



APPALLING

PERVERT HARASSES STUDENTS IN JESMOND

BY GEMMA DAVIES
EDITOR

TWO THIRD year female students are recovering from being sexually harassed in Jesmond.

The two girls were walking from Jesmond to the Union one evening last week when they were approached by a man from an alleyway who dropped his trousers and started masturbating in front of them.

The incident happened on Burdon Terrace, at the bottom of Tankerville Terrace in Jesmond as the girls were walking towards the entrance of Exhibition Park at around 7.30pm.

One of the girls told *The Courier*, "He came out of the alleyway and dropped his trousers. Then he started masturbating."

"We didn't think he was threatening, just that he was unstable. He didn't say anything, he just made noises at us."

"My friend said to him 'that's disgusting' but he didn't respond."

"It was just disgusting. I've never been so shocked."

The girls then pushed passed the man and ran away and once they were certain he wasn't following them, they informed the police.

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>> On the Web This Week



We launch our new business column focussing on what affects you in the business world. Read comment on the new iPhone and what the national papers have been saying about students.

Plus all the latest Solution pics!

www.thecouriernewcastle.com

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>> Weather Watch

Monday will be cloudy and cold with outbreaks of rain, sleet or snow. Tuesday will bring more rain.

Heavy and prolonged rain will fill Wednesday, so expect some more sport cancellations. There will also be lots of strong winds

The weekend will be drier but much colder with lots of frost.



the **courier** est. 1948

Pulp

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>> DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE BRAND NEW COURIER WEBSITE - WWW.THECOURIERNEWCASTLE.COM

Student Sex Attack Shocker

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

From here they were told to go to the Union Society, where they were heading to watch the Newcastle University Jazz Orchestra, and police interviewed them in a private room.

Meanwhile, a patrol car was sent to search the area where the incident had happened but there was no sign of the man involved.

The event raises questions of student safety in what is usually considered a safe area, particularly when the girls were not walking alone and the time was not particularly late.

One of the victims added, "Normally I

feel so safe in Jesmond and we were intending to walk through Exhibition Park.

"I'll definitely stick to well lit areas now, but the fact that I have to makes me feel very uneasy."

The other student said, "I know a few people who this has happened to before and it's worrying that when he stops getting his kicks from just doing that, he'll become even more of a threat."

This once again raises the issue of student safety, following a number of attacks last year, including one just yards from where this happened, and one the year before of a similar nature when a first year was sexually harassed near the Ridley Building by a 'trench coat loiterer' masturbating.

The Student Support Officer at the Un-

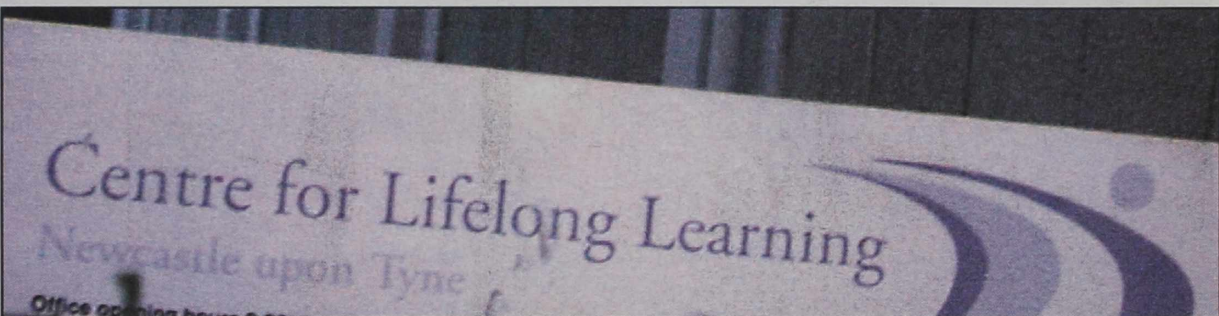
ion Society, Rosie Duffield said, "This is a very serious matter and it was very important that the girls went straight to the police."

"I would urge all students in this situation to do the same."

"Students can also get free safety alarms from my office [1st floor of the Union] and I would advise avoiding dark and isolated alleyways when walking at night time."

At the time of going to press Northumbria Police said they were investigating the incident of indecent exposure and appealed for anyone with information to contact police in Jesmond on 08456 043043.

Government slash funding Plans to cut funding in lifelong learning and education...



BY ELLIE LORD

A GOVERNMENT proposal to axe funding for Lifelong Learning courses looks set to go ahead if it is not strongly petitioned.

The proposal, announced in September by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), will affect any student beyond A Level, carrying out studies at a level equal to, or below their prior qualifications.

The plans which roll into motion in 2008 will affect many Institutions dealing with adult education throughout the country.

At the Centre for Lifelong Learning in Newcastle, students are currently paying £32 for a 10 week course in their subject, and non-students are paying around £70, but if government funding is given the chop this amount will multiply to £300 for everyone studying a non-vocational subject.

Unsurprisingly the common response has been very negative.

Higher Education groups are unanimously hostile towards the proposal, and suspect that the government has a hidden agenda to veer students away from humanities subjects and encourage them to study 'skill'

courses. Ben Potter, The Union Society Education Officer is appalled by the plans and told *The Courier* "I'd go as far as to say this is socially irresponsible of the government."

The high costs prevent the opportunity for people of all ages to gain skills and knowledge they haven't got from standard education. Why penalise an individual for having skills in another area?" If the plans go forward, they could prevent people from studying outside of compulsory education.

This would completely undermine the governments Lifelong Learning agenda which encourages the refreshing of knowledge and skills at different stages in life.

Being a student in Italian at Newcastle's Life Long Centre myself, I'm shocked by the government plans and don't think they realise the impact it'll have on students such as myself.

To put it in perspective, it would cost a similar amount to study a language in its host country.

Many will be forced to teach themselves, or in the worst case scenario terminate their studies altogether. I'm certain that this will be the case for most students, and many adults.

Students are already paying

a fortune for higher education in comparison to 2 years ago.

The government increased the cost of tuition fees in 2004 from £1'100 to a £3000 maximum fee with the majority of students paying the full amount.

That is over double of what a students entering higher education in 2004 were paying. Despite this huge increase, they still require more money to invest back into education. The figures just don't seem to add up.

The government justify the new funding policy by claiming that lifelong learning is not a 'high priority' on their list for public funding amongst courses that enable students to gain a qualification.

They also assert that vocational courses are exempt from the proposal because they teach specific skills valuable to society.

Ben Potter remained unimpressed - "I understand and accept the importance of vocational courses, but if a subject is non-vocational that doesn't mean its not important. We're living in a global world and languages are more important than ever."

These plans are a real step backwards, and the consequences could be detrimental on the future of higher education. According to the govern-

ment website 'it is unrealistic to expect the Government to match the total funding levels of the world's best-endowed universities', however it is unrealistic of them to expect Life Long Centres to survive if barely anyone can afford to pay for courses.

The inevitable decrease in the number students is likely to put Life Long teachers out of jobs and eventually cause serious harm the adult learning sector.

Clearly the consequences are serious, but with your help they are not inevitable. Already an online petition that expired on the 10th of November has received 3,475 signatures in order to reinstate government support funding.

There are many more ways that you can campaign for this cause.

You can express your views to your MP online @ <http://www.writetothem.com/>, or your local councillor; contact your local/national press online @ http://www.metric.org.uk/your_role/newspapers.htm; directly contact the HEFCE @ www.hefce.ac.uk. Most importantly spread the word amongst your friends.

The more people involved increases any chance of preventing the plans from being put into place.

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THE TRAINING ROOM; FIRST FLOOR OF THE UNION**

Purpose-Built Paradise

Purpose-built, not-for-profit housing raises issues of the ghettoisation of Newcastle students

BY KATE McCANN

NEWCASTLE CITY Councillor is championing a controversial bid to place affordable student housing at the top of the political agenda.

Councillor Henri Murison, who represents the South Heaton area, has positioned himself firmly at the heart of a political debate which would see Council owned housing partnership schemes set up to accommodate students across the city. The proposal, which came origi-

nally from The Union Society itself, is aiming to build not-for-profit student housing schemes, which would be run jointly between The Union Society and the local Council to keep applicants coming to University despite the rise in housing prices.

Mr Murison, a Labour councillor, suggests that housing costs within the city will soon rise to £100 plus per week, meaning many students, who are supported solely by student loans, will not be able to afford to move away from home despite the rise in the threshold for student grants.

The current average for University accommodation at Newcastle is around £95 per week, although cheaper options like Richardson Road at £64.75 are available, with catered accommodation at Henderson Hall starting at £89.60.

This may seem quite expensive; however the University recently came out as one of the cheapest places to study in the country according to an independent survey by Push.co.uk, beating other institutions like Manchester and York on average shopping price, a round of drinks and accommodation charges.

In the private sector, rent prices are expensive, with some students in popular areas like Jesmond already paying in excess of £90 per week.

Mr Murison is particularly critical of existing housing schemes which are run for profit. Companies like Unite and Liberty Living, who already operate in the city, profit from first years with high margins and are often very unsympathetic, if people leave early say, they tend to be the harshest with letting people end tenancies.

Instead of profit making organisations, Con. Murison wants to see these housing schemes set up by providers such as Your Homes Newcastle, who already provide affordable housing within the city.

To further establish a fairer accommodation system the proposal suggests there is a need to include students in the running and development of these sites;

"I would hope tenants on an annual basis could have more of a say on its running and management, and help lead on minimising disturbance for nearby residences and improving student safety - all great best practice which on some sites already happens, and which on a development like this could be guaranteed from the start by putting the student and tenant first, not the need to make profit as Unite, Liberty Living and others have to do."

However, plans for a scheme like this have already been submitted for consideration and refused permission in the past; which could in part be due to the unwillingness of the Liberal Democrat council to move forward with the plans.

During a recent City Council meeting, Con. Murison proposed a debate about this issue, which was rejected by the Liberal Democrats, who decided instead to vote to remove any

obligation to act on the motion and to reconsider the council's position on the matter. So is this merely a vote grabbing exercise?

Students in the city are a hot political issue for both Labour and the Liberal Democrats, making up a large part of the electorate and often being accused of causing conflict within the community; as has been the case in Jesmond.

For many, a major concern will be the idea of ghettoisation; removing students from private residential areas and into purpose built accommodation.

For some, this would be ideal but for others who want to live independently, student accommodation offers a much more structured and unrealistic experience.

Perhaps more worryingly, there is concern that students are being ushered out of areas like Jesmond in order to please the existing population, something which the Liberal Democrats have been accused of in the past. However, Mr Murison makes clear that students really are at the heart of this policy;

"The Lib Dems have been promising local residents for years that they will kick students out of their streets. Not only is that opportunist, but illegal, and they haven't done it either."

There will be new purpose built student units built in the city under the council's current plans; myself and the leader of the Labour groups supporting the proposal will put students best interests at the heart of purpose built units, delivering competition in the market and safeguards for those students who might be put off the city by rising costs.

Political propaganda or a serious proposal to improve our university experience? You decide.



CASTLE LEAZES: Could we see more buildings like this just for students?

Honouring a hero

BY PAUL BRANNON
NEWS EDITOR

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY was the only U.K University to formally honour Martin Luther King Jr. during his lifetime, and the Uni continues to honour him still.


Friday 16th November saw a Martin Luther King Memorial Lecture, given by Professor Tony Badger, Paul Mellon Professor of American History and Master of Clare College, Cambridge.

The lecture was to mark the 40th anniversary of the award of an honorary degree in Civil Law in 1967, an event which stands out as one of the most important in the history of the University.

The occasion in 1967 was made all the more remarkable by the fact that Dr. King took time to visit the University to receive the award as he was only in the UK for 24 hours during a frenetic schedule of commitments, campaigning - among other things - for Carl Stokes in his successful bid to become the first black mayor of Cleveland, Ohio.


Tragically, barely five months later, the University found itself organising a memorial service following Dr King's assassination in Memphis, Tennessee, on 4 April 1968.

To view the 1967 ceremony, go to: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/assets/documents/mlkfootage.htm>









VOX POP: HAVE YOUR SAY

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION, PUT TO YOU BY Chris Kay.



Snow: Love it or hate it?

 <p>George Abbott, 18, 1st year Modern Languages</p> <p>"I love snow, everyone loves snow! I think the love of snow brings people together!"</p>	 <p>James Bliss, 20, 1st year Modern Languages</p> <p>"Yeah snow is awesome and good fun! It's a big laugh to have snowball fights and my friend who doesn't want to be mentioned in the paper thinks making snow angels is great."</p>	 <p>Adam Hirst, 20, 3rd year, Information Systems</p> <p>"It's good until you are soaking wet, frozen and get frost-bite."</p>
 <p>Suzy Fredjohn, 21, 2nd year Economics</p> <p>"I do love snow, because I love to ski on it. However when it's here it actually makes me not want to go to lectures. It's cold, it's slushy and it makes my feet wet."</p>	 <p>Abi Nicol, 20, 3rd year, Information Systems</p> <p>"It's nice to look at from a distance, but it's not nice to be in. In fact I would say it's horrible!"</p>	 <p>Charlotte Ovendem, 18, 1st year Chemistry</p> <p>"Snow is fun! I like having snowball fights and making snowmen, but I just don't like getting cold."</p>

>> THIS WEEK IS ELECTIONS. MAKE SURE YOU USE YOUR VOTE - GO TO VOTE.NCL.AC.UK TO CAST YOUR VOTE!

NEWS IN BRIEF

BY SARAH SCOTT

Children North East Giving Tree Appeal



THE CHILDREN'S charity, 'Children North East' is looking for volunteers to help coordinate with their Christmas event, 'The Giving Tree'. This is a long established Christmas

appeal where local businesses and individuals provide an unwrapped gift or food items up to the value of £10.

These gifts are then distributed to families and children the charity is currently working with across the North East region. Volunteers need no previous experience or qualifications to apply; the charity are looking for a team of eager people with a sense of humour and Christmas spirit to take control and organise this Christmas event. For contact details email Gez on g.s.straker@ncl.ac.uk.

SCAN Children's Christmas Parties

SCAN ARE looking for volunteers to help out at and organise their annual children's Christmas parties. This year SCAN are running two Christmas parties which will take place on Tuesday 11th of December and Thursday 13th of December. Volunteers will help with such activities such as buying presents and designing activities for the children to take part in, like quizzes. For either party, volunteers need to be free from 3.30pm - approximately 7.30pm; volunteers also need to be available for at least one planning session in the SCAN office prior to the parties.

If you are interested in helping organ-



ise these fun events please email Gez on g.s.straker@ncl.ac.uk, firstly stating which party you can help with and secondly what day and time (Mon-Fri) you would be available for a meeting about the parties.

Student nominated for Higher Education Volunteering Award



NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY student Katie Whitehouse has been nominated for a Higher Education Volunteering Award.

The director of the Careers Service, Nick Keeley, nominated Katie for her work organising and coordinating the Union's first ever, Ethics and Environment week in February 2007.

Katie spent six months in the run up to the event organising and managing a team of 30 students, raising £5,000 in sponsorship and £1,500 for charity during the week. The Higher Education Volunteering Award rewards and gives national recognition to exemplary volunteering projects and student and staff volunteers who have shown significant commitment to or exceptional execution of volunteering activities. Katie will

be attending the awards ceremony at Wembley Arena on the 7th of December along with the other nominees.

The next Ethics and Environment week will be happening early next year, if you are interested in volunteering more information will be available nearer the time. It's a great way to give back and also looks impressive on your CV.

Public Lectures this week

This week in the University there are a number of public lectures taking place.

On Tuesday 27th November Newcastle University's Vice Chancellor, Chris Brink will be leading the lecture, "What are universities for?" in the Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building at 5.30pm.

On Wednesday 28th November,

Professor Stephen Oppenheimer of Oxford University will be taking a lecture on, "The Origins of the British: a genetic detective story." This is also located in the Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building at 6pm.

On Thursday 29th November, Newcastle University's expedition teams will give a lecture on, "Tales from the Bush 2007" at 5.30pm in.

On Friday 30th November, Professor Murray F Brennan, Benno C Schmidt Chair in Clinical Oncology Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre, New York, USA will give a lecture on, "Cancer Care. Do not promise what you cannot deliver." This will be held at 5.30pm in Sir James Spence Lecture Theatre, Royal Victoria Infirmary.

Everyone is welcome to attend these lectures throughout the week.



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Francesca Willi: From Newcastle to Shipwrecked and then coffee with *The Courier*...

PAUL BRANNON talks to SHIPWRECKED's Cheska about sun, sea, sand and... Stevie, the boyfriend she met while shipwrecked in the cooke islands...



Paul Brannon

Paul: So, Francesca, I see that you smoke! Did you have cigarettes on the island?

Francesca: Yeah, we had roll-ups. We weren't allowed normal cigarettes because they're not biodegradable. Everything on the island had to be natural and organic because it is a protected ecology. I had never in my life rolled a cigarette and we couldn't have filters either because they're not biodegradable. I spent the first week learning how to roll cigarettes and annoying everybody because I was getting very excited and pleased with myself when I could finally do it!

P: When I turned on the T.V last night, believe it or not the episode of Shipwrecked where you first went to the island was on. You were welcomed with mixed reactions, from what I could tell...

F: I think a lot of people thought I was stereotypical stuck up public school girl. I'm actually really shy but I overcompensated with being outgoing and friendly with everybody. I understand that first impressions are hard and it's very difficult to get reasonable, informed opinions of people in such a short time-period. You get three days with both sets of people [the Sharks and the Tigers] in order to decide where you want to spend the next 6 weeks or so. The girls were all really mean to me at first! I had much better time on Tiger Island though so in the end I decided to stuff it and stay there. As soon as I'd decided though, I was worried that I was going to upset people or lose friends, because I didn't want to stir anything up or upset anybody at all. I think all the girls from Sharks hated me, especially Amy, Stevie's girlfriend at the time; I think she saw me as a threat but I wasn't intending to get involved with anybody on the Island at all. I think that after the first week people started to realise that I'm not a snobby cow who thinks she's better than everybody else. It's not in my nature to be quiet and shy, even if I'm feeling that way. People assume that I've always had it easy because I have a posh accent and I've travelled quite a lot, but I really haven't. I've always worked to pay my way, my Dad died a few years ago and my sister Natasha has Downs Syndrome, so just because I went to a Public School doesn't mean that my life is completely rosy.

P: So what was it that made you go on the show? Did someone suggest it or did you figure it would be a good laugh?

F: I didn't know anything about it, I'd only seen one episode. I was at home on reading week and I was totally bored with university and I was looking online for anything I could do to escape, so to speak, and get away for a bit.

I stumbled onto this site for the show where you could upload a profile of yourself. I wrote what I thought was witty at the time but probably wasn't at all with hindsight. A week later I got a call, and I was like, "Oh shit..." I hadn't told anyone about it or thought seriously about it and I never imagined that my procrastination would lead to actually doing this! In the auditions we had to do all kinds of things.

We had to throw a ball about and talk about ourselves, what we like, what we dislike. There was also a game where we had to touch each others body parts like licking someone's ear or touching someone's arse; I guess it was to see how exciting or prudish we were going to be on the island. I thought it was pretty funny licking some random's chin. Then we had to do a role-play and we were given a

football and told we had to come up with an unhappy ending. I suggested that we just do a role-play of going to a football match and then somebody getting run over on the way home. I was nominated to get run over and ended up throwing myself around dramatically as if I'd been hit by a car, I'm sure I looked quite ridiculous really. But it seemed to work because I got a call the next day and they asked me to come back and within three weeks I was out there on the island and worrying about what to take with me and what to wear and everything else like that.

P: So what are you actually allowed to take with you?

F: We weren't allowed makeup remover or cotton wool or anything like that but I wasn't bothered about not being able to wear makeup or anything, I was like, "Whatever!" Who cares? We were allowed 6 pairs of underwear, 6 bikinis, a towel and socks, a top and just basic clothes like that. But it was SO nice just to get away from everything and really get back to basics. The only thing I really missed was music because obviously there's no electricity so you couldn't take an iPod or anything with you.

P: What were the toilets like....?

F: Oh God...! It was basically a long drop with a wooden box over it. And we were eating a lot of coconuts... which have laxative effects...so you can imagine. We used to try to shotgun using the loo first in the morning but it's quite bizarre to be sitting



on the toilet with flies and geckoes around you. It was pretty disgusting. All I wanted was to just flush the loo and you'd look down and it was all horrible. Things like that were really weird. Simple things like not flushing the loo or washing your hands took quite a while to get used to.

P: What was the weather like? Did you have a lot of bother with bugs or the lack of real showers?

People assume that I've always had it easy because I have a posh accent and I've travelled quite a lot, but I really haven't...

F: It was so hot and humid and we had the most incredible thunderstorms. The water was 28 degrees, just to give you an idea of how hot it actually was! We were in the middle of nowhere in little wooden huts and shelters and it was amazing to be right in the middle of that. It got a bit worrying sometimes because the cameramen would be talking about the adverse weather coming our way. It was incredibly hot and we were all covered in Deet all the time to try and keep the mosquitoes away.

I often woke up covered in flies and with ants in my ears which was pretty horrible, so there were some downsides to the weather as that climate is perfect for bugs and nasties! When someone new came to the island it made you more aware of how grotty and dirty you actually were and we were all like, "Oh wow, can we smell your t-shirt?" because we couldn't wash any of our clothes properly and smelling Persil made us think of home.

P: Do you ever get recognised in the street?

F: No, not really unless I'm with Stevie. It's his hair! He seems to be much more recognisable than me! It's pretty annoying though as we both lead extremely normal lives. He's a stockbroker in the City and

looked after me. When I was on the island I didn't want to get involved with anybody, but when we got back he kind of pursued me a bit and we went on a few dates and he got me really drunk and took advantage of me... and then, seven months down the line, here we are! Ha!

P: Your Island ended up winning didn't they?

F: Yeah we did. We all shared £70k and ended up with about £5k each, which isn't that much if you've spent five months on the island! I've pretty much spent all of mine on various things... shopping, a few trips etc. I partied a lot, probably a bit too much! But if I got run over by a bus tomorrow I'd rather have spent it all and had a great time than not enjoyed myself.

Although, I also bought an ISA, which was on one of my more sensible days! My Dad would have been very happy! That much money doesn't go very far! I know it's the height of cliché to say that I wasn't that fussed about the money but I really wasn't.

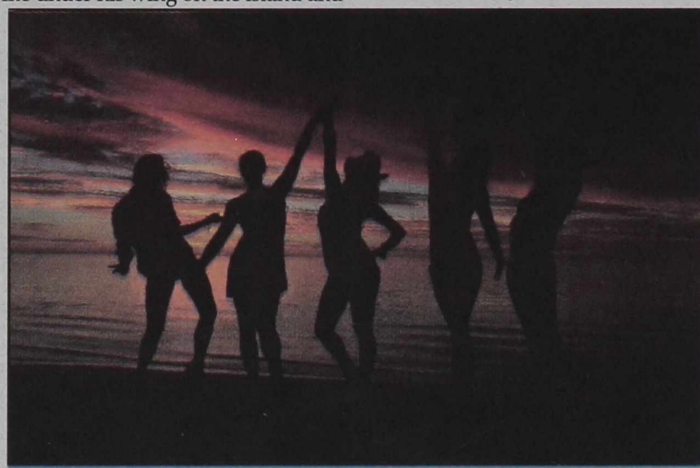
I wanted to win because I'm a competitive kind of person but the experience was amazing. It was all about having a great time and meeting some new people for me. I think if the prize money was higher they'd get more people applying who just wanted to play the game and I guess that some element of that is essential to make it entertaining, but there's so much more to be gained than a bit of money and it would be a shame to lose the real emotional, self-reflective journey side of it in the face of winning a big lump of money.

P: So what would you say are the best things you've taken out of the whole Shipwrecked experience?

F: Definitely Stevie, and the ability to roll my own cigarettes; something I guess I should start doing to save some money! I know it's random but could I suggest that people give the guys selling the Big Issue a fag every now and then because I think they are great and it's bloody freezing up here, and, well, I like to do it and it makes me feel all good inside! The man outside the library is particularly nice!

P: So what was it about Stevie that set him apart from the other boys on the island?

F: I didn't even fancy him at first! I do now though, obviously. He used to be a partying bum but now he's a stockbroker so it's all looking up. There's just something about him that people love. He's so friendly and caring and one of those people who when he walks into a room or into a party, everybody smiles and is glad that he's there. He's so much fun and he's an incredibly genuine person. He took me under his wing on the island and



>> HAVE YOU GOT A FAMOUS FRIEND THAT THE COURIER COULD INTERVIEW? E-MAIL COURIER.NEWS@NCL.AC.UK

WORDS OF THE WEEK

BY SOPHIE ROBSON

"The people of Peru deserve better."
US Vice-President Dick Cheney criticising Hugo Chavez of Venezuela

"The practice of urinating in the sink MUST stop."
Dean of King's College, Cambridge in email to students

Stories of the Week:

Man breaks into Burger Restaurant to make his own burger

FEELING A bit hungry after a heavy night on the town, 19 year old, Ruben Manzano decided to break into Burger joint Carl Jr to make his own burger.

The alarm was raised at the burger joint after a security guard spotted a shirtless man running away from the restaurant in the US. Manzano has been arrested "on suspicion of felony burglary on a structure" and is being held on \$10,000 bail.

Half-Brained investigation:

A WOMAN in China was found to only have half a brain. She was tested by doctors after feeling weak and stiff and the MRI scan revealed she is missing the entire left hand side of her brain.

The left-hand brain is believed to control language and communication faculties in humans, but luckily the 39 year old woman has no problems in that area and actually lives a completely normal life.

The mother of the 39 year said:
"She graduated from high school with good marks. Her memory is very good. She remembers phone numbers and names immediately."

102 year old strips for photo:

Nora Hardwick, 102, has stripped off for a photo shoot to support her local football team.

The great-great grandmother posed as Miss November behind the bar of the Ermine Way Pub, in Ancaster, Lincolnshire to support village football club, Ancaster Athletic.

"They draped a bit of pink cloth around my shoulders, but at my age I just don't have the model body to be taking it all off," she said.
"It was all very tastefully done. You couldn't see any of the bits or anything."

"I suppose they asked me because I'm the oldest person in the village and I'm all for it if it's for charity. It's just a bit of fun really."
Mrs Hardwick who still drives at 102 was a former councillor for the village and postmistress for 35 years.

Toilet Themed Restaurant:

A chain of 12 restaurants with a toilet theme has opened in Taiwan. The Modern Toilet restaurants boast toilet-shaped seats and toilet roll dispensers for napkins.

Food containers are also toilet or wash-basin shaped, and much of the food is made to look like human waste, reports China Photo Base.

The owner claims the restaurants are becoming popular with younger clients.
"Every detail tells you it's a bathroom, not a restaurant. But it's fun to eat here," said one diner at a Taipei city outlet.

Man marries dog to lift curse

We have all heard the 'man bites dog' stories, but how about a real-life 'man marries dog' tale!

This one takes the biscuit, and it could only happen in India, the land of the Kama Sutra.

But you won't find this kind of love story between man and beast in the ancient Indian sex manual.

It took place for real during a traditional hindu ceremony at a temple in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

The groom in question was a 33-year-old Indian farmer named Selvakumar, and he was wed to a female dog named Selvi.

Sophie's Facts of the Week:

-Only 35% of Chinese people own mobile phones.

-President George W. Bush has fitness levels in the top 3% of the US population.

First year of University can be a waste



Paul Brannon
News Editor

I'VE been considering many things of late. Graduation plans, what to have for tea, the meaning of life... the usual. But after an article by Chris Kay last week about the increasing numbers of students who look back at their time at University with regret, I was wondering what I would regret come my graduation next year; being News Editor of The Courier, perhaps? I jest.

I am increasingly frustrated by the way in which first year results don't matter in U.K undergraduate courses.

Ok, at the time I was a fresher, I thought it was fantastic. I could mess about, stay up as late as I wanted, stay in bed as late as I wanted and go to lectures whenever I could be bothered [N.B., I never did any of the above... obviously.]

But with the wisdom which being a war-torn, enlightened, yet slightly cynical third year provides, I wonder what I actually learned in my first year at Uni, aside from where to get cheap alcohol and how to understand (just about) the dulcet tones of the Geordie.

I genuinely feel that the first year of British undergraduate degrees should either count towards your degree, even to a lesser percentage, perhaps than your second or third year, or that more English universities should take from their Scottish counterparts and offer four-year Masters degrees instead.

Now I know that many of our readers will disagree with me, but think

about the amount of money you or your parents are investing in a year of University that really doesn't affect your degree result.

I guess that we are tricking our parents into paying for a year of partying, fun and a bit of studying, but with ever-increasing living costs and tuition fees, is it really worth it?

I understand the justification for the first year of courses not counting and I understand that it is important to get everybody onto a level playing field after the different syllabuses at A-Level, and varying levels of ability.

I also think it's valuable to be able to enjoy yourself and have a wide range

of access to other subjects and materials and the time to find your feet.

But really, surely everybody would have more skills, knowledge and education to gain by actually having to work hard in their first year?

Particularly as it would help to develop better study skills for when you are required to conduct longer pieces of independent work, such as extended studies and dissertations, tasks which are difficult enough after two years of preparation.

