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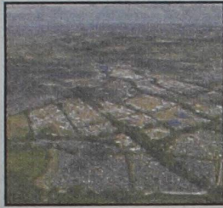
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INSIDE



### Festival Special

Al Smith rates and slates the summer music festivals p.19

### 4 PAGE THONG

We print what the other papers are too scared to . Find it all out on p.8-12

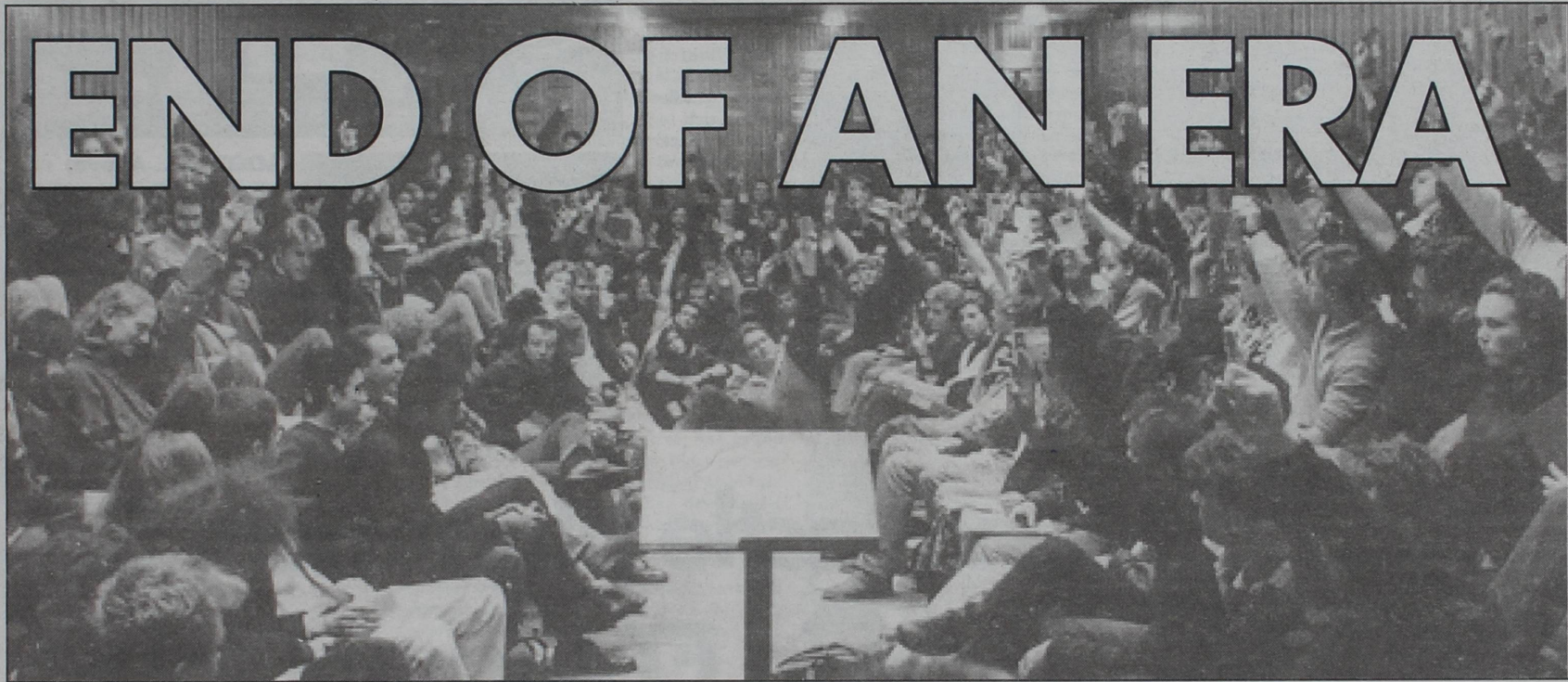
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# END OF AN ERA



## Debating Chamber to be demolished

By JENNI CUNNINGHAM

**THE UNIVERSITY has released plans to demolish the debating chamber in the Union building by the end of the summer.**

It is part of a larger university-wide master plan which intends to revamp the layout of the university in order to incorporate the community more. The university has hired Sir Terry Farrell, who designed the Centre for Life, to help formulate the plan.

The intention is to demolish the debating chamber and the building behind it to make room for another quad, dubbed the 'King's Quad'. This is to encourage the community to walk through the university rather than around it, and eliminate

some of the divisions between the town and the university.

However this will not be possible for some time due to the building behind the chamber housing a 60ft water testing machine. The demolition of this would cost millions, meaning that the overall project won't be finished for another ten years.

The work gets under way this year with the destruction of the debating chamber. Many university officials are in favour of this decision, for example Galvin Clapp, the Finance and Administration officer. He stated that the chamber is a great expense to the university.

"The roof leaks and there is a large amount of damp which means that it is one of least used spaces in the union."

...ing Team and Chairman of the Union Society, Alex Ward, does not support the decision at all. He believes that the chamber is only in such disrepair due to years of mismanagement. He and the debating team have worked hard this year with the maintenance of the chamber so that it could be used, and he believes the decision to knock it down is a huge step backwards.

Additionally the debating team is holding its first university tournament this year and the lack of a chamber to host it in is causing many problems.

Despite such protests the demolition work on the chamber started on Wednesday and should be finished by the start of the next academic year.

JAMIE NOON  
interviewed on p.23



Win a case of REEF drink - p.22

# The Courier

Union Society  
King's Walk  
Newcastle  
NE1 8QB

Telephone: 0191 239 3940  
Fax: 0191 239 3991  
Email: courier.news@ncl.ac.uk

Find us on the ground floor of the  
Students Union building opposite  
the main entrance



**EDITOR:**  
**Jake Lee**

Editor.Union@ncl.ac.uk



**FEATURES EDITOR:**  
**Jennie Lawrence**

J.A.Lawrence@ncl.ac.uk

**NEWS EDITOR:**  
**David Bartlett**

**DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR:**  
**David Kneale**

courier.news@ncl.ac.uk



**ARTS EDITOR:**  
**Jess Gooch**

J.S.Gooch@ncl.ac.uk



**MUSIC EDITOR:**  
**Al Smith**

courier.news@ncl.ac.uk



**BOOKS EDITOR**  
**Paul Crosthwaite**

P.J.Crosthwaite@ncl.ac.uk



**SPORTS EDITOR:**  
**Geraldine Mole**

Geraldine.Mole@ncl.ac.uk



**FASHION EDITORS**  
**Polly Sweet &  
Rose Wilson**



**TRAVEL EDITOR:**  
**Fran Naish**

Francesca.Naish@ncl.ac.uk

Contact the individual section Editor to confirm  
the time and location of each week's meeting.

**Advertising:**  
**OWEN PARRY**

Courier.Marketing@ncl.ac.uk

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# Lecturer warned that Iraq will be looted

## ... but the Government refused to listen to good advice

By **JOE KILTY**

A LECTURER for Cultural and Heritage Studies at Newcastle University has claimed that the government failed to heed his warning about the looting of the treasures of Iraq after the war.

Dr Peter Stone, a pre-war government advisor on the possible problems in post-war Iraq, said that the military had not been successful in dealing with looting as the war ended.

He claims he had warned the Ministry of Defence that the looting of Iraq's treasures was highly likely after liberation, advice which did not stop the scenes captured so vividly on television from taking place.

Further to this warning, Dr Stone now claims that the treasures were likely to have been stolen for private collections.

"It would not surprise me at all if international art dealers had a hand in the plundering. I would be very surprised if it were not the case that some of it had been stolen to order."

Iraq, which encompasses Mesopotamia, the 'cradle of civilisation', is rich in remains dating back 10,000 years. Dr Stone now fears that these invaluable archaeological collections will end up at the art markets of Paris, Switzerland, New York, London, and Tokyo, replaced by poor copies of the original works. "In initial reports we are getting there are indications that replicas of objects have been left in cases", he said.



**LOOTERS...** Above, showing the looting in Iraq and, Left, some of the priceless artifacts that were taken.

# Newcastle plummets 5 places in FT League table

By **TIM MAYNARD**

IN THE latest university league table to be unveiled by The Financial Times, Newcastle University has slipped five places from last year's position.

In 2002, Newcastle reached number 22 in the table, while this year it finds itself down in 27th place. However it was 8th in the postgraduate research table.

Once again, Cambridge University hits the top of the table, with Oxford in second and Imperial College completing the top three.

However The Times' version of the table, also published this month, placed Newcastle at 17th,

with Oxford pipping Durham to the top.

Durham University could not improve on their last year's position, staying in 28th spot in The Financial Times version, one place below Newcastle. One student, Jack Collins, said "I don't take much notice of league tables, we all know Newcastle is a cracking university, but it's always good to beat Durham!"

The new name of University of Northumbria at Newcastle appears not to have enhanced Northumbria's fortunes, finding themselves in 53rd in The Times version, while down in 57th for The Financial Times.

Propping up the table was South Bank University, in 98th place.



**DREAMING SPIRES...** not here



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

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# THE CULTURAL QUARTER: Just what is it?

By DAVE KNEALE

**Big ideas for the University's new 'Cultural Quarter' have been unveiled, despite mixed feelings amongst students.**

The series of proposals, part of the University's restructuring programme and pencilled in as its contribution to the 2008 Newcastle and Gateshead Capital of Culture bid, could change the face of the University for both students and the public over the coming years.

The aims for the development were stated by the University's Executive Board last November:

"A range of cultural facilities, working to a common set of educational goals, will draw together the best of museum, gallery and performing arts activities."

The Cultural Quarter is set to occupy the area around the Playhouse and the adjoining car park, involving many areas of research and creative projects.

A number of facilities around the campus have been identified as cultural assets, including the Hatton Art Gallery, the Hancock and Shefton Museums and the Playhouse Theatre.

One of the most ambitious plans is to bring the Museum of Antiquities, Hancock Museum, and the Shefton and Hatton Galleries together under one management structure, to create the 'Museum of Landscapes'.

In addition, a £6 million pledge from the Arts Lottery Fund will be used to refit the Playhouse Theatre.

It is hoped that the creation of a new

digital media facility, dubbed the 'Culture Lab', will increase connections to the region's creative arts and economy. According to the University's press release, "The Culture Lab's place at the heart of the Cultural Quarter will bring a creative intellectual resource on to the doorstep of the city."

Louise Needham, the Union's Communications Officer, is generally in favour of the development, although she emphasises the fact that the project is still being planned:

"In principle I think it's a really good idea. It can only be beneficial to the University to be part of the cultural revival in the city."

The project has encountered opposition, however, particularly after the revelation that the preferred site for the 'Culture Lab' is at King's Walk, where it would oust the existing Gym facilities.

Questions have also been raised by students after the city's two Universities have spent a staggering quarter of a million pounds between them on feasibility studies alone.

In addition, the feeling amongst students is that they have been largely ignored by the organisers of the city's bid for the 2008 Capital of Culture. Representatives of the Newcastle-Gateshead Initiative, one group responsible for publicising the bid, are keen to emphasise the involvement of students over the last few months, describing "contributions from students in a huge number of ways and with a lot of two-way communication."

However, these efforts have not prevented students from feeling isolated from the city's efforts. Second year student Ged Desforges

told The Courier:

"I haven't heard anything - all I've seen is the posters with 2008 on them. I think students would really care if they involved us a bit more."

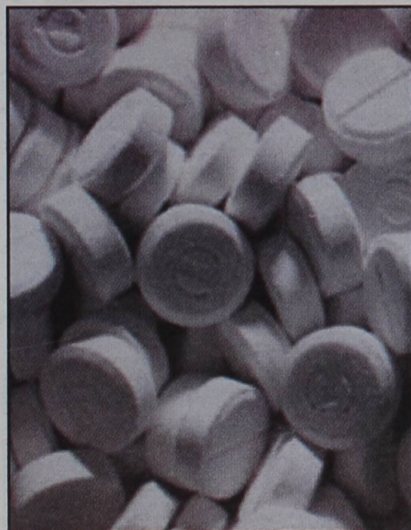
Louise Needham agrees: "I approached

them for funding for large events like the Graduation Ball, but they said that they wouldn't fund student events. My experience was that they didn't deal with students which seemed bizarre since we make up such a large proportion of the city's people."



## Students will be punished too

### Judge warns student drug dealers



By DAVE KNEALE

**NORTH-EAST students have been warned by a judge that they could face jail time if they deal in drugs.**

This warning came from Judge David Wood as a second year student at Sunderland University narrowly avoided a jail sentence for possession of ecstasy and cannabis with the intention of supplying them to his friends.

He was sentenced to 240 hours of community service and pay £200 legal costs.

Judge Wood said "Apparently one of the most intelligent sections of our society, students at Newcastle, Northumbria and Sunderland Universities, don't seem to have heard that people who supply Class A drugs go to prison."

## Min Wage too low

By DAVID BARTLETT

**CALLS TO end the lower tier of £3.60 National Minimum wage from the GMB Union are echoing through student circles.**

A new study has revealed that 1 million of the 3.1 million students in the UK on full time courses are working at the same time.

Because most of the 36% of students that have to work to pay their way through their studies are under 22-years-old they are only entitled to minimum wage of £3.60 per hour rather than the full rate of \$4.20.

Paul Kenny, GMB's Senior Official, said: "This massive army of part-time workers are leaving college with average debts of £11,000 in student loans."

"It is not fair that employers should be allowed to pay them 60 pence per hour less

for doing jobs identical to their older work colleagues."

Newcastle's student Union swung its weight behind the demands, with Communications Officer Louise Needham, told the Courier: "This is obviously something that the Union would support."

"The benefits would be two fold, students could either work less hours or for more money."

"With top up fess to be introduced students will become concerned with further debt and being able to earn whilst studying will be essential to some students, so yes the Union obviously would welcome any advances that help students not to have to work themselves into the ground."

Peter Johnston, final year Infromation Systems student, told the Courier: "I've had to work at Uni so I think that it would be a great idea."

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GREENPEACE



# The highs and lows of local elections

## Parr's Snips

The week in 400 words



Chris Parr

And so we come to the last column of the year (hooray, I hear you cry!), so here's one final glance around what's

been making the headlines this week - one more glance at the disease, murder and scandal that is the British news before we can all start to dream of those long, lazy summer days when the exams are long gone...

The beginning of the week saw testing times for the country's political parties. While Labour were losing substantial ground to the Conservatives in the local election (which I am sure you all enjoyed voting in...), the

Tories, who should have been celebrating, found themselves in the midst of yet another week of bad press, with 2 senior politicians - Barry Legg and Crispin Blunt - resigning from their posts. The former went quietly, while the latter left kicking and screaming about the party's prospects for the next general election.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the news British researchers were drawing the final conclusions on research in to a product that is reported to be so damaging to our health that the Food Standards Agency feel many varieties of the produce should be banned altogether. However, students should fear not - the item in question is not alcoholic, and nor is it tobacco-based. In fact, the FSA believe that vitamins and minerals are in fact no more than a minefield of hidden dangers. So why have the agency been so quick to

suggest a ban on certain vitamins with such little evidence in place, when the link between cigarettes and cancer has been proven for years and resulted in no such ban? I can't help but feel that vitamins don't quite boast the same addictive tax-revenue qualities of a Marlboro Light.

Finally, on a lighter note, if you've ever landed yourself with a hefty university library fine (because I know we all spend so much time and effort there!), spare a thought for Kelly Woodward of Connecticut, USA. Upon rooting through her attic, Kelly stumbled across a library book due back on the 3rd of May...1909. Upon returning the book a full 94 years late, the library decided to waive the fine, which would have amounted to over £400 if calculated at 1909 levels.

