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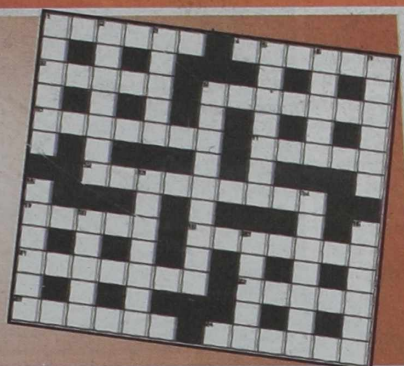
THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF NEWCASTLE STUDENTS

FREE

NEW!

PUZZLES PAGE

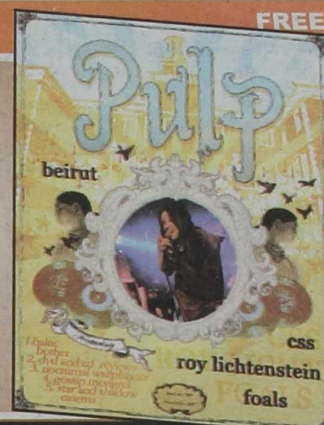
>> SEE PAGE 21



PULP

NEW LOOK

PULP PULL-OUT



EXCLUSIVE FRESHERS' WEEK PICS INSIDE

>> See Pages 8 & 9

BYE BYE BOATY

Toon laments the loss of a legend

BY SARAH SCOTT

THE TUXEDO PRINCESS is surrendering its legendary position on the River Tyne to make way for a proposed £10 million office and restaurant project.

More affectionately known to students as 'The Boat', it has been an iconic backdrop to the Quayside for almost twenty-five years. However, it has now become out of favour with the City Council, who are beginning to focus more on family entertainment and the arts in Newcastle.

The company who own 'The Boat', Absolute Leisure, are planning to transform the site currently occupied by The Tuxedo Princess at Hillgate Quay, Gateshead, into a split level unit containing restaurants and offices. 'The Boat' will be towed away and another site is being considered for it but not necessarily in Newcastle.

Of course, The Tuxedo Prin-

cess has not always been used as a popular nightclub venue. Before being sold for static use, 'The Boat' was formally known as the 'Caledonian Princess' and was built in the 1960's for the British Transport Commission, a far cry from how many of us students will remember it.

However after almost 20 years on the sea it was towed to The Tyne where it was moored at Hillgate Quay and has remained and become something of an iconic symbol on the river.

Over its time on the River Tyne 'The Boat' has become famous in Newcastle for its many drink promotions and its legendary revolving dance floor.

It has been the last venue for many notorious 'Last Man Standing' pub crawls and last year hosted the finale of Freshers' Week 2006.

Whether you love it or hate it 'The Boat' has probably played some part in a great night out for you in Newcastle. Last year, a first year couple memorably met on the boat during Freshers' Week and a few months later

decided to get hitched.

However, 'The Boat' has had a chequered past, marked with a fire in 1984 damaging part of the structure, but fortunately it recovered and went on to create a reputation as being one of the most popular nightclubs in Newcastle.

Until 2005 when it came close to losing its licence when Northumbria Police raised concerns about persistent violence and disorder when they had to be called out on numerous occasions. After this, promotions which offered unlimited drinks for a fixed price were ceased.

Nevertheless, 'The Boat' will always have a special place in the hearts of students in Newcastle, whether it's where you met your future spouse, the place you could barely stand in at the end of 'Last Man Standing', or maybe it'll be that distinct smell and sticky floors which will remain with you. Whatever your memory, it is unfortunately time to say farewell to The Tuxedo Princess.

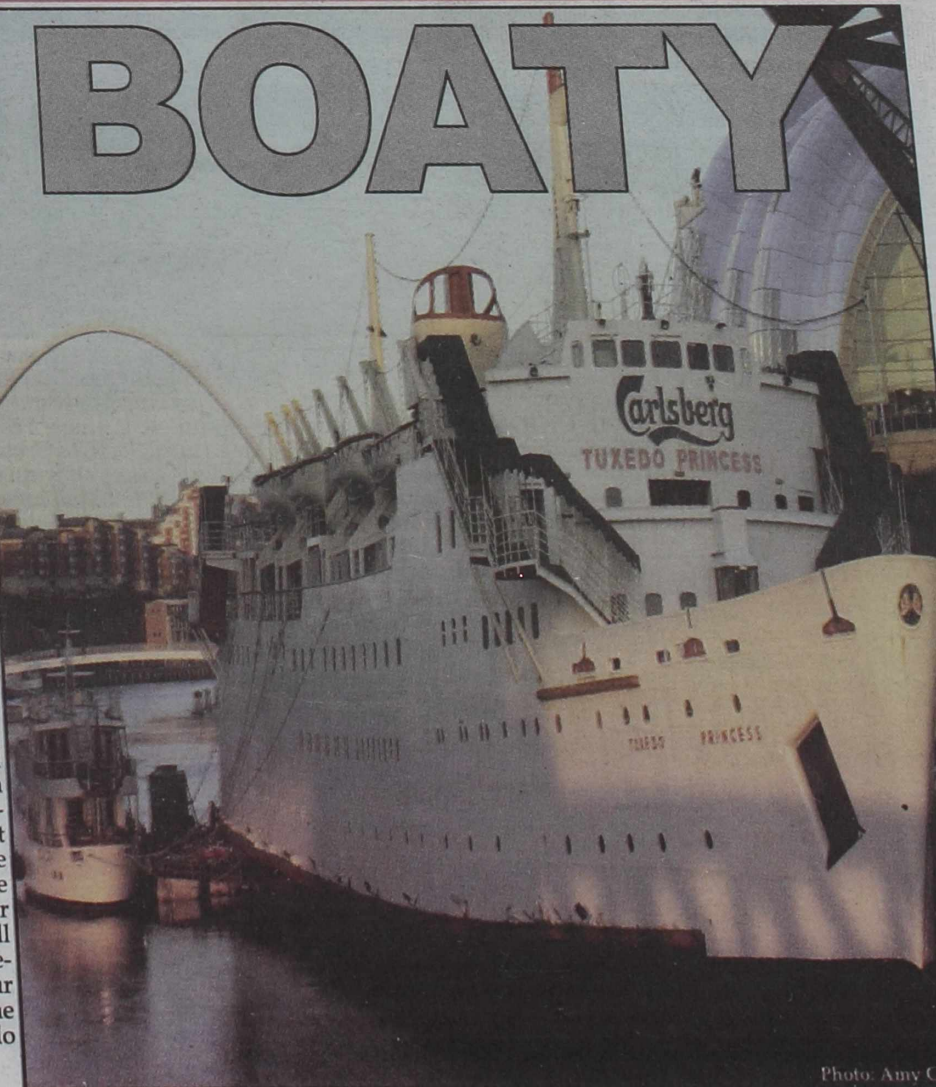


Photo: Amy Gribble

the **courier**

Pulp

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University Challenged

Poor show for Newcastle on TV show

BY ELLIE LORD

JEREMEY PAXMAN'S 'University challenge' lived up to its name last week when four brave Newcastle students took on Manchester University, only to end in a disappointing result for our Northern lot.

After a point-less first fifteen minutes for Newcastle, they seemed to be picking up speed, scoring 55 against Manchester's 95. However, their ill-fated path became clear as the nervous bunch struggled to continue scoring against a confident team of Manchester students. The final score: Manchester 260 - 105 Newcastle.

One Newcastle contestant, Neil

Archibald puts their misfortune down to being underprepared. He told *The Courier* 'our opponents seemed to have been practicing obsessively with the buzzers!' The team captain, Daniel Spiller also believes that Manchester held the advantage before the game began - 'Our opponents were older than us. Against a different team we perhaps would have stood a chance of getting through to the second round'.

Although marginally improving their score from this time last year when they were defeated by Royal Holloway 95 points to 180, the record setting score of Manchester says it all. Before last year's performance the team were said to have set themselves a target of getting 100 points - at least that much can be seen as a victory!

Fairtrade Foundation Visits Newcastle

ON THE 13th October, Newcastle Civic Centre is hosting a unique opportunity for you to get all the latest news from the Foundation first-hand, learn about recent developments and gain new skills to help you promote Fairtrade in your local community.

The day also offers the chance to network with other Fairtrade supporters and put your difficult questions directly to the director of the Foundation, Harriet Lamb.

There is no charge for the day (free lunch!) but you need to register asap at www.fairtrade.org.uk.

We also need students to help steward the event - contact your officers at environment.union@ncl.ac.uk for details.

For more information about YOUR FAIRTRADE UNION come and visit Fairtrade Awareness Day outside the Union on Friday 12th October from 11am - 3pm.



Oak in Smoke



BY MARINA KING

THE UNION has lost money over a Paul Oakenfold gig, scheduled for the same time as Freshers' Week finale Glow. The union needed to sell 900 tickets just to break even, and sold a meagre 52.

Paul Oakenfold, a world famous trance DJ who is well known for his time in Ibiza, was set to play on Thursday night and was undoubtedly expecting a

large crowd. Oakenfold's songs are frequently used on film soundtracks and he is probably most recently famous for his 2006 single *Faster Kill Pusscat* featuring actress Brittany Murphy. Given his success it wasn't surprising that the DJ was unimpressed with the size of his measly audience.

The management team at the Union in charge of organising such events attribute the incident to lack of communication and bad timing. They are investigating into why it happened and

stressed that they are a new team having only been at the Union six weeks collectively. From their point of view they were relying on public attendance, not just students.

Students were aware of this clash before the gig and called for Oakenfold to be relocated to the Metro Radio Arena to appear before Tim Westwood at the event Glow, the highly successful sell out finale to Freshers' Week. However the Oakenfold gig had been widely advertised in both flyers and local news-

papers for public attendance, whereas Glow was strictly for Newcastle students only. To move Oakenfold would have meant cancelling his public gig which may explain why he wasn't re-scheduled for Glow.

Director of Commercial and Operations Ian Knox commented that they "are looking forward to future events and Freshers' Week next year" and he commended the Freshers' Week organisers for the success of Glow.

WEATHER WATCH

The start of the week may see some sunny spells but also some showers unfortunately. Tuesday in particular is likely to have some frequent spells of rain. Later on in the week expect a bit of sun (but not necessarily warmth!)

with patches of mist and fog at night. Also be prepared for some ground fog. Looks like the sport cancellations may be on their way already!

>> GOT A STORY? GIVE US A CALL ON 0191 239 3940 OR 07964 921116. WE'LL CALL YOU BACK TO COVER THE COST!

Student Loans boss faces disenchanted students

BY EMILY HOPCROFT

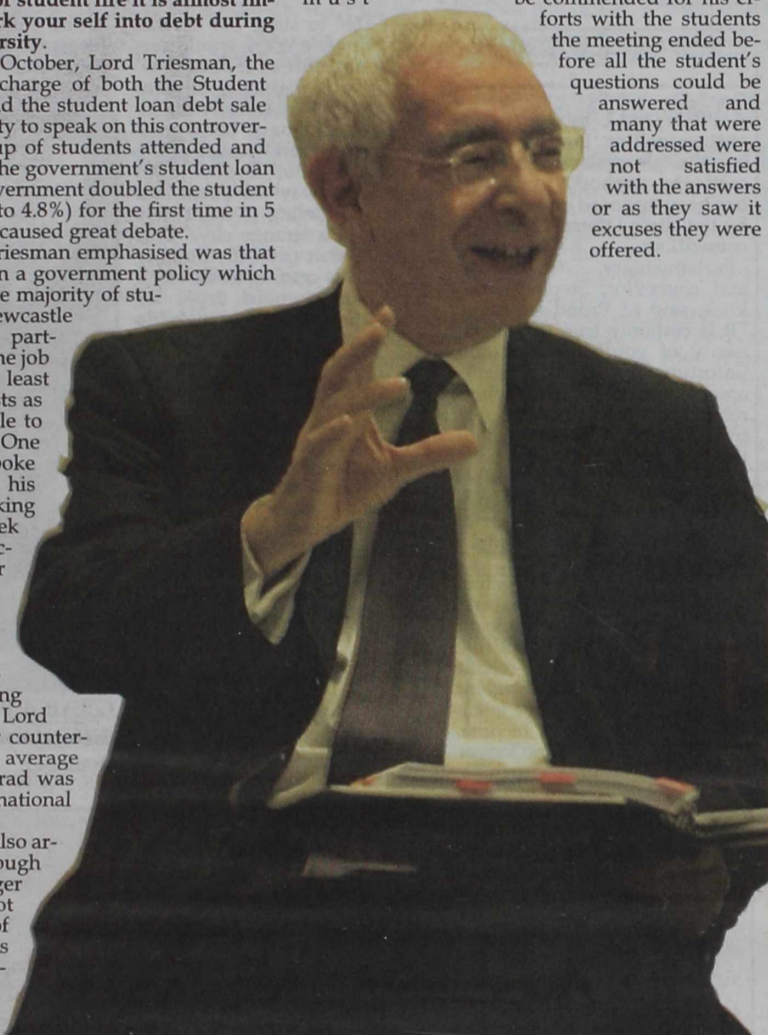
WITH partying, shopping, eating and drinking being such pillars of student life it is almost impossible not to work your self into debt during your years at university.

On Tuesday 2nd October, Lord Triesman, the Lords Minister in charge of both the Student Loans Company and the student loan debt sale visited our university to speak on this controversial subject. A group of students attended and most were against the government's student loan policy. Since the government doubled the student loan interest (2.4% to 4.8%) for the first time in 5 years, the topic has caused great debate.

One point Lord Triesman emphasised was that he wanted to design a government policy which reflected reality. The majority of students here at Newcastle will have to get a part-time or even full time job to try and cover at least part their living costs as few families are able to foot the entire bill. One angry student spoke of how many of his friends were working over 30 hours a week not including the lecture hours in order to make ends meet. He claimed that the £15k threshold was too low and that many post-graduates will be earning far less than that. Lord Triesman, however counter-claimed that the average income of a post-grad was £18k; £3k over the national threshold.

A dental student also argued that even though he had a longer course, he still got the same amount of money which seems to put him at considerable disadvantage.

Photo: Stephanie Weng



Lord Triesman made the point however that since their life time earnings would also be well above the national average the inequality would balance out in the long run. Although Lord Triesman must

be commended for his efforts with the students the meeting ended before all the student's questions could be answered and many that were addressed were not satisfied with the answers or as they saw it excused they were offered.

So, Freshers' Week is finally over, but was it what you expected? Did it live up to the hype?

Question put to you by NICOLA HARGREAVES



Natalie Alison Kay, 1st Year-Law, aged 18

"I really enjoyed the activities during the day but, because I had stuff on with the Law school, I couldn't pre book anything. The night time events were good too, but because I'm a local student I had to get the bus back, which meant I couldn't stay out as late as I wanted."

Fraser Pirie, 1st Year-German and Business, aged 18

"The wristband was well worth the money because you could go out all the time. I liked the Union. The activities during the day were good too; I went to St James's Park on a tour which was great."



Addyson Pope, 1st Year-History and Economics, aged 19

"Freshers Week was incredible, especially Tiger Tiger. The queues were horrendous to get into places but apart from that it was really good, everyone I've spoken to really enjoyed it."

Out in the Cold

BY AMY GORDON

INTERNATIONAL students pay over the odds to study in Britain, but many find themselves socially excluded and ghettoised, revealing the real price to pay for a British education.

Overseas students are finding it increasingly difficult to integrate during their time at university, according to recent research carried out for the Council for Industry and Higher Education. Despite being regarded as one of the top destinations to study, Britain is falling behind universities in Australia, South Africa, the US and the Netherlands, when it comes to integrating international students, an i-graduate survey reveals. University accommodation arrangements and teaching environments leave them feeling socially excluded and even ghettoised.

Not helped by the rising costs of private sector accommodation, many are forced to opt for areas less popular with students, and take on part time work to fund their studies. International student Ervin Pelari commented on the high cost of tuition and accommodation saying that he "felt pressured to take on part time work".

At around £12,000 for tuition and £5,500-£6,000 (university estimates) for living costs, it's no surprise that almost 30 percent do not think the education they receive is value for money, according to new research by the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI). It is thought that less contact time, when compared to other institutions and staff complacency are possible factors accounting for this.

The figures are cause for concern, as i-graduate research reveals that university websites were rated second to personal recommendations in a survey of factors affecting overseas student's choice of university. It would be detrimental to neglect such findings as a significant number could have a serious negative impact on the finances of many universities. Overall it makes the international student market vulnerable.

John Fielden, education consultant for the Council for Industry and Higher Education has issued a report suggesting some ways in which universities can ensure overseas students are no longer ghettoised. These initiatives focus on better dispersal of international students amongst halls of residence and greater interaction between home and overseas students in group work, pushing integration both at home and in the work place.

But it is often the case that different ethnic groups opt not to integrate with each other.

Bernard Lamb writes, in "Can the Prizes still Glitter? The Future of British Universities in a Changing World", that it is the Asians in particular who often socialise within national, geographical or language groups. This only stresses the importance of the student union in acting as a focal point for bringing the different communities together. It also highlights the need for cultural education programmes for both staff and students.

Whilst social exclusion remains a problem, at present, the union offers numerous opportunities for international students to integrate, particularly through the International Students Society which hosts social events. International students can also find representation through the International officer and the Racial Equality officer as well as other union staff. The university is also active in promoting events from different cultures as well as faith groups. But forced integration is difficult and there is no denying the existence of cultural barriers. These barriers do not prevent integration but make it difficult to achieve. As 21st century students that's our challenge.

Immigration Issues: International Students Fear of Isolation



Met-row over student clamp down

734 face fine and court action

BY SOPHIE ROBSON

NEXUS, the operator of the Newcastle Metro system, has been targeting student areas in a bid to reduce the number of people travelling without a ticket.

Last week inspectors staged a week-long crackdown on ticket-dodgers around the student friendly Metro stations of Haymarket, Jesmond and West Jesmond, close to the universities and popular student housing areas. Over seven hundred people

were caught and issued with a £20 fine to be paid within 21 days. Otherwise offenders face court, a larger fine of up to £500 or a criminal record.

Metro Director Mick Carbro, however, insisted that it was not just students who were being targeted in the scourge which was timed to coincide with the start of term at Newcastle and Northumbria Universities: "We move our regular fare blitzes around the Metro to make sure everyone cheating on their fare is targeted,

whoever they are. However, a large proportion of the 734 people who were stopped in this blitz were undergraduates living north of the city centre.

"We want to get the message across at the start of a new academic year that cheating on your fare will not be tolerated, and this is a very effective way to do that.

"The message here is that fare dodging is a no brainer because it costs a lot more than buying a ticket. Students in particular would be wise to invest in a Metro Student Card, which will allow them to make as many Metro journeys as they like for as little as £6 a week."

The Metro Student Card allows discounted travel on Metro for £28 a month, and between now and the New Year, inner city travel will cost just £24 per month - which works out at only £6 a week.

The cost of an all zone pass for the whole academic year is £350 while inner Newcastle and inner Sunderland passes cost £250 for the year.

Metro Student Cards are available to buy from all Nexus Travleshops.



Photo: Adam Gray

ARTFUL DODGERS...Metro are clamping down

Age 21 drink ban dropped

BY DANIEL WATKINS

A PROPOSAL by Independent councillor Ian Proud to ban the sale of alcohol in Newcastle to anybody under 21, has been opposed and rejected by the city's Liberal Democrat councillors.

Parliamentary Spokesman and councillor, Stephen Psalidas, said of Proud's motion, "It is certainly true that a minority of young people (and unfortunately some students among them) create alcohol-related disturbances and distress in their community... But this proposal would have been costly to set up, impossible to legally enforce, and above all, illiberal for the majority of young people who enjoy a drink responsibly."

Had the bid not been rejected, student life in Newcastle would have undergone significant changes. As well as the probable closure of many student-reliant pubs and clubs, the Student Union would likely have lost a substantial amount of income. Societies would have no longer

been able to stage bar crawls, and Fresher's Week would certainly not exist as it does now. First year Linguistics student Anna said, "I'm sure Fresher's Week would have been great fun anyway just because of the experience, but alcohol does help take away the stress and worry of having to meet new people in a strange city." It is possible that even the number of students coming to the city's universities would drop; for many, the Newcastle nightlife is a reason to apply. Charlotte, a final year undergraduate, said the drinking ban "would have put me off Newcastle, but that isn't the reason I came here. It would feel really restrictive."

While a ban may have been able to reduce alcohol-related antisocial behaviour on the streets, students, unable to drink on nights out until their third year and the university, would have found a way to obtain alcohol, and nights out would have simply become nights in.

Proud's motion was later amended, removing the proposed under-21 ban but including a citywide ban on drinking in public, and an increase

in the enforcement of existing measures to combat antisocial behaviour and underage drinking.



GRAB A PINT...how much different would our uni lives be?

Extreme Makeover

Union building gets a facelift

BY CLAIRE PURCELL

AS SOME of you may or may not have noticed, the Union has been returned to us this year looking somewhat improved.

Following feedback from the student council and sabbatical officers, management looked at renovating key areas of catering outlets and were given a fund of £100,000 to work with. Ian Knox, Director of Commercial and Operations in the Union, commented, "This is only stage one. We'll see how things go and whether or not we get good feedback. We felt that the products we were offering were in the past and not necessarily what the students wanted. We think we got value for money with the work that has been done and so far the response has been very positive." With craftsmanship ranging from a lick of paint to brand spanking new features, here is your guide to what has been done...

The Mens Bar: Everybody's favourite Union bar has been

relocated to allow easier viewing when sports games are being shown. The Union are hoping to attract sports fans with more big games being shown at weekends. Ian Knox is currently investigating the whereabouts of the Mens Bar sign.

The Airport Lounge: The most notable addition to the Union is Rijo's juice bar, which had its official launch last Friday. Students can now enjoy a healthy smoothie in the new seating area. The management team wanted an integration of fast food with healthier 'grab-n-go' options, tying in the use of organic produce with fair trade food.

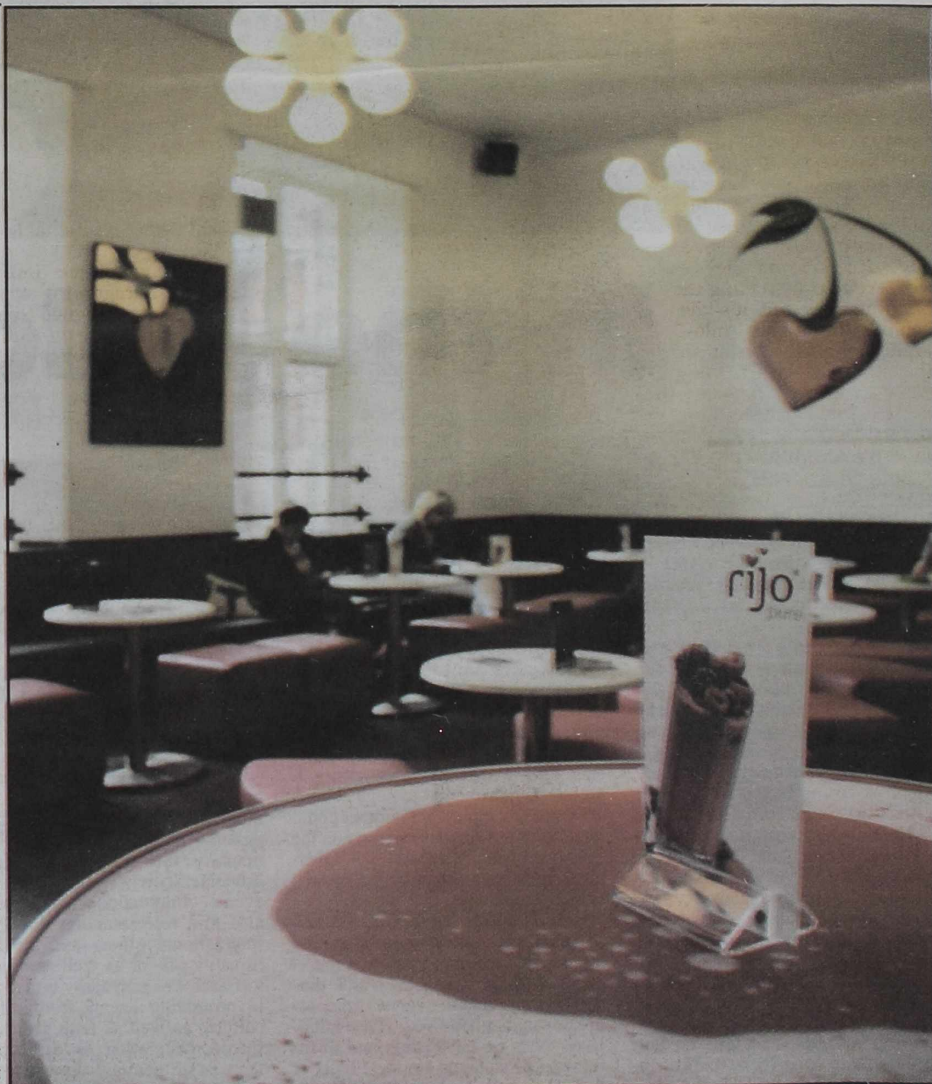
The Basement: All catering has been moved out of the Basement following the decision that it wasn't conducive to a relaxing dining area. On the plus side, 'Beats 2' has been created which is intended to hold smaller gigs which can run alongside the Basement.

The Union Lounge (next to Global Café): This is a brand

new area designed to create a relaxing, quieter room where students can go to let off some steam. The room features comfy leather furniture, an amusement machine and a pool table, turning it into a pleasant social space.

The Global Café: Global has received a new look along with a new chef to offer students the option of quick but quality food. The Union are trying to look at developing a fusion of International cuisine, and students can enjoy a hot meal complete with table service right through until 5pm on weekdays.

Other things you may not have noticed: a colour scheme has been developed on each floor for the ultimate in coordination. As well as this, all of the lighting in the Union has been changed so that it is energy efficient - the Union are conscious of their 'Carbon Footprint' and are hoping that this addition will reduce their emissions as well as their energy bills, proving that this makeover is not just skin deep!



RIJOS...you can now enjoy fresh smoothies in the Airport Lounge

Photos: Philip Booth

>> WANT TO WRITE FOR COURIER NEWS? COME TO OUR MEETINGS ON MONDAY @ 1PM, COMMITTEE ROOM A, UNION

Professor Chris Brink: *Your* new Vice Chancellor and his vision for *your* University

Recruited by the University from his home in South Africa professor CHRIS BRINK has only been in Newcastle a few months but is keen to get started on what he calls the marriage of excellence and relevance and a drive to cut beaurocracy and make the University work for the students. FRAN INFANTE finds out more....

All Photos: Chris Kay

F: You've had a successful career in both Australia and your native South Africa - what is it that brought you to the UK and to Newcastle?

Professor Brink: It was the University that convinced me really and the vision that the University has to bring excellence and relevance together. I call it the marriage of excellence and relevance and all the other things I did before in my other jobs around the world somehow contribute to what I think needs to be done here. In my previous job I did quite a bit of putting excellence and diversity together to change the student demographic and at the same time increase the academic profile. I think my experiences in various ways have all contributed to what I think can be done here so I thought it would be an interesting place to be.

F: This month our Union President, Jamie McDonnell is being sent by you to visit Pretoria University in South Africa. What do you hope to be achieved by this visit?

P: Quite a lot actually. What we want to do is integrate the student services. At the moment there is still the business of students having to go from one office to another to another to do various things. If you want to change your course you have to go here, if you want to pay your fees you have to go there and so on. So to integrate those we want to create a one stop shop where the students have access to all the services. We're constructing the building now but it's the behind the scenes integration of all the systems that is the tricky bit. We want it to really work for the students, they're our clients after all. Jamie is there in the design phase to bring a students perspective. I happen to know that the University of Pretoria has a really successful student service centre and I hope we can learn from that.

F: How do you perceive the relation-

ship between the University and the Union Society?

P: Well the interesting thing here is that the Union Society is a legal entity in its own right so it has its own independence to elect its sabbatical officers etc. Here you have six full time officers - whereas universities I'm used to only had maybe one and the others were all full time students - which makes it more professionally run. The relationship seems to be good, I've been really impressed with the professionalism and maturity of the sabbatical officers and we plan to meet once a month to keep up to date. I went and walked around during Freshers' Week and welcomed the international students, as well as visiting the Careers Faire, and at all of these events there was a strong student leadership presence, so it seems to work well.