I know that the more you put into first year the better your skills will be, but, one can hardly be blamed for being poorly motivated when, no matter what the fruits of your labour turn out to be, you don't get any lasting academic credit for it. I generally en-

joyed my first year and definitely enjoyed not feeling too much stress regarding my academic commitments, but I found the lack of direction and pressure slightly worrying and second year hit me hard when I found myself having to give considerably more effort to my course.

We are adults, after all and living away from home. We're at university to study and learn, as well as grow into (hopefully) responsible adults who can have a good time and work hard when necessary.

I regret not working a bit harder in my first year. I did okay, but could definitely have done better had I worked harder - if I'd known that my first year was worth a third of my degree, I'd have gotten stuck in and worked properly, probably setting me in good stead for my second and third year as I was used to working.

But ah well, we can't travel back in time. I just feel that if you're hard up for cash and time, then a first-year at university is something you may just feel is superfluous; particularly if you intend to go on to post-graduate study and could achieve a Masters degree in three years instead of four, just for the sake of having to work to your best in your first year.

Many can and will argue that you should work to the best of your ability in first year anyway. But, pragmatically, for most subjects I am not convinced that students do work at their hardest unless they have to. Whether that's a sign of the times or not, that is the reality of it. But I worked pretty hard in my first year and it didn't count for anything whatsoever, really. I think change has to come. In what form, however, I'll leave that up to those we entrust our futures and our financial investments - the government. Oh dear...

You may feel that the first year of your degree's superfluous... particularly if you want to be a post-graduate too...

Sport and politics: uneasy bedfellows



Michael Watt

AS A SCOT and therefore an ardent follower of Scottish sporting endeavour, I suppose I should be used to the feeling of depression which engulfed me on Saturday night.

The small glimmer of hope that had been growing in my heart throughout the qualifiers for Euro 2008 was cruelly snuffed out in an instant.

The Scottish football team didn't pull off another stunning result against a big team and didn't end the 10 year omission from an international tournament.

I wouldn't be supporting my nation in the Alps next summer - Italy's agonising 90th minute winner had seen to all that. It may have been a glorious failure, but it was a failure nonetheless, and it hurts.

But rather than turn my first comment article into a morose whine about Scottish football - a whine which, let's face it, most of my English brethren could relate to, given the recent travails of Steve McClaren and the 'golden generation' - I've decided to set my sights a little higher.

Observing the build up to the big match from this side of the border, I was struck by the effects of sport on

national politics. The wily Alex Salmond, leader of the SNP and Scotland's First Minister, was only half joking when he said before the game that if Scotland beat Italy, the independence referendum would be held the next day.

He is the most recent in a long line of politicians eager to reap popularity and/or electoral success from the achievements of his country's sporting men and women.

The success of a national sports team can have incredible effects on the

cash in on the glory of that amazing summer.

However, politicians should be acquainted with the dangers of such opportunism.

Even the most innocent effort at honouring the success of sports men and women can be interpreted by a cynical public as an attempt to increase a politician's popularity, especially if said popularity is rather low.

Distracting a resentful public with sporting success is a short term option at best.

As a diehard supporter of any football club knows, sport can also be as fickle as public opinion.

Results can take a nose dive practically overnight and politicians who associate themselves with sporting success have to accept associations with sporting failure as well.

Perhaps most of all, we sometimes just don't want our leaders elbowing their way into such an important event.

It ruins what should be a perfect moment.

Some things are simply too important to be sullied by politics - that blissful feeling of sporting victory is one of them.

So that's my advice to Mr Brown and Mr Cameron.

If England's football team do somehow pull themselves out of this current calamity then cheer along with the nation, but beware of inviting Steve McClaren, Golden Balls et al for a photo op in Whitehall - you never quite know when the next calamity is going to come along.

Politicians who associate themselves with sporting success have to accept associations with sporting failure as well...

country it represents. South Africa's victory at the 1995 Rugby World Cup unified a nation that had been bitterly divided by apartheid for decades.

Even in less extreme examples, sporting victory can create an amazing 'feel good factor' in a country, increasing national self-esteem, lessening political or cultural divides, boosting the economy, or often simply giving people something positive to talk about down the pub for a change.

You can't really blame politicians, creatures who live or die by public opinion, for trying to get a bounce in the polls by associating themselves with this mood. Witness Tony Blair's feting of the Ashes-winning cricket team, tolerating a blatantly wasted Andrew Flintoff in Number 10 just to

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Sandyford Road

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Shortridge Terrace
Cavendish Road

7 Bed £62 - £75 pppw
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Devonshire Place
Manor House Road
Manor House Road
Cavendish Place
Cavendish Place
Osborne Avenue

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Rah ha ha...

Stand-up comedian Chris Martin talks to *The Courier* about his ambitions in comedy and his own 'Rah Ha Ha' night at Castle Leazes

BY JOE DAUNT

J: How long have you done stand up comedy and what made you decide to start?

C: I have always been interested in comedy. I guess I first started doing stand-up around the age of 17. I did a few gigs whilst I was at school and then decided to take it globally (upstairs in some small pubs in London).

J: How do you find standing up in front of a crowd, is it daunting? (No pun intended)

C: At first it can be quite nerve racking but the more gigs you do the more confidence you gain. You find that there are loads of people who seem really brave but when it comes to stand-up aren't always that funny. On the other hand you get quiet, shy people who are brilliantly funny.

J: How do you think up your material for your gigs?

C: I tend to write down things which happen to me personally and that I find funny. On stage most of the stories I tell are usually factual, I just elaborate them to fit them in with my set.

J: You do shows all round the country, but are there any major differences between performing here in the North East or say down in London?

C: Around the North East it is always a lot more fun. You tend to find a lot more 'blokey blokes' who are more easy-going. Although, whatever joke I tell I can't help but think it would get a lot more laughs if I had my c*ck out on stage!

J: You have the same name as the lead singer of Coldplay, do people comment on that a lot?

C: People can be so stupid sometimes. Even to this day I meet people who ask if we are related, when we definitely are not. In my first year in Castle Leazes there were two other blokes called 'Chris Martin'. It's quite a popular name.

J: What's the funniest thing that has happened to you when you have been performing?

C: I was once doing a gig in Bristol when I heard a woman say to her friend "I just don't find him very funny". Obviously I couldn't bring it up on stage as I could have been booed off, so I had to ignore it. Although if I had brought it up, the only way to secure some laughs may have been to get naked after all...

J: Let's talk about 'Rah Ha Ha', the night you do in Castle Leazes. When is it on?

C: It happens monthly this year, which is slightly annoying as it used to be every two weeks. The last one before Christmas is on Thursday 29th November. We usually get three professional comedians in for the night. I will do some stand up myself but I mainly MC. The turn out this year has been great, lots of Freshers enjoy it and there has been a really good atmosphere.

J: How did you come up with the name 'Rah Ha Ha'?

C: On the first gig I did in Leazes I put it to the audience what the night should be called. The most popular vote was for 'Blind Pete w*inks in the sink every Thursday', although I obviously couldn't use that. The next best idea was 'Rah Ha Ha'.

J: Do you have any main gags you like to use?

C: I talk a bit about Castle Leazes as I was there myself in first year. Although now it is much improved with a stair lift, ideal for stair surfing maybe?

J: Finally, who are your favourite comedians who influence your comedy?

C: I love Jack Dee and Alan Partridge. When I first started doing gigs, I tried to use Jack Dee's deadpan style of humour. It didn't really work though as I was on my gap year having a great time. Attempting to talk about how crap life was didn't really work for me. I also love other dated celebs like Dave Benson Phillips, he's my hero.



COMEDIAN COMPANY... Chris with his "hero" Dave Benson Phillips

The Long Way Round...Europe

BY FRAN INFANTE
NEWS EDITOR

7,631 MILES, 26 countries, 31 days. This is the challenge that four daring young adventurers are embarking on next August.

Former student of the University and Courier cartoonist, Mike Finlay, with his friends Flick Copp, Sarah Lonbay and Mikey Mansergh, aims to complete the task of circling the outer perimeter of Europe, starting and ending at Stonehenge... on motorbikes.

Having allowed themselves just 31 days to complete the massive journey, the challenge will test their planning, endurance and luck as the team race against time through no less than 30 international borders.

Add to that the fact that currently none of the team holds a motorcycle licence and it is clear that the element of skill involved in navigating their way across the continent in this particular fashion is a significant achievement in itself.

The team met last summer while working for a water sports company in France and upon returning to the UK, bike enthusiast Mikey Mansergh used his friends as a soundboard for an idea that he had always fancied - their reaction sealed the deal and team Enduro Europe was born.

Two months down the line and the route has been identified and the targets have been set. What started as an adventure for the sake of adventure has become a mass fundraising incentive. The charities UNICEF, Help the Aged and RNLI will directly benefit from the funds

raised by the project. Each aim to raise £5,000, which will also cover the cost of the equipment and visas the team will need. This figure is however just an initial benchmark; I spoke to Mike Finlay and he said that a recent similar, but smaller scale expedition to Kiev raised around £40,000 which has given the Enduro team, with their much more daring venture, hope that they can far exceed this figure.

The Enduro Europe project has also had significant support from UNICEF in their bid to secure sponsorship and Evan McGregor and Charley Boorman authors of the inspiring "Long way round" have donated signed copies of the book to be given away in prize draws for sponsors in order to encourage donations to the project.

Mike explained the sort of encounters that they were preparing themselves for on their expedition.

"We will ride first to Newcastle-upon-Tyne before taking the ferry into Stavanger, Norway. From there we will be riding north across the Arctic circle in 24 hour sunlight before riding across Sweden" he said, describing what will be only the first few days of their trip.

When asked what the mood was now that it was really becoming a reality, he told *The Courier*, "It varies, some days we want to leave tomorrow and some days it feels like we'll never be ready in time. It's really exciting but the more you look into what you need and how to balance it with the need to restrict the weight on the bikes, the more you realise how much is dependent on luck and the help of the locals."

Over the next eight months the team will be hosting a variety of fundraising events including a charity gig and online competitions. For anyone interested in the team and their adventures, more information is available on their website www.EnduroEurope.webs.com.

All at *The Courier* wish them the best of luck with their efforts.



TEAM ENDURO EUROPE: from front left anti-clockwise Flick Copp, Sarah Lonbay, Mikey Mansergh and Mike Finlay

Eastern rise...

BY BEN WOODWARD

CHINA WAS identified last week as one of the fastest improving countries for higher education in the world. Due to its size, it has boasted the largest university system in the world for some time, but it now also produces over 34,000 PhD students a year. Within three or four years, this is predicted to rise to 50,000.

China has three universities in the top 100, five counting Hong Kong. Asia as a whole has 13. This has been achieved mainly through a government policy of spending 4% of their GDP on higher education. Enrolment in China has risen from 10% in 1999 to 21% last year. The number of students studying abroad worldwide has also doubled over this time period, to 2.8 million.

The UK currently has four of the top ten universities in the world, according to a recent Top 100 Universities guide produced in the US. Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial College, London and University College London are the four universities competing with American giants such as Harvard.

The UK also recruits a large number of foreign students world-

wide, with a substantial number of these being from China. But could its status as one of the most expensive countries in which to study lead to foreign students deciding to stay at home?

A House of Commons select committee in August recommended stronger links with up-and-coming countries such as China and India rather than simply relying on fees from foreign students, or the UK would risk being left behind as the rest of the world advanced. While UK graduation rates haven't fallen, they also haven't risen as fast as those of other countries. When asked whether they felt they were getting their money's worth from the university experience, Newcastle students offered conflicting opinions.

"For what we pay, I would expect a lot more," one Third-Year English Literature student said. "The quality of teaching is very inconsistent. I've had some brilliant lecturers but a lot of the others really don't seem bothered. They walk in, read off a piece of paper for an hour, then leave. Ninety-nine percent of what we learn comes from outside reading."

"They also squander a lot of money on pointless administrative stuff, like the name-change this year. Those funds could surely be redi-

rected elsewhere."

Education Officer Ben Potter stated that the financial market played a part in whether foreign students chose to come to the UK.

"The pound is strong at the moment, which makes things less easy for international students. The general cost of living is also on the rise. The University uses income from foreign students to supplement an increasingly tight budget for higher education. China could definitely be on the horizon as the standard of higher education there is increasing, but our main competition, as always, is from the US and increasingly from Australia. People are starting to look at many different American universities, not just the Ivy League ones such as Harvard and Yale.

Ben Potter continued, "Newcastle University now takes part in the INTO scheme, which gives opportunities to international students and ensures they arrive with the equivalent ability of an English A-level student. The University is currently developing the campus to create learning and living space for these students to make integration easier."

Photo: Stephanie Feng

Union Elections

What's It All About?

What?

The Union elections are the most important event in the Union calendar. Every student has the right to vote for their student representatives. Read these manifestos and come to hustings on 27th of November at 1pm (outside the Union weather permitting, otherwise in the Basement).

At hustings all the candidates are required to do a speech on why you should vote for them and you then have the opportunity to ask them questions. This should help you to decide which candidate you want to win.

How?

This year voting has gone online! This means that you can vote from any computer, anywhere in the world as long as you have a valid ISS login. Go to vote.ncl.ac.uk from 3pm on Tuesday 27th (just after hustings has finished) and then there are 51 votes in which for you to cast your all important vote until 6pm on Thursday 29th.

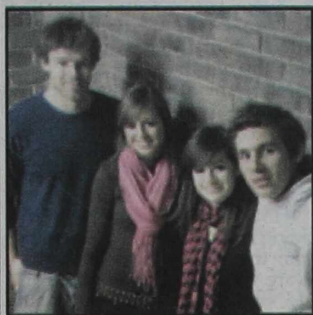
The way the voting works is by single transferable votes. This means that you enter a 1, 2, 3 etc instead of a tick (this isn't a problem with online voting now). You need to put a number 1 next to the candidate you want to win. If you have a 2nd and 3rd preference then put a 2 and 3 next to these candidates.

You can submit with just a 1st choice or with all the boxes completed or any combination, as long as someone is marked as '1'. The system will not allow you to submit your vote if you've done it wrong so it couldn't be simpler!

When?

So don't forget ballots open at 3pm Tuesday 27th November until 6pm on Thursday 29th. Don't forget to use the vote that you're entitled to!

Freshers' Week Organisers [Eclipse]



VOTE ECLIPSE FOR FRESHERS' WEEK ORGANISERS 2008

For EXPERIENCE

Combined 13 years Freshers experience from fresher, to crew, to supervisor, to chief supervisor and officer giving the best possible insight into how to run a successful Freshers' Week, for ALL involved.

For EVOLUTION

Building on the successes from previous

Freshers' Weeks:-

More big events: More of the popular big events day and night, e.g. paintballing, go karting, wet-and-wild, more live music.

Online: Continued online payment for wristbands, use of Facebook, FW website and the Union SubTV screens for greater publicity and information distribution.

More alternative events: More alternative trips in the evening, including non/optional drinking events e.g. night golf, ice hockey, cinema and bingo.

For FRESH IDEAS

New ideas to make FW08 the best year yet:

More involvement for local students: A locals' pub crawl, providing local students with opportunities to meet other local students.

Freshers Guide: Slim-line guide to student life in Newcastle - cheap places to eat, shops, nearest supermarkets, public transport and doctors.

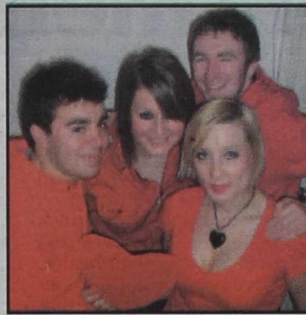
Communication: Ideas from 07' freshers for improvement.

Final Night Extravaganza: A mouthwatering outdoor event which will cap a truly great Freshers' Week - Watch This Space!!

VOTE ECLIPSE for FW08!

Andi, Flick, Matt and Paul xxxx

[I ♥ Freshers' Week]



Hi! We are Meesh, Alex, Vic and Mike, and together we make up Team 'I ♥ FW'. Between us we have 13 years of Freshers' Week experience. We know what makes the first week at Newcastle the best!

If elected we want to...

♥ host the biggest events ever seen on Freshers' Week, including a FRESHERS' BALL and an OUTDOOR MUSIC FESTIVAL!

♥ involve societies and clubs as much as possible, with society pub crawls

and taster sessions.

♥ put on more alternative events, including LATE NIGHT GHOST WALKS, ROLLER DISCOS and SANDWICH PARTIES!

♥ ensure the Union is the focal point of Freshers' Week.

♥ involve international, postgraduate and mature students more than ever before, including a multi-lingual website and specific International and PGMS events.

♥ improve the range of daytime activities and bring in ONLINE ACTIVITY SIGN-UP for everything.

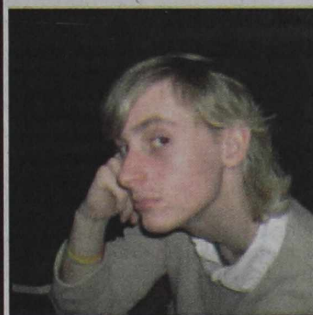
♥ minimise the induction week/Freshers' Week clash - making sure Freshers' Week is ALL WEEK LONG!

♥ ensure every Newcastle student has the opportunity to be involved in Freshers' Week and are invited to our massive FRESHERS' FINALE.

As Organisers we would aim to represent fairly the views of every Newcastle student.

WE ♥ FRESHERS' WEEK! DO YOU??

Postgraduate and Mature Students' Officer [Chris McCallion]



I'm Chris and I am a 2nd year Countryside Management student. I have the pleasure of running for the post of Postgraduate and Mature student officer. For many years I have had experience being on committees and standing for peoples' views. Since coming to university as a mature student, I have represented us at national conference as well as the University at regional conference.

The PGMS officer is there to represent the views and feelings of the PGMS to Union Council and the Executive Committee. As the University expands, the population of PGMS students will increase and the role of PGMS officer will grow in importance.

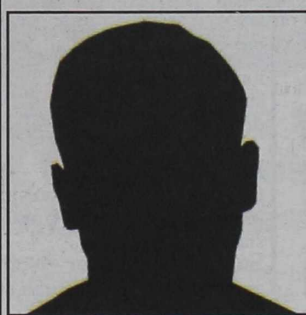
If I get elected to PGMS officer, I will endeavour to:-

- support the Welfare Officer in postgraduate welfare campaigns
- create a drop in session where PGMS students can come and convey their views and grievances
- make Union democracy more welcoming and involving to all PGMS students

So use your vote wisely,

Vote Chris for PGMS

Your right to RON [Re-Open Nominations]



Ron is not the mascot of that multinational conglomerate McDonalds, nor is he some mysterious character who has not chosen to submit a photograph, so why should you vote RON?

RON stands for Re-Open Nominations.

If it so happens that you do not want any of the prospective candidates to be elected into a position, you can vote to RON. In the event that RON has more votes than any of the candidates, the election will be run again at a later date, meaning that other people not previously nominated can now become candidates.

RON is also useful if you do not have a second preference, for example, if there are two candidates in the election and if you'd rather the election be re-run if your favourite does not get in.

Basically, RON is your get out clause. It's not used very often but if you feel strongly enough then do it.

REMEMBER, IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO RON!

VOTE.NCL.AC.UK

S.H.A.G. WEEK

S.H.A.G

S.H.A.G. WEEK

The Government View

BY GEMMA DAVIES
EDITOR

LAST WEEK students were given the opportunity to speak to MP Ann Keen about the medical issues that affect them.

Mrs. Keen, who represents Isleworth and Brentwood, spend 25 years working as a nurse before becoming an MP in 1997 with a strong medical background, taking responsibility for a number of medical issues including dental fees and prescriptions.

The chance to ask questions of the

government was something that Mrs. Keen was eager to provide opportunities for.

As the National Health Service celebrates its 60th birthday next year, she said that there was a bigger focus on "asking patients what they want."

Students took the opportunity to ask Mrs. Keen about the key issues that students face in terms of their health, particularly free prescriptions, something which NUS has outlined that they are keen to campaign for, given the increasing economic pressure that students find themselves under.

This is also an issue which many students feel is necessary, yet despite applying for financial support in this area, are rejected for free medical care on the basis of their student loan and any income from a part-time job being classed as 'too high.'

Mrs. Keen said that it simply isn't acceptable for students to have to choose between purchasing essential medical care and books for their course or food, and in instances such as this students should be given support, emphasising that medical support is provided on a case by case

basis.

The chance of free prescriptions for all students is one which is unlikely to materialise in the short-term, but is likely to be an ongoing issue for the likes of NUS to challenge for.

Students were also keen to highlight the issue which faces most students who are away from home: that of access.

The NHS system prevents a patient from being registered in two districts, owing to the problem of which primary care trust settles the bill. This leads to students having to fill out forms every time they need medical attention whilst they are at home if they are registered at university, and

vice versa.

This can also lead to waiting lists for treatment in one district and which has to be taken in the same area which can mean travelling for any specific treatments.

However, Mrs. Keen said she had never had this issue raised to her before. This was a problem she ensured the group she would bring to light and discuss which everybody took progress from.

She was, however, understandably nervous to discuss how electronic records could solve this problem given recent events!

SOCIETY: PROFILES

Stop AIDS

By
TONY
BAXTER

1ST DECEMBER 2007. Mark the date in your calendars. And I don't mean your advent calendars, which although are undoubtedly very exciting, are not renowned for their practicality. Not wishing to steal Christmas' thunder, this Saturday is the 19th World AIDS Day, the focal point of one of the most widespread and vital global campaigns.

At this point, I apologise for resorting to statistics to illustrate the scale of the humanitarian crisis we are facing, and the vast inequalities inherent. There are 40 million people currently living with HIV/AIDS, which claims 8000 lives every day. Pharmaceutical companies have made great advances in antiretroviral drugs. Yet by 2006, only 28% of those in developing countries needing treatment were able to receive it. The G8 leaders have promised 'Universal Access' to HIV treatment by 2010, but it's a commitment they are looking increasingly likely to break. World AIDS Day provides us with a platform from which to put pressure on our government to remember its priorities. The campaign slogan this year is "If Not Now, When?". It's a phrase made famous as the title of a book by Primo Levi, author, Holocaust survivor and humanist. I believe that they are words well chosen.

World AIDS Day also gives us the opportunity to both commemorate the lives that have been lost and reach deep into our pockets. There are so many ways in which you can play a part. The Stop AIDS Society are organising a program of events this week, details of which are given below. There will be stalls everyday outside the Union and Med School, at which you can fill in an Action Card to be sent to Gordon Brown and your local MP. There will be delicious home baking and red ribbons for sale, as well as music and

street theatre! The 'Elephunk Raveyard' club night on Wednesday allows you to get your freak on while salving your conscience, with a bombardment of music from bands and DJs. Then you can send a message into the stratosphere in the "Balloon Race" at Friday lunchtime.

On 1st December itself, scoff your chocolate then head to Monument for 2.45 pm, to join a march to the Quayside, followed by a musical celebration and vigil at the Sage. This is far too important an event to let it slip by. Ask not for whom the bell tolls, and mark your calendars!

Programme of Events for World AIDS Week:

- Mon 26th November** - Stop AIDS Campaign Evening, with guest speaker; 7pm; Venue to be arranged; Free entry plus drinks and nibbles.
- Wed 28th November** - 'Elephunk Raveyard' at World HQ; Music from live bands '16.20', 'Soap Impressions' and 'Boss Riley', plus DJ set; Pre-WHQ bar crawl at 7.30 from the Union; Tickets £3adv from Union and Med School stalls, Porters Lodge and Trent House/ £4 on door, include free shot; 'Red' dress theme.
- Fri 30th November** - 'Balloon Race' with £30 cash prize; 1pm outside the Union; Balloons £2, on sale at Union and Med School stalls.
- Sat 1st December** - World AIDS Day March and Vigil; starts at 2.45pm at Monument.



S.H.A.G.-tastic

EMMA ROURKE gives the low down on down low and why S.H.A.G. week is a big fucking deal

OUTSIDE the weather is cold, Christmas is fast approaching and as well as all the other worries the festive period will bring - how to afford gifts for friends and family, revising for the January exams - it is easy to see how in this tangle of frenzied seasonal activity we can neglect a particular, crucial aspect of our wellbeing - sexual health. The sad fact is, with sexually transmitted infection rates among 16-25 year olds at an all time high, you don't have to be promiscuous to catch one.

Student favourite Urban Dictionary.com delivers many definitions of the word 'shag' - the one with which most of us are familiar with is of the word as a colloquialism for sex. This makes S.H.A.G. an arguably ingenious acronym for Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance week, which is to be the focus of a programme of events running from 28th November to 2nd December. The campaign is led by NUS, with universities across the country organising measures to increase awareness of the importance of looking after your sexual health.

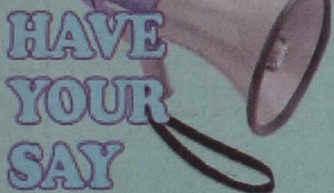
In addition, NUS has organised the week to coincide with World Aids Day, held annually on 1st December. World Aids Day aims to encourage conversation about the reality of HIV and AIDS in the UK, emphasising the serious message behind the fun-centred events organised by the students union. With the week being scheduled before we dive headlong into the Christmas party season is further intelligent planning - ensuring that we are all well informed and primed to keep

our sexual health in mind over this traditionally fun and frivolous time of year.

The theme has been highlighted by NUS as it was recently suggested that up to one in ten students may be infected with Chlamydia (the most common STI in the UK). This statistic is staggering - and makes it all the more important that we raise awareness of both prevention and cure in relation to sexual health. Chlamydia is a bacterial infection, which is relatively easy to treat with antibiotics if it is detected early. If left untreated, it can cause serious complications which may leave lifelong repercussions such as infertility. As Chlamydia is the most common, preventable cause of female infertility in the UK, it is in everyone's interests to be aware of their own sexual health. Known as the 'silent epidemic' it is possible for 70% of individuals with the infection to be symptom less only seeking advice only when often irreversible complications have occurred. So if you are sexually active, put your mind at rest and head down to the GUM clinic or the Union to get tested.



HANNAH BURNS dons her surgical gloves and prods and probes Newcastle students about what they know about STIs



"I feel I know a fair bit about STI's. I have been to the clinic in the general hospital and it was a pretty horrible, very intense experience, and a little scary. None of the tests were painful though."

-Anonymous, 3rd year, Mathematics

"Most of our knowledge is from school and magazines, I know that it's common for us girls to have no symptoms, but I'd probably wait till I had symptoms to visit the GUM clinic. To be honest we are more worried about pregnancy; STI's tend to just be a joke topic."

-Anonymous, 2nd year, Geography

"I've been checked out before; when I felt I had to. It was definitely a relief

to go and get some piece of mind."

-Anonymous, 4th year, Fine Art

"I know enough to know when to go to the doctors or GUM clinic. But I think I'd make sure I wouldn't get one in the first place."

-Anonymous, 1st year, French

"One of my mates has gone to the clinic today! I don't know where it is up here, but I would probably just ask a mate. I've been to the clinic at home and it's not a scary experience and despite what people say the

swab isn't sore."

-Anonymous, 1st year, Mechanical Engineering

"To be honest I don't know much about it, and wouldn't know where to go up here. I don't think it is that hard not to get an STI."

-Anonymous, 1st year, Accounting and Finance

"We got given free tests at school for Chlamydia and most of my sex ed came from lectures given at school.

I would know what to do and where to go if I ever actually had sex."

-Anonymous, 1st year, Architecture

"I guess I know as much as every one else does. I don't like the idea of incurable diseases or infertility, but would definitely go if I had symptoms or unprotected sex with a stranger."

-Anonymous, 3rd year, History



WEEK S.H.A.G. WEEK

No Sex Please, We're British

BETSY POWELL goes under cover(s) and explains why for many couples rude and raunchy is actually bland and boring

I HAVE sex every night, without fail. No, honestly, I do. 'The Joy of Sex' and 'Karma Sutra' are my bedside bibles and my underwear drawer boasts a dazzling array of sex toys including the now ubiquitous rampant rabbit, a vibrating cock ring (shaped rather disturbingly like a cute dolphin) as well as the more unusual vibrating 'massage' glove and the pocket rocket (perfect for those on the move orgasms). Naturally to accompany these sexual treats I have lubricant that tingles on skin, and one conversely that heats up. My condom selection is a positively *Pretty Woman* moment. *PleasureMax* anyone?

Nestling on top of my toys is a treasure chest of jewel bright underwear. Silk and satin matching sets with lace trims with the odd

suspender belt and corset thrown in for those really wild nights. I don't own a single pair of tights with those horrendously unflattering gussets that sag, oh no, instead I buy only stockings and hold ups with lace tops. I am a big fan of seamed stockings, very 1940s darling.

My king-size bed is decked out in fresh linen and covers my portable pole (breaks down into three easily transportable sections) and my iPod has playlists including 'music to strip to', 'music to fuck to', 'music to make love to' and 'music to have post-coital cuddles to'.

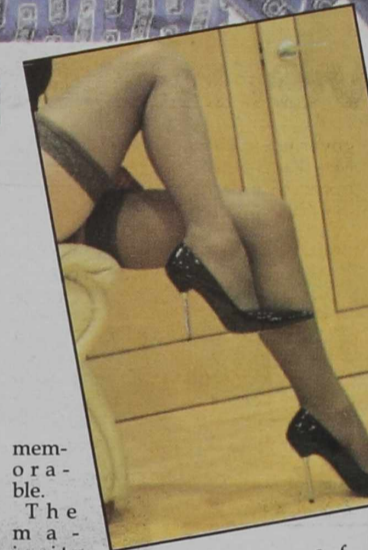
Oh yes, and I also keep my body in tip top condition with erotic pole dancing lessons and yoga for the ultimate stretch. Did a pig just fly past?

