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the **COURIER**

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ISSUE 1162 MONDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2007

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF NEWCASTLE STUDENTS

FREE

FESTIVE FROLICS

Christmas Special to get you in the spirit

>> See Pages 8 & 9



ELECTIONS RESULTS

Who got your vote?

>> See Page 4



Checking Up

BY FRAN INFANTE
NEWS EDITOR

NEWCASTLE DENTAL School have launched a new recruitment initiative for patients to take advantage of the school's proximity and professionalism and register for free dental treatment in the New Year.

Two years ago marked the beginning of a rise in the number of students accepted from 70 to 100 in each year of the school in an effort to alleviate the nationwide shortage of qualified dentists. While this modification has been positive for the school it has brought about a shortage of patients for the senior students to treat in the professionally supervised clinic where they hone their practical skills.

Clinical Professor and Consultant, Jimmy Steele, emphasised the importance of the students having interaction with real patients throughout their degrees. "They have to!" he told *The Courier*. "Dentistry is one of those courses where we want the students to be able to leave and go straight into practice, perhaps they won't be initially be self-sufficient but definitely confident and capable with what they do, that kind of proficiency only comes from the experience they get in clinics."

"Students start the patient contact process in their first year of University with a shadow scheme, then progressing on to high intensity technical training in second year. In order to build on this learning they need to be in the clinic in years three and four, it's not just about the technicals, its about dealing with people respectfully, communicating coherently and making patients feel at ease and in safe hands - you just can't learn that from books."

The drive to find patients has attracted plenty of attention already with BBC North East visiting the School last Thursday to help heighten awareness and aid the recruitment of the necessary 600 volunteers.

The drive is aimed at the public as a whole, with many local residents already regularly visiting student dentists to avoid costly treatments on the NHS. However students are particularly desirable. As Professor Steele explained, "they have time, a perfect locality and due to being away from home and an often questionable diet and habits of oral care, a certain amount of low level disease - we call it manageable decay, they're easily treated and perfect learning cases for our students."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MEN-ACING DISEASE

- Student thought to have flu
- Actually hours from death

BY FRAN INFANTE
NEWS EDITOR

AT THIS time of year, when the lecture halls are filled with the sounds of coughing and sniffing it's easy to get complacent. But what if those symptoms so easily dismissed turn out to be something more sinister, even to the point of being life threatening?

When a first year student felt ill while sitting in a Tuesday morning lecture last February he never considered that he had contracted a life threatening disease. Deciding to return home to Bowsden Court to sleep it off he assumed it to be just a cold and headache - and his housemates assumed the same and left him to it.

By evening, with no improvement, he tried to make an appointment with a doctor but since he wasn't registered with a practice in Newcastle was told it would take several days before he could get an appointment.

On Wednesday, by pure chance on her way to work, his friend Kate Buckingham stopped by the flat. "My dad is a pharmacist so my room is full of stuff, I was just going to see if he wanted some paracetamol or something,"

she told *The Courier*. On hearing his drowsy voice from the other side of the door she banged until he let her in and became increasingly concerned when he became incoherent and almost drunken in his behaviour.

Tom has few memories; "I just remember my housemates sitting me up and making me watch The Weakest Link to keep me awake till the paramedics got there, it's all very hazy."

Kate on the other hand remembers the dramatic night vividly. "When I went into his bedroom I noticed the rash, it was all over him. We did the 'tumbler test' on him to see if it disappeared - it didn't which is when we really started to worry. His housemates then dressed him while I called the ambulance; they told us to keep him conscious and not to give him any water as this could exacerbate his state. He was just staring into space and at one stage didn't even recognise his own housemate - it was really scary."

Paramedics arrived and administered a large dose of penicillin and stretchered the now only semi-conscious Tom into an ambulance. The level of his confusion demonstrates just how precarious his condition was; when asked basic details at the hospital, fresher History student

Tom groggily maintained that he was in the 3rd year of an Ancient History degree and that he was born in 1985.

It was necessary for doctors to administer a Lumbar Puncture (a procedure in which fluid is extracted from the spinal chord) in order to determine which strain of Meningitis he had contracted. Worryingly it was B, the bacterial form which cannot be vaccinated against and which kills between 20 and 50 % of the people it infects. A doctor later told Tom's father that had his friends waited another hour before seeking help it was unlikely that his son would have survived.

Fortunately after ten days in hospital Tom made a full recovery and now has no recurring problems from the infection that so nearly cost him his life. The experience prompted him to get involved with the Union Society's Meningitis Awareness Campaign which will begin on January 7th and run for three days in the Student Union building.

"I know how lucky I am," Tom said. "The Press Office at the Uni-



versity contacted me and of course I am more than happy to do anything I can to get this important message across. Meningitis is treatable but it's more common than it should be. You always think it'll happen to somebody else but the fact is we all need to be aware of the risks and keep an eye on friends who become ill, however minor it seems."

The campaign aims to highlight ALL the symptoms of the disease not just the rash which is often one of the last things to appear, by which point the patient is already seriously ill.

Symptoms to look out for include a severe headache, stiff neck, aversion to bright lights, high temperature, repeated vomiting, severe sleepiness or confusion, and a rash that does not fade under pressure.



Monday 3rd December 2007

NEWS

courier.news@ncl.ac.uk

>> On the Web This Week



Go to <http://vote.ncl.ac.uk> to complete The Courier survey. We want your feedback for your student newspaper. If you want to see a different style Courier next term then let us know!



www.thecouriernewcastle.com

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>> Weather Watch

After a damp weekend, Monday will be brighter with spells of sunshine and some lighter showers.

Although the rest of the week will have darker clouds and be more gloomy, there will be less rain and the temperatures will actually be slightly higher. This also means that there will be less frosts in the evening.

Check Up Anyone?

BY FRAN INFANTE
CONT. FROM PAGE 1

Many students arrive in Newcastle with no idea of how or where to get their important six monthly dental check ups, and termly commutes across the country

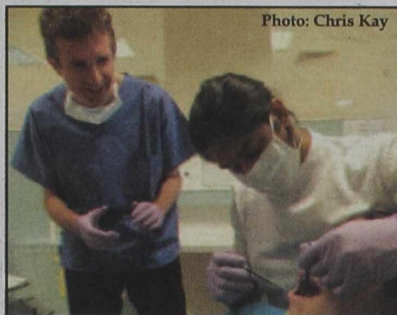


Photo: Chris Kay

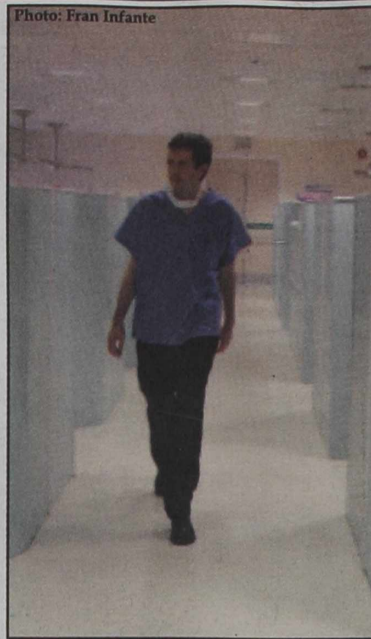
FILLING IN... Rohan Sigal checks a patient for free

mean they can easily be forgotten; a pattern which leads inevitably to more serious problems as cavities develop and grow untreated.

Understandably some may be a little reticent to let a fellow undergrad poke around in their mouths - especially if you know the student in question from drunken nights on the town, but will also be surprised (and relieved) by the level of professionalism in the clinic and more importantly the fact students are supervised by an experienced consultant at all times. The ease of registration makes it foolish to not do it, it's so easy that just by knowing a dentistry student you can be registered for care - they can do it for you! More than that, the benefits to the student volunteers themselves are clear; free dental care (for which most students over the age of 19 do not normally qualify), convenient location (within the medical school on the fourth floor) and excellent quality of care.

If you want to register for free dental care at the University just call 0191 282 5000 and leave your name and number.

Photo: Fran Infante



Indian Connection

Business school alliance with leading Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

BY ANDREW DONAGHY

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY Business School last week announced a new alliance with one of the world's leading international institutions; the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT).

This comes as excellent news as the merger will strengthen Newcastle University's international ties. It will create an outlet for student and staff exchange whilst helping to promote joint research and the development of new and improved courses.

Professor Ravi Shanker of the IIFT said: "This is a great opportunity for both parties to further develop international relationships and bring Indian and UK business and education closer together."

Newcastle University Chancellor, Lord Patten,

former Governor of Hong Kong and current British Chairman of the India-UK Round Table, is the central figure behind this exciting collaboration.

As the recent host of an event in New Delhi for the University's alumni and partners, he stated, "We want to see more Indians in Newcastle and more of our researches in India."

"As a world class university with a highly regarded business school, we feel it is very important to attract world class minds."

With an existing diverse and cosmopolitan student community comprised of 18,000 undergraduates and postgraduates from 110 countries, the ambition is for this positive cultural blend to grow.

The University's Business School has been placed at the forefront of its internationalisation strategy, as positive steps are being taken towards the aim of

having at least one major partner in every continent around the globe.

Professor John Leopold, Acting Director of Newcastle University Business School said: "The Business School is delighted to have strengthened its international links with a highly regarded and influential organisation like the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade."

"We are excited about the future possibilities from this partnership which raises our profile in the Indian market and allows us access to some of the countries most talented individuals."

"The partnership is important as it will enable both staff and student exchange between the two institutions. There are also expected benefits around programme development and also the delivery of executive programmes to the Indian corporate sector."

Photo: Catherine Higginson

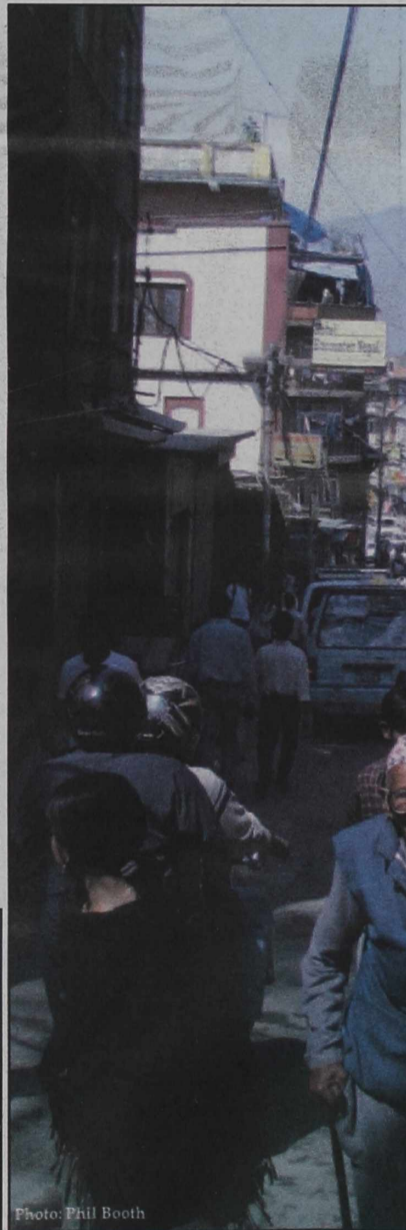


Photo: Phil Booth



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The Courier & Pulp are printed by:
Newcastle Chronicle & Journal Ltd
Groat Market, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
NE1 1ED Tel: 0191 232750

Established in 1948, The Courier is the fully independent Student Newspaper of the Union Society at the University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. Pulp, established in 2003, exists as The Courier's entertainments pullout. The Courier is published weekly during term time, and is free of charge.

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>> MAKE SURE YOU FIND TIME TO CHECK OUT THE NEW COURIER WEBSITE - WWW.THECOURIERNEWCASTLE.COM

**DO YOU WANT TO WRITE FOR COURIER NEWS?
COME TO OUR MEETINGS ON MONDAYS AT 1PM IN
THE TRAINING ROOM: FIRST FLOOR OF THE UNION
SEE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!**



CLEVER MARKETING: The Musical Steal... funniest marketing stunt ever from Microsoft?



The Ultimate Steal

Poly perform musical steal

BY SARAH SCOTT

A GROUP of students from Northumbria Musical Theatre Society attracted crowds outside Newcastle Student Union last week with a hilarious musical performance as a pack of robbers.

The eight students choreographed a seven minute musical charade as part of a competition to promote the new Microsoft Office Ultimate 2007 package, a new promotion aimed at students.

The slogan for this campaign is, 'The Ultimate Steal' and is part of Microsoft's campaign to offer students access to cheaper software that supports their studies and extra-curricular activities.

Using the campaign's slogan the group of students from Northumbria's Musical Theatre Society, put together a performance based on the storyline of a pack of robbers who steal a new Microsoft Office Ultimate 2007 package, then get caught and put in jail.

They sang and danced their way through several theme related songs from famous musicals such as, 'You've got to pick a pocket or two', 'Rhythm of life', 'Who's the thief', 'Cell Block Tango' and 'I want to break free'.

The stunt raised £400 for the society and the president, Richard Brownlie-Marshall, told *The Courier*,

"It was created as a parody to the idea of a musical and how so many stories are being turned into musicals to become more popular.

"We came up with the concept after being given the title of 'The Ultimate Steal' and we thought

that being the musical theatre society we should create, 'The Ultimate Steal - The Musical'." If you missed out, you can still view the entire performance on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JiQpqaUb28>.

The society is now in the running to win the grand prize of £1,000 for the best stunt.

The new software package from Microsoft offers students more powerful applications and a completely redesigned user interface in order to make them simpler to use, this new package is available for students for £38.95. Steve Beswick, Microsoft Education Sales Manager comments, "We are delighted to team up and work with students across the country to promote this fantastic deal.

"We've all been students at one time in our lives and it's important they have access to the best products at the lowest prices and we look forward to maintaining this relationship."

For more information on the promotion or to purchase the package, visit www.TheUltimateSteal.co.uk.

WIN! WIN! WIN!

These students teamed up with Microsoft to promote the brand new 'Office' package, which is now exclusively available to students for the amazing price of £38.95

The Courier has two packages available for two lucky competition winners. To be in with a chance of winning, simply e-mail editor.union@ncl.ac.uk by Friday 7th December at 12pm and the winners will be drawn at random. Good luck!

Newcastle Student's band makes NME

BY PAUL BRANNON
NEWS EDITOR

ANDREW MASON, is currently doing his Msc in Computing Science at Newcastle Uni, and is a member of The Villeins.

The band have been gigging around Newcastle since February 2007, and the highlights so far are definitely playing the Carling Academy (Newcastle) twice, supporting Rick Witter & The Dukes and also getting to the semi-finals of battle of the bands only to be knocked out due to the promoter who forgot to inform the band when the semi-finals were.

The band have recently signed up for NME's Unsigned Bands competition and soon after they received an email from NME asking for more photos as they wanted to include them in an unsigned bands special in the actual magazine.

The Villeins were given a large review and a photo in NME (24th November, Mighty Boosh Edition p.71).

The Myspace page is www.myspace.com/thevilleins and the NME page is <http://www.nme.com/newmusic/thevilleins--uk>



VOX POP: HAVE YOUR SAY

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION, PUT TO YOU BY Joe Daunt

What do you think of *The Courier* so far this year?



Robert Jackson, 21, 3rd Year Geography

"The sport is a lot better than last year. It is more accurate with more regular reports. I really like the paper as a whole, it has a good range of stories."



Stephen Pope, 19, 2nd Year English Language

"The paper has been really good. I like the reports on rugby and sport. I am a member of NUTS and the publicity about our plays has been great."



Will Richens, 20, 3rd Year History
Ned Walker, 21, 2nd Year Psychology

"We are both loving the prizes this year. It's kept all the great stuff from last year and the Solution pictures are really good."



Sarah Brown, 18, 1st Year Agricultural Studies

"I haven't really read much of the paper as this is my first year. I sometimes pick it up at the gym. Perhaps it could do with more promotion."



Bethan Stacey, 22, 4th year Linguistics with French

"There seems to be a lot of sport and the paper feels a bit shorter than last year. But I really like the design and layout of Pulp. It makes a good read."



Laura Harrison, 20, 2nd Year Architecture

"There seems to be a lot of wordy pieces this year, and not enough Solution pictures. I am a bit annoyed as we didn't have our RAG snaps published!"

>> VISIT VOTE.NCL.AC.UK TO TAKE PART IN THE COURIER SURVEY. HAVE YOUR SAY ON YOUR NEWSPAPER!

And the Winners Are...

Freshers' Week Organisers and PGMS Officer Election Results Announced

Photo: Gemma Davies



CAN'T WAIT TO START...The new Freshers' Week Organisers 2008 Eclipse

BY GEMMA DAVIES
EDITOR

LAST WEEK'S campaigning ended with Eclipse being crowned Freshers' Week Organisers 2008 in a hotly contested election.

In a turnout of approximately 1100, Eclipse got over 700 of the votes to cap off a tiring week against the 'I heart Freshers' Week' team.

The new organisers, Paul

Grainger, Matt Ogg, Felicity Harris and Andriana Georgiou were clearly ecstatic at their victory, but exhausted after 51 hours of voting.

They said, "It has been a long 51 hours but we're very relieved and very happy."

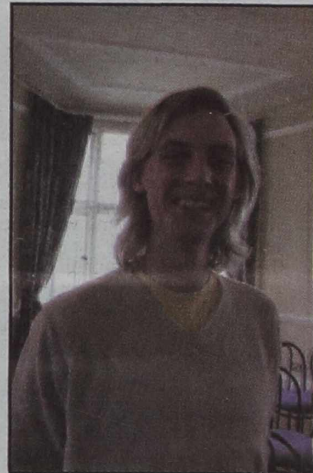
"The week was really good as was the lack of complaints."

"We're just looking forward to the challenge ahead and getting on with the things we said we were going to do."

"We want to start work on the last night with an outdoor event that we need planning permission from the council for."

Meanwhile Chris McCallion was elected as Postgraduate and Mature Students Officer unopposed with 289 votes.

Congratulations to the winners!



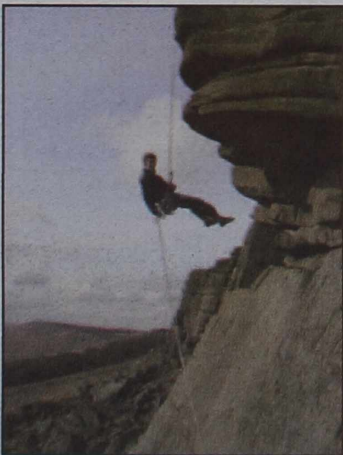
DELIGHTED...New PGMS Officer Chris McCallion

The next Union elections will be in March for the six sabbatical officer positions and more part-time places, too. For details see The Courier after Christmas or come and speak to one of the current officers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BY SOPHIE ROBSON

Abseil for Coco!



TAKE PART in a sponsored abseil from the Tyne Bridge on the 17th February. COCO (Comrades of Children Overseas) is a children's charity, which is trying to make a big difference to the lives

of children affected by poverty, war, famine, illness and disease, and really wants to get as many students as possible involved. Anyone wanting to take part must have registered by 14th December, and pledge to raise a minimum of £70 sponsorship, although this can be easily collected during the Christmas period. Interested? Email gemma@coco.org.uk and you will be sent sponsorship and registration forms and an information pack.

University Carol Service (Tuesday 4th December)

FANCY GETTING in the festive mood early? Well, come along to the University Carol Service at 5.30pm on Tuesday 4th December at St Thomas the Martyr Church, Haymarket (just opposite the university) which is being organized by the University Chaplain Mark Vasey-Saunders. Everyone is welcome and the service will be followed by refreshments and a concert by the University Wind Band. Admission is free.



Stop Press! Smoothies

After considering student/Courier feedback, Smoothies in the Rijo Café in the Union have now been reduced from £2.75 to £1.99 and half a pint of orange juice is £1.

Advance Warning: Recruitment Fair 'Careers for a Cause' 11th February 2008, Lindisfarne room, King's Road Centre 12-2pm

INTERESTED in working in the non-profit or public sectors? The Careers Service will be holding a 'Careers for a Cause' Recruitment Fair.

This event focuses on careers that offer genuine fulfillment and job satisfaction - work with 'meaning' and challenge. This is a great chance to learn more about careers in Voluntary Organisations, Environment, Social Care, Charities, Government, Public Services and Education. Exhibitors attending so far are: Cancer Research UK, SCAN,



Barretstown, Teach First, Oxfam, Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations, Norcare, Save the Children, Keyring, Voluntary Organisations Development Agency, Northumberland County Council, Northumbria Police, Audit Commission, RAF. The perfect opportunity to find out about the paid or voluntary graduate positions on offer!

Your newspaper, your voice!

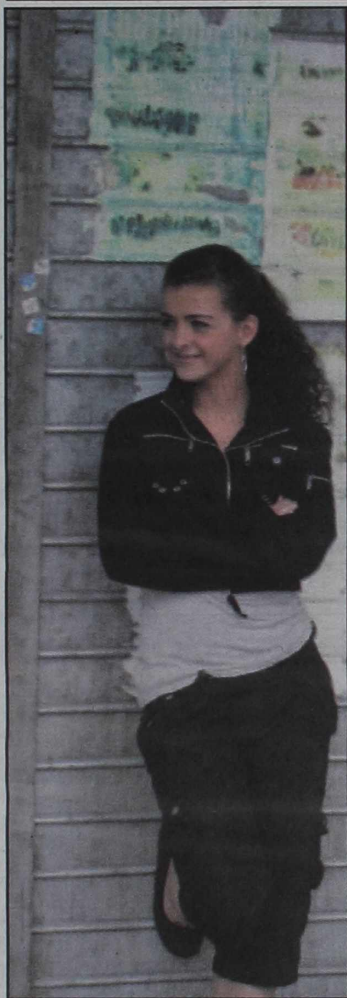
THE COURIER is holding an online survey with your feedback in mind! We want all of your opinions, positive or negative about The Courier so far this year so that we can give YOU the coverage YOU want.

Go to vote.ncl.ac.uk now to have your say...!



Rebecca Rees: Truly Shameless

FRAN INFANTE talks to SHAMELESS actress Rebecca Rees about youth, juggling filming and studying, and what it's like being the youngest cast member...



Fran Infante

Fran: You were pretty young when you got the role of Debbie Gallagher, *Shameless* then became a huge success almost immediately, how do you think this fame affected your early teen years?

Rebecca: From the outset my parents have always kept me extremely grounded and my philosophy has been to enjoy the moment but not let the fame thing go to my head. People have been fantastic to me; and most seem to love the character of Debbie. The reaction has been a really positive one but I am also aware that this game can be very fickle and that things can change very quickly.

F: When was the first time you realised that people recognised you in the street? What was your reaction?

R: As soon as the first series went out people seemed to recognise me straight away – probably due to my

distinctive curly hair, I was extremely flattered by the attention, people in general said some exceptionally nice things to me. It made me very happy and I realised what a lucky girl I was, and reinforced my desire to be a successful actress as I get older.

F: You remain one of the youngest cast members on the show – do you think this has affected your development as an actress in any way?

R: Being one of the youngest cast members has meant that I've had the opportunity to work and learn with fantastic actors who have all been very supportive and generous, and have encouraged me with their help and advice.

To have the opportunity the opportunity to work with James McAvoy (Steve McBride) and Ann-Marie Duff (Fiona Gallagher) in the first series was brilliant, they were both great with me and so professional. I have also been really lucky to have David Threlfall (who plays Debbie's father Frank Gallagher) to learn from since day one.

Being one of the youngest cast members has meant that I've had the opportunity to work and learn with fantastic actors

F: What is it like to be a teenager and balance studying and all the other teenage issues and work full time as well? Do you think it's been easier for you because of the number of young people in the cast of *Shameless*? Do you feel the experience has made you grow up quicker than most people your age?

R: The balance between filming and studying is a very difficult one to maintain. At the end of the day you have to adopt a strong mentality, realise it has to be done and just get on with it.

The only way it can work is if you establish a good working relationship between your parents, the school and the production company – luckily I was able to achieve the right balance. It helps having other young people in the cast as they have similar hurdles to overcome, and yes I suppose the experience has probably made me grow up a bit quicker.

F: Which member of cast do you spend most time with? Are you close on and off set?

R: I spend most of my time with Elliott (her on screen brother Carl Gallagher) – he is a year older than me and we are great mates, we always have a laugh together and he is always very supportive...and protective towards me.

F: Who is the funniest member of

the cast? Why?

R: Dystin (who plays Norma Starkey) is always making me laugh with her jokes and is always bright and positive and generally a great person to be around, both on and off set.

F: We always read of the cast of long running TV shows saying they feel and act like a big family, would you say this is true of the *Shameless* cast?

R: The cast of 'Shameless' is a family, absolutely. We have formed very strong bonds both in and outside work.

The real truth is that we all get on really well and everybody is always available if any of us has a problem. Whilst it will be very difficult to not have daily contact with them all when *Shameless* eventually ends, I know our friendship and love for each other will last forever.

F: Have there been any noticeable changes on the set over the five seasons?

