswear from First Sport, snugly winter clothes from Monsoon and Traveller or getting suited and booted by Reiss, there are clothes also from Kookai, Levi's and Bainbridges to suit all styles.

But, don't be fooled into thinking this is your bog-standard, run-of-the-mill fashion show complete with luvvies and darlings! Believe me, this show will be a fantastic night out with a bang up to date soundtrack and plenty of audience interaction with the host Dan Nightingale, NSRs very own breakfast DJ.

Oh, and how could I forget? Two sections are devoted entirely to your satisfaction with the gorgeous girls donning La Senza corsets and suspenders a la Moulin Rouge and the guys in uniform of all varieties (mine's a front row ticket!) - we've even been promised a remake of the Full Monty! With special guest appearances from six of the Newcastle Falcon Rugby Squad players, how can you resist?

Chris Baker, Director of the show explained: "The show intends to break the mould really. Even though the emphasis will be on the clothes, it's going to be a night of quality entertainment. We've even got the Break Dancing Society performing live on stage and the music is fantastic!"

Raising money for the Evening Chronicle Sunshine Fund, all proceeds from the show go to help underprivileged children in the Tyne and Wear area, so not only will you have a blinder of an evening, see some fantastic clothes and a few gorgeous guys and gals but you'll feel much better about yourself too! So come along, TUESDAY 4th and WEDNESDAY 5th DECEMBER. Doors are at 7.30pm. Show starts at 8pm. Tickets are on sale at £4 NOW at the Union front desk. Numbers are not limited so come along on the night and get in on the door too! So don't just take my word for it - go check it out for yourself!

Rachel Barker

Arts pages in association with ODEON
FANATICAL ABOUT FILM

The Courier
28 November 2001

Get Carter!

Cox on display in the Bassment. Mr Cox that is!

ECLECTIC @ BASSMENT, SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER

THE MIGHTY Jon Carter is finally making his Union debut this Saturday as he prepares to rock the Bassment in an orgy of phat tunes. Better known to the majority of the Great British public as the recent Mr. Sara Cox, it's safe to say that Carter had his own cult following long before he came to the attention of the tabloid press.

Being a household name for all the wrong reasons by no means invalidates the contribution Jon has made to dance music over the last few years, or indeed his own immense talent. His former band Monkey Mafia was creating a dub heavy version of big beat before Norman Cook (what is it with DJs and presenters?) coined the term.

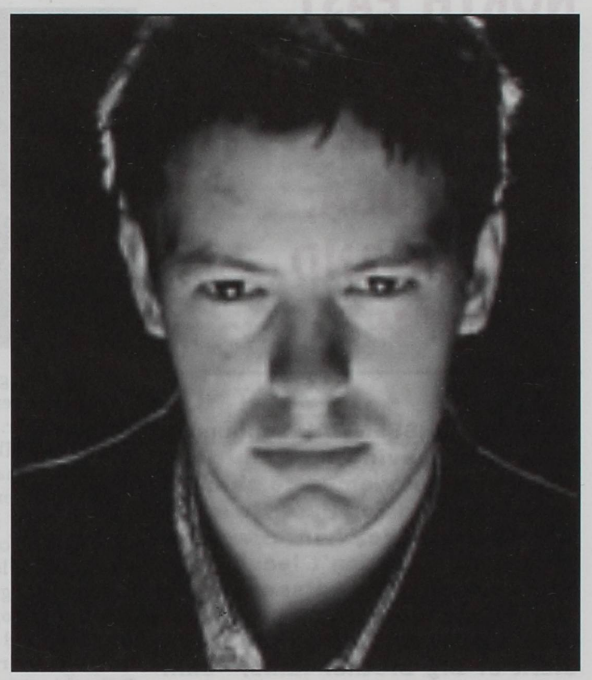
Whilst they achieved critical success, put on a great liveshow, and had several single successes (15 Steps, Long As I Can See The Light), the criminally under-promoted album failed to reach the heights it deserved. Not that Jon had too much time to worry, he was a resident at the legendary Heavenly Social (and later the heavenly Jukebox), one of the most influential clubs ever, a club which invented the careers of, amongst others, The Chemical Brothers and Beth Orton.

Anyone fortunate enough to have ever experienced the unique delight of these nights will already be licking their lips at the prospects of Big Jon gracing the Bassment stage.

Not content to rest on his laurels, Carter pre-empted the Chemicals by branching out into house, releasing the Dance floor smash of "Women Beat Their Men" under the moniker of 'Junior Cartier'. So what can we expect from the man who once superglued a sex aid to Derek Dahlarge's head (giving that name a whole new meaning) during a debauched night on the sand in Ibiza? Well, without a doubt he'll live up to the reputation that the night has built up and most likely play one of the most diverse sets of this year with some of the most blistering talent.