Sadly, as much as I'd like sex on tap, the plumber is out on another call and not expected in the foreseeable future, and while the condoms are in evidence in my underwear drawer, the rest of my collection is merely found in an Ann Summers' catalogue. (Although I hear the Rampant Rabbit is worth every penny.) Ladies and gentlemen, fellow students, I have a confession, this is not the diary of a call girl and I am not a femme fatale.

Welcome to the life of a normal person, a normal student. Contrary to student stereotypes, we aren't all shagging like rabbits, more's the pity. We don't all take different people

home with us at the end of the night (exceptions must be made)! The media would have us believe loss of virginity is occurring younger and younger yet this doesn't seem to have transferred itself into ravenous sex lives. For every girl that's lithely bending herself around a pole there are a hundred wishing desperately they'd bothered to shave their legs, never mind their bikini lines! Similarly, most guys are more preoccupied with not coming too quickly than hoping that all ten inches (haha!) of themselves fits in.

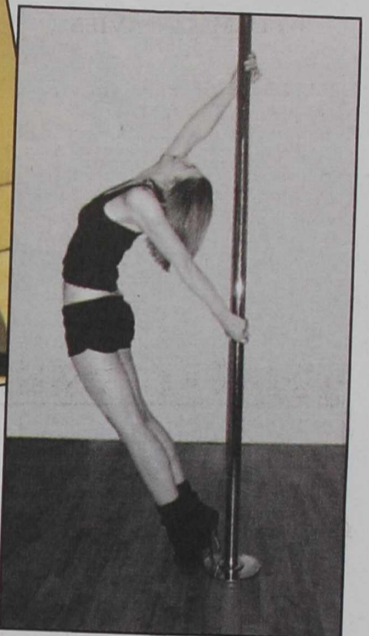
Contrary to the glossy lies we're sold, our sex lives are not tasteful and glamorous porn films. Women are not femme fatales, and men most certainly not thrusting studs. The backdrop to our roll in the hay is not a private motor yacht in the Caribbean, nor are our partners potential supermodels. It all becomes rather mundane with missionary, girl on top and doggy remaining our faithful positions and spit roasting something we simulate in jest rather than personally experience. Despite this actuality, everywhere you look, photos of women pant with pillowed lips, begging to perform fellatio, men with rippled chests plead to spread the massage oil they have already used on themselves all over you and every shag has to be of mythical proportions, mind blowing, multi orgasmic, and 100%



memorable.

The majority of us are aware of the disparity between the image of sex and the reality but this can't help the feelings of disappointment when the guy you've taken home turns out to have a bit of a beer belly, or is less than averagely endowed, or experiences premature ejaculation. Similarly, guys out there, unconsciously influenced by glossy men's magazines, are put off by expert fumbblings, cellulite legs and less than pert boobs. Some of us are just happy to be going home with anyone but that gratitude won't necessarily stop the compare and contrast tactics when the night of passion is dissected in the clear light of day with mates.

Whatever happened to a night of fun filled sex when mutual pleasure is the target rather than holding in one's



stomachs? Once again, the public has been thrown into a state of perpetual sexual inadequacy by the globally branded image of sex. It has become a commodity and just as disappointing, if not more so, than the next new phone, at least the new Nokia comes with the option of insurance if something goes wrong. Sex insurance, that'll be the day.



S.H.A.G. WEEK

SEXUAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND GUIDANCE

Monday

- >> Pick up your FREE S.H.A.G. bag from the Union
- >> Pee in a Pot (FREE Chlamydia testing) : Castle Leazes 6pm - 930pm

Tuesday

- >> Pick up your FREE S.H.A.G. bag from the Union
- >> Pee in a Pot (FREE Chlamydia testing) : St. Mary's halls 6pm - 930pm
- >> Give it a Go Speed Dating : £2 all proceeds to Terrence Higgins Trust
- >> Global, Union Society 7pm - 8pm

Wednesday

- >> Pee in a Pot (FREE Chlamydia testing) : Rijos, Union Society 11am - 3pm
- >> Team Testing (FREE Chlamydia testing) : Get Your Kit Off, Mens Bar 6pm - 8pm
- >> Elefunk Raveyard: Hosted by Stop Aids Society: 730pm Mens Bar or 11pm WHQ : £3 advance £4 on the door all proceeds to charity

Thursday

- >> Pee in a Pot (FREE Chlamydia testing): Rijos, Union Society 11am - 3pm
- >> Pee in a Pot (FREE Chlamydia testing): Henderson Hall 6pm - 930pm

Friday

- >> Sexual Health Drop-in: FREE STI testing and contraception : SAC 1st floor Union Society : Extended opening hours for one week only : 10am - 3pm
- >> Sing Against Aids : Hosted by UNICEF society : Sports Café 7pm - 10pm : £1 entry all proceeds to charity
- >> Solution : pick up your FREE S.H.A.G. bags from the condom fairies!

WHO'S WHO

LINDSAY GULLIVER chats to Student Support Officer, Rosie Duffield about S.H.A.G. week



OKAY, so you may be slightly bemused by the acronym SHAG, but Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance week this week hits your Union, bringing with it a plethora of testing sessions, freebies, and most importantly, condom fairies. The aim of SHAG week is to make students think about their sexual health and encourage safety.

Your Student Support Officer, Rosie Duffield, is always on hand to represent you, specifically with welfare issues, which, as Rosie puts it, "can be anything from problems with your landlord to being at the end of your overdraft, to just wanting someone to listen when you need it." But she also works closely with the Campaigns Officer all year, and SHAG Week is their first major campaign of the year. Rosie told The Courier, "It's one of the more fun sides to the job and it's good to have contact with students and get them involved."

Monday sees the first Pee In a Pot Chlamydia Testing at Castle Leazes Halls of residence between 6pm-9.30pm. Further testing will be carried out at St. Mary's Halls of Residence on Tuesday 6pm-9.30pm and at Henderson Halls on Thursday at the same time, while on Wednesday, Chlamydia testing will be available at Rijos in the Union from 11am-2pm. Wednesday also offers the chance for Team Testing, exclusively for members of University sports teams, and the day ends with Elefunk Raveyard at WHQ (Carloli Square), an event organised by the Stop Aids Society. Alternatively, on Tuesday the Union is offering a light hearted Give it a Go Speed Dating session.

SHAG week ends Friday, with the extended opening of the Sexual Health Clinic (SAC) - 10am-3pm - and later that night, the condom fairies will be out in force at Solution.

Talking about her general role as

Student Support Officer, Rosie added: "As well as Union based things, I sit on a lot of University committees to give some student input. That includes the Student Opinion Working Group, Welnet (where all the 'welfare' departments from across campus get together) and Senate, to name but a few."

Look out for Rosie, your Student Support Officer, Rachael, the Campaigns Officer, and the WAC (Welfare and Campaigns) Crew giving out freebies all week!



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 TOKYO ACID CREW, KAI FOYEN, FUNSIZED JONNY

 STEVE OFFICER, MICHELA, TONY MORALES, JAMES CLARK

 LITTLE BILLY PRINCE WEY I & THE RUDE BOYZ & GALZ

 ACOUSTIC MAYHEM WITH ROBBIE & FRIENDS, PREAMPTIVE

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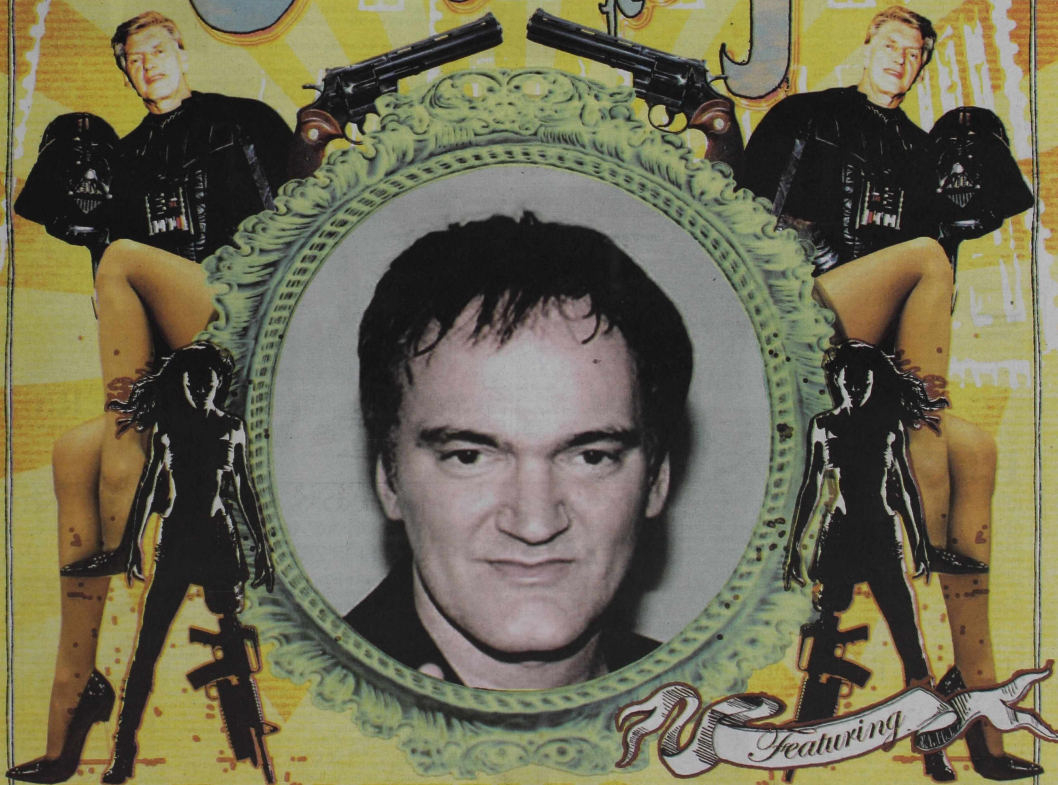
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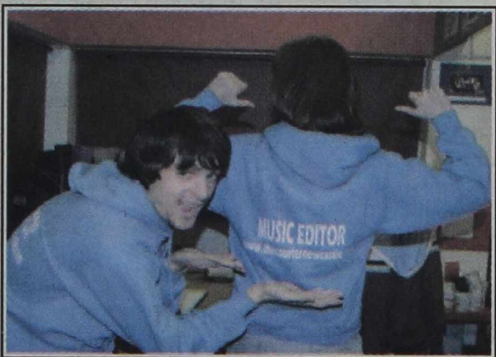


MUSIC



RELIGHT MY FIRE...

THIS week is the Take That reunion. Oh yes. Just for the chance to relive that 90's debut: the homoerotic rubbing of jelly into the five boy's naked buttocks with a broom. Ok so maybe I need to calm my pubescent reminiscences before I get a slap from Jimmy. This week's highlights include our new 'authoritative' hoodies. Dusty Blue: beautiful. And the second incarnation of the Pulp Party (see review page), featuring awesome DJs and a house party feel. This week Jimmy will be mostly excited about Klaxons, Simian and Crystal Castles whilst I will be getting a little giddy about Van Morrison. Who's the coolest? Answer: Jimmy, because he is also judging at the JD Set Unsigned Battle of the Bands at the Head of Steam on Thursday. Get there to see his feretty little face in action.



Jimmy (all the way from Spain) & Ruth (slogging in the office) xx

TOP FIVE THIS WEEK

- 1) Van Morrison @ The Sage. Friday 30th November. Septuagenarian jazz legend, career spanning five decades, performing at the best quality live music venue possibly ever.
- 2) Simian Mobile Disco & Crystal Castles @ Carling Academy. Wednesday 28th November. Klaxons are the main event, but we'd go for these elec-tec lovelies over the headliners any day.
- 3) Fu Manchu @ Carling Academy. Tuesday 27th November. Fuzzed out 70s inspired desert rock at the academy.
- 4) Patrick Wolf @ Mima. Friday 30th November.
- 5) Take That @ Metro Radio. Monday 26th November.



GENRE PROFILES NERDCORE

NOW here's a genre which is serious about not taking itself seriously. Nerdcore Hip-hop has risen from the back of internet fads to form a bizarre cultural collision of varied rap styles and geeky lyrics. As might be expected, the artists themselves are a colourful bunch, and include acts such as Lords of the Rhymes, Badd Spellah and MC Hawking.

Optimus Rhyme are the model of an Indie Nerd band; frontman Wheelie Cyberman raps about Ping-Pong and of course Transformers, while backed up by a band who derive influence more from The Clash than they do from say, Linkin Park or Cypress Hill.

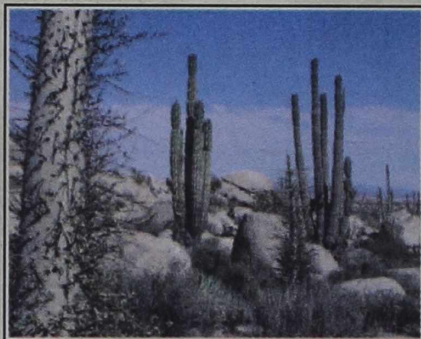
Nerdcore claims to represent a musically disenfranchised generation addicted to superhero films, child wizards and on-line roleplaying games, but its growing popularity (aided by MySpace and numerous internet forums) perhaps shows ready acceptance of a style of hip-hop which returns to being about real life rather than the general monoculture of guns, bitches and bling.

It may only be a matter of time before Nerdcore gathers enough momentum to hit the mainstream, and I for one will be waiting, lightsaber and d20s at the ready. Jonathan Rudd

HIGH TIMES IN PALM DESERT

DEFINING stoner rock has always been a point of contention for many musicians. However when the sweaty cradle of the genre, and in particular, the "Palm Desert Scene", had always been about playing secret "generator parties" out in the vast dustbowl of the Californian desert, with a myriad of drugs, booze and bad influences floating about, you can see why the term sticks.

During the late 80s to early 90s, groups of teens formed bands that became heavily influential on modern rock today. Playing at isolated parties fuelled primarily on marijuana, beer and shrooms, they encapsulated the desert and poured molten sand over influences such as Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin and Black Flag. The relatively forgotten, but amazing Yawning Man pioneered the lateral sun scorched mix of stoner and psychedelic rock that blew away revellers, and prompted many to pick



up guitars and form their own bands, as one 15 year-old Josh Homme did.

Homme formed the now legendary Kyuss, who fused Yawning Man's spaced out instrumentals with bass intensive metal, and created a quintessential template for desert rock. After the Kyuss' break up in the mid-90s, Homme still found time for his cohorts in the guise of the Desert Sessions. Running and released still to this day, these total experiments in improvised "music for music's sake", mixes local talent with musical A-listers, such as PJ Harvey. All recorded in the middle of nowhere, in a hut called Rancho De La Luna, the results are often crazy and low-produced, but addictively listenable.

Chris Kay

PREVIEWS

LEFTIES SOUL CONNECTION @ CLUNY, SUN 2ND

HAILING from Amsterdam, the wonderfully named Lefties Soul Connection arrive at the Cluny as part of their brief 'Skimming the Skum' tour. Their uplifting blend of funk, soul and jazz is something to behold and well worth a listen. Playing as part of Amy Winehouse's after-show party sets and attracting much attention in

the tricky-to-impress USA, they have a lot more to offer than the current bland ensembles that seem to be floating around at the moment. Although their recordings are mostly instrumental, their raw sound draws on an assorted array of influences, such as hip-hop, mod and retro soul: 'diverse' is probably what best describes them. They may have yet to achieve recognition amongst the British masses, and the Cluny may be a bit of a trek, but give them a chance. You might just love them. Annabel Darby

THE KLAXONS @ CARLING ACADEMY, WEDS 28TH

THINK Klaxons. Chances are the first thing that pops uninvited into your head is a label. But clear your mind; such overused clichés are not required - whatever hybrid scene Klaxons supposedly spearhead has been done to death. All you lovely people need to know right now is that they, in full techni-colour real life shininess are coming with their Mercury winning myths to brighten up your dreary November existence. Go be dazzled by the day-glo, marvel at the retina burning brightness of acres of neon. Immerse yourself in the culture of the Klaxon and be happy. You'll probably struggle to be as happy as the band themselves without some serious chemical assistance but still, experiencing them live is a damn sight more conducive to understanding the intangible Klaxon magic than a night in spent attempting to decipher Thomas Pynchon. Most definitely worth the money if only in the hope of new material - to see if they really were being serious when announcing the next album would be prog-rock... Rachel Atkinson

MIKA @ CARLING ACADEMY, MON 26TH

IT'S been almost a year since the larger than life singer burst onto the music scene in his trade-mark technicolour splendour with infectious catchy number one hit 'Grace Kelly'. His ambition being to "set the bar for fantastical, 3 dimensional pop" he has certainly succeeded in putting the 'pop' into 'lollipop'. His recent success at the World Music Awards in Monaco winning best-selling new artist, best-selling male entertainer, best-selling pop/rock artist and best-selling British artist certainly bodes well, however, with comparisons often being made to rock legend Freddie Mercury it seems he has a lot to live up to as a live performer. Let's hope he can keep us rocking in true 'cartoon motion'! India Adams



LETHAL BIZZLE @ CLUNY, SAT 1ST

'The Bizznizz'

THIS Saturday Lethal Bizzle is showcasing his new album at The Cluny with supporting acts Skinnyman and Marvin the Martian. One of the only remaining representatives of grime in the commercial music world, Bizzle has come a long way since the years of 'More Fire Crew', and classic UK garage gyrators 'Oi' and 'Pow'. He has achieved the difficult feat of a crossover into 'grindie', a mash up of indie guitar riffs and grimy beats...and he's nailed it. In fact he can even be found this year on NME's influential list of all things cool. Even better than this, he's enlisted the help of some top drawer supporting acts. Skinnyman, whose career began in his first school play, with a mathematical rap whilst dressed as a Rubik's cube, and Marvin the Martian. The first is widely regarded as one of the best emcees in the bizznizz, with his distinct ragga lyrical flow, heavily influenced by his passion for reggae dancehall. He enfolds politically charged lyrics and socially aware rhymes into bass pumping vibrating beats. God I'm excited. Emily Butterworth



HEAVYWEIGHTS

OF DRUM AND BASS



IT was only recently that Pendulum decided to take drum & bass, normally the reserve of those with decks/laptop/technical things, into the realm of the normal instruments and rock posturing that we all know and love. For those who don't know, when Pendulum say they are playing 'live', they actually play live and somehow they manage to transfer their massive dance sound from the computer to your traditional band instruments. By Chris Kay.

As I chatted to two-thirds of Pendulum, Rob Swaire and Gareth McGrillen, you could feel their exhaustion and excitement of headlining a sold out tour across the UK. Having played small venues to parking lots in Manchester, they seemed excited by the prospect of playing to the packed out crowd at the Newcastle Academy. I could tell from their overuse of the 'f' word, but that may be just down to the fact that they are Australian...

How did the idea of playing as a live band rather than a DJ set come about?

Gareth: Well I guess it came about when after we released our first album and people started to cite this real rocky element in our music. Eventually we started to see that it was just drawn from our other influences, so we thought "Why don't we just try making this as a live thing?"

Rob: And then it just so happened that the technology enabled us to bring that situation we have in the studio, into the live environment.

Gareth: I guess if that hadn't come along, I don't know if we would have done it because the studio sound is very hard to replicate.

Rob: Yeah, we didn't want to be another dance act trying to replicate very clinical music on stage and failing miserably.

What do you think of Soulwax who do something similar when they play their Nite Versions?

Rob: We wouldn't know because we haven't seen Soulwax!

Do you make lots of mistakes live?

Rob: No! Well there are always going to be mistakes but that's the charm of doing a live thing: it is easy to make mistakes, but it's live so you can vary it each night, and if something didn't work last night you can change it this night, and you don't have to play other people's f***ing music!

Other than playing live, what do you think sets you apart from other drum & bass acts?

Rob: Our influences, I don't know...something in our music, but probably it's because we don't actually listen to drum and bass or have it as our influence.

At 6am we had to shut the thing down and get people out...

What would you say are your normal influences?

Rob: I'd say rock, Shallows, Led Zeppelin, even new shit that's coming out like the f***ing Klaxons and all that.

With a lot of sold out venues on this tour and one of your critics calling you "stadium style d&b", do you think you will eventually be playing stadium gigs?

Rob: I think for our next live tour we'll probably just do all the academies again, but just all the big ones. We are getting there!

Gareth: Though we have done some f***ing dives on this tour, honestly!

Gareth: There were some really small venues where it is literally almost too small for the equipment that we have.

Rob: It was too small for a DJ, let alone a

f***ing band! We were tripping over ourselves with all this gear.

Gareth: It has got to be done though; it's like earning a patch.

Was that because some of the cities or towns weren't really up for dance music?

Gareth: It's not because of the cities, it's just because of the venues and the capacity, and what the promoters have been able to pull out here. It's been great though, every gig has been just off the wall. Live wise we are just trying to go to a different type of place where it's a new experience, including a parking lot in Manchester! It was literally a parking lot by day, but at night it had a bar and a sound system. It got to the point where it was 6am and we had to shut the whole thing down and get everyone out! It was f***ing cool!

When's the new album out?

Rob: The album is actually called 'In Silico', but the imprint we are putting it under is



called 'Earstorm', and the album will probably come out February or early March.

You're playing a live show at the Academy, then headlining with a DJ set at Digital tonight. Have you done this anywhere else along the tour?

Gareth: No tonight will be the first night on the tour. We will see if I can actually stand by the time I get to the decks! I'm gonna be tired, exhausted and drunk!

THOU SHALT NOT ...BE SO DAMN UNORIGINAL



UNLIKE some unfortunate unis, we are blessed with more than one location to dance the night away in. On any given eve there's a whole range of great nights going on (think how many flyers you pick up walking from the union to Haymarket). Newcastle has such an incredible music scene, so why is it that time and time again people go to the same sweaty clubs, bump into the same people and have exactly the same drunken conversation as last week and end up dancing to the same songs. Isn't it time to try something new?

Be spontaneous and take the opportunity to meet new people - being at a specific music night is the best way to meet a similar minded friend with equally great music taste. Even if you don't like the music, the girl's toilets at World Headquarters comes complete with

comfy chairs and is bigger than some clubs (though maybe not the best plan for guys).

For those indie types that love nothing more than digital on a Thursday, go to the Cooperidge, check out a band, or go that extra distance to the Cluny. Whether you're into electro, house or D'n'B, try nights like Zap, and clubs like Cosmic Ballroom and Red Rooms, and to chill out there are bars like Tokyo and the Jazz Café. Even if you're a firmly mainstream music listener, try WHQ on a Tuesday or Saturday.

Don't spend every Friday sweating away in Venue or Solution just because your friends are there, grab someone and escape.

Hattie FitzGerald

VINYL OF THE WEEK

PHILIP DE BOYER

'SOULFREAKA'

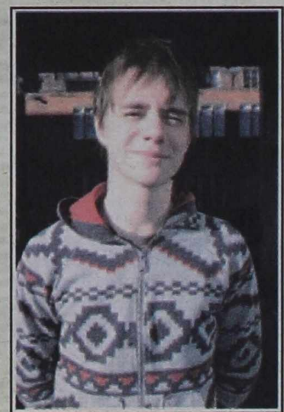


Ping-pong techtronica at it's Amiga-aping best! Jimmy Asquith, Speaker Junk, Bassnectar, Goose

TURNING POINT

RED HOT CHILLI PEPPERS: CALIFORNICATION

THROUGH sheer ubiquity this sunbeam of an album came to be the soundtrack to a great lost summer from my youth. Even now it conjures a rose-hued montage of bitter-sweet memories; rides in cars through rolling hills, toes brushing toes beneath cool sand and, most vital of all, the auburn-haired object of my unrequited school boy lust. The first gorgeous chime of Scar Tissue takes me immediately back to looking at her through blades of grass, our heads joined by a pair of ear phones and her eyes squinting delicately in the sun... There's the music we feel it's important people know we like, and there's the music we like because it makes us feel people are important. Making that distinction was a turning point. Sam Parker



- Red Hot Chilli Peppers are suing US TV series 'Californication' over the use of the name. Apparently by 'using the name, the series is creating unfair competition, dilution of the value of the name.'
- Velvet Revolver have been denied Japanese visas, causing them to cancel dates. Japanese immigration officials are taking exception with the backgrounds of various band members, which have included arrests.
- Maynard from Tool have dubbed Radiohead's new album a 'One Trick Pony.' Pot, kettle and black. Goddamn you.



REVIEWS

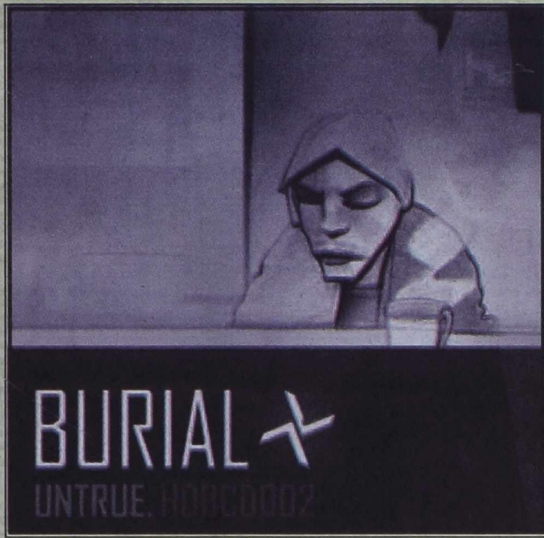
ALBUMS

BURIAL UNTRUE

The second album from mysterious urban-electronic visionary Burial is the best record of the year. 'Untrue' consists of densely layered, soulful soundscapes which pulsate and swell inside your speakers, each track evolving, unravelling and enveloping, driven by the clicks and crackles of carefully constructed clockwork rhythms. Striking opener 'Archangel' sets the precedent for the rest of the album, as glowing synths and twisted, distorted R&B vocal samples echo across grinding garage bass and 2-step percussion. If the first half of 'Untrue' is the dark sound of empty alleyways at 3am, the atmosphere close and pressing under neon lights, midway piano interlude 'In McDonalds' might just signify the first sign of dawn over the skyscrapers. At every turn Burial dissolves boundaries to create something unique, futuristic and unexpected, 'Untrue' is a landmark in bedroom electronic listening, this decade's 'Selected Ambient Works Volume II' or 'Music Has The Right To Children'.

10/10

Lawrie Roberts: Cocteau Twins, Arthur Russell, Final Fantasy, Low



MERRYGO DEMO

Wakefield-based noise merchants Merry-Go seem undecided in their musical direction; are they indie, with heavier elements, or are they a light punk/grunge outfit? The name indicates the former, but their influences (Biffy Clyro, Nirvana, Weezer, Smashing Pumpkins), point towards the latter. Either way, this is a very nice little EP. Don't get me wrong, this is nothing exceptional or groundbreaking, but all five tracks have something to offer, and this is definitely worth a listen.

7/10

Philip Copley: The Fall, The Smiths, Bloc Party, TV On The Radio

ASOBI SEKSU CITRUS

Two words which seem to have been landing in the in-trays of music journalists and spilling off the mouths of critics non-stop for the past few months. A complete contrast from the staccato precision of Foals et al, Citrus moves between swirling, noisy no-wave crescendos and melodic sickly sweet popness. Early comparisons to Jesus and Mary Chain and My Bloody Valentine are well placed, but this album is garishly different in its constant swing between sweet and sour, melody and noise, Japanese and English. The only thing we can't ignore is the nagging suspicion that this band is a touch all-style-no-content. They succeed on the back of unexpected contrasts, and yet can't seem to produce anything genuinely compelling.

7/10

Ruth Sleightholme: Belle & Seb, Reginor Spektor, Velvet Underground.

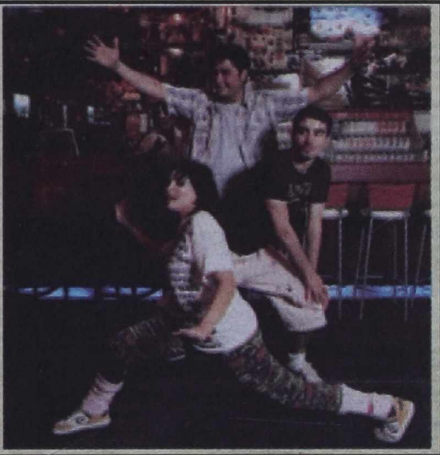
SINGLES

BONDE DO ROLE

MARINA GASOLINA

They're barmy, they're baile-funk and they're back to shake your favela to the very foundations, but it's the Fake Blood remix of Bonde De Role's latest track that's worth watching out for; a brain-bleeding battle axe of gorilla beats and punishing breaks guaranteed to make your stomach do somersaults.

Roz Tuplin: Robert Babicz, Goose, Bumblebeez, Kylie Minogue



DAMN SHAMES FEAR OF ASSAULT

Equal parts experimental and accessible, 'Fear of Assault's' driving bass and razor-wire guitars move at twice the tempo of any song written by someone over twenty five. Finally putting Edinburgh on the musical map, Damn Shames take the best of Franz Ferdinand, send it into hyperspace, and weave in harsh electronics to make this a spiky dancefloor classic.

Gordon Bruce: The Cribs, Acoustic Ladyland, Radiohead

DVD (AND A LITTLE PARTY SURPRISE!)