R: The biggest and most noticeable

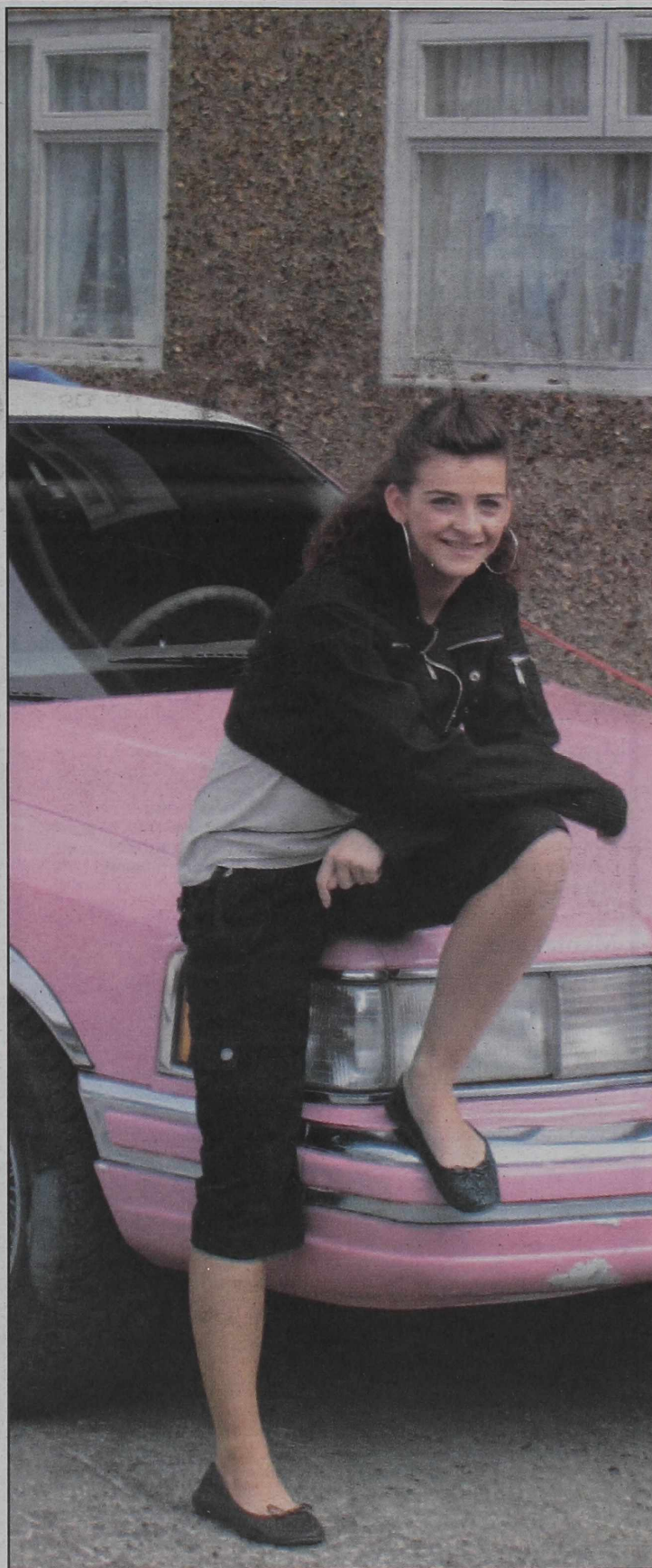
change has been the development of the new set (which was unveiled in April this year as filming began for series five.) It's fabulous, we have fantastic facilities which include new dressing rooms, canteen and green room areas. In addition we are able to film far more on set than we have been able to do previously, which is really helpful.

F: Do you find it easy to relate to your character Debbie – what would you say the two of you have in common?

R: I do find it easy to relate to my character as I have played the part for so long now. I suppose Debbie and I both have the same inner desire to make a success of life, overcome problems as they arise and always try and stay upbeat and positive.

F: What do you envisage for your life after *Shameless*? What type of thing would you like to get into as an adult actress?

R: I have already been involved with several other programmes in the past, and hope to be involved with cutting edge drama, possibly a period drama, and being as diverse as possible and stretching myself as far as I can. I have to prove I can make the difficult transition from child to adult actress and would love to progress to film at some stage... mind you I quite fancy 'Strictly Come Dancing!'



PRETTY IN PINK: Rebecca on set with a pink Lincoln

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

WORDS OF THE WEEK

BY PAUL BRANNON

Quotes of the week:

"All our chickens are free to roam and be happy. But not at night..."

-The packaging on Tesco's Free Range eggs, reassuring even the most concerned consumer.

"I remember spending most of my days off in and out of a variety of VD clinics... I was dating a porno chick as well as this sweet little junkie jailbait girlfriend I had."

-Guns N' Roses guitarist Slash, on why we should all get tested now and then...

"I am a story teller, if I wanted to send a message I would have written a sermon."

-Philip Pullman hits back at religious critics who have condemned *His Dark Materials* as overtly critical of Christianity in light of the release of *The Golden Compass*, the movie based on Pullman's prolific work.

Love den for horny dogs

A LOVE motel in Soa Paulo has opened for amorous dogs.

The love motel offers decorated rooms for dogs of pet owners who are concerned for their animal's needs.

Robson Marinho, owner of a pet shop, built the air-conditioned room on the second floor and hung a sign that reads "Pet Love Motel".

The rooms in the motel, at Barra Funda, are decorated in the same way as love motels for humans, with satin sheets, ceiling heart-shaped mirrors, special control panel to dim the lights, romantic music and lots of cushions. Even the windows have thick curtains for timid dogs that want discretion. A love room for your dogs costs \$41 for two hours.

Move over Hamburglar

CHICAGO MAY have its own ham-robber.

Police say a man used what they call a "gun-shaped" object in his attempt to rob a Humboldt Park bar in Chicago.

A local CBS station were tipped off that the weapon was actually a ham sandwich molded into the shape of a gun.

The ham-robber fell on his way out of the bar and was ham-prehended....

Mental mechanics

A US man has injured himself in both legs after attempting to loosen a stiff wheel-nut by blasting it with his gun.

The 66-year-old man from Washington state was repairing his car outside his home when the accident took place.

Shooting at the wheel from arm's length with his 12-gauge shotgun, he was peppered with buckshot and debris.

The man - who police say was on his own and not intoxicated - was taken to hospital with severe, but not life-threatening, injuries.

The man, from South Kitsap, 10 miles southwest of Seattle, had been repairing his Lincoln Continental for two weeks, according to the police, and had removed all but one of the nuts on the right rear wheel.

Frustrated by the one remaining nut, which refused to budge, he resorted to fire power in an effort to shift it.

Frickin' chickens cause motorway mayhem

A lorry carrying 3,000 live chickens jack-knifed near Castle Cary on a major motorway last month causing feathery mayhem for motorists travelling south and north.

The A80 heading towards Glasgow was shut for more than eight hours as the birds were rounded up by a specialist team drafted in by police.

The southbound carriageway was shut throughout the rush-hour, causing major tailbacks, with the M80 and M876 approach roads also closed.

Freshers' Week elections: anything fresh?



Kate McCann

YOU'D HAVE to be blind to have missed all the pink-clad fairies and decorated underpants on display last week around campus and having spent a lot of time in Uni, I was attacked with stickers more than once!

Walking into The Courier meeting on Monday afternoon I was pounced on by an enthusiastic Eclipse supporter wielding a handful of the things and an eager grin, "Vote Eclipse," I was told. "They're the best".

And so, with sticker firmly glued to my coat I began to wonder how much I really knew about the Union elections and how important fancy dress is to winning.

Do any of us know what we're voting for, and does it actually even matter?

Well, you're talking to a politics student so for me, of course our student elections matter, we'd all be up in arms if we weren't at least given the choice of who runs the Union Freshers' Week.

But when it really comes down to it, I know a lot of people who would tell you they didn't vote last week because the elections just didn't mean anything to them.

Sorry guys, but all that dressing up and shouting through loud speakers was wasted; put simply, some of us just feel like we have better things to

do.

But wandering around the library looking for a computer (along with what felt like the rest of the campus!) I came across an unusually large male fairy, dressed from head to toe in pink, complete with florescent leg warmers.

And although the fancy dress element does seem a bit unnecessary to me, I have to admit that you wouldn't catch me dressing up like that to promote anything, and I'd be even more hesitant to do so if I was 6ft tall and male.

It's not the dedication to their cause I'm debating though, of course the Freshers' organisers are dedicated,

What really matters is what each group wants to do for the students and, on look at both write-ups, there really isn't much in it...

their job takes up almost an entire summer and lets face it, most Freshers won't even realise how much goes into their first week at Uni - they'll be too hammered to notice.

What really interests me is the manifesto that each group has to present which was published in The Courier last week.

As I've said, fancy dress isn't a big issue for me, nor is who I think is better at designing posters or handing out stickers; what really matters is

what each group wants to do for the students and, on looking at both write ups, there really isn't much in it.

First off, both "Eclipse" and "I Love Freshers' Week" want to host "bigger events", make better use of the internet, include all groups of students e.g. "locals" and international students, as well as offering a greater range of non-alcoholic focused activities.

All good ideas and there are some slight differences between the two, but they're not that big and lets face it, what organisation ever really sticks to what their manifesto says anyway?

I must admit though, despite sounding like such a cynic, the idea of an all-inclusive end of week finale does seem like a good way to include the rest of us (and a good excuse to pretend we're Freshers again!) and the idea of producing a guide for students living away for the first time would be pretty helpful; but I can't help feeling that the costumes are going to win out every time.

Would a group who campaigned with the best of them and handed out stickers, but not in fancy dress, do as well in the elections? I think not.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying self promotion is a bad thing, of course it isn't, image is important and I love to dress up as much as everyone else (and yes, I know how that sounds).

But I can only imagine the dread poor Gordon Brown would feel when the elections do (eventually) come around, if he realised that Cameron's suave haircut and sophisticated ties would beat him every time.

Nationalist politics are cause for concern



Paul Brannon
News Editor

IT IS hard to get people interested in politics because so many are convinced that it doesn't affect them and that their vote doesn't matter.

The number of students who abstain from voting in Union elections is also very high and students can't even be bothered to have their say on who runs their Freshers' Week, to use a topical example. There is much debate over why voter turnout is so low in recent years.

One theory is that voters feel disillusioned with the differences between the two parties being so minimal; the Tories and the Labour party are now so centred that their policies are becoming increasingly difficult to distinguish between.

Another theory is that so many people feel generally comfortable with their lives that they feel that their vote is impotent to change anything substantially; as there aren't any major wrongs that they feel need to be righted.

So, in light of these hypotheses, I find it interesting, yet not surprising, that there has been so much outrage of late regarding the BNP leader, Nick Griffin's desire to tour and speak on University campuses throughout the country.

Perhaps it takes an entity which is considered a severe threat to normality to elicit such outrage from the British student, or to make anybody form an opinion.

I personally believe that the BNP are narrow-minded, insular and some of

their policies are incredibly outmoded and that they shouldn't be allowed anywhere near civilised society.

However, I also feel conflicted when it comes to their eligibility to be allowed to speak on University campuses.

They are a bona-fide (legally) political entity, which is winning more and more seats every time there are local and national elections.

The BNP, then, obviously represent some demographic of the British population, and presumably some students so if this is so, then why shouldn't they, constitutionally, have

Perhaps it takes an entity which is considered a severe threat to normality to elicit outrage from the British student...

a right to talk where they choose?

Besides, any half intelligent, educated person is going to see the bigotry hidden not-so-far beneath the surface of the nationalist rhetoric of the BNP, so what harm is it to let them voice their political ambitions, when reasonable people aren't going to agree with them anyway?

On the other hand, I do strongly believe that it is institutional preference whether or not the BNP are allowed to speak on their property, and I would hate to see the BNP allowed to talk here, and Newcastle University labelled as collaborators.

Nick Griffin has been criminally convicted for inciting racial hatred, and allowing such a man a platform on which to communicate his ideals is dangerous and divisive.

In case you are unfamiliar, I will outline some of the BNP's most worrying manifesto policies; I quote directly

from their online manifesto for 2007:

"To deport all criminals whose original nationality is not British", "deport the two million immigrants who are here illegally", "stop all new immigration except for exceptional cases" and finally, "offer generous grants to those of foreign descent resident here who wish to leave permanently."

Some of these policies wouldn't have looked out of place in a manifesto by a well-known, moustached German dictator of the 1930s, and it worries me that an increasing number of people seem to be supporting them.

I think that the Labour party have a lot to answer for.

The way in which they dealt with the issue and public perception of immigration has been poor at best.

Instead of dealing with the issue directly and immediately (whether it was for fear of being seen as discriminatory or not), they have created an issue which is massive within the U.K.

By releasing inaccurate figures on numbers of illegal immigrants in the country, and then admitting these statistical blunders, they have forced the British public into the belief that there is an immigration crisis, and that even the Government have no real idea of how many immigrants are in the country illegally.

When the public lose confidence in the government over a particular issue, it leads to a dangerous situation where more radical thinking is seen to be the most viable solution.

Various student unions in the U.K have already vetoed arrangements for the BNP to hold conferences in front of their students, and, if the situation arises at Newcastle University, I'll be very interested to see how we as a community react.

Sweeping success



CLEANING UP: Newcastle hockey players try to get a win whilst conservationists clean up Longbenton nature areas

BY ALEXANDRA SAGGERS

THE NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY Conservation Society has headed an ambitious project to make Long Benton Sports Field an improved habitat for wildlife.

This work is the start of a scheme by the University to conserve the natural environment around campus and improve biodiversity.

A management plan is being put into place to include the University, the local community and local schools in helping encourage small mammals, birds, insects and wildflowers at sites around the sports field. The Conservation Society is going to be doing much of the practical work over the next few months to begin this process.

Work began early on Saturday 24th November, when keen members of the society were given a tour of the site and a talk by Ian Benton, the Estates Manager, before getting down and dirty with their tools.

The team scarified some areas of the sports field so that they could sow seeds. Katie Opposs, a Chemistry student at Newcastle and the publicity officer for Con-Soc, enjoyed the day, saying: "We had to stomp/dance/skank/run up and down on the seeds to make sure they went into the soil and stayed there!"

"This was my favourite part of the day, although the drizzle earlier had made the ground a bit slippery - trying to keep my cool whilst danc-

ing on seeds and soil in front of the football team was a real challenge!"

They then cut back some overgrown trees to allow light to a pre existing hedge. Katie added: "Future tasks at the site are likely to involve making bird boxes, hedgehog boxes, planting wildflower bulbs into the areas we have sown so that in summer the whole bank will be a fantastic display of flowering plants."

The Society's president, Ruth Starr-Kedde, was pleased with the efforts of the first day, saying that: "This is a brilliant opportunity to learn about habitat management from scratch rather than being told what to do."

She praised the contributors for "an excellent days work" and said: "It will be great to be involved in a project like this from the beginning."

Newcastle University Conservation Society describe themselves as "an environmentally friendly, outdoor-appreciating society that places a strong emphasis on doing worthwhile conservation work whilst having a fun time."

The Society takes part in tasks around Newcastle once a week, usually Sundays or Saturdays, and goes on residential weekends away once a term.

This Friday the Society will be heading to the picturesque Jesmond Dene for tree felling and footpath maintenance.

For more information on the Conservation Society and their future events, go to: www.societies.ncl.ac.uk/consoc.

Meningitis warning, watch your mates...

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

It also must be remembered that although most cases of the disease occur between autumn and spring they can occur at any time and awareness of the symptoms is vital as some of them bare so much of a resemblance with flu or hangovers and can occur in any order and as in Tom's case develop extremely rapidly.

During the campaign week representatives from the Meningitis Trust will be on hand to give out leaflets and talk to students about any concerns they have. The University is also producing a short information film to highlight the importance of being aware of the symptoms of meningitis, and of getting urgent medical help. The film will be shown on screens in the Union Building and in Halls of Residence during the campaign.

Rosemarie Jennis, Head of the University's Student Wellbeing Service, said: "Tom's case illustrates all too clearly how important it is for students to look out for one another. The University is very aware of the need to make sure that all of our students have access to information about meningitis, and we have been overwhelmed by the support and enthusiasm we have had for the campaign week, from the Union Society and healthcare agencies. I would urge everyone to take time to refresh their memory about meningitis, and what to do if they think that they, or one of their friends, could have the symptoms."

Given Tom's previous good health it is truly frightening how dangerously ill he became in less than 36 hours. Scientists still do not know exactly what makes the bacteria which can exist harmlessly in most people turn into deadly killers, only that as the Meningitis UK website says, "Students are thought to be more at risk because the carriage rates tend to be higher due to the close proximity in which they live on University campuses."

More information is available from the Student Wellbeing Service at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/welfare-service>

Testing Teams

STI clinic comes to the Men's bar as Union encourages sexual health care

BY FRAN INFANTE NEWS EDITOR

INFAMOUSLY promiscuous sports team members encouraged to face up and take responsibility for their sexual health... and the fact that statistically 1 in 10 of them already has Chlamydia.

Everyone knows Wednesday night is sports night, with its standard cocktail of alcohol fancy dress and inter-team "bonding" - sex is always on the agenda but never more so than last Wednesday as students were presented with the opportunity to test their sexual health before the night's festivities got underway.

A Rugby League player who does not wish to be identified explained the set up. "Basically

there were two girls behind a desk in Men's bar pestering everyone who came up. They were really friendly and it was good to be able to have a bit of banter with them. I think that's the way to deal with it without being embarrassed - make a joke and get on with it. Fill in a form, wee in a cup - it's not exactly complicated." When asked what prompted this sudden concern about the condition of his kit he responded, "It's hard to say whether people were tested because they were there and got talked into it or because they came in with the intention of getting it done, probably 50/50."

Over 40 students took the test during the course of the evening and between this and events held at Castle Leazes, St Mary's and Henderson halls of residence over

300 students have been tested since the beginning of S.H.A.G. Week last Monday. An outside company which usually operates out of the GUM clinic at the General Hospital was brought in to conduct the tests. Despite the seemingly low number of students who chose to be tested they were happy with the outcome - given that they normally see around 30 students a month, its quite impressive that such figure could be achieved in four days.

Rosie Duffield, Student Support Officer told me more about the NUS campaign aimed at making students aware of the risks of Chlamydia, which has already received backing from the BBC. "It's really important to make students realise how easily they could contract this disease and not realise it. Regular testing is the only way to be sure. This is especially important as, if left untreated it can cause infertility in both men and women, which obviously can have a major impact on your later life." "Girls need to not be worried about being branded a slag just for getting tested for STIs, you can catch it as easily from your boyfriend as you can from a one night stand. Girls are usually more concerned about pregnancy but they need to learn to be aware of their sexual health as well," said AU President Lydia Oxenham who helped co-ordinate the S.H.A.G. Week event with the popular Wednesday night meeting of sports team in the Union.

When asked about the reaction the event got from students, Rosie told *The Courier*, "In general the response this week has been really good. We've given away over

800 SHAG bags full of advice and condoms both outside the Union and at Solution last Friday. Or Wednesday the teams were full of chat; the Football boys happily got involved and the Rugby League boys were mostly too drunk to do anything and were a bit rowdy but a few did take advantage of the opportunity so I'm pleased."

This event and those like it are extremely positive in terms of raising awareness but it must be remembered how small a proportion of the student body are aware of how sexually healthy they are.

Rosie would like to remind all students that free condoms are available from her office at all times.

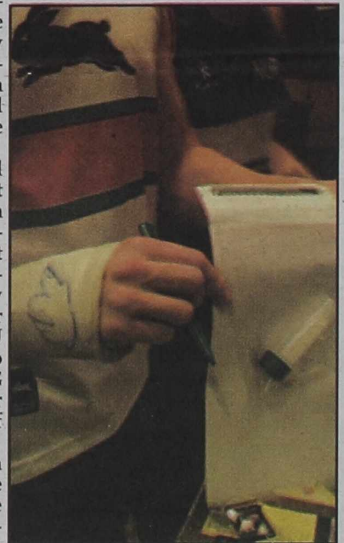


Photo: Chris Kay



EMMA MARLOW gets into the spirit of Christmas, but doesn't want to queue for it

Winter Wonderland

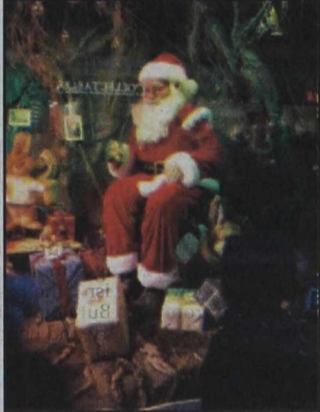
DECEMBER in Newcastle has to be my favourite month of the year. The chocolate advent calendar has been started (hopefully not finished!) and the only worries are finding that perfect outfit for the Christmas ball and discovering your social calendar has become so full that you have to begin declining invitations.

The central heating has finally been turned on and your bedroom is now bearable, without the need of multiple layers and two pairs of socks. Wrapping up warm has become a given, especially when venturing outside, and the possibility of snow fills you with excitement.

December also means your first taste of mulled wine for the year and drunken groups, dressed as Santa, fill Solution. Ice skating in town is a must and cosy nights in, with a hot chocolate, are suddenly more appealing than a night on the town. A pre-Christmas lunch at Ricky Road uses several ovens to cope with the sheer volume of food and decorations, from the infamous Xmas Box, adorn every room.

December is when the town centre also comes alive and the wiser ones among us know Northumberland Street is to be avoided at all costs, due to the thousands of shoppers. Personally,

I like to take advantage of the Metrocentre's extended opening hours to avoid being crushed. The wait is over to view the Fenwick's festive window and the lights have been switched on. The German market is not to be missed (think roasted chestnuts and chocolate dipped fruit) and 'Carols by Candlelight' in Jesmond is a brilliant way to celebrate the season. All that's left is to go out and celebrate the party season in style; it's the perfect excuse to part with what's left of your student loan.



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The Waiting Game

ONE major downside of Newcastle in December, however, has to be the queues. I realised that a significant amount of my time had been spent in some form of queue over the last week. December is definitely the busiest time of year and every street, shop and bar is heaving. There are queues to park your car, for the metro and when buying your lunch. At times it can feel never ending. A quick trip to Tesco should take five minutes, but instead you are faced with lines of customers snaking down every aisle, stocking up on mince pies. Suddenly milk doesn't seem so essential.

Last week, the Christmas rush had already begun. I went into town, in a spare hour between lectures, forgetting that an hour is simply not long enough to fit in a visit to Primark. Even after you've managed to wade through the masses and pick out that crucial rave / fancy dress costume, the queue that awaits you, in the stifling heat of the store, can often lead to the potential purchase being discarded in search of a quick exit and fresh air!

With everyone having pre-Christmas drinks and end of term gatherings the bars are packed, even compared to a normal Friday. Drinks on Osborne Road lead to endless waiting when trying to get a round in. Then funds run low and a trip to the cash machine results in a yet another lengthy line. This time it consists of party goers needing notes to continue their partying. Onto a club, you turn the corner and discover this queue is five people in breadth, with people spilling into the road, and others trying to weave there way forward. At this point you start to wish you had brought a jacket or thought ahead and added yourself to the guest list. Once inside I suggest cunningly sending a friend to the bar, to avoid further time wasting.

After some dancing, nature calls and you regret your large liquid intake when approaching the row of people emerging from the cubicles. Also, a queue of this sort is not usually as simple as first come, first served. Instead priority is given to people who claim

they need the loo the most or those most likely to throw up within the next 10 seconds. Finally, you reach the end of the night, time to get a taxi and you guessed it, another queue. Even with a heels and skirt combo, I usually consider braving the cold and walking home; after all it's probably quicker.



LINDSAY GULLIVER guides you through the Christmas crackers and Christmas turkeys on the goggle box this festive season

ful stuff.

In theory, there has always been a Christmas Day television embargo in my living room. However that's never stopped my sister and I sneaking off to watch it elsewhere - though that creates other problems; you try explaining to a room full of relatives why you're sobbing your eyes out, whispering in shocked abandon, "Jamie's dead!"

I couldn't possibly talk about Christmas television without mentioning Eastenders, always brutal under the influence of mince pies. Remember Jamie lying crippled in a hospital bed, his young life slipping away while Sonia warbled at him? Or cast your mind back to a more recent seasonal period - Dennis being stabbed at New Years! He was leaving - he was trying to leave and start fresh, but no, just when you think you're out, they drag you back in! Maybe The Godfather isn't a particularly Christmassy movie, but I feel it's quite apt... With horses' heads in mind, 10.7 million viewers tuned in to see the death of Pauline Fowler last Christmas. That's roughly one sixth of the nation glued to the screen with cold cuts on their laps.

It's not just the soaps and the films though - Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the opening of capitalism's proverbial floodgates, as advertised between seasonal telly treats. Personally I find the unholy union of Christmas and commercialism perfectly encompassed by the Coca Cola ad. I can randomly be heard chanting "Holidays are coming, holidays are coming" in the depths of August, such is its power over me. I saw it for the first time this year last week and in all honesty, something deep inside warmed... possibly my cockles. I remember the outrage that swept the Uni last Christmas when the age-old ad was updated. Travesty. This year though, brings a small delight in the form of the Argos ad - every time it airs at least one of my flatmates can be seen to point and shout, "That's Grey Street!"

Who knows what this Christmas telly season will bring, but I'm fairly certain we can count on other classics besides The Great Escape. Bing Crosby in White Christmas will face stiff competition to horrify young viewers everywhere, from the bell-clad elf, Dudley Moore, in Santa Clause The Movie. Then there's the more modern, but no less spectacular (spectacularly scarring - Tim Allen wandering around rooftops in his boxers? Shudder) The Santa Clause. Admittedly this was a favourite of mine for years and last year, the sadly deceased tvlinks provided me the opportunity to relive my youth - The Santa Clause 3! I cannot stress strongly enough though that this is to be avoided. At all costs. If it's the choice between chatting to relatives, cleaning up reindeer droppings or watching this movie, for the birthday boy's sake, grab a shovel and get started. Besides the traditional line-up of films - all as saccharine as a candy cane - you can probably count on a depressing Dickens adaptation, reruns of Only Fools and Horses and the Vicar of Dibley, and fingers crossed, some big new blockbusters too. And if the holiday season is getting you down? Best bet is The Grinch (the cartoon, not the Jim Carrey fiasco) or The Nightmare Before Christmas - after all a little realism never goes amiss.