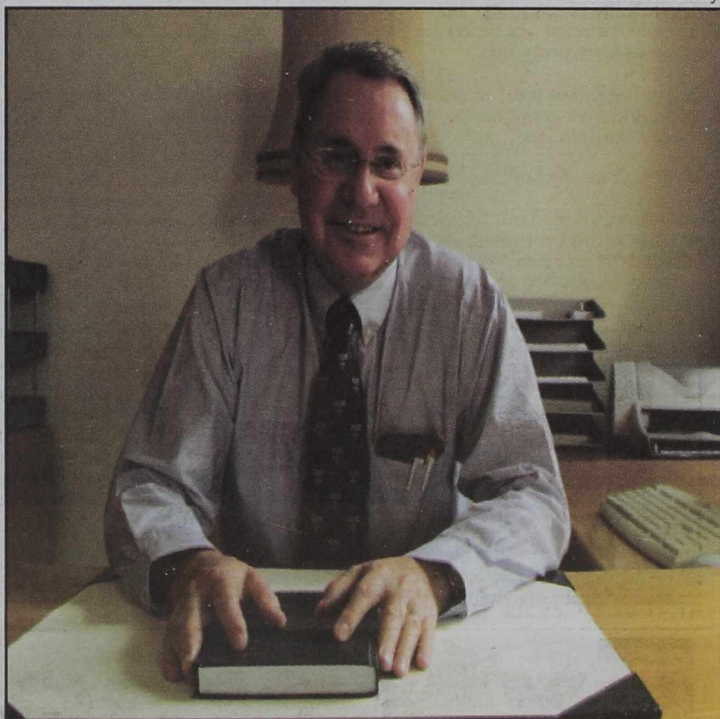
F: What do see for the future of Newcastle University?

P: Everywhere you look higher education is in a transformational phase. It manifests itself in various ways in different places, like here there was the big issue with

roduction of top up fees and that was quite controversial, but in a lot of other countries it has always been like that, so in a way this change was just slotting in with what has been happening elsewhere. This university, like many others, has had what you might call a restructuring phase. This is when you reconfigure the faculties and structure the schools and so on. After that, which I think is where we are now, its no longer a matter of structure, it is one of process. We have the structure, now the question is how we make it work. In the next 5-10 years I think the question will be, "Did we really make it work?" and that goes back to the original aim of marrying excellence and relevance. For students that is seen in various ways, like here at Newcastle we have the degree plus programme, so students don't just get a degree they have the opportunity to do much more. In five years time we'll have to look at whether these extra things made a real difference to your development and ultimately your employability.

F: So what is it that you think needs to be done to raise Newcastle's position in the national league tables?

P: This league table business is really interesting - we don't really have them in South Africa. I encountered them a little more in Australia, but here they are a national obsession. What that means is that there is a proliferation of them, there is a new league table practically every week. I think there are some fundamental questions we have to look at regarding what it is the tables are designed to measure. Some of them are difficult because some of the improvements we would want to make would count against us in the league tables. An example is widening participation, which is obviously a good thing, but a number of the league tables are constructed in such a way that you get points for the school results of the pupils that you accept, so if an institution exclusively selects pupils from top schools they get lots of points, whereas if you recruit - under the umbrella of widening participation - students that have studied in poorer circumstances and done comparatively well, then you kind of take a double whammy in the league tables, even though everyone agrees it's a good thing. It's a bit of a paradox really. There seems to be a bit of a miss match between what the league tables would reward you for and what people would ask you to do. I would encourage you to examine the grounds of the various league tables rather than



taking the position at face value. Ask yourself what kind of place you want to be in. Do you want to be in a vibrant and diverse multicultural university or one where everyone comes from a similar privileged background?

comes back to that sense of maturity I was talking about earlier. In fact I read the interview your predecessor had with my predecessor at the end of last year. Having six full time members of sabbatical staff and a team of other students working with

There seems to be a miss match between what the league tables reward you for and what people would ask you to do

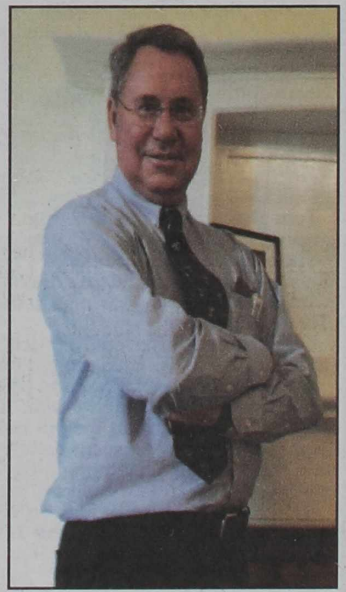
F: What do you think about the changes that have taken place in the Union over the summer?

them means you can accomplish a lot and The Courier is an example of this.

P: I think it's got some really exciting possibilities there. I went in a year ago after I was appointed and I think it has really been brightened up quite a lot. It seems a lot lighter and more inviting - I think whoever did it between then and now has done a really good job. It's not easy. Old buildings are hard work. It did strike me as more cheerful. It's a beautiful building and a real selling point for the University.

F: Have you read any of The Courier? What do you think of it?

P: I have. I went out and got myself a few of last years' copies before you came. It's bigger than most student newspapers - this one is in a sense more ambitious than some. I think its also better presented that the majority of what I've seen. That shows the advantage of having a full time member of staff, because if you are the editor and that's your job, its expected that you produce something good. It all



WORDS OF THE WEEK

BY EMILY ARCHER

Emily's Quotes for this week:

"I'm just the Higher Education spokesperson. Nobody tells me anything." Liberal Democrat MP Sarah Teather gives everyone great hope in her party's education proposals.

"If you make the most of (education), you study hard, you do your homework, and you make an effort to be smart, you can do well. If you don't, you get stuck in Iraq." John Kerry on education.

Student 'Pastafarian' Suspended From School For Beliefs

AN American student, suspended from school for coming to class dressed as a pirate, has prompted a row over freedom of religion.

Bryan Killian, from North Carolina, has claimed his pirate attire is part of his religion. Known as Pastafarian, the religion, prescribed in holy texts of Pastafarianism, required 'full pirate regalia' as a crucial part of the text.

Pastafarians follow the Flying Spaghetti Monster who believe the world was created by the touch of his noodly appendage. Pirates are acknowledged as 'absolute and divine beings'. They also attribute global warming to a falling number of pirates in the world.

This religion has been championed by Bobby Henderson, who wrote to the Kansas School Board when it was arguing over 'intellectual design' debates in science classes.

In addition to a Wikipedia page, Facebook unsurprisingly has many groups full of followers of Pastafaria. According to Rob Gamer, a creator of one of the groups, "There are at least 18,000 Flying Spaghetti Monsterists in the world today, but due to persecution, they often remain in hiding. However, a recent movement by Bobby Henderson, the foremost expert on Flying Spaghetti Monsterism and descendant of The Codifier, shows promise in bringing them into the spotlight." The members continue to debate issues of freedom of religion in America, surrounding theories of Creation.

Since this publicity, many followers from around the world have signed up to the movement. Despite the allegations of violating the students right to religion, the school maintains the suspension is due to disruption over the costume.

Prisoners Ransom Demand: Pizza

WHEN a prison guard was held hostage for two days, an unusual ransom demand was issued. Around 20 inmates demanded pizza in exchange for his release.

A guard at the Risdon Prison in Hobart, Tasmania, was seized by the hungry prisoners who were protesting over conditions in the maximum security jail.

Initially the inmates made 24 demands to the authorities, but not being too greedy they negotiated settling on 15 pizzas, Coke and garlic bread.

The request was met and the pizza delivery in return for the guards freedom. He is said to be recovering at home.

Don't Rob Karate Students!

DESPITE preparing himself with a gun, a robber was no match for brave students in Colombia earlier this month.

The thief targeted a karate academy but, despite being armed, was met with less than impressed students who promptly disarmed him.

It took place in Bucaramanga, a northwestern town. The students used their skills, knowledge and training in karate to remove the gun from the criminal.

He had to recover in hospital as a result of his poorly judged target, though we are told it was just a 'bit of a slapping'.

Student Comedy Award Winner Announced

THE 'funniest student in the UK' has been announced after a national competition.

Tom Deacon from Southampton won the final of the Student Comedy awards sponsored by Revels and www.chortle.co.uk.

The event, held at Edinburgh's Festival Fringe, chose Tom, who has just finished his third year doing drama at Exeter University, as the winner. He won £2,500 and a chance to go to the YukYuk Great Canadian Laugh Off in Toronto next year.

His performance covered subjects like Edinburgh, healthy diets and Australian raps. He has been praised for his fresh, observational tales.

An international relations and politics student from Salford came second. The event received high praise. "The final produced some cracking acts. Many of the comics on the bill can expect promising careers in comedy. Tom triumphed because his delivery, timing and confidence was fantastic, and he had some well thought-out material to go with it. He's an impressive young act, and I'd expect to see a lot more of him on the circuit."

This year's final can be seen on YouTube and applications for next year's awards, which takes place over 12 heats at UK universities in the spring, will open in the autumn.

Freshers' Week: are we maturing?



Chris Kay

I KEEP getting older, but the freshers stay the same. I sound like a middle-aged lothario saying that, but it sums up some of the feelings experienced by me and other third years I talked to. For me Freshers' Week was pretty weird - it was definitely one of the first times I felt old in a sea of fresh faces. It was also weird because compared to the previous two Freshers' Weeks, it didn't look like a chaotic booze-a-thon disguised under uniformed bright t-shirts and the pretence of organisation.

I held a privileged position as one of those rarely seen green t-shirted guys. I was "Union Media" and as such I had a nice all access pass, an authoritative swagger and very little responsibility apart from getting some acceptable photographs of the whole event.

I expected Armageddon to pass through my lens, but nothing too shocking did. Gone in my eyes were

the Freshers' Crew who surrounded themselves with a mountain of empty plastic cups, stood on tables outside the Union, diesel in hand, bellowing "IKEA" whilst dressed in a fairy outfit, trying to maintain a balance of dignity and just balance outright.

The crew seemed more or less coherent, organised, and unlike the fifty year old Timothy 'big dawg' Westwood, generally less offensive. Having been told for the first two days not to draw amusing pictures of penises on their t-shirts, they must have also given some anxious and foolish parents the impression they were pillars of good behaviour and innocence.

So was it a tamer and (whisper it) more boring week this year? Tell that to the graduate Crew Supervisor I met who woke up each day with a skull-shattering hangover, who on a good night had a luxurious 3-4 hours sleep, who had to be up at 9am every morning, but yet never wanted the party to end and certainly didn't want to go home, go back to a job or indeed reality.

Sure the hospitalities were down from the previous year, but the bars were still rammed with social-minded freshers and crew alike, at-

tempting to bulk buy ten drinks at once. Maybe it's not the attitude to liver damage that has changed, but just the unnecessary and unhelpful stupidity. Or maybe I just missed it while attempting not to spill beer over my camera.

On the day after Glow, I walked past Campus Coffee and up those stairs to our beloved Union. The odd faded glow stick, afternoon drizzle and my own throbbing head suitably marked the end of my last Freshers' Week.

However the afore mentioned supervisor didn't take the hint, and with a handful of other red shirted crew turned up that night at Soluton looking like they were on some alcohol fuelled autopilot, quietly muttering into my ear, "Got to keep it going, can't stop now".

Like many others who return to Newcastle to work on Freshers' Week, I might do the same as that certain supervisor and attempt to re-live my idealised days at Uni. Maybe next year you will see me again in these pages, on my very best behaviour, but dressed like a fairy, diesel in hand, a shining example of this well-oiled Freshers' Week.

Jeremy Kyle: best of bad bunch



Ben Woodward

HAD A good summer, or have you been reading the papers? All those stories a bit repetitive and depressing? Well fear not, student papers like this are where the ambulance-chasing hacks that populate Fleet Street start out, not where they finish up. And thank God. So let's forget about Northern Rock, Foot and Mouth, dumbed-down exams and poor Madeline "The only missing child in Europe" McCann, and talk about something a lot more amusing: Jeremy Kyle.

Sadly, I've been working a nine-to-five this summer, and have missed out on the big man in action. Most episodes are the same though. Jeremy brings on the ne'er do wells for DNA and lie detector tests, lets them get roughly two words in edgewise, then bollocks them into submission with his superior brand of vaguely right-wing wisdom. Severe cases will require the assistance of his miracle-worker psychologist Graham, a 'genius' with the knack of stating the obvious: "You are a drug addict, who beats his wife. You need help."

Unfortunately, Kyle's hilarious show is now under fire from a district judge in Manchester, who dubbed it "a human form of bear-baiting", after a man head-butted his love rival onstage. The press have of course jumped on the bandwagon and duly stuck the knife in. And as with anything else, class works its way into proceedings. Judge Berg stated that "It should not surprise anyone that

these people, some of whom have limited intellects, become aggressive with each other." In Bryony Gordon's inane Daily Telegraph column, she recently described the average J.K. watcher as "benefit scroungers [sitting] on their obese bottoms". Gordon would know all about scrounging (it is rumoured she only got the aforementioned column through her family connections), but this demonstrates that shows like Kyle's are seen by many privileged people as confronting purely working class interests and are therefore vulgar.

Would the journalists who criticise Jez for his "tawdry" antics make a better moral compass? Or are they too busy rooting through celebrities' bins? Do we little folk benefit more from the wisdom of The Daily Mail, the only British paper to publicly back Hitler prior to the war? Or The Daily Express, who devote most of their time to publishing conspiracy theories about the death of Princess Diana? Maybe the 'up-skirt' shots of female celebrities we see in the tabloids are satirical of... something. These papers feign disgust with the shallow, celebrity-fixated culture they have created, the human vulnerabilities they exploit and the people who comprise their readership. Worse, all of them seem to exist merely to perpetuate the infinitely depressing idea that modern life is rubbish. That somehow, even though the quality of living is better than it was even twenty years ago for the average person, everything is terrible. Every street is overrun by knife-wielding yobs, every person monitored by the Big Brother nanny-state lefty fascists who run our country and also wish to destroy our way of life. Hilariously, Jeremy seems to believe all of this too, but he doesn't

notice that the "intellectuals" see his show as a symptom rather than the cure.

But compared to his peers, Jeremy is actually quite a good role-model. He is obsessed with values such as good parenting, personal responsibility and hard work, and the bolshy attitude is simply his way of driving the message home. While Ricki Lake and Jerry Springer generally stand back and let the oddballs batter each other, Kyle provides the strong guidance many of them need. A friend recently showed me an episode of Springer where two 'little-people' were goaded into fighting each other while the audience chanted "Dwarf fight!" at them and Jerry giggled to himself. That is the human form of bear-baiting.

And even if The Jeremy Kyle Show is "a morbid and depressing display of dysfunctional people whose lives are in turmoil" (as Berg insisted), who cares? I must have missed the segment at the beginning of each show where the guests are dragged on stage at gun-point and forced to air their dirty laundry (though often they act like it). They come on to get on television! If these stupid sods weren't on TV knocking ten shades out of each other, they'd be doing it at home or outside the pub. I don't feel sorry for any of the dysfunctional characters you meet on Jezza, Big Brother, etc. because if they actually cared about their own well-being they'd be desperately seeking proper help rather than attention. I don't know which Jeremy truly wants to give them, nor do I know which they actually merit. Probably neither. But the hacks who thrive on misery and chaos are no better than him. Maybe, in fact, they could benefit from his example.

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Fresher's Experience...

I ARRIVED in Ricky Road for the first time on Saturday. I entered my new flat with so many questions. I wonder what my flatmates are like? Where am I going to keep all my shoes? Why are there so many cows around?

Leaving my parents would be hard, but hopefully my flatmates would be friendly. After a few introductions the six of us were getting on like we'd always been friends, so we decided to take a trip down to the quayside and go for a meal. We could afford this, right?

Some of my flatmates and I wandered to the Union on Sunday for the free BBQ and to buy some posters. Several diesels later we were having an excellent afternoon - lots of free burgers and planning outfits for Heaven and Hell. I was a devil nun...

Heaven and Hell was an incredible night! It had something for everyone - heavenly dance and hellish rock. I met so many peo-

ple - fancy dress makes a brilliant conversation piece! I just hope I remember everyone's name.

Monday began with a lie in and the first of many headaches - I wish. 9am induction meeting. So I dragged myself around for the afternoon feeling rough.

After that I needed a good night out! My flatmates and I went for a warm up in 'Revolution' at the Union before getting a bus to 'Fat Mondays' at the Baja club. I recommend that night to anyone! The music was brilliant and the atmosphere was even better. If this is what Newcastle nightlife is always like, I'm going to have an amazing time!

By Tuesday, I needed a day off; I was exhausted! But I found myself rushing around to register again. Luckily for me Tuesday night was much more laid back. After sampling the casino at 'Viva Las Vegas' in the Union, myself, my flatmates, and a few others we'd picked up along the way found a jazz club in the city centre.

Wednesday was a day off! No lectures, no induction - nothing! So I took a look around the city to find some clothes that might impress at a UV extravaganza.

'Kiss it', later that night, was probably one of my favourite nights at the Union. Kate Lawler was a surprisingly good DJ - dare I say better than Tim Westwood? An amazing night, but I may have had a few too many to drink, which explains my appalling dancing! I have learned to fear how cheap the Union bar is.

Thursday night brought the big finale!

I spent the day helping my flatmates find outfits for 'Glow'. Green sparkly t-shirts and several pairs of legwarmers later, we were taken on the bar crawl to end all bar crawls by 'the fairies', a brilliant group of crew who certainly knew their bars! Many shots later, we arrived at the Metro Arena and fought our way to the dancefloor. It was an insane night - at one point I was dancing and the next, I'd been turned upside down! It all gets a little blurry after that...

I can definitely see how Newcastle gets its reputation for having the best Freshers' Week in the country! I'll just have to think about getting some work done now...

BY SARAH FEARNS- 1ST YEAR

Crew Experience...

FRESHERS' crew 2007 was one of the best experiences I've ever had, not only did I make lots of new friends but it even rivalled my own Freshers' Week.

Although it was tiring, having less than ten hours of sleep the whole week, it was well worth it. We even got to take part in some of the activities. Newcastle University's Freshers' Week has been voted the best in the country, and we worked very hard to make sure everyone enjoyed it. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet lots of new people while encouraging the freshers to have a good time; I'd definitely take part in it again!

Our job was to take first years on activities, make them feel welcome and be on hand to give directions or advice, which we all did in fancy dress. My theme was Pirates, arrr! For the crew members Freshers' Week started on the Thursday, for training and of course the crew party at Liquid - a very messy affair but a great way to get to know the rest of the crew.

With such good activities scheduled for evenings at the Union it was inevitable they would prove popular and so our nights were spent directing freshers to overspill destinations such as Digital and a foam party at Sea.

We spent the days at the Union, either having a break in the Mens bar with a pint of diesel or taking the freshers on activities. Yes, I was one of those people yelling at every single passer by to come on the Durham pub crawl. The day time activities are such a great way to meet people without having to compete with loud music or slurring after one too many Skittles - it's a shame so many people couldn't attend due to introductory lectures and registration. I personally enjoyed ice skating, discovering I do have balance even after a couple of pints.

A highlight of my week was visiting Ricky Road Halls to recruit people to come to the Union, where they welcomed us with beans on toast and beer. I'm not sure if it was the red crew t-shirt or my attractive marker pen moustache that made them so welcoming, but they were very generous. I also enjoyed our daily Crew

meetings that were always entertaining - especially the 'name and shames' from the night before.

This year's Freshers' Week was definitely a success, thanks to the organisers and the whole of the crew, who sacrificed a week of their life and worked their asses off while playing hard at the same time!

BY MARINA KING- FRESHERS' CREW



International perspective...

LAST week was stuffed with loads of lectures and parties. The best party of Freshers' Week was actually on the Friday after Freshers' Week, but I'll tell you about that in a bit. 'Heaven and Hell' party on Sunday was also pretty good. My English flatmates told me I had to dress up for that party, so I bought

a costume at Asda and turned up as 'Death'. The entertainment had already started while we waited in the queue, but it was awesome to see devils swinging around fire sticks and spitting fire. Unfortunately it was so crowded inside that it took us half an hour to get a beer. Otherwise I would have had a couple more!

As the week moved on, I became a bit tired. I had about seven or eight hours of lectures every day, plus parties! I hadn't expected to be so busy during the day, but I thought I'd better go to those lectures to repeat the basics in chemistry and geology and

meet my lecturers and colleagues. As a result, I hardly had any time for the daytime activities during Freshers' Week. That made the wristband rather expensive. I wish the Student Union had sold special postgraduate wristbands for the parties only.

On the one day I didn't have any lectures, Wednesday, I wanted to go surfing. Unfortunately there weren't any places left, so I went paintballing instead. That was yet another new experience. I totally enjoyed it, although it was rather painful - my head was hit so many times! Next time I'll bring a helmet! That night it

seemed to me that most people were getting a bit tired. I went to the 'Kiss it' party, which was less crowded than Monday's event, but the atmosphere was not as vibrant, so we went home early.

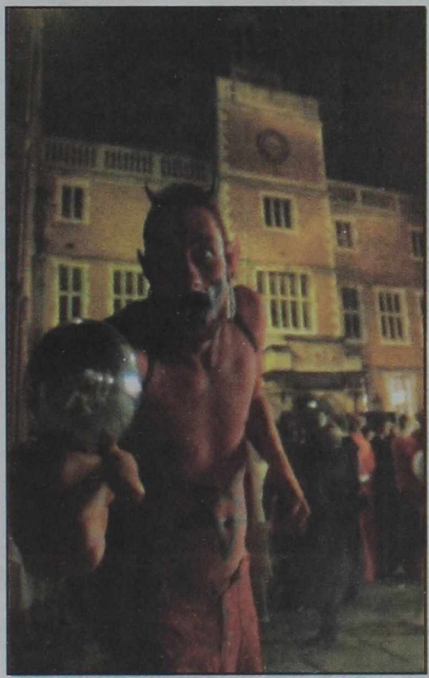
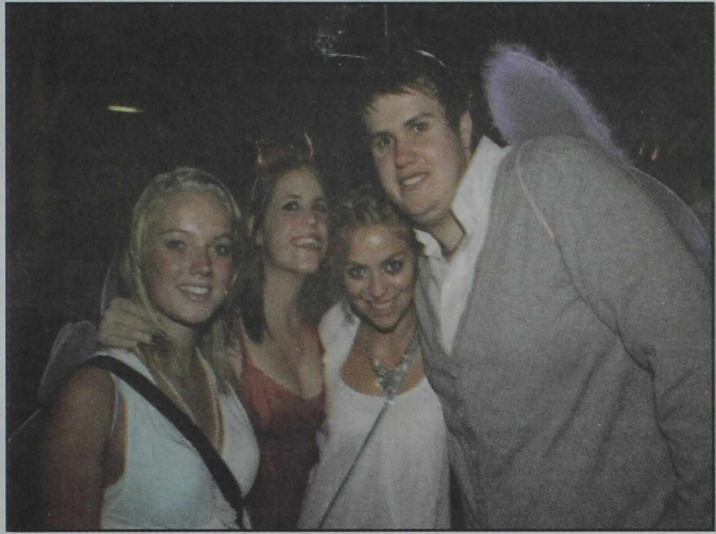
The good thing about Newcastle University is that the people managed to make me feel very welcome. I met my personal tutor on Thursday, and it's good to know that there's someone who you can ask all your questions, even if you don't have any. So far, I haven't suffered any symptoms of culture shock yet. English students are very similar to

German students!

Let's get back to the best party of the week though; our housewarming! The formula was rather simple. We invited all our new friends, and made sure we had plenty of drinks and nibbles. But really, that's all you need. Isn't it?

HENRIK, 1ST YEAR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FROM GERMANY, AS REPORTED BY JACKIE LAUMANS

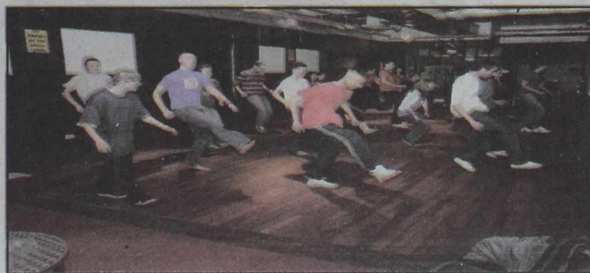
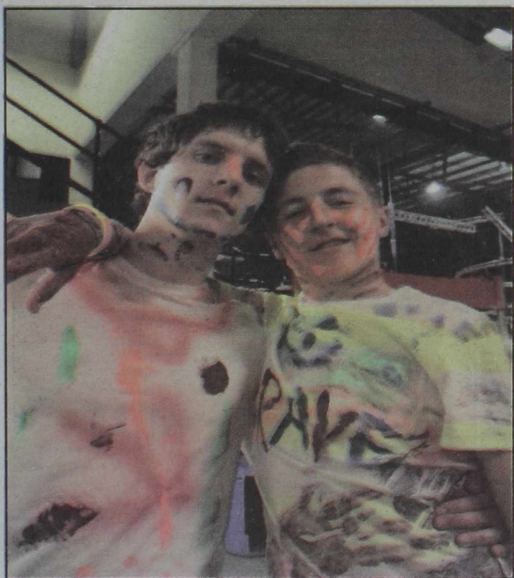
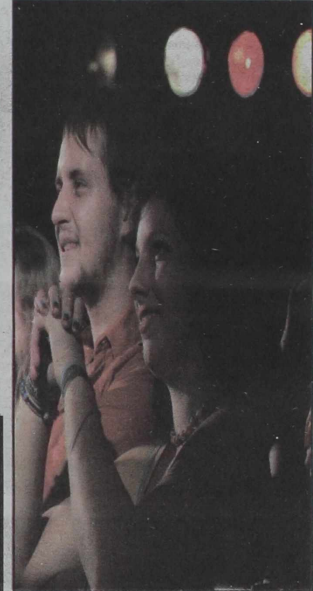
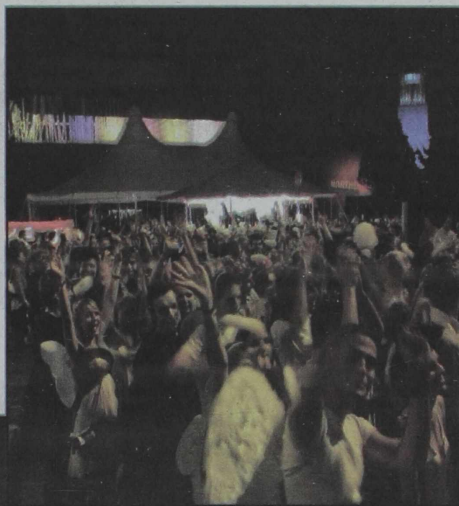
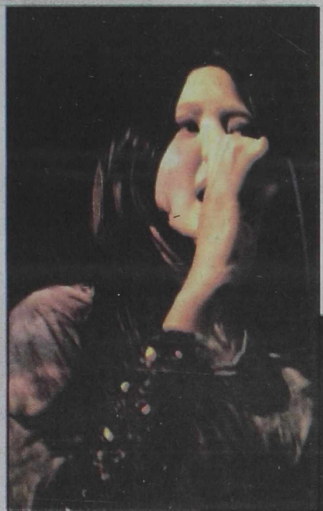
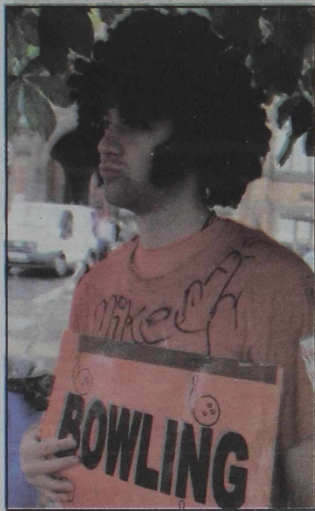
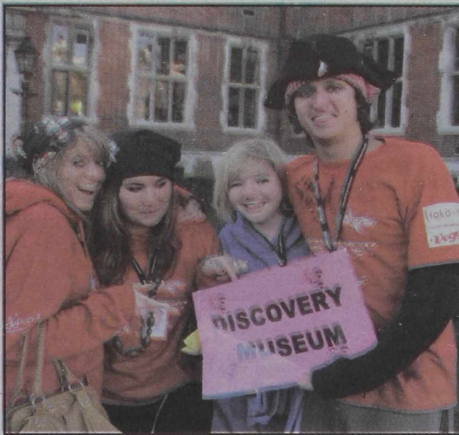
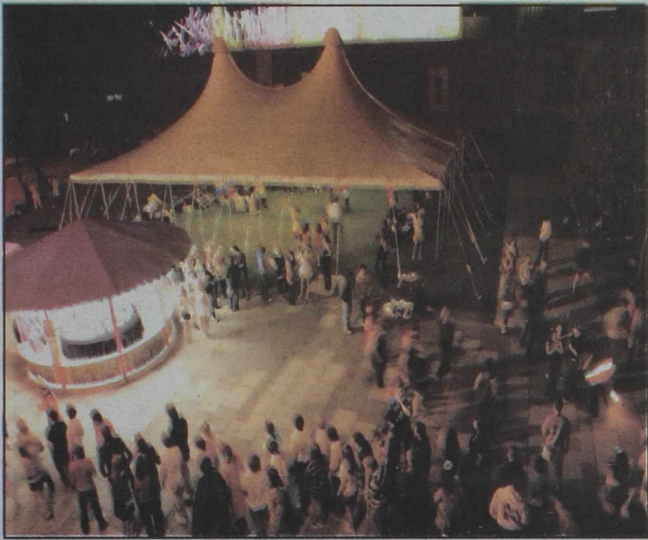
FRESHERS' WEEK 07



All Photos by Joe Currin and Chris Kay

IN PICTURES

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
FRESHERS WEEK 2007



FREE MUGS!