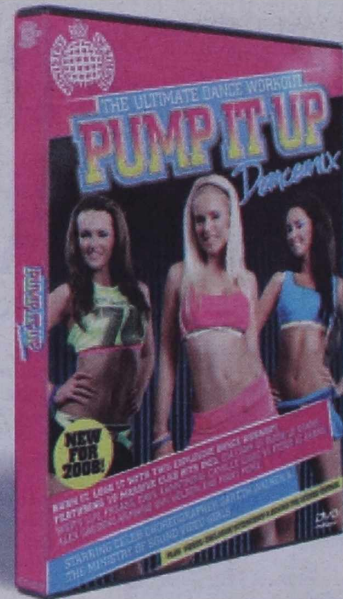
MINISTRY OF SOUND

PUMP IT UP: DANCEMIX

Workout videos have always been cheesy, and a Ministry of Sound dance workout DVD was always bound to be a combination of cheese and perv. Three Ministry dames clad in legwarmers, pelmet skirts and crop tops prance around a distinctly camp Take That choreographer. It is a great DVD though: the tunes are fantastic (even if you're not a fan of the Ministry, the tunes were virtually made for a dance workout), tunes like 'Let Me Think About It' and 'The Creeps'. The moves are great, if shamefully embarrassing for most of us, and the choreographer shouts out such encouraging titbits as 'that's it girls, you have got the moves indeed' and 'pure perfection that's what you are.' Bless! Basically if the bangin' tunes, the bright costumes, the DJ 'spinning' his tunes to the left of the screen and Gareth's encouraging calls don't get you working up a sweat, the girls' bodies will shame you into it.

9/10

Ruth Sleightholme: Justice, Sigur Ros, Yelle, Bjork, Mum



KID ACNE EDDY FRESH

There's a fine line between groundbreaking, bold music, and just pure ridiculous nonsense. And this, I'm afraid, falls very much into the latter. Hailing from Sheffield, Kid Acne has been touted as a one man Beastie Boy, but this isn't even Goldie Lookin' Chain at their lowly best. With beats that could have been created in a primary school music room, and lyrics that could make a tree seem intelligent - 'Took a super-soaker to laser quest, held it down like house arrest' erm, right... This doesn't even deserve the time it takes to reach your ears.

Rob Sellars: Bob Dylan to The Clash, The Libertines to Lou Reed

WILD BEASTS ASSEMBLY

'Assembly' by Wild Beasts sounds like The Hoosiers on heroin - like a group of crazed Pantomime Dames who have bagged a deal with Domino Records. It's chaotic comedy pop sounding a little Mika in some places, like a headache in others. The b-side 'Sylvia, A Melodrama' is (thankfully) more mellow and experimental; the comedown to 'Assembly' you could say. The release is far too joyous and high-pitched for my tastes, driving me into the comforting arms of Sonic Youth and their grunge back-catalogue. Hopefully, Thirsten Moore and Kim Gordon will repair the damage that Wild Beasts and their theatrics have left behind.

Terri Eaton: Black Lips, Sons and Daughters, Toy Robot

DIZZEE RASCAL FLEX

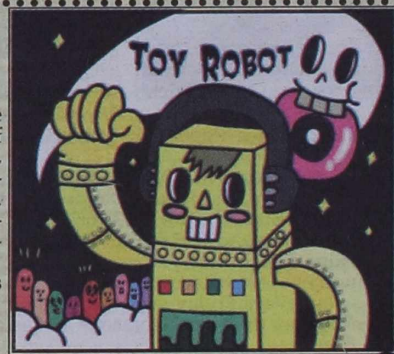
Being as prolific as he is, Rascal sets his sights on the dancefloor and makes the transition with ease. Expertly produced two-step garage swirls and swells with layered synths and electro beats, and as it works on so many levels it can be enjoyed anywhere. Several neat remixes too!

Tom Cliffe: Battles, The Smiths, B.B King, Miles Davis

PULP PARTY II ALERT!!

Yeppo! Sneaking into the back end of November will be the ever-debauched Pulp Party, but not without lots of treats! Boasting a gold-plated line up of electro star DJs, the night will see Brussels homeboy Toy Robot go head-to-head with Tokyo's hot-potato Viscount Castlereagh. Joined by local scene-destroyers Eatdisco they'll be pumping out filth-infused French electro, gritty breaks, German-tech and some classic pumpin' house! It's on Friday 30th November, FREE entry, cheap drinks and we'll be smashing it up til 2am!

Jimmy Asquith: Boys Noize, The Bloody Beetroots, Herve



FILM



THIS IS a very proud week for Film. On our second page you will find our first celebrity interview of the year, and it's with an intergalactic space lord.

Sure, when it was first offered I experienced some ethical qualms... the media shouldn't really court tyrannical despots, and it's almost certainly blown my chances with Queen Amidala. But in the end talking to David Prowse it was too good an opportunity to miss. The revelations contained within don't quite amount to 'I am your Father', but it does confirm what we all suspected from the beginning: Jar Jar Binks deserved a light sabre to the neck.

Elsewhere in our small but compact Film section we have the latest movie reviews and we take a good hard look at the Grindhouse double-bill feature from Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez.]

Their efforts to recreate the magic of the B-movies they loved as children is an admirable charge. I tried a similar thing once during a mid-youth crisis (aged 20), when I eloped to the nearest set of woods I could find to discover if I could still climb trees, like when I was a boy. I couldn't. Two hours up there, wedged between a pair of branches.

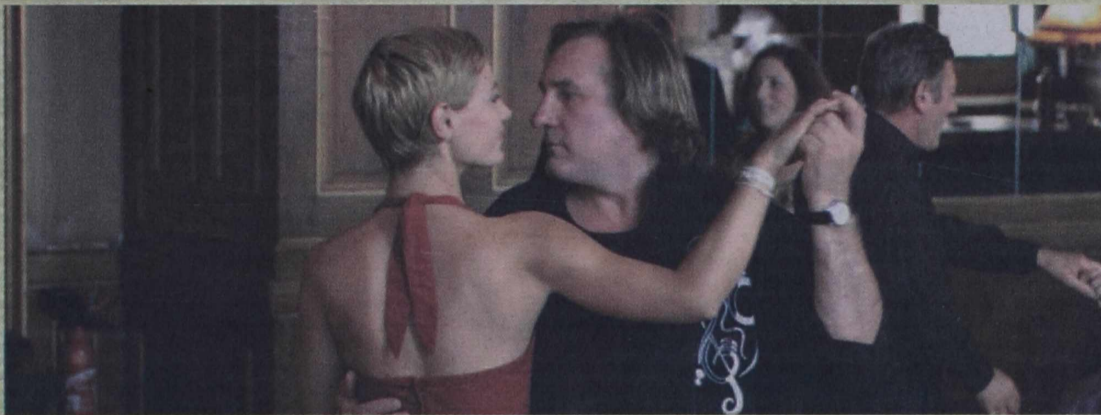
You can't go back.

- Sam pulp.film@ncl.ac.uk

SURVEY

We asked a hundred of you: what is the ultimate Disney movie? Your survey said...

1. THE LION KING
2. BAMBI
3. THE JUNGLE BOOK
4. ALADDIN
5. BEAUTY AND THE BEAST



THE SINGER

DIRECTED BY: XAVIER GIANNOLI
STARRING: GERARD DEPARDIEU, CECILE DE FRANCE

THIS FRENCH hit stars Gerard Depardieu as aging, gut bearing singer Alain Moreau, heart-throb for the divorced over-forties of Clermont.

The crooner goes on to fall for the young, lithe ice queen, Marion (Cecile De France), after meeting her through his friend Bruno (Mathieu Amalric). The film focuses on the prickly relationship between the two, which develops after unlikely 'lady's man' Moreau manages to croon Marion all the way to the bedroom - after plying her with champagne that is.

This relationship becomes further complicated by Bruno's shared affections for Marion and the presence of Moreau's ex-wife slash manager.

The film contains enough plot to hold the viewers in-

terest, but it is the character portrayal and interaction where the film's beauty really lies; the tense but affectionate chemistry between Depardieu and De France is a particular highlight.

All the actors give believable, developed performances, but it's Depardieu who really shines, bringing both humor and poignancy to the film. Giannoli gives an honest yet compassionate insight into human relationships in *The Singer* and manages to acknowledge the clichés of romantic cinema, whilst never falling prey to them himself.

Subtle and understated *The Singer* is a refreshingly European change from the sea of overdone Hollywood rom-coms.

Frances Kroon



EMPIRE

SLEUTH

DIRECTED BY: KENNETH BRANAGH
STARRING: MICHAEL CAINE, JUDE LAW



SLEUTH IS essentially a game of cat and mouse, but one in which the cat and mouse are continually swapping roles and you're never quite sure where the power lies.

Based on a play by Anthony Shaffer, with the screenplay written by Harold Pinter, the theatrical origins of the film are obvious, even to the extent that it can easily be divided into three 'acts' and at the beginning you do feel as though you're watching a play.

The drama soon unfolds, however, and the film reveals itself as a fast-paced thriller, full of twists and turns and tension, both the characters and the audience balancing on the edge of control.

Michael Caine and Jude Law both give the strong performances you would expect - Caine playing a best-selling thriller writ-

er, and Law playing a young actor who is sleeping with his wife (interestingly, the part that was played by Caine in the 1972 version of the film).

The beautiful but cold interior design of the country mansion setting sets the scene and the mood perfectly for the action but unfortunately, it also reflects the main flaw of the film - it's just a bit pretentious and over the top.

Clare Baldwin



EMPIRE



BEOWULF

DIRECTED BY: ROBERT ZEMECKIS
STARRING: RAY WINSTONE, ANTHONY HOPKINS, ANGELINA JOLIE

POST-LORD OF the Rings, it's practically guaranteed that any story involving warriors, swords and a few epic battles will become a big-time movie, so an adaptation of classic medieval poem Beowulf was inevitable. Beowulf the movie, however, stands out - mainly because it's entirely computer-generated.

Well, not entirely. Director Robert Zemeckis uses motion-capture to make a digitally created film that's also sort of real. He used the same technique in kids' movie *Polar Express*, but while that ended up looking creepy and quite sinister, it works much better in *Beowulf*. The technology, like the thousand-year-old plot, is solid, but it's not flawless. Whereas sometimes you'd be forgiven for thinking a scene is

"real", other times, it's more like watching a videogame.

Beowulf is worth it if you like the poem, or you want to see just how good CGI has become, but as you're always aware it's essentially a movie of special effects, any emotional heart may pass you by.

Daniel Watkins



EMPIRE

SOLUTION



All Photos: Peter Dixon

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 by 10am on Friday (ask for Gemma).



PUZZLES



Compiled by Puzzles Master Megan Darby

QUIZ CORNER

This week, every answer in the quiz has something to do with a band or artist from the last 50 years. For example, if the question was "What is the nickname given to Sarah, Duchess of York?" then the answer would be...Fergie, as Fergie is the name of an American solo artist. Good Luck!

Compiled by Joe Ambrose

- 1) What is the name of the highest state of Buddhist Enlightenment?
- 2) Which Bob Dylan song was ranked as the greatest song of all time by Rolling Stone Magazine?

3) What is the name of the 1994 Tarantino film which included characters such as Vincent Vega and Marsellus Wallace?

4) Which small chocolate "candy" pieces are made by Mars Incorporated, and include peanut, crunchy and plain chocolate varieties?

5) What is the name of the airships which were used as bombers and

scouts by the German Army in WWII?

6) What is the name of the female cat?

7) What is the name of the Arch-Duke of Austria-Este, whose assassination sparked the outbreak of World War I?

8) What is the name of the group of Jewish women in the concen-

tration camps during World War II who were kept for the sexual pleasure of Nazi soldiers?

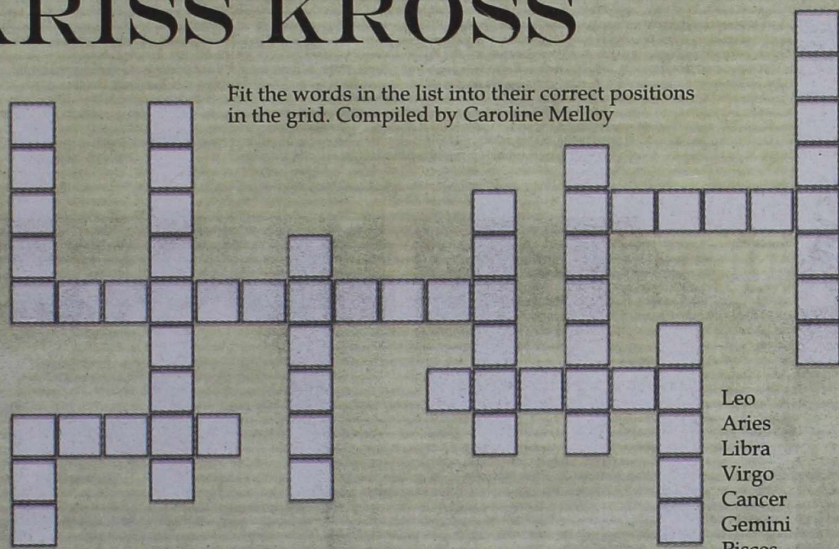
9) In London Slang, what is the name given to £500 in cash?

10) What is the name of the biggest city in the state of Illinois?

1) Nirvana 2) "Like a Rolling Stone" 3) Zeppelin Airships 4) M&M's 5) Zeppelin Airships 6) Queen 7) Franz Ferdinand 8) Joy Division 9) Monkey 10) Chicago

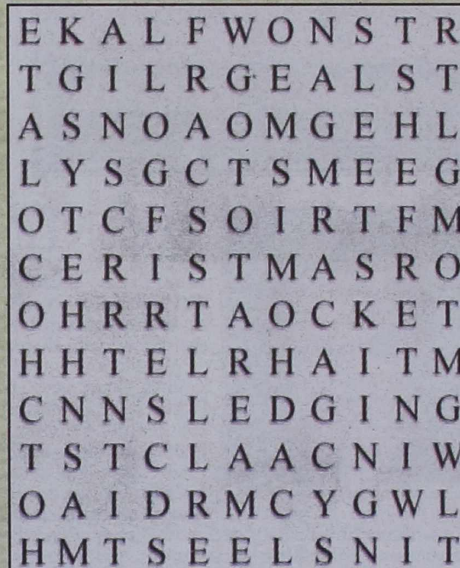
KRISS KROSS

Fit the words in the list into their correct positions in the grid. Compiled by Caroline Melloy



- Leo
- Aries
- Libra
- Virgo
- Cancer
- Gemini
- Pisces
- Taurus
- Scorpio
- Aquarius
- Capricorn
- Sagittarius

WORDSEARCH



- Winter
- Mittens
- Icy
- Snowflake
- Christmas
- Sleet
- Coat
- Hat
- Log Fires
- Sledging
- Skiing
- Thermals
- Hot Chocolate
- Scarf

COURIER CROSSWORD

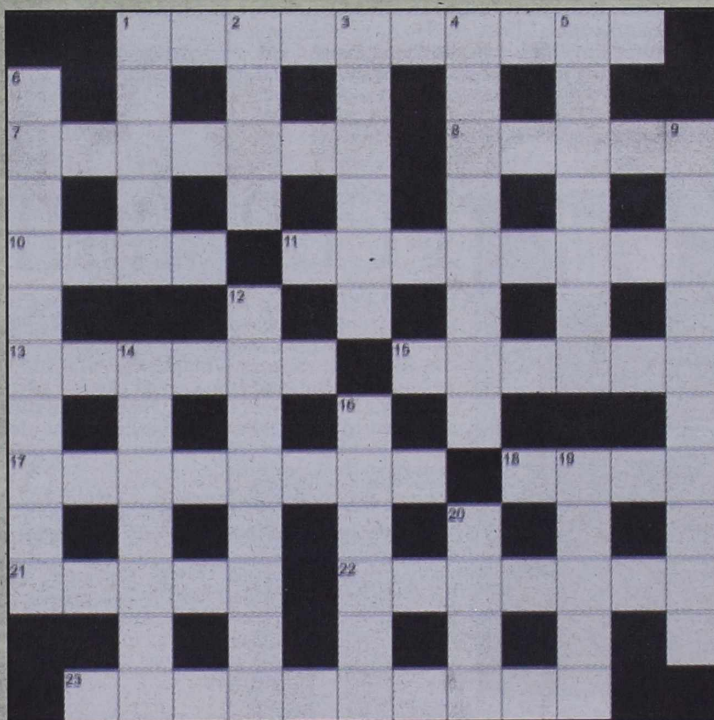
The first person to drop their completed crossword into The Courier office (opposite Cochrane Lounge) will win guestlist for themselves plus a guest to this week's Solution! Crossword compiled by Megan Darby

Across

- 1 Neckband to protect pet from pests (4,6)
- 7 Berate harshly - beat with a cane (7)
- 8 Amputated limb - flummox (5)
- 10 Grub - food (4)
- 11 Humorous five-line verse (8)
- 13 Type of metamorphic rock - playing piece for ancient game (6)
- 15 Firecracker - sausage - old car (6)
- 17 Biblical vessel (5,3)
- 18 Greek cheese (4)
- 21 Fill with high spirits (5)
- 22 Lunatic (7)
- 23 Arrangement reached, e.g. out-of-court; divorce (10)

Down

- 1 Smokes - gets angry (5)
- 2 Online auction site (4)
- 3 Sex organ of e.g. willow tree - feline family? (6)
- 4 "The entertainment capital of the world" (3,5)
- 5 Funny, entertaining (7)
- 6 Milky dessert (10)
- 9 Deadpan, not giving the game away (5,5)
- 12 Waterproof outer part of tent (8)
- 14 Traditional beer (4,3)
- 16 Citrus fruit (6)
- 19 Precise (5)
- 20 Inflammation at the base of an eyelash (4)



Last Week's Answers: Across: 1 Educational 9 Eyesore 10 Cello 11 Theatres 12 Aged 14 Inconsiderate 16 Curt 17 Mishakes 21 Elpee 22 Arrival 23 Independent Down: 2 Diane 3 Crostini 4 The Legitimate 5 Once 6 Allegra 7 Newt 8 Needle 13 Pestered 14 Inches 15 Conjoin 18 Kevin 19 Salt 20 Felle

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GRINDHOUSE

THE ORIGIN of both *Death Proof* and *Planet Terror* lies in one of the most unique films in recent cinema history.

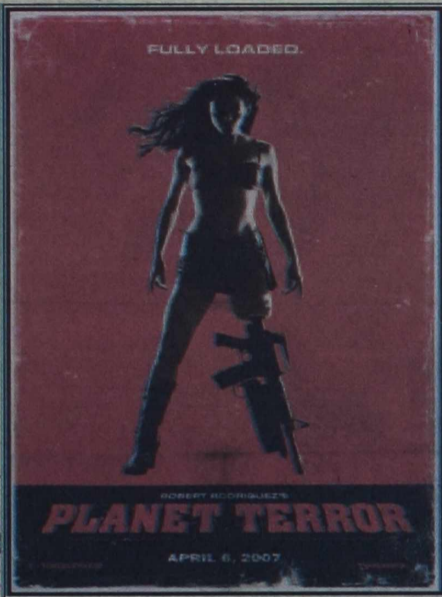
Both of the films were intended to be released as the two halves of *Grindhouse*, a film which took its name from the 1970's B movie genre and was intended as a homage to that era by cult directors Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez.

Both films were edited in a special 'grindhouse' way which involved the scratching and damaging of the footage and also the removal of certain 'missing reel' scenes, one of which causes great, but deliberate annoyance to the audience.

When the *Grindhouse* package was released in America it was huge hit with the critics. The problem was that it was a huge financial flop. This unfortunately led to the package being split in two for its European release.

Nonetheless as with most Tarantino/Rodriguez projects the overall effect promises to be one of chaos, sleaze and borderline insanity... this week, *Pulp* reviews them both and discovers a little bit more about the men behind them...

Pete Duggan



PLANET TERROR

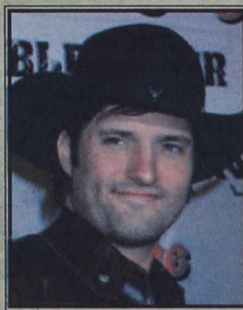
STARRING: ROSE MCGOWAN, FREDDY RODRIGUEZ

ZOMBIES, amputees and the search for the perfect BBQ sauce recipe: what more could you want from your Friday night entertainment?

Planet Terror follows the now iconic Rose McGowan, a disenchanted go-go dancer (NOT stripper) and a bunch of survivors including her ex, a cop and a BBQ shack owner battling a hoard of bloodthirsty zombies.

It also boasts some of the best cameos ever committed to celluloid including *Lost*'s Naveen Andrews as the man responsible for the zombies, Quentin Tarantino as the sinister Rapist Number 1 and lastly Bruce Willis who turns up as a renegade Army commander accredited with killing Osama Bin Laden. Who'd of thought you would find satire in an exploitation film.

At times *Planet Terror* is very camp but that merely adds to the aged look and geeky gags - just wait for the 'missing reel' joke. The plot is a bit of a no brainer, but the whole reason this film was made was for the audience to have a good time, and *Planet Terror* reminded me why I fell in love with movies in the first place.



RODRIGUEZ

RODRIGUEZ is the Hardest Working Man in Hollywood™. In the space of 15 years he has shot two trilogies (the spy kids movies and his mariachi saga), collaborated with Tarantino 5 times and made a star out of Salma Hayek.

He also now produces, directs, writes and edits his own movies as well as being the director of photography, camera operator and visual effects supervisor on them; phew, he must have been eating his weetabix.

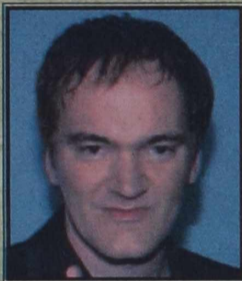
He first gained attention with his film *El Mariachi* (1992) which along with *Reservoir Dogs* (1992) became two of the most important movies in the Independent movement of the early 90's.

His first collaboration with Tarantino was with the excellent but underrated *From Dusk till Dawn* (1996). He then showed a different side to his film making, turning his back on hyper comic book style violence to make the family friendly *Spy Kids* (2001).

But it wasn't until *Sin City* (2005) - the most faithful comic book adaptation ever - that he hit both critical and box office success.

Rodriguez films aren't about winning awards or trying to get a message across, they are about having fun whilst munching popcorn. If only more directors would make movies like him

Rodriguez article and review by Stuart Young



TARANTINO

Tarantino is a name synonymous with edgy, sharp and ultimately unusual films. Gaining fame, or perhaps notoriety in 1992 with *Reservoir Dogs*, Tarantino was critically acclaimed at Sundance Film Festival and was thus welcomed into the cult film circuit.

Pulp Fiction was then released at Cannes the following year, and through winning the coveted Palme d'Or, Tarantino shot to fame. With an IQ of 160 despite dropping out of school at 16, it is clear that Tarantino is a genius (if only on paper).

His films are filled with pop culture, samurai swords, big guns and foot fetishes. You can recognise a Tarantino on sight if you know the right qualities. Sometimes celebrated, sometimes slated, his films are almost always dark and glossy, like thick black treacle, and they invariably have one or more of his stock actors such as Uma Thurman, Michael Madsen or Samuel L Jackson.

In summing up the scene of Lucy Liu's death in *Kill Bill Vol. 1*, Tarantino says, "Funny. Solemn. Beautiful. Gross. All at the same time." This, in a sense, is applicable to all Tarantino films. Look for his own 'Red Apple' cigarettes. Look for bare feet. Look for Uma Thurman. But don't look for any of the generic tripe the cinema keeps spewing out. Tarantino is not always good, but he sure as hell is unique.

Tarantino article and review by Ashley Fryer

DEATH PROOF

STARRING: KURT RUSSELL, ROSARIO DAWSON

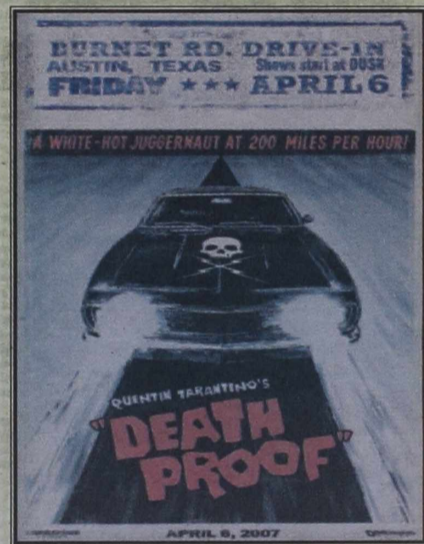
TARANTINO'S latest venture is a gory, adrenaline-fuelled ride with Kurt Russell in his so-called 'death

proof' car.

Stuntman Mike is no less scary than his name suggests, and in the style of gritty, trashy films, the cars are fast, the booze is cheap, and the women are stupid... well, the first four at least. The film centres around two groups of women who are each preyed upon by the sadistic stuntman. While the first group perish, the second group fight back and succeed in putting the grrr back in girl.

The film is supposed to be a hark back to the 70s where cheap and cheesy B-movies filled the big screens, however Tarantino's version is a boring, disappointing anticlimax. So much of the film is made up of the women talking around a table that you are too fed up to even notice the car chases that follow. It makes you wonder if Stuntman Mike kills them simply to get them to shut up.

The film needs a much more succinct plot - too much is lost in the ambling pace. Tarantino had the raw materials but failed to use them. Overall, a disappointment.



PULP MEETS DARTH VADER!

DAVID PROWSE is known as the Green Cross Code Man, star of a series of road safety ads that earned him an MBE in 2000. He's been in cult classics like *A Clockwork Orange*. But he'll forever be known as the man who played Darth Vader in the original *Star Wars* trilogy. When Mr. Prowse appeared in Newcastle recently, *Pulp* sent along its resident *Star Wars* geek to have a chat with the man from the Dark Side...

Were you surprised that *Star Wars* became as big as it did?

Yeah. Totally surprised. I was absolutely gobsmacked [by the finished film]. When people saw the ship at the start, everyone stood up and applauded! And I could say, "I was in that!" I'm still gobsmacked. I had no idea it was still going to be [so popular] thirty years on.

What was it like to wear the Darth Vader suit?

Very warm. It was made to measure, but it was made of fifteen different pieces, and the head was much too big, so they padded it with foam rubber. You could only keep it on for two minutes before it misted up.

What were the cast like?

Peter Cushing was lovely. I knew him from *Monster From Hell* [a 1974 *Frankenstein* movie]. Alec Guinness was very nice to work with. Every so often I used to pop my head round his door and ask if he wanted to come and have a practice [of their famous lightsaber duel]. Harrison Ford - he was unknown at the time - Mark [Hamill], Carrie [Fisher], they were all very pleasant. Kenny Baker [R2-D2] was an old friend, and Peter Mayhew [Chewbacca]

I knew from living in Croydon. He's a Croydon boy.

Is it true that you were offered the part of Chewbacca?

I was offered Chewbacca first. I met George [Lucas] and asked what the part was, and he said it was like a hairy gorilla. "Oh no," I said. I didn't want three months in a gorilla skin. I was offered two parts - the other was the big villain. I said, "Stop there", and took the part. You always remember the baddie... no-one will ever forget Darth Vader.

Did you see the *Star Wars* prequel trilogy?

I didn't like the prequels. They were great examples of Lucas' film art, but they didn't have the story or the characters [of the original trilogy]. The *Phantom Menace* was a terrible movie. There were two good things in it; the podrace, and Darth Maul, who was a great villain, but I could have screwed Jar Jar Binks' head off. *Attack Of The Clones* wasn't much better. *Revenge Of The Sith* was going the same way until the end, when it tied things up, and set up Episode IV.

You were also a personal trainer for Christopher Reeve for *Superman*, and Daniel Day-Lewis for *Last Of The Mohicans*, weren't you?

Christopher Reeve was skinny when I met him, but with training and eating, I put 40 pounds on him in six weeks. When [*Superman*] was finished I was asked if we'd taken any 'before' and 'after' photos. I hadn't. So, with Daniel Day-Lewis the first thing I did was to get 'before' photos. But the producers in Hollywood got word of this and sacked me immediately. "How dare you take photos of our star"... I just thought it would be a nice record!

What you would like to be remembered for?

I would be happy to be remembered for dual roles, *Star Wars* and the *Green Cross Code Man*. I've done thirty movies, but they're the two things that stick in people's minds.

Interview by Daniel Watkins

MENTS

WHO KNEW I HAD SUCH A WAY WITH WORDS?... ENJOY MY PULP PEOPLES, ENJOY

SAM

For my people's.....
There was a young man named Sam,
Who lived in a caravan,
He was a bit arty, but up for a party,
And had a particular liking for lamb
(with gravy).

HOLLY

There was a lovely lady named Holly,
Who always seemed very jolly,
She had a smile like a moon beam,
To the point she appeared agleam!
That lovely arty lady named Holly

RUTH

There was a musical genius named Ruth,
This is no exaggeration, it's the truth,
She shows a drive for perfection,
And dedication to her section,
Whilst simultaneously giving Jimmy
abuse

JIMMY

There was a big f***k up called Jim Bob,
Who thought he was a bit of a heart
throb,
In actual fact, girls thought he was a t**t,
But allegedly he does have a big.....
(Although I wouldn't know personally)

A PAMPERING PARADISE - *within walking distance!*



2 FOR 1

@CITY POOL TURKISH BATHS OR SAUNA
WITH THIS VOUCHER UNTIL 31ST DECEMBER!