Okay, so Christmas telly never quite lives up to the expectations, but let's face it, you're usually so stuffed/pissed that you fall asleep on the sofa anyway. Merry Christmas!



CHRISTMAS is coming, the goose is getting fat. The horror that is Bing Crosby in a Santa hat is fast approaching. Oh yes, the Christmas TV listings are almost upon us!

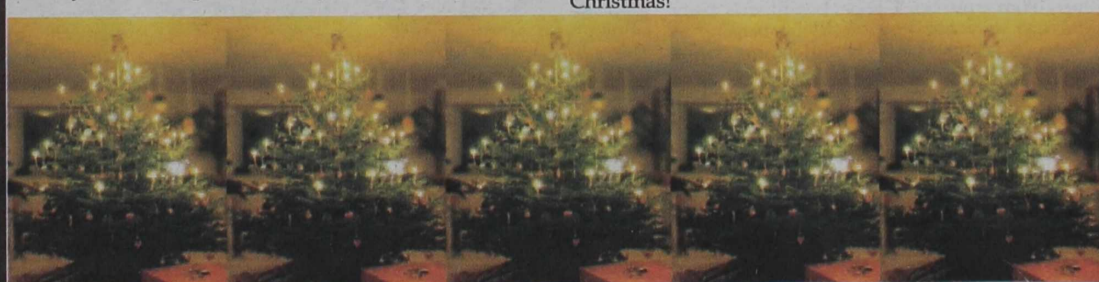
As of December 1st, every studio in the land will be sporting a perfectly trimmed Christmas tree, Blue Peter will be encouraging minors everywhere to play with fire and presenters nationwide will begin to sport dubious, seasonal ties.

Maybe it was peculiar to our family, but when we were younger, my sister and I awaited the Christmas listings with giddy excitement, ready to pounce with our highlighters - after all, this was before the time of set top boxes, and Sod's Law predicted that her Top of the Pop's special and my sappy, seasonal movie premiere would clash with an almighty clanging of reindeer bells. With me it was always about the formulaic, snow-drenched American films - I grew up in Essex, not really a place known for its white Christmases, so snow in my little brain equalled miracles and large New England mansions. Home Alone has a lot to answer for. On the other hand, watching East17 sway whilst sprinkled with white confetti, held absolutely no appeal.

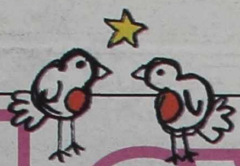
Equally, The Great Escape held no appeal until I turned about thirteen, at which time Steve McQueen on a motorbike evading Nazis with effortless cool suddenly became mesmerising. I will happily watch it every Christmas. And Easter. And random Bank Holiday. In a post-turkey haze, it's one that the entire family can gawp at together, without one single flake of snow or schmooze.

One of my most vivid Christmas memories is of my parents in the living room, each allocated one child which they must 'fly' around to the dulcet - and by dulcet I mean helium - tones of Aled Jones. That's probably the kind of thing I shouldn't admit, but there it is; The Snowman, another traditional Christmas telly moment.

On the subject of tradition, I have, in all honesty, never watched the Queen's speech - one is not an anarchist, one just can't think of anything one would rather do less, than listen to the crowned one summarise another god awful year of war, politics and sporting tragedy. Cheer-



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Love is in the Toon

ALICE HERBERT gets that loving feeling for dates in Newcastle

ROMANCE? As a student? Is it just me or is a student's idea of a romantic night a few beers curled up in bed watching X-men on DVD. Or at a push, an amorous night at the cinema watching the latest high-school comedy gross-out movie. Maybe it's true, maybe romance is dead. I'm here to rekindle those embers, to fire cupid's arrow, to set passion ablaze again by offering some romantic hot-spot suggestions that will hopefully assist you in hitting another hot-spot.

These won't be your typical unoriginal, unadventurous dates, they will be magical, romantic or at the

least just very different. Dates that will make you appear to be exciting, imaginative and unique. Follow this advice and you may finally escape that extended drought that has dogged you for so long.

Skating@Life:

This is a risky one. It has the potential to either make you look pretty damn cool, or a loser, depending on ability. But in concept how very romantic. Skating hand-in-hand perfectly in time, snuggling together for warmth. Or falling flat on your face whilst a 10 year old skates

proficiently around you - oh the shame. If you are willing to risk it, skating at the Life centre is on until February 24th for a mere cheap date price of £5.50.

Blackfriars:

This one is for the really hot date that you are desperate to impress. It is not only one of the best restaurants in Newcastle but is also the oldest dining room in the UK, allowing you to combine fine dining with history. The best part is, the daytime set menu means you can look like the most generous date in the world but not pay much more than the price of a Macdonalds meal.

Big Mussel:

This restaurant doesn't have the big romance factor, but it is perfect if you are looking for somewhere laid-back and relaxed. And how many places offer a kilo worth of mussels. With a 15% student discount it is good value too. Possibly not the best place to take a first date though as mussel eating can be a rather messy business and it may be a good idea to check if your date has a fatal fish allergy before you go. A hospital does not inspire romance.

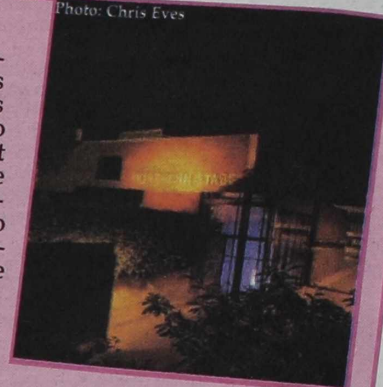
Tynemouth beach:

A classic, the romantic stroll

Northern Stage:

An alternative to the cinema, a night at this theatre is cheap, different and means you only have to struggle to converse in the interval. It also has the potential to make you look like a cultural intellect, but fear not, there is also an adequate bar with a fine selection of real ales. Book online at www.northernstage.co.uk.

Photo: Chris Eves



The Quayside:

An unforgettable introduction to Newcastle, the Quayside makes a good date for the non-toon student, i.e. the boyfriend from Exeter etc. You've got all your classic Newcastle images here, the Baltic, the 'eye' bridge, the Sage.

There's a particularly good Italian ice-cream parlour along the front if you are in need of some nourishment after all that culture, and for a special occasion, you can't beat the rooftop restaurant at the Baltic. It provides true date luxury (pricey) combined with spectacular views across the city.



Photo: Max Breese

along the sands. Tynemouth seems the perfect setting, a long stretch of golden sand, waves crashing on the shoreline...and then there's the weather. Artic temperatures, ferocious winds, slashing rain. Hmm, perhaps Newcastle isn't the best location for romance. But you will just have to make do - try and choose a day with more sunshine than grey and Tynemouth can actually seem more Jamaica than Geordie.

Tokyo:

Trying to keep it casual? Just heading out for a few drinks? Go to Tokyo bar just along from central station and you will impress. There is

something very James Bond-esque about it and this will hopefully rub off on you. This bar has class and style, impressions you definitely want to evoke.

So take a hint, don't just stay in your joggers, eat take-away and watch repeats of Scrubs, spice up your romance with some hot dates. You will reap the rewards - a less grumpy partner, more sex, more opportunities to see your partner look good, more opportunities to show off your partner, a higher likelihood of getting a hot partner in the first place. All valid reasons to make the effort. So get dating, now.

Great Gift Give-away

EMMA ROURKE on what to do when giving really does prove better than receiving

WITH LESS than a month to go before the big day itself, the commercial juggernaut we've come to recognise as Christmas is unstoppable. It's now approaching us at a frankly terrifying rate - bringing with it the inevitable uncomfortable moment when you are presented with a so called gift for which you have no possible use for a relative who (thankfully) you've managed to avoid for the past twelve months.

As the unfortunate niece of a serial offender in the gift department, I have experienced only too many times the little voice that sits inside my head telling me to smile, to look happy, surprised - in fact any facial expression that could be construed as positive! Fortunately, the aforementioned aunt is usually too preoccupied with the brandy bottles being passed her way to notice.

Most people will have been through this discomfort, many will in fact have found themselves slightly amused (albeit cruelly) at the poorly concealed expression of sheer horror/confusion on a fellow victim's face as they too tore off the paper with an unmistakably childlike enthusiasm to find something so useless they probably never before knew of its existence.

Every Christmas there are a couple of relatives who will buy a gift that is inappropriate - like alcohol for someone who has recently given up drinking. In the overwhelming majority of cases these will be extended family. More often than not these relatives are kept at arm's length, connected

only by genes or even by legality, they have nothing in common with you and will bestow upon you something you don't want and don't need.

In saying this, I may sound cruel - it is, after all, their hard-earned money and surely we should take any additions to our stockings, however unnecessary, as a compliment? But a factor that would certainly cause me to choke over any heartfelt thanks is that any purchase like this is made out of pure obligation.

For those who have relatives blessed with slightly more imagination than to purchase a gift voucher, you may receive an item of clothing. On the morning itself you'll give the impression of true awe at how someone could have known your taste in clothes so well, but inwardly know you'd never be caught wearing it outside of the house. One way to get around unwanted items of clothing is to say that although you adore the item, it simply doesn't fit and you'd like the receipt in order to exchange said item for an identical item only in a different size. And once you have your hands on the receipt, provided it's within their stated refund/exchange period, most shops will be happy to oblige.

Meanwhile, Christmas etiquette experts advocate that handmade or individual or handmade gifts, including the age old scourge, novelty Christmas jumpers embellished with reindeer embroidery or similar, must never be exchanged or passed on. This is, of course, unfortunate for those of us with the 'crafty' relatives.

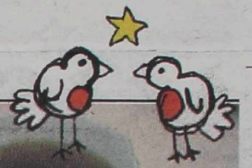
At least they've expended time and effort.

So now to the question everyone secretly wants to know the answer to when faced with disappointing realities beneath the glittering promise of the Christmas-themed paper - 'what can I possibly do with this item?' The answer is, it depends. There are always charity shops which will be grateful recipients of saleable items and will enable you to feel you've shared in the goodwill of Christmas. Of course, you won't receive any financial return - but is that important considering?

Considering you may be a student looking for something to live off during the financially awkward period between first and second loan payments, the answer to this question may well be yes. In which case - assuming you cannot return an item and receive a refund or useful exchange - there are always online auction sites such as eBay. On 28 December eBay is launching a new section of its site specifically for trading unwanted Christmas presents.

It's definitely worth looking into the possibilities of how to make the most out of the unwanted gift you've received. Of no sentimental value to you, buried under mountains of stuff in a cupboard somewhere it is completely useless. Sold on for a reasonable price and you might find yourself with a bit of money. It probably won't equate to a lottery win - but may mean you can afford to get a round in. Merry Christmas!





JEN SETH isn't willing to slow down when tackling Newcastle's shopping mecca Quality Street

SHOPPING generally is a pleasant and frequently enjoyed pastime, and Newcastle is famed for its abundance of facilities for just this activity. There are countless fancy boutiques for that one special and pricey item, a vast selection of mid-range high street shops to cater for our must-haves and furnish our oh-so-fashionable wardrobes and finally, bargain basement, super-value stores to fill in the gaps.

Obviously not forgetting the vital and key establishment to complete any student's inevitably enormous collection of fancy dress surprises: The Magic/Xmas Box.

In this fair city it is never more than a short walk (or perhaps Metro ride), to the well-equipped centre, where we can browse to our hearts' content as we ponder how to spend our hard-earned student loans.

And, there's more! If Northumberland Street fails to deliver a sufficiently high level of happy-hormones to your brain you can take a trip to the Metro Centre, one of the largest shopping and leisure parks in Europe.

It sports a huge diversity of retail outlets for whatever one might be in the market for, and for any size of wallet. All a stone's throw from where we call 'home'.

Another plus point for the Toon is that it's not too spread out. It's entirely possible to encompass all your favourite stores without working

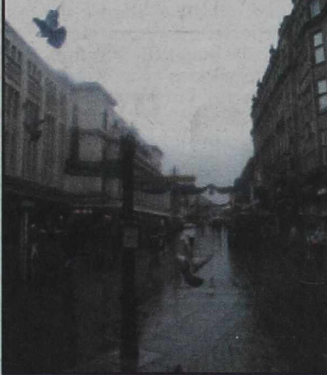
up a sweat by making a treacherous journey 'cross hill o'er dale to reach your emporium of choice.

If, however, you're a novice, or you took the phrase 'shop-'til-you-drop' too literally, you've also fallen on your feet. There are what seems like millions of cafés, restaurants and pubs, so there's bound to be a suitable place for a 'pick me up' before you once again emerge into the bright lights and polished surfaces ready for the afternoon stint, surrounded by shiny new 'investments' to be.

So whatever you're after, whatever your budget; if you can stand the heat, you're in the right place.



Photo: Chris Kay



Easy Does It

I'M NOT sure if it's some kind of conspiracy or if I'm just unlucky, but it seems that whenever I am late for something there is inevitably an old woman meandering in front of me the whole way there.

No matter how hard I try to squeeze by, or how perfectly I time my overtake, I just cannot get past. They carefully place their arthritis-ridden feet exactly in the middle of the pavement, so I either have to risk scarring my face on thorny rose bushes or endangering my life by running into the path of oncoming Ferraris and Bentleys (granted, if I were walking around Fenham rather than Jesmond I may be less lucky with the calibre of vehicle).

What's worse, is walking around the centre of town, where not only do people (not just the old this time) walk slowly, but also they sporadically stop mid-stride, change direction and attempt to venture through gaps in the throngs of human traffic that they just simply will not fit.

Saturdays on Northumberland Street are any shopper's nightmare. Getting from Primark to H&M can prove almost as difficult as crossing the Atlantic, as we swim through the metaphorical ocean of smokers assembling at shop entrances, old men with walking sticks threatening to pull our feet from under us and teens with pushchairs fighting aggressively for their right of passage to the next boutique.

Sadly, there is no respite, especially at this festive and jovial time of year - the Christmas Shopping Ordeal. They come from miles around to admire

the newly decorated windows of Fenwicks, sapping my Christmas cheer by standing on my feet and blowing smoke in my eyes.

I have given up on it all, and anyone who expects a present from me this Yuletide will be lucky to receive anything more than a hug!



Photo: Chris Kay



Down to a tea

KATHLEEN MOORE discusses the most tealicious of beverages

Tea. A simple monosyllabic word, the twentieth letter of the alphabet and yet also the backbone of our nation as we know it. This may seem a gross exaggeration (and as a fervent admirer of the honey-hued nectar I may be just a smidge biased), however when viewed rationally (and perhaps with just a slight caffeine buzz) the facts speak for themselves.

Let us first consider the statistics. At least forty percent of the nations' fluid intake today will be tea. Poppycock you say? Well no actually. The healing properties of tea alone may account for this percentage. There doesn't seem to be any ailment or disaster (natural or otherwise) that can't be salved by a big old mug of tea and a bit of a sit down. I could arrive home with a dog attached to my one remaining limb, the others having been hacked off in excruciating and inventive ways and the first thing my mother would say would be; "Oh dear, I'll just put the kettle on shall I?"

Consider the alternatives, a friend arrives, they've just been sacked from their barbershop quartet/dumped by their significant other, the seams of their world are slowly unravelling as though a frustrated kitten has been scratching at them, whatever, they need solace. You can hardly sit them down and offer them a calming cup of tequila, it has to be tea.

Even now, sat in my freezing room (my radiator noticed the increasingly arctic weather and kindly decided to hibernate), wearing five pairs of socks and with an entire forest's worth of reading still to do, having a nice cup of tea to hand is extremely cheering, not to mention warming. Even the Highway Code pays homage to the relieving

qualities of a brew suggesting that the best way to comfort victims of roadside accidents is with hot, sweet tea. When government approved documents acknowledge the superiority and importance of tea I think it's time for other beverages to step back and just give up.

Now that we've established the sovereignty of tea in the beverage world we must turn our attentions to the different varieties of tea. A controversial and thorny area as the tea family tree is full of black sheep, estranged cousins and haughty great-aunts. The UK imports and consumes 140,000 tonnes of tea each year, but which of these tonnes is the most delicious?

My tippie of choice is Darjeeling (fun to say and to drink) or as Whittards puts it "the champagne of tea". A delectably elegant and delicate draught, just right when sipped from mismatched china tea-cups it makes any slightly shabby student room feel like the Ritz and the soggy garibaldi biscuits you're eating will seem like cucumber sandwiches.

For those fond of a more piquant flavour, Assam is a good choice. Full-bodied and with a smoky aftertaste, the picture of the lion on the front of the packet (or at least on the front of the packet I have), is rather fitting as were lions to drink tea I reckon it'd be this one. Earl Grey, with its bergamot infused floral essence is considered an acquired taste, but one worth acquiring in my opinion.

In fact not trying it would be an affront to Earl Grey, up there on his monument, sneering at Starbucks and being violated by pigeons. These are but a piffing few of the many varieties of leaf available for your delectation. For

a more thorough selection I would suggest a trip to your local tea merchant (Whittards is good) - as many free samples as your shame can take and an ample range of teas, you could take some friends and make an afternoon of it.

Of course the real issue when choosing a tea does not lie with the flavour-based, loose leaf decisions made in genteel emporiums. The real battle for tea is fought in the arena of choice that is your local supermarket, and the gladiators scrapping for your attention are humble tea-bags.

Whereas previously tea bag choice could be influenced by price, free goods or "hilarious" monkey-centric adverts, it now seems that an affiliation to a brand is considered a testimony of your personality. Do you make a socio-political statement and go with Fair Trade, or do you choose Twinings because you think everything Stephen Fry says is so right-on that his tea must be equally marvellous? And then there is the cult of Yorkshire Tea. I use the term cult as I know people who scorn anything else, hoard Yorkshire Gold in tupperware and appear to be on a crusade, waging outright war on "the others".

Regardless of this lunacy tea remains a vital element of what is now considered "Britishness". If it weren't for those Dutch traders bringing tea to our island in the seventeenth century would we still be bedecked in blue paint and playing irresponsibly with axes?

The legend of the discovery of tea itself reflects this calming effect. In 2737BC, so the story goes, Chinese emperor Shen Nung was tucking into a cup of hot water whilst having a bit of a sit down under a tree when some leaves from said tree wafted their delicious way into his cup. And the clouds parted, a beam of celestial light shone down and tea was born into the world. This is rather fitting I think, if tea was discovered in Britain we may never have noticed it's delicious potential as it would have been roasted in some poor unsuspecting animal's stomach, battered and covered in gravy. As it is, whether it is a vision of a bowler-hatted bank manager sipping at a comically small cup or a big steaming mug of builder's tea, tea personifies our country.

If there are still some tea cynics out there I will end with this nugget of information. The tea-break has been around for some 200 years and without tea-breaks there may not have been the necessity to invent the chocolate hobnob. A scary thought I think you'll agree.

Photo: Catherine Hill



SOCIETY: PROFILES EVE PAYNE

Hitch

BORED of just eating your own weight in Easter eggs over Easter? Then why not do something adventurous this Easter which also raises money for a very worthy charity.

The Hitch Society works for the charity Link Community Development (www.lcd.org.uk) which wants to get better education in some of the poorest parts of Africa, and by doing so, enabling them to escape the poverty in which they were born into. Link currently has schemes in Ghana, Malawi, Uganda, Ethiopia and South Africa.

So how can I help I hear you cry?! Well one of Link's biggest fundraisers is the hitch which has taken place every Easter for the past 16 years and so far 3,880 people have completed the task of hitch-hiking to Morocco or

Prague and you could be one of them!

The hitch requires that you raise a minimum of £300 sponsorship money. This is quite easy to achieve what with cake sales, contacting friends and family and fundraising pub crawls. In exchange you get this fantastic opportunity where you can meet new people and visit an exciting new place. In Morocco you can barter with locals, go to the Sahara desert and ride a camel and sample delicious African cuisine. In Prague you can drink the night away as beer is cheaper than water and visit Europe's largest sex machines museum! The hitch takes place over the Easter - you can go at any point during this period and leave from wherever you like!

Although it may seem quite a scary and dangerous prospect Link has many safety policies in place like a



mobile phone tracking system and 24/7 emergency phone line.

The Hitch Society has proved a great success this year attracting people with a passion for travelling and generally looking for a good time! Socials so far have included a bar crawl, pub quiz and shisha smoking, with many more to come in the new year.

>> You can find more information about the charity and register online at: www.lcd.org.uk/events/hitch

>> Email hitch@ncl.ac.uk to be added to our mailing list.

>> Check out the Facebook group

C
M
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On Yer Bike



Photo: Cathrin Higginson

SUZI BATCHELOR pedals her ideas on the joys of cycling

CYCLING for some people is just another way to get around, for others it is an art form, a chance to pimp your wheels, get some flashy lights and ring a ring that bell. For me it is obviously all that and more, and for some people it is yet another way we can do our eco-friendly recyclable hats.

Walking is another method, unless you have had lots of beans, to cut down on carbon emissions and therefore protect our beautiful planet. Walking is great for this but it takes so long to get from A to B and I admit as a previous walker, it can feel like you spend most of your life walking to and from activities rather than actually enjoying the activity itself.

The other end of the spectrum is driving. Driving is a wonderful luxury for those who can afford to insure, tax and fill up a car, and this may seem a wonderful option as you can jet past walkers in the rain, but it can take just as long to transit. You need to find a parking space, sit in traffic and are at risk of road traffic accidents, road rage and are a huge polluter of our planet. Car exhaust fumes account for 20% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, and this gas is one of the main gases attributable for global warming.

Hybrid cars (burning fuels more efficiently) are slowly creeping into the market but at a price. In years to come they will be an integral part of fighting the global warming enemy, but until the population can enjoy tax rewards and other incentives for using these cars, their mainstream use is still a pipe-

dream.

Which leads me onto bikes, not bikes with motors, just manpower pedal bikes. These do not generate fumes, and the only energy they burn is the good kind in the form of calories. One hour of cycling can burn up to 500 calories, and when it only takes about 200 calories extra per day to put a bit of weight on, this can make a dramatic difference to your health and a healthy person is generally a happier person. With a smaller waistline and all the money you have saved on not buying petrol, you can afford to splash out on some new clothes, a few more nights out or some calorific food.

When deciding to join the cyclists' posse of speed, you will have to make a few choice purchases to get you going. A bike is key, and the cheapest option if you have, like me, never grown up, is to relive your love affair with whatever childhood roadster you had the pleasure of owning.

A decent lock is also essential and should cost about 10% of the value of your bike. Front and rear lights are vital as we are now deep in winter, when travelling to and from lectures occurs more often than not in the dark. The most important purchase is a helmet. The idea of a helmet to many fashion conscious people makes them want to run a mile, but believe me you will be grateful for its foam filled protection. A few weeks ago I managed to launch myself over my handle bars and onto the road head first. I was shaken up and despite breaking two of my front

teeth and enjoying some bruises to be proud of, I was relatively unscathed. My helmet bore the brunt of this accident and I realize that if I hadn't have been wearing it things could have been much worse. If your friends make fun of you then they need to get a life!

I do not need to remind people that once they have forked out on a bike and its accessories that they must do their best to hold onto their purchase. London may be the bike crime capital of Britain but Newcastle, like any city, is full of opportunistic criminals. Make sure you lock up your bike properly, it is surprisingly easy to manage to lock your bike to itself, and almost as bad, to another bike, which can really frustrate the other owner. Ideally lock it onto a proper cycle rack or as these become busier than ever, on a firm object like a fence or telegraph pole, not anything that can be easily broken. In the case that you are unfortunate enough to fall victim to these crooks, make sure you have had your bike insured, this is rarely covered by home insurance policies and so you must do this separately.

Finally be safe and have fun! Enjoy the biting Northerly wind on your face and treasure that occasional sunshine we enjoy up here. Don't forget it is illegal and therefore finable to cycle on the pavement and also to cycle under the influence of drink or drugs. So remember, cycling is a wonderful mode of transport but post pub crawl or Solution is probably not the best time to get your spokes spinning!

Run, Student, Run

HANNAH BURNS trots out her thoughts on where's best to run in Newcastle

BEFORE I came to university I had been on one run in my life, a shambolic affair at school, where the majority ran to the end of the road and lit up fags until the rest of us returned. However when I got to Newcastle that changed, I joined the rowing team. It was a bad decision, but despite the endless mornings and hours of pain it gave me one gift; the ability to run. Training meant that I went from struggling round a half moor on the very first session to easily completing the Great North Run less than a year later.

I think Running is great exercise, you can go at a pace that is comfortable and it's not as costly as joining a gym. Whether you are in first year or fifth year it's never too late to start. All you need is a pair of trainers and some enthusiasm and you're on your way.

Here are some routes for even the beginner runner.

1: Moor (2 miles if you cross at the blue gate/ 3 miles if you go down Claremont road/ 4 miles if you head on down to the BBC centre).

Good for all beginners, there is a low chance of getting lost and can be lengthened or shortened depending on how you feel and is on the doorstep of most first years. It can, however, become a little repetitive, I've probably lapped round that dreaded cow field about 500 times.

2: The Dene (1.5 miles end to end).

For those living in Jesmond this is a little gem. There are a myriad of routes by just taking a different turning here or there. It's truly beautiful

and at this time of year there is often a magical mist rising off the River Ouse.