Anticipate a combination of filthy breaks, uplifting soul... to be honest expect anything, there'll be a sprinkling of everything going, and Carter will undoubtedly deliver it on a silver platter.

ARTHUR HEARD

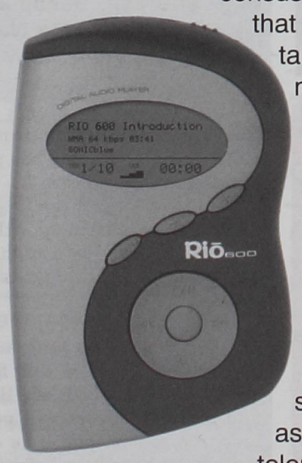


WIN MP3 FREE

Complete inaugural Youth Census and you could win a 32 Mb MP3 Player!

HELP TheSite.org by participating in its Youth Census, and you could win an MP3 player worth 180 quid.

TheSite.org is a website which offers information on issues such as drug use, sexual health and debt in an honest and frank manner. It has launched the first ever Youth Census with the aim of building the most comprehensive picture of what young people aged 16-25 in 21st century Britain are thinking about.



TheSite.org

To celebrate the launch of the census, TheSite.org is giving readers of The Courier the chance to win a Rio 600 32Meg mp3 player. To be in with a chance of winning simply visit this special secret website: *http://www.thesite.org.uk/mp3.html* and make your viewpoints known on a number of issues by answering the census questions. Yes, it really is that simple and should only take you around about five minutes to complete.

As well as hundreds of non-patronising information fact-sheets, TheSite.org also provides a huge and instantly searchable database of over 15,000 national and local services for young people, as well as the UK's telephone helplines. You'll also find discussion boards with thousands of mad people saying thousands of mad things.

For more information on the Youth Census or TheSite.org. visit *http://www.thesite.org*

This is a Low

LOW @BASSMENT, 21ST NOVEMBER

THIS WAS one of the strangest and most beautiful gigs I've attended.

Few bands are as aptly named as Low: their songs are hushed, fragile and melancholic.

But nothing they've recorded quite prepares you for how extraordinarily quiet their live show is.

Conversation with friends had to be kept to a whisper so as not to drown out the band.

This, coupled with the band's request not to smoke and the fact that a large proportion of the crowd sat down throughout the performance, gave a uniquely church-like atmosphere. And yes, I am talking about a gig in the Bassment.

Two-thirds of Low are Mormons. And their gigs are as close to a religious experience as a lot of us are going to get. They're capable of creating an air of awed reverence, the audience hanging on every soaring harmony and exquisite chord-change.

It's almost a relief when guitarist/vocalist Alan Sparhawk and percussionist Mimi Parker (percussion, vocals) conspire to mess up the end of a song, prompting laughter from band and audience alike.

Low aren't famed for their sense of humour, but later they ask for requests and play a snatch of the MC5's "Kick Out the Jams". One wag calls for "Baby, One More Time". Sadly, they have to draw the line.

In their own music, variation in tempo or volume is an alien concept to Low. They do slow and they do quiet. That's it. But they do them impossibly well.

As each gently-strummed, minimally adorned song begins, you should be thinking, "Doesn't this sound exactly the same as the last one." But, instead, you're thinking, "This is fantastic, and I hope they play some more afterwards."

Low are one of those acts - like The Tindersticks, Mazzy Star, Leonard Cohen (hmmm, bit of a theme here) - who take a basic sound and devote their energies to crystalising and perfecting it. And on the evidence of this spine-tingling performance Low are getting close.

Songs like "Venus" and "Lion/Lamb" have it all: simple, evocative instrumentation, searing harmonies and intelligent lyrics.

It's hard to see where Low can go from here - but if you're perfect, why change?

Paul Crosthwaite



LOW... Parker, Sparhawk and Zak Sally

'Dissential Selection

Calling out to all the Hard House nutters, your Uncle Madders needs you!

SUNDISSENTIAL NORTH EAST GRAND RELAUNCH@ CUBA CUBA, SUNDAY 2ND DECEMBER

WHEN SUNDISSENTIAL announced they were leaving Ikon on good terms people seemed to think it meant the end for Hard House in Newcastle. They were wrong, firstly, Madders isn't leaving us, and secondly Sundissential is simply moving house to Cuba Cuba. So, in the words of Mr. Paul Clark of Big Brother fame; "chill your boots".

Sundissential, the original nuttah's are back, and this time it's personal. I know student apathy is at an all time high, but if you can't be arsed to support a music which has proved itself as one of the most popular genres as the last two years, I don't know



what's wrong with you. The only cure is community service, 8 hours hard labour on the dancefloor.

Although Ikon seemed like a great venue, Cuba Cuba has many advantages over the Cheese-mongers favourite. Most notably, the drinks prices, it was over three pounds for a pint at Ikon, compared to a meagre 70 pence for a bottle of lager at the new venue.