TURKISH DELIGHT: TURKISH BATHS@CITY POOL

STEAMING HOT: SAUNA SESSION@CITY POOL

NEWSFLASH: The City Pool can, officially, no longer be branded a second-rate leisure centre: it has a Sauna! Now, a sanctuary for the stressed-out (and those of us who just fancy being pampered!) it's a little piece of heaven located right in the heart of the city centre. The Sauna, and Steam room, is a perfect retreat, for an hour or two, for those wired-up students who really need to wind-down.

First calling point should be the Steam room; followed by the Sauna, and completed with a very, very refreshing Swim (it's advisable that you take plenty of cold showers in between). It's best, also, to be brave and go bare-faced (so your skin actually feels the benefits!), and you'll be sure to leave the City Pool looking radiant... if a little red-faced!

The financially challenged will be pleased to hear that it's an absolute bargain, priced at £3.00 for students. This entitles you to a two and a half hour session, as well as a complimentary swim. The female-only sessions (thank god!) operate between 12 noon and 7.30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. In the stressful run up to Christmas this is a steamy session of pampering you can afford to indulge in.

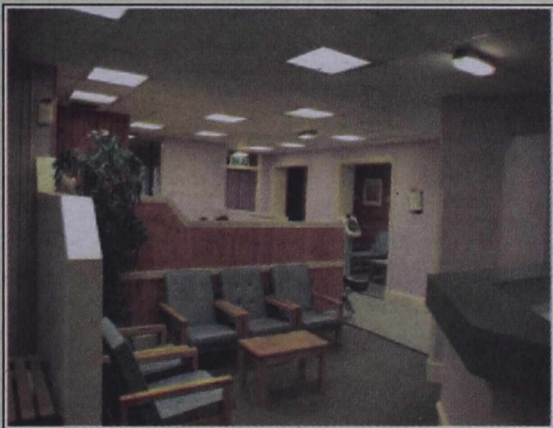


NOT MANY people are aware of the Turkish Baths hidden in Newcastle's city centre. This novel leisure facility, located in the City pool, is the perfect place to relax after a stressful day at university. The staff are incredibly friendly, offering you an informative guided tour before you strip down to your Speedos, and the surroundings are impressive and plush.

After an initial tour, my friend and I took a quick shower and headed for the steam room, this 50 degree chamber is a great place to sit and unwind while you feel your airways being cleansed. We emerged from the smog sweaty but really refreshed. Next we opted for a dip in the Jacuzzi, and cooled off amongst the bubbles. In the same area you have the option of a vigorous massage, reasonably priced at ten pounds, carried out by enthusiastic staff that make sure that you get your moneys worth.

Following this we indulged in the most unique feature of the Turkish Bath, the three dry hot rooms. These cavernous rooms range from 45-70 degrees, and offer a great alternative to the somewhat oppressive climate of the steam room. Here you can wind down whilst comfortably reading the paper or chatting to a friend. After this range of peaceful retreats, you step out into the luxurious dry room, where you can cool off with a much needed drink, before returning to the busy streets. All in all, a hidden gem of an experience which guarantees to recharge your batteries and leave you revitalized!

Vicky Critoph



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

OPENING TIMES

TURKISH BATH: Mon - Male 12-9.30pm
Tues - Female 10-9.30pm
Wed - Male 10-9.30pm
Thurs - Female 10-9.30pm
Fri - Male 10-9.30pm
Sat - Female 9.30-4.30pm

SAUNA SESH: Mon - Female 12-8pm
Tues - Male 10-9pm
Wed - Female 12-8pm
Thurs - Male 10-9pm
Fri - Female 12-8pm
Sat - Male 8.30-4.30pm

STUDENT PRICES: Turkish Baths - £4 before 3pm.
Sauna - £3 no time restriction

INCLUDES COMPLIMENTARY SWIM!

Freddie Quick



POLISH NIGHT PREVIEW

EURO COALITION@CLUB BLUE



Four nights are running at Blue over the coming weeks, starting from Thursday 29th November. The nights will showcase Polish DJs playing FUNK, SOUL, HIP-HOP, R'N'B, ELECTRO, HOUSE & TECHNO...

ENTRY: Super discounts for students: £1.50, Guest: £2.50
WHEN: Four Thursdays starting from 29/11/2007
TIME: from 10pm till 2am
WHERE: Blue Club, Newcastle Quayside

IT'S ALL ABOUT INTEGRATION! ALL ARE WELCOME!
FREE SHOT OF VODKA FOR 1ST 100 CUSTOMERS!



EVERY CITY needs a great music venue: the type that ensures essential intimacy yet provides more space than your front room for rocking out. And Newcastle got theirs in 2005 thanks to 'The Academy Music Group'.

Formally a picture house in the 20's its interior has been restored in the art deco style of that time. And interestingly it was also later the legendary 'Majestic Ballroom' where 'The Beatles' performed in 1963. Since being what it is today, many more big names have appeared at the now near 2000 capacity location on Westgate Road.

Accompanying the main stage is a second room

CARLING ACADEMY

GIGS THIS WEEK.....

MIKA - Mon 26th Nov
Fu Mancha - Tues 27th Nov
Klaxons - Wed 28th Nov
Queens of the Stone Age - Thurs 29th Nov
Bring me the Horizon - Fri 30th Nov
Shed Seven - Sat 1st Dec

www.newcastle-academy.com

known as 'Academy 2', where club nights provide a more student-friendly alternative to town at the weekend. Fridays is home to the combined, 'Revolution' and 'Where Angels Play', with metal and punk on the ground floor, and rock anthems on the top. Saturdays then host Newcastle's long-running indie favourite 'Bullet Proof', with a combination of the finest local live bands and D.J's. Although drinks can be a little pricey on gig nights, there are 6 bars in total and usually good offers on the rest of the time.

Future events of interest include 'Klaxons', 'QOT-SA', tribute act 'The Complete Stone Roses', and 'Ocean Colour Scene', all of which still have tickets left. For more info, contact the venue directly or visit their website www.newcastle-academy.co.uk.

Kaitlin Sullivan

FALL INTO THE CUMBERLAND ARMS

THE TREK out over Byker Bridge in the cold Newcastle winter belies the warmth of The Cumberland Arms, which is an absolute gem of a pub situated on the side of the Ouseburn Valley.

On approach it looks slightly dodgy, complete with folkies and old men in woolly jumpers, but don't be fooled - it's welcoming to students and serves a darn good pint (according to my male friends) with a series of guest ales and friendly bar staff. If it's entertainment you're after,

the Cumberland also has a venue upstairs which caters for all tastes from local bands, improv-comedy courtesy of the resident 'Suggestibles' and stand-up hilarity to heavily politicised electro-reggae (believe me, I've seen it) - all in friendly surroundings. Be warned: the staircase by the loos is a little smelly, and floorboards are a bit rickety, but that just adds to the charm of the place. Wholly recommended.

Kate Edwards

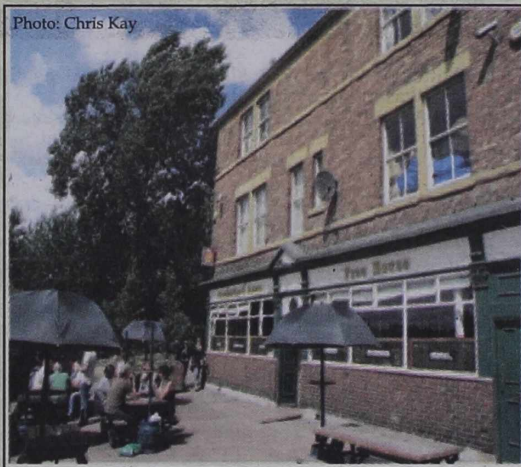


Photo: Chris Kay

PREVIEW

World Headquarters
Wednesday 28th November
Elephunk Raveyard
Plus Pre-WHO Bar Crawl from 7.30pm
DRINKS PROMOTIONS
WOOHOO Double £2.10
Free shot on bar crawl
The Union Players
Mushroom
WHO
Costa's
Saturday's Resident DJ
Downstairs Live Bands
16.20
Soap Impressions
Boss Riley
Tickets: £3 in advance
£4 on the door
On sale 26th-28th November from: Medical School, Porter's Lodge and Union Stall

ELEPHUNK RAVEYARD @WORLD HQ

THE STOPAIDS Society is hosting a raving club night on November 28th at WHO, with pre bar crawl included! The event is part of the run up to "World AIDS Day" on 1st December, and all proceeds go to AIDS-related charities.

All the action kicks off at 7.30pm in the Union. From here the antics will then crawl through numerous bars to the club where there will be an eclectic mix of elephunking entertainment. Downstairs will feature the live bands 16.20, Soap Impressions and Boss Riley, while upstairs will play host to World's Saturday Resident DJ

spinning the much celebrated WHO mash up of genres! Drinks promotions include doubles for £2.10.

Vamp it up with the red dress theme... and remind yourselves you are partying for an extremely worthy cause. Be part of a global campaign while dancing your trunks off!



READER RECOMMENDATION: SHAKE'A'HOLIC



Photos: Catherine Higginson

Just a few of the delicious shake-a-holic flavours:

- ** Quality Street
- ** Galaxy Caramel
- ** Revels
- ** Ferrero Rocher
- ** Marshmallows
- ** Dime Bar
- ** Kinder Bueno
- ** Blueberry Nutrigrain

GREAT FOR... an insatiable sweet tooth

NAME: Hattie Fitzgerald

COURSE: English Lit, Year 3

WHERE: 88 Clayton street, opposite the Carling Academy, www.shakeaholic.com.

WHY: If Willy Wonka made milkshake shops then they wouldn't be dissimilar to Shake'a'holic. Where else could you have anything from a tic tac shake with apple crumble toppings or hot kinderbuono shake? This candy coloured bar is on Clayton Road between the Gate and Central Station and has over 125 flavours to choose from, with another 50 soon to be added. They have every thing from the classics: Oreos, Maltesers and Toblerone, as well as Quality Street, strawberry laces and sherbert fountain flavour, for an extra 40p you can add toppings like strawberry millions, love hearts, midget gems or for the more adventurous among you chilli powder. And if you want to seem more manly, you can add muscle building protein and make your very own jammy dodger protein shake.

For a medium shake it's a bargain £2.30 and its sure to satisfy even the sweetest of teeth, on the cold toon mornings why settle for a normal hot chocolate or coffee when you could have a heated galaxy caramel shake with a love heart topping?

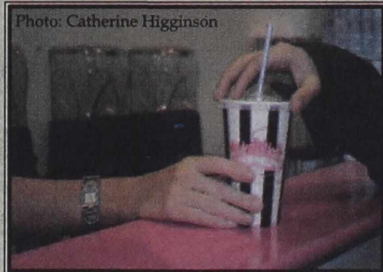
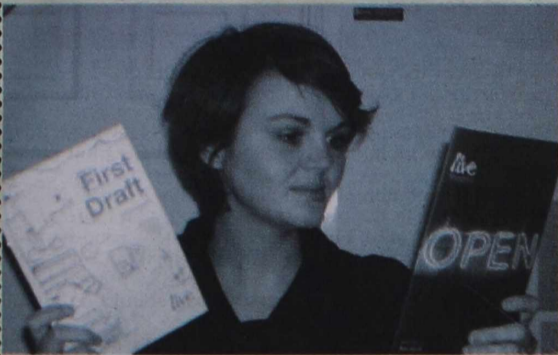


Photo: Catherine Higginson

Top Tip - It's all about the chocolate pop tart shake with a smartie topping!

ARTS

LIVE AND KICKING



THE OTHER WEEK Emily Ents and I thought we would have a relaxing evening and go to the theatre.

We had been wanting to go to the Live Theatre down on the quayside so decided to go to see *First Draft*, not really looking at what it was about.

First Draft turned out to be a collection of six short sketches, written by 9-10 year olds from Welbeck Primary School as part of a new writing project.

Whilst we waited at the bar beforehand it began to dawn on us that booking in for a show without checking it out first was probably a bit of a mistake.

However, we were to be surprised. Despite these plays being written by children not even out of primary school, the entire eclectic audience of children to proud grandparents were kept entertained.

These scripts were witty and imaginative, and the professional actors did a fantastic job.

There were moments when the scripts may have dragged out a little, in that sort of childish rhetoric of 'And then I did this and then I did that and then...', but the actors paused and gesticulated with skill that kept the flow of the plays going.

The reason Emily and I had been so keen to make a trip to the Live Theatre was because it only just reopened in September.

After five years of planning and two years of building work, the theatre has been transformed into an inspiring mix of the old and the new.

The new writing theatre is an exciting example of 21st Century design using four grade one and two listed buildings - three warehouses and an almshouse.

The theatre has managed to keep its original character by leaving all its old features, and building sparsely around it, to create very open and light spaces throughout the complex, epitomised in the glass tower at the centre of the building which brings the complex of warehouses and almshouse together, and gives a bloody good view, oh and there is a great bar on the ground floor.

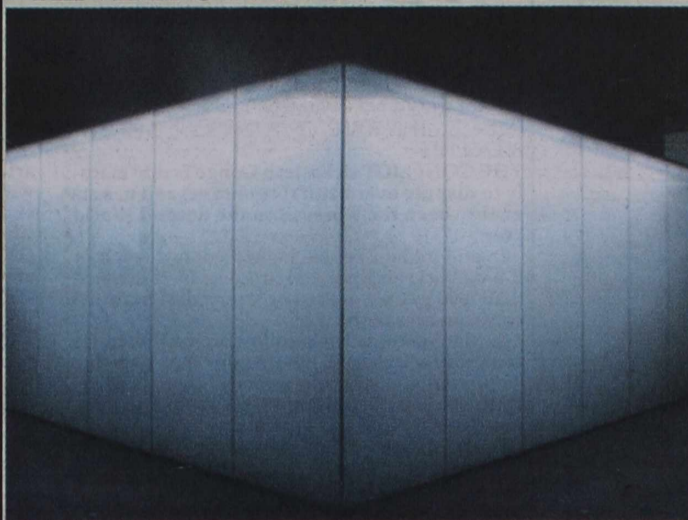
The actual theatre space is adaptable, personal and informal. All seats give a good view and I must put in that the chairs are probably the comfiest chairs I have ever sat in at the theatre (how sad that I noticed...).

In all, I was thoroughly impressed with the Live Theatre, and will definitely make the trip again to see their next show, *Motherhood*, which is on from 29th November - 8th December...take a look in Pulp next week for a preview.

Holly Willats, Arts Editor.

www.live.org.uk

IS IT ART? ANTHONY GORMLEY - BLIND LIGHT 2007



Anthony Gormley's *Blind Light* was a large iron glass box filled with vapour and almost blinding light exhibited at The Hayward gallery in London over the summer.

From the outside you could see people vanish completely and sometimes barely distinguishable shadows as they approached the walls.

Within the installation visitors experienced a disorientating effect, as visibility was

reduced to as little as two feet.

The artist says the purpose of *Blind Light* is to "undermine" the usual qualities we associate with architecture; protection from the weather, security and a sense of familiarity and to turn it inside out.

Finally, and perhaps what appeals (or not) to the visitors is the fact that they are "literally the subject of the work"

Jennifer Neale

>> "Yes. It challenges your own thoughts about art and what the artist was thinking about when they came up with the concept of the piece" *Alex, 1st Year, Modern Languages*

>> "Yes, cos it's cool. That's art" *Ollie, 2nd Year, Geography*

>> "Not really, it doesn't take much skill to create it" *Abby, 1st Year, Environmental Science*

>> "Yes. I think it's a creative outlet which makes people question what art is and whether a piece is actually art" *Ben, 1st Year, English Lit.*

>> "Yes. It is an object in space, positioned in a gallery, exhibited for the public. Juxtaposing in a situation it is not usually in, so creates the question as to what is art." *Ollie, 2nd Year, Fine Arts.*



OPEN ALL HOURS (WELL, NOT ALL HOURS!)



Photo: Chris Kay



Photo: Chris Kay

LOVERS ARE LIKE DETECTIVES

THE SERIES of line drawings that Emily Russell and Kristian De La Riva have put together are simple and playful but the concepts that underlie them are far more complex.

I came away from the exhibition puzzling over ideas such as would "some people never have fallen in love if they had never heard of love" and "what would we be doing together if we were not getting to know each other?"

Indeed the fundamental question that the line drawings are asking us is that are we lovers playing detectives or detectives playing at being lovers?

We see couples who appear to be embracing, but are they really trying to escape each other?

The drawings are fascinating in a touching yet tormented way.

Russell and De La Riva, who are artistic and romantic partners, are attempting to portray

the happiness but also the heart ache that we go through as lovers and they do this in a thought provoking manner.

The exhibition provides both still and moving images, and some pieces being dark while others are more entertaining.

Admittedly this exhibition will not be for everyone as the art itself is not visually spectacular.

However, anyone who visits this little gallery will find themselves questioning their role as a lover and philosophizing about romance in a unique way.

Amelia Bingham.

Emily Russell & Kristian De La Riva, *Lovers are Like Detectives* is on now at the Globe Gallery.

GLOBE CITY, 4th Floor, Curtis Mayfield House, Carlisle Square, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 6UQ.

info@globegallery.org

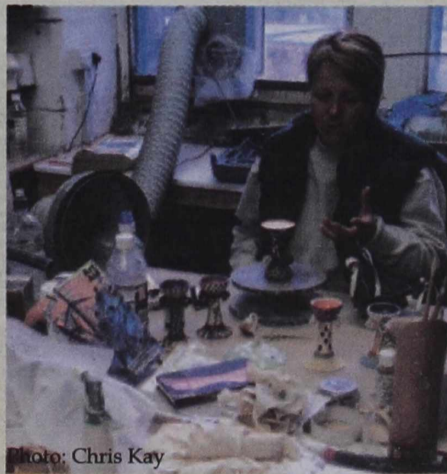


Photo: Chris Kay

This weekend studios in and around Ouseburn will be opening their doors to the public.

Spread over seven spaces: Mushroom Works; Brown Paper Studios; 36 Lime Street; Northern Print; Cobalt, The Art Works Galleries and The Biscuit Factory Studios, the eclectic mix of artworks are open to spectatorship and purchase.

A free 'hop on-hop off' bus service will be operating throughout the weekend from 10-5pm to ferry guests between each venue.

A great chance to experience new local art in its exclusive setting.

Miriam Davies.

The Ouseburn Open Studios is on this weekend, 24th-25th November.

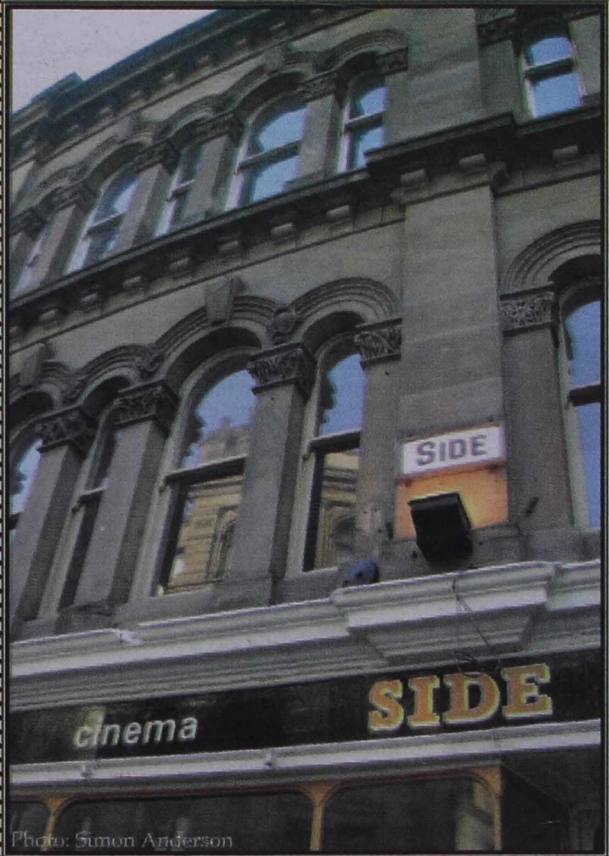


Photo: Simon Anderson

SIDE GALLERY

SINCE OPENING in 1977, the Side gallery, nicely positioned on the Quayside, has been committed to showcasing documentary photography, which is a photographer's attempt to create truthful and objective photography.

Documentary photographers usually strive to capture a natural moment that is not posed, as they believe there is an innate power in the un-guarded moment.

Side Gallery aims to depict working class culture and marginalised communities, particularly in the North East of England.

The gallery has continued to grow in success, with cinema and music events currently taking place.

In addition to this the gallery has just introduced free weekend cinema screenings. This ethic of art being available to all is exactly what the lately deceased founder member Murray Martin would have wanted.

CONGO: THE RAPE OF A NATION - MARCUS BLEASDALE

THE CONFLICT in Eastern Congo is due mainly to dispute over natural resources, and has arguably been the worst since the Second World War.

Over 4 million people have died as a result of the conflict, and the UN are deeply concerned that 1000 people are dying every day from the consequences of the war.

In Marcus Bleasdale's collection, he illustrates some of the cases of inhumanity that have become common sights in Eastern Congo, such as child soldiers, infant mortality, rape, and poverty.

The exhibition can be found at Side Gallery from now until 19th January 2008.

Joanna Sweeney

The Side Gallery, 5 & 9 Side, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3JE, England.

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR...



NORTHERN STAGE PRESENTS - A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Yes it's another Dickens novel adapted for stage! However, this time there is no miserable orphan as the hero of the plot! Hurrayyy!

Instead, it is the adaptation of the timeless tale of a lesson in the art of charity, taught to the original humbug. I won't bore you with the details of the plot, but if you appreciate a good happy ending then you will enjoy it. Typically for Northern Stage, A Christmas Carol is another epic production with 10 professional actors playing 29 parts between them, so there should be some amusing costume changes.

To be perfectly honest, it's probably not going to be as funny as the Muppet Christmas carol... but if your looking for a way to get into the Christmas spirit then Northern Stage is the place worth popping along too!

Gabrielle Barrett

24 December 2007 - 12 January 2008

10am, 2pm & 7pm (see website for daily performance times)

Stage 1

Students/Under 25s £8

Northern Stage - 0191 230 5151

www.northernstage.co.uk

PULP'S DIARY THIS WEEK:

- >> The Side Gallery: *Congo: The Rape of a Nation*, ends 19th January.
- >> Live Theatre: *Motherland*, 29th November - 8th December.
- >> The Round Theatre: *Much Ado About Nothing*, 28th November - 1st December.
- >> Journal Tyne Theatre: *The Commitments*, 29th November.
- >> Northern Stage: *Webster's Pictionary*, 27th November.
- >> Lit & Phil Society: *Talk - Making Literature for Children*, 28th November 6pm.

LITERARY QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Be the change you want to see in the world."
- Mahatma Gandhi.
- Thanks to Nikunj Vyas this week for the quote!

GINGER SNAP

MOLLY BRETTON graduated last year from Fine Art at Newcastle University. Her photographs are currently displayed at the Biscuit Factory.

Pulp: How do you feel about your work being shown for the first time outside of university?

Molly Bretton: It's a strange feeling to re-exhibit the same work but in a different place.

When I selected the works and hung them for the first time in my final degree show I was very familiar with the space and had the opportunity to hang them in a way that was complimentary to their overall effect.

To exhibit in a space surrounded by many other photographers, in a very different space pushes you to consider what things are most important for the works and what things you are willing to be more flexible about.

As someone who's considering becoming a curator it was a very interesting experience for me.

Pulp: What are the intentions behind your work? - do you consider your work to have a theme?

Molly: My practice is born out of looking closely at the overlooked, the mundane, the discrete and the not usually noticed nuances of our domestic surroundings.

A change of lighting can re-animate a recently stoic room and if you indulge the act of watching you begin to see and notice characters and relationships between the most ordinary and inanimate objects.

Pulp: What techniques do you use in your work?

Molly: I was working with a medium format camera and the prints are cotton rag inkjet prints.

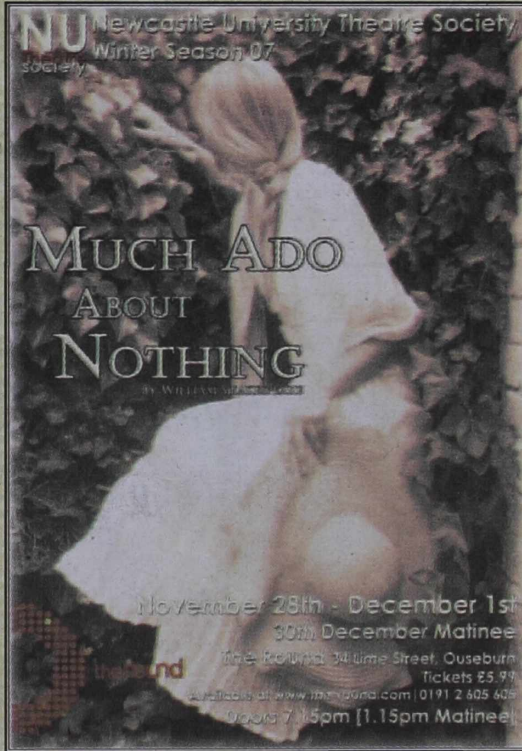
Pulp: I know you are now working with biennial in Liverpool; will you continue with photography and would you like to continue exhibiting in the future?

In all honesty I haven't taken a single photograph since the degree show.

I often have these fallow periods of unproductivity in my practical work and see them as necessary time to reflect and to start seeing things again.

Having moved recently to Liverpool to work for the Biennial I've had a lot of food for thought... and I haven't been able to give it the time and energy it warrants.

However, I am starting to feel the itch to pick up my camera again so maybe there'll be some new stuff on the way soon.



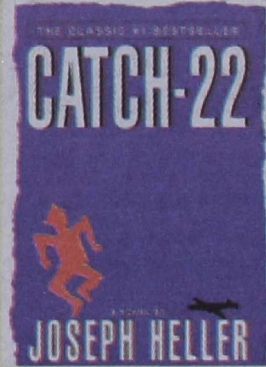
IT'S A CATCH 22

VERY FEW NOVELS can be referred to as classics and still surprise you. As soon as a book achieves that status it's doomed to over analysis and gets stuck on the list of literature your parents say they really enjoyed reading when they were your age. Nothing kills a book better.

However, Joseph Heller's *Catch 22* is worth reading because it is funny and razor sharp: two things that are incredibly hard to find in any book, let alone one written sixty years ago.

It reads like a student's CV, not a GCSE English text, focusing someone who's chiefly interested in doing as little work as possible whilst getting well paid and laid.

Set as far apart as possible from the patriotic, all-for-one attitudes that mar most war literature, *Catch 22* focuses on the smallest details of everyday



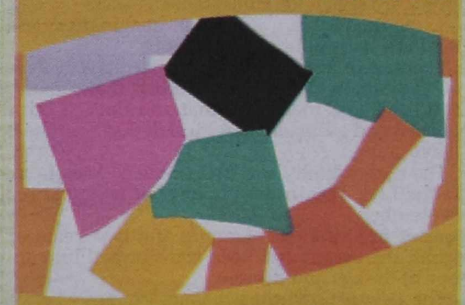
life, and in doing so creates a timeless social commentary.

Expansive yet succinct, the inimitable style of narrative means that one page can teach you more about yourself than an entire book.

You would think explaining human nature is not a topic best approached with light-hearted wit, but Joseph Heller has done a better job than most.

Daniel Hesse.

exhibition



Matisse Drawing with Scissors Saturday 1 December - Sunday 6 January 2008

THE EXHIBITION, which is on tour from the Hayward Gallery in London, features a collection of 35 lithographic cut-outs including iconic pictures *The Snail* and *The Blue Nudes*.

These paintings were made in the last four years of Matisse's life, when he was confined to bed.

The prints are taken from a special double issue of *Verve*, a review of art and literature published before in 1958.

Matisse is renowned for the bold and vivid colours in his paintings, a practice which earned him and his contemporaries the nickname 'wild beasts', because of their unconventional use of colour.

Something to go and see if you are a Matisse fanatic, or want to see what all the fuss is about.

Sophie Robson

Matisse - Drawing with Scissors runs at the Durham Light Infantry Museum and Durham Art Gallery from December 1st.

The Snow Ball

A night of Yuletide magic and wonder

Wednesday 5th December

Marriot Hotel, Gosforth

6.30 for 7.00 till 1.30

Three Course Meal
Wine and Bucks Fizz

Jazz Orchestra

Magicians and Prize Raffle


Dancing until the twilight hours

Ladies and Gents in formal attire


Includes free ice skating during

the day at Centre for Life

Tickets 36.00 from Union Reception

BURTON 



 ERNST & YOUNG

Quality In Everything We Do

You Beauty

Features gives itself a treat and tries out two of Newcastle's most popular beauty salons

Serenity in the City



SITUATED on the fashionable Osborne Road, Serenity in the City oozes charming sophistication whilst maintaining a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. As end of term deadlines loom, treating yourself to a pampering here will relax you from the moment you sink yourself into the sofas and glossy magazines of the Buddha lounge waiting room.

Treatments on offer range from manicures and waxing to Indian head massages and reflexology. For men who appreciate a little grooming, wet shaves and sports massages are also available.