ABOUT A GIRL

"I've just had my last lecture. Ever. That's it. No more syntax. No more Middlemarch. Ever."

Well this is it. The end. Life as we know it is over.

Well, life as I've known it for the last three years that is. Finally I'm graduating and joining the outside world - and it's so weird!

I mean I've just had my last lecture. Ever. That's it. No more syntax. No more Middlemarch. Ever.

It's quite sad really. Three years and suddenly that's it. Finished. No more late boozy nights on the Toon. No more stodgy chips from the Bassment (ok so I won't miss them too much but they are good for a hangover). No more Baja's. Or the Boat. Or Geordies.

I don't really know what I'll miss most. Not the weather - although I am pleased that over the past three years I've

managed to acquire a true Geordie tolerance to the arctic frost on a night out. Maybe the lectures - always good to catch up on the gossip from the night before and laugh at those who drool over a certain lecturer of ours (you know who you are!).

Definitely the bizarre things that happen in my house. Ghosts, hamsters, and all those drunken nights playing "I have never" (not as much fun when you're paying £7 a drink in London). I might even miss the washing up mountain. Or maybe not.

I just have this horrible feeling that, despite all my bravado over the past few weeks ("I can't wait to finish" etc) I'm going to leave and suddenly realise that, actually, I've grown quite attached to this place and the people in it. And then it's too late. It's just that the past three years have gone so fast - I worry that I haven't packed enough in.

So I've come up with a plan. I'm going to visit every place I've ever been to over the past three years and every place I've always meant to go to but never quite made it. Yes - I'm going to re-discover Newcastle in the form of a two week long pub crawl. Kind of like a reverse Freshers Week, only without the "what did you do at A-level" small talk.

So should you see someone stumbling around the Toon wearing a fetching orange traffic cone as a hat, please feel free to join in and celebrate student life one last time.

Bye.

## Bec Says hammocks are cool

Maybe it's the monkey in me, but I think hammocks are great. Hammocks rock. They are excellent for just hanging out in with your friends. (Before you go on, read those sentences again and appreciate the ingenious use of language please).

When hanging in your hammock in sunny Newcastle, you can close your eyes and be anywhere - swaying in a tropical breeze on a beach, or suspended between two trees in the jungle with a beautiful naked Tarzan or Amazon beside you.

Hammocks are as great a Mexican export as tequila. The Mexicans do everything in their hammocks - including sex. There is a book circulating Mexico called the 'Hammock Sutra' with all sorts of exciting ways to dislocate every limb in your body.

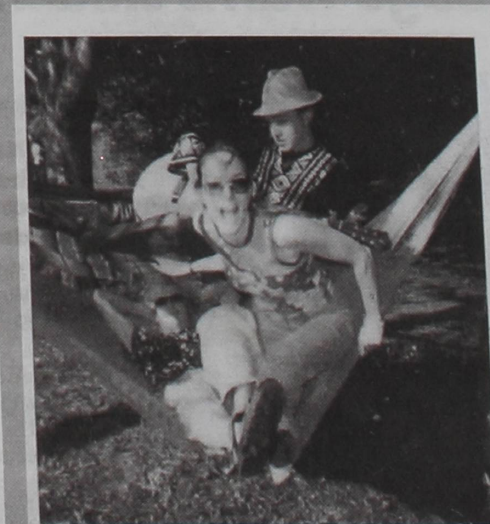
However the Americans have a far from erotic use for hammocks. 'Hammocking' (which apparently is an activity over there) is very complimentary to fly fishing. But don't let that put you off - it's still cool, honest. In true American style, a website with some safety tips exists. 'Avoid sudden, heavy movements in the hammock' and 'do not swing in the hammock' are some key warnings. Well that just ruins the fun.

Agility is vital to hammocking - something which Editor Jake lacks. He resembled a daddy longlegs tangled in his web while preparing for the photo below.

In fact hammocks are rather like spider's webs - a good place to throw your prey into and jump in after them - for there is no escape, and two people in one hammock can get very cosy. It squashes you into a position you cannot squirm out of easily.

I have a vision of humans evolving into hammocks ourselves in several million years time. We'll be able to string ourselves up where we please. Much more useful than a sixth finger or night vision don't you think?

BECCA SNOW



No sudden movements...

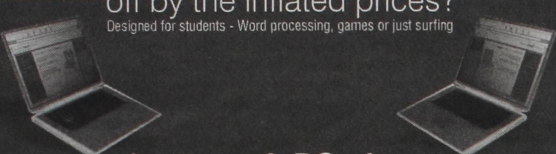
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# Travel Talk

## Out of Africa

Ed sees a more challenging side of Egypt with some appropriately nicknamed companions

By ED BRITTON

**If anyone has ever ventured off into the great unknown equipped with backpack, a couple of 'hard core' travelling mates and the compulsory dishevelled look, you'll be only too familiar with the feeling of 'Bloody Tourists'!**

You spend four days trekking across the Outer Mongolian Death Desert (Not quite a literal translation!), led by an indigenous tribesman, in search of the long lost empire, only to find a group of photo snapping yanks have got there before you in a 4WD, kitted out in Hawaiian shirts and 80 gallons of bottled water.

However, it is this life source that got me thinking...

We had been in Egypt for 2 weeks when we decided to get off the beaten track and head for the Western Desert. The area not only contains awesome desert oases that literally appear on the horizon as if for the climax of a Hollywood movie, but unsurprisingly vast, and beautiful, stretches of desert-

**"...we decided to get off the beaten track..."**

scapes. The one we were interested in, however, was accessible only from the Oasis of Al-Farafa. Once there we were soon able to gather information and were told of a spring about 40 miles out of town. The idea had been planted. Immediately, my two travelling partners and my-self were planning to spend a couple of days roughing it in the White desert. Admittedly, it's a decision that could arguably be questioned!

We managed to hitch a lift out to the spring early the next day. Once there, locating the spring was relatively easy, just a short walk from the road, and although we all noticed the uncommon sulphuric pungency of the water, we shrugged our shoulders, filled our bottles and walked further into the incredible landscape. We were desert adventurers, no living thing could last long out here, but we held the secret...or so we thought.

As the day went on and we scabbled about preparing for the inevitable cold night ahead, The Austrian was chosen to retrieve more water from the spring. An hour went by, and we could only sit

as the heat from the sun was too much to continue foraging for anything that could fuel our night fire.

As the sound of my last gulps of water could be heard against the silence, The Austrian suddenly appeared in the distance shouting

**"...no living thing could last long out here, but we held the secret...or so we thought..."**

something and running towards us. As he approached he told us how he had met a Bedouin tribesman,

who warned him against drinking the water as it would make him ill. By this time it was too late to hitch a lift back to town, and our thirst was matching that of the emaciated scrub around us. We had no choice but to see the night through and try to hitch a lift the next morning.

After a freezing night, with the worst scout camp fire I had ever seen, (I'm sure The Midlander said he had a yellow woggle!), we headed for the road, calling off our expedition. At around midday, down spirited and in need of some serious quantities of liquid we were able to hitch a lift.

The point of the story came to

**"I'm sure The Midlander said he had a yellow woggle!"**

light when we explained our story to the driver of the car. We told of how disappointed we were that we must have found the wrong spring and how worried we were about what the water could do to us after being warned in such a dramatic way. To our surprise, Mohammed laughed. "It is not bad my friend", he said still chuckling. "It is the tribesman. He thinks the white man can only drink water from the bottle".



## Fun and festivities at the Edinburgh Fringe

By FRAN NAISH

**I can't act. So naturally the opportunity to go up to the Edinburgh Fringe festival last year to perform in Kebab: the Musical was one which I jumped at.**

My only previous experience with Edinburgh was from a day trip where we had unsuccessfully attempted to blag our way into the castle for free. I remembered it was cold but also very pretty.

Edinburgh in August is very different from Edinburgh during the rest of the year. The buzz created by the month long festival is awesome. Thousands of people flock to the city to experience plays, music, comedy and art, and are rarely disappointed with what they find. The city is friendly, lively and usually warm.

**"The buzz created by the month long festival is awesome."**

My experience as a performer was quite different from that of the typical tourist. For a start I had to

get up early every morning to be on stage by 12.30. This is particularly difficult at this time of year in Edinburgh because the pubs close at 3am and the clubs close even later. However, for some reason this didn't create too much of a problem. The mad dash across the Meadows to get to the Pleasance (term time student union, festival time world famous group of venues showing some of

the best comedy on the circuit) each morning seemed to cure even the most horrific hangovers. Well, at least most of the time anyway.

The extensive grassy area which constitutes the Meadows seems to be to be lifted straight from the sixties. One afternoon we witnessed a forty piece group of musicians and street performers through a game of football without even a word of anger by the dumbfounded players. This type of activity was in no way unusual. The Meadows provided

**"the Meadows seems to be to be lifted straight from the sixties"**

the perfect place to relax, drink, attempt very unsuccessfully to play frisbee and dive headfirst into extremely muddy puddles armed with nothing but a pair of goggles.

The Royal Mile is perhaps the place in Edinburgh that is most obviously affected by the festival. I remember singing about the joy of kebabs on the make shift stages to amused passers by in order to promote our show. There were numerous street performers, visitors from all over the world and easily the best baked potato shop in the whole of Britain.

Unfortunately, as is often the case when you spend a prolonged amount of time in a place, I didn't manage to check out all the typical tourist spots. Nevertheless I was certainly able to appreciate the city in such a way that I would gladly return at any available opportunity.



The Meadows in Marchmont, Edinburgh



### TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

No 1: TRAVEL

According to recent survey 28%, the equivalent of over 3 million young people, did not take out travel insurance on their last trip away.

Travel insurance is one of the most important things to remember when planning your journey. It covers you not only for the theft of valuables and other possessions which can easily go missing in foreign countries, but also for medical expenses which can amount to millions, legal expenses and compensation inconveniences such as delayed flights.

Remember to shop around before purchasing insurance. Travel agents' insurance can be expensive and might not always provide the best levels of cover.





# Travel Talk

## Beaches, backpackers and balls of fire

Vicx takes the traveller trail up the east coast of Australia in search of a merry Christmas

By VICKI CARLIN

**"Fancy Christmas in Oz fire-spinning?" I nearly fell over, then started saving!**

We arranged a hostel for the first night feeling pretty damned cosmopolitan, imagining al fresco drinking, meeting the locals and learning about a new culture.

Sadly, we booked the dire straits of "Downtown City Backpackers" (236 George St, Sydney). Al fresco drinking was possible, of the paper-bagged variety. As for new cultures, we learnt loads about cockroaches.

Unsurprisingly we high-tailed it up coast to the beauty of Byron Bay, home of beginners surfing with waves at "The Pass" reaching a piddly 5ft and Paul Hogan of Crocodile Dundee fame.

Byron Bay is a mecca for hippies at heart, arts and crafts aplenty with no McDonalds in sight. However, Byron Bay is a chameleon able to turn into The Big Market's Bigger Sister. Like Blu Bamboo? Turn to "Cheeky Monkeys" (a long stagger down Johnson St)

Crap music? Try "Cocomangas" (a very short stagger down Johnson St). Be warned, if your hostel gave you a free meal ticket for either it does NOT mean it's recommended. Trust me.

We stayed at "Backpackers On The Beach".

Hammocks around the pool, weekly barbecues, mental staff, and best of all: the railway track that separates the hostel from the beach. Especially at 11.10pm daily when the crammed Brisbane bound train is greeted with a communal mooning. Ahh bliss...

Visit Nimbin. Not everyone is drug friendly but visit this trial town anyway. Watch how the world could be, giant murals

depicting drug-induced dreams, mashed maniacs and tiny little Aboriginal children selling "special cookies". Kinda creepy.

Up to Brisbane (more gangsters and metal kangaroos/benches) to fire spin at the

South Bank (better than Melvyn Bragg's) then to Rainbow Beach. The only attraction aside from the ridiculously fast waves is the gateway to Fraser's Island. It isn't Fraser's anymore. The Aboriginals got the title back in

1993 and would prefer it called K'Gari. No one does.

The largest sand island in the world, Fraser's is accessible by four-wheel drive

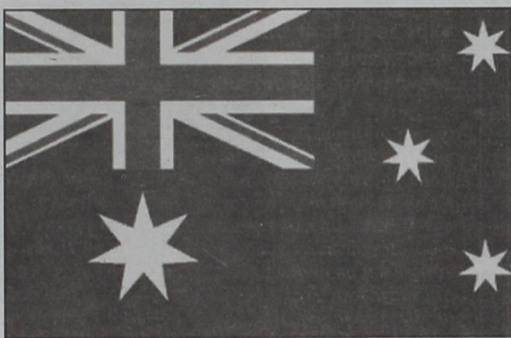
only. It's easy to feel overwhelmed camping next to crystal clear lakes, surrounded by baby eating dingoes and copious funnel webbed spiders but K'Gari means 'paradise' and I'd be hard pushed to disagree.

New Year's Eve 2002. Big tip here, book a hostel before you arrive. Or alternatively, cry pathetically in front of nervous looking staff members. No longer homeless, we didn't bother going back to the hostel after our 24 hour Sydney Opera House party.

Aside from some fantastically trailer trash kiddies asking me if we were going to get bombed tonight and the worrying sighting of a frogman looking for aforementioned threat, the fireworks were breathtaking.

Ten days later, we had to go home. Storms in Sydney led to a 12 hour delay, luggage lost in Vienna (including my treasured coursework) and a missed coach back up to Newcastle led to flip flop powered tantrums. However, email from our new friends in Australia reassured us we'd be back.

Straight after graduation, yay!



# "This is our year"

Newcastle confident of victory in boatrace against bitter rivals Durham

### Boat Race Preview

By GERALDINE MOLE  
SPORTS EDITOR

**DESCRIBED AS "one of the regions major sporting events", the 7th Annual Northumbrian Water University Boat Challenge, the only Uni Boat Race outside Oxbridge, will take place on Sunday 18 May.**

From its quiet start eight years ago, the banks of the Quayside are now lined with over 15,000 spectators watching the three crews - Men's 1st VIII, Women's 1st VIII, and Fresher's VIII - battling it out under six of the seven bridges.

Uni's Sports Director and Chairman of the Boat Race Executive Committee, Graham Rayner said: "Both squads have been in great form so far this year, and it promises to be a really close competition."

This sentiment is reflected by both the Men's and Women's Captains, who are adamant that last year's defeats will not be repeated.

With the Men never having beaten the Durham VIII it will prove to be a particularly hard task to undertake, but one that will be vehemently contested.

And hope must certainly lie in the fact that Andreas Skaar and Tom Nicholson were part of the only Newcastle crew to reign victorious over their Durham counterparts last year: the Freshers race. No doubt they are hungry to repeat the feat.

But with the Durham VIII coming off the back of winning bronze at the BUSA Championships their confidence is bound to be riding high.

Number Five Nicholson said: "I think we'll do pretty well. Although we are relatively inexperienced, I am confident."

Although Durham won the Women's race last year, they have not had it all their own way over the last six boat challenges, and Captain Rachel Lund is sure they can exploit the heifer Durham crew.

She said: "The wind may favour a heavier crew, but we are better rowers. This is our year and I am confident we'll beat Durham."

Although Durham won the recent BUSA race against Newcastle, it was only by two lengths, and as Lund pointed out, "Durham have reached the end of their learning curve, whereas we have so much more we can learn in the weeks leading up to the race."

And with the Women's crew having two former Great Britain Juniors in Lucy Buglass and Jess Wildgoose, and the best Newcastle crew in the last four years, who can doubt them?

Whatever happens, a close race is definitely on the cards, and recent form suggests that it may even be as nail-biting as the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race.