The change of venue doesn't, however, mean a drop in standards from the Sundissential lads. They have managed to maintain their high standards when booking DJ's, this 'comeback' lineup includes Eddie Halliwell, Jez & Charlie and Mark Gray. A lineup which most promoters would kill to secure. Also featured are Sundissential North East residents Chris Green, Little Miss Naughty and 2nd year Politics student Tim Monckton.

In case you're wondering where you heard that last name before, it was here. Two weeks ago we touted Tim as the next big thing, having just supported Judge Jules at the Union, we were only too happy to point out that Tim was a name to remember for the future. Also appearing will be Phil Yorke and Daz Oz.

DJs aside, the best thing about Sundissential is the atmosphere, it's about people coming together and celebrating the music in one almighty party.

If you happen to pop down to Cuba Cuba this Sunday between 4pm and 12 midnight





you're sure to see all forms of life, dressed up and havin' it large. You will see students who don't usually emerge during their three year lectures/seminars/coursework hibernation completely losing it to the barrage of bass and rhythms. Day glo-party animals who only usually come out for this sort of event will soon get into the spirit of things, dance like twats and gurn like an old man who uses his bottom lip as a toupee.

Years from now when you're sitting in your armchair, with your pipe in your mouth, your daughter on your knee and your son at your feet playing with his train set, and they turn to you and ask "Daddy, what did you do when Sundissential needed you?" You can proudly say... I went mental at Cuba Cuba!

AL SMITH

■ **PICS: ©2001 DOUBLEDROP.COM**

THE VINYL FRONTIER

TOP TUNES PUT TO TEST ON THE TOON

BROTHER BROWN feat. FRANK'EE - STAR CATCHING GIRL (RULIN)

A very funky cut that would work on many different dancefloors for many different reasons.

A lovely vocal which refelcts the dreamy nature of the effects in the background perfectly.

This track also has an excellent remix package featuring Darren Emerson (his Underwater mix is getting props from Sasha and Sander K.) The G-Club Mix is a bit more US Garage orientated, but with a darker twist. The Smith and Selway mix takes it into techier realms. But my personal favourite is the Brother Brown Rock Bottom mix.

Wonder if he's a wrestling fan!

AL SMITH

Recommended nights

A great night out in Newcastle EVERY night - guaranteed!

■ **Wednesday 28th - Stereophonics @ Telewest - The Welsh lads have Just Enough Education to Perform tonight at the Telewest. This Mr Writer recommends that you grab your Handbags and Gladrags and check out Kelly and the boys.**

■ **Thursday 29th - Stone Love @ Foundation - Hugely succesful indie night with special guest dj's every week and resident dj Big Niall.**

■ **Friday 30th - Positive @ Union - The biggest night out in the student week, the Union will be buzzing tonight to the latest chart hits played downstairs, and Aaron C in the Global spinning all manner of beats.**

■ **Saturday 1st - Jon Carter @ Eclectic, Union - The Monkey Mafia will be making a racket in the Bassment on Saturday. It's surely an offer you can't refuse. see preview p.11.**

■ **Sunday 2nd - Sundissential NE @ Cuba Cuba - Madders and his Hard House roadshow roll in to Newcastle again to see if they can make Sundissential as popular in Newcastle as it is in Birmingham and Leeds. see preview p.12.**

■ **Monday 3rd - Tesco @ Kingston Park - An experience to thrill the senses with the latest tunes pumped into this huge venue, try dancing in the aisles. When the bouncers come to take you away tell them I sent you, you'll be fine.**

■ **Tuesday 4th - James @ Telewest - Sit Down and enjoy yourself, James seem to have been around forever, and are stalwarts of the indie scene. With as many hits as James have under their belts this is definitely Tuesday's hottest ticket. You might even get Laid.**

Competition

Win bottles of Bacardi!

THIS SATURDAY the Po Na Na Latin Quarter Club tour is visiting Newcastle, but it's not going to stop at the venue you are now presuming. Oh no, it's not going to Po Na Na, it's going to Shindig at Foundation. "Why?", I hear you ask. Because... Foundation is owned by those clever Po Na Na chaps, they know a good thing when they see it!

Shindig was recently voted as the Best Underground Club in the UK by Muzik magazine, and deservedly so. From it's humble beginnings at what is now World Headquarters, Shindig has proved to be one of Newcastle's greatest success stories.

With the visit of the Po Na Na Latin Quarter DJ Tour, Shindig have teamed up with the Cuban white rum experts, Bacardi, to provide a night of funky latin rhythms and funky cocktail making a-la Tom Cruise to bombard your senses.

Halo Varga and Hipp-E will be rocking the main room if you don't fancy grooving inna latin stylee. But if you do, and you undoubtedly will, fancy a bit of Cuban spirit, the back room with DJs Basil (Black II Basic) Isaac, Tito Heron and Martin Morales will perfectly complement whatever tasty white rum and lime combinations the barmen will serve up (I have been before, I just can't remember what I was drinking!)