I tried out one of the most popular treatments, the California Spray Tan. My slight apprehension at turning that ubiquitous shade of orange so popular with certain Newcastle ladies was quickly abated by the immaculate but subtly made-up staff in Serenity, and the fact I was able to choose how dark I wished the tan to be. The final result was an even golden tan which would suit even very pale skins.

The treatment itself was quick but not rushed, and performed by a friendly, professional woman who explained what it would involve, and afterwards how best to maintain my new glow. The whole process was far more enjoyable than faffing around with a bottle of fake-tan in your bathroom, and gave more natural and longer lasting results.

Perhaps the best selling point of Serenity is the fact it offers great deals once a week on Student Tuesday. All treatments are 15% off when you show your student card, with some treatments every month having an even bigger discount - at present spray tans are £12.50 instead of the full price of £25.

If you want to treat yourself but your loan is running dry, drop some heavy hints for an early Christmas present and try and bag yourself a gift voucher - prices start at £20. Call 0191 281 9222 to book.

SOPHIE ROBINSON



EMILY HAMPTON

WITH winter now upon us and the Christmas parties looming, I think we all deserve a pampering session. The Beauty Lounge is in a convenient location, right next to the Robinson Library, and offers high quality beauty treatments with extremely well trained therapists to provide you with a professional and personalised service.

I was treated to the replenishing manicure which included nail shaping, cuticle work, exfoliation, a hand and arm massage and a polish with the quality OPI products.

I also had an underarm and a Brazilian wax, and was really impressed by the exceedingly high standards. Not only was I told exactly what would be done, but I was also asked a series of questions about previous treatments and health. I was provided with a pre-cleansing lotion as well as a soothing lotion applied afterwards to ensure that my skin was free from any bacteria and was not aggravated afterwards.

The salon also has a room with a calming ambiance, dedicated for massage treatments for when you deserve to relax, unwind and de-stress as well as its own spray tanning room for when you need that natural healthy bronzed look without the notorious streaking, orange effect or UV skin damage!

Pampering makes a perfect gift, and the gift vouchers available are ideal to give to those special friends or partners for Christmas.

Sally French, the owner of The Beauty Lounge, is constantly making fantastic offers for students too! A discount of up to 20% is available as well as the fabulous monthly packages. An example of an offer this Christmas is a manicure, pedicure and St Tropez full polish and spray tan costing only £43.

Book an appointment in time for your next Christmas event on 0191 230 2269.

The Beauty Lounge

The Beauty Lounge
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Offer ends 31st January



Baby, it's cold outside

ASHLEY RIDSDALE offers tips on how to survive the Toondra this winter

IT'S THAT time again. The time when people's moods seem to drop along with the temperature (especially it seems if you were a summer baby). When you wake up in the morning in a cold student house and find the heating isn't on. Maybe this is because you can't actually afford to operate the precious heat emit device, or worse still because it has been cut off due to non-existent bill payments, (isn't it amazing what can get lost at the bottom of the stairs in that big pile of 'junk mail').

We all know the dreaded situation where the very prospect of even sticking one toe out from under your duvet seems a daunting terror to even consider. You shiver your way to the bathroom where you reluctantly strip and gingerly step onto the cold shower floor. Then comes the torture of stepping out into the cold air, with wet skin, shivering from top to toe whilst you attempt to dry and find

something clean to wear. Sound familiar? Yes it's winter again! It's bitterly cold in the morning, there's ice on the roads at night and it gets darker as early as five. But fear not, it isn't all doom and gloom! There are some very simple ways to survive the Northern cold, particularly for those Southerners amongst you who have never had to endure the harsh cold that the North East can bring.

>> Firstly, invest in a coat...this sounds painfully obvious, yet the amount of people I pass who are pitifully clutching cardigans or thin jackets to themselves in an effort to retain that little extra warmth is actually funny. If the coat idea seems unappealing, then at least stock up on layers. Big knits are popular at the minute, as are v-neck jumpers. They can be teamed with a jacket to help towards a lack in insulation.

>> Another winter essential is the lov-

able scarf; the height of fashion in the winter months! You can find them all over, and there are so many different styles and patterns that you're spoilt for choice! Girls, why not treat yourself to one of the beautiful scarves from the stall which is outside the union once or twice a week?

>> Ever considered gloves? They save from frozen fingers and dry cracked skin. Fingerless gloves are fantastic, as they don't hinder you in day to day business; such as when the pesky ticket guys board your metro.

>> Footless tights should definitely be replaced this winter with traditional tights. Don't risk bare legs ladies, it's going to be painful.

>> Have you noticed how boots are really in this season, particularly the UGG boot? However, if you're not a fan of the lumpy shape (as I admit I am not) there are many other different shapes, styles and colours to consider. Converse are fine, until it

rains or snows or you are stood or sat in the cold for ages, and suddenly it feels like you forgot to actually put on shoes.

>> If you're still feeling the cold, get a warm drink from somewhere. Not only will the heat of the cup warm your hands, but the actual drink will help out too.

>> For those unknowingly southerners, if you haven't already cottoned on, it is a brilliant idea to carry an umbrella around with you. Northern weather has a reputation for being very unpredictable.

>> Jumping on the spot is another marvellous way of keeping warm, especially if awaiting a bus or metro. True you may look a little silly, but at least you'll be warm. If you're really feeling ambitious, try jumping jacks, or as my friend and I (who granted were a little tipsy at the time) tried, dance around in circles! If you're not afraid of looking a little ridiculous,

then you're sorted.

>> Make sure you reserve some of that dwindling student loan to pay heating bills. It really makes a difference, but do remember to pay the bills when they arrive!

>> Something that really astounds me in Newcastle is the clothing (or lack of) which girls wear on a night out. People don't seem to realize just how dangerous it is to go out clubbing without at least a jacket. There have been cases where people have been known to lose friends on nights out and unable to get home, have frozen to death in the winter cold. A grim topic I realize but a warning which should be heeded.

Make the most of the winter, and don't moan about it until you've tried to solve the mystery of the great Northern freeze yourself and quit been a 'Southern Fairy'!

TRAVEL STA TRAVEL

9 St Mary's Place, Newcastle, NE1 7PG
0191 233 2111
newcastle@statravel.co.uk
www.statravel.co.uk

Let's Get Rally to Rumble



ED MANSEL LEWIS ventures 9,000 challenging miles from London to Mongolia

THE MONGOL RALLY is an annual charity drive from Hyde Park in London to Ulaan Baatar, the capital of Mongolia. The terrain varies from untouched deserts to rubble mountain passes. The rules for the event are quite simple really: your car must be 1 litre or under, and you have to raise a minimum of £1,000 for charity.

Ollie Tunnicliffe and I were the Two Loose Screws, driving a 1991 Renault 5. We were raising money for Send a Cow, a brilliant charity that sends wildlife and financial aid to widowed African farmers and community farms linked to orphanages.

The rally started from Hyde Park corner, with 200 cars rolled up for the beginning of the event. And as the start drew near we pocketed our newly decorated passports and cranked up the tunes for the off. The horn sounded, and so began the most incredible adventure of our lives to date. One of endless flat tyres, elusive border posts, dodgy head gaskets and horse meat.

The first leg was London to Prague, in 24 hours - a mere 900 miles. We passed a few other Rally cars as we drove through the night, across France, and Belgium until 2.00am when we had to stop in Germany for a quick sleep in a layby. Up early next morning we were keen to put some more miles under our belt. Finally as we approached Prague, spirits were high in anticipation of the nights festivities.

Out of the 200 cars that had started the following day only about half had made it to Prague. And so, over a pint and a cheeky private dance, the various convoys were formed. Some were headed straight across to Russia, others were going on to Moldova on the Black sea. But our convoy was headed south, to Turkey then into the 'Stans from Georgia.

Leaving Prague heading south, our first port of call was Budapest, where we enjoyed a day in the baths; sweating off the driving hours in the steam room and then taking an ice cold dip in the plunge pool. Then on to a local working mans club where we were soon downing caramelised vodka rum shots with communist iron mungers, as you do.

With visa deadlines to keep to we had to press on, heading south east through Romania and Bulgaria, and then on into Turkey to Istanbul. Here we stayed two nights enjoying the beautiful culture and the delicious kebabs. But in a predominantly Muslim city it was hard to get much rest; the 5am call to prayer is not the most agreeable wake up call.

So it was with a mixture of regret and relief that we made our way north to the Black Sea before climbing through central Turkey as we neared the mountain pass to Georgia. The road was in the early evenings we sped around corners catching glints of the sunset in our mirrors.

We were quite hesitant about going through Georgia - according to a UN website there were some areas near the Armenian border, which are very hostile. But no sooner had we crossed the border than we discovered a night club bang on the coast. All worries were drained as we ran down the beach to hit the dance floor. I'm unsure of the exact goings on of that particular evening. I can only tell you that I woke up with a mohawk...

Pushing on towards Azerbaijan the going was good. But confidence levels began to drop as what had been a dual carriage way now turned into a single lane road, and when the tarmac turned to rubble we knew quite

well that something was wrong. And finally when we passed a sign that read 'Armanian border 15km' we were very worried indeed. U turns all round, we had to ask for directions. But with images of that website in the front of my mind I was buggered if I was going to do the asking. So it was Chris from Team Perseverance that bit the biscuit.

The establishment of choice was a free house just off the border road. Chris made his way gingerly up to the entrance and went inside. We were all watching from our cars as the minutes ticked by. Until all of a sudden he appeared again, clutching a glass of homemade something or other, giggling furiously.

It wasn't until 3am that we finally arrived at the border. We had driven solidly for 17 hours, and were exhausted. The only thing we wanted was to get into Azerbaijan and sleep it off. But as with everything in the Mongol Rally things took a slightly different turn. It turned out that we had left our V5 document at home; the quite important piece of paper that proves the car you are driving belongs to you. So we were denied entry until we could produce one. We photocopied our MOT certificate and a Barclays health insurance document, stapled them together and forged our way into the country.

Because we had lost time in Georgia, it was too late to use our Turkmenistan visas so we were going to have to drive through the Kazakhstan desert instead. This meant a three day wait in Baku for the next ferry across the Caspian Sea.

When the ferry finally came we were in for another shock. The bribe to get on the ferry was massive. In total to travel from Baku to Aktau, it cost \$320. But as we began to leave Azerbaijan behind us and with the dusty plains of Kazakhstan only a day away we just pulled out our sleeping bags and kipped on the top deck under the stars.

Kazakhstan is a barren country - there is nothing green growing outside the cities and to make matters worse we had no maps. But with the sun hovering over the driver side window we consoled ourselves that at least we were headed East. It was

really very hot. We wouldn't buy water unless it came as a block of ice because otherwise it would boil within the hour.

Having left Kazakhstan we were now driving through the heart of the Uzbeki desert. It was 50 degrees outside and the car, with only the low octane fuel to run on, was beginning to sound a little horse. The horizon was flat against the sky in all directions. And then the worst thing possible happened, the car began to lose power, and quite unexpectedly stalled in fifth gear with steam bellowing from under the bonnet. Despite our constant pleading the old girl just wouldn't start again so we had to wait until we could get towed to the nearest town, a good 150km away.

Finally a car in our convoy turned back for us and towed us to Kungrad, a town at the bottom of the Aral Sea. We waited here for two nights whilst a mechanic improvised a new head gasket for us, made from what looked like marshmallows.

By now we were about a week behind schedule and our Uzbek visa was fast running out. So we did a little bit of maths and worked out that to get to the border on time we would need to do 300 miles a day. But as we stopped off to re-fuel we had another shock. As it was a weekend all the banks were shut so we had to swap a digital camera for 70 litres of fuel.

It wasn't until the date our visas expired that we started the final stretch to the border. As the sun set we were beginning to get worried. With the border post closing at 9pm we had to get there as soon as possible. Arriving at quarter to nine, we sprinted into the customs house brandishing our passports and our forged V5, whilst others shrunk behind a hut for a quick pee.

Just as the sergeant was about to let us leave the country a policeman came marching up. He dragged us round to the back of the hut and pointed at a puddle, staining the wall of the border post. Apparently we weren't leaving after all. But hours of sweet talking later we managed to persuade him to allow the cars that hadn't peed on the wall to pass. He

reached for a book of useful phrases to use whilst dealing with stupid Brit tourists and read out the words 'fuck off'.

So it was with a slight smile on our face that we crossed through into no-mans land a couple of hours later, and you can imagine how our smiles grew when we learned that Paul, who had caused all the hassle, is now banned from Uzbekistan for the rest of his life.

Arriving in Kyrgyzstan was a relief to us all but although with every corner came more and more incredible landscapes we couldn't help worrying for our car. The engine died again. There was no chance of repair this time, we just didn't have the money. So it was with an all too fond farewell that we kissed the old girl goodbye and left for the Russian border with Team Perseverance.

The next four days were incredibly uncomfortable. We were driving round the clock in two hour shifts, sleeping whenever we could. But with road conditions being so poor sleep came and went with the pot holes.

The 'Russian leg' was a total of 3,000km, and we did it in about 80 hours. They were hard days, we passed bodies lying dead from car accidents on the sides of the road. We were eating what I had to assure myself wasn't horse, and we were constantly dehydrated. At one point during my shift I was so tired that I started to hallucinate and lost control of the car. Luckily Ollie was quick as a flash to wake me and we fish-tailed back across the road.

But we soon reached the border and tossed the memories of Russia to the back of my heads as the glistening ink of the visa stamp wetted the pages of our Mongolian visas. It is such a beautiful country. We were driving through wide open valleys dotted with Yurts and farmers on horseback. And then all of a sudden the countryside melted away and the city of Ulaan Batar came into view. We had been on the road for 32 days, driven 9,000 miles across two continents, said please and thank you in about 12 different languages and now we were finally here.

The Mongol Rally 2007 raised just under £500,000 for charity.

Paul is now banned from Uzbekistan for the rest of his life

He reached for a book of useful phrases to use whilst dealing with stupid Brit tourists and read out the words

I was so tired that I started to hallucinate and lost control of the car



Slap my shrimp & Tickle my kippers! WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO AUSTRALIA

ASK AN OFFICER

Q: I've recently been thinking that I should try and do some extra-curricular stuff outside my degree to build up my CV and add to my skills. Is there anything in the Union that I can get involved with that would look good on my CV?

A: There's plenty you can be involved with in the Union which will look good on your CV! It's probably a good idea to start by playing to your strengths and interests.

If you're in a club or society start thinking about whether you might want to help run it next year, it's an incredibly rewarding thing to do and can be a gateway to other things too. If you aren't in one yet there are currently over 100 societies and 60 sports clubs to choose from, or you could always start your own if nothing there appeals to you!

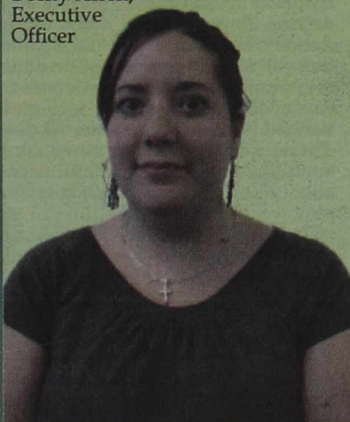
If clubs and societies aren't your thing you might be interested in media instead. We have a really successful media element here, with our award winning student newspaper The Courier that you're reading right now, Newcastle Student Radio and NUTV as the three main media outlets. This could be a really good way into various careers - journalism, TV, radio, publishing and PR to name but a few. Why not have a go at doing a slot on NSR, or look into doing some writing for this paper?

Or maybe you're the altruistic type and fancy doing some volunteering? SCAN on the second floor have loads of opportunities to build your CV in this way, and also help some people out along the way! You could even get academic credit for volunteering by doing the Volunteer Module.

If student politics is more your area you could really impress those potential employers by getting involved in Union Democracy. The main decision-making body, Union Council, meets once a month to discuss and debate issues that affect our students. You could be on council to represent your academic school or a minority group, or an area of interest such as the environment or campaigning against top-up fees. Getting onto council is really easy, for example to represent your school you just need 12 signatures from people in your department. Email chair.union@ncl.ac.uk for more information.

If any of the above sounds interesting email me at exec.union@ncl.ac.uk to find out more. It's never too late to add to your degree!

Becky Allen, Executive Officer



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: David Barron
Year of Graduation: 1990
University Subject: Zoology
Job Title: Scenes of Crime Officer, Scientific Support/C.S.I.
Company: Cambridgeshire Constabulary

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

School, poor A-levels, motorcycle accident. Unemployment, Home Office Forensic Science Service, day/night classes Cambridge College of Arts & Technology, sabbatical to go to University of Newcastle upon Tyne, lots of fun and hard work, bereavement, not so much fun and still hard work, graduated, back to HOFSS which went to 'Agency status' (Forensic Science Service), left F.S.S. and joined Scenes of Crime Department in Cambridgeshire, never looked back.

Describe a typical day in your job:

Early shift - 07:00 unlock doors to office, deactivate alarm, switch computer terminal on, leave it booting up whilst put kettle on. Log into computer system, make a cup of tea, check to see what has happened overnight in the city in case there are scenes that are urgent with officers (standing in the cold and rain) preserving them (with crime scene and 'police do not cross tape'), check the SOCO page for jobs, allocate scene visits to myself and my colleagues who will be coming on duty later in the day.

Check the incoming calls on the 'live queue' on the computer terminal to see if any urgent jobs coming in through the Control Room in case they have priority. Check my emails to make sure I do not have any urgent statements to write for court. Take camera and personal equipment cases out to van, check van, book on duty on pocket radio.

Visit scenes. Scenes can vary from burglaries of both dwellings and businesses, stolen and recovered motor vehicles, sexual offence scenes, arson, murder and anything else that the Constabulary require Scientific Support, we also carry cameras which can be used to record injuries and criminal damage, particularly where the visual evidence will be lost over time before the case is presented at court. Some time during the day stop for lunch.

During an average day I can meet several complainants at multiple crime scenes, have a nice chat whilst examining the scene, have a cup of tea (quite often at every scene I attend), return to the office and have more tea, collate all my evidence for submission to the Fingerprint and Forensic Departments, scan footwear marks onto our computer system (if

I have time), chat with my colleagues to see if any crime series patterns are developing, answer questions from police officers who visit the office, or phone in. Assist senior officers with advice on ongoing serious crime investigations. Mentor other colleagues who are completing diplomas etc.

What did you wish you'd known when you first left university?:
 That keeping fit is easier if you keep it up from when you are young.

What makes you employable?:
 Experience, qualifications, ongoing training and job development, sunny disposition, friendly attitude, obvious desire to help others.

Best thing about your job:
 Every day is an adventure, one never knows what is going to happen. there has NEVER been a dull day.

Worst thing about your job:
 In my opinion (20 years plus in the Criminal Justice System). There is more to crime prevention and detection than catching criminals day in and day out. Although it is challenging, the underlying causes of crime are not being approached by the governments (any of them in my opinion) there appears to be no desire to really help criminals to stop committing crimes and no real assistance for victims of crime.

Governments are more interested in proving they are fighting crime with 'ticky boxes and statistics' than genuinely attempting to reduce crime and this appears to be becoming more apparent years after year. I therefore feel that when I retire from this job, society will not have become any better. That is frustrating in the extreme.

Why should someone do your job?:
 Challenging, always interesting, meet lots of people (victims and criminals). Good sense of teamwork and 'belonging'. Getting to know what is actually going on in real crime investigation (a bit like being 'behind the scenes' on a 'Touch of Frost', 'Inspector Morse' or 'C.S.I. Peterborough' episode.

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:
 >> a methodical and patient approach
 >> exceptional attention to detail
 >> keen observational skills

>> the ability to record and report information accurately, both orally and in writing
 >> team working skills
 >> the ability to remain calm in unpleasant and distressing situations
 >> normal colour vision
 >> a good level of physical fitness
 >> the ability to use computers and scientific equipment.
 (Source: Learndirect)

Where do I find out more information about this job?

Research this job further at the following sites:
 >> www.learndirect-advice.co.uk
 >> www.lgcareers.com
 >> www.connexions-direct.com
 >> www.forensic.gov.uk

David Barron's profile is also on the Careers Service's Graduate Connections www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/connections - a searchable database of graduates working in a variety of careers and organisations. Not only can you read their detailed profiles, you can also get in touch with them directly.

For more information and other resources to help you call in to the Careers Service - no appointment necessary.

Where can I find vacancy/employer information?

Typical sources of vacancies and employer information include:
 >> Police Service Recruitment www.policecouldyou.co.uk
 >> National Policing Improvement Agency www.npia.police.uk
 >> Ministry of Defence Police Recruiting Department www.modpoliceofficers.co.uk
 >> The Forensic Science Society www.forensic-science-society.org.uk
 >> The Forensic Science Service www.forensic.gov.uk
 >> British Transport Police www.btp.police.uk and www.btprecruitment.com
 >> The official recruitment website for local government LGjobs.com

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

Contact your local police force headquarters for further information on the work of a SOCO and for local experience requirements and training information. Some forces will expect you to have a degree in a science-related subject but if not you would at least need to show that you have scientific skills. Qualifications or experience in photography can also be useful, and may be mandatory for some vacancies. You could have an advantage if you have experience of dealing with the public and working in sensitive situations. You would

also usually need a driving licence for this role.

In some police forces you could start as an Assistant Scenes of Crime Officer (or Volume Crime Scene Examiners), recording, recovering and collecting forensic evidence from crime scenes, such as burglaries and car break-ins, before becoming a SOCO. (Source: Learndirect)

For forensic work it is also worthwhile gaining experience within any laboratory environment. This could include work experience in a local hospital or in a school as a laboratory technician. The Forensic Science Service does occasionally offer placements to students during their sandwich year in their research and development team (usually for undergraduates whose predominant interest is genetics/DNA) - look at the website for details www.forensic.gov.uk

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?

>> Starting salaries for assistant SOCOs/volume crime scene examiners can be between £16,000 and £18,000 a year
 >> SOCOs can earn up to around £25,000 a year
 >> Senior SOCOs can earn from around £26,000 to over £30,000 a year

There are additional London allowances and there may be an additional allowance for working shifts. (Source: Learndirect)

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 -Thurs 10:00 - 5:00, Fri 10:00 - 4:30 or visit our website www.careers.ncl.ac.uk.

To get in contact with Newcastle graduates yourself, visit www.ncl.ac.uk/connections.

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



Last week's Solution pics prove that fisting is becoming as popular as felching. All shall tremble under the might of fistshark.

Davey Wavey is our hero. He loves the minxy winx-ies
 I am very happy with Frannon this week, love you lots and lots guys!

Steve Bruce - no thanks!
 Tony your camera is on its way.
 Looking forward to Christmas, nearly time for deco-

rations.
 Missing: one bra. Last seen in Jesmond one Wednesday. Please return to disgruntled owner. You know who you are!

>> HOW TO COMPLETE JOB APPLICATION FORMS, TODAY (MON 26TH NOV) AT 1-2PM IN THE KING'S ROAD CENTRE



Betsy Knows Best

"Let Betsy sort your life out!"

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

Personal Xmas Delights

Dear Betsy,

With the festive season coming up I decided to surprise my long-term boyfriend by trimming and dyeing my pubes into a Christmas tree. Dutifully I bought the green dye and then set to with some nail scissors and a razor. The only problem is that razors are harder to manage than I initially thought so now, my bush (excuse the pun) looks more

like a shrubbery. Help.

Stubble in Paradise

Dear Stubble,

Whatever persuaded you to choose a Xmas tree? I would have thought a bauble was the obvious choice (barring Santa of course because who wants to go down on that!) I

recently read in one of our esteemed gossip magazines that 37% of men like a hairless approach down there anyway so make like a gardener and mow your lawn. My only worry being that for your boyfriend it will be rather like kissing the head of a small bald man.

Betsy

Culinary Treat

Dear Betsy,

I was cooking tea for me and my flatmates and added some chillis to spice it up. After this I went to the toilet happy in knowledge of a job well done. Suddenly I became aware of this overwhelming burning sensation. I know it was just the chillis but do you think I'm actually damaged?

HHH,

That sounds excruciating. Did you put yoghurt on the offending area? I always find that works a treat when I have a particularly hot curry. Obviously, I'm putting the yoghurt in my mouth, or perhaps on some naan bread, but I'm sure the same principle applies.

Betsy

Hot Hot Heat

Officer Exploits

Dear Betsy,

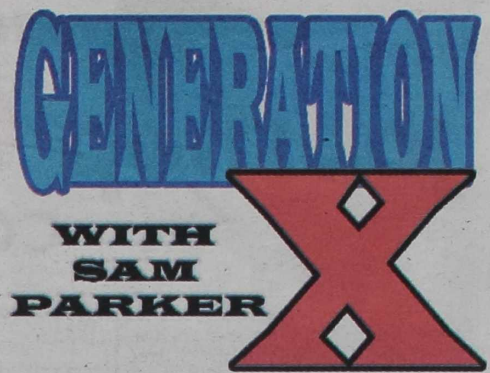
Everyone seems to know at least one army boy at uni and they're usually great for a laugh. There's this one guy, who kind of considers himself the leader of the pack, he certainly has a type of charm however, at a house party of his, me and my girlfriends ransacked his room and found suspicious looking spandex, a half used tube of KY and barely literate diary extracts of the exploits of this maverick and his 'Robin'. What should we make of this?

Love Anxious for the Army

AA,

This is worrying. Our country's fate appears to lie in the hands of gender confused, cross dressing, role playing, sexually frustrated 'little' boys. Clearly this 'Maverick' and 'Robin' are only in it for the uniform and for the chance to play war and blow the shit out of each other.

Betsy



Theory Eight: The Chlamydia Generation

YEAH, I've had it. The test that is, not the infection. Still, it makes no difference, the process you have to go through is the same.

'And how would you like to be called in, Sir?'

'Er, just Sam will do fine.'

'Lovely Sam. Take a seat and we'll be right with you.'

There is an atmosphere in the waiting room of a GUM clinic that is like no other place in earth. Normally in a doctor's waiting room there is an mutual air of sympathy, a vague camaraderie that means people might defer to sit only a seat apart, smile uncommittedly, perhaps even reach forward and pass their over reaching neighbour an ancient copy of More.

In the GUM clinic there is only mutual disgust. Everyone, including you, seems to have translucent smears of grease plastered through their hair, sunken eyes and yellow skin, a weeping, defeated gash for a mouth. You locate the furthest geographic point from everyone else and you shuffle there with your eyes locked down.

'Sam?'

Then you're off, down corridors of chatting nurses, to a sterile room where it occurs to you - like entering a hotel room - how many hundreds of people before you have done what you're about to do in the exact same spot. A blood test, a questionnaire. Details about your sex life you've never said out loud sober before. Then it's on to the table, off with your pants and on with her plastic gloves.

No need to have worried on the way over that your penis might do the unthinkable and rise in docile compliance when the nurse begins her duty. Like a wounded and distant friend it lies shrunken and pathetic, while the good lady whose job must be so strange prods you with a small piece of plastic in a way that you had never even thought of before. Agony. A pitiful yelp. Then you roll up your kecks with all the dignity and charisma of a high-pitched fart and shuffle back out the way you came in.

For each generation there appears to be the need for a unifying act of hedonism that has no logical explanation, which can be easily avoided but is instead grimly pursued. For generations passed this has been smoking, drugs or signing up to a war.

For us it unprotected sexual intercourse, the cock-eyed thrust justified in the name of passion, or intoxicated nihilism, as all the while condoms left shunned in the hidden folds of our wallets or underwear draws cry out for our fumbling hands... we are the Chlamydia generation, and we really have no excuse.



GET TESTED... are we the chlamydia generation?



KITCHEN ESSENTIALS

#8 - A blender

We all know the latest craze are healthy, delicious smoothies but the traditional use for good old blenders (not smoothie makers as companies are attempting to call them to take some more of your money!) is making soups. Courier in the Kitchen has already told you how to make roast tomato and onion soup, but there is so much more you can make with a blender. You can add virtually any vegetable to a stock cube and voila, an instant warming meal for the winter months!

Have a go at our easy recipes which aim to break the 'beans on toast' student stereotype and get you into the kitchen!

Gnocchi

Serves 6

Ingredients:
Olive oil
6 medium potatoes
1 large egg
Salt and pepper
1-2 handfuls plain flour



wet, add some more flour

6. Now divide the dough into three even

pieces

and roll

each into

long tubes

7. Each of the

tubes can now

cut into small

pieces which

resemble the

individual

pieces of gnocchi

8. Place these on a bed of flour on a tray and leave in the fridge for around 15 minutes to set

9. Once set, boil some water in a pan and add a pinch of salt

10. Place the gnocchi pieces in the water and cook for around 4 minutes, or until they float

11. Be careful when draining the gnocchi as if you are not gentle, they will turn into a heap of mashed potato!

12. For a sauce to go with gnocchi, you can make absolutely anything! The one shown in the picture here is chopped tomatoes, crème fraiche, onions, mushrooms and peppers



b e

e s

dividual

>> WORKSHOP: HOW TO FIND A JOB IN THE NORTH EAST, TUE 27TH NOV AT 1-2PM IN THE KING'S ROAD CENTRE



www.corusgroupcareers.com

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

Vacancy 5006 - Brand Replenishment Assistants (Christmas holiday only)

Job description: A field marketing agency is looking for temporary assistants to go into major supermarket stores for an 8-12 day period to ensure Bacardi-Martini brand products are fully stocked on shelf and in the warehouse at all times. The position entails replenishment of stock on the shelves, liaising with grocery staff on stock ordering issues, checking promotional compliance of stock, gaining additional display space, building displays... the list goes on!