The Courier has 60 limited edition Freshers' Week 2007 mugs to give away to the first 60 people to come to The Courier office (opposite The Cochrane Lounge) this week. It's as simple as that! Make sure you grab your free souvenir of the biggest Freshers' Week in the country.



Home Away From Home

SOPHIE ROBINSON discusses what happens when the fun of Freshers' Week finishes and the reality of moving away hits home

FRESHERS' Week is over, and what do you have to show for it? Piles of free pens, condoms and wall planners - certainly the infamous freshers flu - perhaps a fantastic group of close friends, but probably not.

With a week of lectures already under your belts, suddenly reality is kicking in. Without the inebriation, excitement and hours of organised activity of Freshers' Week, you may realise that similarities you shared with new acquaintances (i.e. ugliness of hangover on a scale of one to ten) now seem something of a less solid basis for friendship than you originally thought.

And that however fun meeting new people might be, you really quite miss all those friends from school or college who are now scattered around the country.

You're really not the only one. The hype that surrounds going away to university may fool you into believing that everyone around you is already loving what are supposed to be the best years of your life.

In fact an awful lot will be remembering what they've left behind. Fortunately, you will soon appreciate just how long university holidays are - each year you will spend almost as much time at home as here - meaning that you can spend plenty of time catching up with old chums.

Don't, however, wish away these weeks with only the thought of Christmas break keeping you going. Instead, enjoy this strange time for what it is.

Talk to absolutely anyone, and don't

Photo: Mindaugas Miskinis



worry about whether you can see yourself hanging out with them in five weeks time.

Make a particular effort with flatmates, however difficult that may be. Arguments over washing up or who is using too much toilet paper can turn nasty when you can't sit down with your flatmates, a bottle of wine, and the resultant realisation that there are far more important things in life to worry about. Yes, never having clean cutlery is a right pain, but whinging and risking friendships is worse.

If you signed up for every second club and society at the Freshers' Fayre, try and turn up to at least one. Most societies and some sports teams accept members throughout the year, so if you missed the introductory meeting it probably won't

matter. Check out our weekly feature on societies (page 12) for ideas.

Unless you're a medic or workaholic, no first year has the excuse that they don't have time. You do, so enjoy it while it lasts.

And if Christmas still seems a long way off, get yourself on Facebook in the meantime to keep up with how your friends are getting along. Invite them to visit, and you'll probably realise you want to show off all the delights of your new home city. Because you really have chosen a great place to study, and by your final year you'll be trying to come up with excuses not to leave and enter the real world. And if that thought still doesn't cheer you up just remember that it could be worse: you could be at Northumbria.

HOLLY POYNTON takes a wry look at the highs and lows of life in a student kitchen

George of the Urban Jungle

He may be mean, he may be lean and he may just be a fat reducing grilling machine, but students up and down the country are welcoming this grillzilla of kitchen appliances into their homes and hearts. Almost everyone I know who has one of these babies refers to it affectionately as 'George', and although this may say a little more about the company I keep rather than the kitchen appliance in question, it certainly shows the love a simple little indoor grill can generate. With over 100 million sold in just over 10 years, George has revolutionised student cooking. For those who lack in the culinary department, have a distrust of kitchen appliances or have no clue how to cook something unless it's floating in hot oil, he's a godsend. You just flick a switch and then his little face lights up when he's hot enough to cook, you slap your meat and veg on his Teflon grilling plates and you're good to go. No oil, no washing up, no problem. To be perfectly honest, George is so damn good I'd put my name on it too.

CANNY

Photos: Chris Kay

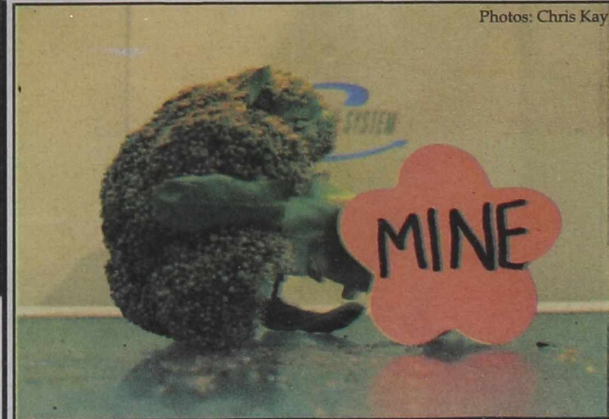


Raiders of the Lost Fridge

A PESKY problem which appears to be plaguing the nation's students from Dover to Dumfries, is the time old tradition of fridge raiders. Yes, you may mark lines on your milk carton or leave polite post it notes on your jam but you can guarantee if you share a fridge your milk levels will become suspiciously low overnight and your carefully worded notes will have disappeared leaving your strawberry preserves full of another persons crumbs. A friend of mine in first year had some Dairylea triangles swiped, never to be seen again. The whole ordeal left her traumatised and wary of buying branded processed cheese. The offender never apologised or replaced the goods in question; heavens knows what they did with eight individually wrapped portions of soft cheese unless they were involved in some sort of depraved sexual act, in which case it's probably for the best she never set eyes on her precious Dairylea again. Anyway, my advice to students contending with a mystery muncher? Put something nasty in the butter to teach them a lesson. The university would probably frown upon rat poison, but a nice healthy bit of fresher's flu phlegm should do the trick (P.S. other brands of soft cheese are available).

NEE CANNY

Photos: Chris Kay



Fashion Assassin

She's the merciless mercenary targeting crimes against taste



Who wears short shorts?

SOME unconventional pairings defy logic to compliment each other perfectly: pineapple on pizza, peanut butter with a healthy spoonful of jam, Lindsay Lohan and an alcohol tag to name but a few. But tights and shorts worn together are far from a match made in heaven.

To begin with the triple crotch extravaganza of underwear/tights/shorts doesn't lend itself to sexy undressing should the situation demand it. Spare a thought for cack-handed men across the country who don't cope well faced with a fiddly bra clasp let alone three layers of clothes; it's nothing short of a nylon chastity belt adrift a polyester Fort Knox. And above all else, you just look like Nora Batty on safari.

Hypocritical condition

Drop beats not bombs! Pick flowers not fights! Make love not war! proclaim a host of neon t-shirts up and down

Northumberland Street. I'm certain these slogan-wearing trend monkeys spend their entire weekends campaigning for an end to involvement in Iraq or fund raising for NSPCC. In fact I bet they are all petitioning for better working rights for underage factory workers who mass produce tacky slogan T-shirts in awful conditions right now.

Lewd. Crude. Prude?

Gentlemen, I hope you weren't intending to fly under my radar, because a vast number of you are fashion offenders of the highest degree. Quick survey: would you ever go up to a woman you didn't know and say, "Wanted: nice warm home for my cock" or "I came on Eileen"? If the answer is a resounding 'no' (and I hope for a vast majority it is), it puzzles me why men find it appropriate to not only print such offensive drivel on a T-shirt but actually wear it in public.

I do not claim to be an expert on the male mind but I have never once witnessed a situation like the one below:

Girl: "Oh! What does your T-shirt say? F.B.I., female body inspector - how novel and witty and not in the slightest bit offensive or objectifying! Would you just look at that! All my clothes appear to be falling off, would you like to inspect my body?"

Furthermore the psychology of wearing a T-shirt em-

blazoned with the words "The man (arrow pointing upwards) the legend (arrow pointing to crotch)", suggests that the crotch in question isn't altogether that legendary.

But ladies, this is all speculation and I am more than willing to be proved wrong. In the mean time, as far as I am concerned there should be an amnesty whereby all men in possession of such hideous items should be stripped and have their clothes chucked on a large communal bonfire and then paraded through the streets on a really, really cold day.

A load of croc

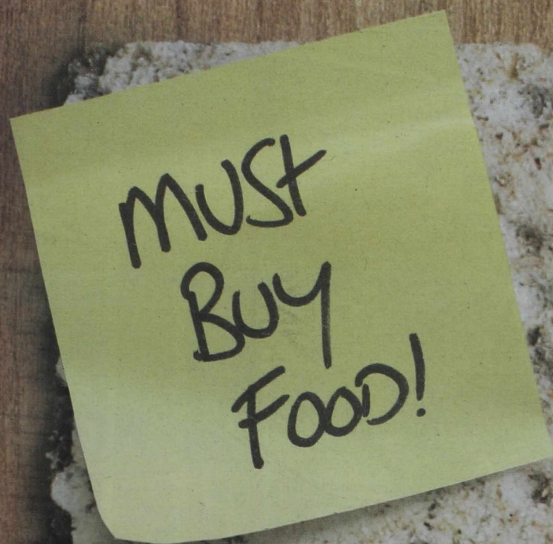
They have more holes than swiss cheese, and probably smell just as bad, and no matter what various style guides may say, you can't detract from the fact they are perhaps the ugliest thing you could wear on your feet short of Chris Evans' hollowed out head.

And perhaps the worst part is the multitude of vile colours, affording middle-aged suit clad commuters the false impression that by wearing them they prove themselves to be 'funky' or even worse, ironic.

We fashionistas know that you have to suffer for style, but if it means wearing these ugly shoes then feed me to the crocodiles.

Photos: Chris Kay





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SOCIETY: PROFILES

The Photographic Society

By Paula Willis

Photo: Andy Guildhal

THE Photographic Society aims to encourage people of all abilities and with all types of cameras to get out and have fun taking photographs - whether you've got a mobile phone camera or an SLR, we'll cater for you.

We run a variety of events during the year; on the photographic side we have picture taking expeditions and follow up galleries, as well as numerous workshops. Topics for this year include landscape photography and using the studio set up - and on the social side, evenings in the pub and trips away, both in the UK and abroad (previous destinations have included Rome, Prague and Amsterdam). We like to get involved with other societies, and last year produced two calendars (cheerleading and netball), took portraits at the Snow Ball and photographed the Hapkido Championships, so we encourage other societies to get in touch for photographers.

We offer two levels of membership: a standard membership at £6, which entitles you to take part in all our events and come on our trips, or a darkroom membership for £10, which allows you the same, plus use of our darkroom facility in the Union and the right to borrow the society's film SLRs and studio equipment.

Next Event: Monday 8th October, Freshers' Event Gallery. Come along and see the snaps our freshers took on a guided tour of Newcastle. 7.30pm, Function Suite, Union.

For more information, email help@nups.net

WHO'S WHO

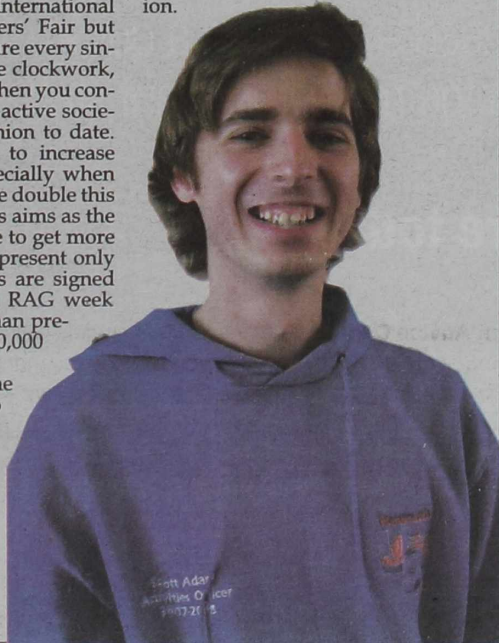
HOLLY POYNTON introduces Activities Officer extraordinaire Scott Adam to the fair folk of Newcastle

SCOTT ADAM is not only a really nice guy he's also a pretty lucky one too. After graduating from Newcastle University last summer with a degree in Applied Communications, he was elected as the Union's Activities Officer and now happily claims to have, "the best job in the world."

Not only is he responsible for RAG week, the Grad Ball, International events and the Re-Freshers' Fair but also the task of making sure every single society is running like clockwork, and that's no mean feat when you consider there are about 100 active societies supported by the Union to date. However, Scott is keen to increase this number further especially when places like Leeds Uni have double this amount. He states that his aims as the new Activities Officer are to get more students in societies - at present only 7,000 Newcastle students are signed up - to make this years RAG week even bigger and better than previously and to raise £30,000 for charity.

Scott is the man in the know when it comes to any society related queries from how to set up a new society (also see our handy guide, right) to any promotion and finance problems which might exist with old ones, and after setting up his very own society in third

year, the 20 Minute Club, you can be sure you're in good hands. If you want to send him an email with any questions you may have or want to book an appointment, contact him via activities.union@newcastle.ac.uk or visit him Tuesdays 1pm-5pm at the Activities Centre (old Job Shop) on the first floor of the Union.



Setting up a society: your step by step guide

Setting up a society may seem a daunting task, but here HOLLY POYNTON guides you through the surprisingly simple process

SOCIETIES are an essential part of university life, far from just being an outlet to meet like minded people and have fun in the process, being a member of a society also gives you that extra dimension that employers are looking for, and to set yourself even further ahead of the crowd, why not set up your very own organization within the Union? It's easy and will help to hone and display the intuition and drive that will look great on your C.V.

Fundamentally, all you need is an interest in a particular activity which isn't already encompassed by a fully ratified society. The only other stipulation is that all members of the University can join. Once you've had your brainwave, you need to start putting the wheels in motion and meet the man with the know how, Mr. Scott Adam, Activities Officer extraordinaire.

Scott is a full time member of the Union Staff, there to help guide you through the set up process step by step making sure you comply with University regulations.

After your initial meeting with him where you outline the aims and objectives of your society, there are five forms that need to be filled out that cover everything from your society's constitution to risk assessment. Once these forms have been filled in, your society will be added to the list of active organisations at the University and other students will be able to sign up.

Your next challenge is to get 15 students to sign up and pay the membership fee. The best way to do that is by promoting your society by any means necessary. Hand out flyers, put up posters in designated areas, get chatting to students outside the union or anywhere else

you can ensnare your target audience.

The Courier is also another way to promote your society to the far flung corners of the student body. Every week we feature a different organisation to give students a taster of the sorts of things they can get involved in.

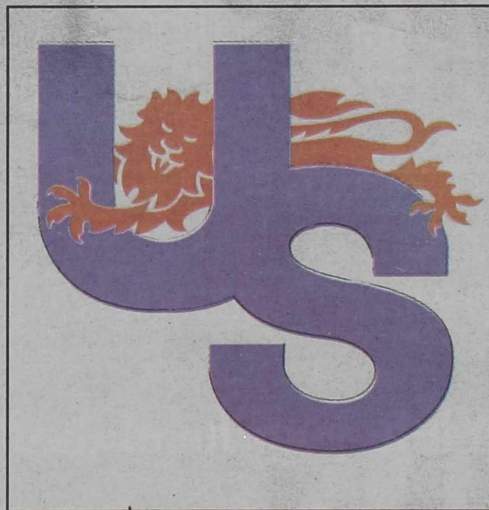
If you want your society to be featured then don't be shy, drop us an email and we'll be in touch - it could be just the ticket to getting lots of new people involved in the sport or leisure activity that you're passionate about.

After you've got your members it's onwards and upwards to the Societies Executive Committee - eight elected members of the Union who will have a chat with you about the aims of your society and then take a vote on ratifying you as a new society.

If you've come this far, don't be worried about not making the grade, the University always welcomes new societies so it's very likely you'll be given the big thumbs up!

So why bother setting up a society of your very own? After all, there are already hundreds of other groups, wouldn't it be easier just to join one of them?

Well, perhaps in the short term, the answer to that would be yes, but why take the easy option? By setting up a society not only will you develop team working, communication and promotion skills for the future, there will also be some very immediate benefits. Just think, as a president of a society you will have the potential to meet hundreds of like minded people doing something that you love and enjoy. The only thing holding you back is yourself, so get stuck in and give it a go.

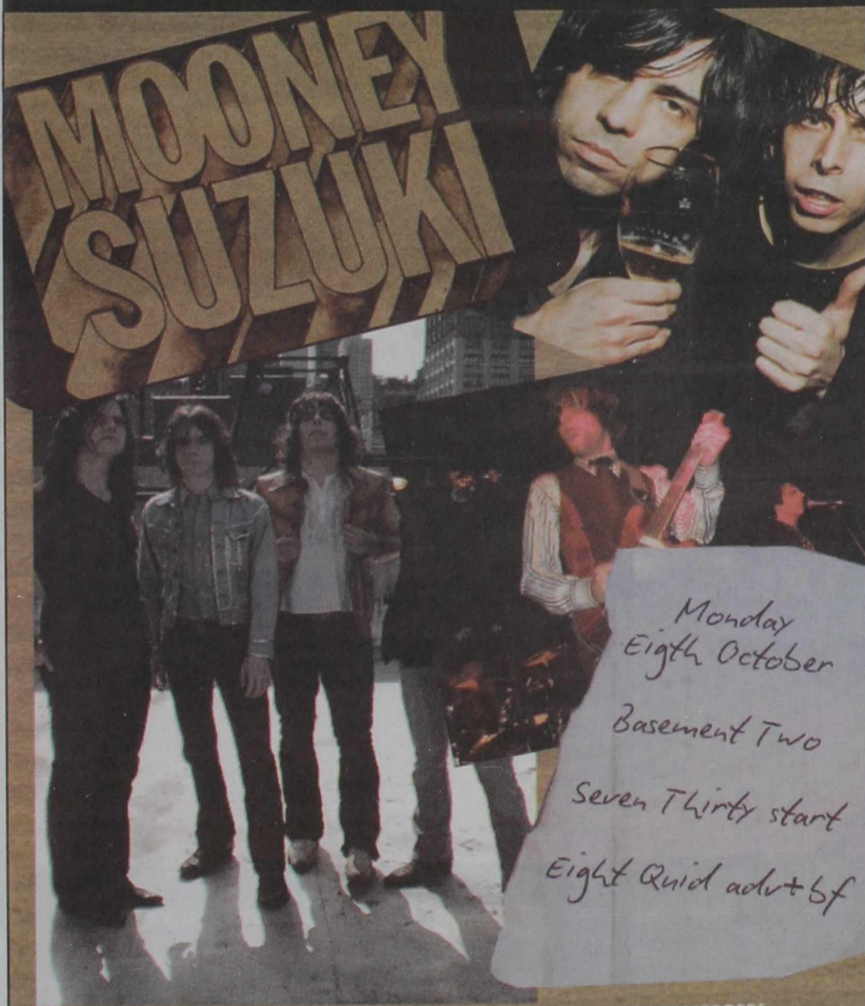




boykillboy

SUNDAY 4th NOV - BASSMENT - 7.00 DOORS - £8 adv+bf

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY UNION, BEATDOWN RECORDS, RPM, CITY HALL BOX OFFICE, REFLEX, ALT VINYL, HOT RATS (SUNDERLAND) AND DAM (DURHAM) FOR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 0191 233 0444/ 0191 263 5000/ 0191 261 2606 OR GO TO WWW.TICKETLINE.CO.UK FOR INFO CALL 0191 239 3934 OR GO TO WWW.UNION.NCL.AC.UK/ENTERTAINMENTS UNDER 14'S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT



Monday
Eighth October
Basement Two
Seven Thirty start
Eight Quid adv+bf

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY UNION, BEATDOWN RECORDS, RPM, CITY HALL BOX OFFICE, REFLEX, ALT VINYL, HOT RATS (SUNDERLAND) AND DAM (DURHAM) FOR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 0191 233 0444/ 0191 263 5000/ 0191 261 2606 OR GO TO WWW.TICKETLINE.CO.UK FOR INFO CALL 0191 239 3934 OR GO TO WWW.UNION.NCL.AC.UK/ENTERTAINMENTS UNDER 14'S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

Los Campesinos!

**Wednesday 17th October
Basement - 7.30 start
£6.00adv +bf**

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY UNION, BEATDOWN RECORDS, RPM, CITY HALL BOX OFFICE, REFLEX, ALT VINYL, HOT RATS (SUNDERLAND) AND DAM (DURHAM) FOR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 0191 233 0444/ 0191 263 5000/ 0191 261 2606 OR GO TO WWW.TICKETLINE.CO.UK FOR INFO CALL 0191 239 3934 OR GO TO WWW.UNION.NCL.AC.UK/ENTERTAINMENTS UNDER 14'S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

SOMETIMES FIXING THINGS ISN'T THAT SIMPLE!




The **Student Advice Centre** is an independent student-focused service housed in the Union Society. The SAC will help you with the tougher things in University life - like debt, housing problems, academic issues and immigration problems. It offers specialist drop-in clinics each week. Check with the SAC for availability

Monday: 12-3 Housing and Security, 1-3 Police Drop-in/Crime Prevention
Tuesday: Finance Clinic - ask your local authority student funding questions
Thursday: Student Support Officer Drop-in
Friday: 12-3 Sexual Health NHS Drop-in service



The Student Advice Centre is situated on the First Floor of the Union Society, Kings Walk
Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 4pm

advice - bars - sports - DJs - jobs - societies - volunteers  representation - food - juice - shop - post office - gigs

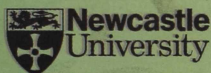
MATHS AID DROP-IN CENTRE

help and advice

free
for all

PERSONAL HELP AND ADVICE WITH

- The numeracy skills needed for aptitude tests.
- Improving your general numeracy skills.
- The maths and stats skills in your course.*



Newcastle University Room 325, level 3 Robinson Library
11am – 3pm weekdays. (to 4pm Wednesday)

You can discuss your needs and get help on a 1-1 basis with our friendly tutors or browse through helpful leaflets and booklets.

*Priority given to first year students.

Help on more advanced topics subject to tutor availability and demand.



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*See Jscampus.co.uk for full terms and conditions. £100 must be spent in one order to qualify. Only one free bag per customer. Offer ends 31 October 2007. Offer does not include free bag postage and packing.

Photo on opposite page: Geo Harrison

Pulp

beirut



CSS

- Featuring*
1. baltic
bother
 2. dvd and cd reviews
 3. nocturnal wallplanner
 4. gossip mongrel
 5. star and shadow
cinema

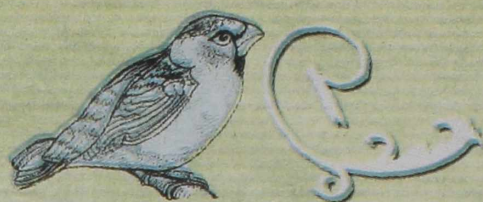
roy lichtenstein

foals

Issue no. 1154
8th october 2007



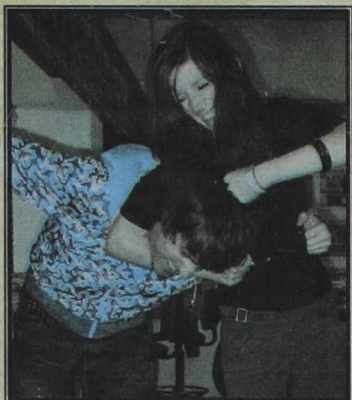
MUSIC



HELLO FROM US...

Well here we are, emerging from under a pile of old CDs and unopened emails, and dusting off our pens. The Foals gig on Tuesday was ace, a bunch of incredibly talented peeps put on by a very dashing promoter! There we saw Cut Off Yr Hands, the hot new bunch from over several ponds (check out the top five this week) and what a live treat they turned out to be. I [Ruth], personally, am very excited about seeing Mark Ronson on Sunday, although a certain scrooge over there doesn't seem to agree. Ok, so other people did write all his singles, but how much better are his Versions? [Erm... Not very!] Answer, a lot. [Waaa!] Cheeky, jazzy and full of chutzpah. This week you can catch us both at Inertia on Tuesday boppin' away, and also sitting in a dark corner and swaying to Beirut. It really is great!

Jimmy & Ruth xx
pulp.music@ncl.ac.uk



TOP FIVE THIS MONTH

1. **Vice Unitaur 2007.** Weds 31st Oct, The Other Rooms. This amazing party, featuring The Teenagers, Crystal Castles and These New Puritans, is free! Register for tickets at www.unitaur.com.
2. **Adventures in the Beetroot Field.** Weds 17th Oct. Uber-hipster lineup with electro-Scots Shitdisco.
3. **Rouge Pulp.** Tues 23rd Oct, WHQ. Guests Pirate Soundsystem spin euro electro and breaks.
4. **Hadouken!** Fri 18th Oct, Newcastle Union
5. **Brighton Beach.** Sat 27th Oct, Newcastle Union. The Union's monthly retro, soul and indie clubnight.

INERTIA

RHYSMIX



Rumour has it Tuesday's inertia may be the last, at least for a while. Resident DJ and general host Sully tells us how the party started.

As for anecdotes I'm a little stumped. I'm usually the one in the box playing all the records, so rarely does anything funny ever happen to me. There are lewd stories of illicit love-making in the female toilets, and controversial tales of management assaulting customers in a pre-emptive attempt to protect DJs, but I don't really think it would be advisable to publish material of that nature, nor would be of much interest to your high-brow readers...

When we arrived at Newcastle Uni in first year, one of the main reasons the three of us chose this Uni was the nightlife. So, we arrived all wide-eyed and naive, thinking "this will be great - three years of great parties, ace bands and awesome DJs". It slowly dawned on us that Newcastle was a great city to party in - if you were a lager-fuelled rugby "lad" with no taste in music, or an NME-bumming indie-boy whose

taste in bands changed as frequently as the magazine's did.

So, us being the cynical, fault-finding music snobs that we are, we quickly grew bored. We couldn't find a club that was playing the eclectic range of good music that we loved - bands like

Radiohead, Bjork, Justice, Aphex Twin, Von Stroke, DJ Shadow, Beirut, Battles, QOTSA, SebastiAn, Sigur Ros, Mogwai, Cinematic Orchestra, RJD2, Soulwax, J5... you get the idea. It didn't have to be a specific type of music - it just had to be good.

None of us were DJs, but we decided that rather than just sit around on our arses and continue to complain about the situation, we would have a go at creating something ourselves, irrespective of whether people would come or dance to what we played.

But fortunately for us, people did come, and they did dance. The first night took place on Wednesday 15th March, 2006, and following a controversial poster campaign that featured a young boy with angel's wings wearing a gasmask, it ran pretty successfully.

This month sees the club play host to guest DJ - Tom Bellamy of The Cooper Temple Clause, pictured left. Since the split in early spring, Tom's solo project under the moniker 'Rhysmix' has seen him remix work by bands like The Gossip, Goose and, more recently, Rage Against The Machine with XFM's Eddie Temple-Morris. The always-eclectic resident DJ sets manage to blend bands like Radiohead, Beck and Queens of the Stoneage, with DJs such as Claude Von Stroke, Justice and Dillinja, and Producers like DJ Shadow and Bjork.