3: Gateshead (3 miles)

If you follow signs to the quayside you can run to the Millennium Bridge. Cross to the Gateshead side, run past the Baltic and Sage and back over on the Swing Bridge and find your way home. I do this run at dusk, when most other routes can be unsafe, and the Quayside is at its most dazzling when lit at night.

4: Dene and Moor combined (8 miles).

If you feel like a longer route, this is good as it's a large circle and can be started in Jesmond, Heaton, Sandyford, or Town.

5: Tynemouth run (8 miles along the Coast Road).

This is the ugliest route ever, but it is flat and there is also wonderful sense of achievement when you make it to the coast, and dip your toes in the North Sea. You can either run back if you're keen or one can hop on the Metro or the 306 bus back to town.

Places to run further a field.

6: Beach runs. The beaches from Tynemouth to Whitley Bay are about 2 miles apart and you can either run across the sand or along the top of the cliffs, with a great view out to sea. Blyth is another interesting beach to run along. Running on sand, despite making you go slower, is a great alternative to road running as it's much softer on your joints.

7: Newburn-Wylam (6 miles)

I did this route a lot when I was rowing. It's a wonderfully flat circu-

lar route right next to the River Tyne. Starting at the Boathouse pub in Newburn, it follows the Hadrian wall path and past George Stephenson's birthplace, across Wylam Bridge and back along the river. Newburn can be easily got to by car or on the 22 bus from Monument.

8. Hadrian's Wall.

A little hillier than most runs, but there is endless variety as you can stop at any part along the path that follows the route of the wall.

We parked at the 'Errington Arms' at the junction on the A68, ran for a while then rewarded ourselves with

a pub lunch in Corbridge, a ridiculously pretty little village.

I hope that has given you some ideas of how to make running a little more fun and maybe I'll see you out and about sometimes - I'll be on the panting heavily, festooned in lycra.



Photo: Gemma Davies

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NEWCASTLE MAPPING EVENT
http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/index.php/Newcastle_Mapping_Event
www.livingwithdragons.com

Newcastle's GPS Mapping Weekend is here!

Get involved and help map Newcastle Upon-Tyne using
handheld GPS receivers to create a free online map for
www.openstreetmap.org



Current map on OpenStreetMap - Needs completing!

OpenStreetMap is a project aimed squarely at creating and providing free geographic data such as street maps to anyone who wants them. The project was started because most maps you think of as free actually have legal or technical restrictions on their use, holding back people from using them in creative, productive or unexpected ways.

With your help, the weekend plans on making Newcastle one of the best mapped areas for the website. Everybody is welcome, and no experience or equipment is needed. Any time that you can spare over the weekend will be put to good use. For more information on GPS mapping and the event see: www.livingwithdragons.com & http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/index.php/Newcastle_Mapping_Event or use the contact details provided.

Why get involved?

- Enjoy Walking/Hiking
- Involved with mapping/maps
- Enjoy internet programming
- Want to use GPS and associated equipment
- Want to get involved with a university project
- To see how data for online maps is collected and processed

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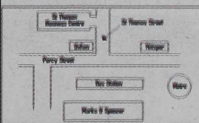
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issue no. 1162
3rd December 2007



MUSIC



THIS IS NOT JUST CHRISTMAS...

Hi sexy Pulp readers! This is our very last Pulp of the Semester, yes, sorrow, coupled with the relief of actually getting some serious uni work done now. The good thing is, I have dedicated a wee bit of time sorting out your social life over the next month, with no less than eighteen reasons to don your winter jacket and get out of the bleeding house! And if our persuading isn't enough, then peruse below. Because yes, you can actually win a pair of tickets to see Maximo Park by answering a question of infantile proportions.

And finally, an announcement. We at Pulp:Music are actually the Pope(s) of the Chrimbatorial world, we do, indeed, have personal communication with the one true Pere Chrimbo. So all of your Letters to Santa will be given to him directly. Alternatively, you could just send all your clippings home to Ma: to much the same effect. Tis the season my good fellows!

Lots of festive jangling, Jimmy and Ruth xx
pulp.music@ncl.ac.uk



CHRISTMAS LISTINGS

1) **KINGS OF LEON @ METRO RADIO ARENA. TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER.**

THE WOMBATS @ UNION, TUES 4TH

IF you're mistaken into thinking The Wombats are another generic indie band with only one really good song, then think again. This Liverpoolian, unpretentious threesome churn out properly fun tunes which alone guarantee a good night out. The endearing 'Let's Dance to Joy Division' has been pretty much unavoidable over the past month, and promises to be an absolute belter live. But that's not all, I'm also pretty excited about the shapes I'm going to be cutting to 'Derail and Crash', a prime example of The Wombats' infectious pop. Furthermore, going on the success of their recently released debut 'A Guide to Love, Loss and Desperation', the Basement is probably the most intimate venue you'll be able to see them at for a good while.
Alice Vincent

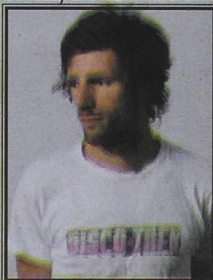


2) **INTERPOL @ CARLING ACADEMY. TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER.**

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Alice Vincent

WAX: ON THIRD BIRTHDAY @ DIGITAL, FRI 7TH

WAX:ON celebrates its 3rd birthday at Digital on Friday 7th of December. Instead of the usual hats, cake and musical chairs this lucky 3 year old will host a world class night of techno, house, drum n bass, breaks and electro. Headlining the bash will be 'the Djs Dj', half swiss, half Chilean techno agent provocateur Luciano. A founding member of minimal techno scene, his unique mixture of Latin Funk and European electronic movements have been lapped up by the global techno community. He is joined by the talismanic presence Craig Richards, a regular crowd pleaser at London's Fabric who promises a lengthy set. The second and third rooms provide an equally internationally applauded, thumping collection of Djs from Norwegian Cosmic Disco supremo Lindstorm to Nottingham's superbly talented Riotous Rockers as well as Wax: on favourite, Touche. This is set to be the best night in the Club's history.
Petra Costandi



3) **KANYE WEST @ CARLING ACADEMY. WEDNESDAY 5TH DECEMBER.**

4) **A VERY MERRY UN-XMAS @ GEORGIAN THEATRE, STOCKTON. FRIDAY 7TH DECEMBER.**

CSS @ THE UNION, WEDS 12TH

5) **FUTUREHEADS @ INDEPENDENT, SUNDERLAND. FRIDAY 6/7TH DECEMBER.**

LOVEFOXXX and co might be tired of being sexy but they just won't let up. After gracing this year's freshers' week (lucky gits - how come we ended up with Goldie Lookin' Chain??) the lure of the toon is proving irresistible once again as the carnival atmosphere of CSS returns to our union for a pre-Christmas party this week. The Sao Paulo art school band who started as a joke, unable to play any instruments, have since learnt to wield them with almighty power, combining bass heavy funk with a pure pop sensibility and innate sense of fun that sparkles on record and is absolutely blinding live. Metronomy & Joe Lean and The Jing Jang Jong should provide an ample appetiser to the main event. Besides, all other factors ignored, you just can't help but be infected by the charisma and sheer enthusiasm of the be-glittered and neon clad front woman; just remember, however amazing she might look, don't even consider the catsuit look.
Rachel Atkinson

6) **ARCANE @ THE UNION. SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER.**

7) **M.I.A. @ THE OTHER ROOMS, TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER.**

8) **POGUES @ CARLING ACADEMY. WEDNESDAY 12TH DECEMBER.**

WE ARE SCIENTISTS 'BRAIN THRUST MASTERY TOUR' @ NORTHUMBRIA UNI. MON 10TH



NOW, here is something a bit different. We Are Scientists, who have provided us with their indie rock fuelled anthems, are branching out in the form of self improvement lectures. The lecture is designed to guide students towards 'instantaneous control of their physical, academic and financial destiny.' The term lecture is used loosely here: the band are notorious for their comical banter, documented on their hilarious website and Youtube. It is certainly not a lecture you want to sleep in for ('lunchtime' is all the schedule we have!) Daniel Bos

MAXIMO PARK @ METRO RADIO ARENA, SAT 15TH

MAXIMO Park are a universally acknowledged incredible live act, but Maximo Park in their home town at Christmas? Well the excitement is hard to control. The harmonies will be that much sweeter and Paul Smith's leaps will be that much higher. Straight off the back of their US and Canadian tour you can expect whimsical lyrics (they even have a song about the Monument) as well as anthemic sing-along tunes like 'Apply some pressure', 'Books from Boxes' and 'Our Velocity', all sung by the most by the most energetic, bowler hat'd front man you will ever be so lucky to witness.

9) **RIHANNA @ METRO RADIO ARENA. THURSDAY 13TH DECEMBER.**

10) **FIELD MUSIC @ CLUNY. TUESDAY 18TH DECEMBER.**

11) **JOOLS HOLLAND @ TOWN HALL. WEDNESDAY 19TH DECEMBER.**

12) **NARC STARS IN THEIR EYES @ CLUNY. FRIDAY 21ST DECEMBER.**

13) **NYE @ WHQ. MONDAY 31ST DECEMBER (CLAIMS TO BE THE GREATEST PARTY OF YOUR ENTIRE LIFE)**



COMPETITION:

Win a pair of Maximo Park tix! Send us at pulp.music the answer to the following question:

Which Justin Timberlake song does the band cover on their new 'Karaoke Plays' single?

THE STRANGELY UNSHAMBOLIC TOUR



BABYSHAMBLES seem to have lost that stumble that was once a swagger, with Pete lamenting after uncharacteristically tight performances, how strange it is to sing sober. This has to be good news: but is it what the fans want from the band that turned the stumble into the swagger?

Chris Mandle catches Adam and Mick during their bands soundcheck, struggling past particularly obnoxious student journos to have a one-on-one chat with the band-who-are-not-sidekicks for a surprisingly pleasant conversation; not smoking and apparently not drunk..

Last night you opened your arena tour in Manchester. How did it go?

Adam: Yeah, it went pretty well. I wouldn't say that it went smoothly. It's been a good ... You forget that most people will know all the stuff from the album, even the ones that aren't singles.

And who do you have supporting?

Adam: We've got Dizzee Rascal supporting us on the arena tour; he was great last night; really got the crowd going. We really wanted him to play with us, he's a good mate. Our management booked Joe Lean to tour with us; they're cool guys. At the moment they're really getting pushed, people don't know them.

So what about the decision to do an arena tour?

Mick: We weren't sure at first. **Adam:** I think Drew said it would be a brave thing to do. I dunno, it might just be a one-off thing. It's risky. I really wanted to play Wembley. By the end of this tour, we'll know if we did the right thing or not.

Is there a venue you're looking forward to playing the most?

Adam: Definitely Wembley. I've never been to Wembley before.

The theme is 'O What A Lovely Tour'. Could you tell us about that?

Mick: Well its like 'O what a Lovely War', you know. And we wanted to base it off that. But the stage looks like a load of 6th formers have had a go at it. Hope you're not in 6th form yourself.

No, University. The standard would have been much higher.

Adam: I mean, you pay peanuts, you get monkeys **Mick:** Pretty big peanuts by the looks of things.

Could you explain the significance of the album title, *Shouter's Nation*?

Adam: Pete has a few ideas of what it means. I think he just got it off someone's wall though.

'I think Pete just got 'Shouter's Nation' off someone's wall...'



The media seem to concentrate more on 'extra curricular' activities in the band. Has that affected the dynamic in the band?

Adam: It hasn't really affected the dynamic of the band...we joined the band knowing what it would be like. You just shrug and get on with it.

Any festivals lined up for the summer?

Adam: We've been offered Reading, I think. We were banned two years ago after Pat left. I'm not sure yet. It's too soon.

Will we hear new material tonight?

Adam: Nope. Not at all. [Laughs]

Now, don't they just sound like the type of young men you'd take to see your gran...

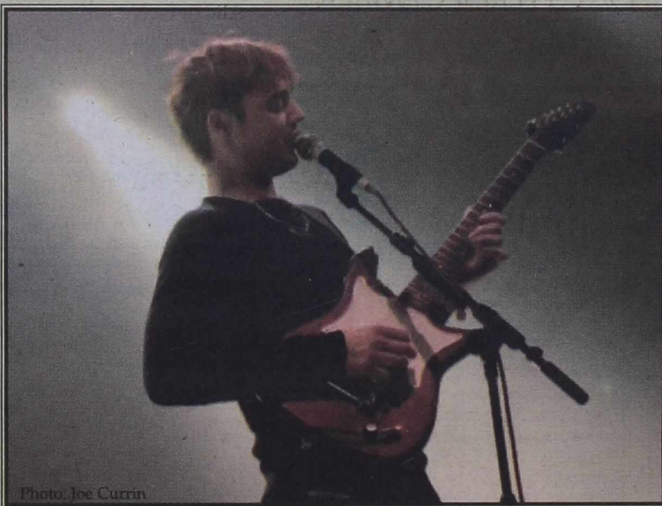
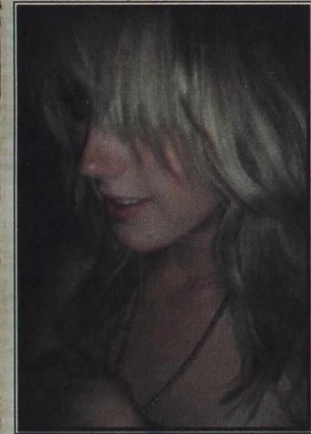


Photo: Joe Curran

THOU SHALT NOT ...OVERPLAY!



THOU shalt not play one song, day in, day out, through thy housemate's wall until said housemate, who once actually liked said song, wishes to pull own ears off at opening bars of said song. And that song shalt especially not be bloody Leona Lewis.

Thou shalt not call yourself a respectable DJ if you always end your set with any of the following: that one Queen song whereby everyone must link arms and proclaim they are "having a good time, having a good time." The Killers 'Mr. Brightside.' Pendulum's 'Slam,' so over-refreshed students can imagine they are cool ravers; the same goes for Faithless' 'Insomnia.' All such songs, once bringers of such fond memories, are now dead to me. Hope you are happy, Mr. "DJ."

Thou shalt not have such a limited radio station playlist so that the same five or six rubbishy songs are played on almost constant hourly rotation. Said songs shalt not always include: R'n'B flavour of the month, usually seen in hotpants and produced by Timbaland. Generic repetitive dance tune with attractive female singer, often called 'Bliss' 'Ecstasy', possibly reminding you what to take in order to numb brain whilst listening to it. Dreary imposter 'indie' band, (read 'The Fray') from advert/ theme tune of US teen drama.

Use your powers for good, not evil. Pioneer new music instead of just claiming to. Take a chance on unrecognized talent. Down with overplaying!

Alexandra Sagers

LETTERS TO SANTA



Dear Santa...
For Christmas I want the new live Daft Punk album 'Alive 2007'... they're French, dress up like robots and make the best electro music that is likely to bless your ears. Oh and also the Girls Aloud album 'Tangled Up', because they're just amazing.
Love Hattie x

Dear Santa,
Please o please could you slip a copy of the Hoosiers 'Trick to Life' in my stocking for Christmas. Their Woolworths pop-rock will have my parents feeling like hippies again...and at least it'll beat opening presents to Sonny and Cher's greatest hits.
From Gordon

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas I would like "Dreaming Out Loud" by OneRepublic. This is an album with beautiful melodies, Buckley-esque parents feeling like hippies vocals and anthems reminiscent of Snow Patrol from an almost perfect band.
Matthew McCartney

Dear Santa,
Could you find some room in your sleigh this year for a nice, shiny copy of Bonnie 'Prince' Billy's new covers album Ask Forgiveness, on which he tackles songs by Björk, Frank Sinatra and even R. Kelly in his trademark wounded style? I've been a good boy this year...
Love from Mr. Corcoran-Lettice

TURNING POINT

MY BLOODY VALENTINE: SOMETIMES

THOSE who know me can assure you that when My Bloody Valentine announced their return recently, I was practically star-jumping with delight at the news that this groundbreaking band were back. Hearing "Sometimes", with its plaintive, heart-broken acoustic strumming, its distant yet intimate vocals and psychedelic, distorted guitar haze that was My Bloody Valentine's trademark in *Lost in Translation* changed the way I approach music permanently - this song, as with the rest of its parent album *Loveless*, proved how the melodic and the abstract needn't be opposites, and can fuse together to create truly astonishing music.

Mark Corcoran-Lettice



ALBUMS



REVIEWS

REMI NICOLE MY CONSCIENCE AND I



Currently cutting a formidable figure on the live circuit supporting Amy Winehouse, Remi's only similarities to the bee-hive topped one is their lack of man parts. More from the Lily and Kate school of self-referencing lyrics in a Norf-London accent, 'My Conscience and I' holds its own with a rocky edge and a multitude of potential hits. Unfortunately timed summer anthem 'Go Mr Sunshine' sounds like Oasis when they were good. And triumphant witty ode to misfits, 'Rock and Roll', deserves hefty radio rotation, with a chorus that sticks in the cerebral cortex more than 'Foundations'. Though the album's few ballads don't quite measure up to more upbeat numbers, they are still appealing in their sweet simplicity. Remi Nicole: no man parts. But plenty of balls.

8/10

Alexandra Saggars, Beck, Hot Chip, Nancy Sinatra, Cold War Kids

THE KILLERS SAWDUST

This is not technically a new album. The Killers follow up 2006's 'Sam's Town' with a compilation of rerecorded B-sides, rarities, covers and remixes, which effortlessly combine the dynamic, glitzy synth of their first album with the power, speed and dominance of their second. Some true gems lie in 'Leave the Bourbon on the Shelf', 'Move Away', 'Sweet Talk' and the beautiful live version of 'Sam's Town' that takes the vicious anthem and turns it into a sweeping lullaby. You will have heard some of these tracks before, but you won't care. The third album can wait. This is too good.

8/10

Chris Mandle: Bloc Party, Klaxons, The Whip, The Killers

MILLIMETRE OBSIDIAN

With his second album under the Millimetre moniker, Terence J McGaughey has crafted an oblique and often difficult work just as dark as its natural namesake. While its default mode on tracks like 'Lay Down' may be Cocteau Twins-esque dream pop, the glacial tempo and haunted ambiance of the twelve-minute title track and the musique concrète of 'I Fell Into A Mirror' take 'Obsidian' into much bleaker territory. Although Millimetre's experimentation often pays off, it does at times become slightly wearisome, and the album as a whole is hampered by McGaughey's rather weak vocals (which, compounding matters further, are pushed up bizzarely high in the mix), leaving it as a flawed but always intriguing effort from an act that, with time (and perhaps some singing lessons), could become rather special.

7/10

Mark Corcoran-Lettice

FANTASTIC PLASTIC (VARIOUS ARTISTS) NOW THAT'S WHAT WE CALL MUSIC

Though this is essentially a shameless plug of the label's new signings mixed in with some of their old classics, we don't care because it's pretty damn good, full of early EP releases from Guillemots and The Futureheads, and some others previously only released on vinyl. Though there are some painful additions (Angelica - 'Why Did You Let My Kitten Die'), the majority of tracks really hit the mark. Its got some good up and coming bands including Bearsuit, Ikara Colt and Help She Cant Swim, so if you're a fan of discovering real indie music (i.e. anyone who thinks that The Hoosiers or Kaiser Chiefs should be shot) this record is one of the best places to start.

7/10

Hattie FitzGerald: Royksopp, Laura Marling, Radiohead and LCD Soundsystem



SINGLES

METRONOMY RADIO LADIO

This may be the closest a Metronomy track has come to sounding like something from planet earth. An itchy little earworm of kooky yet danceable electronic pop, 'Radio Ladio' is delightful in its simplicity and as catchy as nits. One to listen out for on their current tour with CSS.

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



EMMY THE GREAT GABRIEL

A bewitching and tender single from The Great. She explores the notions of leaving behind a young idealistic way of life to marry into money. Very 'Notes on a Scandal' it may sound, though surprisingly the track was actually written at the request of "a cute boy from MySpace".

Heather Welsh: The Maccabees, Digitalism, Frou Frou, Editors

IAN BROWN SISTER ROSE

This is what you want from an Ian Brown song. An ensemble of violins, resonating guitars and the king monkey's vocals and lyricism as good as ever, the need for a Stone Roses re-union really doesn't seem that pressing any more. (But it would still be nice Mr Brown!)

James Trueman: Hot Chip, Justice, Arcade Fire, Arctic Monkeys

THE DISPLACEMENTS LAZY BONES

Incessant, spikey ska-punk riffery, a four-to-the-floor disco beat and a demented 2-tone chorus vocal that's somewhere between Kasabian's Tom Meighan and Madness' Suggs, offers a refreshingly manic soundtrack to cheer up the dreary indie dance-floors.

Joe Barton: Black Flag, Andres Segovia, Captain Beefheart

SISTER SATELLITE

East-London based quintet Sister's latest single confusedly straddles the ground between a mid-tempo, two-chord singalong and cigarette lighter-waving rock ballad. A hook akin to the mellower Yeah Yeah Yeah's songs saves this criminally short track's gentle jangles and sixties' riffs from going unnoticed, and the B-side 'Gambling Man' promises more of the same.

Joe Barton: The Beatles, Square Pusher, Charles Mingus

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D.I.M IS YOU 12"



ALTER EGO EROLE ATTACK 12"



ZOMBIE NATION GIZMODE 12"



FUNKASAURUS WORK DIS 12"



POP FILM

PULP FILM will be back in February in a similar state as you guys: fatter, eager, bored of the break and with lots of interesting stories to tell.

Only by that I don't mean how our mum got pissed and fell out with our uncle around the turkey, or how we accidentally hooked up with our ex-round the back of the pub we always went to during high school.

I'm talking about an all-access report from Newcastle's answer to Cannes: the Northern Lights Film Festival. On page two of this section, Ashley talks to the organisers who give us a preview of the biggest event in your city's movie calendar. Although Pulp will be gone, the spirit of the silver screen lives on in the Toon so do yourself a favour and check out some of the fantastic movies making their way to the North-East this week.

Also on page two, Daniel explores the significance of the movie soundtrack, the different ways film-makers can set about making them and the effects they can have on the final product. Personally, I think the ultimate Soundtrack to any film is *The Wicker Man*, in which folk guitar meets haunting adolescent chanting and some beautifully soft clarinet. Either that or *Dumb & Dumber*, a finer collection of off-beat indie B-sides than the entire NME team could come up with in a thousand, compromised years.

Enjoy the E.T., *The Never Ending Story* et al. We'll see you again in the new term.



- Sam pulp.film@ncl.ac.uk

SURVEY

We asked a hundred of you: What is your favourite Christmas movie? Your survey said...

1. LOVE ACTUALLY
2. HOME ALONE
3. THE SANTA CLAUSE
4. MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET
5. THE GRINCH

THE DARJEELING LIMITED

DIRECTED BY: WES ANDERSON
STARRING: OWEN WILSON; ADRIEN BRODY;
JASON SCHWARTZMAN; AMARA KARAN



WES ANDERSON'S latest effort is not going to change any pre-conceptions about the writer-director. If you enjoyed his most recent films *The Royal*

Tenenbaums and The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou then you will certainly enjoy the trip taken aboard *The Darjeeling Limited*.

Filled with Anderson's trademark deadpan humour and ravishing slow-motion cinematography the film tells the story of the three Whitman brothers - Francis, Peter and Jack, played by Owen Wilson, Adrien Brody and co-writer Jason Schwartzman - and their journey aboard the titular train across India.

As with all Anderson films it is more about the journey than the destination as the brothers attempt to re-connect. All three fit their roles perfectly, not only bearing an alarming physical resemblance by their prodigious noses, but also in their melancholic delivery and hangdog charm. Schwartzman gets some extra character background in *Hotel Chevalier*, titled as Part 1 of *The Darjeeling Limited* where we learn that Jack has been encamped in a Parisian hotel room for a year before he gets a visit from the ex (a nude Natalie Portman).

This coda has small payoffs throughout the film and explains Jack's continued playing of Peter Sarstedt's 'Where do you go to my lovely' whenever an attractive female is in the vicinity.

The music is integral and Anderson has infiltrated his usual collection of 70s Brit-pop with Bollywood film theme tunes to great effect. The tragic-comic tale is by equal turns moving and hilarious, often at the same time, and despite the tragic events that have befallen the brothers the overwhelming emotion at the end of the film is one of joy.

Alex Howes



EMPIRE

SHROOMS

WE'RE OFF to the woods again! Obviously Americans have never heard of Hansel and Gretel, as yet again class C drugs and an interesting autopsy report lure a gang of wholesome teenagers to a hedonistic teddy bear's picnic.

Shrooms is not a good film. It follows every stereotype that you hoped it wouldn't: a sexually frustrated, symmetrical cast; a picturesque forest with a sinister history; a "surprise" ending that's as unfeasible as it is confusing; and the kind of decision making that leaves you thinking the received punishment was too lenient ("Let's split up and look for the killer!").

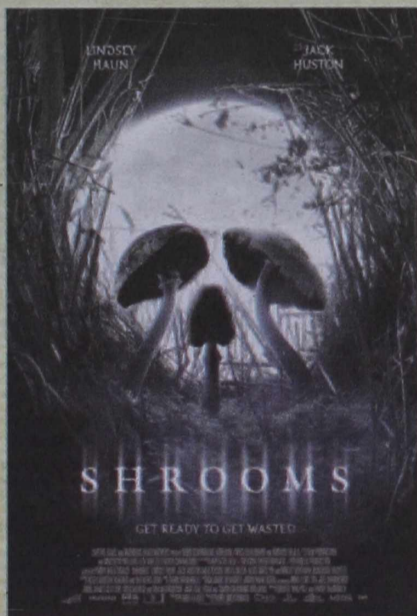
It is however a scary film. It's well shot and chopped, and Haun puts in a respectable performance (when the camera isn't focussed squarely down her top). The film's concept allows lot of space to mess with the audience's minds and although you never relate to the characters, "the trip" is unerringly accurate and the resulting consequences suitably disturbing.