You will receive a workload of around 3-5 stores within an approximate 20 mile radius of your home which each need visiting daily. You will fill in the relevant paperwork accurately and send it to the agency on a daily basis. Person specification: You must have a valid EU/UK work permit. You must be based in the same location throughout the time period

of 17 - 24 December (31 December in Scotland), and be able to work all included days, inclusive of the weekend. You must have exclusive use of a car between these days. You will also need to attend a half day briefing session.

Hours of work: 11am - 7pm all days inclusive
Start date: 17 Dec 2007 Contract: Through to 24 Dec 2007 (31 Dec in Scotland)

Rate of pay: £5.60/hour + £0.31 per mile
Closing date: 05/12/2007 Location: All across UK

Apply by: Calling into the Job shop for the application details when we are next open

Vacancy 5089 - Law Representative

Job description: High Fliers is the company behind The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers and they are conducting a survey at Newcastle University specifically for their Law clients. It is the only one of its kind in the country and is highly regarded by employers. They currently require a Law representative from Newcastle University to co-ordinate this survey for them. You must be organised and have a good knowledge of Newcastle University.

Person specification: Your aim will be to get 15 penultimate and

Deloitte

15 final year Law students to go online and answer questionnaires. Each Law student will be paid £10, but you will not get paid until all 30 students have answered the hour long survey. The survey will go online at the beginning of December and stay live for a few weeks.

You, the Law representative, will get paid £90 when all students have completed their surveys.

Hours of work: 2 in total
Start date: ASAP Contract: Casual

Rate of pay: £90 in total (to be paid when 15 penultimate & 15 final year Law students have been online and answered the questionnaire)

Closing date: ASAP Location: On Campus

Apply by: Calling into the Job shop for the application details when we are next open

Vacancy 5090 - TV/Film Extras

Job description: Your role will include standing/sitting, eating & drinking or walking in the background of a film shoot. You may also apply using your out of term address so you can work at locations near to your home address. Person specification: No experience is required, just the ability to take direction and be professional at all times. Note that this is an agent and they will charge a one-off fee of £10.

Hours of work: Casual

Start date: Ongoing
Rate of pay: £72 per day minimum

Closing date: Ongoing
Location: Newcastle areas and across

the UK

Apply by: Calling into the Job shop for the application details when we are next open

Vacancy 368 - Customer Service Advisors x 5 vacancies

Agency Name: NRG
Job description: Working in a busy Collections department, your role will be to follow through on outstanding unpaid bills. Specifically you will liaise with customers via the telephone to negotiate mutually agreed repayment plans and communicate with both internal and external suppliers with the aim of resolving account queries.

It will also involve identifying cross-selling opportunities to achieve personal and departmental targets.

Person specification: An Advisor must be able to organise and prioritise their own workload to meet daily and weekly targets, use their negotiation skills to influence others and be able to communicate effectively with internal and external customers. The suitable candidates will have excellent customer service skills, be target driven and have a resilient personality. It is also essential that the candidates are computer literate.

Hours of work: 16 hours/week: weekdays-evenings
Number of vacancies: 5 Contract: 4-6 months

Rate of pay: £6.55/hour

Closing date: ASAP Location: Newcastle - Cobalt Business Park

Apply by: Collect application details from the vacancy boards outside the Job Shop

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

Boomerang Away

BY JEN SETH

IT'S A TEST of your ingenuity, your courage and your charm; Boomerang 2008 is one of the most fun and adventurous ways to raise money for Newcastle RAG Week. Basically, here's the deal: get as far away from Newcastle as possible (and back!) in fifty hours without spending any money on travel.

There are a couple of opportunities to join in, December 7th -9th and also February 16th - 18th.

Persuasion and negotiation are your main strengths as you try to blag yourself a free taxi to the bus depot, a bus to the train station and beyond; even planes and ferries can be used as long as you don't cheat by actually purchasing a ticket. Packing light is probably a good plan though obviously don't forget to take your morals and common sense with you.

Expecting to ride for free on public transport can sometimes cause you more hassle than it's worth, and returning to our fair city (or country) with nothing to show for your travels but a criminal record and a hefty fine for dodging the ticket inspector isn't really the name of the game. It's surprising how many people are willing and happy to do what they can to help when it's for charity.

The escapade is worthwhile as well as exciting, with the money raised through sponsorship being donated to the many charities that greatly appreciate all the funds they receive and all the effort that goes into RAG Week nationwide.

There are a couple of rules to bear in mind. In order to participate, each team of two must raise a minimum of £100 before embarking on this travelling frolic (...that's just fifty quid each). You can get people to sponsor you per mile depending on how far they think you'll travel or in total just for giving it a whirl.

Also, each team must contain at least one bloke. It makes sense really, ladies, you wouldn't want to find yourself in any quandaries without a big, strong man to fight for your honour. And it's important to sort out the tedious (yet vital) bureaucracy before you set off too; make sure you've both got valid passports, E111 forms and travel insurance etc, as well as the relevant phone numbers and whatnot.

If you sign up you'll get a swanky T-shirt and a handy little package of useful goodies to accompany you on your adventure, which includes a disposable camera in order for you to take some top notch photographs of your trip and of any interesting sights you happened upon while you were away.

There will be fantastic prizes for the Best Photo, the Furthest Travelled and the Most Funds Raised, among others.

So what are you waiting for? Fill in a registration form from the union reception by the 4th December and get blagging your socks off! It's within the rules to start pestering people for free tickets before you set off so waste no time. Maybe wangle a free train ticket to Paris or scrounge complementary flight to New York? See if you can beat last year's record!



MY NEWCASTLE



Have you got a picture that epitomises Newcastle for you? It might be a favourite city view 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. The best photo of the year could be chosen to be the front cover of next year's Alternative Prospectus!

BY GEO HARTSHORN

"This photo was taken at the Pendulum gig at the Academy on 16th November 2007. I had a photo pass and was taking a few crowd shots as the reaction of the crowd often epitomises the whole gig!"

AT UNION COUNCIL THIS MONTH

Union Council oversees the management and control of the general business of the Union Society. Lots of different representatives sit on Council to manage the running of the building and to decide action that the Union could take to represent the students to the University and other outside bodies. Council means that the Union is run by students for students!

At the last Union Council the following motions were passed:

- >> That the Union Society, via the International Students' Officer, will support any Newcastle students who are EU-nationals and are having problems with labour market access
- >> To accept the Union Society policy for working with under 18's
- >> That the Union Society will support an NUS proposal to have an Extraordinary Conference to discuss new governance structures
- >> It was voted to pass a motion of no confidence in the NSR Officer, meaning Council voted for the officer to no longer hold his position

If you disagree with any of these motions that were passed then why not make a difference and get involved! E-mail Michael at chair.union@ncl.ac.uk for more information.

FROM 12-2PM AT THE REDUCED PRICE OF £3 (£4 ON THE DOOR). FREE SOLUTION MERCHANDISE ALSO AVAILABLE!

Jane: On her game



BY CLAIRE GUNN

JANE SIXSMITH is the most capped British female hockey player and probably one of the best-known hockey players ever. She retired from the international stage in 2000 after 13 years at the top, having scored over 100 goals, winning 165 caps for England and 158 for Great Britain. Jane is the only British female hockey player to have appeared at

four Olympic Games, her first being at Seoul in 1988. Her greatest achievement came at the Olympics, where she won the bronze medal in Barcelona. She has also won Commonwealth silver medal, a European Cup gold and was awarded an MBE in 2000. The 40-year-old still plays at a high level for club side Sutton Coldfield as well as coaching and working as one of the Hockey Development Officers for Birmingham City Council. Courier Sport's hockey correspondent **CLAIRE GUNN** caught up with Jane at her club dinner last week.

Why did you choose hockey over any other sport?

Because no one else would have me! No really, I started off playing football with a local boy's team. I always got on well with boys and thoroughly enjoyed it. When I was 12 though, I had to find another sport because girls were no longer allowed to play. At this time I also went to secondary school and started playing hockey and netball. One weekend I had England Netball trials and got in as a reserve, and then the following week I got into the England Hockey squad, so my decision was pretty much made for

me.
How much of a role did your family play in your involvement?

Well my father was always there when I needed him to be, but he wasn't one of those pushy parents shouting on the sideline. I have three older brothers who toughened me up, and I suppose had more of an influence on my involvement.

What is your proudest moment in your international career?

My proudest moment has to be when I won bronze with the Great Britain team in the Barcelona Olympics in 1992.

How hard was your decision to step away from the international stage?

It wasn't that difficult, because I knew that in my own mind I couldn't physically keep going. It wasn't so much the playing, but it was everything that went with it, all the training and the difficulty of keeping the high levels of fitness. So I decided, I suppose, that I would step away rather than be dropped.

What do you miss most about international hockey?

I suppose what I miss most is the competitive side and I always imagine being there when the major tournaments are on. You tend to forget though about everything that goes with it rather than just the excitement of the competition.

Do you think we have any hopes for medals in the 2012 Olympics in London?

I'd like to think so. Certainly the women have qualified for Beijing, which is better than Athens. They are quite a young squad as well, so if they can all stay together and stay injury free then I think they have every chance of winning a medal in 2012.

What sportsperson do you look up to most?

I suppose it was really in the past, but Steve Redgrave. If you just look at the training regime that he had to undertake and then what he achieved, that is inspirational to anybody.

Do you have any tips for budding hockey players?

Enjoyment. I've always said that the day I stop enjoying hockey is the day I retire completely from the sport. If you take away the enjoyment, I would wonder why you are playing and what motivates you.

TOON WATCH

BY JAMES PARKER

Up the Duff

As one of Newcastle's first team contingent returns, another heads towards the treatment room. Damian Duff's seven month layoff finally ended and as he was leaving the physio's table the familiar face of Michael Owen will have been spotted. The Irishman waltzed out with his newly 'unbroken' foot with Owen heading in the other direction after damaging his quadriceps last week against Austria. Owen is back on the sidelines yet again with this latest thigh injury which could rule him out for up to six weeks. News from the Newcastle board is that the club will be receiving compensation from the FA to cover the costs of Owen's latest setback. The striker is said to be heading to Germany again to receive treatment. Would a fit Michael Owen have saved England from crashing out of the Euro 2008 qualifiers? Toon watch thinks he may just well have.

Sack for Mac

Bets are currently being made nationwide as to who the new England manager will be, with Magpies boss Sam Allardyce being linked with the post. Allardyce has been quick to play down rumours though, with Martin O'Neill and former Chelsea manager 'special one' Jose Mourinho being made favourites by bookies. Newcastle legend Alan Shearer is also an outside bet with odds at 12/1 being drawn up. Considering Shearer only has seven games of management experience this would seem a bit risky, although, bearing in mind other countries have readily appointed former players with limited management practice and enjoyed successful campaigns, then England maybe tempted into following in similar fashion. For now though, the guessing game will continue with no official announcement expected to be made until next year. Whoever is finally appointed, one thing's for sure, changes need to be made or else the nations so called golden generation will fail to blossom. Many would argue that it's already too late.

African Exodus

As the January transfer window approaches, Newcastle confessed into being 'forced' into making new signings due to the African Cup of Nations taking at the start of February. The Magpies will lose six players including the club's current top scorer Obafemi Martins. Allardyce and chairman Chris Mort have been quick to reassure supporters that the club won't suffer with a depleted squad which was the unfortunate scenario last year. Mort promised, "We'll be making several signings in January, not mentioning any names, but we will make sure Sam has sufficient resources available to support his squad. We know how important football is to the people of Tyneside and we won't let them down". Hopefully owner Mike Ashley will part with a few pennies and bring in some much needed flair creative style players, which at present, seem to be lacking from the Toon's squad. Rumours over who may be arriving continue to build up, although the Toon's record with signings in the winter transfer window are notably poor, so don't expect too much.

Splash of Success

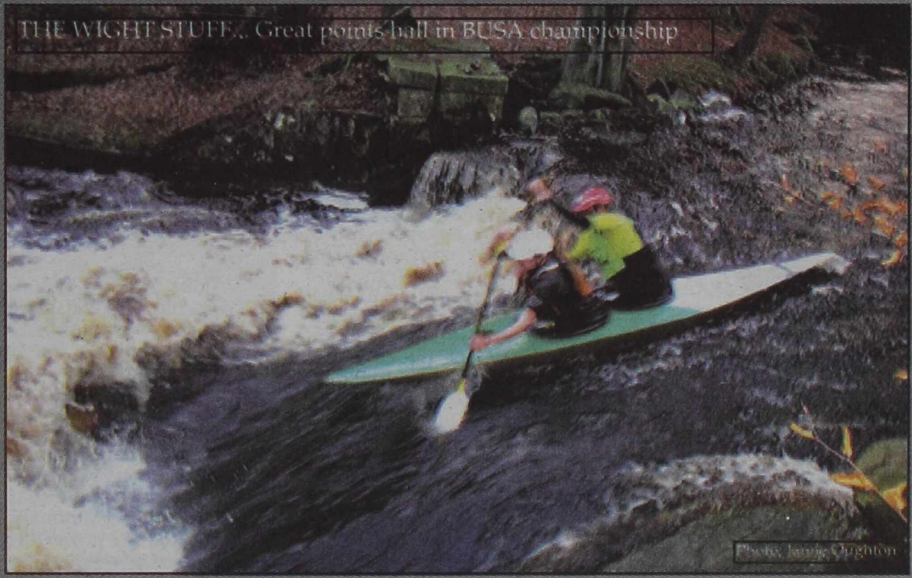
2008 BUSA White Water Racing Championship

BY JAMIE OUGHTON

AS PADDLERS form across the county descended upon the Washburn valley in North Yorkshire, a weekend of tight competition was brewing for the country's elite kayakers. The race consisted of three miles of white water rapids, testing both fitness and skill of the competitors. Traditionally Newcastle has an outstanding record at the White Water Racing championship and this year was no exception. Racing started early on Saturday morning with the men's individual class. This produced Newcastle's first medal of the weekend, a silver for Jamie Oughton. Jamie continued in fine form to take his second silver of the weekend in men's individual sprint. Saturday saw over 300 competitors cross the finish line, and along with this Newcastle's trophy cabinet swelled. The mixed teams dominated the podium with gold for Francis Jones, Emily Bayne, Kevin Hickey and Chris Browell, and bronze for Helen Turmuck, Tom Hollis, Ian and Mark Pooleman. Tremendous efforts were also produced by the men's team of Einar and Charles, led down by Jim Bellis. As Sunday morning dawned, Newcastle prepared for another cold day on the river, warmed only by the prospect of more success. Newcastle didn't disappoint. The men's team (Jamie

Oughton, Dave Burne, Ralph Baker) stormed though to take silver early on while Browell & Hickey in an unprecedented event achieved exactly the same time as the other men's C2 sprint team (Jones & Baker). A silver medal was awarded to both teams. Continuing the success in the C2 class, Hickey and Browell followed by Jones and Hollis won

silver and bronze respectively. So as the boats were loaded up, Newcastle once again took home a huge rack of medals, one gold, six silvers and two bronze. This cumulated to whopping 98 BUSA points, double that of previous years. After this promising start to the year, the squad are looking forward to BUSA slalom championship in January. For more information about the canoe club check out www.canoenewcastle.co.uk



THE WIGHT STUFF... Great points haul in BUSA championship

When the boat comes in

British Indoor Rowing Championship

BY CAROLYN JOHNSON

DESPITE HAVING already faced the 'dreaded' 2k race in a practice test only two days earlier, coupled with enduring a six hour coach journey down to Birmingham to finally take on the real event at the British Indoor Rowing Championships, the Newcastle University Boat Club came back to the Toon with some

really promising results. In the team events, all squads displayed excellent team-working skills. The boat club ladies won gold in both the BUSA heavyweights and the BUSA fresher categories, whilst the men won bronze in the BUSA heavyweight and silver in the BUSA fresher events. These results leave Newcastle University leading the fresher 'Super 8s' challenge 2007-2008, for the second year running. A brand new eight, the prize for winning the 2006-2007 challenge, will be arriving this December. Particular mention must be awarded to Nathan O'Reilly, member of Newcastle University

Elite Athlete's Squad, who took silver in the BUSA lightweight men's category. Dan Cupit, NUBC president, was the top man of the club with a time of 6:07, putting him in between two members of the Oxford boat racers. Alice Leake was crowned Newcastle University Boat Club first lady. The success at BIRC is a very promising start to the season. The university now hopes to improve on this, ready to put on a strong performance at BUSA Small Boats Head, as well as taking on the challenge of beating Durham University on their own turf at the Regional indoors in December. The boat club continue to go from strength to strength, highlighting why they are one of the university's elite and most recognised sports.

Barca-Draw-Na

INTRAMURAL FOOTBALL DIVISION 1

BY ANDREW MURRAY

BARCA-LAW-NA	1
REAL MA-DIVIDEND	1

ON A DAY WHEN most of the other fixtures in the Intra Mural league had been called off for poor weather, it was left to Barca-Law-Na to stake their claim as this year's challengers to reigning champions Real Ma-Dividend's crown.

For both sides this was the biggest game of the season so far, with Barca going into the game still unbeaten and top of the league, one point ahead of Ma-Dividend. However, a combination of poor playing conditions and higher quality of opposition restricted both teams from playing the dominating football that had seen them each demolishing sides in recent weeks.

As a result the opening ten minutes was a typically scrappy affair, with neither side wanting to over-commit when going forward for risk of exposure at the back.

Ma-Dividend were the first to settle though, and carved out the first real chance of the match after some good work by Addy down the right hand side couldn't be matched by the shot, which was dragged wide of Hunter's near post in the Barca goal.

Shortly after that, Barca were forced into an early substitution when Woodcock left the field with a hamstring injury to be replaced by Agnew, who himself was making his return from a groin problem. Ma-Dividend tried to

take advantage of the new defensive pairing, but again the shooting was wayward after good build up play.

The champions looked really fired up for this game all over the pitch, and tried once again, as seems their trademark, to get under the Barca players' skin with their heckling and constant appealing of every lost-cause throw in, corner and foul. But hard work in midfield from Mitchell helped to win a corner for Barca, which was whipped in by McGee and met by a Whiteman diving header that was powered straight at Real keeper Howarth, who saved comfortably.

Two minutes later Ma-Dividend were close to taking the lead at the other end, when a goalmouth scramble ended with the ball being cleared off the line from a Calvert header.

The opening goal came shortly before half time, after a defence-splitting pass from Smith left the Barca backline appealing for an offside that never came. Addy latched onto the through ball and rounded the keeper smartly to finish well from a tight angle. Going in at the break it was probably nothing short of what Ma-Dividend deserved, who had shown more fight and created more chances in the opening 45 minutes.

The second half began as the first had ended, with tackles starting to fly in all over the pitch, and the referee having a tough time trying to keep his cards in his pocket. Ma-Dividend still looked the stronger side, but Barca were now beginning to string passes together and tried to play to their own strengths, something that they had not managed so far. Ma-Dividend continued to make it difficult though by closing down doggedly, and the strength and hold up play of Scales up front provided a

good outlet for them.

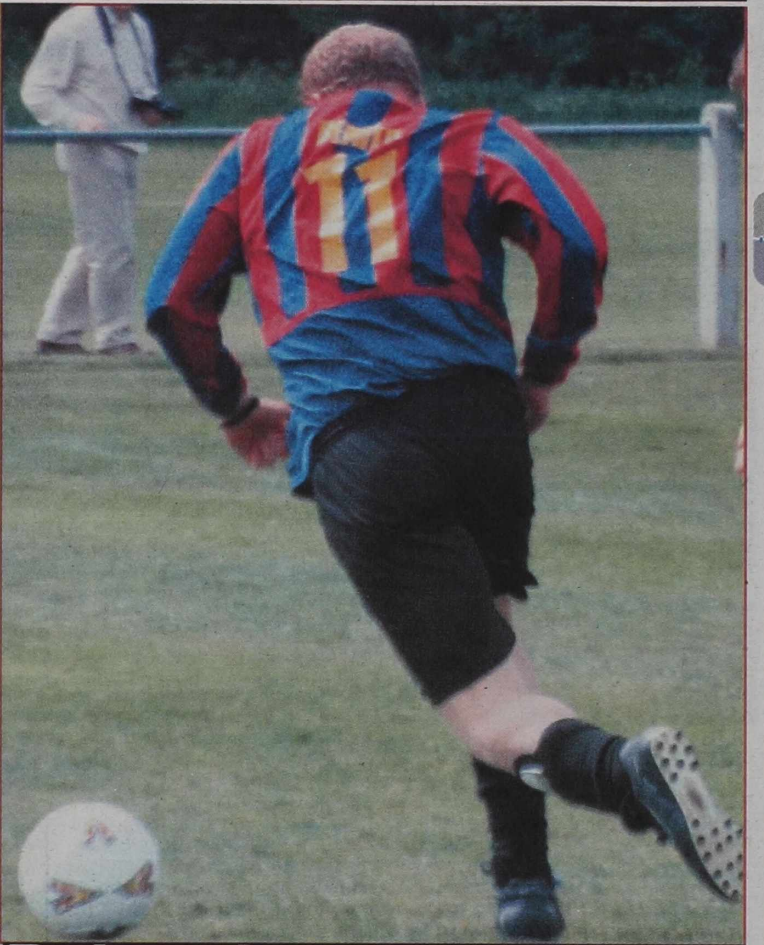
From here on though, the game began to descend further, as the Barca players grew more and more frustrated in their unfamiliar position of being a goal down. Play was halted all too frequently by both poor timed tackles and an over-excited referee, and Barca, though seemingly incapable of raising their game to Ma-Dividend's standards, were all too ready to try and match them for complaining and arguing.

With just over 20 minutes to go however, Barca started to regain their share of possession, and the equalising goal came from a slick interplay between Patel and Campbell down the right wing. Campbell beat his man to the by-line and pulled a cross back to substitute Sassoon on the edge of the six yard box, who drilled it first time beyond Howarth's reach.

The goal seemed to leave Ma-Dividend temporarily shell-shocked, and the Barca midfield started to really battle for everything as the game tightened up in the closing stages. Both defences held strong to reduce any more chances to a minimum, with Butterworth most notably putting in an impressive shift for Barca.

Despite the lack of chances, Ma-Dividend nearly stole it at the death as Smith was unlucky to see his opportunist lob clip the top of the bar.

Overall, a draw was probably a fair result, although Barca will definitely be happier with it. It's games like this where points are picked up without necessarily playing well that will keep them in the title race. However, with nothing to separate these two teams on this occasion, it is still anyone's guess who will be crowned champions come the end of the season.

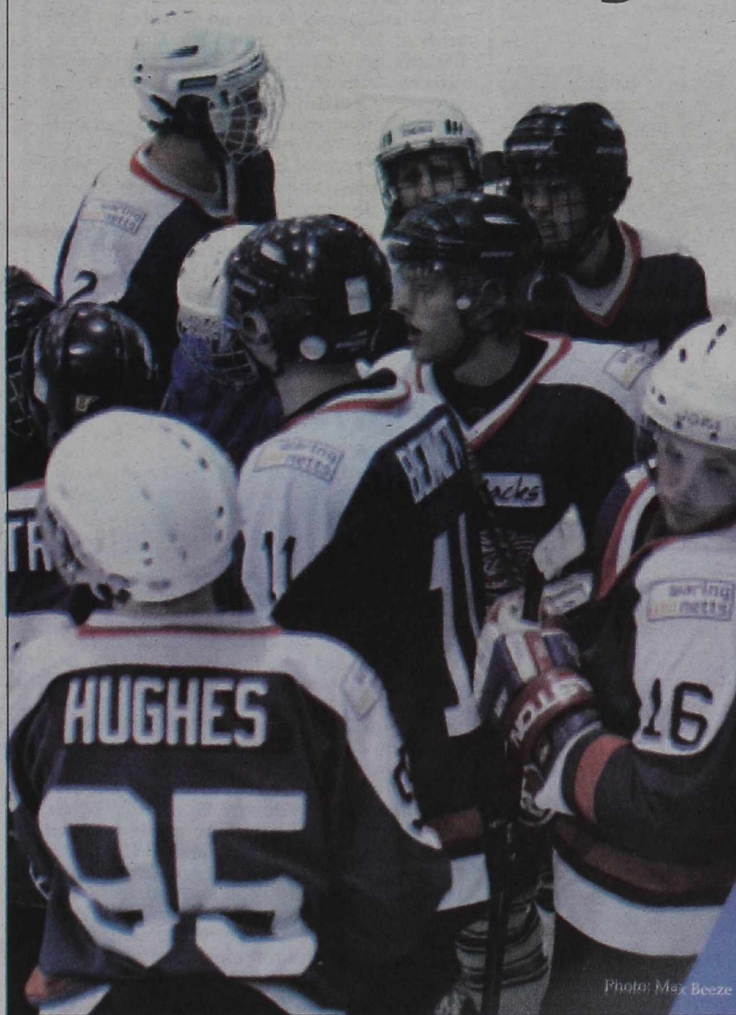


Rain rain go away...

BAD WEATHER wreaked havoc with last week's Intra Mural schedule, with all games at the usually reliable Close House pitch postponed. Luckily football matches at Hea-

ton and Longbenton were able to go ahead despite the soggy conditions. With December fast approaching, conditions are only likely to worsen with the possibility of further postponements to follow.

Ice ice baby...



ICE HOCKEY PREVIEW

BY JAMES PARKER
SPORTS EDITOR

THE STAN CALVERT CUP, a symbol of pride in Newcastle and more importantly, bragging rights for whoever holds it. Changes implemented into the competition from last year's event have caused fixtures to be staggered over a number of months, which is why this coming Sunday sees the ice hockey team take centre stage in their eagerly awaited clash against bitter rivals Northumbria.

Newcastle demolished their North East counterparts last year 8-1 in what was a feisty encounter. This coming fixture promises to be a tense and fiery proceeding in what is without doubt one of the university's most physical sports.

No surprise then that the ice hockey players are raring to go with skipper Marcus Hinkley relishing the chance to put one over the Poly. "We're really up for this one," he exclaimed. "Both mentally and physically we are fully prepared and cannot wait to get underway in what will be a huge test for us".

HARRY BENNET: His partnership with captain Hinkley at the back will need to be water tight. The athletic defender will have to be at his best to keep out a talented Northumbria attack.

BRAD SULLIVAN: The tall forward will be hoping to get amongst the goals, and if last year's rout is anything to go by, then he'll be sure to be one of the catalysts for a Newcastle victory.

The captain's optimism was eagerly echoed by Player/Coach, James Hadfield. "We're very confident about the game, there's going to be lots of aggression out there, we've got to keep our tempers under control though and not lose our composure. The physical approach we always adopt will be no different from any other game, although it will be a heated encounter which will provide an excellent spectacle and we're relishing getting into action".

The game is being held at the Metro Arena which highlights the high regard for the match, and with so much at stake, students from across the University are being urged to come along and give their support.

"We really do appreciate the support we receive," enthused Hadfield. "Last year we had about 400 fans watching us and it gives you such a lift to play in front of a decent crowd. Hopefully on Sunday we'll have even more cheering us on in what is arguably our biggest game of the campaign".

The ice hockey club want your support in what promises to be an epic battle of grit, nerve and determination. Renowned for their fast paced style of play, spectators are certain to be hooked on proceedings with

last year's goal fest providing Northumbria with a chilling warning as to what Newcastle are capable of.

"We played really well last year, we're confident of achieving another victory this time round although we know it's going to be difficult," remarked Hadfield, who scored a stunning hat trick in last seasons clash.

The game is expected to start at 1pm although this is to be confirmed with final details of the game being displayed on posters across the campus. Entry is free and tickets are not required for the game, making it easy for students to just turn up for an evenings entertainment, and hopefully, witness a priceless win in the Stan Calvert Cup.

Popularity in the sport has increased dramatically in recent years with supporters being attracted to the physical and free flowing style of play which ice hockey offers in abundance. No doubt, Sunday's encounter promises to deliver much more of the same.

If you want to find out more details about Sunday's crunch match then see posters situated in and around the Union. Alternatively you can contact Player/Coach, James Hadfield, on j.n.hadfield@ncl.ac.uk.

JAMES HADFIELD: The inspirational forward will be looking to guide his side to glory with the goal machine odds on to open the scoring after last years heroic hat-trick.

MARCUS HINKLEY: The nononsense defender will be an integral part of the Newcastle line up and his organisation as skipper from the back will be vitally important if his side are to overcome their rivals



Photo: Max Beeze

Awesome Foursome

Great day for women's hockey as all four teams storm to victories

WOMEN'S HOCKEY 1STS

BY CLAIRE GUNN AND DAWN LOGAN

NEWCASTLE 1STS	3
SHEFFIELD HALLAM	4

NEWCASTLE STRODE onto the pitch on a cold rainy day to face their Yorkshire rivals Sheffield Hallam hoping to widen their lead at the top of the BUSA league.

With Becky Harrison producing some spectacular balls from deep in defence, and Jenny Simms first-rate running up front, the home-side took most of the early possession but struggled to find the back of the net.

Taking control in the centre of the pitch, Rosie Innes, eventually scored a sweeping goal from the top of the D taking Newcastle into a much needed lead as the half time whistle blew.

Sheffield came back onto the pitch with a reignited vigour, barging their way into the game to win a short corner, bringing the sluggish home team back to life.