Free entertainment and live music will start on the riverside from 2pm, with the Freshers VIII scheduled for 5.15, the Women's First VIII at 5.30 and the Men's First VIII at 5.45.

### MEN'S FIRST VIII

Mathew Hulet  
Tom Ernshaw  
Andreas Skaar  
Henry Pelly  
Tom Nicholson  
Dickin Leighwood  
Joby Rimmer  
Steve Dobel



### WOMEN'S FIRST VIII

Katie Haltan  
Tamara Simmons  
Lucy Buglass  
Jess Wildgoose  
Ally Crichton  
Kathryn Durey  
Suzie Easton  
Nikki Cusians  
Rachel Lund

## Even More "100 Best" Programmes

Following the success of Channel 4's 100 Greatest Film Stars and 100 Greatest Pop Singles, the makers of the award winning programmes are to bring out two further episodes.

100 Greatest Public Toilets and 100 Greatest Chess Moves will be aired later this month.

## Barbie Will Bleed

In response to the increasing demand for reality toys, Matel, the makers of the popular childrens' doll, Brabie, have announced plans to release a menstruating version of their best-selling toy.

The new doll, called "Menstruating Barbie" will join "Comb my Hair" Barbie and a host of other variations of the blond plastic character.

Children will be able to unscrew the toy's head and fill it up with ketchup.

# Becks Coming To Toon

## England Captain In Surprise Move To Uni Intra-Murals

By Mark Broad  
Thong Correspondent

**Top Intra-mural football club, Jesmond Tutu, have confirmed reports that they are trying to lure David Beckham away from Manchester United.**

The midfielder, currently rated at around £38 million, is thought to be unsettled by United's lack of success, and also by the perceived lack of ambition of their manager, Alex Ferguson.

It seems that Beckham will be lured to the intra-mural side by the combination of a free transfer, a dirty pint and a free medium pizza thrown into the bargain.

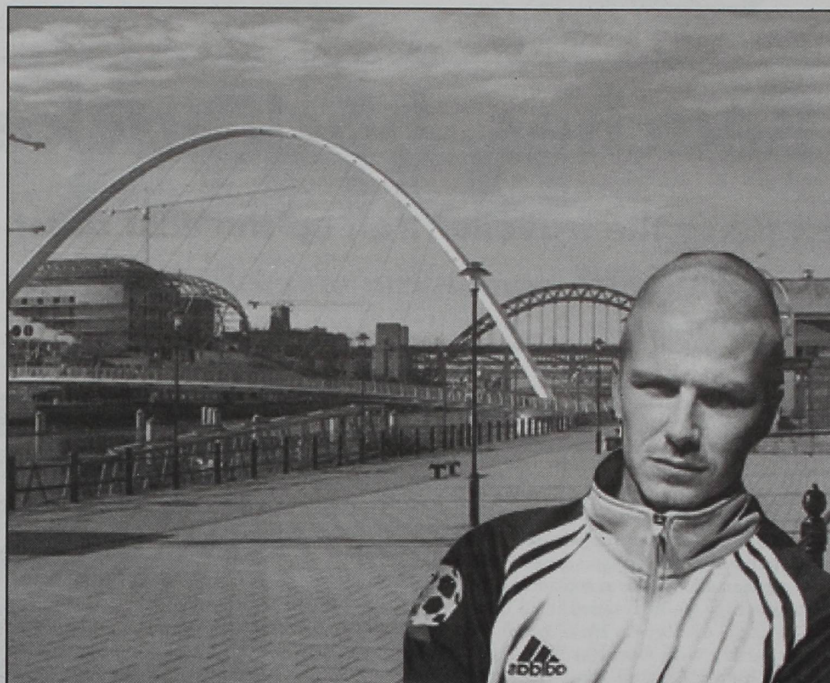
Manchester United Chief Executive, Martin Edwards, was disappointed but realistic about his club's chances of keeping the

England captain.

"We are obviously very upset at the prospect of losing David to Jesmond Tutu, but we understand that if he is to further his footballing ambitions, there is no greater test than Longbenton on a Wednesday afternoon against a team like the Town Planners. We just can't match that," he said.

It was reported earlier in the month that the small village team known locally as Real Madrid, had put in an offer for Beckham. But according to sources close to Victoria Beckham, she apparently prefers the option of moving to a new two bedroom terraced house in Fenham.

Beckham's arrival should boost viewer figures, which, for the Intra-mural cup final, were disappointingly low, when only one man and, allegedly, a small border collie turned up.



BECKS & BRIDGES: Victoria is said to be pleased at the prospect of life in Longbenton

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& Pull a minor aristocrat

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## When You Score Nothing At All

St James: Ronan's In, Alan's Out



GRANNY MAGNET: Ronan's in to boost morale

By Chris Abberton  
Thong Correspondent

**Injured Toon star Alan Shearer is to be replaced with Irish crooner Ronan Keating for the remainder of the season, the Thong has learned.**

The demise of Shearer, out for an estimated 2 months with an injured ankle, has had a soul-destroying impact on mag-fans. Several fans have thrown themselves from the Tyne Bridge in desperation at not seeing the fair-haired lothario on the pitch.

The club decided to draft in Shearer's double, Keating, for the close of the season,

claiming that despite Keating's apparent lack of footballing talent, and enormous wage demands, it was the best thing for club moral.

Brothel patron, and Newcastle director, Freddie Shepherd said: "The need for a blonde granny-magnet up front meant that there was only one man for the job."

Keating has already been spotted at Newcastle's Benton training ground practising his post-goal celebrations, framing his groin with his hands, and thrusting.

Reports that Shearer is to tour the country playing sub-Bryan Adams pop music in huge arenas are, as yet, unconfirmed.

## Prescott Punch Bowl

By Mark Broad  
Thong Correspondent

**Home Secretary John Prescott will meet Olympic gold-medallist Audley Harrison in a heavyweight showdown next month.**

Having proved himself by knocking out a man during the 2000 election campaign, Prescott now seems ready to make the step up into the professional game.

Harrison said: "I respect Prescott as a fighter, but as a politician? No, I think he is rubbish."

Prescott has been keeping his preparation for the fight strictly private, but it is thought that he had a warm-up bout with Tory backbench strong-woman, Anne Widdecombe last week.

Prescott's manager and trainer, Tony Blair, said Prescott's diet could hold the key to the fight. The Home Secretary has only been eating steak pies and John Smiths ale.

At the pre-fight press conference Blair denied rumours that Prescott would be appearing in skin tight swimming trunks, as had been reported in the press.

SPECIAL PULL-OUT EDITION

# the THONG

Volume 01 Issue 08

Almost Everything Exposed

12-18 May 2003

4 PAGE  
SOUVENIR  
EDITION

IN BRIEFS

IDS  
Recognised  
In Public

Iain Duncan-Smith, the Conservative leader, was shocked to be recognised while out shopping in Birmingham last week.

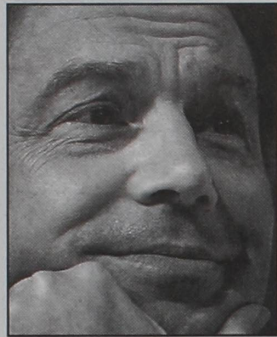
Unfortunately for Duncan-Smith the old lady with blue-rinse hair who stopped him in Argos, believed him to be William Hague. (By Mark Broad).

Bush Head  
In Arse  
Dispute

George W. Bush's arse has asked his head move out after almost forty years of illegal residency.

A spokesman for the arse said: "We have come to point where after years of promises we must now demand that Mr Bush take his head out of his arse."

It is unclear what action will be taken if Bush refuses to comply, but early plans suggest a forced evacuation. (By Charlie White).



## Prozac Chic PM

By Christina  
Bracewell-Milnes  
Thong Correspondent

The World Health Organisation (WHO) expressed concerns yesterday that Tony Blair's stressed appearance is sending out a potentially damaging message to ambitious youngsters.

During his term of prime minister his gaunt looks, greying hair and bulging eyes have become an increasingly vital part of his image. At the same time his personal approval rating has soared.

WHO are concerned that this suggests that success is directly linked to a mangy physical appearance. This could have a damaging effect on impressionable teenagers who may feel compelled to look as hideous and overwrought as possible to aid their future careers.

"It is alarming that a man in such an influential position is encouraging such physical depravity," said Robert McEwan, spokesperson for WHO.

"We are worried that this look will really catch on, sparking a wave of 'Prozac Chic' across the nation, particularly in political circles."

Tony Blair was unavailable for comment, because his diary is booked up 24 hours a day for the next six weeks.

the THONG

EDITOR:

Jerome Starkey

STAFF WRITERS:

Steve Abberton

Katie Archer

Christina Bracewell-Milnes

Mark Broad

Johnny Corbett

Jenny Green

Vix McCann

Apphia Michael

Tom Mullen

Anna Pollitt

Nick Tobin

Charlie White

## No Takers For Freedom

US Threatens Second Demonstration To Drum Up Customers

By Charlie White  
Thong Correspondent

The White House expressed frustration last week that more countries have not signed up to be liberated by Coalition forces.

The US administration had anticipated more requests than it could handle after such a successful marketing demonstration in Iraq.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday White House Official Toby Kroeger said: "Iraq can be taken as a showcase for what we can do, but it seems people are not convinced that we are the liberating force for them".

According to the Liberation Inc. business plan released last week by the Pentagon at least three more countries should have subscribed to various liberation packages by now.

The plan identified Iran, North Korea and Syria, as likely customers but



LIBERATORS: People remain unconvinced that the US Coalition is the liberating force for them.

apparently none of them have expressed any interest.

The Liberation programme was relaunched earlier this year to provide a fast track for countries who want to become satellites of the American Empire.

Liberation Inc. PR Chief

Katy Cox said: "We have demonstrated what we can do, Iraq was liberated in under three weeks and we give a four week guarantee of liberation or your country back".

The lack of international interest has prompted many

Americans to think another demonstration may be necessary.

"We might offer North Korea or Syria a freebie."

Anyone interested in getting liberated should contact the Liberation Inc. UK office on Whitehall.

## Christians Have Fundamentalists Too

Toon Vicar Arrested On Terror Charges For Funding Religious Organisations

By Tom Mullen  
Thong Correspondent

A North cleric was arrested on terror charges yesterday amid claims that his Sunday sermons and garden parties were connected with terrorist activities.

Armed police arrested Reverend Paul Sexton, vicar of St Thomas's church near Haymarket, during a dawn raid on his Newcastle home.

He is now being held at an undisclosed location.

Northumbria Police had received information which appeared to link Sexton to Christian fundamentalist cells throughout Europe.

They believe money he raised from a sponsored cycle ride to the coast was channelled to the notorious "Al-Messiah" terror group, and they think he is a key figure in the terrifying "Sunday School" training camps in the north of England.

His church was cordoned off after his arrest and



ST THOMAS: Harbours terrorists?

all services have been cancelled.

Investigators are reported to have found a number of suspicious items inside the churches, including Bibles, alcohol, swords, military emblems and ceremonial equipment which investigators believe might be used in some kind of "communion" ritual.

Mrs Audrey Skippergower, a regular church-goer at St Thomas' said: "We thought father Sexton was a lovely vicar. But we knew there was something a little out of the ordinary when he became outspoken about his political views in church last Sunday. He told us that the time for action had come, to rise up and spread the message of God across the world."

Ms Jean Heddley, another of Sexton's regular congregants, revealed the shocking contents of the Easter morning sermon at St Thomas'.

"The reverend told us there was only one God, a Christian God, and that the Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims

who believe otherwise must be forced to pop round to the vicarage for a nice hot cup of tea and a slice of cake," she said.

Sexton's infamous "garden parties" have also come to the attention of security services. PC Brown, of Sexton's home parish of Heaton, was among the revellers at the vicar's latest gathering last Tuesday.

He said: "I never had any reason to suspect father Sexton in the past, so I really didn't know how to react when he offered me a hot cross bun and began to talk about the bastards who masterminded the September 11th attacks on New York."

Local shopkeeper Mohammed Khan lodged an official complaint when his house was bombarded with leaflets threatening "a pint and a chat down the pub" if he didn't abandon his Muslim faith and embrace Christianity immediately.

A lawyer read a statement on Sexton's behalf. He said: "Peace be with you."

SPECIAL PULL-OUT EDITION

## SOCIAL STEREOTYPES: The Jesmond Wideboy

Winding down the window of his flash new car Dave Walker-Smith prepares to blast Osborne Road away with his wikid, top garage tunes.

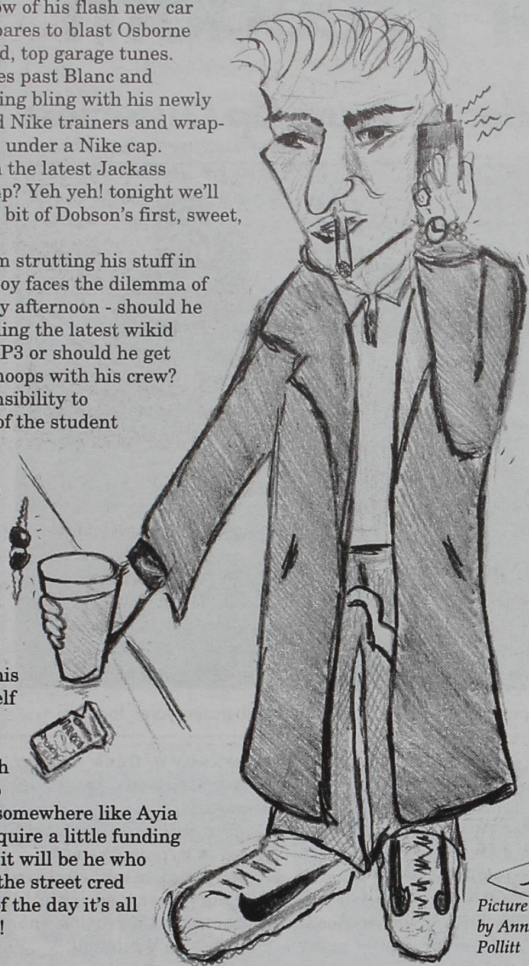
Heads turn as he races past Blanc and Osborne's feeling very bling bling with his newly peroxided hair, latest red Nike trainers and wrap-around Oakley's perched under a Nike cap.

His mobile rings with the latest Jackass ringtone: "Mate! Whazzup? Yeh yeh! tonight we'll big up Blu Bambu, wiv a bit of Dobson's first, sweet, see ya later dude."

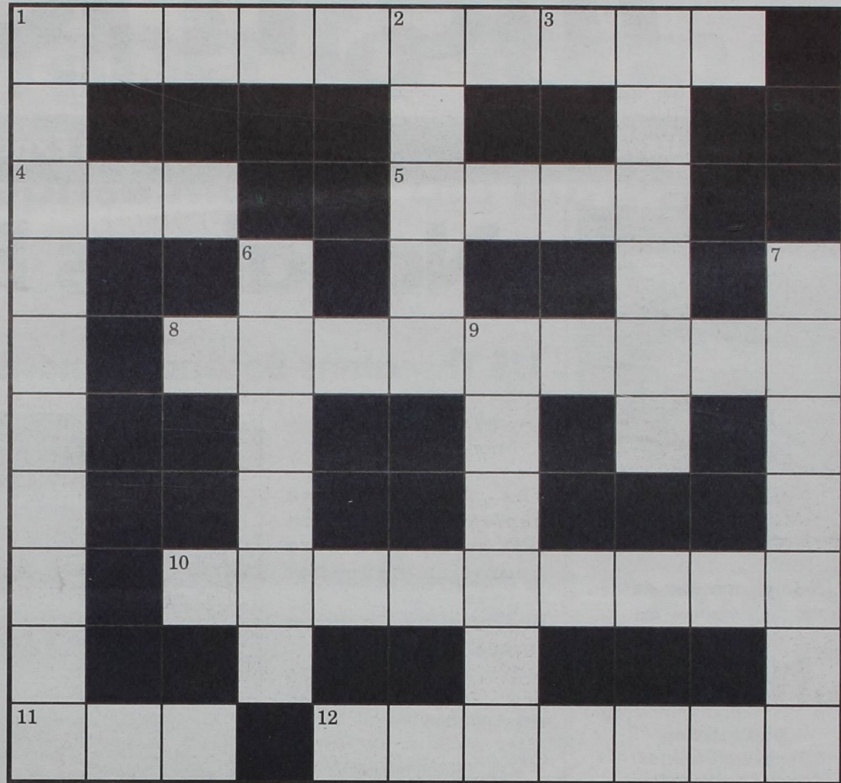
Having got home from strutting his stuff in lectures Jesmond wide-boy faces the dilemma of how to fill his Wednesday afternoon - should he spend his time downloading the latest wikid Garage tunes onto his MP3 or should he get outside and shoot some hoops with his crew? Considering it his responsibility to demonstrate to the rest of the student community how the real cool kids of Jesmond play ("They need players like me") he decides upon the latter option.