For an Irish film, *Shrooms* doesn't do its countrymen any favours, with the baddies all being slaving inbreds and the local heartthrob sounding like he should be on *Only Fools and Horses*. This coupled with the sickly American cast leads to a feeling that there was an obvious escape from the painful clichés *Breathnach* has stumbled into.

At the end of the day, *Shrooms* is a scary farce; a poor attempt at an original take on horror. The film's impressive cinematography is undermined by clumsy attempts to hammer home its message: the drugs don't work.

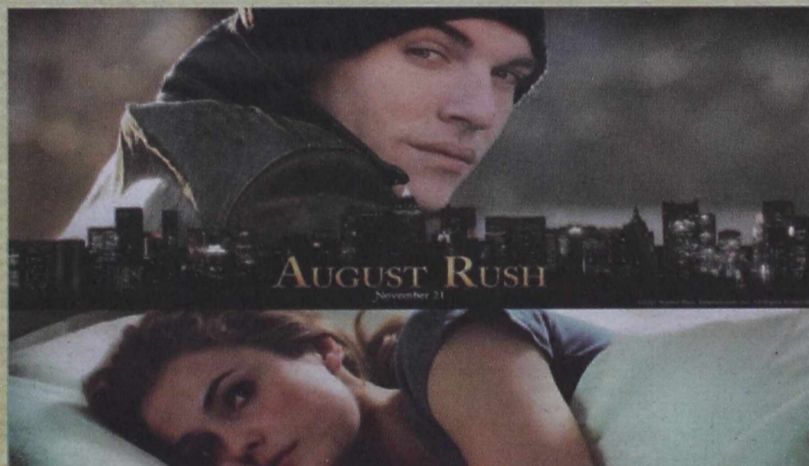
Daniel Hesse

DIRECTED BY: PADDY BREATHNACH
STARRING: LINDSEY HAUN, JACK HUSTON, MAX KASCH



EMPIRE

AUGUST RUSH



DIRECTED BY: KIRSTEN SHERIDAN
CAST: FREDDIE HIGHMORE, ROBIN WILLIAMS, JONATHAN RHYS-MEYERS

FREDDIE HIGHMORE is growing up, but not so much that he doesn't perfectly fit the role of the orphaned 11-year old musical prodigy (named August Rush) in this fantasy about the boy's search for his parents.

Robin Williams' performance as Wizard, the leader of a 'family' of child street-performers in New York, is noteworthy, as is Keri Russell as the mother of August, also a classical cellist. More difficult to believe is Rhys-Meyers as August's father and the front man of an Irish rock band; he just doesn't quite cut it.

August Rush is essentially a melodrama - that is, it's a combination of music and drama. It could be argued that the music is the real star of the show - it's used to

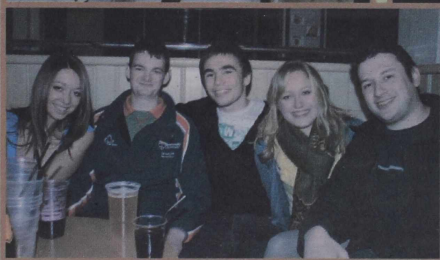
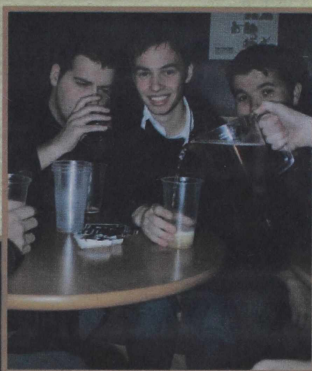
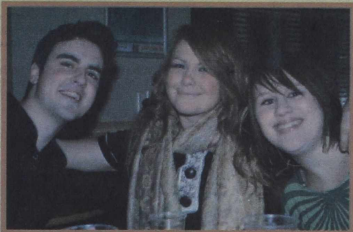
heighten the emotion to varying degrees of success and some of the musical scenes really are fantastic. Of course, being a melodrama, it's a very sentimental film, and does go a bit over-the-top with the coincidences, but if you can live with the predictability of the plot, you might just love it.

Clare Baldwin



EMPIRE

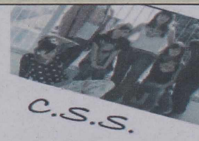
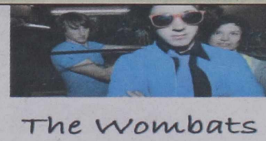
SOLUTION



All Photos: Mindaugas Miskinis

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).

SOLUTION
Friday 7th Dec
£500 to be won &
Ticket Giveaway



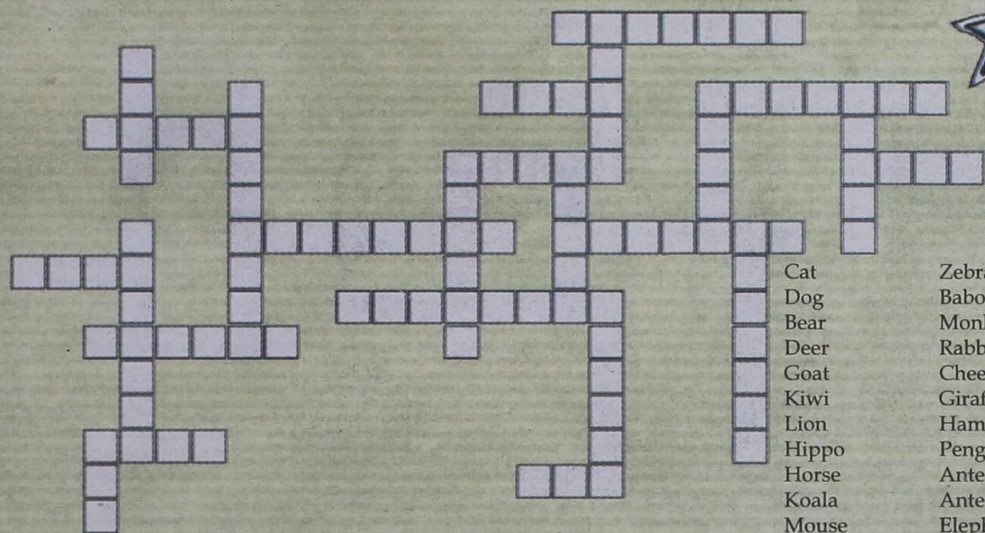


PUZZLES



KRISS KROSS

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



- Cat
- Dog
- Bear
- Deer
- Goat
- Kiwi
- Lion
- Hippo
- Horse
- Koala
- Mouse
- Snake
- Tiger
- Zebra
- Baboon
- Monkey
- Rabbit
- Cheetah
- Hamster
- Penguin
- Anteater
- Antelope
- Elephant
- Kangaroo

Compiled by Puzzles Master Megan Darby

QUIZ SPECIAL

This week we have two quizzes for you!

Both compiled by Joe Ambrose

In this first quiz, every answer in the quiz has something to do with a fruit or a vegetable. For example, if the question was "What is the name of the group who released 'Bullet with Butterfly Wings', '1979' and 'Tonight, Tonight'?" then the answer would be... The Smashing Pumpkins, as 'Pumpkin' is the name of a vegetable. Good Luck!

is the name of a sporting event when two teams who are from the same area compete?" then the answer would be... A Derby, as 'Derby' is a city.

1) What is the name of the Clash double album, released in December 1979, which includes the tracks such as 'Train in Vain', 'Clampdown', 'Spanish Bombs' and 'Jimmy Jazz'?

2) What is the name of the psychological syndrome sometimes seen in an abducted hostage, in which the hostage shows signs of loyalty to the hostage-taker?

1) What is the name of Coldplay frontman Chris Martin's daughter?

2) What is the name of Bob Geldof's DJ daughter?

3) Which Rock'n'Roll pioneer released the singles 'Rock and Roll Music', 'Sweet Little Sixteen' and 'Johnny B. Goode'?

4) What is the nickname of the professional snowboarder Shaun White?

5) Which half English, half Swedish singer/songwriter is most known for the song 'Save Tonight'?

6) Which psychedelic Beatles song was the double A-side to Penny Lane, and includes the line "Nothing is real, and nothing to get hung about"?

7) Which American group features the front man Anthony Kiedis?

8) In the Harry Potter books, who is the head of the Hufflepuff house?

9) What is the name of the 90's comedy which features Rowan Atkinson as a simpleton who has trouble with everyday tasks?

10) Which 70's children's TV program character is a lion whose best friends are Dill the Dog and Sage the Owl?

In quiz number two every answer includes a city. For example, if the question was "What

3) What is the name of the heiress to the Hilton Hotel empire?

4) Which Scottish band's vocalist and front-woman is called Sharleen Spiteri?

5) What is the name of the first ever President of the United States of America?

6) What is the name of the Trinidad and Tobago football star who has a child with glamour model Katie Price called Harvey?

7) What is the general nickname given to men's aftershave?

8) Which female American singer released the singles 'Leave a Light On' and 'Heaven is a Place on Earth'?

9) What is the name of the vocalist of the metal band Linkin Park?

10) What is the name of the film which tells the story of the Israeli Olympic team who were taken hostage by the Palestinian terrorist group Black September?

- Quiz One Answers:
- 1) Apple 2) Peaches Geldof 3) Chuck Berry 4) The Flying Tomato 5) Eagle Eye Cherry 6) Strawberry Fields Forever 7) Red Hot Chili Peppers 8) Pomona Sprout 9) Mr Bean 10) Parsley The Lion

Quiz Two Answers:

 - 1) London Calling 2) Stockholm Syndrome 3) Paris Hilton 4) Texas 5) George Washington 6) Dwight Yorke 7) Cologne 8) Belinda Carlisle 9) Chester Bennington 10) Munich

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 Katy Chatterjee.

Across

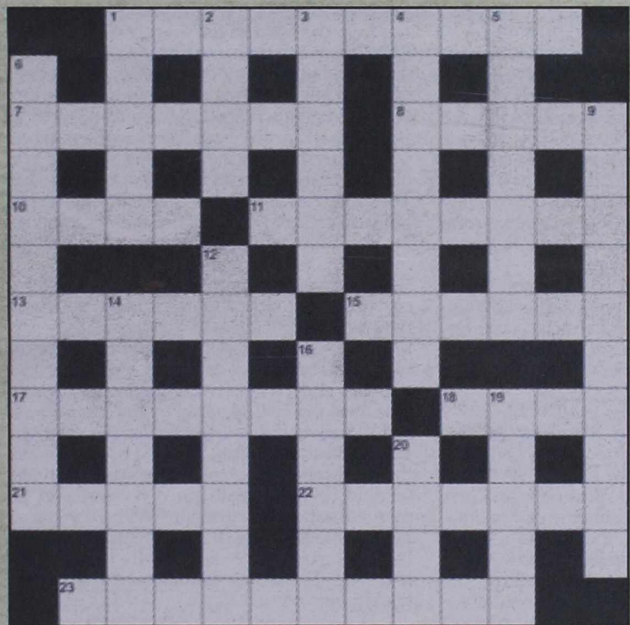
- 1 A group of stars; e.g. Ursa Major, Aquarius, Orion etc. (13)
- 8 Russian word for emperor (4)
- 9 Individuals who come to see a person or place (8)

- 10 Superman's one fatal weakness (10)
- 12 Enclosures (6)
- 14 Rumour (6)
- 15 People involved in the planning, designing and modelling of a building (pl.) (10)

- 19 A performer who entertains an audience by making them laugh (8)
- 20 Man-eating giant (4)
- 21 In Greek mythology, Helen of Troy was said to be the face that launched a _____ (8,5)

Down

- 2 Individual who watches carefully; also name of popular Sunday newspaper (8)
- 3 A sweet sticky solution of sugar (5)
- 4 Jealous (7)
- 5 A traditional Indian beverage made from yoghurt, water, salt and spices (5)
- 6 A torn and ragged condition (pl.) (7)
- 7 Implements fastened to a boat to be used for propulsion through water (4)
- 11 To make an object look attractive before offering it as a present: _____ (4-4)
- 13 French castle (7)
- 14 Smiled broadly (7)
- 16 Asian country whose flag consists of yellow stars on a red background (5)
- 17 Period of time, era (5)
- 18 Victoria Beckham is often better known as _____ Spice (4)



Last Week's Answers: Across 1 Flea collar 7 Lambast 8 Stump 10 Nosh 11 Limerick 13 Marble 15 Banger 17 Noah's ark 18 Feta 21 Elate 22 Nutcase 23 Settlement Down 1 Fumes 2 eBay 3 Catkin 4 Las Vegas 5 Amusing 6 Blancmange 9 Poker faced 12 Flysheet 14 Real ale 16 Orange 19 Exact 20 Style

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A SOUNDTRACK TO LIFE

BEING the narcissists that we all are, it goes without saying that everyone has allocated someone to pithily portray our existence on the silver screen. With Vince Vaughn, Brad Pitt and Richard E. Grant all eagerly awaiting the script, my biopic runs into trouble when I ask, "what's going to be on the soundtrack?"

I could go for the easy option and dig up an obscure track that, while being irrelevant to the plot, was destined for one-hit-wonder fame, like Stealers Wheel from Reservoir Dogs or Wet Wet Wet in Four Weddings and a Funeral.

Just be careful not to let the soundtrack surpass the film itself. You wouldn't want two notes to overshadow plot or performance like in Jaws any more than I would want a song to kill a film as completely as Coolio's Gangsta's Paradise did to Dangerous Minds.

The use of classical music sidesteps this problem, as the composers generally aren't chart material (being usually either dead or unpronounceable or both). You can either warp all connotations previously attached to an old favourite - Beethoven's Ninth in A Clockwork Orange - or have one specially written that will represent without outshining: Lord of the Rings, Pi-



rates of the Caribbean and Star Wars.

Not that a full chamber orchestra is needed to thrill and chill audiences; one instrument can do a lot more than thirty. Take the eerie piano from The Exorcist or The Godfather's haunting violin.

Inoffensive enough at the opening credits, as pieces of the plot fall into place and the shit starts to move nearer the fan, the instruments' parts become more predominant. The result is that the success of certain scenes is due more to the music than the acting.

Still, while classical music can pair certain genres of films with their perfect partner, they're not the soundtracks that you listen to on a regular basis (if at all). The true classics are the ones that manage to sum up what the film is about on both levels.

And the two that stand out for me are Pulp Fiction and Trainspotting. A hybrid of old and new, renowned and offbeat, they fit the films flawlessly, whilst being incredibly different. They also offer a cultural synopsis and social critique of the two respective sides of the Atlantic at times of release.

In Britain in 1996, all anyone was listening to was Brit Pop. Stick Blur, Pulp and Elastica on the soundtrack and when those of us who are still alive in fifty years re-watch it for the thousandth time, we'll be taken right back to our nineties teenage mindset.

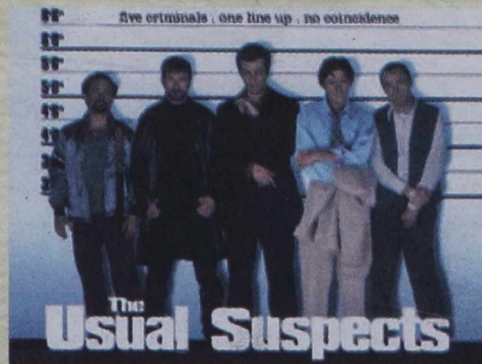
Compare America in 1994. The music industry was all over the place after Cobain's suicide, so rather than push new music, why not match the muddle of storylines in the film with a jumbled collection of classic American soul, funk and rock n roll?

At the end of the day, you can scrutinize as much as you want but an outstanding soundtrack has to be a collection of great songs before anything else. A film can work without one but on some level it'll miss it. Silence is very rarely golden.

Daniel Hesse

MUST SEE MOVIE

THIS WEEK: THE USUAL SUSPECTS



THIS remarkable thriller tops my favourite films list due to its edginess and incredible plot twists. The film is 'cripple' Verbal Kint's story to an FBI detective, as the only survivor in a massacre that killed many gang members and criminals gathered on a boat for what is suspected to be a huge drugs deal.

The story begins with a seemingly coincidental line up of 5 easy to blame criminals who join forces and pull a few stunts to rob money and get back at the NYPD for holding them in this line up. This quickly escalates into the five men working against their will for a tremendously intimidating crime lord who goes by the name 'Kyser Soze'.

This film is rife with suspicion as the characters question the true identity or even existence of Kyser Soze and the audience are left utterly baffled by the validity of Verbal's story. A brilliant cast play highly original bad boy characters, whose witty interactions combine with dramatic action and intense suspicion to make 'The Usual Suspects' one of the all time brilliant thrillers.

Rebecca Sharpe



LIGHTING UP THE NORTH

PULP PREVIEWS THE NORTHERN LIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL



We spoke to Northern Lights organizer Jonny Tull about this year's festival...

What is the history of the film festival?

The film festival started in 2003 - this is our fifth year. We specialise in screening films from Northern Europe, Baltic Regions and Scandinavia. It is reduced in content this year as it is only over one weekend but we have big plans for next year. Despite the fact that it is a young festival, it is growing and growing. The festival also focuses on developing young film talent and regional films.

What are your aims this year?

One of our main aims this year is to keep faith with our audiences from the past four years.

Another of our aims is to find a new director; we're promoting the position this year. And also, looking to the future again, we've got The Big Pitch, which is a film competition we're launching this year with an aim to be screening the selected films for next year's screening. One of our other main aims is to improve and maintain public access to films that don't get wide UK distribution.

Would you pick any particular highlights for this year's programme?

The whole festival is a weekend of highlights. The past-present-future theme means we have some of the successful films of previous years being shown again, as well as short films and films by local directors. As the festival is shorter this year we have been able to cherry pick the best. Look out for Kops, a popular European

comedy, and How to Get Rid of Others, which is a dark comedy from Denmark.

THE Northern Lights Film Festival is a small but successful annual festival which concentrates on promoting and offering films that are rarely afforded the critical energy they deserve. The films, which are largely European and Baltic, are given very little distribution in the UK; therefore the festival is an excellent opportunity to sample the fine talents of our neighbouring countries, far from the monochrome vulgarity of mainstream cinema. In previous years the festival has been directed by Stephanie Little, but since her summons to work for the UK Film Council, the Tyneside Cinema has taken the festival back. This year is thus a period of change for the festival, however the weekend promises to be another big hit.

Despite the smaller size of the festival this year, Saturday and Sunday are packed with exciting films from all over Europe. With the return of previous sell-out films such as Kops, and the introduction of fascinating documentaries such as Africa United, the festival is set for success. Kops, which is shown in Swedish with English subtitles, has been described as "the runaway audience favourite" and is touted for a remake with Adam Sandler, which is supposedly in production. Africa United follows the moving and heroic tale of a young Moroccan immigrant living in Iceland, who sets up a football team with other African immigrants when his business fails. There are even family films on the menu, such as The Ugly Duckling and Me, which is a slick new animation in 3D.

The festival kicks off on 7th December with an opening gala at the Baltic. The opening is being celebrated by the screening of Trip - a short film created by BAFTA-nominated young director Harry Woodliff. The film, which is a direct result of Harry's winning The Orange North

Star Short Film Award, is an emotional story of a father's struggle to do the right thing by his daughters, however he chooses the completely wrong way to go about it. Powerful and impressive, the short film is an excellent appetiser for the treats the festival offers this year.

Something else to look out for is Into Great Silence, which is a documentary surrounding the monks of the Carthusian Order, who reside in the heart of the French Alps. Nearly three hours in length, the film is largely void of dialogue, and the soundtrack comprises largely of the monks chanting and singing. The film, which is being screened at St Paul's Church in Jarrow, is a rare and beautiful meditative piece, and its presence at the festival is a once in a lifetime chance. Indeed it is so powerful that The New York Times has called it, "engrossing [and] entrancing," such is the state of tranquility you adopt when watching it.

The festival this year is also advertising for a new director for next year. It is hoped that a new director will allow the festival to grow further and to shape itself into new, different directions. The festival continues to strive to put regional and Northern European film on the map, and this will be aided by the cinema's removal back to the centre of Newcastle. Housed in Gateshead until early 2008, the cinema awaits the results of the £6.5 million project which has secured its home with three screens, and its own education department. With 70 years of history, the building on Pilgrim Street has also been refurbished to keep with the cultural and specialist cinema theme that it is currently known for.

To conclude, the Northern Lights Film Festival (7th-9th Dec) looks set to be a successful and entertaining, not to mention educational event. Enjoy a rare vacation from the monotony of the Western World and indulge in a little culture and a lot of class.

Ashley Fryer



ENTERTAINMENT



HOW TIME FLIES. Christmas is nearly upon us and it only feels like yesterday I was out every night all carefree and crazy like. These days I'm all weighed down with frenzied note taking and essay writing stress, just in time for the festive season. Perfect. Luckily I am easily cheered by the prospect of returning home to enormous banquets, presents and boozed up frolics with all my friends and

family, even if I do have an essay or two to write. In fact I feel pretty darn lucky. Better than this the run up to the Christmas hols is always packed with a variety of tinsel inspired events, just in case you forget for a millisecond that Santa is coming. I always try and rinse the old 'festive spirit' myself, so I plan to sing a few candlelit carols, have random attacks of niceness and buy a few pressies before I travel

back to the Hudd. I'll probably try and infiltrate a few office parties as well and no doubt I'll be visiting a few grown up grottos in the next couple of weeks; always something to look forward to. Why the hell not? Merry Christmas everybody!!!! (apologies I'm a little premature....)

Emily ents xxxxxx



CHRISTMAS SHOPPATHON FOR SOME FESTIVE INSPIRATION



IT'S NO secret that come December most people transform into present buying loons, ransacking the shops for that perfect pair of slippers from their gran, or scrutinising the rails for garments to add to their ever extending wish list. With Christmas only a few weeks away if you haven't started thinking about what you're going to buy your mum, your sister, your dad, your best friend.....I could go on.....then you probably should. Luckily in the true spirit of Christmas, the kind consumer targeting retailers have found it in their hearts to double their stock and pull an array of festive inspired gifts out of their hats to suit every buyers demands. Not only that but they've increased their hours as well, no Scrooges here then! From Metro Centre to Northumberland Street the choices are endless.

However if the high streets not your thing then Newcastle plays host to some 'merry markets', a personal favourite, throughout November and December, offering a host Christmas goodies from around the world. Dazzle your mum with an exotic chutney or tantalize your lover with a bit of chorizo from the European market that runs from the end of November to the beginning of December. Alternatively get yourself

to Grey's Monument from the 12-16th of December and reap the benefits of having over 40 traders all in one place, one of which if my memory serves me correctly sells massive gingerbread models of grottos and reindeers! One that comes strongly recommended is the arts and crafts market at Grainger Market on the 8th, 15th and 22nd of December which

promises a wide selection of high quality local crafts away from the vicious weather conditions. In fact if indoor shopping is more your bag then you could do worse than the Metro Centres Festive Fine Food and Craft Fayre. Here they offer free samples of a variety of 'delectable foods', although admittedly you may be expected to buy something. I'm not sure what exactly constitutes a 'delectable food' but I imagine it's all very exclusive and expensive, a selection of which could collectively inspire that perfect Christmas hamper creation.

For any Christmas shopping haters who plan to do all their shopping in one go the big department stores are your best bet. John Lewis, Fenwicks and M&S are all conveniently situated a five minute walk from University and have gifts for every member of the family plus delicious food halls in case you get overwrought and need a sit down. Even if it's not your favourite pastime, night time shopping is always preferable. If you have to battle through hordes of manic shoppers then at least you can look at the pretty lights, plug in your ipod and pretend you're some place beautiful. Enjoy.



MUST SEE: THE NORTHUMBERLAND STREET PHENOMENON/FAMILY DAY TRIP THAT IS FENWICKS WINDOW. MARVELLOUS.

MetroCentre

Metro Centre Christmas opening hours
Shop 10am till 10pm weekdays until Friday 21st December
Saturday 9am - 7pm
Sunday 11am - 5pm
Christmas Eve, Monday 24th December
9am - 5pm
Christmas Day, Tuesday 25th December
Centre closed
Boxing Day, Wednesday 26th December
10am - 5pm

MetroCentre Festive Fine Food and Craft Fayre

Sat 15th-Sun 16th of December
Buses X66 & 100 from the City Centre

Merry Markets

European market - 26th Nov - 8th December
@Grey's Monument and Grainger Market

Arts & Craft market - Sat 8th, Sat 15th & Sat 22nd December
@Grainger Market

Winter Christmas Market - 12th-16th December
@ Greys Monument

Farmers market - Fri 14th December
@ Greys Monument

Metro - Monument

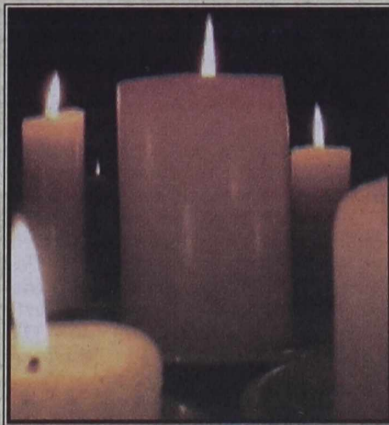


CANDLELIT CAROLS

ALRIGHT SO carols by candlelight is not everyone's idea of a crazy night out. That said it's important to remember the true meaning of Christmas. (For those of you that can't remember, it was when Jesus was born, in Bethlehem).