If you can't go, and frankly there's no excuse, you can recreate the experience by winning a bottle of Bacardi in our competition. Just answer this question:

Which 'Lock, Stock' star recently starred in the Bacardi Latin Quarter adverts?

Answers on a postcard please to the Courier office. Don't forget to put your name and phone number/e-mail address on the back, or you won't get your prize.

ALBUMS...

NOOKIE 4/5

IN AT THE DEEP END

HAVING BEEN around the drum and bass circuit since the beginning as a producer, remix artist (including Goldie's 'Inner City Life') and general pioneer, he has decided to release his debut album on Good Looking Records.

It is a very chilled and instrumental experience with the famous Bukem sound. With rising tunes that develop into clever beats with occasional vocal interludes, including the talents of MC DRS and Ebony Simone (and I'm sure I heard some whale noises in there too!), this is relaxation at its most chilled.

The diversity on this album also makes a nice change: going from a Reprazent sound (their jazzier days) and funk to old skool beat n basslines with watery piano on top. This is swimming with Progression Sessions.

FI CLARK

SUM 41 3/5

HALF HOUR OF POWER

ROCK, IT'S WHAT we're all about proclaim Canadian quartet Sum41. However, I think this somewhat prematurely pigeon-holes this eclectic collection of catchy, hum-along tunes.

The album contains elements of rock, pop-punk, metal, rap, ska. I actually wouldn't be surprised if I found out they had Rolf Harris playing Didgeridoo somewhere in there too! Indeed this record contains all the ingredients of a top album, but I still get the feeling that this is a case of too many cooks. I have no doubt that 'Half Hour of Power' will be a successful follow up to their debut album 'All Killer, No Filler'; it does have some great songs, but all round, it's not quite there.

JON CLARK



VARIOUS 3/5

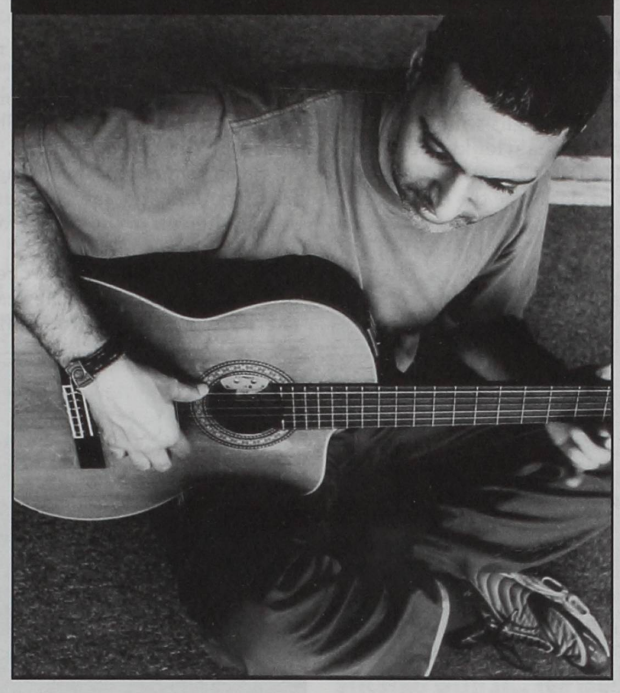
MUSIC FROM AND INSPIRED BY TONY HAWK'S PRO SKATER 3

OK, SO I'VE heard of Soundtracks for Films, TV series and even TV Adverts, but now the people at Maverick are releasing the soundtrack of a goddamned Computer Game to try and take more of your hard-earned (or loan) cash.

Even more laughable is the fact that the title claims that some of these songs are "inspired" by said game, despite the fact it isn't out yet! The resulting CD? Not half bad actually. A pleasing mix of Punk and Metal (I'll ignore the Outkast and Ozmatli tracks), including established bands such as NOFX, Sum 41, the Deftones, Papa Roach and Alien Ant Farm, and introducing several tracks from new bands such as Drowning Pool and Hometown Hero. This is a perfectly listenable CD, but it still leaves the question; is this a worthy compilation, or merely an attempt to cash in?

MARK COTSON

RECORD OF THE WEEK



NITIN SAWHNEY 5/5

COLD AND INTIMATE

THIS IS THE second single taken from his fifth album, 'Prophesy', and continues to show how Mr. Sawhney is ahead of the game.

The album has been influenced by an inspirational journey around the world, discovering different cultures and sounds, and adding to his global music knowledge. 'Cold and Intimate' blends a Massive Attack dark bassline with a smooth, soulful groove. With the vocals of Tina Grace, it is an intense and personal vibe that creates a very spiritual and original song. There is no doubt why he has won so many prestigious awards, he is an absolute genius.