COMPETITION

To be in with a chance of getting on this month's Inertia guestlist, just answer this very simple question:

Q. In which band did Tom Bellamy play before his current 'Rhysmix' project?

- a. The Cooper Temple Clause
- b. Maybe Myrtle Tyrle
- c. Rolf Harris and the Walla-Wallas

Email your answer and your name to inertia.whq@gmail.com. The winner will be notified by 5pm on October 8th.

TOP FIVE THIS WEEK

1. **Wax:On.** Fri 12th Oct, Digital. Simian Mobile Disco, French master Vitalic and DNB heavy-weight DJ Zinc head this month's bill.
2. **Cut Off Yr Hands.** 'Still Fond/Closed Eyes' out Mon 8th Oct.
3. **Quiet Loud.** Mon 8th Oct, Bernacca. A free one-off post rock night playing the likes of Mogwai, Sigur Ros and Explosions in the Sky.
4. **Sex Pistols.** 'God Save the Queen' out Mon 8th Oct, and trying to get to number one.
5. **Mark Ronson.** Sun 14th Oct, Academy. The jury's still out on this one...



BAND PROFILE: LATE OF THE PIER

The rise and rise of Late Of The Pier looks set to become the new definition of meteoric; an innovative Nottingham-based four piece who irresponsibly thrust Daft Punk-esque electro beats into a head-on collision with the tastiest synthtastic space pop this side of Sparks. Boisterous and ravesome though they may be, any cruel accusations of nu-rave are totally unfounded, although you can catch the band on tour soon with Hadouken!, by which time their underground success may have gone interstellar. The tune currently shaking the very foundations of the blogosphere is "The Bears Are Coming", a flurry of disorientating bleeps and bloops with an operatic edge oddly reminiscent of Queen. Expect it cropping up on a mixtape near you soon.

Roz Tuplin: The Stooges, BRMC, Marvin Gaye, Simian Mobile Disco

FOALS

'HARD-FI ARE F**KING DICKS'

Foals only came together last March and yet their precise brand of clean staccato guitars, mathematical accuracy and fizzing onstage presence has led them to a record deal, a debut album, and an awkward surge of success. We met the man in front of it all; witty, eloquent, fidgety, nervous, and undoubtedly talented Yannis Philippakis. By Ruth Sleightholme

The interview took place around the table of an unopened Digital, breathing in the fairy-tale wreathes of contraband smoke. Yes, Yannis was smoking for two thirds of the interview, until a member of staff reminded him it was illegal. The frontman mixes nervous energy - 'Oh God, I'm just telling you everything I don't like!' - with moments of pure clarity. Tapping his lighter on the table, sitting on his hands, or fiddling with his hair, Yannis told us about the band's new album, being signed and his favourite musical peers...

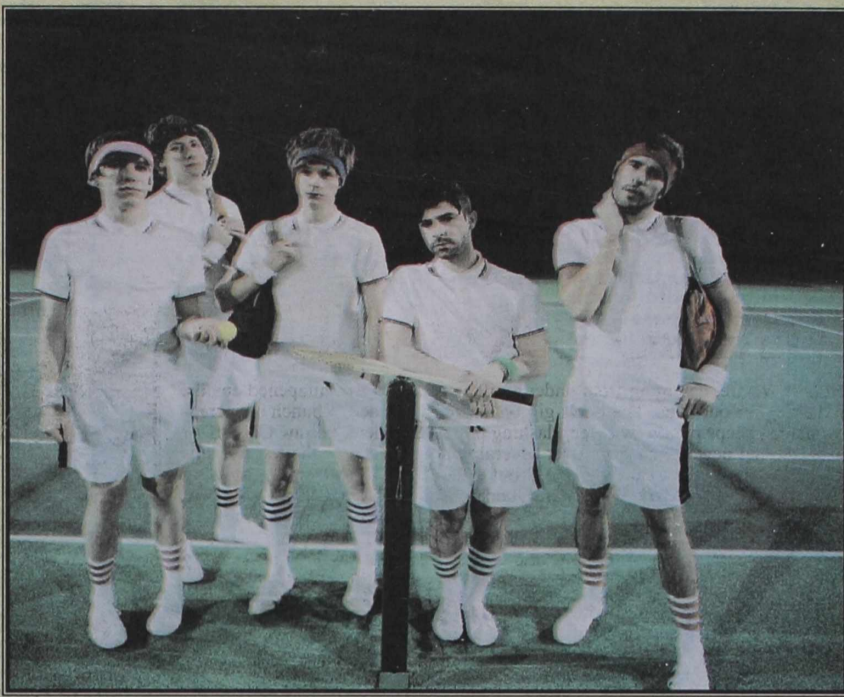
"We write because our social lives are kind of lacking"

Being Signed. 'I've never even met some of the people working for us. That's the side to it I don't like as much. The whole architecture of the music industry... it's a bit divisive. It's not a real thing. We've stopped using video directors now; anyone outside of our band family. Nobody is really allowed access artistically anymore because doing videos with career hungry MTV schnooks is not fun.'

New Album. 'We write pretty prolifically, because our social lives are kind of lacking. We could have gone and worked with some in-vogue London producer who's worked with a lot of indie bands who are very radio friendly and are trying to capture the live essence, but that wouldn't be very fulfilling for us. Some people will be a bit freaked out by it on first listen, but I think it's an album you will listen to two or three times and it will open your mind. It's an album you'll love far, far more than if we'd done the other type.'

No Chords! 'There's maybe two chords in a whole set! I could play chords, but I don't really like them, you've got to challenge stuff. And also if you have a band of four or five people, guitars, bass, keyboard, you can make chords out of the four different notes. That's the theory behind it. We're never going to be chord strumming like Jamie T or Babyshambles or Jack Penate. I can't really play like that and I don't like it. I'm influenced by the really thin but punchy single notes of german techno.'

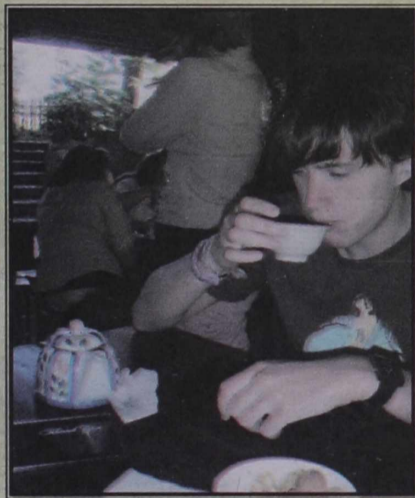
"Doing videos with career hungry MTV schnooks is not fun"



Skins Party. 'Skins has done us a lot of good, and I think the programme is really important and entertaining. It wasn't fun though. There were people who had, you know, applied to Big Brother and hadn't got on. When the cameramen were filming us, the crowd were right up front and as the camera backed off they would all run back. They weren't bothered about anything but getting on camera, which was a bit of an eye opener - I'd never met people like that before.'

There's one last thing, Hard-Fi. 'They're fucking dicks! They're just in that massive rock world, their aim in making music, in my mind, is so they can have a big house with a big telly. And there wasn't anything by the way they behaved to us or any of the people working on [Ibiza rocks] that proved any different. They behaved like prima donnas. If you support a band that doesn't like you they'll make sure you're quieter than them and can't use the lights and stuff, then they'll do this massive light show with pyrotechnics and fucking monkeys swinging off the ceiling and it's all really loud, so no shit you're gonna seem better than all the other bands! And that's what they were. I always slag them off!'

THOU SHALT NOT ... RE-FORM



Re-forming is all the rage nowadays. It's the next big thing. Or rather, the last big thing, and it's the last direction the music industry should be taking at the moment. It cannot be denied that some big ol' bands wanting big ol' wedges of cash are getting back together in their droves and pretending that they really did love each other all along. The last year has seen Billy Corgan resurrect the Smashing Pumpkins (in true megalomaniac style not even pretending the rest of the band wanted a round two, just rop-

ing in the drummer and a bunch of yuppie session musicians), The Police play pretty much anywhere that will have them, and The Who steal a headline slot at Glasto. There's more to come as well. The Verve look set to give it another shot and last week the rumour mill went into overdrive regarding Blur's potential re-formation. This is in no way a slur on the music that these artists once produced. In their heyday, The Pumpkins were a band of subtle genius, producing rich, melodic work that has since been recognised as the very pinnacle of grunge. And that is exactly the problem. Most bands are so 'of their time', and have so often helped to shape and mould the cultural landscape of their era, that when they decide to give it another go 20 years on, the background no longer fits the portrait. Recorded music can live forever, but live music is more than just lyrics and notes. It is the soundtrack of a time. Bringing Blur back is like forcing all the kids to play with yoyos and pogs again - it just doesn't fit anymore. The music scene at the moment is so vibrant, so filled with brilliant ideas and attitudes that we really don't need relics from the past clogging up our stadiums and charging ticket prices that are in excess of a small country's annual budget. We don't need them, because we've got Lovefoxxx dancing around in sequins like a nutter and some white boy from Wimbledon rapping on an acoustic bass. This is a scene that is truly ours. Just so long as no one remembers the Fratellis, we'll all be fine. **David Jones.**

Radiohead will be releasing their next album on 10th October by download, and YOU decide how much to pay for it! Wowza!

Liam Gallagher has proclaimed that the Oasis Vs Blur battle is over, adding, "It was a laugh man, that's what you do when you're young... if I was still caught up in it now I'd be a right wanker."

CSS have announced a new UK tour with support from Justice and Joe Lean and the Jing Jang Jong. Phew!



THIS RECORD CHANGED MY LIFE



The Complete Stone Roses, was without doubt the definitive record that changed the way I felt about music forever, and steered me on course to becoming the musician and general music enthusiast I am today. As a teenager, I got most of my musical education from pilfering various CDs from my big bro's bedroom. Until The Stone Roses nothing had really moved me (including The Beatles, shameful I know!). With songs like Fools Gold, Sally Cinnamon and I Wanna Be Adored, I was helplessly hooked, quickly beginning a love affair with the Jackson Pollock loving band, that continues to this day. I love 'em!

India Adams

REVIEWS

ALBUMS

BEIRUT –

THE FLYING CLUB CUP

• **The Flying Club Cup** is music's most beautiful offering since Joanna Newsom. Zach Condon's voice fuses the darkness of Editors' Tom Smith with the weary sincerity of Thom Yorke, to spine-tingling effect. On this, Beirut's second album, that baritone wavers over a medley of ukulele, accordion, snares, glockenspiel and trumpet. Everything, it seems, except a guitar. Each song on the album was written to invoke a different French city, swinging from snare-rolling military marches and sweet ballads, to mournful waltzes a la Leonard Cohen. There are touches of Arcade Fire (accordions) and Polyphonic Spree (uplifting instrumentals and eerie vocals). And all of this from a 21 year old boy from New Mexico.

9/10

Ruth Sleightmore: Sigur Ros, Trentemoller, Joanna Newsom, Kings of Leon



ED HARCOURT –

UNTIL TOMORROW THEN, THE BEST OF

• The point of a 'best of' album is usually that it includes, well, an artist's 'best'. Disappointingly, 'Until Tomorrow Then' contains a selection of notably mediocre tunes from Ed Harcourt's otherwise outstanding back catalogue. Don't get me wrong, there are a few gems in there (the gorgeous 'Loneliness' and album closer 'You Put a Spell on Me' being cases in point) and Harcourt has a habit of creating the sort of piano-drenched mini epics that send shivers down your spine. But it is the absence of anthems such as 'Undertaker Stru' and the haunting 'Sister Renee', from 2003's 'From Every Sphere', that make this album feel like a missed opportunity.

6/10

Kate Edwards: The Decemberists, The Flaming Lips, Elbow, The Futureheads

SOME VELVET MORNING –

'PRETTY GIRL'

• As Desmond Lambert croons, "Where lovers, friends and fans are measured out in grams", I cringe (like when parents swear or mention sex in front of you). Some Velvet Morning's Myspace says that they are influenced by U2 and the bulk of the record proves this to be devastatingly true. The guitar riff of 'Pretty Girl' has a White Stripe punch that their vocals can't match. Think Burt Bacharach joining The Kills and you're in the right area. If Bono's 'Vertigo' chants of "unos, dos, tres, catorce", didn't make you want to hurl, then this maybe the band for you. Me? I'm keeping my Alka-selzer close by.

3/10

Terri Eaton: Bat for Lashes, Dan Sartain, Radiohead, The Arcade Fire

SINGLES

JOE LEAN AND THE JING JANG JONG –

'LUCIO STARTS FIRES'

Sweeping aside the current indie-shamble toss-pieces like a brush through Borrell's hair, Joe Lean and the Jing Jang Jong have crafted a cheeky little squeeze of a pop treat. Swooning and crooning over tales of young romantics has never been so jolly, and becomes more and more of a guilty pleasure with each heart-warming listen.

Jimmy Asquith:
The Scarlet Harlots, The Maccabees, Clarky Cat, Good Shoes



YELLE –

'A CAUSE DES GARCONS'

This sounds like a dirty French Tiffany, but it's catchy as hell and will have you humming it for the rest of the day after one listen. Probably the best French electro/pop/dance/funk/cheese/80's homage song you'll hear for a while. C'est magnifique!

Tom: Royksopp:
Herbie Hancock,
The Flaming Lips,
Prince

DATAROCK –

'FAFAFA'

With a delightfully retro bass line, art rock vocals and shimmering disco guitar licks, there are too few reasons for this not to become essential listening on your stereo. A sheer delight, and some of the blackest white funk you will ever find.

Arran Collinge

PETE AND THE PIRATES –

'KNOT'

A short and sweet indie offering from London-based five piece Pete and the Pirates, featuring a pleasantly bouncy guitar riff that could even be passed off as pop punk (in a good way).

Joe Barton: Captain Beefheart
Albert Ayler, P-Funk

MUSICAL SOCS

#1 SWING DANCE

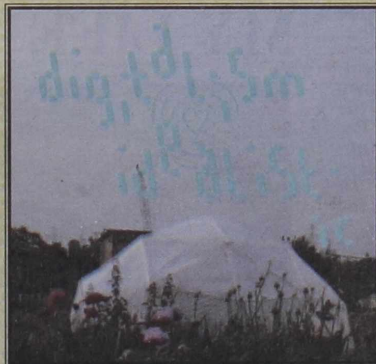
Basically you stand in a big hall (Have-lock in Castle Leazes, if anyone's interested), in a really big circle and learn to dance like the guys in Grease. Monty Python himself, aka Lloyd, leads you through the steps with such jovial ease it is virtually impossible to be embarrassed. And the music cannot have been made for any other purpose than this dance. It was infectious. Clearly they were stuck in a gastronomic as well as dance time warp, serving up pineapple and cheese cubes on sticks, but that, coupled with the necessary proximity of man to woman, is all part of Swing Dance's charm.

Ruth Sleightmore

c.e.foley@ncl.ac.uk (President)

VINYL OF THE WEEK

DIGITALISM - IDEALISTIC



Chock full of fuzzy ripped-out bass, throaty squelches and stammering beat-synth, this is the German underground at it's filthiest!

The Jig: Cajuan, Justice, Punks Jump Up, Sebastian



GIG PHOTO

CSS @ NEWCASTLE UNION

PHOTO BY CHRIS KAY

POP CORN FILM

I HAVE been trying to think of an appropriate scene from cinema history to sum up the start of my tenure as film editor.

At first I hoped it might be like that bit in *Spartacus*, where Kirk Douglas is saved by a hundred or so slaves who declare their loyalty to him with a cacophonous and slightly homoerotic cheer.

As reality set in, I began to see it more like the final scene of *Taxi Driver*, where Travis Bickel is given a shot at redemption by his dear Betsy, but not before instigating a horrific blood-bath and rescuing a teenager prostitute.

In the end, however, I've settle simply for the tuxedo scene in *Dumb & Dumber*, where the protagonists are out of their depth, but having fun. Plus there are those two dead owls in the corner of my bedroom.

This week kicks-off a series of articles that attempt to highlight the lesser know cinematic institutions that make Newcastle an excellent place to get your celluloid fix, as well as the usual low-downs on the latest film and DVD releases. I hope you enjoy it.

Oh, and in case anyone wants to challenge my credentials as film editor, know this: not only do I harbour a puritanical loyalty to VHS, but I once made a film about an imaginary frog in high school and I can handle a modest amount of jalapenos on my nachos.

Sam Parker



ATONEMENT

DIRECTOR: JOE WRIGHT
STARRING:
KEIRA KNIGHTLEY, JAMES MCAVOY

A BIG screen adaptation of Ian McEwan's hugely successful novel *Atonement*, has no doubt left fans of the book slightly apprehensive as to what Hollywood would do once they got their grubby hands on it (Captain Corelli's Mandolin anyone?).

It is therefore with great relief and pleasure that I can say, not only does director Joe Wright remain faithful to

the original source material, he creates one of the most beautiful, mesmerising and heart-achingly tragic films of the year.

To those who haven't read the book, it is difficult to describe just what this film is about. Put it this way, what first appears to be a central romance between Cecelia and Robbie (Keira Knightley and James McAvoy) turns into an ever complicated story of mystery, intrigue, betrayal and tragedy, where nothing is at it appears and where the slightest of incidents

can lead to devastating consequences. Make any sense? Thought not. In that case find out for yourselves just what I'm babbling about and go and catch one of the best examples of film making you'll see this year.

Alison Humphries

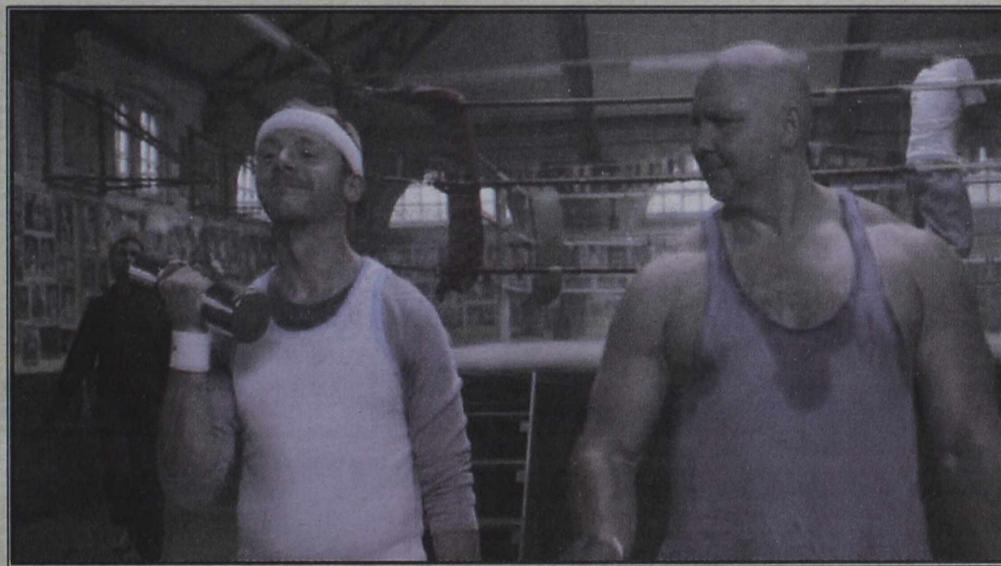


SURVEY

We asked a hundred of you to name the best film you saw this summer. Your survey said...

- 1 HARRY POTTER - 30%
- 2 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE - 25%
- 3 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN - 11%
- 4 TRANSFORMERS - 10%
- 5 DIE HARD 4.0 - 7%

RUN, FAT BOY, RUN



DIRECTOR: DAVID SCHWIMMER
STARRING: SIMON PEGG, THANDIE NEWTON, DYLAN MORAN

WATCHING *RUN, FAT BOY, RUN* expecting another *Shaun Of The Dead* or *Hot Fuzz* would not be wise; it's just not that kind of film.

It's actually a standard British romantic comedy, with all the predictability of that genre, but thanks to a great cast, it's probably the best British romantic

comedy for several years.

Simon Pegg is fine with the type of role he perfected in *Shaun and Spaced*, while Hank Azaria is enjoyable as his too-good-to-be-true rival. Thandie Newton also does well. But it's the supporting characters - including Dylan Moran's brilliant drunkard best friend, and cameos from David Walliams and Stephen Merchant, among others - that provide the highlights.

The film sometimes struggles to escape Americanization (having been co-written by Ed's Michael

Ian Black and directed by Friends' David Schwimmer, both Americans), but the performances, and some good visual and verbal gags, lift it above average.

Daniel Watkins



I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY

DIRECTOR: DENNIS DUGAN
STARRING: ADAM SANDLER, KEVIN JAMES, JESSICA BIEL

WHEN A film is billed as a comedy, you generally expect to laugh while watching it.

However, Adam Sandler's latest, *Chuck and Larry* does not particularly entertain in any way.

I'm very easily amused, and by no means an Adam Sandler-hater, but this story of two straight fire fighters who decide to enter into a same-sex marriage to get round a flawed bureaucratic system, only really got a few smirks out of me.

Well, maybe a giggle or two. Instead of true comedy, this film hangs on stereotypes and old, tired

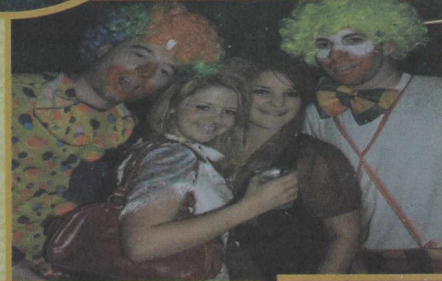
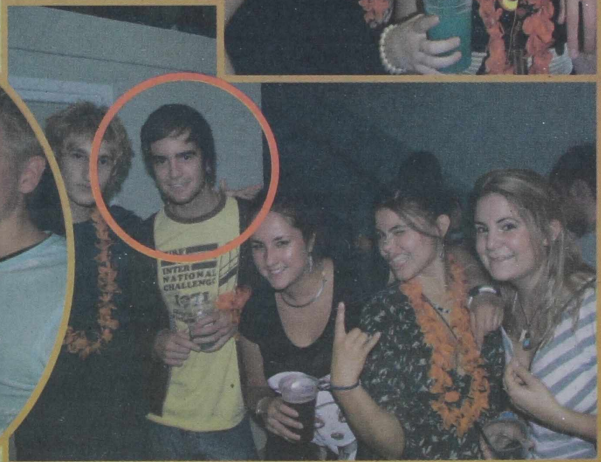
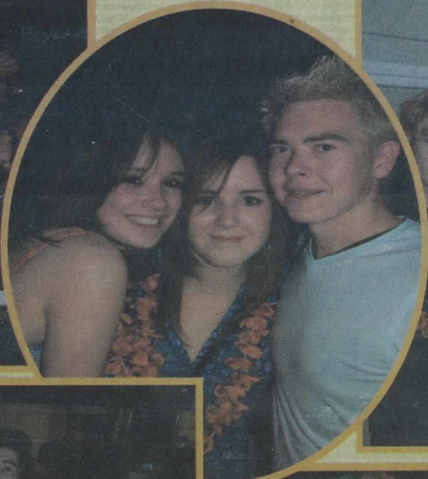
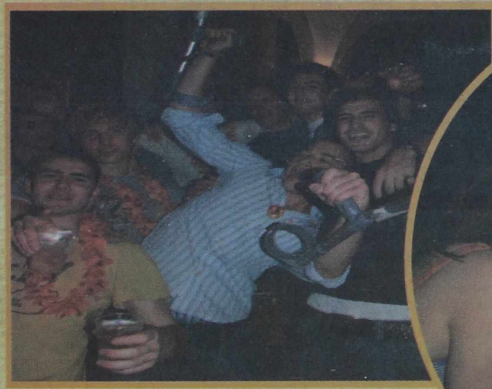
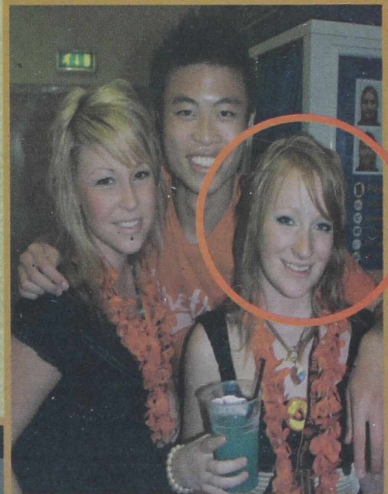
jokes (naturally, there's a shower scene where someone drops the soap). It utterly fails to escape predictability in every possible way, which would only be forgivable if it had managed to make me laugh somewhere along the way.

One to avoid.

Clare Baldwin



SOLUTION



If you're lucky enough to be circled you and a friend have won guestlist places for this week's Solution. Pop into the Courier office (opposite Cochrane Lounge) with your smartcard to claim your prize (ask for Gemma).



All Photos: Chris Kay

PUZZLES

QUIZ CORNER

Every answer in the quiz has something to do with "Outer Space". For example, if the question was "What is the name of Mickey Mouse's pet dog?" then the answer would be...Pluto as this has something to do with outer space. The topic will change every week...

GOOD LUCK!

1) Which former comedy game show featured an overgrown drumming baby keeping the scores?

2) Which tennis player holds the record for the fastest serve ever recorded by a female player?

3) Which 1950's band brought us "Rock Around the Clock"?

4) What is the name of Manchester City's versatile Chinese defender?

5) What is the nickname of the snooker player who holds the world record for the fastest 147 break?

6) Which BBC Television series features the characters Sam Tyler

and DCI Gene Hunt?

7) Which biographical film is based on the life and career of Comedian Andy Kaufman?

8) Which song was given to the band Embrace by Coldplay frontman Chris Martin?

9) Which element is sometimes re-

ferred to as Quicksilver?

10) What is the name of Fireman Sam's fire engine?

Compiled by Joe Ambrose

Answers below



BEFORE THEY WERE FAMOUS

All of us are used to seeing the perfect looking celebrities in the limelight but these pictures prove that they have not always been so fortunate with their looks...

See how many of these you can guess correctly?

Compiled by Emily Hopcroft



Answers (from top left across): Angelina Jolie, Drew Barrymore, Eminem, Justin and Britney, Sarah-Jessica

- ANSWERS
- 1) Shooting Stars
 - 2) Venus Williams
 - 3) Bill Haley and The Comets
 - 4) Sun Hui
 - 5) Ronnie O'Sullivan
 - 6) The Rocket
 - 7) The Godfather
 - 8) The Godfather Part II
 - 9) Mercury
 - 10) Jupiter

COMING NEXT WEEK...More of the same, plus sudoku! Have you got any ideas of things you'd like to see on this page? Then editor.union@ncl.ac.uk.

WHO SAID THAT?

Can you identify where these quotes come from? This week, the answers are all films beginning with A.

- >>> 'There happens to be a lot about me that you don't know, Mr Smarty man.'
- >>> 'I'm not gonna kill him, I'm just gonna shoot him in the leg.'
- >>> 'Why must I be surrounded by frickin' idiots?'

- >>> 'She's gone! Oh my God, she used me. I was used! Cool!'
- >>> 'I love the smell of Napalm in the morning. It smells like victory.'
- >>> 'LOUD NOISES! I don't know what we're yelling about.'
- >>> 'Once you open the door to one person anyone can come in.'

- >>> 'Three wishes: no substitutes, exchanges or refunds.'
- >>> 'You have to promise you won't fall in love with me.'
- >>> 'Show me the blueprints.'

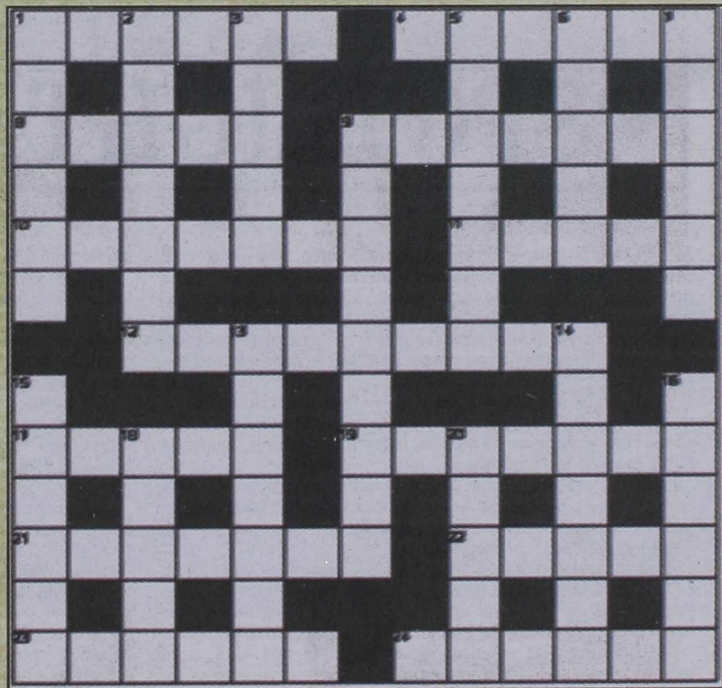
Compiled by Caroline Melloy

Answers: American Beauty, Armageddon, Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery, American Pie, Apocalypse Now, Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy, About a Boy, Aladdin, A Walk to Remember, The Aviator

COURIER CROSSWORD

The first person to drop their completed crossword into The Courier office (opposite Cochrane Lounge) will win a goody bag of mystery prizes! Crossword compiled by Megan Darby. Answers next week.