The Royals stepped their game up to prove to their feisty opposition what they were really made of, converting two more goals, one from Harrison and the other from Francesca Tizzard.

This riled Sheffield who began to loose their temper, showing signs of descent. Tori Harries was thrown flying into the air and a green card was shown.

In the dying minutes Sheffield gained one last attempt on goal, which was saved on the line by promising fresher Sophie Avent, with the rebound saved by the quick reactions of Becca Best.

From the sideline Dawn Logan said, "We are playing some brilliant hockey at the moment and morale is high. We held the majority of possession throughout the match and I believe this win has really stamped our authority on the league. An all round good day of poly bashing!"



FOUR TO THE FLOOR... The Blues produced a remarkable set of results last Wednesday

Photo: Claire Gunn

WOMEN'S HOCKEY 2NDS

BY CLAIRE GUNN AND CLAIRE MCARTHUR

NEWCASTLE 2NDS	2
LEEDS 2NDS	1

SITTING IN MID TABLE, a win against bottom of the league Leeds was vital for Newcastle. The Yorkshire underdogs came out strong maintaining early possession.

As the home team settled they began to take control of the game. Some fine running from Rachael Waugh on the right offered Newcastle several strikes on goal. Leeds were still looking dangerous at this time with some promising breakthroughs. Newcastle were forced to maintain possession.

Winning their second short corner of the game, a strong strike from Alison Caldwell failed to take Newcastle ahead as the Leeds 'keeper held her ground.

With both sides on tenterhooks, failing to hit the backboard on numerous occasions, Leeds picked their moment. Winning a short corner Leeds fired home the first goal of the match to take the visitors into the lead, bang on the half time whistle.

A reignited Newcastle came back hard in the second half, clamping down in the Leeds D offering the home-side a few shots on goal. Newcastle eventually found the backboard after a mis-hit in the Leeds defence, pouncing to level the scores.

The two sides continued to battle in this hard fought match, until a final push from the home side offered attacker Tutu Osifudrin an opportunity to grab the lead. The forward fired a fantastic shot, hitting the bottom left corner to take the Royals into the lead as the final whistle blew.

The score reflected the hard work and relentless efforts of both teams with Newcastle showing their strength and metal in the dying seconds.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY 3RDS AND 4THS

BY CLAIRE GUNN & JO HATCHER

The third team went into their game against Leeds full of confidence, looking to maintain an impressive unbeaten record.

Verity Holder opened the scoring for the hosts, with Sarah Sturgeon quickly adding a second. The blues looked particularly impressive in midfield, protecting the back line so well that

the defenders barely saw the ball. Sturgeon added another goal, while Vicky Balmer grabbed a brace of her own to take the score to 5-0.

Newcastle's powerful performance was not only built on imperious attacking play, but also on periods of solid defending. Kate Cambell was particularly instrumental, skilfully keeping the Leeds attackers out of the Newcastle D to maintain a clean sheet.

Holder produced the final goal of the game with coach Claire Gunn ecstatic with the result: "We never became complacent and continued fighting to the very end, working as a team. Every

player on the pitch played an important role in this fantastic win."

The fourth team were also full of confidence having previously beaten their Sheffield opponents by a staggering 15 goals.

Newcastle were shocked into action after conceding an early goal. Sarah Coey produced a burst of goals to put Newcastle into a commanding 4-1 lead.

Harriet Ulliyott and Anna Feldman produced a stirring performance at the back to keep the Yorkshire women at bay, helping the side maintain their place at the top of the league.

What a Tees

Leach peach still not enough for Royals

MEN'S FOOTBALL 3RDS

BY MARK LEVINE

NEWCASTLE 3RDS	3
TEESSIDE 3RDS	4

SUPER SUB Ryan Leach could not prevent Newcastle 3rds going down to North East rivals Teesside, in a game the Royals could and should have won at Cochrane Park.

Boasting a 100% record going into the game, Teesside were looking to extend their run against Newcastle who they had beaten 6-3 in the first game of the season. However, it was the Royals who had the better of the game and they will be disappointed

not to have claimed a second straight win. It must be said that Newcastle were architects of their own downfall in what proved to be a thrilling, but ultimately frustrating encounter.

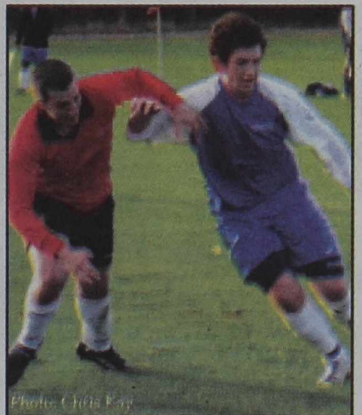
Newcastle started brightly enough, with midfielder playmaker Oliver Heyward almost breaking the deadlock. His drive from just outside the area was blocked fortuitously by Luke Hammett in his attempt to dodge the ball.

Undeterred, Newcastle continued to create chances but by this stage, Teesside had been showing signs that they could be the ones to open the scoring. Indeed, the stats didn't lie. Teesside's number 9 fired wide from 35 yards before another attack saw a header just go over.

Their next meaningful play did result in a goal. A cross from the right was not properly dealt with at

the near post, allowing Teesside's number 8 to pounce and slot home from little over 15 yards out.

The Royals needed no further impetus to get forward an attack and Heyward, much the lynchpin of the Royal midfield, blazed an effort over the bar. Not long after it was the turn of experienced midfield impresario Andy Mackay to try his luck, and in



some style too. Picking the ball up 25 yards out, the right winger feinted slightly left before releasing a deft lob

that drew comparisons with Cantona from ecstatic onlookers: a fantastic equaliser.

It should have been the start of something meaningful for the blues, but Teesside continued to push forward and were unlucky in several attacks that caught the Newcastle defence on the unawares.

Not to be outdone, Heyward again showed his pedigree with a strike in a similar position to that of Mackay. Unfortunately this effort crept over. With half time looming, Newcastle had several good chances to level the scores. Annas headed over from a corner and Dan Kelly also slotted wide after a pin point through ball from Tom Milnes. But the score remained firmly locked at the interval.

If the first half was to bring a shortage of goals, the second half would more than make up for it. Coach Mark Woodhall threw on more experienced faces in the form of Abernethy and Lowery and then 10 minutes in, Ryan Leach. It looked like a shrewd tactical change as Newcastle proceeded to take the game by the scruff of the neck. Leach's introduction was crucial. The winger set about terrorising the Teesside right back within minutes of coming on. His superb run and precise cross was

fired home by Kelly to make it 2-1 to the Royals.

It was much deserved but bad news was to follow. A debatable foul by 'keeper Hillier resulted in a Teesside penalty, which was duly tucked away. At 2-2 though, both teams were not yet finished. Teesside soon found themselves 3-2 up as they rode on the momentum created by their equaliser.

Just as Royal heads were rolling, Leach provided a truly magic moment. Almost straight from kick off, the player collected the ball on the far left side and unleashed a powerful lob, sticking it in the far corner well out of the 'keeper's reach.

At 3-3 the momentum looked to be swaying Newcastle's way. But it was Teesside who made the most of the Newcastle pressure by counter attacking effectively. The visitors forcing a good save from Hillier before bundling the ball over the line, past the despairing 'keeper.

With the game at 4-3, and with time left, the Royals rallied. But the goal rush was over. The final whistle rang out to Teesside cheers and Newcastle groans as more points slipped through their fingers.

Coch-reign

Royals defeat Loughborough at Cochrane Park to maintain home record

MEN'S RUGBY 1STS

BY BEN MERCER

NEWCASTLE 1STS 27
LOUGHBOROUGH 1STS 13

NEWCASTLE put an end to their three game losing streak last week with an awesome display of poise and athleticism, as they put league leaders Loughborough to the sword in an enthralling encounter at Cochrane Park.

The Royals have yet to lose at home this season and by soundly beating the visitors, they maintained this record and put the disappointment of the previous week's loss to Northumbria behind them.

The game set off at a fast pace and the muscular Loughborough pack tore into their Newcastle counterparts, wrecking the home team's scrum and putting the Royals under serious pressure.

This pressure eventually told as the away side launched an audacious attempt to drive over the Newcastle line from a scrum, and were awarded a penalty try as the scrumming Rob Fahrenheit attempted to pinch the ball from inside the scrum.

Newcastle looked rattled and had

to see off pressure from a confident Loughborough team. However the tide soon turned as the battering ram, Robin Holroyd, made a typically explosive burst through the Loughborough midfield. Holroyd then offloaded to his pacy partner who outran the Loughborough cover defence, before sending a superbly accurate miss pass to the supporting Pete Cole for an excellent try.

Suddenly Newcastle were imbued with newfound confidence and began to settle into their ambitious attacking game despite the wind and slippery conditions. It was Loughborough's turn to look harried, as their previously ferocious attack was easily quenched by the Royals' blanket defence and opportunistic work on the floor.

The Newcastle back row were turning the ball over at an extraordinary rate, giving the three quarters the supply of ball that they have been craving all season. The results were occasionally spectacular as a series of breaks and intelligent offloads caused chaos in the Loughborough ranks.

Newcastle's second try was an outstanding fusion of game management and inspiration, with a grubber kick from the surprisingly swift Ant Shales nut-megging his opposite man and taking play up to the Loughbor-

ough red zone. A steal from the much improved Newcastle line-out allowed the Royals to implement their game structure, and after some great carries from Harrison Pickersvance and Dan Thomson, the ball was spun wide to Mercer.

The Newcastle outside centre used his dancing footwork to bamboozle one tackler before dummieing the winger and selflessly sending in Cole for his second try. At this point Cole's opposite number must have felt like he was chasing shadows as the elusive winger finished in the corner with aplomb.

At half time the Royals had plenty to be pleased about but the mood was calm at the beginning of the second period, with fly half Luke Bettesworth intelligently kicking the corners, keeping Loughborough pinned back in their own half. Some improved scrummaging from rotating front rows Alex MacKenzie and Ian Richards, and fierce tackling from the likes of closely coiffed Stephen Trench, ensured that the backs had a plentiful supply of set piece ball.

Loughborough struggled to maintain possession and Newcastle took advantage with breaks coming all over the pitch, Holroyd in particular causing problems with his strong running. A hanging drop goal from



NO MERCER... Royals produce victory after a string of disappointing results

Adam Armstrong could have increased the score further, but eventually Newcastle broke through again as Bettesworth stooped under one tackler for another try which he failed to convert.

Loughborough ought to have been looking to run the ball at this point but were only able to kick penalties due to the strength of the Royals defence. Fahrenheit made them pay for

their lack of ambition as he charged down a box kick and casually waddled inside the full back for a fourth and final try.

Although Loughborough did manage to break towards the end of the game, some excellent cover tackles kept them at bay and Newcastle claimed a great victory in front of their own supporters.

BUSA RESULTS 21/11/07

TEAM	OPPOSITION	RESULT
Badminton Men's 1	Leeds	W 6-2
Badminton Men's 2	Durham 2	W 5-3
Badminton Women's	Leeds Met	L 2-6
Basketball Men's 1	Bolton	W 66-56
Basketball Women's	York SJ	Unknown
Fencing Men's 1	York	W 134-109
Fencing Men's 2	Hull 1	L 80-135
Fencing Women's	Birmingham	W 131-104
Football Men's 1	Leeds Met 3	W 3-2
Football Men's 3	Teesside 3	L 3-4
Football Women's 1	Leeds Met 2	L 1-5
Football Women's 2	York SJ 2	W 8-0
Hockey Men's 1	MMU Cheshire	L 1-3
Hockey Men's 2	Sheffield 2	W 1-0
Hockey Men's 3	York SJ	W 6-0
Hockey Men's 4	Sheffield 4	W 6-1
Hockey Women's 1	Sheffield Hallam	W 3-0
Hockey Women's 2	Leeds 2	W 2-1
Hockey Women's 3	Leeds 4	W 6-0
Hockey Women's 4	Sheffield 4	W 6-1
Lacrosse 1	Durham	W 7-6
Lacrosse 2	Durham 2	L 1-12
Netball 1	Liverpool JM	W 50-23
Netball 2	Newcastle 3	W 35-24
Netball 3	Newcastle 2	L 24-35
Netball 4	Sheffield Hallam	W 38-28
Rugby Men's 1	Loughborough	W 27-13
Rugby Men's 2	Manchester 2	W 25-19
Rugby Men's 3	Durham 3	L 11-13
Rugby Men's 4	Leeds 3	W 34-12
Squash Men's 1	Sheffield 1	W 4-1
Squash Men's 2	Northumbria 2	W 3-0
Squash Women's 1	Manchester 1	W 3-1
Squash Women's 2	Bradford 1	W 3-0
Table Tennis Men's 1	Teesside 1	W 17-0
Tennis Men's 1	Sheffield	L 2-8
Tennis Women's 2	Leeds 2	L 0-10
Volleyball Women	Durham	W 3-2

Seventh Heaven

Second team come from behind to make it seven out of seven

MEN'S RUGBY 2NDS

BY SHAUN STEPHENS

NEWCASTLE 2NDS 25
MANCHESTER 2NDS 19

A QUICK glance at the Northern Conference 1A league table should have been enough to ensure an easy afternoon for Newcastle's high-flying second string. Manchester's mixed bag of results came no where near to matching Newcastle's incredible six straight wins.

A militant preparation regime was only just thwarted when the first team once again poached vice-captain and scrum half Jean Pette. Offers from Dave 'Fridge' Morgan to step in were politely rejected as talented fresher Tom Berg was already at the ground on fourth team duty.



EASY TRY... Top of the table Blues turn on the cruise control

Newcastle were somewhat taken back by the ferocity of Manchester's attack and only just managed to scrounge a drop goal from the boot of fly-half McCartney in the opening stages. Newcastle had seemingly left their game-heads in Hull last week, and Manchester took the score to 5-3 after taking advantage of a massive overlap.

With Newcastle dumbstruck to be behind for pretty much the first time in the season, Manchester crossed once again with some quick feet from their fly half.

Towards the end of the first half, Newcastle finally managed to gain some vital control through the boot of McCartney, who added a penalty and many yards of territory.

Tries were then exchanged between the two sides. The Royals crossed the line through the seemingly un-stoppable Zack King, who added yet another try to his tally from a beautifully controlled line out drive. This put Newcastle in the lead, but only temporarily, as Manchester hit back with a sustained effort from their pack, driving Newcastle back over their line again to add seven points.

All was not lost however, as the Newcastle of old returned with a much calmer head on and they began to control the game. A beautifully weighted pass from impeccable full back Gav McMurry put in winger Chris Morris, a man with a truly brilliant eye-for-the-line. McCartney duly converted to put Newcastle in the lead.

Then, after some ten minutes camped on the Manchester line, and after his third attempt, prop 'little' Jon Barclay crashed over in style for another try for the Royals. Manchester had something of a resurgence but there was no conceivable way the seconds were going to give up their unbeaten record at fortress Cochrane and would have happily defended their line for hours.

Cheshire Revenge

Winning run halted by MMU

MEN'S HOCKEY 1STS

BY CHARLEY WRIGHT

NEWCASTLE slumped to defeat in

MMU CHESHIRE 1STS	3
NEWCASTLE 1STS	1

their fifth BUSA Northern Conference game against a well organised Manchester Metropolitan side. Despite numerous chances, the away side couldn't build on the three consecutive wins of previous weeks.

From push back Newcastle looked comfortable, slapping the ball round the back well. However, it wasn't long before possession was lost to the home side, who instantly capitalised.

A good ball from the left managed to get through at least four Newcastle defenders, finding a MMU forward high in the 'D' who duly rounded the 'keeper and slotted the ball home. All this was despite the last ditch efforts of Rob Stewart on the line.

The goal served as a wake up call for the Blues who sparked into action, creating two chances for Ollie Fraser to go one-on-one with the 'keeper. Frustratingly he failed to convert both times. The ghost of Newcastle's past was haunting them again: creating chances but failing to convert.

MMU Cheshire proved to be tight at the back, playing 11 men behind the ball whenever Newcastle were in possession. This tactic led to both sides relying heavily on counter attack opportunities, with neither side able to score again before the interval.

After the break both sides continued to engage in a counter attacking game, leading to some end-to-end hockey. This was seen most clearly when a break for the Blues was smothered and instantly turned into a MMU Cheshire attack. This resulted in a short corner which was duly converted to double the home sides lead.

Newcastle needed to take the game to Manchester and finally did so when Steve Hill had an effort on goal. Unfortunately his shot soared over the bar after some good build up play from himself and Fraser.

However this wasn't enough and once again MMU Cheshire produced another breakaway, pouncing on the opportunity to score a third goal against a Newcastle side that had beaten them only five weeks previously.

The Blues continued to toil away, trying to find a catalyst for a comeback. It nearly came after good work from Harry Santa-Olalla, and then Hill. Two minutes later Hill cleverly won a short corner but a communication error at the top of the 'D' meant it was easily dealt with by the home side, who nearly created yet another goal on the counter.

With little time left Newcastle finally found that elusive goal. A well struck strike by Mike Shkurka managed to evade the 'keeper's pads to make it 3-1. Soon after Fraser had the opportunity to make it 3-2 but spurned it, placing the ball high over the bar.

MMU Cheshire closed the game out convincingly, aided by a lack of adventure by the Blues, to take their first win of the Season. Newcastle will be looking for a better performance against Leeds Met on Wednesday.

Seconds put thirds in place

NETBALL

BY HANNAH LUCAS

NEWCASTLE 2NDS	35
NEWCASTLE 3RDS	24

THE SECOND and third netball teams met this week in a vital BUSA league encounter. The match turned out to be an edgy affair, more a test of nerve than a match of substance, with the result ultimately meaning more than the points at stake. **Pride means more than league positions.**

The second team seemed nervous from the outset with the side plagued by injuries and illness. After this indifferent start, the seconds' starting seven managed to retain a small, but significant lead.

The circle defenders, Rochelle Quigley and Sarah Bruce (playing out of position) had a fantastic game. Quigley's incredible reach ensured constant interceptions, whilst Bruce blocked on the edge of the circle.

The third team seemed confident as they caught the seconds on the back foot. They showed great drive, com-

bined with focus and intensity. Centre Hannah Goodall was a solid link between defence and attack, whilst Lucy Barker at wing defence made some cracking interceptions.

The second quarter saw the second team settle into a more relaxed and impressive game, furthering their lead by four goals. Shooters Ellie Hatt and Fran Terrace began moving excellently together in the circle receiving some good short and high balls from the second team attack.

However, the seconds were still making too many unforced errors which the third team capitalised. Amy Goble managed to sink an impressive number of tricky long range shots.

Drama ensued for the second team in the third quarter with centre player, Kathryn Hurrell injuring herself badly. She was forced off the court. However, Sarah Ashworth and Hannah Lucas retained a solid attacking force, with Kate Jones supporting the side well, chasing down every ball that came her way.

The final fifteen minutes saw the thirds' heads drop a little as the seconds pushed on to an eleven goal lead, a lead that was retained until

the final whistle.

All in all it was an extremely tense and difficult match for both teams, particularly the seconds who are



Photo: Stephanie Feng

Nott in our league

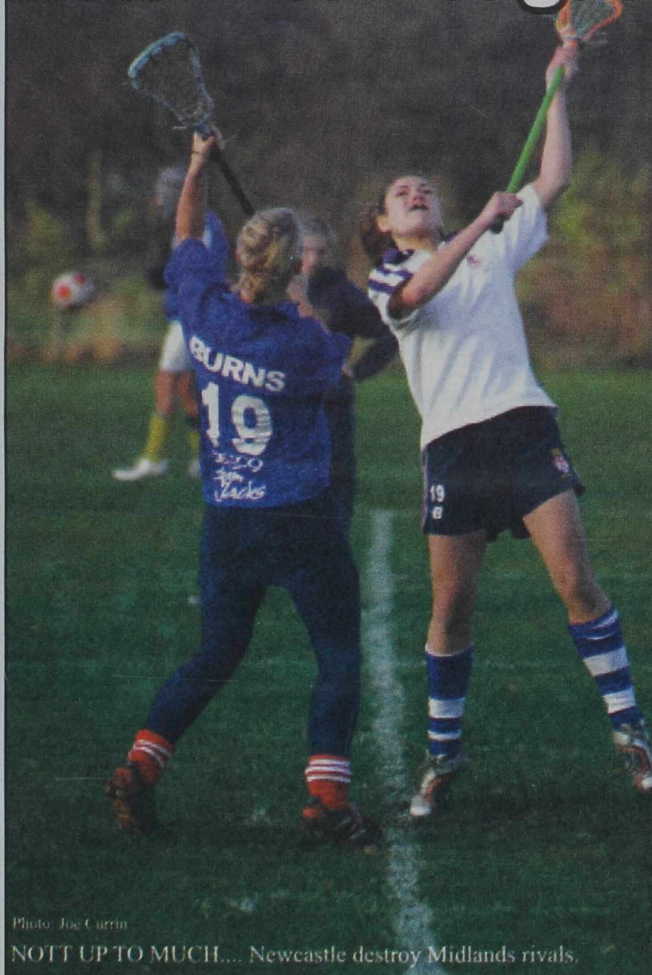


Photo: Joe Carrin

NOTT UP TO MUCH... Newcastle destroy Midlands rivals.

Newcastle still on the trail for BUSA glory after comprehensive win

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

BY HELEN HODGKIN & CELINE HIGTON

NEWCASTLE 1STS	7
NOTTINGHAM 1STS	2

LAST WEDNESDAY, the women's lacrosse first team took on Nottingham University in a fast moving spectacle of a game. Over the first few weeks of this season the team has suffered the loss of three exceptional players to illness and injury including the captain Kerry Kemp.

However, spurred on by the cheers of a home crowd and refreshed by a lie-in, Newcastle got off to a fantastic start. They were the first to score with an exceptional goal by Helen Hodgkin, who had an outstanding game in her first outing for the firsts.

From this point forward the game was on, with Nottingham looking to equalise, and Newcastle wanting to extend their lead. The Newcastle defence fought off Nottingham's purposeful and aggressive attacks with gritty determination.

Harri Puddle led her team in defence into seizing every opportunity to gain possession. Ground balls were hoovered up, passes were plucked out of the air and when the ball found itself in a Nottingham stick, it was swiftly displaced by a well placed tackle. Tara Collins was instrumental in landing the vast majority of these.

However, if the ball was to find its way past the defence, it didn't get much further. Celine Higton's nimble feet and lightning quick reactions stopped the ball dead in its path. They say the goal-

keeper is the last line of defence and the first line of attack, this was proven to be true with her clears always landing in a Newcastle stick thanks to the teams relentless cutting.

Once the ball was in Newcastle possession it quickly became a threat, being taken through to attack with menacing speed and agility by Sheona Burns, Kate Tilney and Elizabeth Hodgkinson, who made a formidable midfield team. Thanks to their unceasingly excellent play the ball often found its way down at Newcastle's attacking end, and just before the half time whistle Elizabeth Hodgkinson found her target and fired it into the back of the net.

After half time, the attack raised their game to an even higher level; applying intense pressure on Nottingham's defence. Movement of the ball was near to flawless, resulting in more brilliant goals from Jenny Scott, Elizabeth Hodgkinson and Helen Hodgkin, who was later made man of the match for her outstanding debut performance.

This, however, fired up the Nottingham attacks to win the draw and get on the score-sheet with a well-deserved goal, which was quickly followed by another.

In the remaining few minutes Celine Higton made a cracking save which was quickly cleared to Kate Tilney's stick. Within seconds Tilney was in the fan and found the top corner of the goal to wrap up a convincing win for Newcastle.

The final 7-2 scoreline underlined the passion and professional attitude that the Newcastle women displayed, with every player contributing to a fantastic team performance.

Knights battle it out at Bolton

MEN'S BASKETBALL

BY ROBIN BIGGS

BOLTON 1STS	56
NEWCASTLE 1STS	66

A DOGGED performance by Newcastle saw them pull out a ten point victory away at Bolton University, maintaining their 100% record.

After a three hour coach journey the Knights were slow out of the blocks,

especially in defence where they normally excel.

Despite this slow start, the Knights ended the 1st period with a dominant 20-6 point lead. In the second quarter the Knights showed glimpses of their previous form.

With defence improved the Knights surged to a 38-17 point lead at half. David Lunt played well in this quarter contributing 5 points.

The second half turned into a dog-fight as Newcastle succumbed to play at the same level as their opponents, a side who find themselves bottom of the table after this defeat.

With Nik Hobbs in foul trouble the offence struggled and Bolton started to claw their way back.

Del Riccio, who averages 16 points a game so far this season, was below his best, contributing only 11 points. M. Williams and B. Osriawau started to play well contributing points and rebounds at will, with Newcastle's lead beginning to crumble.

The fourth quarter was a struggle. The Knights were having difficulty coping with refereeing decisions and the slipperiness of the court. Despite this, Newcastle managed to hang on, holding on for their sixth consecutive

win. M. Williams had a particularly impressive quarter for the hosts, contributing a quarter high 14 points in this period.

However, the Knights held on, thanks to an improved defensive effort to see the game home 66-56. Special mention should go to Paul Wright who performed admirably despite the injury sustained on Monday.

Special mention should also go to Tom Oxby. Although only contributing 7 points to the attack, he was a defensive force contributing a number of blocks. An improved performance is essential next week if the unbeaten run is to continue next week, with the visit of local rivals Sunderland.

Ed's Up

Crockett's injury time goal secures precious first win for Royals

MEN'S FOOTBALL 1STS

BY JAMIE GAVIN

LEEDS MET 3RDS	2
NEWCASTLE 1STS	3

A DRAMATIC last gasp winner ensured the first three points of the season for Newcastle's first team. The long wait for a victory was

ended as the Royals won 3-2 away at Leeds Met, Ed Crockett grabbing the late winner.

After a season of mistakes, the first error on Wednesday was made off the field. A mix up involving the team's kit meant the Royals were forced to play in the all-red kit brandishing the name 'Dyslexic Untied'. But this turned out to be something of a lucky omen for the away team, who thoroughly deserved to come out on top in a remarkable game.

The match began at a frantic pace

with the greasy surface allowing Newcastle to play some slick, free flowing football early on.

Striker Dave Woolman made an immediate impact after a month's lay-off through injury, and his pace and power lead to two well-driven shots on the edge of the box. The keeper denied Woolman and it was the woodwork that denied the other striker, Fred Brunt, after he sent a crushing volley against the upright.

Another player returning from injury was goalkeeper Phil Bruce. Although he was scarcely called into action in the first half, he did well to overt the home side, saving bravely at a Leeds Met strikers' feet and keeping the score to nil-nil at half time.

The second half began much the same way as the first, with the Royals dominating.

It wasn't long before the deadlock was broken. Newcastle were awarded a free-kick on the right hand side. A training ground set piece swung

in beautifully by Brunt, was met by fresher Sam Newton, who rose John Terry style to head the away side in front.

However, their lead was short-lived and Leeds Met were soon level. Newcastle failed to clear their lines and a hard-hit, low strike made its way past the outstretched Bruce. This deflated the away side, but they refused to lie-down.


Instead the Royals rallied and it wasn't long before they were back in front. An inspired Brunt beat his man before sending a delicate cross to the far post. Up stepped another fresher, Martin Hill, who hung in the air for what seemed like an eternity, before sending the ball home with his head.

For the first time this BUSA season, Newcastle truly sensed victory and substitutes Joe Foote and Alec Hutchinson were sent on in an effort to close out the game. Leeds Met pressed for a second equaliser and only courageous defending from an

outstanding Newton kept them out; a last-ditch tackle saving his side.

Newcastle's team spirit shone through in the last ten minutes and they looked to have finally secured all three points. However, there was to be a dramatic twist in the tale. Leeds scored a stoppage time equaliser as a long throw somehow made its way through a number of bodies in the penalty area before being volleyed into the net.

But the drama wasn't over and it was to be Newcastle who had the final say. Pretty much straight from the resulting kick-off, Brunt was again sent down the right and he did magnificently to get inside his man and deliver his third assist of the game. Crockett arrived to bundle the ball home and this sparked unprecedented scenes of celebration, both after the goal and the final whistle seconds later. A fantastic game and victory was finally secured for the Royals.


26.11.07

No Lough Lost



Royals season back on track after victory over table topping Loughborough
>> see page 34

Photo: Joe Currin

Inside Your Courier Sport This Week...



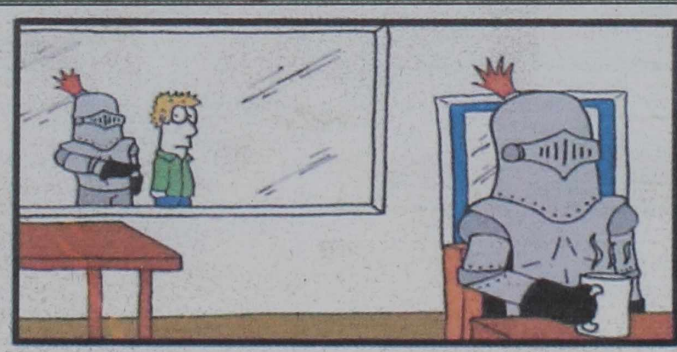
Women's Lacrosse team march on
>> see p.35



Hockey women rack up four wins
>> see p.33

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT
 BY ROB
 R.B.Smedley@ncl.ac.uk

"I can't go in there Henry. She's wearing the same outfit as me!"




Exclusive Jane Sixsmith interview
>> see p.31