So why not do something a bit different and go and have a good old sing song in the local church surrounded by hundreds of candles, and impress everyone with those high notes. I did last year and I'm a tone deaf atheist. Christmas

is a time for everyone to come together regardless of differences and celebrate (or appreciate) what they have. If nothing else it's all very heart-warming and magical, and an altogether lovely alternative to tottering down the street between trebles bars baring your flesh in minus 4 weather conditions. If it isn't crazy enough for your taste you can always do something extreme like count the candle to make sure there really are 1000 and no one's telling fibs.



Carols by Candlelight (FREE)

St Mary's Church, Clayton Street
Thurs 20th December 7pm
Metro - Central Station

Jesmond Church, Jesmond
Sun 9th December 4pm, 6pm, 8pm
Tues 11th & Thurs 13th December 8pm
Saturday 15th December 5pm
Sun 16th December 4pm, 6pm, 8pm
Metro - Jesmond

FAREWELL ME' MATEYS

THE FINAL FAREWELL



03/12/07

CHRISTMAS CHARITY BAR CRAWL
TO SAY FAREWELL TO AN ICON
THIS WILL BE HISTORIC

T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE OUTSIDE THE UNION - £5
MONDAY DECEMBER 3RD 2007 FROM 10:30PM

ALRIGHT SO I know you're thinking... 'whatever, they said that last time, and the time before that, and even the time before that'... but in actual fact this is definitely the last Monday night upon the legendary Tuxedo Princess. I swear on my Mum's life.

From next week The Boat is morphing into a casino, and the revolving dance floor will spin no more. A sad day I think you'll agree. However, as to be expected The Boat is going out in style and all are welcome; whatever your age, race, affluence, gender, sexual orientation and preferred biscuit choice. It will be a monumental occasion, a bit like the sinking of the Titanic, in 50 years people will almost definitely still be talking about it, although obviously without the sinking part (I hope). As with all worthy club nights these days, a bar crawl will precede, complete with the obligatory

t-shirt (I'm going to have quite a collection by the end of the year!) This time with the words 'I was there', a nice reminder not to get so carried away on the Quayside that you don't step over the threshold (Sioban you know who you are).

Onboard the Boat, everything is back to shipshape condition, the revolving dance floor lives once again, The drinks are just £1:50 all night (with that free shot with every drink if you have a T-shirt). There are huge smoking areas, not to mention the five different rooms all playing an array of Tunes with a capital T.

So get involved, and be there for the Death of one of the most loved, famous and most talked about venues in Newcastle... or even the world!!!!

Newcastle Student Union

Pacific

Basement

Bar 42

Box

Lodge

Hoko 10

Chase

Quilted Camel

Blue

Buffalo Joes



Then for the Final Time ever THE TUXEDO PRINCESS

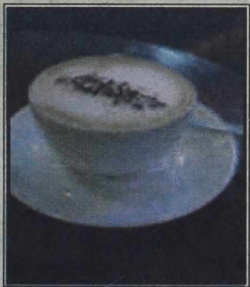
READER RECOMMENDATION...

KITSCH'N

NAME: Charlotte Hanger

COURSE: Philosophy

WHERE: 32 Acorn Road, Jesmond



WHY? Kitch'n is a friendly café serving good, affordable food, and is located in the popular student area of West Jesmond. Its brightly coloured red exterior soaked in warm lighting beckons you inside and makes for a cosy Saturday afternoon with friends.

The decor is reminiscent of a 50's deco-style diner, with red table tops and comfy black leather double seats, surrounded by brick walls covered with an array of large, colourful posters. Not just a cafe for coffee though, Kitch'n also serves tasty food at reasonable student-friendly prices. Hangover hot breakfasts are a popular option for the hungry and suffering. They also offer the usual selection of sandwiches and paninis characteristic of most cafes, although in some cases with the option of toasting, which comes highly recommended. Generous portions of healthy salads and other foods are also on offer, and savoury pies are served daily. To top all this they serve fantastic, home-baked cakes for those with an insatiable sweet tooth. With friendly service, good nosh and a warm atmosphere what's not to like about Kitch'n?

GREAT FOR... Friendly Coffees & Great Food

Directions

From the city, follow signs for Jesmond/Tyne-mouth. Keep left towards Osborne Terrace/Osborne Road, where the hotels and bars are. Acorn Road is right at Lloyds bank.

Metro - Jesmond

(Cross the bridge, walk straight ahead, left at Tesco and on to Acorn Road.)

Tel: 0191 287 3377

UNION ENTS



This tri-annual mega end of term blow-out is one of the North East's biggest dance nights!

ROOM ONE: ELECTRONIC MUSIC FOR 21ST CENTURY PARTY PEOPLE
ROOM TWO: D'n'B/GLOBAL
ROOM THREE: TECHNO&BREAKS/BASEMENT 2
ROOM FOUR: SOULFUNKELECTRODISCO/GREEN ROOM
ROOM FIVE: REGGAE & DUB/BLUE ROOM
ROOM SIX: ACOUSTIC MAYHEM WITH ROBBIE

Tickets are on sale from Newcastle University Union (Box Office and Reception), City Hall Box Office, RPM, Beatdown Records, Reflex, Alt Vinyl (All Newcastle) Hot Rats (Sunderland) and DAM (Durham).

TICKETS >> £10 NUS AND £12 NON NUS. Tickets purchased at Newcastle University Union free from booking fee

Arcane: Six Rooms of Fun... And You All proceeds go to the South African Scholarship Fund.

SLIDE AND RIDE @ WET AND WILD

IT DOES exactly what it says on the tin. Wet and Wild (North Shields) was the perfect hang-over cure and one of the best ways to spend yet another cold, wet weekend in Newcastle.

The smell of way too much chlorine and the screams of over excited children got the memo-



WILD CARD

ries flooding back (obviously not in a paedophilic way but in a 'I used to love swimming' way). This, combined with the dirty plaster hanging around the floor of my changing room, caused me to be a bit apprehensive about spending the day here in only my Speedo's. But hurtling down a 20 metre vertical tube soon abolished all my inhibitions and we were racing to get back to the top. As the UK's largest water park it has plenty to offer with ten water flumes, a wave machine, lazy river and numerous Jacuzzi's. Wet and Wild provided great entertainment and is definitely one thing that you have to do before leaving Newcastle. So if you're bored and fancy getting away from all that revision, Wet and Wild is just a ten minute walk from the Meadow Well Metro Station. Well worth it!

Tom Stables

Opening Times

Outside School/Bank Holidays

Mon/Tues - Closed
Wed/Thurs - 12.00-7.30pm
Fri - 12.00-8.00pm
Sat - 10.00 - 8.00pm
Sun - 10.00 - 7.00pm

All School/Bank Holidays

Mon - Sat - 10.00-8.00pm

Sun - 10.00-7.00pm

Last admission 2.5 hours before closing

Sat, Sun, Bank/School

Holidays - £9.40

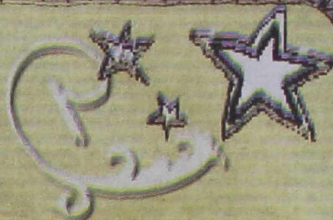
Weekdays - £8.40

www.wetwild.co.uk

0191 296 1333



ARTS



IT IS DECEMBER at last, the season of good will... and we all love the parties! And a whole lot of mistletoe. Mince pies galore, brandy, turkey, and Christmas pud... with maybe some hot treacle on top (that there's just for Sam!).

It is a time of year when traditional paintings are suddenly dusted down and reproduced on card upon card. Letters are sent from one end of the country to the other with stamps of angels from classical paintings on them. Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' is performed, 'Gone with the Wind' is on TV and pantomimes are temporarily acceptable. All these things are Arty - they delve in to the creative warmth of Christmas, a time of year when tradition and culture is important.

During December I like to hide away in galleries, go to the theatre with my family and in-

duge in a classic novel. Being an arts maniac I am perhaps going to indulge in Christmas culture more enthusiastically than some - but Arts is such a broad umbrella for so many things that there is always something that everyone dips into, whether consciously, or not, as Joanna shows in her main article this week.

I want to just say a very very quick thank you to all the arts writers this term. You have all made my life a lot easier and I think everyone has done a great job. Going to stop there as don't want to make this too cringe, think it is in great danger of being so. But, thank you to you all.

And a happy happy happy Christmas to all our readers!

Holly, Arts Editor. (And yes, I was born in winter.)

MODERN ART - PRETENTIOUS OR PURPOSEFUL?

IN THE WORLD of the arts, it is possibly contemporary art that is the most controversial, in the way that it can be either perceived as mindless, meaningless and simplistic rubbish, or an abstract way of portraying something far more in depth.

I can't possibly provide a one sided debate for supporting or disregarding modern art, it is the type of person you are that reflects your interest in the abstract art form.

The Tate Modern in London exhibits a truly bizarre array of work, and I noticed that many people were simply pointing and laughing at a blue triangle in a fancy frame.

This, however, I can understand. How can a blue triangle reflect for instance the artist's turbulent life, or for that matter be taken seriously?

But who am I to judge? The over analytical of you may indeed see hidden depths in work such as this.

Before I slate contemporary art too much, I have to project my interest in it.

Although it all seems wonderfully weird, it does make me think "outside the box".

I recently directed my interests away from the pub in my free period and directed them towards some good old culture and visited the Baltic on the Quayside.

I have to say it fascinated me; the diversity of the work truly represents the gigantic imaginations of today's artists.

We can ask, what is the artist's intention when producing such strange work? (If at all this interests you, I strongly recommend a day trip to the Baltic).

This brings us back to the argument that modern art is either pretentious nonsense, or that it does actually serve a purpose.

In many cases it is blatantly evident that certain work is produced to project a certain feeling upon the recipient, for example a painting portraying death clearly isn't intended to be taken light heartedly.

Therefore, it can be said, that if there is anything to be learnt from modern art, it's that it helps broaden the mind and can in some respect define you as a person in how you perceive the world.

James Spikings

CHRISTMAS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"A lovely thing about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together."

Garrison Keillor



IT'S A CHRISTMAS CULTURE LAND

CHRISTMAS GIVES the world of the arts the chance to shine.

It is probably the only occasion of the year when it's perfectly acceptable to go and see the odd cheesy panto and get overly excited about all the twinkly lights that embellish the high streets.

If really is the time of cheer for an otherwise grey and dismal time of the year, so here's a review of some of the arty things going on this December right here in Newcastle.

Literature and the arts have played a part in defining the way we regard Christmas at present.

The widely renowned 'Twas The Night Before Christmas' is a poem, and was first published anonymously in 1823.

It begins with "Twas the night before Christmas/ Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;/ The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,/ In hope that Santa Claus would soon be there..."

The poem is largely accountable for the modern day notion of Santa Claus.

Like or loathe this creation, the poem does make a nice read for the holidays and provides a historical reference for all the hype that surrounds the contemporary Christmas tradition.

Another reason why Christmas is an excellent time for the arts is that people appreciate artwork on their greetings cards.

The tradition of sending Christmas cards originated here in England about 150 years ago, seen as a useful replacement for sending long letters of best wishes to lots of different people.

Christmas cards were also at first principally aimed at making people aware of the need to help the poor and needy at Christmas time.

Although some of the emphasis on religious imagery has been replaced with fairly meaningless illustrations of snowmen and Santa Claus, the idea of sending cards still remains as ever highly popular.

This December will see an assortment of festive plays and pantomimes coming to Newcastle.

To name but one of a few is 'A Christmas Carol', which is one of the most well-known Christmas tales of all time originally written by Charles Dickens and now adapted for the stage by Stephen Sharkey.

It will be performed at Northern Stage and tells the tale of the infamous old grump Ebenezer Scrooge.

This heart-warming story has become a classic in the public consciousness as it addresses some of the concerns surrounding Christmas in this day and age.

Northern Stage's performance will be sure to awaken the true Christmas spirit in everyone!

(24th November-12th January- Northern Stage). One of the main pantomimes this December is 'Aladdin' at the Theatre Royal.

This show stands out from the crowd in that it incorporates unusual special effects such as a 3D Genie, and members of the audience will even take a ride on Aladdin's flying carpet, all through the fabulous means of technology.

Also keep a look out for the Daleks from Dr Who, who constantly attempt to thwart Aladdin's plans.

(3rd December to 19th January- Theatre Royal). A panto that is definitely worth seeing be-

Moving on from the pantos - there is *Glow '07*, which is a sequence of seven different contemporary illuminations.

These will be projected through light onto more unusual canvasses (such as buildings) throughout Newcastle.

Jordan McKenzie's design, 'Universe' should be particularly fascinating, as the artist has taken two copies of Stephen Hawking's book 'A Brief History Of Time' and has entirely blacked out every page apart from the zeros and the letter 'O'.

The result is a succession of images that resemble the star-lit night sky, which in turn are images that resemble the very subject of this celebrated book.

A further piece for *Glow '07* is the work of Berwick upon Tweed based artists Zoe Walker and Neil Bromwich, who have become notorious for ambitious projects that go beyond the confines of the gallery.

Their installation 'Limbo Land' is a film of solar exploration at sunrise and nightfall, and will be projected near the Fire Station on Pilgrim Street.

If you go along to the BALTIC you should also find an exhibition that displays some of their other projects, exploring the theme of the solar system.

(Catch *Glow '07* in various parts of Newcastle - 4th-17th December, every evening from 5pm-9pm)

'Enchanted Parks' is predicted to be a huge success and has been described as, "a magical dream world of performance, light and sound".

The event aims to bring warmth to even the most chilliest of nights, as artistic director Geraldine Pilgrim gives Newcastle's Leazes Park and Gateshead's Saltwell Park a makeover.

Visitors to the event will be able to walk through the park and as they proceed, the surrounding nature will come alive with evocative and mysterious figures such as ice skaters, candle-lit choirs and sleeping gardeners!

Pilgrim explained her influence for the project by describing her interest in, "the quiet beauty that pervades the parks at night, when nature seems to take over again and the sleeping parks begin to dream."

With this idea in mind, she hopes that these highly atmospheric events will captivate everyone who comes along.

(Leazes Park- 7th-9th December, 7pm-8pm. Saltwell Park- 14th-16th December, 7pm-8pm.)

Event is free but you need to reserve a place by emailing info@northernstage.co.uk.

So, all in all, there is plenty going on in the city to get everyone in to the festive feel.

Joanna Sweeney



fore you head back home for the Christmas holidays is the NUTS panto, which will be 'Robin Hood' this year.

It stars the two exec members of NUTS Edward Clifton and Will Hunt, and has been written by Clifton and one of the directors, Graham Oakes.

Clifton plays the eponymous hero and Allegra Faggionato takes a slightly different slant on the traditional Maid Marion character- she is a rah wishing to be a chav!

Guy of Gisbourne is in fact a farmer with amnesia and the Sheriff turns out to be just a sweet and innocent, fairly camp guy who is trying his best to be evil so that he can make his father proud!

Everyone should definitely go and support one of our very own university's production. (Union Basement Wed 5th - Fri 7th)

ART IN ACTION

ARTISTS AND ART-LOVERS headed down to the Ouseburn Valley last weekend (24th-25th November), for the Ouseburn Open Studios, which saw artists from seven art galleries across the region open their doors and unravel the mysteries of their art.

A free bus service ferried members of the public between the galleries, which included the art works and a series of galleries within a gallery.

This huge gallery was holding an auction of paintings for Christian Aid, as well several works which were up for sale, featuring local names: Renny Borthwick, Olivier Blanc, Sara Collier and Stuart Sime, whose bold interpretations of North Eastern buildings, particularly Pull the Wires from the Wall, were for me the pick of the Christian Aid paintings.

A few artists were milling around: Ben Lawson, whose work is chiefly based on the Victorian fashion for discovery in nature, was there to talk to discuss his work.

He explained that his work was inspired by a longing to discover the natural world around him in the north east, especially since he was not originally from this area.

Other works of his included charming cartoon strips, and an innovative print of, what may be termed the manifestation of American capitalism, for it depicts amongst other figures, Mickey Mouse, and underneath him, a dollar note. He puts his inspiration for these down to, "Too much coffee, too many late nights, a misspent childhood. Whenever I have an idea for a cartoon, I'll doodle it. I suppose there are a few people who just have the same twisted sense of humour as me".

Also in the art works was a photographic exhibition of reggae music in the region, by Simon Henderson, which showed in fascinating detail, stills of legends in action, immortalised in oversized black and white photos.

The photographs were complemented by old gig posters placed strategically around the exhibition on yellowing paper, which gave a real sense of dynamism to the pictures.

I next found myself at northern print, which predictably specialises in the print form.



This had some eye-catching pictures, for example, Jacqueline Quinn's *Attracted To the Light*, which was one of several exhibited award winners.

I also liked the interactive elements, such as the studios which were downstairs and the opportunity to vote for

your favourite picture of the exhibition, which would then be given the coveted award of Best Picture by Painter in Residence.

Overall though, this gallery which has just celebrated its first birthday, has too much the impression of a new gallery, and seems to be so far struggling to stand up against the genuinely high standard of the rest of the galleries, although I do think that this will be sorted out once it has had a chance to establish itself, for the prints were good quality, but a little thin on the ground.

36 Lime Street undoubtedly had the best atmosphere. Its bright lime-green entrance and its proximity to The Cluny and Ship Inn pubs gave it a real vibrancy. Inside, this impression was reinforced by the crowds, as well as the two piece band comprising a cellist and an accordionist.

The studios themselves could be found amidst a maze of corridors and stairs, and they opened up into a world of bags, children's spelling aid prints and other quirky bits and pieces, including Tony Blair, and a rat created by Sarah Hegel.

It also had a brief history of the Ouseburn (apparently its name comes from 'Ewe's Burn').

No review of the Ouseburn art-scene would be complete without a mention of the glorious Biscuit Factory, which is actually not really in the Ouseburn at all, but just round the corner from Mr Lynch's in Sandycroft.

It was included in this tour, I suppose, because it is the UK's largest independent commercial art space.

Surprisingly though it had a really accessible feel to it, and the stunning building it is housed in enhances its prestigious reputation.

The other studios, Cobalt, Mushroom Works and Brown Paper Studios all helped to cultivate a hotbed of talent in the Ouseburn.

The picturesque surroundings, half Byker Grove, half country village, also shape the Ouseburn into a melting pot of artistic initiative, the artistic headquarters of the North East of England.

Sophie Robson.

HATS OFF!

IT'S ALWAYS AN ENLIGHTENING experience when completely new cliques and communities are discovered and tapped into.

So I was pleased when, after fighting my way through a hideous gaggle of pub crawlers, I arrived at the Hatton Gallery to several glasses of red wine and a spot of art.

But I couldn't have prepared myself for my fellow spectators; pink dyed moustaches, billowing skirts and sharp suits had met together - Newcastle's art community - to appreciate two new exhibitions.

The *Triumph of Maximilian's* chief merits are its sequences of prints intended to be joined in order to create continuous images of pleasure and pursuit.

The flair and exuberance found in these prints originate from such intricate detail, and the characters really do come alive (it is more than evident, for instance, that the crumhorn player has overdone it on the beer).

Indeed, beneath Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I's 'triumph' lies the functionings and operational detail of his reign; a further set of prints demonstrate military formations and battle scenes, providing a well-rounded portrayal of a man's achievement. The interest is very much in the detail.

As for the second exhibition by *Matthew Luck Galpin*, I wasn't really sure what to make of it.

This conceptual installation is very much the type of work that needs heavy explaining, and I always wonder if this makes the piece good or bad as it appears to be reaching out to a very exclusive audience (indeed, witness the audience!).

But after I got my glass topped up I managed to get the gist of what Galpin meant by his 'machinery of the metaphysical imagination'.

The work represents natural world forces of cycle, change and connection. Such organic concepts seem so far removed, however, from the ways in which they are presented and explained.

Interesting perhaps, but don't go without your reading glasses.

Luke McFarlane

The *Triumph of Maximilian* and *Luke Galpin's* exhibition are on at The Hatton until 16th February 2008.

BRILLIANT BUILDINGS



NEWCASTLE SUFFERED much at the hands of the 1960s and '70s planners, who gouged out great swathes of the historic townscape with their misguided creations.

The construction of Eldon Square was particularly unforgiving, knocking out many fine buildings and ruining the carefully arranged scheme of Richard Grainger.

Thankfully, one of the finest and most original buildings of the city remains: Emerson Chambers on Blackett Street, more commonly recognized as Waterstones.

This Grade II listed building was designed by Benjamin Simpson in 1903 replacing the site of a Presbyterian church, and occupies a prime site opposite Monument. Once home to Dillons, it was taken over by Waterstones in 1989 who carefully restored it.

Coloured marble and granite are used at street level, giving weight and solidity to the building, contrasting well with the delicate cast-iron window frames.

Remarkably pleasing to the eye, it has many inventive elements on each of its five storeys; even a double clock face. This charming building is deservedly one of Newcastle's favourites.

Jeremy Trotter



SHOWCASE SPACE

THIS WEEK: ALEX REEVES

THE TASK was to build a countryside centre.

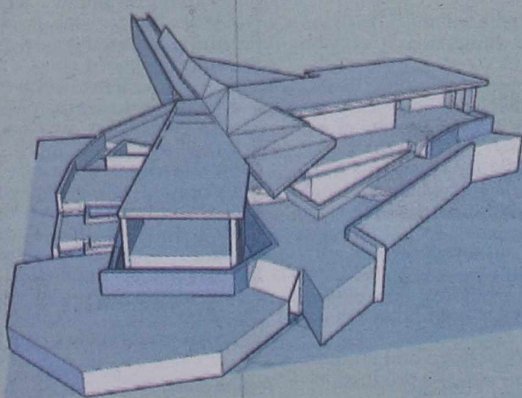
The conceptual thought was to create an "autonomous space," a space which defines a serious of "experiences."

As you walk through the space your eyes would meet certain things and your mind will tell you were to go.

As individual beings, each mind would see something unique. This would create a different experience per person.

As architects you have to design for a specific, but mass audience, to be able to create this sole experience is astonishing.

Alex Reeves, BA3 Architecture Studios.



MOTHERLAND

THIS WEEK sees the opening of *Motherland* at the Live Theatre. Through their own words, this play tells the story of local families of soldiers, fighting in the current Middle East conflict.

Written in verbatim, the stories all construct an almost eerily similar tale in how they have been affected by the war.

This play promises to be a dramatic eye opener to the forgotten victims of the war, the families and friends of the soldiers.

Motherland hopes to humanise the Moddile East conflict, which can seem distant from us when we see it on nightly news bulletins.

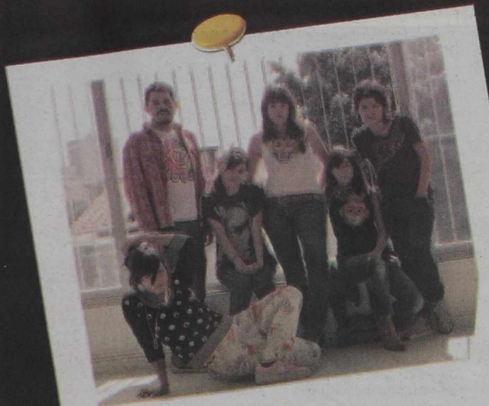
The play features a small cast who all play various parts, including Helen Embleton - fresh from her Spotlight Award for "Best Actress" for her role in the play *Iron*.

The play also features Rachel Adamson, Eleanor Clarke, and Charlotte Binns.

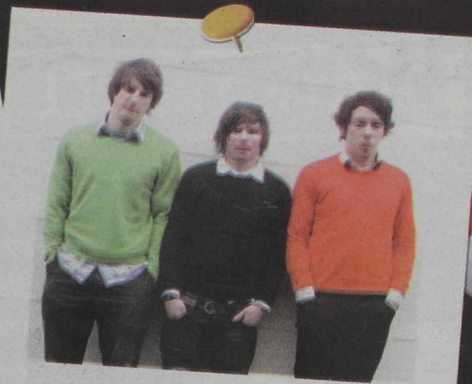
Andrew Parrington

Motherland runs from the 29th November - 8th December at The Live

WIN £500 - REGISTER WWW.UNIONSOCIETY.CO.UK - WIN £500



C.S.S. The Wombats



Orson

SOLUTION

7th December - Ticket GIVEAWAY - Starts 10pm - £4/£3 adv
WIN £500 - REGISTER WWW.UNIONSOCIETY.CO.UK - WIN £500

FULLY UPDATED
(Copies AVAILABLE IN
BLACKWELLS)

CONSPIRACY TO MURDER THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE

Wed. 5th December – LINDA MELVERN

Meet internationally-renowned journalist and consultant
for the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda!

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

1-2pm, Public lecture, Herschel Building LT1

2.30-4pm, Stephenson Building T.14, Seminar:
'Can the international community prevent genocide?'

"An epic and shaming
story of culpability and
missed opportunities ...
in the finest traditions of
investigative journalism."
JOHN PILGER

Jes'Space

A new student room at Jesmond Methodist
Church available to students living in the
Jesmond Area every Tuesday evening between
7pm - 9pm. It is a free lounge space to relax,
chill out and de-stress in.