FI CLARK

THE CURE 3/5

GREATEST HITS

FOUNDED IN CRAWLEY and originally christened 'The Easy Cure', the Bowie influenced post-punk career of The Cure has spanned 3 decades, 13 studio albums and over 27 million album sales worldwide.

Unearthing a loyal fanbase within contemplative, black-clad teenagers, this forever-Eighties group created imaginative, bass-driven, up-beat melodies soaked in foolish sentiment. Rather than remain loyal to a particular sound, The Cure toiled for innovation to varied success, several tracks' reckless experimentation lay testament to this.

Yet the simplistic pop beauty of 'Close to You' and 'Friday I'm In Love' or the jazz-tinged melody of 'The Lovecats' with its mischievous piano remind you why such an enduring band has won so many hearts.

This 18-track collection (plus an acoustic renditions bonus CD) provides a comprehensive overview... and just in time for Christmas

PETER CAREY

KENDALL PAYNE 1/5

JORDAN'S SISTER

THIS IS THE debut album from yet another chick sounding alot like Dido and Nelly Furtado with Alanis angst and Dawson Creek emotions.

She calls her music "real and honest" but as the album progresses it becomes song after song of depressing, sentimental pap. Her story so far reads a bit like 'Coyote Ugly' but without the whole bar bit! Perhaps some of her songs will end up on a soundtrack for a U.S. teen hollywood movie, but in the end it is just an album of tacky observations of L.A. life. I think we've heard it before and I'm sorry, but I just ain't interested.

FI CLARK

SINGLES...

BELLE & SEBASTIAN 2/5

I'M WAKING UP TO US

WERE BELLE & SEBASTIAN cryogenically frozen in the 60's, only to arrive in the 21st century with a bunch of outdated songs fit for the larynx of Petula Clarke?

Or did they perhaps team up with Mike Hurst, producer of afore mentioned Petula, Dusty Springfield, Manfred Mann, Showadywaddy and Shakin' Stevens? Hmmmmm. I'm waking up to us is as twee as you like. The second track on the single I love my car is everything that the Bonzo Dog Doo Da Band took the pissout of in Twee big band style pop. In a nutshell, it's sounds of the sixties forty years too late.

ED CONNOR

DELIRIOUS? 3/5

I COULD SING OF YOUR LOVE FOREVER

I LIKE DELIRIOUS?, Martin Smith certainly knows his way around a good tune, and I Could Sing of Your Love Forever is no exception.

A rearrangement of one of their earliest songs, this is another decent indie / light rock offering. Unfortunately I think they've over done it on this one. The Grant Choir's grandiose backing vocals detract from the simplicity that is this songs strength. This is a solid, but unspectacular single and the band's large, mainly Christian, fan base will surely ensure a top ten chart placing in its first week. But without any airplay I fear this song will quickly disappear again, although the forthcoming "Best of" compilation - of which this will be the cornerstone - should boost sales further.

JON CLARK

GARBAGE 1/5

CHERRY LIPS (Go Baby Go)

WITH THE SECOND single from their new album, the most aptly named band in history have delivered pure garbage. This electro-pogo pop papp is instantly forgettable.

The fusion of electro with indie, sounds rather like Republica. Ms Manson doesn't realise that when the crowd sing along "Go baby go", it's a request for her to leave and to never return with this dirge. The remixes are all unremarkable. Roger Sanchez, MaUVe and Howie B all fail to turn this shite into anything other than manure. I'm off to put this single on my garden plants.

ED CONNOR

accenture

HALLAM HALTED BY UNI SOCCER SUCCESS

Royal Blues winning streak continues with victory against Yorkshire side

By ROBIN MOUNSEY
SPORTS WRITER

A DOUBLE strike from Seychelles international Denis Babbe helped earn Newcastle three more valuable points to extend their lead at the top of the BUSA table on Wednesday as they beat Sheffield Hallam 3-2.

Babbe capped a lively performance with two second-half goals to see off a hard working and very adept Sheffield Hallam side.

Gary Hodgson gave Newcastle the lead on the stroke of half time, curling home a stunning free-kick from 25 yards after being brought down himself outside the Hallam box.

It was the ideal way to end a very tight first half, short on chances and with both keepers practically spectators.

Sheffield had probably shaded the half possession-wise but the more meaningful football had been put together by Newcastle.

Much of the play came through influential midfielder John Pearson, but the Royal Blues never looked like breaking down a well-organised Sheffield defence.

The second half started in a very different fashion. A powerful long-range shot from Sheffield's impressive right-winger was not dealt with by Newcastle keeper Ryan Sochanik and Hallam's forward capitalised on the situation to slot home the equaliser.

Almost immediately from the restart, Michael Brotherhood played an incisive through-ball for Babbe to neatly finish his first of the game and restore Newcastle's lead.

Despite this setback, Sheffield stuck admirably to their task and started exerting pressure on Newcastle's defence.