Afterwards while playing a quick session on his decks Jesmond Wide-Boy reflects on his reputation in the part of Newcastle he considers his "domain". Priding himself on being a bit of a joker as well as a risk-taker - be it in the casino or with the laydeez he makes up his mind to open a club somewhere like Ayia Napa or Ibiza - it will require a little funding from dad but ultimately it will be he who rakes in the profits and the street cred (sweet!) and at the end of the day it's all about the money - innit?!

By Vix McCann



Picture by Anna Pollitt



### Crossword No. 1



#### Across

- Keen American botanist made his brain from garden shrubbery (6,4).
- A melancholy bird has lost its other half; the boys lament its loss too (3).
- It can't be certain, I'm told this is something the desert would sorely miss (4).
- George Bush's pet pooch number two (4,5).
- ... enemy is know by the name of 'Chemical Ali' (4,5).
- A Number won in the battle for first position (3).
- Bin Laden is still cross that he never got to use this terinal flu (7).

#### Down

- Useful advice given to those in need of bladder relief (2,2,3,3).
- Device designed to intercede student enjoyment (5).
- Crouching liar, hidden weapon (6).
- Two large mountains dominate Middle Eastern country; their capital's a man (6).
- Vocal copulation (4,3).
- President's diplomatic solution to overthrowing a country's existing regime (4,2).

By Jenny Green

## Where's Saddam? Dictator Discovered In Rehab Clinic

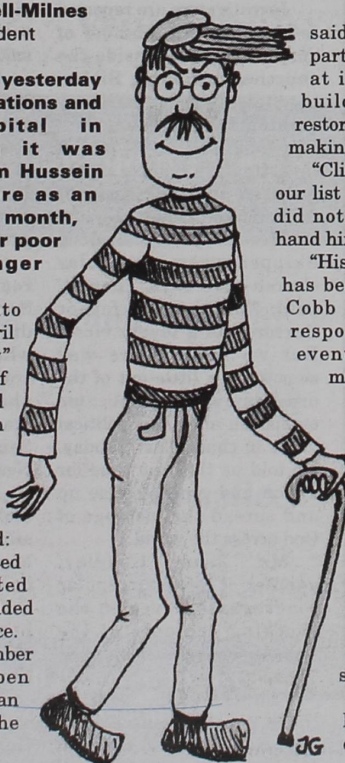
By Christina Bracewell-Milnes  
Thong Correspondent

A bitter row erupted yesterday between the United Nations and The Priory Hospital in Roehampton when it was revealed that Saddam Hussein has been living there as an inpatient for the last month, receiving treatment for poor self-esteem and anger management training.

Saddam checked into the exclusive clinic on April 9, "feeling a little low" after television footage of his statue being toppled and repeatedly beaten with footwear was shown across the international television network.

His fellow patient, Heather Mandrews said: "The stigma of being voted The World's Most Hated Man, in a recent poll added to his shaky self confidence.

"He is a popular member of the group, very open about his problems and an inspiration to us all," she added.



His therapist, Dr John Cobb said: "Saddam has been taking part in activities that are aimed at increasing self-awareness, building self-confidence and restoring self-esteem, and has been making considerable progress."

"Client confidentiality is high on our list of priorities which is why we did not contact the authorities to hand him over.

"His anger management therapy has been particularly successful," Cobb said, "He is learning to respond and react to external events without resorting to murder and tyranny."

Wolfgang Tritz, a spokesperson for United Nations said: "The Priory is in serious breach of international law and has been effectively shielding a dictator."

The hospital faces prosecution.

Previously American troops had been training to spot Saddam using cartoons similar to the one pictured.

The Pentagon suspected he might have had surgery to change his looks.

## STEEL WHEELS TOP 5 TUNES

Local street ornament Liam Russel reveals what's big on his walkman this week:

- Stuck in the middle (of Northumberland Street) with you - Steelers Wheel
- The Sign - Ace of Base
- I'm Still Standing - Elton John
- Sign of the Times - Prince
- Holding onto You - Liberty X

By Chris Abberton

## Commemorative Cards

To mark the occasion of our esteemed Prime Minister's 50th Birthday the Thong is issuing a limited edition of commemorative playing cards. The cards show Tony Blair in some of his most characteristic poses. To reserve your pack send a cheque for £99.99 and an SAE to the Thong, Union Society, Kings Walk, Newcastle, NE1 8QB. Cheques payable to "the Thong".



By Johnny Corbett

# PANIC SEX:

## 3rd Years Will Go Wild

Nick Daniell & Anna Pollitt  
Thong Correspondents

**As another university year comes to an end there will undoubtedly be a wave of 'panic sex' hitting graduating students.**

Final year students will be faced with the sudden realisation that they may not have enjoyed themselves with as many people as had once hoped.

To correct this they will indulge in a spree of no-rules, meaningless, no-strings attached sex to dispel any nagging questions such as "what would he/she be like?"

The hot weather will certainly encourage the stressed out students who want to take full advantage of the time to misbehave with no need of an excuse or repercussions. Other students should be on their guard as a rampage is set to ensue over the next month as time and opportunities run out for the frisky finalists.

### LETTERS

The Thong,  
Union Society,  
King's Walk  
Newcastle,  
NE1 8QB

courier.news@ncl.ac.uk

E-mails should be marked  
FAO: the Thong.  
We may edit letters.

Sir,

I recently received some very good advice. When I lost my keys my grandmother told me to look in the place I last had them. Is this the vital piece of intelligence missing in the search for Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden?

Fraser Trollope  
Durham

Sir,

I feel compelled to write to you to publicly thank our country's outstanding Prime Minister, Tony Blair. After months of uncertainty he has shown himself to be strong, ambitious and intelligent. With his dashing good looks and sincere smile he makes me feel that the world is not such a bad place to live in.

Tony Blair  
London

# Sugarbabes Diabetic

By Chris Abberton  
Thong Correspondent

**The Sugababes have revealed a secret bond which holds them together. The three singers are in fact diabetic.**

Suggestions have been made to change their name to Crackerbabes or Insulinbabes but have these have so far been rejected.

Keisha revealed how this had caused friction with former-bandmate Siobhan who left the band when it was revealed she was in fact not diabetic. Keisha said: "It's hard to trust somebody when you discover they have a fully functioning pancreas, it put an obvious strain on our relationship."



NOT SO SWEET: Sugarbabes considered calling themselves "the Crackerbabes."

# Quayside Too Shiny

By Johnny Corbett  
Thong Correspondent



GLARE: Too Many New Buildings

**New buildings on the Quayside are going to have to be covered up this summer because they are too shiny.**

Complaints flooded into Newcastle City Council during the recent spell of good weather about the sunlight reflecting off the Baltic and dazzling diners in the Pitcher & Piano.

"It's not just the Piano" Andrew Bullock, a city council member told The Thong, "Seven people have fallen into the Tyne because they couldn't see it, and Mal Maison say their guests have been woken up early because of the reflections."

The problem is set to get worse with the completion of the Opera House and a new

hotel this summer.

"Damn things are gonna be covered in glass," Mr Bullock said, "But we've come up with some ideas about how to solve this."

The plans currently involve either covering the buildings in cloth during sunny weather, or erecting a sight screen between two of the Tyne's bridges.

"I prefer the screen idea myself," Mr Bullock said, "We can paint an image of what's on t'other side of river on the screen - like in cartoons where they paint a tunnel on a cliff."

Newcastle is in the running for City of Culture 2008, and hope to have an improved solution to the problem before the votes are counted, The Thong will keep you updated as to their progress.



**SCIENCE NERD** needs girlfriend to make friends jealous. E-mail: foureyes@biologylab.com

**AVROS**, 29, seeks vulnerable English girl for night of cheeky-cheeky. E-mail: mediterranean\_stud@hotmail.com

**FARMER GILES** seeks a replacement pair of Wellington boots and a tractor if possible. E-mail: agrics\_r\_us@yahoo.com

**LARGE YELLOW** male seeks mute, red-haired babe for night of unadulterated passion. E-mail: homersimpson@don't\_tell\_marge.com

**WANTED** students to gain valuable Summer management experience in USA. E-mail: door\_to\_door@boringsummer.com

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE** seeks rich widow to marry. E-mail: garry@ncl.ac.uk

**ELOCUTION TEACHER** living in newcastle needed, with aim to focus on one word in particular. E-mail: bob@evening\_chronicle.com

**PRURIENT PRIEST** seeks naughty nun for night of lascivious entertainment. E-mail: disobeythe7sins@yahoo.com

**ARE YOU AWESOME?** Have you ever been rejd? Or do you rej? How often do you visit the rents? If you're not going is it because you're NFI'D or even worse NEC'D? Answers to awesome\_lenthal@hotmail.com

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# Burger Me

## Record Breaking Service At Kebab Shop

By Chris Abberton  
Thong Correspondent

**Legendary student take-away, Get Stuffed, has announced plans for a record-breaking delivery of chicken burgers to hungry customers.**

As of this Friday, attempts will be made to have one of the gourmet delights in the hands of customers before they have completed the phrase "Can I have a-"

Previously diners had to wait until they had said "Can I have a chick-" before payment was taken, a call of iChicken Burgeri was made,

causing one of the chefs to rush out of the kitchen and thrust a polystyrene box into the anxious hands of the customer. Average delivery time was 3.76 seconds, apparently too long in Get Stuffed's opinion. The new system is estimated to reduce this to just 1.45 seconds.

The success of the project is due to a secret ingredient in the mayonnaise,

90pc water, allowing it to be rushed from the oversize containers onto food in nano-seconds.

A spokesman for Get Stuffed said: "Thank you. Next please."

# Feeling Stressed?

**S**tress is part of everyday life. Moderate levels can improve performance but with exams just round the corner campus stress levels are rising and for some of us this will be reflected in the grades that do the opposite...!

Not sleeping properly, feeling nervous all the time, forgetting important things and generally lacking motivation are just some of the typical symptoms. You'd have to be a Tibetan monk not to ever experience stress but there are ways of avoiding that feeling that makes you want to pull your hair out.

At exam time, and during the revision period leading up to it, it's important to get a grip on stress – to *manage* it, as the experts would say. And the best way to start doing that is to isolate the factors that stress you out. Everyone is different but according to top psychologist and stress-guru Dr David Lewis there are three main student stressors.

Fear of not having enough time to complete your revision can be solved as simply as devising a timetable and sticking to it. A plan, a structure covering everything can be revised. Allocate short bursts of time to each subject area and take a break between each burst. After three bursts take a longer break. This pacing yourself will leave you less stressed.

Data overload is probably inevitable bearing in mind the amount of information to be revised for each exam. But you can minimise your tension by studying from only one or two books at a time, summarising notes onto cards and then revising from these.

The ultimate student *stressor*, according to Dr Lewis, is fatigue stress. Stress can cause sleepless nights. Sleepless nights leave you knackered. Being knackered makes it easier to put off the work and nip down for a pint instead. Break the cycle early, get plenty of sleep and when you are revising into the night – as you inevitably will be – manage and combat your fatigue. Caffeine drinks, says Dr Lewis, pep you up mentally, making it easier to concentrate.

Coffee isn't everyone's cup of tea (!). Even if you like the taste you might not like the toxins and tarry oils it contains. Red Bull, the stimulation drink, seems to have been designed with student life in mind. Not only does it

contain an untainted caffeine hit – about the same per can as a cuppa – but it also delivers functional amino acids which help the body detoxify. It gives you an energy boost – mentally and physically – but do yourselves a favour. Don't drink it just before bed and leave at least 30 minutes to relax between closing your books and shutting your eyes.

## Has exam revision left you stressed & distressed?

### Help yourself survive the burden of brainwork with Dr Dave's stress test.

Begin by answering the six questions in Part One:

- 1 **Since starting my revision I find it harder to fall a sleep at night**
  - a Agree. I toss and turn for ages
  - b Sometimes happens, especially if I have been revising late
  - c Disagree. I go out like a light the moment my head touches the pillow.
- 2 **I am more irritable now than when I started my revision**
  - a Agree. I feel grumpy from dawn to dusk
  - b I only lash out occasionally
  - c Disagree. I am always sweetness and light.
- 3 **Since starting my revision I:**
  - a Can hardly touch my food
  - b My appetite is unchanged
  - c I eat like a horse.
- 4 **The effect of revision on my sex life has been:**
  - a I want to do it all the time
  - b Negligible!
  - c What is a sex life?

## 5 Thinking about all the information I have to remember I:

- a Stay calm and unconcerned
- b Have an occasional panic
- c Climb up the wall screaming in terror

## 6 Since starting to revise I find:

- a I am able to concentrate as well as before
- b I sometimes find my mind wandering
- c Sorry, what was the question again?

Part Two: Now glance at the picture opposite for exactly 5 seconds, cover it up and test your memory of the picture by answering the questions below. Check your responses by glancing back at the picture.

- 1 **How many ways does the student have of telling the time?**
  - a One
  - b Two
  - c Three
  - d Four
- 2 **Anything odd about this student's time keeping? If so, what?**

(a) Nothing odd  
(b) Odd thing is .....
- 3 **What time is showing on the wall clock?**
  - a 02.00
  - b 00.00
  - c 01.30
  - d 11.30
  - e 01.00
- 4 **How many books are on the table?**
  - a 4
  - b 6
  - c 8
  - d 12
  - e 20

## Advertising Feature

5 Which of the following is NOT a title of one of those books?

- a Statistics
- b Biochemistry
- c Calculus
- d Mathematics
- e Physics

6 Are there any other books in the room?

- a No
- b Yes, stacked on floor
- c Yes, on a shelf

The student looks?

- a Full of energy and ready to run a marathon
- b As knackered as I do after a good night out
- c Tired but alert.

### ...AND THE SCORES ON THE DOORS...

#### Scoring Part One

Give yourself 1 point for each (a); 2 for each (b) and 3 for each (c)

#### Scoring Part Two

The first part of the test looked at several aspects of revision stress. Now see just how susceptible you really are...

#### Stressor #1 Time Pressures

If you were able to answer 2 or more of questions 1 - 3 correctly, fear of not having sufficient time to complete your revision could be causing you stress.

**The Cure** Devise a timetable covering all subjects to be revised. Use a large sheet of paper. Allocate 20 minutes per topic. Then take a 5-minute break. Leave your desk during this break. After three 20-minute study sessions, take a 15-minute break. Pace yourself in this way and you will be less stressed by time pressures.

#### Stressor #2 Data Overload

If you answered 2 of questions 4 - 6 correctly, you could be stressed by the amount of information to be revised.