- Across**
- 1 Garbage (6)
 - 4 Pampered pet (6)
 - 8 Fruit drink (5)
 - 9 Make wetter, e.g. stamps (7)
 - 10 Seat of government; assets; excellent! (7)
 - 11 Alcohol (5)
 - 12 Claim back (due to non-payment) (9)
 - 17 English composer of The Enigma Variations, Edward _____ (5)
 - 19 Calculator of insurance premiums (7)
 - 21 Shorten, condense (7)
 - 22 Distend - expand (5)
 - 23 Fashionable (6)
- Down**
- 1 Deny - spurn (6)
 - 2 Fin (7)
 - 3 Perspiration (5)
 - 5 Friendly (7)
 - 6 As aforesaid (5)
 - 7 Male goose (6)
 - 9 Dairy-based beverage (9)
 - 13 Displayed (7)
 - 14 Increase in magnitude - what can happen to kettles? (5,2)
 - 15 Stickler for detail (6)
 - 16 Small hole, e.g. for shoelace (6)
 - 18 Ravine (5)
 - 20 Flavour (5)



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A MIGHTY HEART

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL WINTER-BOTTOM
STARRING: ANGELIA JOLIE, WILL PATTON

AT FIRST glance, *A Mighty Heart* appears to be a grim Hollywood take on world terror, thanks to the presence A-lister Angelina Jolie.

This could not be further from what it actually is; a raw, tense, emotional rollercoaster which fills you with a futile sense of hope.

Jolie - complete with olive skin, ringlet wig and indisputable French accent - is unrecognisable at the core of the movie.

Based on the memoirs of Mariane Pearl, the movie follows the agonising five week search to find husband and fellow journalist Daniel Pearl, who, while working on one last story, gets into a cab never to be seen again.

Jolie's performance when the news of Daniel's death is revealed is harrowing, yet it's Winterbottom's inclusion of grainy archive footage, and flashbacks of the Pearls blissful in one another's company, which add to the poignant nature of the film.

Rebecca Tattersall



EMPIRE

SUPER BAD

DIRECTOR: GREG MOTTOLA
STARRING: JOHAN HILL, MICHAEL CERA

FROM THE minds of the comedy genius' who brought us some of the funniest films in years - "Knocked Up" and "The 40 year old virgin" - comes "Superbad", a day in the lives of perpetual underdogs Seth (Jonah Hill) and Evan (Michael Cera).

This is a film for anyone who has ever felt that attracting any member of the opposite sex is one hell of an uphill struggle.

The laughs come thick and fast as Seth, Evan and the hilarious Fogell (Christopher Mintz-Plasse), aka McLovin, encounter incompetent cops, passive-aggressive stoners and various bodily fluids on their quest to procure both booze and girls before graduation.

The morals of the boys might be dubious, but they never become crude caricatures and the ultimately believable themes of co-dependence, fear of the unknown and the all-too-familiar casual cruelties of high school are all explored, making this flick far more than your average frat boy comedy.

The vulnerability of the characters, realism of the plot and almost retro look of this extremely funny film ensure that "Superbad", unlike its luckless protagonists, is pushing all the right buttons.

Katie Witcombe



EMPIRE

MUSIC & LYRICS

HUGH GRANT delivers another charming performance in romantic comedy, *Music and Lyrics*. Together with rom-com sweetheart Drew Barrymore, the pair have created a comic and quirky story of love and music centred around the comeback of an '80s pop icon.

The DVD is definitely worth a watch if you want a cosy night in on the sofa with a box of chocolates and a fluffy dressing gown. The eye candy isn't half bad either!

The extras include the usual deleted scenes and gag reel, plus the music video by "Pop!" which features Hugh Grant in tight jeans and a ruff. Enough said!

Ashley Fryer



THIS IS ENGLAND

AN 11-YEAR old boy finds acceptance in a gang of skinheads following the death of his father, in an uplifting tale that suddenly becomes very dark when an old gang member (Stephen Graham) returns from prison with a head full of far-right, racist sentiment.

Shane Meadows' latest feature is a moving social realist drama in the tradition of Ken Loach and Mike Leigh.

The extras include a commentary, deleted scenes, interviews with director, producer and young star Thomas Turgoose, along with behind the scenes docs highlighting the film's unscripted style.

Graeme Meek



ZODIAC

BASED UPON the true story of one of America's most notorious serial killers through out the late '60s and '70s, David Fincher (director of 'Fight Club' and 'Se7en') creates *Zodiac*, a tense and unnerving thriller that is aesthetically pleasing and benefits from strong lead performances, notably Mark Ruffalo and Jake Gyllenhaal.

DVD extras include an interesting featurette about the making of the film, which gives a good insight into Fincher as a director, balanced well with interviews with Robert Gray-Smith (author of 'Zodiac') and detectives who worked on the case.

Ed Mullins



SPOTLIGHT ON...

...THE STAR AND SHADOW CINEMA

FIRST IN A SERIES HIGHLIGHTING NEWCASTLE'S ALTERNATIVE CINEMA HOTSPOTS

A STONE'S throw from Manors Metro, the Star and Shadow Cinema lies nestled on Stepney Bank, a 15 minute walk from the city centre. Little known, but increasingly popular, the cinema gives people the chance to escape the occasionally generic world of modern film, in favour of quirky, unusual and diverse movies and experiences.

Described by its website as "a nursery for independent creativity and thinking", the cinema strives to bring out a different side of the film experience, which includes foreign films, anarchist films, gay and lesbian films and more.

However what makes the cinema particularly special is that it is run entirely by volunteers. As a Community Interest Company, it is not designed to make a profit; therefore none of the volunteers are paid for their time.

From the outside, the Star and Shadow resembles what could have been a clandestine meeting house for underground resistance during the war. Set up in an old warehouse, the cinema doors are huge, giving the entrance a certain secretive grandeur.

The building was acquired in April 2006, and after eight months of manual labour by approximately 150 volunteers including local band, Maximo Park, it has been turned into a functioning venue for gigs, meetings and gatherings. The volunteers who built the cinema came from far and wide, with people coming from as far as Eastern Europe to help dig, build, plaster and plumb.

Spacious and airy, the venue now has a bohemian freshness to it, coupled with the appealing touches of a building sculpted by human hands. The mural on the cinema wall is not yet finished, the corridors still smell of fresh paint; it feels like the building is still growing into its role, which gives the atmosphere a touch of

excitement and a definitive sense of character.

In terms of regular volunteers, the cinema boasts a dedicated and hardworking team. Working without a management programme is an unusual but apparently successful approach. Each volunteer works as an equal and each can concentrate on whichever aspect of the cinema they choose.

All decisions are made by consensus, and the teamwork is essential to the cinema's running. Long term volunteer Debbie Bower says the system works because "the cinema means different things to everyone". Everyone feels a sense of ownership because, as Ilana Mitchell puts it, "we work with people, not for people".

Gesturing around the bar, which is furnished with tables, chairs and a small stage, Ilana says that the room "feels different every night." This is the diversity on which the Star and Shadow thrives. Whether it is the Projectile Anarchist Film Festival in town, or an Iranian Film Night, the venue looks and feels different for every occasion.

Pop down to the cinema and join for only £1 a year, and experience an incredible night for only £3/£4 a time. Volunteers are always needed, and the experience is worthwhile for any CV. Look out this month for Spanish night, 'Cantina Latina!' on 17th, and 'Rockers Reggae Night' on 20th. November boasts the annual New York Underground Film Festival, which is definitely one to watch out for.

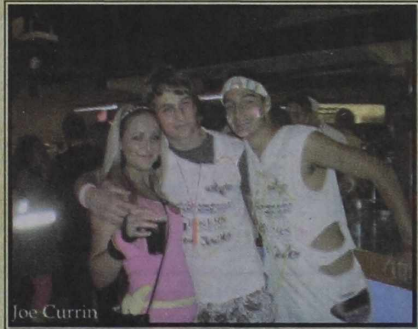
The Star and Shadow promises an excellent night, far from the sticky floors and stale popcorn of mainstream cinema. It is definitely worth a visit!

Ashley Fryer



ENTERTAINMENTS

SOCIAL SHENANIGANS



Joe Currin

A NEW academic year, a new look entertainments section aiming to provide you with the most imaginative ways to catapult yourself onto the Newcastle social scene and fuel you with enough enthusiasm to go out and try something a little different.

Bearing in mind there are literally thousands of students to please at Newcastle, I'm sure you can appreciate this is no easy task. Add to this our pledge

to consider the delicate funding issues of students everywhere, you can't really afford to skip the carefully researched pages provided by us at Pulp Ents. Wow! I've just set us up for a mighty fall.

However the bustling, dynamic city that is Newcastle, is full of inspiration to help entice anyone and everyone into some kind of activity, whether it be an action packed outing, a vodka fuelled dance fest or a sophisticated dining ex-

perience. Thank God because otherwise my job would be a complete arse. On that note of optimism... Welcome to Pulp Ents! This week boasts a nocturnal wall planner. Cut it up, stick it on your wall and never let it be said that you 'have nothing to do tonight'.

Emily Ents

WILD CARD...

QUASER LASER... YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE!

WE ALL know that feeling. That feeling of confusion, when you have nothing to do on a Thursday night. You are too hung-over to go out drinking, and you certainly don't want stay in to watch The Bill. The perfect solution? Quasar Laser!

I thought shooting your friends with Laser guns in the dark was exclusively for over-excited pre-pubescent boys, but I was very wrong! Our forty minutes in Quasar Laser was more exhilarating than a trip to the gym and definitely sweatier than a Friday night in Venue.

I went to Quasar Laser, at the Metro Centre, on a whim with four girls and guys from my course. When we arrived we were suited up in plastic orange vests with computer screens on the front and the back, and we were handed our rather large laser guns.

After a confusing introduction on how to "re-energise" our guns when needed, we were plunged into the darkness with only our bright white teeth to be seen under the UV lights.

I felt like I was inside a computer game. I was being targeted from all angles, and I couldn't see where the lasers were coming from. It was absolutely hilarious, and quite scary at times! It became very competitive. At the end, we were given a complicated score sheet - I couldn't believe it, I'd won! I had beaten the boys, despite my 'shooting ratio' being only 18%. The staff helpfully pointed out that I had only won because I hid in corners for most of the time. Who cares why I won? I am still brimming with pride a week later.

Sara Pickles



Quasar Laser is at the Metro Centre. Trains leave regularly from Central Station.

£4.50 for 20 minutes
£8.00 for 40 minutes
No student discount which is a shame!

Booking advisable:
0191 4600444

READER RECOMMENDATION.....

GREAT FOR... scandalously cheap pre-bar fun



>>NAME: Siobhan Fitzpatrick
>>COURSE: English Lit/Film Studies Year 3
>>RECOMMENDS: Hoko - 10!
>>WHERE?: 16 Dean Street (towards the Quayside)
>>WHAT?: Funky Japanese themed bar with cushions galore!!

>>WHEN?: Mondays. 'Deal or No Deal?' A student fave, guaranteed to get you legless, based on the tv show we all rush home to watch. Pick a box and beat the banker to determine happy hour offers for the whole bar. Simple. You will be loved or loathed! £2 house trebles and £1 bottles up for grabs.

>>WHY?!: A fab warm up for both city centre and quayside clubs (yes, the Tuxedo is merely a stones throw away for you revolving dancefloor devotees), with a party atmosphere and generous drinks offers that will make next door's strip joint seem like a good idea. Oh and the fish tanks are truly mesmerizing.

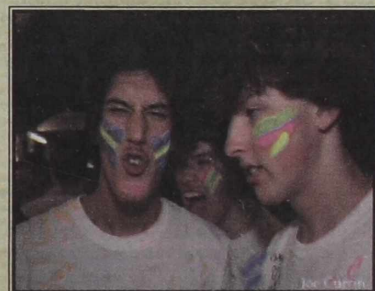
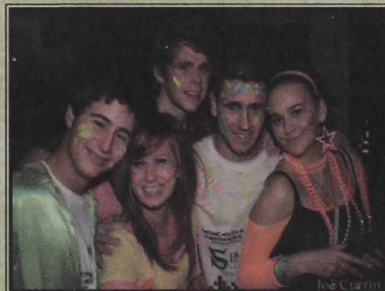


NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
FRESHERS WEEK 2007

READER REVIEW

GLOW @ METRO
RADIO ARENA

A GLOWING FRESHERS' FINALE



SOME UNIS end their Freshers' week with a black tie formal event and others go for a technicoloured, dancetastic, crazy, glowstick extravaganza. Aren't you lucky Newcastle opted for the latter?!

Held in the Metro Arena, 5000 students, Tim Westwood and literally millions of glowsticks made up the sold out epic night that was 'GLOW'. First years smothered in UV paint made up most of the crowd, but there was a sizable amount of 2nd and 3rd years trying to relive their Freshers' experience.

Westwood played a bit of the obligatory hip hop, a few chart classics and student pleasers, mixed in with some trademark catch phrases (though a sad lack of ex-

ploding bomb sounds effects). He blessed us with valuable nuggets of wisdom, 'wrap it up before you slap it up', being one of the finer examples. The only downside was his complete inability to play more than ten seconds of each song.

Though the night finished early it was a dazzling finish to Freshers'. Let's face it, any night which sells donuts as you leave the venue and causes a complete sell out of glowsticks in the Newcastle area, can never, ever be bad.

Thursday 27th Sept.

Hattie FitzGerald

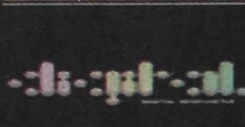







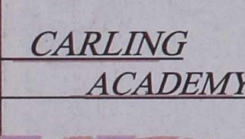



Joe Currin

PHOTO FINISH HOTTEST HOUSEMATE

Did you arrive in Freshers Week and find you'd landed on your feet with your new roomies? Have you been blessed with a hot specimen to keep you company all year? In short do you think you live with the hottest housemate at Newcastle Uni???? If so send your (anonymous) pics to pulp.ents@ncl.ac.uk

The winners will be printed next issue.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI DAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	BORN IN THE 80'S Music - 80s/90s/Naughties Entry - 80p B4 12 if born in 80s	LOVEDOUGH Music - R&B/Rap/Hip Hop Entry - £4 B4 11 + NUS+ guestlist/£5 after	YO DISCO Music - Disco/Hip Hop/Funky House/Electro Entry - £3 B4 11.30 + Guest List/£4 After	STONELOVE Music - Indie/Alternative/Punk/Funk/Rock Entry - £4/ Other Rooms - Live Bands!	DIGITAL FRIDAYS Different line up weekly inc. Head Candy/Retro JUKEBOX - Other Rooms Music - Indie/Electro/Rock Entry - £4 B4 11/£5 after	SHINDIG Entry - £10 B4 11 +NUS+ members/£12 after Different line ups weekly www.yourfutureisdigital.com	
	MIAMI BEACH Music - South Beach/R&B Entry - NUS £2/£4 other	PLAY Music - Chart/Funky House/R&B/Indie Entry - £1 NUS	CAUSING MISCHIEF Music - Chart/Funky House/R&B Entry - £2 NUS/£4 other	SHIMMER Music - Favourites/Old + New Disco Entry - £2 NUS/£4 other	FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE Music - Chart Entry - £2 NUS/£4 other	BLU BAMBU Music - Chart/Old School/Summer Favs/R&B/Hip Hop Entry - £2 NUS/£4 other	I HATE MONDAYS Music - Chart Toppers/Old School Entry - £2 NUS/£4 other
	FAT MONDAYS Music - Dance Classics/A bit of everything Entry - £4 NUS + AU discounts/£5 other			THE STUDENT REVOLUTION Music - Dance/R&B/Indie/Rock Entry - £2 B4 11 with flyer	FEEL GOOD FRIDAYS Music - PARTY! Entry - £4 B4 11/£5 after	SHAMELESS PLEASURE Music - The Soundtrack of your Life! Entry - free b4 11 with flyer or £5/£6 B4 12/£7 after	MIAMI VICE Music - Cheese/Anthems/R&B/Indie Entry - £4 Xcard/ £5 other
	RED LIGHT Music - Euphoric house/Brazilian beats/Indie Entry - £5			MISH MASH Music - Mash up music Entry - £4 members/£5 other	BUJU/ CANDYSHOP Music - Filthyfunkyelectro-house/ R&B Entry - £5	FANATTIC Music - House/Urban Entry - B4 11.30 £3/B4 12.30 £5/ After £7	SUNDAY MASS Music - Soulful funky house Entry - free
	VODKA ISLAND Music- 80s/90s/Chart/R&B/Hip Hop Entry - £4 B4 11/£5 after + queue jump tickets www.roughhill.co.uk				TIGER FRIDAYS Music - Club - House/Lounge Jazz/Loft - 90s/Den - 70s, 80s Entry - £3/50% discount with roughhill cards FRI + SAT	TIGER SATURDAYS Music - Club - House/Lounge - Jazz/Loft - 90s/Den - 70s, 80s Entry - £6 between 10-11/£8 after	
	BOOGIE KNIGHTS Music - 70s Entry - £4 NUS/£5 others	ANTIDOTE Music - Old School/Indie/R&B/60s Entry - £3 NUS/£4 other	SPANISH INTL Music - Spanish/Salsa/Ibizian House/Reggaeton Entry - £2		DB! Music - Indie to Old School Entry - £3 GuestList + B4 11/ £5 other	KRASH Music - Rock night Entry - £3 NUS + with flyer £4 other	
	CAMPUS Music -requests Entry - £4	RISQUE Music - Dance/Chart/R&B/Indie/Pop Entry - £3 B4 12/£4 after	OCTOPUSSY Music - Dance/Old School/Electro/D&B/Breaks Entry - £5	SKINT Music - Dance/ Chart/R&B/Hip Hop/Indie Entry - £1	LIQUID/ENVY Music- Dance/R&B/Hip Hop/Chart Entry - free B4 12.30 with NUS	LIQUID/ENVY Music -Dance/R&B/Chart/Indie/Hip Hop Entry - £2 B4 11/£7 after	
	GO BANANAS Music - Chart/Cheese/Commercial/R&B/Hip Hop Entry - Advanced tickets £3/ others £4			COC SOC Music - Student Anthems Entry - £4 Xcard/£5 other	HED KANDI Music - Disco/Classics/House Entry - £5 NUS B4 11/£7 members+ guestlist/£ after MONTHLY	SIMPLY SEA Music - Soulful Funky House/R&B Entry - £5 B4 10.30/£7 B4 11/£10 after	LIMP WRISTED Gay night Launching in November! www.sea-nightclub.co.uk
					REVOLUTION/WHERE ANGELS PLAY Music - Metal/Rock/Punk/Hardcore/Emo/Alternative/Goth/Industrial/Indie Entry - £4 B4 11/NUS, £5 after	BULLETPROOF Music - Indie/Retro/Electro/Disco Entry - £4 B4 11 + NUS/£5 after	
	POPCORN MENS BAR Music - 80s Entry - Free Pre bar Digital	PUB QUIZ MENS BAR Starts 7.30pm Max per team = 6 50p head	GET YOUR KIT OFF MENS BAR Music - Live DJ Entry - Free Pre bar BluBambu	JAM MENS BAR Music - Acoustic/Open mic/Comedy Entry - Free	SOLUTION Music - Chart/Party/Urban/R&B/Indie/Soul/Retro Entry - £4	BRIGHTON BEACH Music - Retro/Soul/Jazz/60s/Alternative/Rock&Roll Entry - £5 NUS (monthly)	

ARTS

NICE NUTS

LAST year the profile of NUTS took off and the new head of the society, Ed Clifton, has plans to keep it expanding. Pulp decided it was time for an interview.

Pulp: To start off with - what does 'NUTS' actually stand for?
Ed Clifton: Newcastle University Theatre Society.

P: And is it easy to get involved?
E: Yeah really easy. There are always open auditions at the beginning of each term and literally anyone can turn up to audition, you don't have to learn pieces or anything. Just come along.

P: If I'm not confident about acting, are there other things I can get involved in?
E: Loads - there's directing, producing, the tech - lighting and sound. Designing the sets, building the sets, costume, make-up, marketing ...

P: Do you take student written plays as well?
E: Yep, we do. Next term we are holding a New Writing Competition and the winning entries will be put on by NUTS. Also in the third term we have a drama festival of student written plays.

P: So what things make NUTS so great?
E: Oh golly, where to begin! It is just a brilliant way of meeting and getting to know lots of people very well. It's a great thing to do with your time, it's a lot of fun and also really rewarding and exciting. The society has grown quite a lot in the last few years and the productions have got a bit more prestigious for it. We are hoping we might even get on at the Theatre Royal in May, which would be very exciting.

P: Now, most important - are the socials good?
E: The socials are epic - they're great! They are every other week, and they normally end up in the Jazz Café. With so many people in the society, there are always plenty of people there. Oh and there's a summer ball, which is huge, with an Oscar ceremony for the plays that year, which is just a bit of fun really.



P: What plays are coming up this term?
E: Ok so we've got five shows on; we've got Philadelphia Story, which is a 1930s comedy, and we've got A Masquerade, which is on at The People's Theatre so that's a really big production. It's a satire of Phantom of the Opera. We've got Much Ado About Nothing for our annual Shakespeare, which is on at The Round, which is a new theatre so we'll be one of their first productions. And we've got a one night, kinda 'Song from the Shows', and then finally we've got Robin Hood for the annual pantomime, which is as ever, a lot of fun.

P: Is there a last thing you want to say for those thinking about contacting NUTS?
E: Yeah, just that it's really not scary - there's loads of things to do. Just email us, and get involved!

IS IT ART?



THERE ARE many different arguments of what can be classed as Art. Roy Lichtenstein's *Big Painting No. 6, 1965*, triggered off some debate in the Union. Here's what the Students thought of it...

>> "Its alright however I don't think it represents much. I don't like this kind of smarmy art, I prefer paintings that actually say and look like something."
Matt Dowel, 18

>> "I think it is eye-catching and bright, which looks like paint pulled across a paint palette."
Claire Hall, 18

>> "To me this is just squiggles in different colours that look like scarves."
Jonny Olley, 18

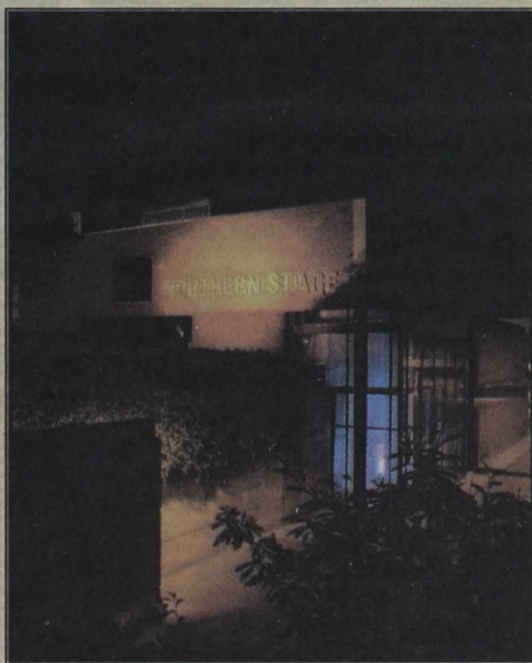
>> "I think this piece can be classed as art and I think it has a retro feel. I like it a lot because it is different and you can rotate it and it still looks good."
Sam Fillingham, 19

>> "I like the combination of colours, and the way that it's randomly composed, although at the same time has a sense of order to it."
Lewis Bell, 18

>> "This is a very bold, brave piece, which is both eye-catching and thought provoking, which is what I think art is all about."
Emily Butterworth, 22

WHAT THE ARTIST MEANS:

For Lichtenstein, art became less and less about narrative, but design and abstraction. He became a key member of American Pop Art. In *Big Painting No. 6*, his signature bold brushstrokes, black outline and Benday dots resemble the glossy, photographic style of advertising. As the executive director of the Lichtenstein Foundation explains, "Roy's work was a wonderment of the graphic formulae and the codification of sentiment."
Laura Robinson



Photograph by Chris Eves



BACK AND BUZZING

WELL, welcome back to the Arts section everyone! I'm sure you all missed it over summer.

Luckily for you all, after the opening of the Venice Biennale, the art world tends to go to sleep as everyone flies off on holiday, so you haven't missed out on too much. However, now that autumn has arrived, there's heaps going on and it's all exciting.

There is the internationally acclaimed Frieze Art Fair from 11th-14th October. With over 150 galleries involved, Frieze is hugely popular not just because of the chance for artists, galleries and dealers to carry out business, but for a huge social network to gather and 'mingle'. Alongside this is The Bridge Art Fair and Pulse - both are American, but have travelled over to London to join in on the antics of Frieze. Oh, and also Art Design London - another fair trying to get in on the action.

The buzz for these Fairs wakes everyone up across the nation after the summer months, and if you gaze over the October listings on the next page, you will see all that's happening in Newcastle this month... There's a fair bit to work your way through.

Holly Willats, Arts Editor

WELL STAGED

THE START of another academic year heralds the rekindling of the relationship between the University and Northern Stage.

The building with the lavish looking canteen, and the edgy and 'alternative' roof styling is one that passes many students by, even though it sits directly opposite the Union.

However, as well as taking its place as one of Newcastle's finest new theatres, it is appreciative of its relative location within the city and has a distinctly student-friendly approach.

With subsidised tickets for under-25's and a money-back guarantee if a show fails to satisfy - a scheme unique within Newcastle, this theatre is certainly taking care of the students.

Northern Stage is also keen to strengthen its ties with the

Theatre Society (NUTS), having staged its production of *Macbeth* in March.

One of the ways in which this is achieved is through Northern Stage's student ambassador scheme, in which the University's aspiring thespians assist with publicity and advertising.

In return for this, they are given priority for the various acting and directing masterclasses that Northern Stage frequently hosts.

More information about this exciting new theatre can be obtained by visiting its reception just opposite the Union. Watch this space for reviews of shows at Northern Stage in the coming weeks.

Michael Butterworth

REALITY VERSES THE NOVELS



CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN

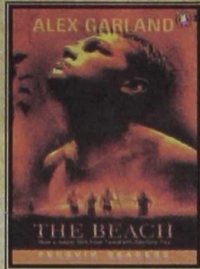
MY HOLIDAY read this year suited my destination perfectly - a week in the sunshine of Zante would go hand in hand with Captain Corelli's Mandolin.

Louis De Bernières' tale is of the Greek island Kefalonia and the passionate romance between one of the island's inhabitants and an Italian soldier posted there.

Maybe it was the idyllic surroundings that mirrored those in the book that shaped my opinion, but Bernières creates a tale with the perfect balance between dreamy romance, cutting humour and heart breaking tragedy - all whilst uncovering a history that is largely unknown.

This book transported me to a Greece that wasn't characterised by package holidays or noisy tourists, but one distinguished by a distinct beauty, history and culture.

Alison Humpheries



THE BEACH

THINK of Thailand and visions of white sands, blue seas and hot sun float before your eyes; but the once undiscovered corner of southern Asia has recently experienced a boom in tourism, leaving the country struggling to keep up.

So is the world in Alex Garland's *The Beach*, where Richard is given a mysterious map that leads him on a quest to find the only remaining piece of heaven in this newly commercialised culture.

There is still no denying that the scenery there is practically Utopian, but the full moon parties, cheap booze and drugs detailed in the book have left the tide bringing in syringes and condoms rather than shells and coral.