Their direct style of play - forcing the ball as quickly as possible to two powerhouse forward - seemed to be giving the Newcastle defence some difficulties, and when they broke through and rattled the cross-bar, it seemed that it was going to be a very long last half hour for the Royal Blues.

However, 20 minutes in to the second half, Babbe popped up once again.

A fine passing move led to Michael Brotherhood slipping a delicate through ball between Hallam's centre halves for Babbe to run on and confidently slide a left-foot finish beyond a stranded Sheffield keeper.

The move typified Newcastle's exciting and confident approach to the game - their one touch short passing and movement was at times scintillating to watch.

However, it was in defence where the problems seem to lay and Sheffield forced their way back in to the game.

Some complacent defending led to a cross from the left and the Hallam forward beat Jamie Minchin to the ball to force home their second.

Sheffield then produced sustained pressure on a nervous Newcastle team but the boys hung on admirably to seal the victory and three well-earned points.

Coach Alan Brown was very happy with the victory and seems certain his team can go on to achieve this season, saying: "The team has really come into form and is playing better football than it has in the last three years."

The evidence was there to suggest that, with some fine-tuning, his team can go on to build on their impressive start to the season.



PUSHING FORWARD... Newcastle strikers put the Sheffield defense under pressure

League leaders!

By MICHAEL SHEERAN

THE NEWCASTLE University Rugby League Team stormed to an away victory last Wednesday against a strong Leeds University side.

Awful weather conditions in West Yorkshire made life difficult for both sides and contributed to what was a hard, physical encounter.

Both sides picked up injuries and Newcastle's international prop forward Eamonn Ruane had to be taken to hospital with a nasty head injury in the first stanza.

Despite the weather, Newcastle got off to a dream start scoring three tries in the first 20 minutes.

Captain Andy Raleigh scored the first try from close range after 5 minutes.

Four sets later, stand off Rob Spurr dummied his way through some shoddy Leeds defending and raced 45 meters to score a fantastic individual try.

The third try was rugby league at its best. Rob Line offloaded the ball on half way to the supporting Mike Shires and from this position good, angled running and support play resulted in center Adam Martin scoring in the left corner.

By now Newcastle were 16-0 up, but with the loss of Ruane and a turn for the worse in the weather conditions, the game became very tight with much of the play coming up the middle of the park.

Leeds scored on the stroke of half time to make the score 16-4.

With a gale blowing in their faces, Newcastle found it hard to get out of their own half for much of the second stanza.

However, midway through the half on a rare foray into the Leeds 20 meter zone, scrum half Mike Sheeran's grubber kick rebounded off one of the posts foxing the Leeds chasers.

This allowed winger Rob Louge to score and take the game out of reach of the home side.

However, this was not the end of the scoring as Leeds managed a consolation try to make the score more respectable at 22-10 to Newcastle.

Coach Rob Powell said: "The quality of play in the first 20 minutes was right out of the top draw, but was poor for the remaining 60 minutes. However, the defensive display was excellent especially in the second half. So I'm pleased with the win, which keeps us top of the league above the Poly."

As the reigning Northeast cup holders, Newcastle play West Bowling of Bradford away in the first round of the National Challenge Cup competition on 1st December.

This is a great achievement for the club and the university as they are only the third university ever to qualify for the competition.

Shuttlecock-up against Durham for Uni lasses

By COURIER SPORTS STAFF

NEWCASTLE LADIES Badminton team played their return match against Durham last Wednesday, but were disappointed not to get their revenge at home.

The team were determined to reverse their away score where they lost a tightly-fought match 5-4.

After a promising start, it was 3-3 with the last round to play but Durham were just too strong, winning all three final matches and claiming a 6-3 victory.

Captain Katie Wright said: "It was disappointing to lose our home match as we felt we had a good chance of winning.

"We played well and the team are now looking forward to the BUSA championships this weekend."

The Durham team and many others returned to Newcastle later that night to attend a fundraising event at Sea Club for the International Student Badminton Tournament (ISBT).

This competition is going to be held during Easter and is being run by Northumbria University in conjunction with Newcastle and Durham universities.

Newcastle will be host to students from all over Europe in what should be a fantastic experience for all involved.

Bowling them over!

By IAN BROWNE

THE BUSA tenpin bowling tournament in Nottingham saw Newcastle's team get their best ever result, finishing fifth place overall.

It was a real team effort with everyone performing consistently, while at the same time noone was outstanding.

The A team's highest scorer was Stuart Walton who managed a very decent 256.

The B team also performed relatively well, finishing a respectable 25th considering that none of the team had ever played in the tournament before.

Their highest scorer was Dave Edwards, who got 212.

■Anyone interested in joining the tenpin bowling team should contact the club at ten.pin@ncl.ac.uk.

UNI LADS HOCKED OFF

More disappointment for men's team as they lose to Hallam

By SARA ARIFF
SPORTS WRITER

THE MEN'S hockey team were unable to break their string of defeats in a nine goal thriller, which saw rivals Sheffield Hallam walk away with a 5-4 victory.