**The Cure** Revise with only one, or at the most two books on your desk. Summarise notes onto cards and study from these.

#### Stressor #3 Fatigue Stress

If you answered 2 of questions 7-9 correctly, fatigue could well be adding to your stress.

**The Cure** Caffeine drinks (such as coffee and Red Bull Stimulation) pep you up mentally, making it easier to concentrate. Never revise right up to bedtime. Leave at least 30 minutes between closing your books and shutting your eyes.



7 How many stars in the sky?

- a None, it is daylight!
- b None, only the moon
- c Six
- d Three
- e Two

8 How many coffee mugs are on the table?

- a None
- b Two
- c Three
- d Six

#### Your Score

**6 - 9:** Stress levels are normal. You seem to be surviving revising. But watch out for a sudden stress surge as exam deadlines creep closer.

**10 - 14:** Stress levels are rising. Could be revision pressures are getting to you. Check out likely causes with the picture test results that follow.

**15 - 18:** Your stress levels are high, and this could be making revising far harder than necessary. Check likely causes by...scoring the picture test:

### Dr Dave a.k.a Dr David Lewis

With more than 30 best-selling books behind him, Dr Dave (a.k.a Dr David Lewis BSc(Hons), DPhil, FISMA, FINSDT.C. Psychol...phew!) is an award-winning psychologist of the highest order.

Formerly a journalist, his research into human performance and stress has been featured in numerous TV programmes worldwide, and BBC's QED series once devoted an entire show to his work.

Much of Dr Dave's work has focused on stress and stress management for young people and students - hence his expertise in preparing this self-help stress test for you...

# what's hot to watch this summer...

Unfortunately The Courier has come to an end for another year, so to keep you all informed on what's hot and what's not we've put together the definitive list of what's sizzling in the Arts this summer...

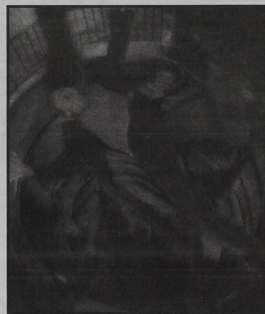
## cinema

the matrix: reloaded... hulk ...  
charlie's angels 2 ... anger  
management ... lara croft &  
the cradle of life: tomb raider 2  
... the eye ... american pie 3:  
piece of cake .. bad boys II ... terminator 3: rise of the machines



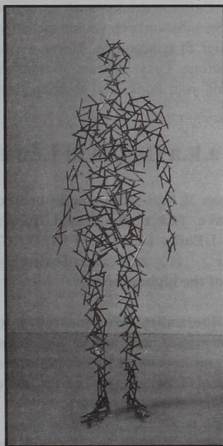
## theatre

@ THEATRE ROYAL ... paul taylor  
dance company 16 - 17 july ...  
opera north's  
productions of  
mozart's 'the  
magic flute',  
belioz's 'la  
damnation de  
faust' and  
martinu's  
'julieta' 20 - 24  
july ... the blues  
brothers 30 june  
- 5 july ... my one and only 29  
july - 8 aug

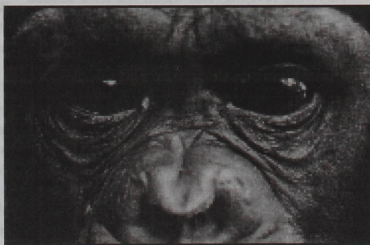


## exhibitions

@THE BATLIC ...  
anthony gormley  
17 may - 25 aug ...  
liisa kottinen 5  
july - 3 aug ... lev  
manovich 21 july  
- 26 sept



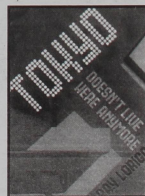
'domain', sculpture by  
anthony gormley



@ THE PLAYHOUSE ... the chimp  
that spoke 22 - 24 may ... the  
black eyed roses 17-28 june

## books

... don delillo 'cosmopolis' ... ray loriga 'tokyo doesn't love us  
any more'



# exhibition...

## PARADISE

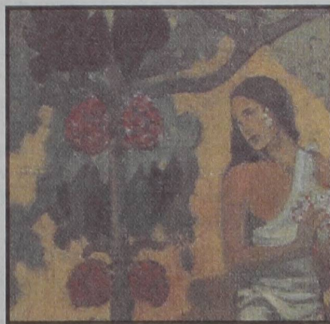
### @ THE LAING ART GALLERY

ESCAPISM FROM our everyday and somewhat mundane lives to a place of tranquillity and harmony is the principal theme of the Paradise Exhibition at the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle.

'Paradise' has throughout the ages had religious connotations, with for example the biblical garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve lived in wonderful, unspoilt surroundings free from the evils and sins of the world. Indeed 'paradise' often encapsulates the idea that we can find our own retreat of purity and perfection. This image is conveyed by several



CLAUDE MONET'S 'THE WATER-LILY POND', 1899



PAUL GAUGUIN'S 'FAA IHEIHE', 1898

secretive enclosures bordered with pale blue skies. Indeed, nature as a utopia is a common theme in most of the pieces at the exhibition including paintings by artists such as Lorrain and Constable.

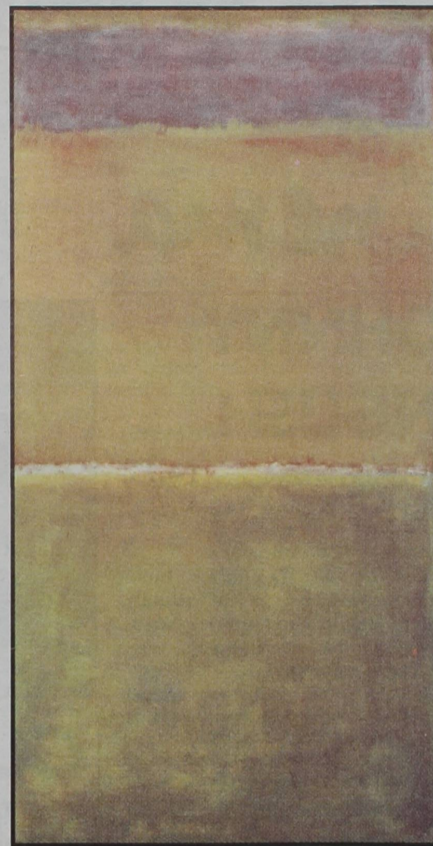
Greek and Roman myths, coupled with the classical era itself, can be seen as the source of inspiration for other artists like Garafalo and Poussin. I found these paintings to be more animated as they show the jollity behaviour of the people who live in these imagined places.

There are also more contemporary pieces which break from the traditional religious and mythical depictions of 'paradise'. These were intriguing and I often found myself gazing at them as if they were some form of 3-d optical illusion. The famous Water Lily Pond by Monet was my personal favourite, although this is probably because it so well-known and to actually see the real thing was quite amazing.

If, like me, you are not artistically clued-up, this collection should still appeal. The paintings are, on some level, a form of escapism whilst you actually stare at them in the gallery. They make you realise that there is more to life than the dizzy heights of urban living and that we all really need our own little piece of perfect paradise to retreat to, even if it does only exist within our heads. Just to be reminded of that makes this exhibition worth a look.

different artists in the exhibition, including Jan Bruegel the Elder's 'Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden'. This painting depicts the pair before they eat the forbidden fruit surrounded by a prominent forest setting filled with an array of different animals living together harmoniously.

In contrast, other paintings depict tranquil landscapes with somewhat



MARK ROTHKO'S 'UNTITLED', 1950

*The collection will be on show in Newcastle until 29th June and admission is free.*

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# REVIEWS

## Cinema

### JOHNNY ENGLISH

**TV SITCOMS rarely survive the transition to feature-length status. Just look at Ali G Indahouse. The chances of success for Johnny English, based on Rowan Atkinson's buffoonish secret agent in the flimsier form of Barclaycard commercials, were even more remote.**

The film's limited plot revolves around Johnny English, a security operative with limited responsibilities at MI7. He must foil a plan to steal the crown jewels after all the other agents are killed due to his negligence.

Attempting to spoof the James Bond series is a thankless task when 007's reputation as a debonair lover is so firmly steeped in irony. In some respects, Johnny English bears closer resemblance to the Inspector Clouseau series. But Peter Sellers was a comedy genius of great range whilst Atkinson is much more limited; his character serves as a cross between Black Adder's pomposity and Mr. Bean's slapstick ineptitude.

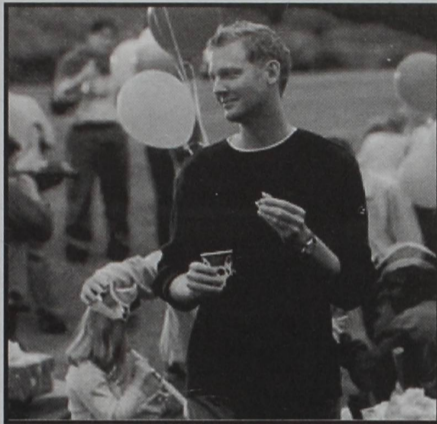
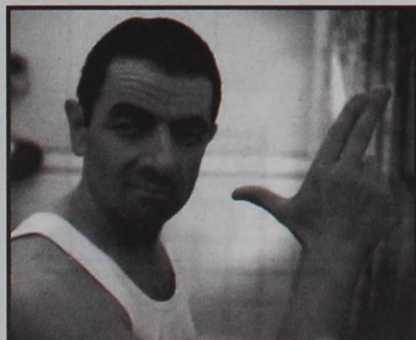
Almost inevitably, Johnny English is virtually a one joke movie based on the mistaken premise that the mere idea of a bungling intelligence operative is amusing. The film attempts numerous variations on his clothing getting stuck in doors and machinery as he attempts to chase villains, together with the literal toilet humour of his soiled white jacket. What is surprising, though, is how muted it is, failing to induce a single raucous laugh from the audience at the screening I attended.

There are a few gently amusing moments, especially a chase scene in which English's high-speed, gadget-strewn car is attached to a pick-up truck. A sequence in which, anticipating the impending coronation, stamps and sterling are printed featuring Sauvage as the monarchs head should amuse those with recollections of Malkovich entering the portal to his own brain in Being John Malkovich. Otherwise, Savage's presence serves mainly as the butt of feeble and ill-timed anti-French jokes.

Quite why Johnny English is top of the box office charts is a mystery that would defeat far more perceptive investigators than this film's hopeless hero.

ANDREW NEAL

HOT FLICKS RATING:



### OLD SCHOOL

**SET IN an American Uni, Old School shows us pom's, how little we have in common with the yanks across the pond. The staple of the student lifestyle - alcohol - unites us with our fellow scholars across the globe. However, that peculiarly American invention, the fraternity, an all male society based on the principals of family is something that the British have not yet replicated. After watching this film we should be very thankful.**

In order to rescue their recently dumped companion from being evicted, a group of thirtysomethings decide to relive their college days by setting up a fraternity unconstrained by petty rules such as age or giving back to the community. Eventually the inevitable happens, leaving this group of men together with alcohol leads to streaking, KY Jelly wrestling and ultimately, death. However, when the evil dean threatens the students with expulsion these sad, middle-aged, beer monsters learn the true meaning of brotherhood and pull together to prove themselves worthy of their educational establishment.

Those who desire intelligence and subtle nuance in their comedy are looking in the wrong place. Will Ferrell, most famous for his role in the Austin Powers films, expertly delivers the sick humour now expected in campus-based comedies. However, these characters are anything but black and white, surprising the audience by not conforming to their expectations and reinforcing male stereotypes. We are allowed to see that a life of non-stop partying is not all that these characters want. By gaining the audience's sympathy in this way we are laughing with them and not at them.

Old School, opening nationwide from 9th May, is a pleasant evening's entertainment for fans of the gross out genre and those less enthusiastic. Those not impressed by the cheerleading obese will be intrigued by the characters and the unexpected, selfless choices they make.

CHARLOTTE EDGE

HOT FLICKS RATING:



### THE ACTORS

**How refreshing to see a film with no background knowledge whatsoever on it. When I went to see it, all I knew was that it was called 'The Actors' and starred Michael Caine and Dylan 'Black Books' Moran. That information alone recommended it to me. But I don't want you to have the same lack of knowledge. So please, read on...**

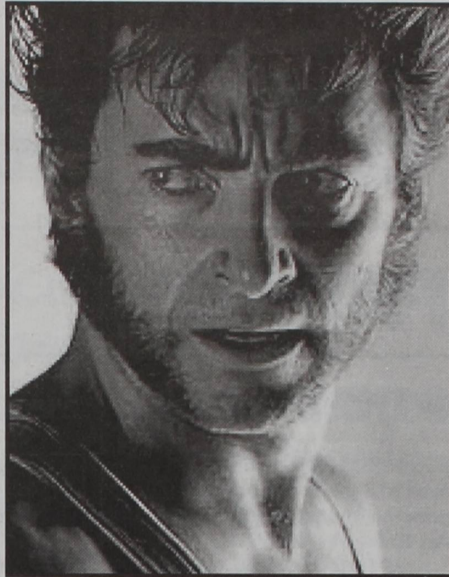
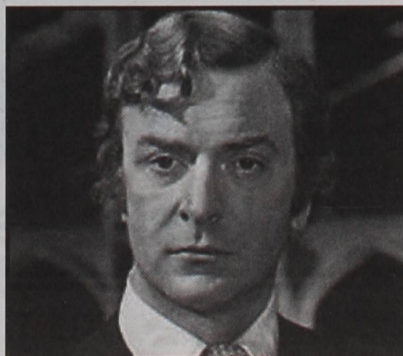
Essentially, the film follows in the tradition of a 'caper movie'. One night, in a bar in the rough end of a non-specific Irish city, down on his luck actor Tony O'Malley (Caine) overhears 'Barreller' (Michael Gambon) discuss some money he owes to another party, the mysterious 'Magnani'. Barreller and Magnani have never met, and so O'Malley realises that Barreller's money can be his, if he can 'produce' one of Magnani's representatives. Enter Tom Quirk, another down and out actor, and O'Malley's friend and confidante. O'Malley leans on Tom to play the part of Magnani's representative, and suitably chaotic fun ensues for all involved.

Sadly, Caine's performance seems to be a worse version of character he played in 'Dirty Rotten Scoundrels', which is disappointing given the calibre of performance he is usually capable of (see 'The Quiet American', 'Get Carter', 'The Cider House Rules'...). This doesn't matter though, as Dylan Moran proves that he is capable of more than just 'Black Books', with a truly great, even sympathetic performance. Michael Gambon provides both tremendous fodder for Moran, and the token 'lovable rogue', without which, a caper movie would be incomplete. Incidentally, the performance from Gambon's wig is likewise, eminently enjoyable.

The writer and director of the piece, Conor McPherson, presents a by-the-book 'caper rom-com'. There's nothing wrong with this, but by sticking to genre conventions so stringently, nothing in the film surprises. There's a soft, playful poke at cultural stereotypes, a criminal with a heart of gold, an uneventful and totally predictable romance, and the 'happily ever after' that these films require. It is, as my Mum would put it, 'a nice little story'. So, don't go and see this film if you're looking for a comedy that's slightly different or edgy, or one that involves engaging the brain at all. This doesn't mean that it's not an enjoyable cinematic experience, but there are better films out at the moment, and you can afford to let this one slip by the wayside, even if you don't get to see the striking resemblance Dylan Moran and Jarvis Cocker have.