The Beach makes a valid point about our mindless destruction of beauty - reading it on holiday really made me consider the potentially damaging ramifications of my jet-setting.

Jennifer Westmoreland

BRILLIANT BUILDINGS

THE MAJESTIC Union building is a natural focal point and the perfect vessel to contain the heart of the University's student activity.

As a building it exudes all the bravado and gravity of 'the real university' and seems to breathe a feeling of academic purpose into the students who trot up and down its steps and mill around in the benched forecourt of its shadow.

It was built in 1924 following a generous donation from an anonymous donor, and officially opened by Lord Eustace Percy on October

22nd 1925.

Fellow Geordie, Robert Burns Dick, created the structure in a Neo-Jacobean style. His firm also designed the delights of the Tyne Bridges' symbolic towers and the architecturally exquisite Laing Gallery at the bottom of Northumberland Street.

The Union is a feat to be admired, both from the outside and for the many events that are organised from within.

Miriam Davies



PAEDOPHOBIA!

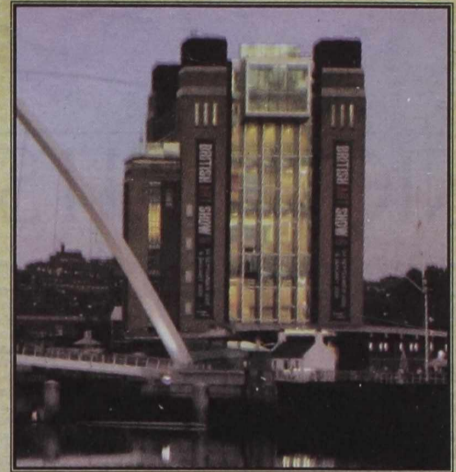
THANKSGIVING is the latest collection of Nan Goldin's work to be shown at the Baltic and has caused serious debate in the art world.

One photograph, declared 'obscene' and swiftly removed from the gallery, was the reason. The piece, owned by Elton John, prompted coverage in the national press and reports on BBC news. The photograph has sparked the debate - what is art, and where are its boundaries?

The image, 'Klara and Edda belly dancing', shows the photographer's two children posing in a controversial position.

Although none of the other 148 photographs were removed from the exhibition, Elton John has requested that Thanksgiving closes on the 29th of September, as opposed to 20th January.

This incident raises concerns that artists and galleries have become increasingly nervous about. As long as the difference between obscenity and pornography is left undefined, galleries will continue to react against the artist to avoid any repercussions of exhibiting such images.



Jennifer Neal

PULP'S DIARY THIS WEEK...

- >>Hatton Gallery - Jordan Baseman: *(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction*, ends 7 November.
- >>Baltic - Kader Attia: *Square Dreams*, ends 13 January.
- >>Northern Stage - *Our Friends in the North*, ends 20 October.
- >>Waygood Gallery and Studios - David Beech, Harker Herald. Until end of October.
- >>ALT Gallery - Daniel Johnston: *It's a Beautiful Life*, ends 10 November.
- >>Gallery Glue - *Publish!* Ends 14 October.
- >>The Live Theatre - Lee Hall: *Pitman Painters: An Exhibition*, ends 16 October.
- >>The Biscuit Factory - *Autumn exhibition*, ends 26 November.
- >>Theatre Royal - Matthew Bourne's *The Car Man*, 9 - 13 October.
- >>The People's Theatre - *Bronte*, 9 - 13 October.
- >>Northern Stage - *People Show 118: The Birthday Tour*, 10 - 13 October.
- >>The North East's Annual Design Festival, 'How do we want to live?' 11 - 28 October.
- >>The Laing Gallery - *BP Portrait Award*, 13 October - 2 December.
- >>The Sage - *Northern Sinfonia: The Magic of Mozart*, 14 October.
- >>Theatre Royal - *The Life & Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby, Parts I & II*, 15 - 20 October.

LITERARY QUOTE OF THE WEEK...

"SHALL I be refreshingly different, stolidly middle-brow, engagingly naïve, candidly matter-of-fact, contemptuously sophisticated, incorruptibly sincere, sonorously pedantic, curiously fickle, youthfully wide-eyed? Should I bow my head in solemn appreciation of the hallowed atmosphere of learning? Should I play the profound truth-seeker, the seedy anti-hero, the crusty society-observer, the all-discerning beauty-appreciator? No I suppose I shall end up... just... being... myself."

Martin Amis on going up to University (Experience)

Thanks Rory McAlpine for seeking out the quote!

SHOWCASE

THIS SPACE is going to be reserved every week for any Arts or Architectural student to showcase their work... Does this interest you? Email me at pulp.arts@ncl.ac.uk if you would like the chance to see your work in Pulp.

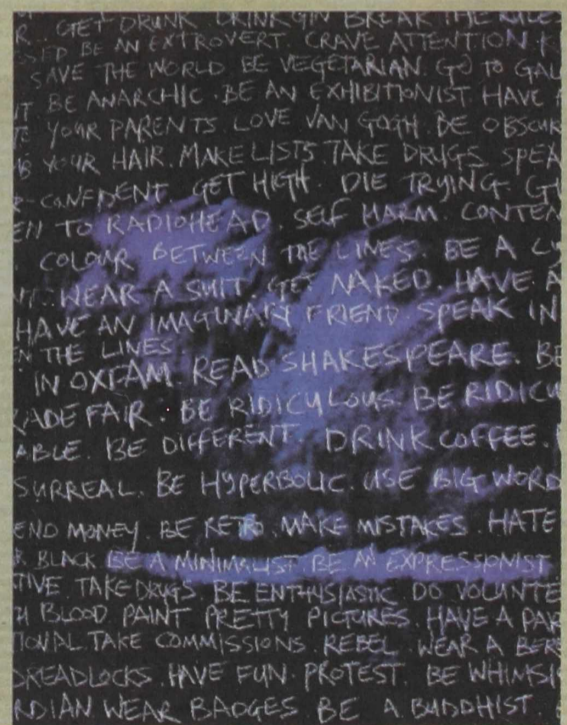
THIS WEEK:
EMMA CUMMINS
MY WORK this year has centered around people's views and opinions of artists.

I am interested in how artists and art students can often be stereotyped and made this large scale blackboard mural with the title 'How to be an Art Student' from student surveys.

When the list is finished, I take photographs as I randomly rub off the words to make new, abstract definitions of what art students do.

Blackboards and chalk are permanent mediums which work to reflect the idea that art is constantly changing and evolving and can never be suitably defined by language.

Emma Cummins



Wilkinson

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Surviving Newcastle

What your mother would want you to know...

AMY GORDON provides practical advice about navigating your way through student life

I'LL CONFESS, when I first came to university I cried, a small town girl in the big city, confident to say the least but utterly clueless.

I found myself stranded with an unnecessary amount of kitchen utensils, an overdraft and one piece of advice; steer clear of Geordie women at night - they don't wear any knickers!

My knowledge of Newcastle was limited. All I knew was everyone likes to party and no one owns a coat. It's no surprise then that on my second day I took the wrong bus and found myself navigating home in the dark whilst being heckled at by brawly looking men in clapped out white vans.

Fast forward two years and I am slowing, starting to hang up my heels, a lot poorer but a lot wiser. Fortunately for you, I've put together a summary of everything I wish I knew when I arrived here. After all I have "been there, done that, got the duck'd t-shirt".

Ok let's start with the basics. It's often tempting to spend your last bit of loan on that night out everyone's talking about, but let's face it, no food is bad news.

Compromise; buy your shopping on the internet. Both Tesco's and Asda offer online services with delivery charges ranging from as little as £3.75. Yes I know that is the price of a pint of skittles but it works out cheaper, especially when you split the delivery cost and opt for bulk over best.

But be warned the de-times can be a bit of a and don't expect the delivery man to trek up 5 flights of

stairs with 50 litres of smartprice lemonade (something about health and safety).

Overall, supermarkets are great, but if, like me, you prefer to pick it up and squeeze it, head to the market for an intriguing range of fruit and vegetables, much fresher and a lot cheaper.

Freshers' Week is over and no doubt you have developed freshers' flu, that clever little disease which only seems to affect us students. But, before you drag your self to Saville Medical Centre in the hope of free lozengers and a sick note, remember that unless you have a HC1 form (which you can get from Boots) you will have to pay prescription charges.

This doesn't count for contraceptives (including emergency contra-

livery pain

ceptives) but the standard charge is £6.95.

However, don't let that put you off going, especially if you are feeling pretty rough. It's worth the visit as it might be something worse like meningitis, which cunningly has similar symptoms.

Check with your doctor to see if you have had every jab you need. Meningitis, mumps and flu are really important as they thrive in people of our age group.

After two years of feeling thoroughly ripped off by public transport, I recently invested in a bike. Okay, so it's pretty retro (white and lime green), but it has wheels and best of all it came with a free bell!

I picked it up from a great place called recyke-y bike, a 'community social enterprise' which sells recycled bikes. It appealed to the ethical side in me and only cost £30.

Check them out online. If you're a bit lazier or wouldn't be seen dead on a bike, you can invest in annual/monthly metro or bus passes

which range from £24 a month to £250 a year. Go to www.nexus.org.uk for various options.

Book ahead for taxis - Hackney Carriages will rip you off. Blueline are my favourite; they're cheap as chips and text you the car details for extra peace of mind.

My favourite motto - if you've got it, flaunt it (your student discount that is, not your bits). The popular clothing stores usually offer a discount, which they often sneakily increase during loan time. Those who don't, might do for a limited period, so it's always worth asking just in case.

You'll also find a lot of salons offer discount as well as cinemas and theatres. Remember to whip out that student card at every opportunity and keep a snap-fax or other discount books close to hand.

University is meant to be fun so don't put yourself in risky situations. Wha t seemed okay in

Freshers' Week can become dangerous. Don't be overly trusting with people you have just met.

It's also worthwhile studying the small print of your contents insurance as you'll probably find you're not insured for anything unless your room is locked, and even then your laptop often isn't included.

If you need to travel anywhere on your own, carry an attack alarm and avoid dodgy areas, Leazes Park is not the best place to walk through, especially at night.

Hopefully, you will have learnt a few things from this to help you make the most of your time in Newcastle. My advice? Have fun, shop smart, and stay safe!

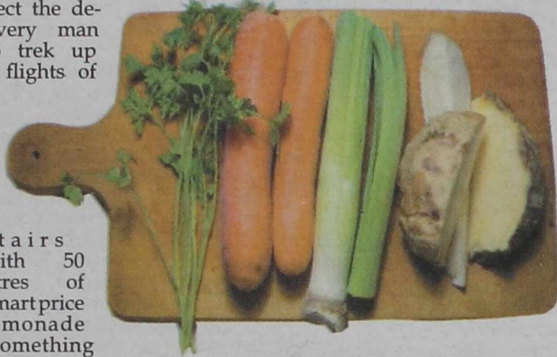


Photo: Chris Kay

...and what she definitely wouldn't tell you

Why cow tipping is bad, how to avoid getting your windows egged, and other advice you never knew you needed by BETSY POWELL

REALLY useful advice about settling into university can be hard to come by. If you talk to people who work in your union they can tell you which are the best taxi firms to use, where to do your shopping and where not to wander to at night. But all those tips, as enlightening as they are, are not necessarily going to help you make friends and influence people.

Here's a few things that I wish someone had told me before I hit the joys of Marris House.

Drawing a line around the level of your milk might save you a few pence but it certainly won't earn you any brownie points with your flatmates. In fact, dare I say it, you might even get labelled as being sad... gasp! Plus, if you irritate your flatmates enough they'll probably use the milk anyway and top it back up with water.

Flat parties are bloody amazing and a great way to meet new people

which is the best piece of advice anyone can give you. We all want our parties to go off with a bang, but avoid photocopying invites and posting them through letter boxes. Your flat will get trashed and you will have to pay for



the damage as well as placate unamused security guards.

Leazes Park has a brilliant adventure playground complete with a seesaw that not only bounces up and down but swings around as

well! Not recommended after a Pizza Hut buffet or Munchies. Next to the playground is the lake. The police will arrest you for swimming here in the buff and believe me, not only will you lose some dignity with boxers round your ankles trying to sweet talk the law, but the lake has seen more needles than a pharmacy.

Under no circumstances try to break into a flat. Even if it's your friend's flat, their window is open and you think it will be hilarious for them to wake up with you standing over them. Not only is that creepy and warped, you will have a lot of explaining to do to the security guards who are perfectly within their rights to get you kicked out of uni. Bad.

It's not funny to set off fire alarms. Residents of Castle Leazes take note - five alarms in one night will make you enemies, make you wish you were wearing your nice pyjamas and hadn't decided to have that shower. Equally as important, don't set off rape alarms and throw them

in letterboxes. Yes, it will befuddle the firemen who have turned off the mains, but it's not really that clever.

Cow tipping. Bad. Enough said. Potential shit hazard as well.



Getting trashed. Funny. Getting trashed every single time you go out so that your flat-mates have to carry you home. Tedious. This hint also includes drunken crying and arguments. Not cool and so damaging to your make-up.

Don't prop open fire doors. A very expensive mistake.

Chanting when drunk is brilliant when you're a chantee, not necessarily as much fun for the chanted. Especially at three in the morning. Earning in fame for being part of that group of girls that without fail wake up most of Ricky Road is not something to be proud of and you will get your windows egged. Justice.

Finally, if someone suggests a night out, say yes, always, and expect to lose money, phones, cards, self respect, dignity, keys and most certainly your virginity. Good times.

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TRAVEL

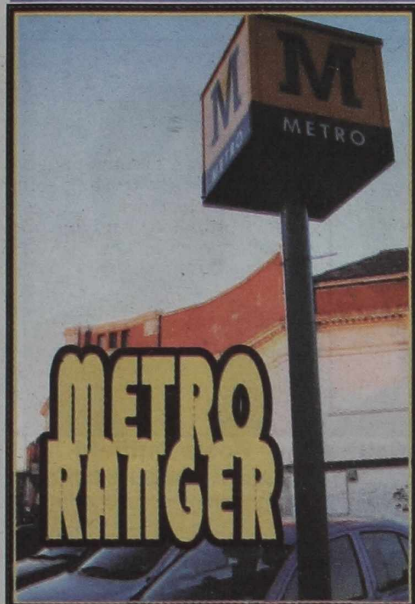
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This week SOPHIE ROBINSON hops on the Metro to discover the delights of Tynemouth

FOR A bit of pre-EasyJet nostalgia, gather your housemates for a day out at the seaside resort of Tynemouth, 25 minutes from Haymarket on the yellow line.

It's by no means glamorous, but then it's not trying to be. Instead Tynemouth ticks all the boxes for that so typically British beach experience: it's full of ice-cream vans, it's picture-postcard perfect, and it's always bloody freezing.

For those who are hard enough to brave more than a jeans-around-the-knees paddle in the sea, a surf lesson with board and wet-suit hire can cost as little as £20. Follow this with fish and chips from the legendary Marshall's Fryery by the Priory, which will quickly warm and cheer you up.

If you feel your day needs a little bit of culture you could visit the Benedictine monastery after which the chippy is named, for just a £2.60 entry fee. Alternatively a walk along Longsands beach and along the pier to the lighthouse will cost you nothing.

Before heading back towards the city, have a wander round the flea market that is held in the Metro station every weekend. Whether it's sweets, books or jewellery you're after, you'll have a much more pleasant time searching for them here than tackling the Saturday afternoon crowds on Northumberland Street.

Photo: Stephanie Feng



Best of British

Proving you don't have to venture far afield to have a great weekend away, The Courier offers a round up of what our four capital cities have to offer

LONDON by David Main

WHAT attraction does our fair capital hold for the average student? Is it the fine art galleries, the impressive architecture, or the chance to make fun of one of the famous beefeaters?

Maybe, but what seems more interesting for a quick break is the fact that there is at least one bar, pub or nightclub on every corner. And what better way to see the whole city and have a great time than through the medium of a Monopoly board pub crawl!

With an Underground pass in hand and directions from a group that apparently do this on a regular basis, it was time to hit the famous streets. 11am to be exact, as that is when The George opened on Old Kent Road. Straight to the bar (with its complement of 80 year old regulars already there) and a minute later, half a pint downed, picture taken as proof, we were off to the next stop on the list. Why half pints? I defy anyone to drink 26 pints while navigating a strange city.

Actually, here's a handy tip - bring someone with you who isn't taking part, so they can tell you when your map is upside down and can buy the drinks when the barman thinks you have had too much. Although my slurred excuse of "Its okay, I'm on a Monopoly board pub crawl" was accepted somewhere around number 20, Leicester Square. Easy.



IT HAS been claimed that 1 in 5 tourists visit Cardiff because they have seen it on T.V. Doctor Who has probably generated a higher tourist income than the fact that Cardiff was a finalist in the 2008 European Capital of Culture. Apparently the chance of possibly spotting David Tennant rates way over investigating 2000 years of history at Cardiff Castle or strolling corridors of masterpieces at the city's numerous art galleries.

I guess that is what has made Cardiff the new trendy city of choice now - it has everything. A random mix of ancient and modern, it combines the fairytale castle of Castell Coch with the ultra contemporary architecture of Cardiff Bay. Naturally it can't rival Newcastle for nightlife and the high street boasts only the usual chain-store suspects, but if you are looking for a little bit of Welsh loving outside the stereotyped sheep, Cardiff is a good choice.

How about spending your day down a mine at the Big Pit coal museum, followed by a game of rugby at the Millennium Stadium and topped with the tuneful harmony of the Welsh Male Choir. How could a day be more random and unique than that? No wonder Cardiff is rapidly becoming a strong contender for most popular UK weekend break.

CARDIFF by Alice Herbert



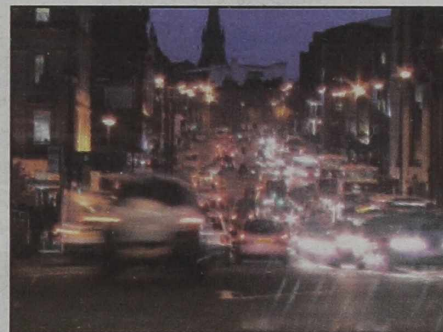
EDINBURGH by Holly Poynton

PARADOXICALLY both the best and worst time to visit the Scottish capital is during August when the city is completely taken over by the Edinburgh Festival.

Sure you can nip north of the border and get more comedy and culture than you can shake a tartan stick at, but it's also during this time of year that prices are hiked up left, right and centre in order to capitalise on the sheer number of tourists who descend on the city. In fact, during August you are probably more likely to bump into a camera-wielding American drinking an over-priced pint of Tennents, than you are a local.

The festival aside, as is expected from the country that brought us the deep fried Mars bar, Edinburgh is a paradise for students. Incredible architecture from the Scott Monument to Holyrood Abbey give a healthy dose of culture to a city that is no stranger to hard partying. With clubs such as The Hive offering drinks as cheap as £1 and open 'til as late as 5am, the Scots aren't afraid to make a 'neet on the Toon' look tame. And if shopping is more your bag, then the trendy boutiques of Cockburn Street provide ample opportunity to do damage to your student loan.

With the cost of a return ticket on the megabus costing less than a post night-out burger, there's no excuse to not visit this beautiful city during your time at Newcastle.



BELFAST is a vibrant, cosmopolitan city with a political twist, and is definitely worth a trip! For retail therapy, Belfast boasts the usual long list of high street stores, various large shopping centres and a designer outlet, but if you're after something a bit special, Lisburn Road is the place to go for chic designer boutiques.

If it's nights out your looking for, Sara Cox once said, 'If you haven't had a night out in Belfast you haven't lived.' There's a huge range of clubs from M-Club, which provides a cheap student night on a Thursday, to Empire, which not only provides live music but also has stand up comedy every Tuesday.

For something different, the city as a whole is best viewed from the upstairs deck of the Belfast sightseeing bus. After passing the more touristy sights such as the building sight of the Titanic, the tour bus then takes you directly through the areas of Loyalist and Republican conflict, where the atmosphere in each could not be more different. Murals of Queen Elizabeth and reams of Union Jacks pervading the Loyalist streets of Shankill Road, contrast 'The Falls' Road Republicanism. Here, you can see murals of silhouetted gunmen, providing a haunting reminder of the city's past. The Peace Wall still stands and the areas are still segregated at night by a gate which closes at around dusk.

It's a really interesting city with a rare depth that goes beyond the usual shopping and nightlife

BELFAST by Jo Stephenson

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TO OUR WEEKLY MEETINGS ON TUESDAYS @ 1PM IN THE TRAINING ROOM, FIRST FLOOR OF THE UNION SOCIETY

Meet Your Officers

Back in March you elected these guys to run your Union, so here's The Courier's guide to who's who...



Scott Adam
Activities Officer



Lydia Oxenham
AU President



Gemma Davies
Editor of The Courier



Ben Potter
Education Officer



Jamie McDonnell
President



Rosie Duffield
Student Support Officer



Rachael Hosey
Campaigns Officer



Michael Duffell
Chair of Union Council



Oskar Avery
Convener of Debates



Laurence Seviour
Convener of Disciplinary



Katie Whitehouse & Jen Miller
Ethics & Environment Officers



Rebecca Allen
Executive Officer



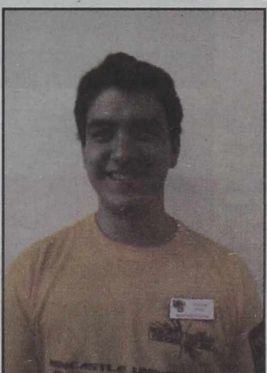
Anushka Mehrotra
Gender Equality Officer



Phillip Becker
International Officer



Barry Griffiths
LGBT Officer



Michael Oliver
Racial Equality Officer



Claudia Campbell
RAG Officer



Michael Harvey
Students With Disabilities Officer

Societies: Adding to Your University Experience

DON'T FORGET that university is so much more than a degree and there is no better way to add to your CV by joining a society.

Sign up to any of the following societies asap on the Union website at www.unionsociety.co.uk. Here you can also find details of all the societies and what's involved.

See page 12 this week for a guide on how to set up your own new society.

If you've got any society news you want promoting or if you want your society to be featured as part of our new 'give it a try' societies feature, then e-mail Holly and Sophie on courier.features@ncl.ac.uk.

Listed below is all the current societies that you can be a part of. Get involved!

Accountancy
Agricultural
AfESC
Anglo Japanese
Archaeology

Architectural
Bio Sci
Biology
Breakfast Club
Breakdancing)
Catholic
CEG (Civil Eng & Geomatics)
Chemical Engineering
Chess
Chinese Students & Scholars
Circus Skills
Combined Studies
Computing & Information Systems
Conservation
Conservative Future
Dance
Debating
Drivers
Economics
Egyptian
Eldon (Law)
Eng Soc (English)
Erasmus
Fancy Dress & Cocktail
Felix

Fellwalking
Friends of Palestine
Geography
Gilbert & Sullivan
Guinness & Real Ale
History
Hitch
Indie
International
Iranian
Irish Dance
Islamic
Latin and Ballroom
LGBT Society
Liberal Democrats
Link Society (St. John Ambulance)
Malaysian
Management
Mardi Gras
Maths
Mauritian
Mechanical Engineering
Medsin
Modern Languages
Motor Sport
Music

Neighbours
Nukem (Chemistry)
NUTS
People & Planet
Pharmacology
Photographic
Poker
Politics
Polish to UK
Postgrad & Mature
Projections (Film)
Psychology
Questlands
Rock
Saudi
Scout and Guide
Shocksoc
Singapore
South Asian (Desi)
Star (Student Action for Refugees)
Stop Aids
Student Symphony Orchestra
Swing Dance
Surgical
Synan

Thai
Twenty Minute Club
Unicef
US International Development
Wet Soc (Marine Tech)
Wilderness Medics
Windband
Yoga
Zoology

The following societies are new but yet to be ratified.

Anime/Manga
Asian
CINI
Historical
Jewish
Postgraduate Business
Rugby Referees
Symphonietta
Tea Appreciation
Womens

>> WANT TO BE A UNION COUNCIL SCHOOL REP? E-MAIL MICHAEL DUFFELL ON CHAIR.UNION@NCL.AC.UK FOR INFO



To apply for the positions below, just call into the Job Shop when we are next open and bring along your student smart card every time you visit. These positions and many more are also listed online at www.union-society.co.uk.

Vacancy 354 - Data Entry Clerks

Agency Name: Reed Industrial
 Job description: Data Entry Clerks required x 100 positions based at Doxford Park, Sunderland. The work involves entering information in an accurate and timely fashion into a bespoke in-house system.
 Person specification: You must be able to work all shifts from 28th November to 21st December (please note you must be able to commit to the full duration of this project). You must be able to travel to Sunderland.
 Hours of work: Various shifts are available.
 Contract is for one month only
 Number of vacancies: 100 Contract: One month
 Rate of pay: £5.80 - £10.44 per hour (depending on shifts)
 Closing date: 28/11/07 Location: Doxford Park, Sunderland
 Apply by: Collect application details from the vacancy board labelled 'Recruitment Agencies' outside the Job Shop.

Vacancy 4996 - Bar/Club Staff

Job description: Venue and bar staff needed for a popular club and bar in Jesmond.
 Person specification: Must be sociable and well mannered. Previous experience not essential.
 Hours of work: Flexible: Day/Evening
 Start date: Immediate Contract: One year
 Rate of pay: £5.52/hour
 Closing date: ASAP Location: Jesmond
 Apply by: Calling into the Job Shop for the application details when we are next open

Vacancy 4989 - Telemarketers

Job description: A Sunderland based marketing company requires staff to fulfil various telemarketing roles, with new opportunities every week. This will not be 'hard-selling' and most campaigns are business-to-business. Current campaigns include answering enquiries for a local transport company, advertising tasting sessions for local pubs, gaining appointments for local training initiatives, preparing and sending direct mail and discussing learning options with people wanting to change careers.
 Person specification: Applicants must be confident with an outgoing personality and have a good grasp of the English language both verbally and with regard to written skills. They must be smart in appearance and have a professional attitude to work. Basic Microsoft Office skills are required and an excellent telephone manner is essential. Previous experience is desirable but full training will be provided.
 Hours of work: 6-15 hours per week

Start date: ASAP Contract: Ongoing
 Rate of pay: £5.52/hour
 Closing date: Ongoing Location: Sunderland
 Apply by: Calling into the Job Shop for the application details when we are next open

Vacancy 4982 - Community Link Workers

Job description: Support Workers in the community required supporting people with learning disabilities in the East End of Newcastle. Helping them live the life they want, become more independent and make connections with the community and become an integrated and active member of society. Hopefully enabling them to make new friends and improve their lives.
 Person specification: No previous experience or qualifications required. Full training provided. Must have a person centred approach to support, in line with "valuing people" and some understanding of learning disabilities. Must live in East End of Newcastle, i.e. Byker, Heaton, Walker, Ouseburn, or be prepared to move there. It is essential that students are staying in Newcastle over the vacation periods.
 Hours of Work: Variable but a minimum of 4 hours per week
 Start date: ASAP Contract: Permanent
 Rate of pay: Approx. £7/hour
 Closing date: 15/10/2007 Location: Newcastle - East End
 Apply by: Calling into the Job shop for the application details when we are next open

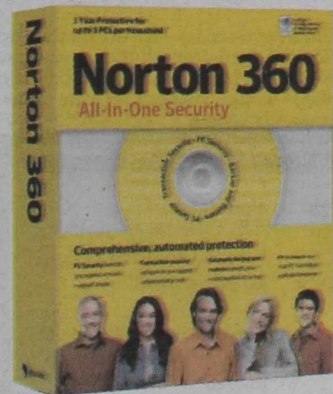
The Student Job Shop is located on the first floor of the Union Society Building. Our term-time opening hours are Monday - Friday 10am-2pm.

MY NEWCASTLE

Have you got a picture that epitomises Newcastle for you? It might be a favourite view in the city or a picture that shows your best night out with your friends for some reason. Whatever it is we want to see it! Send your snaps, along with a short description of why the photo shows 'My Newcastle' to editor.union@ncl.ac.uk.

BY MAX BREESE

"I took this picture from the terrace at the front of the Sage Music Centre. I really enjoy walking along the Quayside from the Millennium Bridge past the Baltic and the Sage, and it's really worth walking through the Sage to see the shiny metallic interior, and to peer at the Tyne through the giant glass windows. This is a great place to stop and look out over the quayside - I enjoyed the sunset from here whilst watching all the traffic whizzing over the Tyne Bridge."