We are holding a housing Advice session there on
Tuesday 11th December 2007 between 6-8pm
hosted by the Student Advice Centre and the
Accommodation Office

relax... chill out ...de-stress

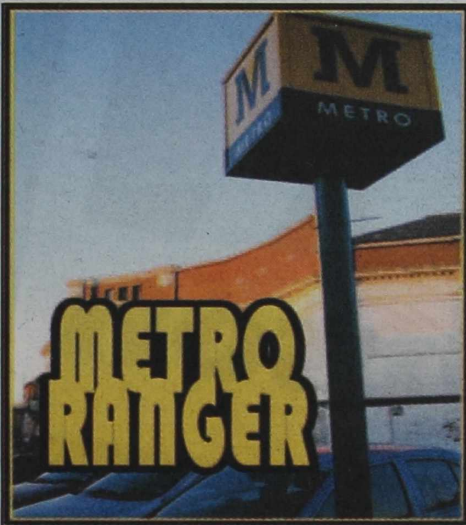
TRAVEL STA TRAVEL

9 St Mary's Place, Newcastle, NE1 7PG

0191 233 2111

newcastle@statravel.co.uk

www.statravel.co.uk



Lady of the Manors, ALICE HERBERT discovers there's more to Ouseburn than chavs

MANORS metro lies smack bang in the middle of a motor-way cross-section, suffers from an extensive amount of graffiti and is the territory of an unfortunately high number of chavs. But oh what a wealth of hidden delights it holds.

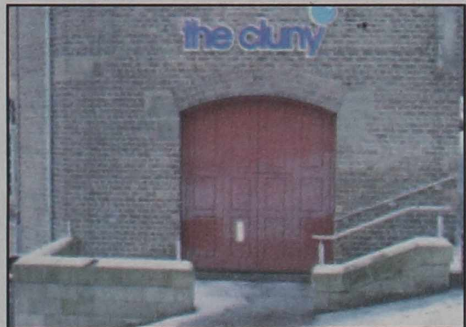
Forget the Baltic and the Sage, this is where the trendy underground arts scene in the Toon really is. Just walk a mere 10 minutes away from the metro and you descend into the Ouseburn Valley where the cultural experience begins. Here, there are a number of intimate, contemporary art galleries to wander around and feel refined.

A little less chic, but a lot more fun is Seven Stories, the 'centre of children's books'. The Roald Dahl exhibition with its beautiful collection of Quentin Blake originals brought back a wave of nostalgic memories of childhood reading: The Twits, Charlie and his Chocolate factory, James and that Peach.

Looking for something a bit sportier? Then look no further. Unbelievably, there is a riding stable right in the middle of Newcastle.

And if you get a bit hungry after all that culture-mongering then fine food and booze can be found at The Cluny or The Ship, the former does a Sunday roast for just £6.50. The nearby and famed Biscuit Factory offers Britain's biggest original art space, although it is art that is rather beyond the student budget and some of it is a bit weird. Finally, exhausted from a cultural overdose after three years of a student lifestyle distinctly lacking in refinement, return to what you know best...a pint in the café overlooking the bright Newcastle lights.

Manors metro goes to prove that looks can be deceptive. The area looks a bit dodgy, but I can only think that these negatives are on account of its close proximity to Gateshead. In fact, it holds some of Newcastle's most appealing hidden gems. If you fancy doing something outside the traditional student fare then head down to Manors next weekend and live the cultured high-life.



Star Spangled Hannah

HANNAH MOSELEY moseys across the pond to find the state of play

I COULDN'T bear it. Not another summer holiday spent working part-time in supermarkets coupled with weekends spent nursing the mother of all hang-overs in front of T4, watching the same episodes of 'Friends' over and over again!

And all this to be interrupted with a last minute, fortnight of sun, sea and...ahem... sand in another bland tourist trap off the Med somewhere with the girls.

So with this in mind, I decided that the only thing to do is to conquer the US, alone, for four months. Well if it's good enough for the Beckhams! American dream, here I come.

So off I trundle, backpack in hand, first stop Maine, 'The armpit of America', famous for Lobster, Moose, Maple Syrup and being the most sparsely populated state in America. Sounds...erm...interesting.

I spent my time in Maine working in a kid's summer camp. All very much one huge blur to be quite frank. I didn't particularly get time to explore Maine what with working every hour god sent looking after over-indulged rich kids. And any days off I did receive would be spent where all the cool kids hung out... Walmart. Yes, apart from beautiful scenery, miles and miles of dense pine-tree forests and lakes, Maine had one hell of a huge Wal-Mart...oh and a bookshop.

So it was time to move on. I had gained a few rather good friends at this point, three girls from New Zealand. We decided that the next stop should be to head south to Boston; home to the Red socks, Harvard University and the Boston Crème doughnut...yum! Now Boston is bizarre. It's nice, but it really is bizarre. Sometimes I would feel like I was standing in the middle of central London (it had an Argos!) and other times it felt rather European. A very diverse place with most definitely a mixed identity.

The hostel we stayed at was Boston's very own finest 'Boston Backpackers', in 'the ghetto', above a Hooters bar... awesome! The very next day was most definitely a 'let's cram everything Boston-ish into one day and get the hell out of here and head to New York' kind of day.

We started the day ridiculously early after sleeping with one eye open in fear of having our backpacks stolen so decided to head to Boston's famous fruit market for breakfast. Every kind of fruit you could possibly imagine and some you've probably never even heard of were being sold on these market stalls. So we had a few dragon fruit here and a few Asian pears there and trekked off to Harvard University. I'm not entirely sure what I was expecting from Harvard. I mean I've seen it in numerous American teen flicks, but it just looked, well, like our very own Newcastle Uni. It had the same courtyard areas, the same flowerbeds, and the same red brick buildings. And I had dragged the Kiwi girls for one hour, in the heat, to see a Newcastle University clone... ruuubish!

Only one thing for it - the original 'Cheers' bar! This place was amazing...it was ram packed full of tourists all recognising different

parts of the bar from the famous TV show. But I had one thing in mind. It may have been the inner-Geordie girl bursting to get out or it may have been the fact that they were charging \$10 for one, but I saw the challenge and stole a Cheers pint glass then legged it as fast as my legs could carry me!

After a couple of days, it was time to venture out of Boston, with a Boston crème doughnut in one hand and my cheers pint glass in the other, we took the Chinese Lucky star coach to New York City. (My top tip for travelling by coach around the states is to go through Chinese bus operators. They are about half the price of the greyhound, much more comfort-

able and always seem to stop of at a Chinese buffet on the way - can't argue with that!)

Now, I'd been following my USA lonely planet guide religiously until we arrived in New York. The accommodation was just too expensive for my student budget so there was only one option...I had to defy everything lonely planet told me and I stayed in Harlem.

Now, at first I was absolutely terrified. I mean this was seriously ghetto, Harlem made Fenham look like Gosforth. We were the only white females on the streets and the local guys would just stare in complete amazement at our presence, shouting the likes of "Hey snowflake!". Apart from the odd shooting here and the odd screams of a female in distress at 3am in the morning there...Harlem had great soul. It most definitely beat Nandos hands down in the chicken and rice stakes. That and the hostel was only twelve quid a night.

We did everything horrendously touristy in NY: the empire state building, statue of liberty, Times Square, excessive shopping, the usual. So after a good few weeks of buying knock-off Chloe Paddington handbags from Canal Street and spending many a hours stalking the male, topless models in Abercrombie and Fitch, I decided I needed a bit of West Coast action.

First stop... L.A. baby! It was absolutely everything I could've imagined and more! Yes everybody really is a size double zero, yes everybody does drive a Hummer, yes everybody really does eat sushi all day long and yes, people really do call each other 'bitch' and 'hommie'.

There was only one thing for it...I had to find my very own Brad or Chad in LA. And find him I did, on the Hollywood walk of fame, just to the right of Tom Hank's star. He came in the form of 24-year-old Jesse. Super American sounding name? Check. Ridiculously white teeth? Check. Overly tanned and ripped body? Check. Perfect! He asked me out clubbing with him that very night on Sunset strip. Telling me I was 'Beautiful', he went on to grab my spare tyre (thanks for that Hersheys chocolate) and said "Oooh you could do with losing that though, you are in L.A. you know?" What the?! Only in bloody L.A. would that happen!

Not to be dispelled by my rather rude L.A. encounter, I decided to do what all Californians do...I hit the beaches. Quick low-down on Californian beaches: Malibu beach smells really bad, bit polluted, but the best surf on offer. Santa Monica and Venice do as it says on the tin, long stretches of sand, too many body builders and baywatch-esque lifeguards (all sick of their lives due to the likes of me singing the baywatch theme tune as I walk past their huts). The beaches like Newport and Laguna in the O.C., really are filled to brim with Mischa Barton look-a-likes and 'cool surfer dudes' but have beautiful white sand and the bluest ocean.

So with every last dollar to my name spent, it was time to head back home to good old Blighty, a little heavier, a little browner and a lot poorer! Still, happy days...and I didn't even watch one repeat episode of 'Friends'...



I LOVE NY

New York fm

£199

STA TRAVEL



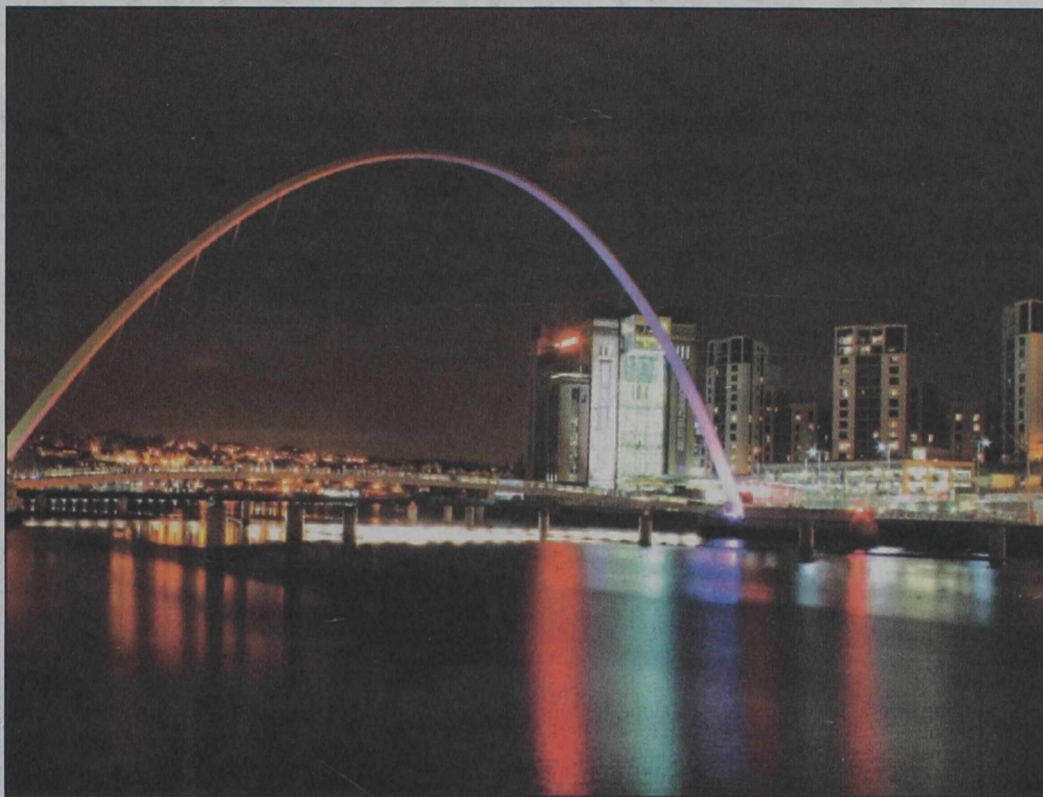


MY NEWCASTLE

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 MINDAUGAS MISKINIS

"I took this picture one night at the very end of October. Because I did not have a tripod, I placed my camera on a pier. It was a windy night and I was really worried about my camera falling down and splashing into the river. However, the result was definitely worth the nerves! In about my fifth attempt I finally managed to capture exactly what I was looking for. The Millennium Bridge provides a spectacular sight at night, with all of the changing colours, but a photograph usually captures only one of them. That is why I tried and finally managed to capture the change of the colours: bright red on the left side and purple on the right can be seen in the photograph. The reason why I chose this picture for 'My Newcastle' is that the Millennium Bridge, for me, represents the entire city: bright, colourful and diverse'.



WE WANT YOUR STORIES!

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DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE COST OF THE CALL - WE'LL CALL YOU BACK



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 5099 - Christmas Sales positions

Job description: Christmas Sales positions to work in a city centre department store over the Christmas Vacation. Duties will include shop floor work, serving customers etc. Person specification: Any previous relevant experience an advantage - customer service skills in particular. You MUST be available to work in Newcastle over the Christmas/New Year period, and specifically on 24th December and 27th December 2007.

Hours of work: Full and part time hours available
Start date: ASAP Contract: Temporary over the Christmas/New Year

period
Rate of pay: £5.52 per hour (all ages)
Closing date: ASAP Location: Newcastle City Centre
Apply by: Calling into the Job shop for the application details when we are next open

Vacancy 5111 - Mobile Advertising Pole Holder

Job description: A local CD and record shop is looking for a few mobile advertising pole holders to promote the business. This job involves holding an advertising banner/pole at the end of the street directing customers towards the shop.

Person specification: No experience required. You will be required to work regardless of the weather and it is quite a tiring job. You will need to wrap up well in the winter and have a sense of humour, hot drinks will be supplied! Please bear these facts in mind when applying.



Hours of work: Within 11am-3pm Tues-Sat
Start date: Immediate Contract: Temporary
Rate of pay: £5.52/hour
Closing date: ASAP Location: Newcastle - city centre
Apply by: Calling into the Job shop for the application details when we are next open

Vacancy 5087 - Telephone Market Research Interviewer

Job description: Staff needed to work for a leading market research agency in Newcastle. Duties include working from a pre-prepared script, strictly adhering to the given text. Applicants who are successful at interview will be required to train and attend an assessment course. Person specification: Experience is not required as full training will be given. A clear, concise telephone voice is essential.

Hours of work: 16 hours/week, Mon - Fri between 5pm and 9pm, Saturdays between 10am and 6pm
Start date: ASAP Contract: Permanent
Rate of pay: £5.60 - £7.25 per hour

Closing date: ASAP
Location: Heaton, Newcastle
Apply by: Calling into the Job shop for the application details when we are next open

Vacancy 5102 - Fast food crew members

Job description: Responsible for cleaning, cooking food, serving customers, operating a till, restocking cupboards, assisting with delivery. Locations include Silverlink, North Shields, Longbenton and Felling, Gateshead.

Person specification: No experience needed. You should be polite, cheerful and friendly with an eagerness to achieve.

Hours of work: Various/flexible: up to 16 hours/week in term time and up to full time in vacations
Start date: ASAP Contract: Permanent

Rate of pay: National Minimum Wage + free food allowance + staff discounts

Closing date: Ongoing Location: Silverlink, North Shields, Longbenton, Felling

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

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



Win £50 Worth of Shoes!

"PRICELESS - Inspired by Kate Kuba" is an exhilarating new collaboration between two of Britain's biggest footwear retailers. Combining the effortless chic styling of Kate Kuba, with the ever-affordable value of Priceless, the partnership hails an exciting new phase for the two high street giants.

The nineteen-style range has been developed from some of Kate Kuba's most stylish and popular pieces. Striking patent glitter platforms nestle alongside embroidered ankle boots, echoing the strong, sophisticated design ethos of the Kate Kuba originals, at a fraction of the price - with all styles £35 or under,

the range is sure to be a favourite for the Christmas party season.

Arriving in 75 Priceless stores across the country on December 5th, "Priceless - Inspired by Kate Kuba" is sure to be awaited with baited breath. An invariable favourite with stylists and fashion press alike, the two brands are both hugely admired and their first range together is set to be a huge.

The Courier and Priceless Shoes have teamed up to offer two lucky readers £50 worth of the new Kate Kuba range. To enter all you have to do is e-mail editor.union@ncl.ac.uk by TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER AT 12PM with your name and mobile number. You must be available on Tuesday evening at around 6/7pm to collect your prize. Simple!



>> GO TO VOTE.NCL.AC.UK TO COMPLETE THE COURIER SURVEY AND GIVE YOUR FEEDBACK ON YOUR PAPER!

ASK AN OFFICER

Q: I am currently in my final year, and am starting to think about what I'm going to do after my undergraduate degree. I have been thinking about doing post-graduate studies, with an idea of going into academia and maybe becoming a University professor. Is it true that it's harder for women to do this, as this has been a concern of mine lately?

A: It is true that women currently hold less important positions in academia, but it does depend on the subject. There are many laws and policies in place to try and change this, but it's not always a reality.

However, on a positive note, some statistics say that female graduates have a higher employment rate than males, making a degree more worthwhile.

Basically, you should not let the statistics put you off, but should work hard to get what you want with your career, and I'm sure it will materialise!

However, if you would like any more advice or information, please email me on ngenun@ncl.ac.uk, or drop into the pto's office every Wednesday afternoon from 1-5 to have a chat about any more issues you may have.

Good luck!

Anushka Mehrotra
Gender Equality Officer

You can now 'ask on officer' every Tuesday 2-3pm on MSN. At least one of the six sabbaticals will be available to answer your questions. To add them use the following address:

- Gemma Davies (Editor of the Courier) - editor.union@ncl.ac.uk
- Rosie Duffield (Student Support Officer) - support.union@hotmail.co.uk
- Jamie McDonnell (President) - unionsocietypresident@hotmail.com
- Ben Potter (Education Officer) - ben-harrypotter@hotmail.com
- Lydia Oxenham (Athletic Union President) - au.union@ncl.ac.uk
- Scott Adam (Activities Officer) - scott.adam@ncl.ac.uk



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: Jonathan Greaves
Year of Graduation: 2003
University Subject: Agriculture (Rural Resource Mgt)
Job Title: Chartered Surveyor (Land Agent) Associate partner
Company: Simmons and Sons

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

Left Newcastle in 2003, embarked on a one year MSc at Reading University in Rural Land and Business Management (2003-2004), employed by current firm as a non-resident land agent specialising in Land and Estate Management and valuation. Started the two year APC (Assessment of Professional Competence) with the RICS and qualified in April 2007 as a rural chartered surveyor.

Describe a typical day in your job:

No day is ever the same; I could be negotiating with a district valuer to mobile telecoms companies, on farms with clients discussing all aspects of management (crop varieties to staff employment, residential properties and their relevant occupations, Landlord and tenant, forestry livestock budgeting cash flows etc.), marketing land, tax advice, conversion of buildings and the subsequent selling, letting. I have been given one landed estate to look after and every morning I drive through it on the way to work to discuss with the farm manger and secretary anything that needs to be attended to, and have a weekly meeting with the client. I also undertake the management of compulsory purchase orders for other clients, this includes pipelines. The day is very varied and busy but enjoyable and I spend very little time in the office, and when I do, I need to be there therefore rarely dull.

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

That I had worked harder when at Newcastle because I have had to work extremely hard to get to the position I am in now.

What makes you employable?:

Qualifications, common sense, drive, ambition, the ability to work in a team, knowledge and who you are.

Best thing about your job:

Outdoors, shooting, working with every walk of life on a daily basis, I can take my dogs to work with me, putting my own mark on the work that I undertake and seeing projects come to fruition.

Worst thing about your job:

Not the best pay in the world, but the life style is great, can be very long hours and clients expecting you to visit them at weekends. Being the bogey man for clients when having to relieve staff of their positions. Valuation can be tedious occasionally.

Why should someone do your job?:

It is fun and hard work, if you want hands on management, this is not the job for you, we run the farms and estates from day to day management to arms length, the variety of any one week certainly makes for an interesting career and as a land agent you are immensely employable as we get experience in every angle of chartered surveying, from residential, commercial and agricultural backgrounds and if looking for jobs can apply in all three main sectors of the industry.

LIKE WHAT YOU HEAR?

Then let the Careers Service help you out!

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

- >> the ability to deal with people at all levels;
- >> tact and diplomacy;
- >> sensitivity;
- >> firmness;
- >> a genuine interest in what makes the countryside 'tick';
- >> the ability to deal with and tackle

a range of different problems;
>> a good sense of humour.
(Source: Prospects)

Where do I find out more information about this job?

Research this job further at the following sites:
>> www.prospects.ac.uk
>> www.connexions-direct.com
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:
- >> Estates Gazette www.egi.co.uk
- >> Farmers Weekly www.fwi.co.uk
- >> Property Week www.property-week.com
- >> RICS Directory http://dir.rics.org/
- >> The Agricultural Development and Advisory Service (ADAS) www.adas.co.uk/
- >> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) www.defra.gov.uk/
- >> Ministry of Defence (MOD) www.mod.uk/defenceinternet/home
- >> The National Trust www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main
- >> Association of National Parks Authorities (ANPA) www.national-parks.gov.uk

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

Practical farming and professional experience in the property sector would be of benefit in this role.
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.
Not all work experience vacancies are advertised so you might also want to make speculative applications to organisations that interest you. Use these resources to help you identify possible organisations:
North East Graduate Directory

www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/directory - a database of over 600 organisations in the North East

The Employer information section of the Careers Service websites www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/students/pages/employers.asp has details of organisations that have targeted Newcastle students.

How much will I get paid?

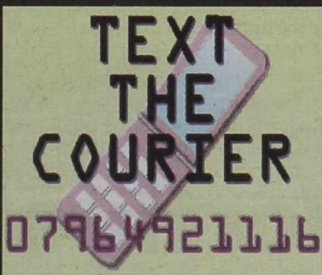
- >> Range of typical starting salaries: £15,000 - £19,000, with an average of £16,500
- >> Range of salaries at senior level/with experience (e.g., after 10 - 15 years in the role): £27,000 to £48,000.
- >> Annual bonus payments are available, currently averaging around £1,900. Occasionally, free or subsidised accommodation is available. Other benefits, such as contributory pension, health insurance and a company car or car allowance, are sometimes offered.
(Source: Prospects - salary data collected Nov 05).

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!

J-I-M-M-Y, SEVILLA! gr8est team eva	J-I-M-M-Y, Get Courier in the Kitchen onto Gordon Ramsey's Kitchen Nightmares	Can Charlie and Matt stop fannying about and just get together	Betsy really does know best
I love costes especially that they all know my name in that fancy place.	Courier in the kitchen, knock knock gnocchi on the bin door! why does the food look shocking!	The Courier has been awesome this year, but not news!	Ba. Where are my babies? James Storey is turning into Shrek

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE COURIER? GO TO VOTE.NCL.AC.UK TO COMPLETE THE COURIER SURVEY!

>> CAREERS WORKSHOP: WED 5TH DEC, CREATIVE THINKING MASTERCLASS, 1-3PM IN THE RESEARCH BEEHIVE



Betsy Knows Best

"Let Betsy sort your life out!"

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

Lecturer Loving?

Dear Betsy,

I'm in love with my English lecturer, a certain silver fox. He is totally gorgeous and in every seminar I have with him I just find myself staring at him and I think I'm in danger of failing my course. I imagine having a private session, in which I make my

advances and he succumbs. Do you suggest trying this out in real life?

Love Foxy

Foxy,

Officially, I have to tell you that student and

lecturer relationships are frowned upon, if not actually forbidden. However, if the silver fox is who I think he is, I say go for it. Every girl needs a sugar daddy at one point in her life and there is something deliciously illicit about an affair with a tutor.

Seeing Red

Dear Betsy,

I got really drunk the other night and ended up taking this guy home. We had great sex but when I woke up and saw him in the clear light of day I realised he was ginger. Unfortunately I had already given him my number and now he won't stop texting me. How do I tell him that I just don't date ginger people?

Ginger Whinger

Ginger Whinger,

Red hair is meant to be the sign of a 'beastly sexual nature and moral degeneration' so, if you want to continue having 'great sex' I suggest you get over yourself and call him, especially considering that another characteristic of redheads is violence (see Braveheart).

Betsy

Profit Pants

Dear Betsy,

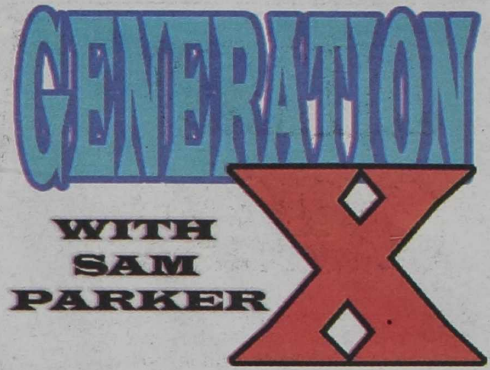
I was back in my hometown the other night and bumped into a stag party. A challenge for the stag was to get a pair of pants and he offered to buy mine off me for £20. Being the drunkard that I was, I agreed, dashed off to the toilets and came back pants in hand. Receiving my payment I then proceeded to buy a drink for my boyfriend who is now really pissed off with me. Is it just me or is he being unreasonable?

Love Excited Entrepreneur

EE,

Absolutely, 100% unreasonable. You saw a chance to make some money and you took it. I applaud your businesswoman-like attitude. Obviously you've landed yourself with one of these sexist types who can't bear their girlfriends to be more successful than them. Dump him.

Betsy



Theory Nine: The Abbreviation Generation

AS IF further proof was needed that George Orwell's '1984' is the most important piece of literature of the 20th Century, we now indulge in Newspeak for leisure as well as reality television. "The only language in the world whose vocabulary gets smaller every year" is now our own, although while Orwell talked of actual words being destroyed, we're merely messing with the vowels to make them shorter.

It all started with txt messagin, and the sapient aim of saving yourself ten pence. By changing 'night' to 'nite', 'sometimes' to 'sumtimes' or even throwing some numbers in the mix to make 'later' 'l8r', we realised we cud claw back our message length and make the whole enterprise much cheaper, without sacrificing the words we wished 2 use.