Appalling weather did not stop Newcastle making a promising start to the match, and they looked set to dominate play with some nippy passing and an early attempt on goal.

Yet it was not long before Sheffield came into their own, demonstrating why they have only been beaten twice this season.

Their lightning speed of play left the Newcastle defence lagging and gave Sheffield the majority of possession.

Ten minutes later they were handed a golden opportunity when Newcastle conceded a penalty corner, giving Sheffield a 1-0 lead.

But five minutes later Newcastle had equalised and the cheer of relief by the team showed how much it meant to them.

Given their previous loss of 16-0 it was the boost they needed to pick up their game.

And their game certainly improved with some slick manoeuvres, not least when Mike Rippon stepped in to prevent Sheffield from going ahead from another short corner.

Minutes later, substitute Richard Plesten proved his worth for Newcastle when he scored only seconds after arriving on the field.

Unfortunately Sheffield came storming back in the second half.

Their aggressive defending and tight passing saw Newcastle scrambling for possession, and it was no surprise when they equalised 15 minutes in.

There was no stopping Sheffield as they scored almost immediately after the restart, putting them 3-2 ahead.

Newcastle were now finding it difficult to penetrate the Sheffield defence.

A few good runs from Newcastle's midfield were soon brought to an end and rarely reached the D.

Twenty minutes into the second half however, Newcastle's tireless efforts were rewarded with a goal putting them on level terms with their opponents.

Sadly it was not enough to stop Sheffield who went on to score a further two goals.

Newcastle could only concern themselves with a fourth goal two minutes from the final whistle.

Although it was not the result they needed it was a respectable loss against a tough side.

Team Captain Adam Berman was obviously disappointed with the outcome and said: "I'm quite gutted and we were unlucky to come away without a win."

"We played some of our best hockey today and it's the first time we've had a full strength eleven all season."

Berman singled out Richard Julian and Andrew Dane for playing well against a team who had a player with international experience.

The loss leaves Newcastle at the bottom of the table and they need to pull out all the stops against next week if they are going to avoid relegation.



STICKING WITH IT... The team has now conceeded more than 30 goals in three matches

POLY NO PUSHOVER

Rugby Union lads lose out in eventful derby clash

By DAN FOLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

NEWCASTLE'S FIRST XI rugby team had a disastrous result last Wednesday when they lost 6-17 at home in the local derby against the Poly.

The game kicked off in heavy wind and rain, and although the weather cleared up, it was not a case of blue skies for the Royal Blues.

The quality of the game was certainly affected by the conditions, as a lot of passes went to ground due to the wet and mud.

Both teams also saw kicks fly way off the mark as the strong wind pulled the ball around the park.

Although the weather made the game more of a lottery, there was nowhere to hide for Newcastle as the Poly looked the better team.

The game got off to a typically fiery start, as Chris Small and a Poly player were booked and sin-binned for ten minutes following an off the ball scuffle after 2 minutes.

Newcastle had started brightly enough, finding themselves on the opposition's 22 after forcing a clearance with good pressure from the kick-off.

They were soon on the back foot though and after attempts to run the ball out of their half, they reverted to kicking to clear, and it was from a line-out that the Poly got their first chance.

The home team were penalised for challenging unfairly in the jump, which gave the Poly a chance at goal from the left wing just outside the 22, which they converted to take the lead 3-0.

That score clearly bolstered Northumbria's confidence, and they piled on the pressure, spending long periods in Newcastle's 22 thanks to good handling and clever kicking.

Newcastle did put in a solid defensive performance though, and Northumbria found it hard to make ground in the last third of the pitch.

Newcastle had their moments in attack as well, and after they were awarded a penalty for Northumbria smothering the ball, Rupert Neville converted to level the score.

Ten minutes later they went ahead after some glaring errors by the Poly gave Newcastle the ball and David Gaule struck an excellent drop-goal from 35 yards out to put the Blues ahead 6-3.

A terrible mix-up in the last moments of the half saw Newcastle surrender their lead, and proved to be the turning point in the game.

Northumbria had been awarded a penalty when Newcastle collapsed the scrum, but the effort on goal fell short of the post.

A fatal hesitation by the defence saw the ball bounce high in the air, and when Newcastle eventually got to it they were too late, as the Poly winger took it at pace and his momentum carried him over the line.

The try was converted and the score stood at 10-6 when the half-time whistle went.

The second-half started as the first had ended and it was not long before the Poly went further ahead, with a high kick over the Uni's back line finding space for their flanker to slide in and score.

The kick was converted and Newcastle were 17-6 down.

The home side appeared to settle down after that, but it proved to be too little too late.

After coming close to scoring a try following good passing and rucking, they were disappointed to see a good opportunity passed up as a penalty kick by no9 hit an upright.