By DANIELLE GIBSON

HOT FLICKS RATING:



### X2

**FOLLOWING A mutant assassination attempt on the President, Colonel William Stryker initiates a war on mutants, specifically the superhero group, the X-Men. Now, they must join with their sworn enemy, Magneto, to survive; while Wolverine discovers that Stryker holds the key to his murky past...**

Where would mutants be without evolution? In 2000, general consensus had it that the first X-Men movie, while enjoyable, was somehow lacking; that Bryan Singer, director of the Usual Suspects, was patently uncomfortable working within the big bucks arena. Well, what a difference three years makes: for Singer has evolved. And as a result, X2 is one of the finest comic book movie to date, and a film that in every conceivable way improves upon its predecessor.

Singer's evolution is confirmed in the amazing opening sequence in which the teleporting Nightcrawler (Alan Cummings, the first of the X-men to be beaten with the ugly stick) attempts, under duress, to assassinate the American President. As he teleports around, moving too fast for terrified Secret Service agents one thing is clear: Singer no longer has any hang-ups about handling action. Which is just as well, as X2 redefines 'action-packed', including incidents both large and small.

With a \$50 million budget increase, this is the first comic book movie to really explore the potential of its heroes' powers. Storm (Halle Berry) sets tornadoes on a pair of fighter jets in a cracking dogfight sequence; Jean Grey's telekinesis expands at a frightening rate. Professor X's (Patrick Stewart) telepathy has almost disastrous consequences. Singer handles the range of powers smoothly and faithfully.

At 130 minutes, X2 is some 37 minutes longer than the original, and Singer needs every second of it, for there's a lot to cram in. Amazingly, though, Singer avoids the 'too many cooks' syndrome that so tarnished the Batman films, while at the same time giving pretty much everyone something meaningful to do.

X2 is also possessed of an emotional complexity that won't surprise comic fans. This film wears its heart on its sleeve, be it Wolverine's search for his past, the poignant sequence in which Iceman 'comes out' to his family, or Magneto's corrupting influence upon the X-Men. The plot, in which hatred of a minority group threatens to spark a global war, is frighteningly topical and Singer doesn't flinch from showing that resolution often comes at a bitter price - albeit one which paves the way for a pleasingly inevitable X3.

There are problems - the third act sags a little under the sheer amount of storylines; while some of the dialogue is a little heavy. However, this thought-provoking and stylish flick has opened the summer of superheroes in fine style. X2 is going to be hard to top.

ANDREW PARKINSON

HOT FLICKS RATING:



## books

**I'M NOT SCARED**by **NICCOLO AMMANITI**  
(CANONGATE BOOKS)

**THIS IS** the story of Michele, a nine year old boy, who one day undertakes a forfeit set by fellow gang members. Little does he know that it will change his life, as this book captures Michele's heroic attempt to prevent a potentially horrifying situation.

Set in the summer of 1978 in Acqua Traversa, a country hamlet in the south of Italy. But this is to be no ordinary summer for the residents who live in the district of Lucignano. They are to endure the hottest summer of the century, but more importantly they will have to deal with a secret that makes adults and children alike doubt their own human decency. Michele has to fulfill a forfeit that infamous gang leader Skull had set for him. Upon completion of this challenge Michele discovered something that is so terrible, that he feels unable to tell anyone. Michele then has to deal with betrayal from his best friend Salvatore, whom Michele confided in, only to be let down by the person who he trusted completely.

Michele's belief in humanity rapidly decreases due to further betrayal from his own father. He adores his own family but they turn out not to be the people he thought he knew and loved. Michele has a lot to deal

with: a five year old sister Maria, who he has to constantly look after; a scorching hot summer which seems endless; friends whom he thinks he can trust but he can't; and a rather unstable family life. His Papa is rarely at home, which has knock-on effects on Michele and his sister. Whilst Mama is often at the end of her tether.

Although only relatively short in length - 195 pages - the suspense is still allowed to climax, enabling the full extent of the secret to be revealed gradually. Whatever it is that Michele discovers has far-reaching deadly consequences.

At times the storyline quite unbelievable. The end of the story is shocking and abrupt. The story climaxed on the very last page, with no discussion concerning the aftermath of Papa's actions. The aim was to shock which it certainly did.



CLAIRE SOFIELD

**A LIFE INSIDE:  
A PRISONER'S  
NOTEBOOK**by **ERWIN JAMES (GUARDIAN  
BOOKS)**

**'THAT NICK'S a dodgy bastard.' No doubt a worthwhile statement about Nick Bateman of Big Brother fame, but ironic nonetheless coming from one of James' fellow inmates in a high security prison.**

Such an extract from Erwin James' collection, *A Life Inside*, highlights the need for humour when facing such bleak conditions. The inclusion of amusing anecdotes makes the serious ones stand out far more effectively and allow for entertaining rather than ultimately depressing reading.

Erwin James was sentenced to life imprisonment nineteen years ago while still a young man. His published writing began three years ago when he started writing for the Guardian about life in prison and *A Life Inside* is a collection of these pieces.

Perhaps the first thing I noticed about this collection was the vividness of the characters described by James. It is possible to form clear mental images even of the ones introduced only briefly. Their nicknames are amusing and appropriate, though not necessarily thought of by James, such as Torchy, an inmate who had an unfortunate incident with a few batteries.

Another pleasing aspect of this book was the ease with which I read it. As a relatively slow reader I was amazed at the speed with which I was able to read it, no doubt aided by the length of the stories, which, though short,

manage to convey so much information.

James professes to have wasted his life before beginning his time in prison, his first brushes with the law being at the early age of ten. However, it is clear that he has used his time inside to educate and better himself. No doubt this may seem like a patronising comment but this is exactly what he is urging others to do when faced with a similar situation to his own. James is accepting of his time in prison, acknowledging responsibility for his actions and this underlines the sincerity of his comments.

James' account is an interesting and engaging description of life behind prison walls which is extremely well written and difficult to put down. His words emphasise the fact that sometimes justice can be unjust: prisoners' struggles in the war of survival perhaps far outweigh their crimes. However the warmth with which he writes also signifies the benefits of both the relationships and rehabilitation which prison can provide.

Probably the most important lesson to be learned from *A Life Inside* is that people in prison are human like the rest of us. These are people who were affected by September 11 and the death of Princess Diana like everybody else. It is observations like this which mean that readers may be saddened when they hear that freed long term prisoners have to relearn the most basic of things, such as how to cross the road or how to climb a hill.

The most powerful testimony to the humanity of the inmates is our like of Erwin James despite the fact that he has clearly committed a very serious offence. We never find out what he did but it's irrelevant anyway. As he is so willing to point out, it is the person that we should see first, not the crime. Erwin James' first book provides intelligent and entertaining insight into something most of us would choose to ignore and it is certainly recommended.

FRAN NAISH

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## INTERVIEW: ATHLETE

**Hailing from Deptford Athlete are four lads who write mellow indie pop songs that it's easy to sing along to. Over the Easter hols we met them in Stockton on Tees to ask them about their new album and penguins... obviously.**

**So, two of the lads are dads now aren't they?**

Yeah, Joel and Tim at Christmas both had kids. Weirdly, two weeks apart as well, so that's really strange that they kind of managed to time it, both of them were surprised.

**Is that going to change things, do you think?**

No, I don't think so. We've been touring for three weeks and we've got another week, so I think that's a bit difficult for them, you know, like anyone would be being away from home, but I think they know that that's what we do now. Their women know that this is what we do. I don't think it's easy for them.

**The album's out soon...**

Yeah, 7<sup>th</sup> April, so that's the big thing really, what we've been waiting for, but we're all really happy with it, so we'll wait and see how it goes, I reckon having an album that you're really happy with and then having to give it to people and see what they say... kind of the next two weeks probably will be when we find out, read the reviews. El Salvador's out next week... **You've released quite a lot of singles.**

Well, we released an EP first and then two singles, so the way it's worked out is that we haven't had the album ready, we've just released things!

**Seems like a more relaxed way of doing things.**

Yeah, I think so. I think ideally we'd have liked the album to come out before now, but when we signed our record deal we didn't have an album's worth of songs that we'd decided on. We'd written loads and loads of songs but we said to our record company we want time to be able to write, and develop what we're doing a little bit more, so that was cool. And so, it was just quite strange

that we released our first EP, maybe a little bit too soon, because then people were expecting an album straightaway. At the same time, it was quite good doing it that way, because it just kind of slowly builds up, people get used to having you around as opposed to just suddenly you're in people's faces, I think we preferred that way of things working.

**You got quite a lot of exposure last summer though, with Jo Whitey picking up on you, and the 4Music thing...**

Yeah, we had a reasonable amount with the two main singles, that's really, really good, and I think that hopefully the plan is that it will step up a gear now with the album.

**You're picking up good airplay for El Salvador...**

Yeah, we're really pleased about that. It's always a bit of a gamble when you put a single out, because you never know whether people are really going to go for it or not.

**Putting out several singles before the album release should almost guarantee better album sales...**

Yeah, I totally agree. I think that that, and also the fact that we've been touring...

**How are you finding touring with Longview again?**

It's cool, because we know them from that tour, so it's nice just meeting up again. Most of the tours we've been on we've got on really well with the other bands, but this tour, because we know them reasonably well from that, and the first bands on have either been... well we've had three first bands on and the latest ones are mates of ours from back home, and the band before, Fonda 500 who we asked to do a B-side for us because we liked them for ages and ages, and another band called Repairman from whom Tom, one of the guys, is a good mate, so it's nice, it's really friendly, a kind of family vibe.

**And how've you found the tour so far?**

Erm, good, we're about nineteen (dates) down now, so we've been all over the place, South Coast, Portsmouth, Oxford,



Bristol... Manchester, Scotland... and then back down here...

**Are you playing any festivals?**

Yeah, I think we're doing V and Glastonbury, and we'd really like to go to T in the Park as well, because we did that last year and it was really, really good. Witness in Dublin was good too.

**Glastonbury's got to be the highlight, surely...**

Yeah, it's going to be wicked this year. We're trying to get it so that we can go, and if we can, kind of hide our bus somewhere so we can sleep on that and stay for the whole weekend, but I don't know if we'll get away with it. We just want to see Prince and Radiohead...

**You've recently been interviewed by the NME. Does it feel weird to get attention from them, when it's been all the 'New Rock Revolution' stuff and you don't fit into that bracket?**

I think that... our press woman has been trying to get us in there for a long, long time and they always said no, because we don't know where to put them and they don't fit in with anything at the moment, so we'd kind of given up on it really, but everyone else has been really positive, Q are really into us and want to do something soon. It's been really good from everyone else, but not from them, that was the reason they gave us, and then suddenly they said Oh, yeah we do want to do something, and they sent someone up to review one of our gigs. Our single review went in this week, it was an odd review, they didn't really say whether they liked it or not, I don't know... they just didn't really say anything. It's a bit odd. But a lot of the NME reviews can be like that, you're reading through and thinking 'what are you trying to say?' They use a load of metaphors for nothing... There's only, like, two reviews this last week where they were definite, positive reviews, saying 'this is really good,' and three where it was 'this is really bad,' but all the others were just like... didn't really make any sense. And also, they do

kind of have their 'buzz' bands and all those bands get the single of the week or their little features. But that's cool, whatever, we don't really take it seriously...

**You don't seem the type of band that does take things too seriously, or to strut around saying 'we're the greatest...!'**

We don't need to, 'cause, you know... We've never been any way other than the way we are. I don't think you can take it too seriously, you have to take it seriously in so far as this who we are, and what we do, and we want to be really good at it, and make really great albums, but you have to take a lot of things with a pinch of salt, 'cause you never know what's going to happen tomorrow. I think that's the way to treat life as well, really. Especially press... you can change your opinions, really quickly, like with the NME. **The new album - Vehicles and Animals... What are your favourite vehicles and animals?!**

I really like those big old American trucks, or F-reg Astras... I had one for a long time but it just died... and we share a passion for penguins. Penguins are hilarious, they're always the funniest thing if you go to the zoo, they just look funny. Imagine, if penguins could speak, what they would sound like... If they could speak English, I always thought they'd sound like Jonathan Ross. The idea of penguins speaking is just hilarious, full stop.

**What is the title actually about?**

Well, the song Vehicles and Animals is just about finding a place of contentment really, a lot of our album is about Deptford where we live, that's what it's inspired by, all our friends around us, and actually we're quite content. Vehicles and Animals was inspired by my nephew, he's four and just plays with his toys for hours by himself and is just completely happy, and the idea behind it is just, 'I want to be like him and just be happy playing by myself.' With my toys.

**Interviewed by: Sally Cook & Al Smith**



## LIVE REVIEWS

**Orange Evolution Festival @ Newcastle and Gateshead Quayside, 05/05/03**

A warm Bank Holiday afternoon on the Quayside. Sounds nice. Add to this a fantastic line-up and the fact that it's free and you've got yourself a deal.

Well it may seem like a dream come true, but in reality it wasn't that great as the many attendees may tell you.



The crowd wasn't really a festival standard, lots of families and a fair scattering of charvers amongst the usual music fans. The day took on a bizarre and scatty feel. Biffy Clyro came on, stopped and then came back about half an hour later. Dirty Vegas didn't come at all. But that's festivals for you.

The time schedule seemed to go out of the window with most of the bands appearing late, if

they even appeared at all. Cosmic Rough Riders managed to offend most



families in the Baltic Square, having a row with the sound engineer with many, many expletives.

Jean-Jaques Smoothie played a surprisingly good live set with a full band, whilst Junior Senior proved to be little more than one hit wonders.

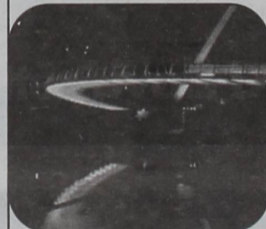
As far as headliners go Moloko weren't bad, even though most of their set was made up of new tracks.



Unfortunately seeing them meant missing out on Inspiral Carpets who, by all accounts were better.

**Shindig's 11th Birthday Party @ Baltic Square, 04/05/03**

Shindig's Baltic Square bash wasn't marred by the sound problems that the Orange festival had on the Monday, although they shared a few things in common, namely bar prices, which were a whopping £3



for half a pint.

The venue was fantastic, the Millennium Bridge used once again for the entrance to the gig, and even the weather held out.

Club resident Scooby played a crowd-pleasing set yet still managing to stay on the underground side of house.

Tim Deluxe, the producer behind last year's massive



'It Just Won't Do' played a great funky set, including his bootleg of club smash 'Finally' and Layo and Bushwacka's 'Love Story'.

Unfortunately Tim didn't have such a great night after riding a BMX across the stage he fell off and had to be stretchered



off. Erick Morillo followed from Tim Deluxe and played a great set to end the night.

## THANKYOU'S

And so the end is near... My last Courier ever. Well at least I managed to get a picture of penguins before I left (my favourite animal).

Thankyou to everyone who's helped over the last couple of years, the writers, the PRs, the clubs, the bands and the promoters.

Thanks (in no order) to:

Ann, Paul, Arthur (the don), Nev, Kara, Phil, Sally, Adam, Nat, Arin, Jonny, Sarah, Sam, Lee, Jackman, Maddie, Jim, Jenny, Scott & Scooby, Polly, Stan, Dolly, Tim, Revere, Beccy, Verity, Dave 'Happy Singer', Simma, Jake and all those who I've missed out (no offence).

Al

NOW IS THE SUMMER OF OUR DISCO TENTS...

**Virgin Trains Move Festival @ Old Trafford, Manchester, 11-13/07/03**

VT Move is a festival owned by a rail company, which shouldn't really surprise many people in this age of corporate sponsorship, but it has its advantages (£5 travel to Manchester from anywhere on the Virgin Rail network anyone?).



Anyway, aside from the ubiquitous big brand tie-ins the festival looks pretty promising. Three days of world class acts playing in the middle of a city seems almost too good to be true, but fortunately it is.

Undoubtedly the biggest draw for VT Move is REM, 2003's busiest festival act, but with the Manics and The Charlatans heading the remaining days it becomes clear why this festival gets two thumbs up from me.