Safety First on your PC

WORRIED about losing your 2500 word assignment? How about your dissertation? What about having your identity stolen on your PC? Then you need to start protecting your PC with the right security software.

Symantec's Norton 360 is an all-in-one security guard that every student should have. It gives you peace of mind with the latest automated back-up technologies to guard all your work, not only that but it also keeps viruses at bay. It's a vital piece

of kit for any savvy student to survive the university year ahead!

Norton 360 delivers complete protection for your PC with:

- Protects against a wide range of viruses, spyware, hackers, and more with PC security
- Protects against online fraud for shopping and banking with transaction security
- Automatically stores and retrieves photos, financial and music files

- Helps keep PCs and laptops running at top performance with PC Tune-up

The Courier has four copies of Norton 360 (RRP £39.99) to give away. All

you have to do to be in with a chance of winning is e-mail your name and address to editor.union@ncl.ac.uk by 12pm on Friday 12th October and the winners will be selected at random. Good luck!



Q&A: What can the Student Advice Centre do for you?

Q: What's the SAC?

A: An free independent Advice Centre for students, staffed by professionals - a bit like a Citizens Advice Bureau but especially for students.

Q: Where is it?

A: 1st floor Union Building

Q: How can it help me?

A: It can provide me with information, advice, assistance and representation on any matters relating to me and my studies.

Q: Like what?

A: Finance, housing, immigration, legal, disciplinary and academic matters and also any personal or health related issues... The list is endless. It also has specialist clinics operating during term time, for example, a sexual health clinic staffed by NHS nurses where you can get tested and obtain contraceptive supplies, runs on Friday between 12-3pm, and on Tuesdays student loans finance staff are on hand to answer any queries you have about your loan/funding.

During the year they also run campaigns and advice sessions on particular issues affecting students - keep an eye on your Courier for more details.

Q: Do I need an appointment to see someone at the SAC?

A: Not always. We offer a drop in service every day between 12-2pm where you can get some initial advice and information.

You can also make an appointment with an Adviser for times outside of drop in.

Q: Is it confidential?

A: Yes.

Q: When are they open?

A: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am - 4 pm and Wed 12 - 6 pm

Q: Where can I find out more?

A: Check out their website at www.union-society.co.uk/sac or telephone then on 0191 239 3979, and look out for their posters around the campus.

>> COME ALONG TO FAIRTRADE AWARENESS DAY ON FRIDAY 12TH OCT FROM 11am-3pm, OUTSIDE THE UNION

ASK AN OFFICER

Q: I really enjoyed Freshers' Week and the crew looked like they were having a brilliant time. I'd love to apply for crew next year, but is there anything similar I can do in the meantime?

A: I'm glad you enjoyed Freshers' Week and hope you're fully recovered and settling in to Newcastle without any problems. There are a couple of options you can take if you want to be involved in a crew.

The first is the new WAC Crew - WAC being Welfare and Campaigns. The committee plan campaigns throughout the year and this year a crew has been created to help raise awareness of the campaigns and help organise things. It'll be quite flexible so you can fit it in with your other commitments and you can be involved as little or as much as you like (although we would encourage you to help on a regular basis!). If you'd like more information on joining WAC Crew you can contact me on support.union@ncl.ac.uk or come and see me in my office on the first floor of the Union.

The second option is RAG crew. RAG stands for Raising and Giving, and is a great way to raise money for charity and have fun at the same time. You'll help with a street collection and also help out with events running throughout the week - previous events have included speed dating and a slave auction! RAG will be recruiting at the beginning of next term so look out for the publicity then, or you can contact RAG Officer Claudia Campbell on rag@ncl.ac.uk if you've got any queries in the meantime.

Freshers' Crew comes around time. You'll be able to get your application forms in time.



HOUSING | SEXUAL HEALTH | MENINGITIS | FEES | UNIVERSITY

CAMPAIGN FOR CHANGE
CAMPAIGN FOR AWARENESS

WAC!
Welfare & Campaigns

crew needs you!

CALL IN TO BE BUFFED ON SUPPORT UNION@NCL.AC.UK OR GO TO THE STUDENT SUPPORT OFFICE ON THE 1ST FLOOR

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Clueless about careers? If you're in a panic about what job is for you, let The Courier ease your worries by looking at where Newcastle graduates are today and how you can do the same...

Name: Giles Morgan
Year of Graduation: 1993
University Subject: History
Job Title: Global Head of Sponsorship & Marketing
Company: HSBC

Past Working History/How did you get to where you are today?:

I always knew I wanted to go into the world of sponsorship marketing. Having a vocation and a dream was important - it allowed me to plot and keep to a path and have direction despite all the obvious distractions at Newcastle.

So when I was not playing rugby or propping up a bar in Jesmond or the Quayside, I spent as much time as I could building up media experience. I was lucky enough to be offered work experience with BBC Look North, Evening Chronicle and The Journal. Coupled with being the rugby reporter for The Courier for a couple of years and spending two years as a sports presenter with Radio Tyneside - the hospital radio network in the North East - this meant I was developing knowledge of the workings of the media industry.

With a decent degree somehow obtained, and more critically, a quiver full of work experience that perhaps separated me from many other applicants - I was able to break into the PR and Media Relations industry, joining a leading London firm working on corporate client accounts.

From there, I was able to climb the ladder at a number of media and sponsorship agencies. Over the next 10 years I was able to develop an expertise and specialism within sponsorship consulting, working for a wide diversity of clients such as The Famous Grouse, Vodafone, E.On, Scottish & Newcastle and adidas. In 2005, I was approached by HSBC to become Head of Sponsorship.

Describe a typical day in your job: I am away perhaps 35-40% of the year - in Asia and America - overseeing sponsorship strategy for our markets and managing events (golf/rugby/cricket/sailing/tennis/culture/community). Therefore travel, hotels and meetings are common.

When I am in the UK at our global offices in London, I spend time working with local markets to translate our global sponsorship strategy and to convert that into a localised version. In addition, HSBC is one of the largest international sponsors of golf - each of our four tournaments need a cast of thousands to ensure every detail is covered. Every day is different and full. I sleep well.

What did you wish you'd known when you first left university?:

Not to run before you can walk. I have always been ambitious but that occasionally was my undoing as a graduate employee. Generally, employers take on graduates because of their potential - not their expertise. I suspect sometimes I felt I knew it all, and in truth, I should have listened more and spoken less. Your ears are far more important.

What makes you employable?: Work ethic is to work hard AND play hard. People who exude confidence and enjoyment infect others around them. Coupled with hard work this earns respect from others. That sets you apart as a leader and ensures you will develop in your career.

Best thing about your job: The travel - meeting new people from around the world. I am also lucky to attend some of the best events in the world. I am very fortunate.

Worst thing about your job: The travel! Being apart from families and friends.

Why should someone do your job?: Through many of our sponsorships around the world, we impact a great number of communities by investing in grass roots and community activity. The sense of being a catalyst for positive change is empowering. In addition, the job allows me to experience communities and people from all over the world - which is enriching and educational. You never stop learning.

LIKE WHAT YOU HEAR?

Then let the Careers Service help you out!

What are the main skills I need to demonstrate for this job?

- >> You will need to demonstrate:
- >> excellent spoken and written communication skills
- >> creative thinking
- >> good organisational and planning skills
- >> the ability to lead and motivate a team
- >> drive, motivation and initiative
- >> the ability to work under pressure and to deadlines
- >> the confidence to 'sell' your ideas
- >> attention to detail
- >> good business sense and budget awareness
- >> foreign language skills can be useful for international marketing jobs (Source: LearnDirect)

Where do I find out more information about this job?

You might find the following websites useful to research this job:

- >> Brand Republic www.brandrepublic.com
- >> Chartered Institute of Marketing www.cim.co.uk
- >> learnDirect www.learnDirect-advice.co.uk
- >> Marketing Jobs and News www.mad.co.uk
- >> Prospects www.prospects.ac.uk
- >> The Marketing Society www.marketingsociety.org

How can I find vacancy/employer information?

Whilst there are sources of advertised vacancies, the major route into this sector is by targeting companies with speculative applications. Research the companies that you are interested in and send them a good CV and covering letter, expressing your enthusiasm for the field and showing you have researched the company.

The following websites list vacancies in Marketing and PR:

- >> Brandrepublic.com www.brandrepublic.com
- >> Careers Service Vacancies Online www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/vacancies
- >> Guardian jobs www.jobs.guardian.co.uk (Browse under Media for advertising jobs or Marketing and PR)
- >> Marketing News www.mad.co.uk
- >> Marketing Week www.marketingweek.co.uk
- >> Pathfinders recruitment www.pathfindersrecruitment.com (Work experience, temporary placements and graduate positions in media and marketing)
- >> Redmandarin Sponsorship Consulting www.redmandarin.com/
- >> Targetjobs www.targetjobs.co.uk
- >> Witan Jardine www.witanjardine.co.uk (Specialist recruiter for PR and marketing)
- >> Xchangeteam Group Ltd www.xchangeteam.com (Resourcing company in marketing and creative services)

What kind of work experience will help me get into this job?

Marketing is a competitive field, so relevant work experience is extremely attractive to prospective employers. It is a good way to get started in the sector with the possibility of being offered further employment.

If your degree course does not include a work placement with a relevant company, you could approach local companies for vacation work in marketing roles. Some of the large graduate recruiters (such as Unilever and Mars) offer students paid summer placements in marketing and other departments.



The Chartered Institute of Marketing offers a Career Partner Scheme package for undergraduates and new graduates to help develop their marketing skills and knowledge, which also includes a jobs database. See www.cim.co.uk/cim/dev/html/carUnd.cfm for more details.

Check out www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/ vacancies for work experience opportunities or call into the Careers Service and speak to an Information Officer - no appointment necessary.

How much will I get paid? Salaries for Marketing executives start between £18 - £26k. Senior managers with 10 - 15 years experience can expect to earn £30,000 - £50,000, depending on sector. Generally, salaries tend to be higher in the professional services and financial/business sector compared to those in not-for-profit and public sector. (Source: Prospects)

How can the Careers Service help me?

Our philosophy is that you can 'be what you want to be'. We have a huge range of services on offer to:

- >> help you work out what you want to do after you graduate
- >> give you information to make informed decisions about which option to choose
- >> give you practical experience of working or running your own business, and support in starting your own business
- >> help you find your 'dream job' or course
- >> ensure that you market yourself professionally

Call in and see us - we are on the 2nd Floor of Armstrong Building and are open from Mon-Thur 10:00 - 5:00, Fri 10:00 - 4:30 or visit our website www.careers.ncl.ac.uk

Got books to sell? Want to say happy birthday to someone? Then text The Courier!

Happy belated birthday Bbeennnnnn! You're our faaaather! Love Team Sabb xxx	Joanne - you are OLD! Love Chris	Loved the Paul Oakenfold gig - got right to the front!	already!
Paul is our brew bitch!	Happy Birthday Batty, Love Rich xxxxxxxx	Shame about Ireland being knocked out of the RWC so early!!!!	We love Solution - got to go every week!
Hapy birthday to Nicholas Todd from Joesph Mark x	Tim Westwood dropped da bomb at Glow!!	Freshers' Week was so much fun, I miss it	The new smoothie bar in the Union is amazing, I love it!

>> SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CLINIC, 2-5pm AT THE CAREERS SERVICE, ARMSTRONG BUILDING TODAY (MON 8TH OCT)



Betsy Knows Best

"Let Betsy sort your life out!"

E-mail your questions to: courier.letters@ncl.ac.uk

Don't Know Who To Call

Dear Betsy,

I worked on Freshers' crew, had a great time and now have really strong feelings for my supervisor. The problem is my supervisor is a guy and I know he's not gay. Neither am I. I just got on really well with him and thought that's all it was but then, every time he raised his arms, I could see the base of his back. I found it hard to stop staring. I do not

have a girlfriend at the moment but I know he has. I really want to see where this could go. What should I do?

From a Ghostbuster

Dear Ghostbuster,

You called the right person. With all the crew reunions that are happening at the moment

you're bound to bump into your mystery man soon which could become awkward. The main issue here is your sexuality, you're clearly questioning it but you shouldn't allow your curiosity to destroy someone else's relationship. Maybe you should visit some of the bars at the Life Centre and see how you feel then.

Betsy

Am I Being Played? In With The Crowd

Dear Betsy,

I live with five other girls, none of whom have boyfriends so you can imagine that we know quite a few guys. A while back I went on a few dates with one boy, ending up at his house. The night fell very flat, there was no chemistry between us and since then he has acted like a complete prat. He has a reputation at the uni as a player and there is definitely truth to the rumours. Now one of my flatmates is interested in him. I know he's not worth the hassle and is just after sex. Should I tell her what I think of

this guy?

Love Dazed and Confused

Dear D and C,

You should definitely tell your friend what you think of this guy. Let her make her own decision though and support her whatever she decides. Stock up on ice cream, tissues and chick flicks to be on the safe side and maybe you should post a photo of said scumbag on www.dontdatehim-girlfriend.com!

Betsy

Dear Betsy,

I'm new to the university and want to fit in with the girls who live around me. Can you tell me where I can buy Jack Wills clothes, Ugg boots and some sort of sleeveless jacket so that I look the part? I've noticed that these seem to be the thing to wear around my halls and do you think I should shorten my name to something more manageable such as Tots or Boo?

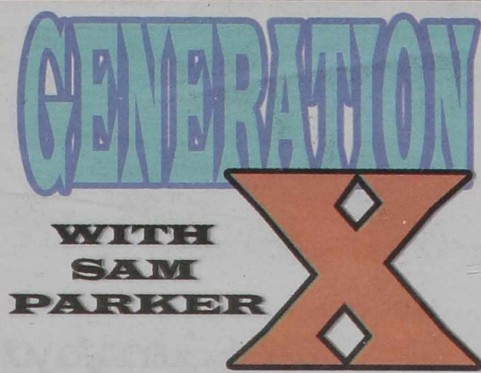
Love Social Climber

Dear Social Climber or should I

call you Tots?

I hope you have an allowance from Daddy because Uggs and Jack Wills do not come cheap I'm afraid. If you want to be socially stereotyped, you can order your things online and you absolutely must wear them together. However, if you just want to stay comfy, buy the Uggs, ditch the Jack Wills trackies and head to Primark where you can buy an identical pair for a tenth of the price.

Betsy



Theory One: The FacebookGeneration

HEY relax - we've all been there. By 'there' of course, I mean hunched over a computer screen in a spasm of social anxiety, feverishly scanning for evidence that we're loved, liked, or even just invited. If checking your Facebook and Myspace accounts were like eating a piece of fruit, I'd nail my 5-a-day by lunchtime.

Since we're the first generation to take for granted the presence of mass global communications in our lives, some would have it that we are the internet-generation.

Fuck that. Every cardiac-courting company exec to every thick-rimmed twitching caretaker in adulthood can e-mail bad jokes to their friends and source decent bestiality with just as much efficiency as us.

No, it's the social networking phenomenon that defines us. We are the facebookgeneration.

Ever had a 'grand-slam'? That's when you log in to Myspace and find you have one of each - a 'friend added', 'new message' and 'new comment' all at once.

It's like hoping for a decent haircut and realising when you stand up they've given you a new set of threads, some cool designer stubble and three inches on your dick as well.

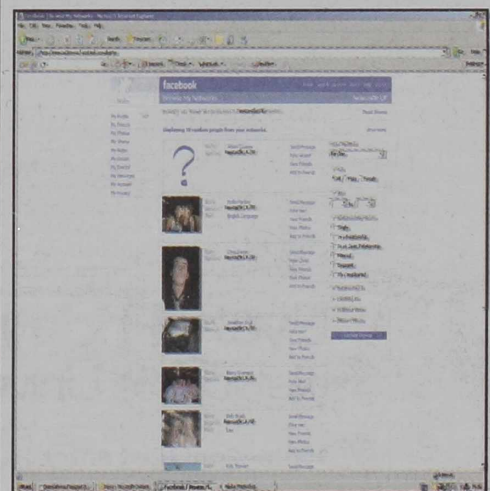
Of course it could turn out that the new friend is some awful band, the new message from an automated cam-whore and the comment an advert for some night you can't afford to go to. In other words, the threads could be too small, the stubble could be ginger and your cock could still be way below the male average (5.6 inches).

Still, one major achievement of the facebookgeneration is to have consolidated all those unique school-yard methods of letting someone know you fancy them - hair-pulling, name-calling, dead-arms - into a simple 'poke button'.

Hours otherwise wasted on posturing and goading reduced to a single mouse click, so we can all get on with the simple sex sum much quicker (proximity + alcohol).

Social networking websites also allow us to indulge our private fetish for post-break-up self-torture. The online equivalent to slashing your arm with a compass, checking your ex's profile page for any shred of evidence that they have dared move on is surely a staple of modern young heart-break.

One positive thought is that it might just be the thing that keeps us all together. That in a vague, shopping-catalogue type of way at least, we will all be in touch forever, poking one another with our cyber-walking sticks and listing our health complaints under 'interests'...



STALKING CULTURE... We are the FacebookGeneration



In the first of a new series, The Courier aims to break the 'beans on toast' student stereotype and get you into the kitchen!

Chocolate Brownies

Makes 8-10

Ingredients:

- 250g/9oz unsalted butter
- 4 large eggs
- 80g/2 3/4 oz sifted cocoa powder
- 200g/7oz broken up dark chocolate (70% cocoa)
- 65g/2 1/4 oz plain flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 350g 12 1/2 oz caster sugar

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/ gas 4/ 350°C
2. Line a rectangular baking tray (about 30cm) with greaseproof paper
3. Using a large bowl, melt the chocolate and butter over a pan of simmering water
4. Meanwhile, mix the flour, su baking powder and cocoa powder then add this to the chocolate

5. Beat the eggs and add to the mixture, ensuring that the consistency is smooth
6. Put the mixture in the baking tray and bake in the oven for 25 minutes
7. Make sure the consistency after cooking is slightly springy in the middle then leave to cool
8. Once cool, lift out with the greaseproof paper and cut into slices



KITCHEN ESSENTIALS

#1 - Chopped Tomatoes

A tin of chopped tomatoes will cost you no more than 15p if you go for a value brand - which is all that's needed. So versatile, they are especially useful when cooking Italian food like spaghetti bolognese and lasagne and also classics like chilli con carne and shepherd's pie. Combine with cream or crème fraîche to make an amazing and simple sauce that goes really well with chicken, pasta or steak. It's also one of your five a day!

>> SIGN UP FOR GRADUATES INTO BUSINESS SCHEME FROM TODAY (SEE CAREERS SERVICE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS)

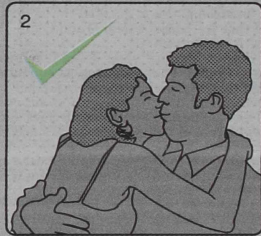
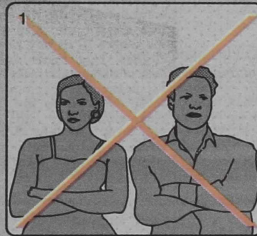
SOLUTION

The Solution to your Friday night Dilemmas

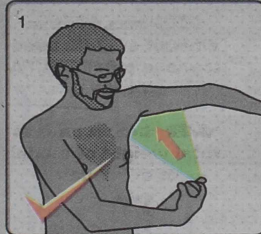
chart classics
party anthems
urban
r'n'b
indie
soul
retro



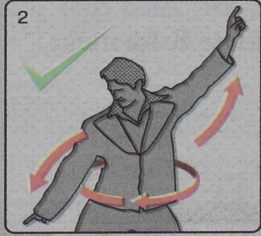
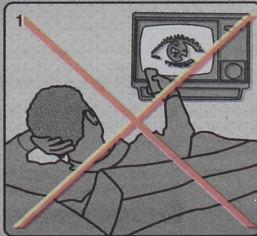
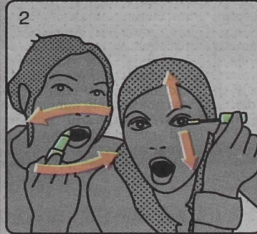
Drinks Promotions



Give In To Temptation



Go On The Pull



Mad Dancing



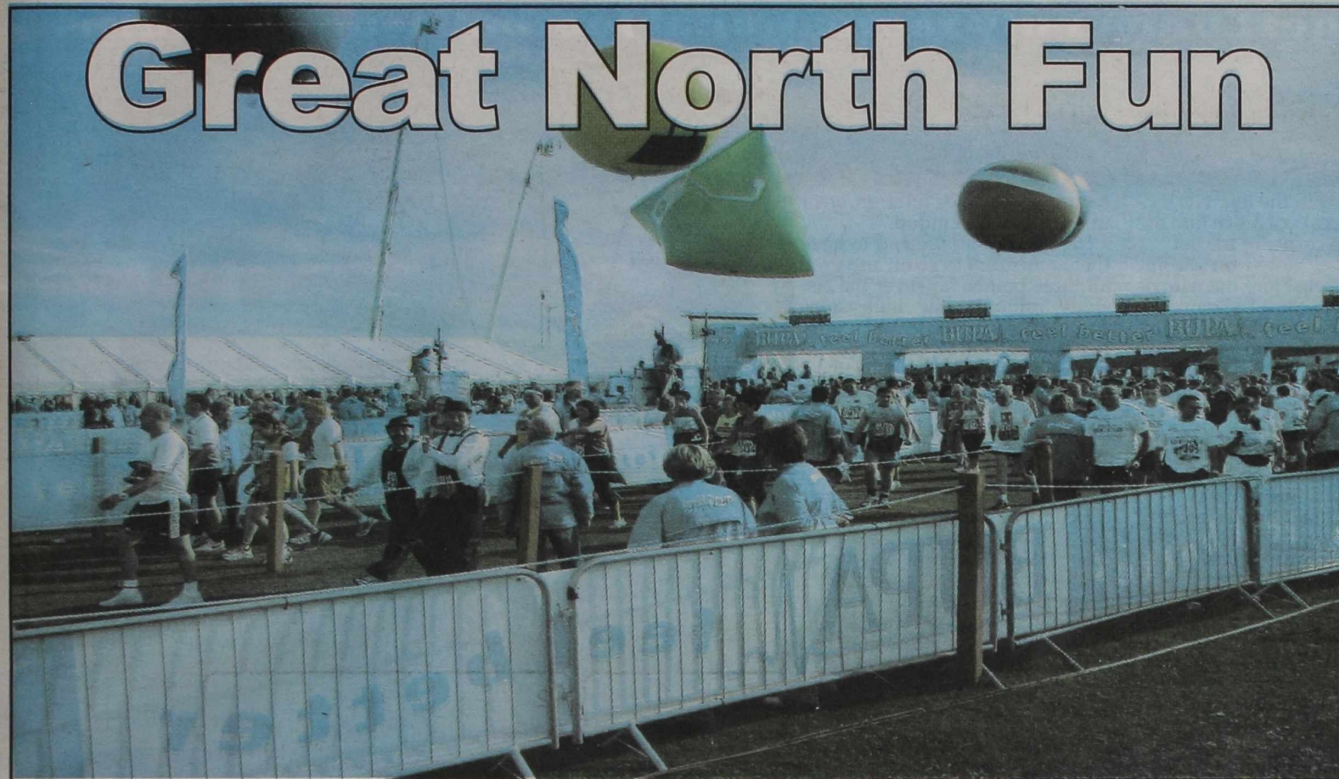
Every Friday Night
Newcastle University Union

10pm- 2pm (last entry 11.45pm) £4

SOLUTION

C
M
V
K

With the world's most famous half marathon right on our doorstep, Sports Editor RICHARD NOON decided to take in the action



Great North Fun

NEWCASTLE once again welcomed some of the world's most able athletes on Sunday September 30th, with the return of its popular half marathon, the Great North Run.

The course clocks in at just over 13 miles in length, and takes in some of Newcastle's most famous sites including the Tyne Bridge, the Sage and the Gateshead international stadium. The brain child of Olympic bronze medalist, Brendan Foster, the event first took place in 1981 and was advertised as a local event. Now, twenty six years on, the race attracts over 50,000 competitors. It also boasts children's events as well as a designated wheelchair race. These competitors are made up of elite performers and serious amateurs, but the majority of competitors are people looking for a good time at a truly inspirational and unique event.

After a twenty one month absence from the sport, the main focus of this year's event was the return of Paula Radcliffe. With the birth of her first child in January and a subsequent back injury, Radcliffe chose the challenging Tyneside course as her comeback race, desperately hoping to mark the occasion with a victory. Unfortunately, there was to be no fairy tale ending. After keeping up with race leader Kara Gouch for over 10km, the American challenger eventually managed to break free from the Ulsterwoman and complete the race in an impressive 1.06.57. Considering the length of her absence from competitive running, Radcliffe should be relatively pleased with her second placed finish.

The Men's race proved to provide further drama, with a sprint finish in South Shields. Martin Lel and fellow Kenyan Sammy Wanjiru, were separated by

only eight seconds at the finish line, with the former completing the race with a winning time of 1.00.10.

Of course, the race is not just for the serious runners, with many celebrities taking part, usually running to raise money for various charities. After starting the race in 2006, England manager Steve McClaren decided to put his running shoes on this year and compete. Amazingly, he managed to complete the race, something many of his constantly injured ravaged squad would find impossible to do. McClaren was not the only famous face on show, with Carol Vorderman and remarkably John Motson trying their luck.

Of course many Newcastle students took part in this year event. Take a look at some of their experiences of the race, and if you like what you hear why not give it a go yourself next year?!

The Great North Run In Numbers

1981
First year of the Great North Run

25 miles
amount of cloth used to make official BUPA T-shirts

49 tonnes
total weight of medal of all medals awarded



I'll always claim that I'm not a runner and that the reason I got involved was because my housemates bullied me into it - but I'm glad they did. It was such an amazing day and the banter among the runners was so good. It sounds weird to say about a 13 mile run but I loved every minute of it.

Fran Infante - 2nd Year Combined Studies



My overriding memory of the Great North Run is of the spectators. They lined the road for the full 13.1 miles, in part to spot unusual costumes but also to hand out orange segments, ice lollies, cups of water and even Vaseline. One old lady took it upon herself to welcome every passer by to Jarrow. Without knowing she provided many runners a reason for running that little bit faster.

Joe Currin - 2nd Year Media and Communications



The crowds were incredible; they're what really keep you going when you start to get tired. I had my name written on my running vest and people kept shouting, 'Come on Jackie, keep going'. It was great. As we ran up through Gateshead people were cheering from their front gardens and some even handed out biscuits or icepops and brought out hoses to spray us as we passed.

Jackie Jones - 2nd Year Dentistry



Beforehand I had thought that by the time I'd run 13 miles I'd just be desperate to cross the finish line, but in fact the atmosphere was so awesome that I didn't want it to end. I didn't think anything could make up for months of early morning training runs in the rain, but everything about that one day did, completely.

Sophie Robinson - 3rd Year English Language

TOON WATCH

BY JAMES PARKER

Different Season, Same Problem

It seems as though the ten plagues of Egypt were one short when depicting the demise of the world in the ancient book of Exodus. Along with water to blood, frogs, gnats, flies, disease, boils, thunder, locusts, darkness and death of the firstborn, they conveniently missed out 'Owen's legs' from the biblical texts. The injury prone striker is unbelievably missing from selection yet again and has visited a German female groin specialist (something that is no doubt part of every male student's DVD collection) in his quest for match fitness. Joey Barton, who has yet to kick a ball for the Toon, has also suffered from Owen's contagious injury syndrome. Not to mention the usual candidates heading the injury list with Emre, Ramage and Babayaro, who by no means complete the Magpies' catalogue of absentees. Despite new manager Sam Allardyce bringing in new scientific techniques the injury woes attached to Newcastle continue to grow.

Luque Blasts Toon

Former Magpie flop Albert Luque sensationally revealed this week that he had "no care for Newcastle" and that he only agreed to join the Tyneside club purely for "the money". Luque, who was sold to Dutch outfit Ajax for £2.5 million at the end of the summer, criticised Newcastle United for his lack of chances and claimed that he wouldn't have even contemplated moving to the North East if they hadn't offered him, what he describes as, "ludicrous money". "I had never heard of Newcastle before I came here," he revealed, "I didn't want to leave Deportivo, but they offered me money I couldn't refuse." This recent revelation has infuriated Toon supporters who have branded Luque a "disgrace" and a "total waste of money". Sentiments that Toon Watch would have gladly told them a few seasons ago.