The team never gave up, and although as the game went on they were more enterprising in their rugby, they never looked like winning the game.

Club Captain Walter Scott, who had to watch from the sidelines due to injury, was not surprisingly disappointed.

He said: "They were better than us on the day.

"The bad conditions didn't help, but we made too many mistakes.

"Having said that, we should have made more of the wind in the first-half, but we'll get our revenge in the Stan Calvert Cup."



RUGGER... Will be out for revenge in the Stan Calvert Cup clash with the Poly

courier sport
in association with accenture
WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2001

UNIVERSITY AND POLY TO STAN-D AND DELIVER!

Preparations hot up for eagerly awaited Stan Calvert Cup clash

By DAN FOLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

NEWCASTLE AND Northumbria are preparing for the biggest ever clash between the two institutions as the build up to the Stan Calvert Cup began last Wednesday.

Former England rugby star Rob Andrew officially confirmed the showpiece rugby matches will take place at Kingston Park, home of the Newcastle Falcons.

The event will see almost 1,000 competitors taking part, competing in 25 different sports including football, skiing and fencing.

The Stan Calvert Sports Day will see all the matches in all disciplines played at various venues throughout Newcastle on Wednesday 12 December.

The event will come to a head in the evening when the men's and women's rugby teams clash at Kingston Park, which will be followed by the presentation ceremony.

The day is named in honour of the late Stan Calvert, who was Director of Newcastle University's Centre for Physical Recreation and Sport from 1981 until his death in 1993.

The rivalry between the two universities is well known, and the added exposure that has come from playing on such an impressive stage has increased the stakes.

Newcastle currently hold the Cup, despite last year's event being severely disrupted due to bad weather, but the Poly seems confident it can win at least some events.

Northumbria Athletic Union President Claire Cruikshank said: "This year's event looks set to be a hard-fought battle where most events could go either way. But with international players in the women's basketball, netball and fencing team, we are confident of lifting the trophy."

Unfortunately for them, they are not the only ones with international players.

Jenny McDonagh plays hockey for the Irish Women's Team and recently came back from international duty, and is expected to play in next summer's Hockey World Cup in Australia.

Squash player Kia Katariina Paasavirta was ranked number two in Finland, and has only lost that position since she moved to England, meaning she cannot compete in ranking tournaments.

She also finished as runner-up in the BUSA Championship in 2000.

Newcastle AU President Katy Storie plays rugby for the England Academy, while the men's football team were BUSA champions in 1999, and semi-finalists last year.

Katy Storie, while not making a prediction on the winners of the day, seems confident that Newcastle can do well.

She said: "The result of this competition certainly isn't a foregone conclusion. All of our individual competitors and teams have put in some excellent performances so far this year, and I think it is fair to say that we will be going all out to claim victory for Newcastle University".

Putting the rivalries aside for a moment, Newcastle's Director of Sport Ian Elvin feels that the day is as much of an opportunity to showcase both institution's talent as it is a chance to beat the Poly.

He said: "There is a wealth of sporting talent in both the universities, athletes who excel not only at intra-mural and BUSA level, but in many cases at international level as well.

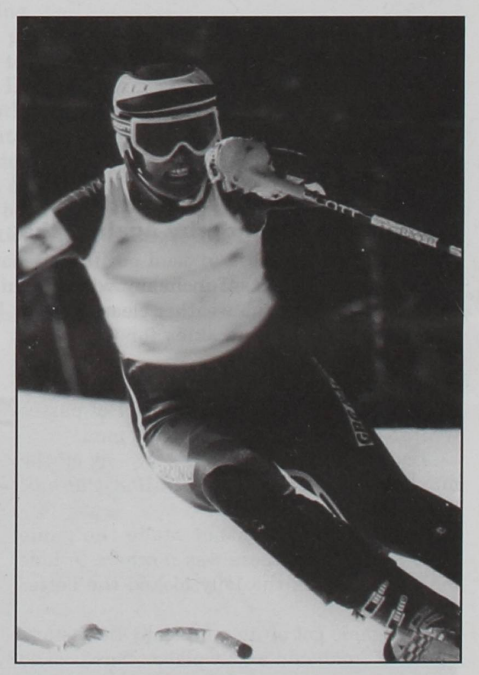
"They are the sports stars of the future, and an event on this scale really brings home just how many promising men and women there are coming through the ranks of University sport."

The day promises to be a great spectacle, so be sure to go along and support our University, especially after the disappointment of the men's rugby result last week which they promise to correct (see right).

■ Tickets for the rugby matches at Kingston Park are priced £4.00 (pre-sale) or £5.00 on the night, and are available from the Newcastle Athletic Union on 0191 239 3923.



HEAD TO HEAD... The Uni and Poly Rugby teams will compete in the finale at Kingston Park



SKIING... One of the 25 sports scheduled

Check out the latest film reviews - p.9