Friday sees Super Furry Animals, The Flaming Lips and hotly-tipped newcomers Kinesis providing support for Welsh rock legends Manic Street Preachers.

Manchester's own newly-reformed Inspirational Carpets play on the Saturday with Feeder and Depeche Mode's Dave Gahan, in anticipation of North-West headliners The Charlatans.

Sunday is surely beyond comparison though with REM closing the festival. In addition to this you can expect to see Badly Drawn Boy, ex-Stone Rose John Squire and Idlewild, as well as Courier fave's Athlete.

Buy your tickets from the following:

Ticketmaster - 0870 151 4444 (open 24 hours)  
Gigsandtours  
www.gigsandtours.com  
Wayahead Box Office - 0870 120 2221 (24hr ec hotline)  
Piccadilly Box Office - 0161 832 1111

Or you can go to: Virgin Megastores in Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds and Sheffield Easy Internet Cafe, St Annes Square, Manchester Radio City Box Office, St John's Centre, Liverpool Royal Court Box Office, Liverpool

Tickets are priced £28.50 (Sunday) and £27.50 (Friday and Saturday)



**T in the Park @ Balado near Kinross, Scotland, 12-13/07/03**

T in the Park is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year, in festival years that's almost as old as me. Here's another pointless fact about the festival: when I went a few years ago I got one of my shoes nicked and had to walk through the centre of Edinburgh wearing only one shoe. Nice.

The line-up this year looks great and is headlined by REM and Coldplay. Strange then that it hasn't sold out already like every other bloody festival in the UK (I blame it on the young whippersnappers with their Solo cards).

For some reason the festival features Appleton on the (usually respectable) King Tut's stage, although I'll not hold that against them as the rest of the line-up features some true gems. The much-hyped-but-still-good White Stripes play, as do dance music geniuses Underworld (with DJ Darren



Price, what is it with them and DJs called Darren?)

The Flaming Lips, The Datsuns, The Music, The Polyphonic Spree, The Coral, The Cardigans and The Polyphonic Spree all help to raise the number of 'the' bands on the bill to a mighty 16. As well as raising the bar they're damn good acts too, except for The Music who make me want to shove biro's into my ears.

Super Furry Animals, Mull Historical Society and Athlete look promising is you like sing-along fun, but Proclaimers are a mistake, even if they were just booked because they're Scottish.

Tom McCrae, Turin Brakes and Ed Harcourt provide an extra singer-songwriter edginess to the occasion, if it were needed after Coldplay.

The dance line-up is strong as usual with Deep Dish, Royksopp and FC Kahuna adding their brand of music to the mix.

Personally though I was sold on REM and Underworld.

**Homelands @ Matterley Bowl near Winchester, 24/05/03**

Homelands is a festival very close to my heart. For me it signifies the start of the summer and a welcome break from exam stress. It's also the only festival that I've attended for the last two years running.

Last years Homelands was sweltering, so hot in fact that records warped in the heat at the Bacardi B-Bar. Here's hoping that this year will be equally tropical.

The line-ups are what makes Homelands my favourite dance festival, and this year is no exception.

Groove Armada and The Streets both play live sets, while Chemical Brothers play a headlining DJ set, surely reason enough to chance the appalling rail service to Hampshire. The fun doesn't stop there though, with 9 stages of DJs and live acts.

Kosheen, De La Soul, Mint Royale and Audio Bullys are among the other acts to grace the live arena, following in the footsteps of Pulp and Soft Cell who have both performed live here before.

The aforementioned Chemical Brothers headline Arena 1 while Oakenfold, Sasha and (friend of The Courier) John Digweed provide ample support.

Danny Howells and James Zabiela are my picks from the rest of the DJs.

Arena 2 is House, House and yet more House. Former Courier interviewees Roger Sanchez and Steve Lawler provide US House and driving tribal rhythms respectively and Radio 1's Pete Tong also plays.

Arena 3 would please the most awkward of d'n'b heads, and with such a large following in the North East, I'm sure many of you may journey South. Photek, Andy C, Hype and DJ Marky all play.

The Techno arena features Umek, Dave Clarke and Slam and aims to dispel the myth that 'nobody listens to techno'.

Arena 5 should really be known as 'the Hoxton Arena' featuring Electroclash and Bootleg pop luminaries aplenty. 2 Many DJs, UNKLESOUNDS and Grandmaster Flash are surely highlights.

The Radio 1 Outdoor Stage features jocks Fergie, Seb Fontaine, Judge Jules and Dave Pearce (who managed to switch off the amp during his set last year). They're joined by special guest Timo Maas.

The Bacardi B-Bar and Strongbow Rooms provide DJs of varying notoriety for your delectation while supping.

**The Carling Weekend @ Little Johns Farm, Reading and Temple Newsam, Leeds, 22-24/08/03**

Reading and Leeds are THE rock festivals. Leeds has been so rock in recent years that the council had had originally refused the license due to festival goers torching the toilet blocks and rioting. Having been to the festival a few times myself I think the rioters were saving the organisers time and money by burning the toilets as that was the safest way to sanitise them.

Flaming loo-roll aside, Reading and Leeds are



established rock festies with a damn good line-up to boot.

Metallica, Linkin Park and the decidedly un-rawk Blur headline the three day event, whilst The White Stripes, The Libertines, Beck and Placebo are must-sees.

Festival favourites Primal Scream play as do comedy-punk act Blink-182 and gangsta rap heavyweight Jay-Z.

This festival is usually a bit more rockin' having led in the past to me seeking sanctuary in the comedy



tent. This year System of a Down are about as hard as it gets, with many of the NME's pigeon-holed 'new rock revolution' acts taking the reins.

Electric Six play a much anticipated set, unlike 'punk' act Good Charlotte, although I'm sure they'll go down well with the kids in hoodies.

Not a bad festival over all, but most of the best acts are playing elsewhere as well. I suppose that's a blessing in disguise as weekend camping tickets have already sold out for Reading and I'm sure Leeds isn't very far behind.

If I were you, I'd save my money though and go to a day or so from the other festivals, although I can personally recommend the comedy tent.



**Glastonbury Festival @ Worthy Farm, Pilton, 27-30/06/03**

Okay so we all know the story, it sold out very quickly to people who sold the tickets on E-bay for hundreds of quid. Not really in the festival spirit. It also means the festival will be populated with people loaded enough to



purchase the tickets in an online auction.

Glastonbury is the daddy of all festivals but in recent years it all seems to have become a bit too corporate, with state of the art security fences and a helipad for those wishing to arrive in style from 'the city'.

All this aside the Eavis' booking policy seems to be paying off again with some of the best headliners from the past few years uniting to provide a feast of festival entertainment.

Radiohead, REM and Moby have all played amazing sets at Glasto recently so it will be a real treat to see them all on one bill.

Super Furry Animals will be playing this year after cancelling last years

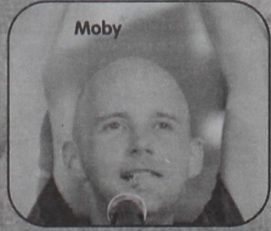


commitments when they couldn't find a decent sound man.

Suede, The Strokes and The Cooper Temple Clause are all strongly rumoured to be playing. Jools Holland also resides in the rumoured list, despite the fact that the small pianist always plays and always hosts the BBC's outside broadcasts from Glasto.

Prince is rumoured to be playing this year, which would be a great act, personally I'd like to see him and Jools Holland have a bit of a jam session, imagine the results.

I suppose I'm preaching to the converted in that if



you're going you'll already have tickets, but there are still a small amount of tickets available on t'Internet.

**V Festival @ Hylands Park, Chelmsford and Weston Park, Staffordshire, 16-17/08/03**

V is the ultimate corporate-packaged family-friendly middle-of-the-road festival, which has its advantages, but may put off some people.

This festival follows a two-day, two-site pattern where the bands play at both sites on different days, presumably passing somewhere on the motorway in between.



Coldplay and David Gray exemplify the coffee table lineup to the festival with Red Hot Chili Peppers also providing a non-offensive sonic backdrop.

But it's not all slippers and cardigans (although they're also playing) at this festival as Queens of the Stone Age and Foo Fighters rock it up a bit and Ash inject a bit of Irish Indie-Rock to the proceedings.

Mis-teeq and Big Brovaz provide aural tat for the So Solid generation. 'Scandalous' indeed.

Turin Brakes continue



the bland factor, although they're not that bad an act. And Feeder will undoubtedly soldier on with their epic rock balladry.

PJ Harvey should prove a worthy sight, as should the superb Super Furry Animals and the outstanding live show put on by Underworld.

Your new favourite band The Hives will be suited and booted on the main stage whilst Kelly Osborne does whatever she does worst on the second stage.

Dirty Vegas are one of the best dance acts on the mainly UK Garage orientated (and very appropriately titled) JJB stage. Moloko and Lemon Jelly also provide a dance flavour to the weekend.

White Stripes are rumoured to be playing, but rumours are rumours, you never know.



By Al Smith

ALBUM REVIEWS

AUDIO BULLYS  
Ego War

'Ego War' is the Audio Bully's debut album, and it's a scorcher.

Their first single 'We Don't Care' got great reviews and featured on Sara Cox's terrible Channel 4 show, but let's not hold that against them.



'We Don't Care' is one of the best tracks on the album, as are their other singles 'Real Life' and 'The Things'. The album as whole draws comparisons to recent media dahlings The Streets, but they're a bit more punk, like The Buzzcocks meets X-Press 2.

'Face In a Cloud' makes excellent use of samples, whilst 'Ego War' is a worthy finisher to the album.

Call it disco-punk, call it shouty-house, call it what you will, it's good and that's all that matters.

Al Smith

VENUS RAY  
The World Woke Up  
Without Me

This second album from little known five some Venus Ray, is the product of a

turbulent two years for the London based band culminating in the death of drummer Steve Smith half way through recording. The rest of the band have released this LP in memory of their deceased percussionist.

Venus Ray combine good old fashioned garage rock with homemade electronics, household percussion and malfunctioning tape echoes to create a weird arrangement of songs, some shocking like the opening track 'Melody', and some quite catchy like the single 'Hurricane'. Front man Diggory Kenrick (so rock 'n' roll) has an unusual voice which becomes clouded and fuzzy in parts as there does tend to be a little too much "homemade electronics".

The track which really caught my attention was aptly called 'Electric Guitar', as it leans towards the more "rock", side of the spectrum instead of being some 60's psychedelic reject like most of the album.

In my opinion, Venus Ray should crawl back into that London basement they emerged from some 3 years ago, as they certainly aren't going to get any further in the real world.

Becky Hughes

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Empire                      Ultimate  
Soundtracks

So Empire magazine has taken a couple of tracks from popular recent films and put them all together on one handy CD, and if you're lucky to get there early enough there's a DVD with it too! Sounds good? Well that's where you'd be mistaken.

This is exactly the type of CD the magazine used to deride (the 'Movie Killers' compilation etc) but they've obviously noticed that they sell, so on the bandwagon they jump.

It's not that this is a bad CD, the odd duff Nickelback track aside this is pretty good stuff. But if someone really wanted a copy of 'Pure Shores' by All Saints they've surely got it by now. Where's the need for it? And in some cases it's not even the best tracks that've been chosen. 'Everything In It's Right Place' over 'All The Right Friends' from Vanilla Sky? Anything from Vanilla Sky over Almost Famous? Oh and the DVD's only got 5 tracks on it so there really is no need to rush out and buy this.

It'll be in HMVs clearout before the end of the year.

Jonny Pile

FOUR TET  
Rounds

This is now Kieran Hebden's third full-length solo effort having guitar led post-rock duties working and touring as part of Fridge, supporting the likes of Radiohead.

Four Tet sees a more electronic driven experience in sound. Often drifting off into moments that could've been inspired by John Cage's weighted piano experiments. This is not to say that this is an entirely avant-garde experience. Instead he works drum breaks fused with weirdly engaging time signatures inside a field of percussion and deft melodies. He is strongly influenced by hip hop sample techniques and breaks in sound to create a beat. The album stretches from the beautifully ambient 'My Angel Rocks Back and Forth' to the stylish 'As Serious As Your Life'.



Hebden describes the record as "2am lonely feeling". The album concentrates upon emotional content rather than on technicality, focusing on a real sampled frame of mind bringing together this folk-glitch style that fuses elements of jazz, funk, hip-hop and electronica in a way I've never really heard before in a highly mature and well-developed style. Go and buy a copy for you and all your friends.

James Perry

SINGLE REVIEWS

SHY FX & T-POWER  
FEAT. KELE LE ROC  
Feelin' U

It feels like summer time is upon, which along with exams, means out drinking in front of the union and the release of tracks with a summery vibe. So cue Shy FX and T Power with this latest one.



This being the follow up to 'Shake Ur Body' is full of summery vibes, and as a track it certainly makes you think that sun is shining outside and that you should get off your ass and go dance. This despite the slow pace of the beats almost throughout, it's not until the end when the tempo picks up and it feels more like the beats would really get you moving your body.

Shy FX and T Power have not managed to create another gem of poppy drum n bass as they did with 'Shake Ur Body', so don't expect to be hearing this one as much, although it's nice it just can't manage to rise above mediocrity.

Matt France

STAIND  
Price to Play

Here comes the new single from nu-metal superstars Staind. This lovely track is taken from the forthcoming album '14 Shades of Grey', which is certain to sell well among those ever so cute black clad teeny-boppers.

I sincerely hope that no one was expecting something new and amazing from Aaron Lewis and co. because quite frankly it just isn't happening. Instead what we have is a heavy little anthem coming along like Alice in Chains minus a skilled guitarist. With Aaron singing about consequences in a style which will have the kids singing along with him. The consequence of this is the more Staind stick to a formula, the more money they make, after all why change a winning formula.

This is a sure fire hit

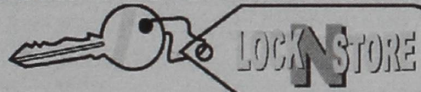


amongst Staind's fan base. But what came before is still superior, Staind just aren't up to the standards of the likes of Soundgarden and Alice in Chains.

Matt France

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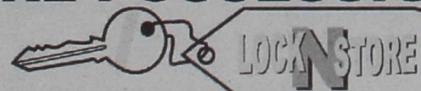
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# WHEELING AROUND IN THE WIPEOUT WOODS

BUSA Student Mountain Bike Championships

By GARY CARTWRIGHT

**The BUSA Mountain Biking Championships were held at Hopton Woods in Shropshire at the end of March, but with a strong field in both the Downhill and Cross Country races the performances were not as high as expected. But that didn't stop all competitors putting in sterling performances on what turned out to be hard courses.**

The downhill event was undertaken first, with the course at Hopton being the same as last years British Cycling National Championships, only this time it was bone dry and very, very fast. To top it off, the track was a mixture of gnarly roots and freshly hardpacked sections and a few large step downs nearer the bottom, with the finish demanding a large hip-jump and a huge table-top.

In order for riders to complete the course

in a good time required overall fitness, skill on tackling the outrageously rooty top section, and a grand test of nerve on making the jumps nearer the bottom of the track.

Unlike last years event there was a large turn-out of pro-elite and sponsored riders, making the competition extremely tough. However, that did not stop an excellent Bill Slatter taking the first place out of the Newcastle riders despite his experience of the sport only covering six months.

Jonny Goodliffe also put in good runs with Gary Cartwright and Chris Bradley both injuring themselves during the day.

Sunday dawned with a hangover for some members of the club who had been celebrating the excellent results in the Downhill the day before.