Italian Job

As the Newcastle Falcons' popularity continues to grow, the club were more than pleased to reveal that season ticket sales were at an all time high. The current Rugby World Cup being held in France could be one of the reasons as to why interest in rugby has surged in recent months. With profits on the increase, the Falcons decided to renovate their swanky Italian bistro, Due Dieci, alongside a series of other developments being undertaken around Kingston Park. The Falcons have enjoyed a decent start to the season, and this, along with the additional coffers in the club's bank balance, bode well for what will hopefully be a successful campaign.

INTRA MURAL FO

As the country's biggest university recreational football league returns

DIVISION 1

Z Lions 3-2 Hurricanes

BY JAMIE CLARKE

The Z Lions come out roaring in this season opener featuring two newly promoted sides. As last year's Division Two table suggested, the Hurricanes were second best to the Z-Lions, although the result could have indeed been different had Matt Varley seized upon a golden opportunity to complete his hat-trick midway through the second half.

The Z Lions immediately capitalised upon a sluggish looking Hurricanes side. Tom Clarke bagged a quick fire double within fifteen minutes of the kick off, with right winger Andy Milburn instrumental in the early onslaught. He proved to be a constant threat to the delicate Hurricanes back line. Clarke's first goal was a simple tap in after a

good cross from the left. His second goal was a cool finish into the bottom right corner of the net.

As the Lions rested on a comfortable 2-0 cushion the Hurricanes began to come back into the game, a questionable refereeing decision denying the away side a penalty. Brave goalkeeping by man of the match Alistair Lindop preserved the Lion's clean sheet until half time, with the debutant keeper running out to meet the ball on numerous occasions towards the half time whistle.

The second half began brightly with Hurricanes looking confident, possibly inspired by Paul Coleman's half time speech. The pressure instantly reaped rewards, with Varley bagging his first goal of the new campaign for the Division One new boys. The equaliser seemed inevitable with the majority of possession belonging to the 'Canes, Varley

securing his brace after an error in the box from Lindop.

The Hurricanes seemed to have the momentum to go on and grab all three points; however the last thirty minutes saw both sides coming close to snatching a winner. The ball fell to 'Cane's Varley in the box soon after his second strike, however the striker edged the shot marginally wide. As the game crept towards the final whistle, the Z's threw on Patrick Starkey. The substitution proved inspirational with the newcomer clinching the winner at the death. His drilled shot from inside the area was unstoppable.

The winner came as a sucker punch to the Hurricanes following such a spirited comeback in the second half. Both teams can draw plenty of positives in what is sure to be a tough season in the top division.



DIVISION 2

Real Politque 0-1 Pro Evo Panthers

BY OWEN MARRIOTT

IN THE battle of Division Two's newly promoted sides it was the Pro Evo Panthers who overcame Real Politque at Longbenton on Wednesday thanks to striker

Matthias Van der

Vache's first half strike. With both sides fielding a number of new players, clear cut chances were few and far between in the opening exchanges. Real Politque came closest to breaking the deadlock when an inswinging corner eluded everyone and almost crept in at the far post. It was however a corner that proved to be Politque's undoing.

Midway through the first half a flowing counter attack saw the Pan-

thers break out of defence after defending a corner. The ball was played over the Politque defence, with new signing Van der Vache using his pace to race onto the ball. He managed to keep his composure and coolly slide it past the onrushing keeper, Rich Lewis. Having gone ahead, Panthers then began to assert their authority on the game as they repeatedly exploited the space behind Politque's defence. In a move identical to the one that produced the goal, the impressive Van der Vache nearly doubled his and Panthers tally. Unfortunately he drove his shot just over the bar. Midfielder Joel Marsden also had a stinging strike well saved by Lewis. Not to be outdone, Politque rallied and almost levelled on the stroke of half time, but striker Mark Kelly was denied by the alert Panthers goalkeeper, James A'Court.

The second half struggled to match the excitement of the thrilling first, despite a bright start by Politque. In an attempt to shake things up both teams made changes not long after the restart. This almost immediately paid dividends for Politque, as substitute Damon McGratton came

desperately close to restoring parity when he struck the post with a curling 35 yard free kick. This sparked the game back into life; a catalyst for a frenzied last half hour. Firstly, Panthers Andy Wright nearly put the game out of sight when he seized on a loose ball and hit a thunderous drive against the underside of the bar, with the ball then rebounding into the grateful Lewis' hands. Quick thinking Lewis then launched the ball deep into the Panthers half. From the resulting cross Andy Chambers lost his marker but headed over with the goal at his mercy.

It proved to be the last real clear cut chance of the game. Despite Real Politque desperately pushing men forward in search of an equaliser, the Panthers back four held firm to secure all three points.



Photos: Claire Gunn



FOOTBALL SPECIAL

we bring you match reports from around the Wednesday divisions

DIVISION 1 Garnett A 2-1 Castle Leazes

BY PAUL CHRISTIAN

GARNETT A kicked off their season with a hard fought victory against Castle Leazes at Close House. Goals from Oxby and Cowles secured all three points for Garnett in a low-key affair that boasted few chances.

Both sides fielded fresh faces with many new signings on display. As a result, neither team were able to find the sort of rhythm needed to make a pulsating, fluid encounter. However Garnett started the sharper of the two sides with Danskin and

Christian both going close before Oxby deservedly opened the scoring with a thunderous strike from the edge of the box.

Leazes were allowed back into the game following a mistake from the Garnett 'keeper. A Paul Robinson style miss kick ensured that Christmas came early for Josh Arthur as he tapped into the empty net, marking an impressive debut with his first goal in Leazes colours.

The game continued to be a tight affair after the restart, with both sides cancelling each other out. Leazes were then dealt a hammer blow when influential new skipper, Ed Elliot, limped off halfway through

the second half. They recovered well, however, and were unlucky not to take the lead with some incisive breakaways. Nevertheless, the final ball often let them down.

In the end, Garnett managed to capitalise on their superior possession play, with Cowles breaking clear. He kept his composure and cheekily lobbed the keeper with only ten minutes remaining. Leazes pushed for an equalizer, but Garnett held strong to record a vital opening day win, piling more pressure on Leazes' manager Graham Rishton.



DIVISION 3 Fluffy Wilson 1-2 Collingham FC

BY RICHARD PARK

A cold afternoon at Redhall Drive played host to a tense affair between these two evenly matched sides on an edgy opening day of the season. On what is one of the smallest pitches in Intra Mural football, a tight encounter ensued with few chances for either side. Fluffy started the brighter however, and saw a fierce Toby Jones effort tipped round the post by the Collingham 'keeper.

This proved to be a rare bit of excitement on what was a largely scrappy affair, which was only livened up occasionally by some bizarre refereeing decisions. With both teams being so

cagey you would have been given no prizes for guessing that the most likely source of a goal would come from a set piece, and indeed it did. A rash challenge inside the Fluffy area ended up with Matt Knox dispatching the resulting penalty home after 40 minutes. This was to be a rare contribution to the game from the Collingham forward, who was subdued throughout thanks largely to the organised Fluffy Wilson backline, who all showcased commanding performances.

The second half could only get better after what was a mundane first 45 minutes. Again the half started rather slowly, although it was Fluffy who soon found the upperhand early on. A tangle of legs inside Collingham's area ended with Fluffy being awarded a penalty, but it was tamely hit by the ever industrious Rowen Goldthorpe. Despite this setback, Fluffy seemed to grow in

confidence and found their breakthrough several minutes later.

A quick throw-in down the right hand side allowed Fluffy to bombard the Collingham area, and a superb cross was met by a thunderous diving header from Stevie McIntyre to level the scores midway through the second half. Fluffy's joy was short lived however, as Collingham regained the lead just seconds later. A well struck free kick by Knox was superbly tipped away by Fluffy 'keeper Kristian Brooks, but he could only look on as the following rebound was scrambled home from two yards on 80 minutes. Brooks enjoyed a commanding afternoon and despite carrying an injury, made several important saves throughout.

The full time whistle was blown soon after and perhaps a draw would have been a fair result, although credit goes to Collingham, who look a strong side and will no doubt enjoy a decent campaign.



RESULTS 3rd October 2007

Division 1
Dyslexic United 2-3 Barca-Law-Na
The Hurricanes 2-3 Z-Lions
Real Ma-Dividend 3-0 Henderson Hall
Garnett A 2-1 Castle Leazes

Division 2
Real Politique 0-1 Pro Evo Panthers
Real Mechanical 0-1 Lokomotiv FC
Garnett B 5-3 Fenham Bache
Henderson Hall A 6-1 Crayola

Division 3
Fluffy Wilson 1-2 Collingham FC
Paris Saint Gentlemen 2-3 NUSC FC
Mathletico FC v Borussia Forsythe - Result not received

Division 4
Mongchester City 5-2 Aftermath
Kickabout Wednesday 4-4 FC Bappage
Ecosoc Berlin v Henderson Wednesday - Result not received

FIXTURES 10th October 2007

Division 1
The Hurricanes v Dyslexic United
Barca-Law-Na v Z Lions
Castle Leazes v Real Ma-Dividend
Henderson Hall v Garnett A

Division 2
Real Politique v Henderson Hall A
Crayola v Pro Evo Panthers
Real Mechanical v Garnett B
Fenham Bache v Lokomotiv FC

Division 3
Collingham FC v Fiorentina Turner
Paris Saint Gentlemen v Mathletico FC
Borussia Forsythe v NUSC FC

Division 4
Ecosoc Berlin v FC Bappage
Aftermath v Pie Axe
Kickabout Wednesday v Henderson Wednesday

TEAM NEWCASTLE

The new BUSA season is just around the corner, with Newcastle looking to build on their impressive 9th place in last year's rankings. As the various University sports clubs gear up for the new campaign, we will speak to a number of club captains about their hopes and ambitions for 2007/08

RUGBY



With the new season imminent for Newcastle's rugby 1st team heroes, Sports Editor JAMES PARKER speaks to club captain Rich McCartney on his major aims for his side for the forthcoming campaign



SO RICH, give us an overview of last season.

"We had a really successful year; all the lads deserve a great deal of credit for working so hard. Being the third most successful side in university rugby was a great achievement. It was a long and difficult year for us, as is every season, but the experiences from last year will definitely help us this time round."

What about player changes this year - have you managed to retain most of your side?

"Our personnel change has been around ten or so which is quite a lot. Players from the 2nd and 3rd teams though will be more than able to make the leap to first team rugby. We've bags of talent in our ranks, not just in the starting 15, but throughout all levels of Newcastle rugby. It's an honour to be captaining one of England's most gifted universities."

Speaking of your new responsibilities as captain, what qualities do you think you bring to the side?



SEASON OF SUCCESS...This year's rugby 1sts will be looking to go one better than last year's side

"I'm very keen to keep team moral high again this year. We have a great team spirit and I think that's the key to our recent success. Being elected by your fellow team mates shows the faith that the rest of the lads have in me and I'm determined to repay their confidence. We've a lot of new young players coming into the side; I hope I can be a leader and role model for them, on and off the field."

You mention new players, anyone in particular to watch out for?

"As I said before we've a great deal of talent within the squads, but one or two have really impressed in pre-season and I can't wait to finally get playing competitive rugby with them. Anthony Haynes springs to mind though, an outside centre with lots of pace. He's been involved with the Hong Kong set-up as well, so he's a young player with some experience. Dom Shaw and Rob Fahrenheit are both first team regulars, vice-captain and team captain respectively, and so they're going to be helping me out a lot this year; the responsibility we all share is something we are all relishing the opportunity to undertake and hopefully we can integrate the new lads into the same winning mentality which we all shared last campaign."

With all this new talent, you must be looking forward to the start of the season...

"Very much so. I really can't wait until we kick off against Nottingham on Wednesday. We're under the watchful eyes of John Fenn and Micky Ward this year - Falcon's and England prop. It's great to have a local hero guiding us as he's someone who has seen all the sides of rugby from winning trophies to horrific injuries, he's someone I really admire and working with him and John will without a doubt make me a better player. Under their leadership and with all their knowledge and experience, I'm sure we're going to go from strength to strength. It will take time for the new lads to settle in, but once they do we will have the makings of a very strong side indeed."

Finally, looking to the future, where do you see Newcastle University rugby heading?

"The future's looking very bright. Stan Calvert has been moved this season to February so it's going to make this year quite hectic. But with the strength and depth we have in the side I'm sure we'll be more than able to cope. We are constantly pushing ourselves towards professionalism, whether that be how we structure our pre-seasons or how we prepare for games. We want to be the best and only through a great deal of hard work and concentration will that happen. The support we receive from fellow students within the university is fantastic; it gives you a real boost to play in front of a decent crowd and last year we drew in some large attendances. Hopefully, that will be the case again this year."

FOOTBALL



It's all change at the football club with new coaches and players. With an exciting new campaign on the horizon, MARK LEVINE caught up with new club captain Paddy Paisley to discuss his predictions for the new season



In terms of enthusiasm, it was first rate with 300 people turning up. Quality? Maybe in recent years it has been high. We have taken on about 20 or so new lads and we are happy with that.

The thirds last year were the most successful team reaching the Nationals in their BUSA competition. How do you rate the chances of that feat being repeated this year for all teams?

High! I want to see all three teams from BUSA promoted this year. It's never been done before, and it may be ambitious, but it should and can happen. It is a serious goal.

Do you feel that as the club captain of men's football, you have a point to prove to other sports teams at the University?

Yes, definitely. Last year we weren't organised as well and the club never fulfilled its potential. But this year we can maximise and fulfil our potential.

There are five teams this year, two on a Saturday and three on a Wednesday. What is your realistic aim for each team?

I want all three teams from BUSA promoted. We should be looking to win the Intra Mural League as well. I'd also like to see a mid table finish in the Alliance League.

Have the staff and player changes at the club had an immediate impact on the team as a whole?

Yes, definitely. Last year we had ex students playing for us, this year its students only. We have had two new coaches come in and a new committee. This has brought fresh ideas to the club and we are working hard to implement them. It is something the University will hopefully see continuing throughout the year.

Who is the footballer that most inspires you - famous or otherwise?

Good question! I'd say Bobby Moore. I guess because he was a natural leader, but more than that he was respected and understated. He got on with his job as if he was just one of the other eleven players. He read the game superbly and was true to real football values.

In three words can you sum up what you would like the players here to be known for?

Successful, organised and respected.

Ideally, what would you like your legacy here to be?

Haha. I really cannot say. I'd like to leave that up to the players to decide! Only time will tell!



UPHILL BATTLE...The football club will be looking to wash away their poor recent rankings

HOW ARE you coping with the responsibility of being club captain? Did you receive any advice from the previous captain (Chris Gill) last year?

It is all going well so far. With this job you will have highs and lows, but I'm lucky enough to have a great committee supporting me. I never received much advice from Chris, but it wouldn't really apply anyway as this is a new season and a new revolution!

How have you seen the club progress since you joined three years ago?

It has not really changed that much but we should progress this year. We have the ability to make sure the organisation is arranged properly and that the match day set ups run smoothly. We also have new coaches and plenty of big ideas.

The trials have just taken place. How did you rate the overall quality and enthusiasm of those who took part?

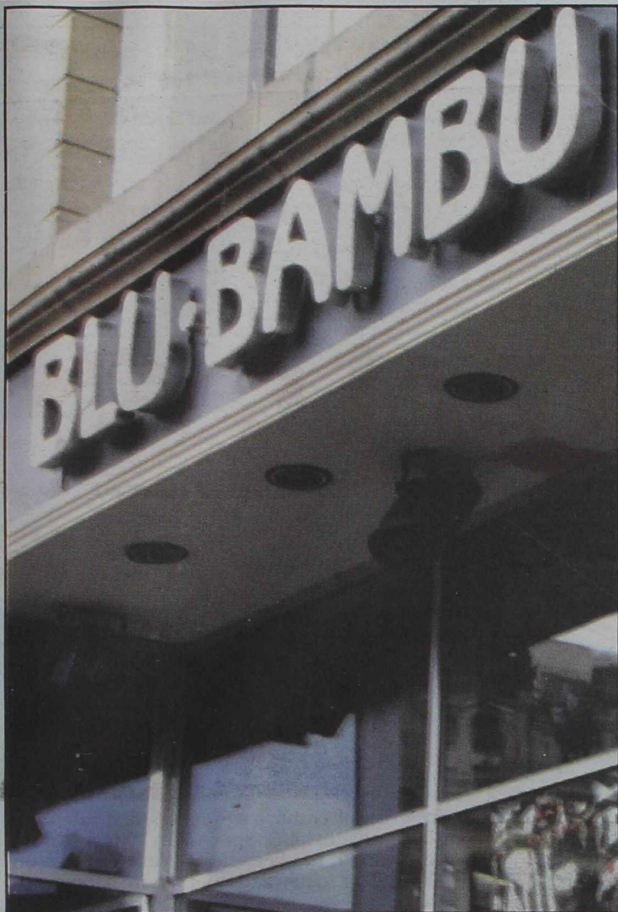


Photo: Chris Kay

Supermarket Sweep

AU Cash in on Aldi Sponsorship Deal

BY DAVID COVERDALE
SPORTS EDITOR

THE COURIER can reveal that the Newcastle University Athletic Union have agreed an exclusive deal with ALDI for the 2007/08 academic year, which will see the supermarket chain sponsor the prestigious Stan Calvert Cup. The AU have also combined forces with popular night club Blu Bambu to come up with an exciting incentive to all AU members. The Athletic Union's agreement with Bambu will allow members of all Newcastle University sports teams into the night club for free on any night of the week.

Under the terms of the new ALDI deal, the ALDI logo will be branded on all promotional Stan Calvert posters and plasmas, as well as Stan Calvert team uniforms and programmes. The new arrangement also allows for ALDI to have a developed relationship with the Athletic Union across the academic year, as AU President Lydia Oxenham explains, "ALDI see sports captains and team committee members as ideal candidates for their graduate recruitment scheme. Our partnership with ALDI gives them the

opportunity to pitch at graduates and draw attention to their scheme through presentations and other promotions."

As far as the Blu Bambu offer is concerned, the AU President urges all sports teams to act quickly if they want their members to reap the benefits. "To distinguish AU members from other clubbers, Blu Bambu will be using thumbprints as form of identification. It is therefore vital that team captains take their teams down to register their thumbprints by Monday 22 October."

Further incentives from Blu Bambu allow for every registered AU member to get one of their non-AU member friends in for free, while team captains will be able to get three of their friends in free of charge. Bambu will also give £1 to the Union Society for every AU member who attends the night club on a Wednesday night.

The link with Blu Bambu and the deal with ALDI are both a much needed boost to the AU coffers after the University found itself to be victims of their own success last year. Newcastle finished ninth in the final 2006/07 BUSA rankings, an unbelievable achievement for a university which does not do sports de-

grees. However, the knock on affect of teams progressing further than ever before in their respective competitions, was that budgets were also stretched to the limit. The AU will have been disappointed with their allocation from Newcastle University's 2007/08 budget, but hopes are still high for another incredibly successful year and bettering last season's ninth place finish.



World University Games Light Up Bangkok

BY DAVID COVERDALE
AND RICHARD NOON
SPORTS EDITORS

FROM the 8th-18th August, Thailand played host to the 2007 World University Games. The National Stadium in the capital of Bangkok was the centerpiece to the event, and staged spectacular opening and closing ceremonies. The Games take place every two years and consists of 11 core sports and seven guest sports. It is an international sporting and cultural festival, which many actually see as second in importance only to the Olympic Games themselves.

This year's Games were an enormous overall success, and were also a triumph for Britain with Team GB's students claiming ten medals. This was an outstanding effort, as several of the competing nations included World Champions and 2008 Olympic hopefuls in their squads. China topped the medal table, followed by Russia, in a Games which saw numerous records

broken and which was widely accepted as being the best ever in standard of performance and competition.

Although Newcastle University did not have any athletes actually competing, last year's AU president Anthony Keane was in Bangkok working with Team GB.

"The Great Britain delegation has always taken an AU or Sports Officer from one of the UK universities as part of their team," Keane explained. "This person acts as a liaison officer between the athletes and the hierarchy of the team and this was my role in Bangkok."

"The job mainly consisted of traveling with the athletes and sorting out any problems they were having. My main contact with the athletes was to make sure that their experience at the games was a good one."

"Many team members already had experience of the international scene and so didn't need a great deal of support from myself. I was more looking out for the athletes who were experiencing their first international meet-

ing."

Keane was one of many people to be impressed by the Bangkok Games as a sporting spectacle.

"The event was huge. This year 11,000 athletes from 181 countries around the world took part. In fact this year's gathering is the largest the Games has ever witnessed."

The stand out performer for Britain in Thailand was Simeon Williamson of Middlesex University, who won the prestigious men's 100m in bizarre fashion. Williamson initially crossed the line to win in 10.28 seconds, but was later adjudged to have false started and so officials ruled that the race be run again. However, the European U23 Champion was not to be undone and finished even quicker in a time of 10.22 to take the honours.

There were silvers for athlete Kadi-Ann Thomas from Brunel, shooter Rachel Parish of Southampton University, Stirling swimmer Andrew Hunter and golfer Charles Ford. The five bronze medals came across the sports of fencing, swimming and athletics.



FLYING THE FLAG...Anthony in Thailand with other World University Games representatives

Courier Sport Wants Your Stories

It's Hello From Us!



Interested in writing or talking to us?

Meetings held on Mondays 12:30pm in the Training Room, first floor of the Union

It's your sport, your paper, your university.



AS THE new Sports Editors, we'd just like to formally introduce ourselves. There are three of us in total, James (an avid Toon fan and rugby fanatic), Dave (a die hard Liverpool fan and cricket specialist), and Rich (a grassroots Lincoln fan and hockey guru).

We've got some great ideas for Courier Sport this year and are really looking forward to covering all different kinds of sport.

We always welcome new ideas and suggestions from fellow students and so, if you have anything you would like to be included, please do let us know at courier.sport@ncl.ac.uk.

You might want us to promote your

respective sports club or society, or maybe you would like to send us in a match report. Whatever you have in mind, if it's sport and Newcastle related, we'd love to hear from you.

Ranging from our traditional Intra Mural reports to the more obscure, we want to celebrate the diversity of sport here at Newcastle University, perhaps one of our writers could even come down and take part in a training session to get some hands on experience of what your sport actually involves.

Send us an email, give us a call or drop by the Courier office for a chat. Keep a look out on how your club can get involved. Enjoy your sport and thanks for reading.



Intra Mural - The Big Kick Off

Opening Day Coverage From Divisions 1, 2 and 3

INTRA MURAL football returned to the fields of Newcastle last week with matches taking place in all divisions.

The long awaited return of the season saw two of Division 1's big boys come head to head, as Castle Leazes faced Garnett B. Last year's cup winners Barca-Law-Na battled it out with the mighty Dyslexic, while Z Lions

came up against The Hurricanes.

One of the big games in Division 2 saw two newly promoted sides Pro Evo Panthers and Real Politique pit their wits against each other, while in Division 3, Fluffy Wilson entertained 2006/07 Division 4 champions Collingham.

With four divisions, contain-

ing a total of 30 teams, it promises to be yet another campaign of tears and joy for Newcastle University's students.

Intra Mural rugby also kicks-off this week, along with netball and hockey, as the University's sports programme gets back into full swing.

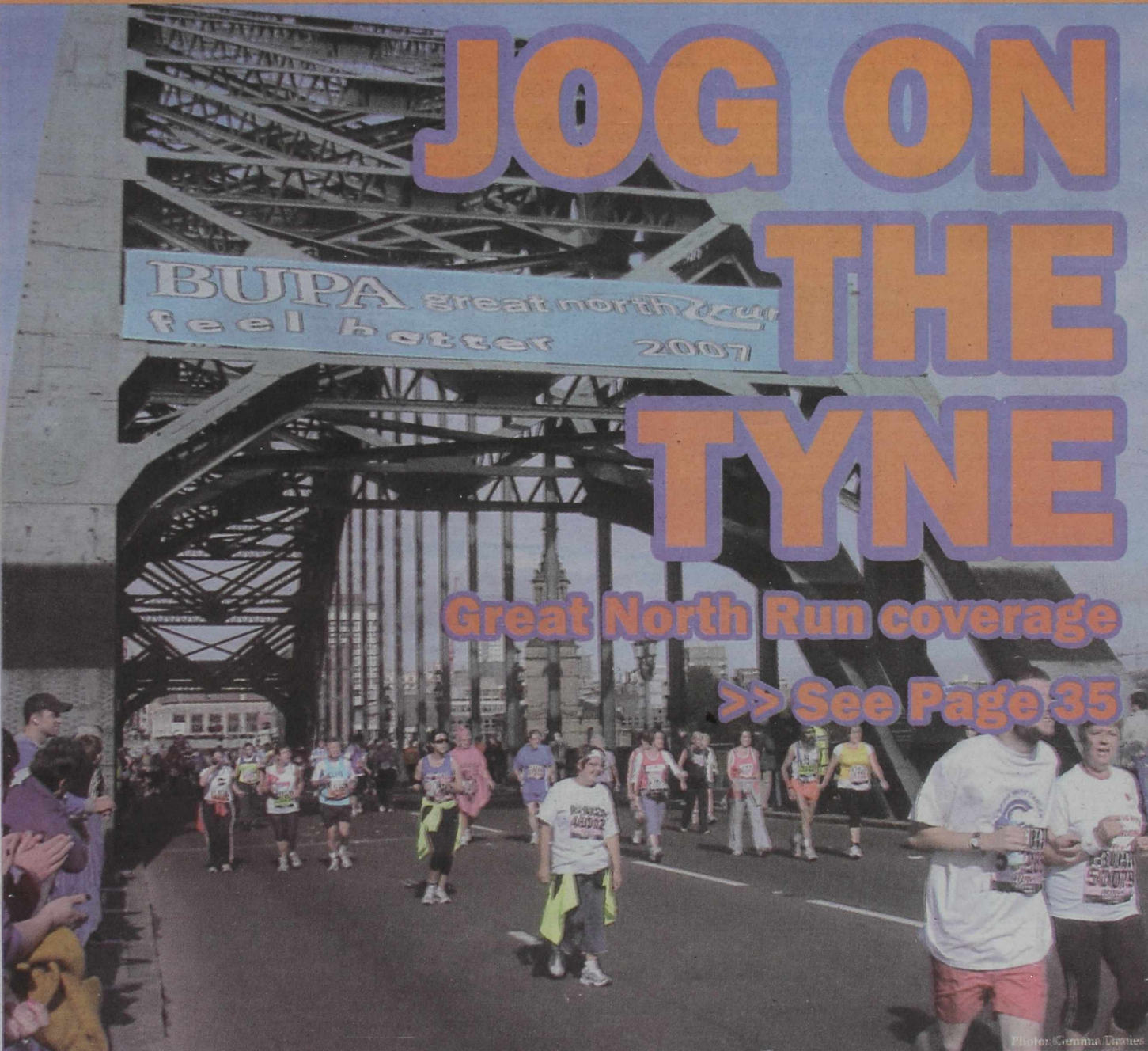
Hundreds of students taking part in the Wednesday and

Saturday afternoon fixtures will take to the fields over the coming weeks. Needless to say, Courier Sport will be there every step of the way, bringing you all the best Intra Mural coverage throughout the year.

Turn to pages 36-37 to read match reports and results from last Wednesday's fixtures.



08.10.07



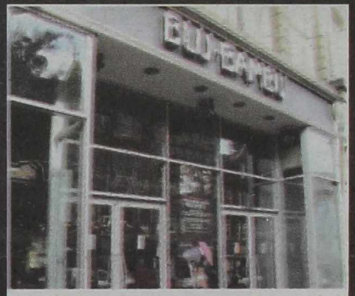
Great North Run coverage
>> See Page 35

50,000 runners... 13.1 miles...

1 Great North Run

The world famous half marathon was back in town last week and Courier Sport was there
FULL REPORT PAGE 35

Inside Your Courier Sport This Week....



Aldi and Bambu join Team Newcastle
>> see p.39



News from the World University Games
>> see p.39



Interviews with football and rugby club captains
>> see p.38

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