And it was the gruelling Cross Country race which awaited them, consisting of four laps of a five mile course climbing away into the woods for the first two miles on a mixture of fire roads and singletrack sections. This was followed by a steep descent on single track down to a fire road before more climbing to the top of the Downhill track.

The final mile of the course was downhill all the way back to the race village, not that this gave the competitors much chance to rest after being put through the paces for the

majority of the course.

Giles Harrison was the highest finisher of the club in the Cross Country, coming in in 30th place after managing to complete all four laps. The rest of the club only managed three laps with Ben Dean finished in 49th,

Nick Blades 53rd and Andy Coull 69th.

The weekend was topped off with all the Newcastle team doing well in the Cross Country Sports race, leaving them looking forward to competing again next year.



## Manc Might Beaten

Women's Football

Manchester	1
Newcastle	3

By PATRICIA BERGER  
and JUDY SOLANO

THE LADIES were on full show last Wednesday with a match against Manchester in the Semi-Finals of the Northern University League.

Having beaten Manchester Thirds already this season to finish as league runners-up, the Second XI were confident of booking a place in the final for the second year running.

A stunning opening goal by Ali Scaping provided Newcastle with the start they had wanted.

Manchester responded quickly with an equaliser that the Uni's formidable defence were unlucky to let in.



However, this only spurred on the midfield dynamo Pam Dixon to create Newcastle's consecutive two goals, which were expertly finished by Barbara Shearer and Rachel Little.

Newcastle had opportunities to score more but preferred to save themselves for the big match on Saturday.

## Flying Frisbee's

By VICTORIA KNAPP and  
ALISTAIR ROBSON

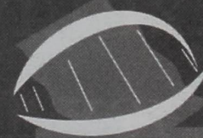
**NEWCASTLE'S BRAND new Ultimate Frisbee team "2 Many Pies" attended their first tournament during Easter in Liverpool.**

Although still unheard of at Newcastle University, there are 50 Uni teams in the UK. 2 Many Pies have been playing together since September and after playing their first game against Northumbria's team in the Stan Calvert Cup, they felt ready to take on some stiffer competition.

Although the least experienced team in the tournament at Liverpool, they managed to hold their own coming joint fifth with a spectacular point being scored as the final whistle blew. A special commendation was given to 2 Many Pies for their valiant effort, as well as the Party Award.

Their next challenge involves travelling to Durham for a tournament in June where they all have high hopes of retaining their party status, as well as improving their game.

Looking for your graduate job?



Newcastle Graduate  
Recruitment Fair

[www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/ngrf](http://www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/ngrf)

### What is it?

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

### Who can attend?

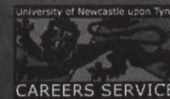
All students and graduates from any university or college are welcome to attend. There will be vacancies open to students of all disciplines.

### Which recruiters will be there?

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

### When and where?

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2003, 11am - 3pm  
Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne



# Competition

Have you ever dreamt of presenting a TV show, or having your fashion designs on the catwalk? Well now's your chance as all through May Scream pubs are inviting you and your friends to seize the day, and confess your wildest desires. Whether you want to report from a Premiership football match or interview Eminem, Scream could fix it for you and your mates to make your flights of fancy become reality.

To send in your entry, simply pick up an entry form from any Scream pub, scribble your wish down and hand it in at the bar. You can also submit your requests online at [www.screampubs.co.uk](http://www.screampubs.co.uk).

But remember...your entry is only the start of it because Scream'll fix it for the most imaginative, fun or deserving requests to come true, and you could soon be duetting with Kylie or swimming in a vat of marshmallow. The cream of the requests and pictures of the winning entries will be posted on the website at [www.screampubs.co.uk](http://www.screampubs.co.uk) and broadcast on Scream's video jukebox system across the UK.

Rod Gillies, marketing manager at Scream said, "This is an incredible opportunity for students to further their ambitions, or just have a good time with Scream, whether it be skydiving naked or cutting a single in a recording studio."

There are 88 Scream pubs in university towns across the UK. All are situated either close to university campuses or areas of student accommodation. Scream provides a friendly atmosphere, great for watching sport or just having a laugh, teamed with value for money prices. The Scream'll Fix It campaign is part of Scream's ongoing support for student talent.

The Scream'll Fix It campaign will be accompanied by an on-street promotion offering a voucher for a free pint of Carling or a bottle of new Blackcurrant and Raspberry flavour Reef, exotic fruit juice with a cutting edge of vodka. This voucher will double as an entry form.

To celebrate the launch of Scream'll Fix It, Scream are helping us make one lucky reader's wish come true by supplying a cool case of Carling and a crate of the new Blackcurrant and Raspberry flavour Reef, exotic fruit juice with a cutting edge of vodka.

To be in with a chance of winning, just answer the question below and send it to [courier.marketing@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:courier.marketing@ncl.ac.uk), along with your name and address.

Other than Scream, which cartoon character is well known for being able to "fix it"?

- a) Homer Simpson
- b) Bob the Builder
- c) Cartman



# HIGH NOON FOR ENGLAND CALL-UP

Newcastle Falcons' Centre Jamie Noon demonstrates his worth in *Courier* interview

By GERALDINE MOLE  
SPORTS EDITOR

**NEWCASTLE FALCONS are lucky to have one of England's brightest young talents Jamie Noon committed to remain with the team for the foreseeable future, after recently renewing his contract. And The Courier were also lucky to secure an interview with the up and coming star.**

Jamie clearly feels at home in Newcastle and the warm atmosphere at the club obviously had a major impact on his decision to stay. He said: "There is an

amateur ethos here in the sense that everyone is friends, and it's better for it. I've heard that the atmosphere is better here than in other clubs."

Having appeared in every game the Falcons have played this season, Jamie has proved a key element in Newcastle's climb from the foot of the Premiership table, scoring a crucial try in their last home game of the season against fellow strugglers Saracens, to ensure top flight rugby next year.

As a team boasting an impressive squad with the England maestro Jonny Wilkinson complementing a team packed with raw young talent, it was shocking to see them six points adrift mid-season. Fortunately for the team, supporters and the Falcons' bank balance, Newcastle succeeded in clawing their way back to safety

within a tough seven match run-in, ending with the nail-biting 26-22 win over Saracens.

Jamie said: "After the match the owner had six bottles of Champagne in the changing room - it was quite weird because you wanted to celebrate even though all we'd done was to not get relegated."

"It was more of a relief than anything else because it has been a long and stressful run-in."

Journalists have long been speculating on the reason for Newcastle's fall from grace, most often concluding that the departure of the older players had left a void of experience. But Jamie is adamant that that was not the case, saying: "Opposed to them leaving, I think the players that were taking over from them at the end of last season, didn't step up. I feel they should have taken a bit more

responsibility, but they have now so we are playing a lot better."

"It's difficult to really pinpoint one thing, there were lots of reasons, like we lost both our fly-halves to injury, then lost some games, and I think our confidence did get worse because of it."

The Falcons have shown a lot of character to drag themselves out of the relegation dogfight, and to top off their seesaw season, they look set to qualify for the Wild Card competition which may see them battling it out in the Heineken Cup next year.

"When it came to the crunch we stood toe-to-toe to some of the bigger teams and proved our skill and ability. We pulled a finger out, got on with it and now we've done alright."

"It would be awesome if we could get into Europe next year given the season we've had. That would just be the icing on the cake", Jamie said.

Being on the fringes of the England senior squad, having already earned three England caps in 2001, and being named in the training squad which will be used to pick the two 30 men teams for the England summer tours, it was crucial for Jamie that the Falcons remained in the Premiership if he was to keep striving for elite England selection.

He said: "I'd like to go on one of the tours. Obviously I'd like to go with the seniors, but if not, I don't think it'll be the end of the world. It's just a matter of waiting to see."

And the wait won't be too long, Clive Woodward will announce the two tour squads on May 21 and it would be a huge shock if Noon was not included in one of these.

With more tries this season than Ben Cohen, Will Greenwood and Jason Robinson, and more ball carries than any other centre in the Premiership, it would be a waste not to further develop what could be the answer to the continuing debate over the England back line.

In addition, Jamie has the



added advantage of a close working relationship with Wilkinson, who the England bosses are still seeking a natural partner for.

Although fully aware that this will not gain him entry to the England team, Jamie said: "As I play with Jonny week-in and week-out, if I did get into the team we can complement each other because of the understanding we have."

"I think that at the moment there is no-one that really knows Jonny and the way he plays as well as the players here, and I think England at times need someone to read him. Hopefully, if I ever get in, I can do that."

It could be the Owen-Heskey partnership of the rugby world, but of course, with more success.

Ultimately though it will be up to Woodward to make the final decision, which will be a difficult one with the wealth of talent in the Zurich Premiership, but Noon must be in with a fair shout with his form this season undeniably belying the dire-straits the Falcons found themselves in mid-season.

And with his expansive rugby and impressive tackle rate he would no doubt feel as much at home in the England set up as he does at Newcastle.

■ For season tickets and match day enquiries please contact the Ticket Hotline on 0870 085 6060 or visit our website at [www.newcastle-falcons.co.uk](http://www.newcastle-falcons.co.uk) Main switchboard number (0191) 214 5588



UNSTOPPABLE...Jamie Noon shrugs off the attentions of the Northampton defence

## Ladies laden with BUSA Champs twice

Women's Rugby Union  
BUSA Sevens Tournament

By BONIKE ERINLE

**FROM THE** started it seemed as though Newcastle had it tough in the BUSA Sevens Tournament last weekend. Having been suspiciously drawn to play in the most competitive pool, they faced a very drilled and extremely determined UWIC.

Newcastle's fitness was most likely their weakness, but despite this they put up a tremendous fight allowing the opposition to

score few tries.

The sole try-scorer for the Newcastle Ladies being from Captain Dami Erinle.

The next game was a somewhat more relaxed, with the opposition being ex-coach Bess Evans' new team, Birmingham.

The contest between the two saw a flurry of tries from the Uni players including Katie Moore, Mimi Akighir, Bonike Erinle and Dami Erinle, but thankfully none from the Birmingham girls.

The convincing win was due to an impenetrable defensive line maintained due to the excellent communication of the squad, allowing the final score to be deemed: an absolute roasting.

With Loughborough being next on the cards, it seemed Newcastle were destined to be eliminated.

After a being knocked out by Loughborough's XV in the semi's of the BUSA Championship, Newcastle were determined to put them back in their place.

This they did in style thanks to some excellent support play from the backs and powerful running by forwards Catherine Page and Camilla Nicholson, managing to prevent the opposition from scoring and leaving the final tally at 26-0.

The score sheet again read the names of Dami Erinle and Mimi Akighir, with three out of the four tries converted by Heidi Swaffield.

Newcastle were shocked to realise that their Semi would mean them playing the BUSA Championship winners, UWIC. Again.

Despite their poor lot, the team once again gave an encouraging fight, reflected in

a series of munching tackles, notably from Natasha Grant, and the very few points on the scoreboard.

In total, four tries went to UWIC (three of which remain questionable) and two to Newcastle thanks to some surging runs from Caroline Lamb, and finished off in style by Dami Erinle.

The final saw host team Northumbria University play UWIC, and thankfully our immediate rivals were not the victors with UWIC taking back more silverware this season.

And despite Newcastle not reaching the finals, it was a great team effort, and a proud end to an incredibly successful season for the Women's Rugby Team.

MONDAY 12 MAY 2003

# HANGOVERS HAMPER UNI PERFORMANCE

## Men's Football

Newcastle	1
Carlisle City	4

By MARK ROGERS

**NEWCASTLE MUST continue their relegation battle in the Northern Alliance after suffering a defeat at the hands of third-placed Carlisle City.**

Captain Jamie Minchin was philosophical about the result: "Overall it's a disappointing result but I think we recovered some pride in the second half and showed we can compete with the top teams in this division. At this level though, you can't concede goals from set pieces so easily and still expect to win."

Two wins and a heart-stopping 4-4 draw in their last three games had all but guaranteed the Uni's Premier League status for another season.

But the champagne corks were popped a little too early as the effects of the previous evening's AU Ball were as potent at pacifying the Blues "pint-sized" midfield than anything

that Carlisle had to offer. Within minutes of the kick-off those with aching heads included Newcastle manager Alan Brown as Carlisle made an exhilarating start.

The opposing number 9 rifling a spectacular half volley past a helpless Abbas into the top corner from the edge of the area. This success filled City with confidence and there was an edge to their play that unsettled any rhythm Newcastle sought to establish.

The midfield pair of Pearson and Doyle, usually a refined blend of combativeness and creativity, struggled to adapt to the pace of the early exchanges, although as the half wore on they gradually grew in stature and secured more possession for the home side.

Hall and Greenhalgh intelligently combined to form a productive outlet down the left flank, and the strikers worked hard to chase possession in the face of some uncompromising challenges.

Carlisle seemed content to soak up the Blues pressure and hit them on the counter attack, and it was against the run of play when the visitors broke out of their half to force the corner which resulted in the second goal. Abbas did well to parry the initial header, but he was helpless to stop the Carlisle number 9 pouncing on the rebound and stab the ball past a clutch of defenders on the goal line.

Newcastle stoically attempted a riposte; Grant almost latching onto a Pearson through ball and Grant having a shot deflected wide were signs that the cause was not lost.

This renewed optimism took a huge blow five minutes before half time as City's energetic right back raced forward to deliver a sumptuous cross for the Carlisle captain to head home, effectively putting the result beyond doubt.

In spite of this Newcastle began the second half at a higher tempo, roused by manager Brown's demand for a greater work-ethic. The change in style brought the best out of Chris Grant, whose excellent first touch and vision helped lend a more venomous edge to the home side's attacks.

First, Pearson swerved inside a couple of challenges before crashing his strike over, then Grant fired a rising shot on the half volley. For all their growing momentum however, Newcastle struggled to conjure a clear-cut opportunity, illustrating the crucial difference between the sides.

Having survived a sustained spell of pressure City broke forward to force a corner which the Blues failed to clear, and a static defence could only look on as the opposing striker registered the fourth goal at the far post. It was harsh on the Blues, but frustratingly encapsulated the pattern of the game.

Undeterred, Newcastle continued to make the game a competitive spectacle, and their second half resurgence was finally confirmed by a consolation goal, as Grant, reacting first, produced a composed finish after Greenhalgh's persistence had forced the opening.

It was fitting that Newcastle had something to show for their commitment, and the second half performance offers great hope for Wednesday's crucial game against bottom of the table Percy Main.

■ Newcastle Seconds will be playing at Benefield Park today at 7pm in the Tyneside Amateur League Cup Final against Selling Greyhound - go along and show your support!



## HOW'ZAT!

### Cricket

Newcastle	206 for 8
Durham	105 all out

By MIKE SINCLAIR

**IT WAS a much better performance from Newcastle's 1st XI this week with a comprehensive victory over Sheffield University.**

After electing to bat the top order, the day began well with a good partnership between Paddy Balfour and Ali Sinclair making 42 and 38 respectively.

This left the lower order to finish the innings in style with a quick fire 28 not out from Sam Moore.

Newcastle ended the innings on 206 for 8, setting Sheffield the hard task of chasing a big total.

The bowling attack was also solid with Pete Milner and Sam Moore claiming early wickets, followed by Mike Sinclair taking 5 wickets for 19 runs.

With a strong performance in the field from all the Newcastle players, Sheffield were bowled out for 105, keeping the chance of a quarter final place for the 1st team alive.

The second team were less fortunate however, experiencing the perils of playing away to Leeds on a below average wicket like the 1st team had had the previous week.

Although bowlers Ed Rose and Sam Collins performed well, the batting let the side down finishing on a total of 65 all out.

Newcastle's First team will expect to end the season strongly, looking for a place in the top two of the 1st division which would reflect the hard work and commitment from the whole squad this year.