Then there woz the internet. Economy of language can b a beautiful thing, as any fans of Dickinson, Hemingway or The Chkle Bruvers will agree, but take a look at the ways in which young people are communicating across the internet on sites like Bebo and Faceparty, and an uneasy feelin can settle in.

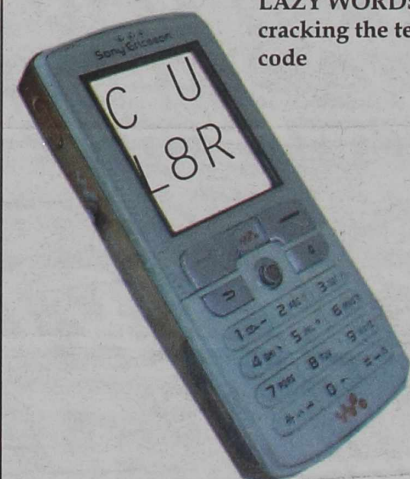
It appears as thou some sort of cyber-gremlin is marauding through the world wide web as we sleep, stealin 'o's and pilfering 'a's, stuffin them into a little satchel made of microchips, probably getting around so fast by runnin on top of a mouse-ball (also nicked) like a skilled but malignant circus performer. Mayb we can scare future generations into grammatical vigilance by warnin them of the cyber-gremlin who seeks to corrupt their on-line flirtin with confusin letter omissions n the dogmatic use of CAP LOCKS.

Of corse, purists of the English language were n r aghast at all of this. But then when has the Eng language - in which every yr new xpressions like 'bootylicious' or 'bling' are added to it's number of official words - been anythin but an orgnic beast, as alive as u or me n moulded, by enlarge, by people with other things to do then be a 'purist' bout anythin?

Everyone remembers reading Macbeth or Romeo & Juliet during their GCSE years and wondering why exactly the words are so much more fancy and long than they are today. From 'O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?', to 'O Romeo, Romeo, where are you Romeo?', to 'O Romeo, Romeo, where r u Romeo?', wrd's ave been gettin shrter 4 centrys.

The fct of da matta is, our gnration, the abrv. gnration, rn't robbin language of its inhrt beauty at all, wer merely playin our prt in a lng, unstopple process of linguistic evlution which prves - like tha dyin sun n tha risin tides - that nufin about ur world will always b t same except chnge. N, 2 b onest wiv u, jus think of thu mney w'll sav...

LAZY WORDS... cracking the texting code



KITCHEN ESSENTIALS

#9 - Garlic Puree

So many Italian recipes tell you to use garlic cloves and it does make a big difference in flavour. But what student household has garlic cloves on hand or can be bothered to buy something that if you don't use in one go will stink out your fridge? A tube of garlic puree could be the best 70p you spend for cooking. You can control how much you use, store it in a cupboard and never have to smell it again until you next use it. And besides, who can actually master a garlic press?

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

Spaghetti Bolognese

Serves 2

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 large onion, diced
- 150g mushrooms
- 300g beef mince
- 1 teaspoon garlic puree
- 1 can chopped tomatoes
- 1/4 cup beef stock
- 200g spaghetti

1. Using a large saucepan, heat the oil and cook the onion, mushroom and garlic puree over a me-



dium heat for 1-2 minutes

2. Gradually add the mince and stir until the meat is browned then drain off some of the excess fat

3. Prepare the beef stock in a measuring jug by crumbling a beef stock cube and adding boiling water, then add this to the meat and allow to simmer for approximately 2 minutes

4. Finally, add the chopped tomatoes and season with salt and pepper

5. Allow to simmer over a low heat for approximately 15-20 minutes

6. Meanwhile, cook the pasta in salted boiling water

7. When cooked, drain the pasta and pour the meat sauce over the top

8. Garnish with parmesan cheese or parsley as desired

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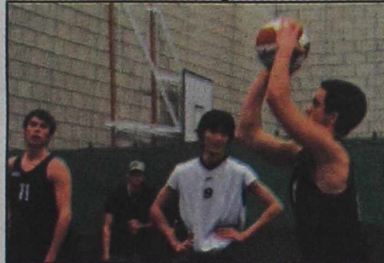
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Tops 'n' Flops...the season so far

With winter fast approaching and Christmas signalling the middle of the BUSA season, many sides have been graced with glory where as others have been left languishing near the bottom of the BUSA tables. We name, praise and shame the sides who are bidding to increase Newcastle University's impressive current 5th place BUSA ranking.



The first half of the season has seen the University thrive in many of its BUSA sports. The basketballers are top of the league and are still unbeaten; although controversy surrounds their last fixture against Sunderland, with a dispute as to the starting time. The Boat and Ski clubs both continue to bring in an influx of BUSA points respectively as the three continue to go from strength to strength.

The first half of the year has provided some of the university's sides with testing times. Struggling for form and consistency are most notably the Men's Football Club, who despite a recent reprisal, are languishing near the lower ends of their respective tables. The club has struggled in recent years and no doubt the players will be fighting to change what could well be yet another disappointing season.



The men and women of the Volleyball club have well and truly failed to get going this season, a shadow of their former selves. With player turnover rates high, a season of transition was always expected. Despite some spirited outings, the teams have failed to accumulate any real consistency. With Newcastle hopeful of increasing their current BUSA rankings, emphasis will be on consistency for these fledgling sides.

Women's Hockey are one club who are showing promising signs. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th teams are all nearing or topping their individual tables. Things are looking very bright indeed for the talented hockey club who look destined for a great season. Special mention to the netballers, who are also in the midst of what looks to be like a very promising year.



The Women's Rugby 2nd's have endured a woeful time of late, most notably a 111-0 thrashing at the hands of York. The 2nd team are a mixture of youth and new players and the learning curve they are experiencing may well benefit the club in the long run. Meanwhile though, heavy defeat may unfortunately have become the norm.

Driving for Success

With indoor games coming up, the cricket club are back in training ahead of what they hope to be another successful campaign. Courier Sport caught up with Club President Chris Harrison and also gets reviews of last season from the three club captains

MEN'S CRICKET

BY DAVID COVERDALE
SPORTS EDITOR

WITH INTERNATIONAL cricket fast becoming a 12 month sport, Newcastle University Cricket Club is keeping up with the times. Despite the fact that the outdoor season is still months away, the cricket club have been training hard for the past few weeks as they look to build on last season's success.

Trials were held for fresher's in early October, and last year's squad joined the new recruits for nets at the end of last month.

The summer season only begins in April, but this year Newcastle Cricket Club have also got indoor cricket to look forward to. A squad has been selected for a BUSA six-a-side tournament next week, and victory in this regional section will see NUCC take part in the national finals at the home of cricket, Lord's.

For the first time in its history, the Stan Calvert Cup will also include indoor cricket this year, giving an added incentive for the cricket squad through the winter months. Under

new first team captain Nick Harrison and with coaching from Durham Cricket Club's Gordan Muchall, Newcastle are very confident of overcoming their bitter rivals and achieving all important Stan Calvert points for the university in February.

Due to the timing of the outdoor cricket season within the academic year, Courier Sport was unable to report on a very successful season for the club, a year which saw the cricket team re-established and become a force once again.

All three BUSA teams finished as high as possible within their respective leagues. The 1st and 2nd XI topped the 3B and 5B Northern Divisions respectively, whilst the 3rds finished one place below the 2nds in 5B. The first team were consequently promoted to 2B, whilst the seconds moved up to 4B.

N.U.C.C. President Chris Harrison explains just what a fantastic achievement this was, in the first season back for the cricket club. "All the three teams last season were made up, largely, by first and second year students, and therefore, nearly all will be still involved next season," he said. "In addition, the club has recruited some talented fresher's this

year, so hopes are really high the firsts and seconds can compete for title honours again."

For those interested in joining the club please do not hesitate to e-mail club secretary Christian Nicholson at: c.m.nicholson1@ncl.ac.uk or nmcricket@ncl.ac.uk

1ST XI SEASON REVIEW BY CAPTAIN JAMES SWIERS

After training all winter the 1st XI squad were strong and prepared for the new season, playing in the 3rd tier of BUSA cricket.

With only five definite games scheduled we knew a good start was essential; which we got with a convincing nine wicket win over Trinity All Saints.

The big derby game followed against the Poly, and after losing the toss on what looked like an excellent pitch we were put into bat. 50 overs later our innings closed on 293-9 after a stunning 122 from James Irvine-Fortescue at the top of the innings. The Poly were then dismissed for a mere 104 after an excellent team bowling performance - the 189 run victory as convincing as it suggests.

Wins followed against Leeds and Teeside, and with the final game of our group against Sheffield rained off, promotion was secured and we progressed through to the play-offs.

Next we were up against Manchester away, but with the fixture falling right in the middle of our exam period a severely weakened team travelled. After an excellent performance we fell just short of victory, losing by 25 runs.

All in all though, it was an excellent season for the 1st XI with promotion secured into the second tier of BUSA cricket. There were some excellent individual performances throughout the season. James Irvine Fortescue scored 225 runs at an average of 112.5, James Procter averaged 53 and Alex Burrows 44. Three bowlers took five wicket hauls with Nick Harrison topping the averages with 10 wickets at 8.5. Luke Lynch took 13 wickets at 9.15 and Warwick Green took 12 at 12.58.

2ND XI SEASON REVIEW BY CAPTAIN BEN ANDREWS

The 2nd XI began the season hoping to win their league and gain promotion. What was achieved far exceeded expectations. An unbeaten season saw several emphatic victories and some impressive individual performances.

Newcastle found fine form in their 114 run defeat of Teeside 2nd XI. Batting first we posted 340 - the highest total of the season, including centuries from David Coverdale (108) and Chris Williamson (136 no.). In reply Teeside reached a plucky 226, this time Williamson doing the damage with the ball, taking five wickets.

Sheffield 3rd XI were on the end of a dominant 214 run victory. Batting first the top five all contributed to reach 263. Some accurate fast bowling from Sam Lawrence (4-16) and Ben Hunter (6-30) reduced the visitors to 49 all out.

We were fortunate to have a settled side which helped a great team

spirit. A high level of cricket was maintained throughout the season, despite some adverse weather conditions. Carrying the momentum into the new season should see another big title push.

Top batting performances from the side came from David Coverdale's 248 runs at an average of 248 and Chris Williamson's 154 runs at 77. The seconds opening bowlers were outstanding all season with Ben Hunter taking 13 wickets at 7.85 and Sam Lawrence picking up 8 at an impressive 3.9 average.

3RD XI SEASON REVIEW BY CAPTAIN NICK PLEASANT

In a cricket season curtailed by the weather, in which three games were lost due to the rain, the 3rd XI started with a promising batting display against the 2nd XI in a friendly played at Norton CC. It was however, the bowling which was more impressive as the season started, the highlights bowling Teeside out for 63 and 97.

However in the first game, a poor batting performance let us down on an even poorer pitch and we were narrowly defeated. Thankfully in the return fixture a solid partnership between Miles Flather and Matthew Smith guided us to victory. Also in that game came the best bowling performance of the season, with Matthew Smith bowling 10 overs for only 10 runs and taking 2 wickets.

As for next season, the main aim is to achieve promotion but improved batting performances are a must if this is to be achieved.

Rowing Back in Time

BY STEPH BARNETT
& CAROLYN JOHNSON

THIS YEAR as part of the Newcastle and Gateshead Winter Festival 07, the University Boat Club has been asked to take part in the Enchanted Parks performance, a unique light and sound display.

The park will be transformed into an atmospheric wonderland, returning Leazes Park to how it would have been in the Victorian era with ice skaters, tea dancers and candlelit choirs. The rowers, from both senior squads, will be the centre piece for the show, rowing around the lake in darkness in traditional rowing boats.

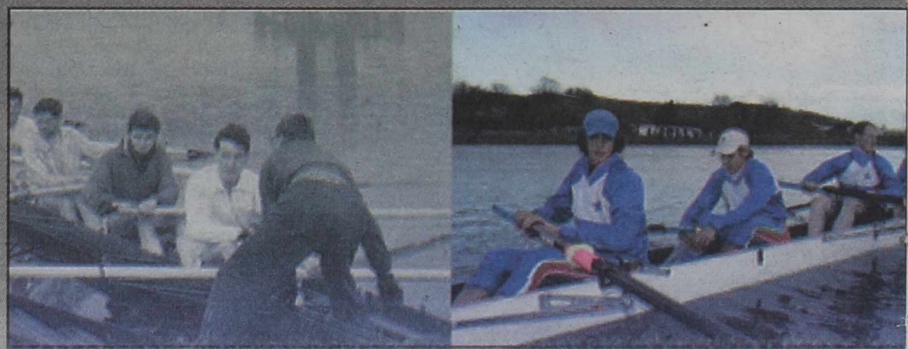
The boats will all be lit from within and tow-

ing a palm house which used to belong in the park almost a hundred years ago, creating the evocative dreamlike quality and memories of this familiar space. The artist, Geraldine Pilgrim, and her team wanted to capture the moment where 'the sleeping parks begin to dream' and wanted to include the rowers to create an eerie and mesmerising movement across the lake, as the focal point for the performance.

The Enchanted Parks is a free event, where people will be taken round the park in tours to experience each individual installation at a time. The Boat Club was interested in getting involved with the project and were pleased to help out with the team's aim to nurture the park back to the way it once was for just one week-end leading up to Christmas. The performances

take place on the 7th - 9th December and are open to everyone, with tours starting periodically from 7pm onwards. Both the Boat Club and the artists invite you to come along and show your support not only for all those per-

forming but also to the Newcastle/Gateshead community for putting on the festival. In what promises to be a fantastic event, the Boat Club are pointing the way in terms of festive spirit in what promises to be a fantastic event.



Crayola produce Cheeky draw

Ladies drop points for the first time this season, while Larrikins match is postponed after injury nightmare

BY TOM MILLS

CRAYOLA	10
CHEEKY LADIES	10

AFTER THREE YEARS of building work, team Crayola has erupted onto this year's Intra Mural scene. Three years ago the thought of Crayola at the top of the table was laughable, with Agrics 2s marking them out as their opportunity for victory. The tables certainly turned last week, when a ferocious Crayola side fought an extremely close contest against table leaders, Cheeky Ladies.

Crayola put a week of defensive training into practise, as Cheeky Ladies were pushed back in their attempts to punch through the line, on what can only be described as a prep school field at Close House. The game began with Cheeky's taking advantage of the wind

and the slope. Crayola opted for the kick, booting the ball into the Cheeky's half. A period of Cheeky Ladies dominance ensued with Jamie Johnston utilising the wind to put constant pressure on the Crayola full back. It was not long before the Cheeky Ladies converted this pressure into points, with a penalty.

In what may be seen as characteristic of Crayola this season they fought back even harder, bouncing back from the conceded point. The blue and stripes took full advantage of the Cheeky's lack of discipline, marching up the field penalty after penalty. The pinks and blues countered by pitching camp in the Crayola twenty-two, with a line out move leading to Turnbull scrapping his way to the line to end the half 10-0.

The second half saw Cheeky Ladies being rumbled with some superb play by Crayola, who utilised their fly half Mat Hazwell's enormous boot to shower the Cheekys with kicks to unmanned regions of the field. The use of fast running in the back line and quick

counter attacking led to Crayola pressuring Cheekys to take the ball over their own line.

A five man scrum ensued, with a converted try needed to level the scores. Crayola ploughed into the Cheeky Ladies defence, with tight play after play grinding down the defence until a long cross field pass led to a run on the opposing side of the field.

With even more fire in their bellies, Crayola continued to pressure the Cheeky's with a penalty being given on the Crayola 10m line. A massive kick by any standards was astonishingly converted by Mat Hazwell, who put his boot on the end of the ball to send it flying through the uprights with room to spare. This brought the score level, the first time this season that Cheeky Ladies have conceded points. A series of dropped balls, lack of offloads and a held up try led to a frustrated Cheekys side having to concede the draw. This performance certainly illustrates Crayola as a force to be reckoned with this season.



Close House injury curse back again

BY JAMIE HOLTUM

A HORRIBLE spinal injury to Larrikins centre, James Davies saw Gorilla Tactics denied a cricket score victory at Close House last Wednesday, with the match rightly abandoned. Davies was left unable to move and needing urgent medical assistance after a mistimed tackle. It did highlight once again the lack of medical assistance available at Close House as it took a good twenty minutes for Davies to be seen to.

The injury saw Larrikins escape the jaws of defeat, having been run ragged by a run Tactics side who looked full of confidence and energy. The difference between the two sides was shown within the forwards. Tactics were bigger, fitter, stronger and simply better than those of Larrikins who, as a re-occurring theme this season, were unable to present the ball with any sort of quality to their scrum half, James Jupp. He must be growing ever more frustrated with this lack of service.

Jupp's opposite number, Charles Wood, started the romp by kicking Tactics into the lead with barely five minutes played. Gorilla Tactics really began to find their rhythm after this and started playing fast dynamic rugby. Their backs tore through the Larrikins defence, with only really Will Mellor and Charlie Clarence-Smith providing some sort of resistance. The dominance of the pack was again shown, as Tactics drove Larrikins back and over the line with Matthew Harriman putting the ball down and Woods expertly converting the try.

Every time Tactics came forward it looked as if there would be another score. Christian Bourne proved this to be true as he deftly chipped the ball over the Larrikins backs, then caught it and simply barged Davies out the way with a degree of upper body strength. Once again the try was easily converted.

As the second half began, Larrikins did start to show signs of improvement, with their captain, Clarence-Smith, trying to heave his team back into the game by showing a fiery determination that had been lacking in the first half. But being seventeen points down already, it would have been a half mainly of damage limitation rather than of miraculous comebacks.

It was then that Davies was struck down by his injury. The Courier's best wishes are with James at this time, and we wish him a speedy recovery. After a long delay the referee brought the captains together and decided the game will have to be replayed. However the question of when is paramount, as Larrikins have already lost three games due to a lack of pitches. This may be a long old season.



Agrics harvest points with easy victory

BY JAMIE GARRAT

AGRICS	25
ARMSTRONG	7

IT WAS A HIGH stakes game as the Agrics 1st team took on Armstrong at the Medics ground in Heaton. Both teams had lost their previous matches and although they are not in direct competition for league positions, a win was none the less important for both teams. For the Agrics it would mean keeping their chances of winning the league alive, for Armstrong it was about turning around a faltering season and putting behind them a series of close defeats.

So the scene was set for an exciting match on a wintry and over-cast afternoon in Newcastle, and those who braved the chill to watch were not left disappointed.

James Sale won the toss for Armstrong and nominated the Agrics to kick-off. A knock on from the catcher gave possession straight back to the Agrics who capitalised on the opportunity almost immediately, breaking straight through the Armstrong back line.

Some excellent scramble defence and brave tackling saw off the attack, but it was looking ominous for Armstrong and incisive backs play from the Agrics set the tone for what was to come.

It was a new look Agrics back line that took to the field, with changes made in the wake of last week's defeat. It was to be their afternoon. The Agrics backs came together brilliantly with a display of superb handling, raw pace and great running lines that ultimately undid the Armstrong defence. The new centre pairing of Dalrymple-Hamilton and Garratt was at the heart of the Agrics onslaught, repeatedly breaking the line and creating space for some excellent finishing from the back three. Sam Fenton at full back scored twice in quick succession after some great handling put him round the outside of the Armstrong line.

But it was far from a one sided contest, with Armstrong competing very physically in the contact and at the break down, winning several turn-overs and forcing several more penalties for failing to release. But a strong Agrics defence forced Armstrong to kick more than they would have liked. Their hard work and kicking game did eventually result in points when Thomas Macdermot chased and

neatly collected a down field kick to cross the try line and then convert his own score.

A lack of size in the Armstrong forwards began to tell as the game wore on. The Agrics pack secured clean, quick ball providing a platform for the backs to attack with devastating effectiveness, crossing for three more tries in the second half and shutting Armstrong out of the game.

It was a good game of rugby, expansive and played from end to end. It was also a far from typical Agrics performance, relying on wide running rugby, slick handling, pace and flare to get the points rather than the usual rumbling forward play. This change of tactics suited the Agrics and they would do well to emulate it in coming weeks.

With the final score at 25-7 to the Agrics, it was a comfortable win but still a hard fought contest. It gives both teams plenty of food for thought. The Agrics will think ruefully about how things might have been had they turned in such a good performance the previous week against the Cheeky Ladies. Armstrong are left still in search of that elusive win to set their season back on track. But with several games left and Cheeky Ladies only picking up a draw this week, opportunities remain for both sides.

Gentle Giant Killers

Day of shocks in the Wednesday cup as Real Ma-Dividend and Garnett crash out

BY LUKE DANSKIN

GARNETT A 1
PARIS SAINT GENTLEMAN 2

DIVISION 1 Garnett A met division 3 side Paris Saint Gentlemen in a cup clash that ended up producing one of the shocks of the tournament. P.S.G came out strong, while a cocky Garnett were slow and lax from the start.

Garnett were made to pay after 20 minutes as poor defending and a neat finish from the striker left the division one side shell shocked. The half time whistle couldn't have come soon enough for Garnett with further pressure from P.S.G. They were lucky to go in at the break only one down. Fuming manager Paul Christian gave the hair dryer treatment and rang the changes at the break. The players came out for the second period with a great deal more passion.

The game was far more even early on in the second half as both sides battled well and played some neat football. It was however a route one punt that put Garnett on level terms after a long kick was flicked on by White to striker Dominic Otun. He side-stepped the defender and converted from the edge of the area.

P.S.G though weren't disheartened and continued to push for a second goal. The division three side had been strong on set-pieces throughout the game, and their reward came from a corner on the 60 minute mark with a header being eventually bundled over the line.

From then on it was all Garnett. With the very real prospect of going out, they finally stepped up a gear and piled on the pressure for the final third of the game. P.S.G defended like lions though and despite Garnett setting up camp in the P.S.G half, they simply couldn't equalise. All in all it was a deserved result for P.S.G who produced a dogged performance.



Photo: Chris Kay

Netball

NETBALL SECONDS

BY HANNAH LUCAS

THE NETBALL SECONDS faced their toughest match of the season today meeting York 1st in a closely contested battle for vital BUSA points. The match kicked off at a lightning pace, a pace that was sustained throughout.

Newcastle came out of the blocks strongly converting their centres with confidence and determination. However York met this with equal self-belief and they too were sturdy on their feet and retained their centres. At quarter time the score was a tight 8-8, with the Newcastle team visibly worried.

The Royals made some changes at the break, determined to give greater muscle to a shaky defence as well as preventing further attacks through the centre. The attack formation remained the same, confident that they could continue an impressive chance conversion rate.

However, Newcastle came up against an intimidating defensive ploy by York, with the home side attempting to zone the Blues out of the court. The Royals set plays were disrupted as a result of this, with Newcastle taking the majority of the second quarter to settle.

At half time the scores were still frighteningly even and captain, Kate Jones was forced to make some difficult decisions, making numerous changes to the team. Goal Defence Issy Retberg was forced off with an injury. Sarah Bruce and Lydia Oxenham were moved into the circle defence and instantly made their mark. Bruce in particular had a fantastic game with some cracking interceptions.

With the defence increasing their competitive edge, the Royals attack also responded with vigour and poise. Goal Attack Fran Terrace had an inspirational game making some great attacking plays and sinking some difficult shots. She deservedly was awarded man of the match.

The Royals thundered through the third quarter pulling away from York who seemed to be tiring, establishing a six-goal lead. The final quarter saw the Seconds continue to push on towards the final whistle and even after a late surge by York threatened the Newcastle lead, Newcastle held on, ending the game victorious. It was a vital and spectacular win for the Netball Seconds who thoroughly deserved the result.

CONT. FROM BACKPAGE

The second forty five began evenly as Teesside pushed for a way back into the game. An ankle injury to Newton allowed a welcome return to first team football for the promising Ben Lenders and his introduction bolstered the defensive effort to keep the visitors at bay.

At the other end, Newcastle added to their lead in fine fashion. Winger Martin Hill picked the ball up on the edge of his own box before a sweeping move saw the pacy Hill pass it on to Foote in midfield. Foote fed Woolman, who finished well to complete a goal which echoed that of a 1970s Brazil side. Counter attacking football at its very best.

The Royals were flying now, and with their tails up they played some exceptional football. A tired Teesside couldn't cope and ten minutes from time the rout was completed. A quick free-kick sent Deledicq down the right once more and he cut inside before sending a powerful shot goalwards. A mammoth deflection fooled the Teesside keeper and the ball sailed into the net, a stroke of good fortune for Newcastle but no more than they deserved. Deledicq will no doubt claim the goal, although it could be one for the dubious goals committee.

The home side enjoyed the closing minutes and the final whistle at Cochrane Park signalled that the Royals were well and truly back on track. With three BUSA games to go, they will have their sights firmly set on nine points and a respectable league finish.

Soft decisions rob Fluffy

BY DICKIE MIDDAY

FLUFFY WILSON 3
CASTLE LEAZES 4

ONE OF the potential cup shocks of the season was in the offing until an outrageous decision allowed Castle Leazes to score a late penalty to struggle past a resurgent Fluffy Wilson side. With no referee provided by the University, both teams shared the duties and this proved to be very controversial as the game wore on.

Close House was the venue for this heated encounter. Division 3's Fluffy Wilson were massive underdogs going into this game against their First Division counterparts, despite boasting an unbeaten record at 'the House'.

The game started as a scrappy affair with the sloping pitch and muddy conditions proving hazardous for both teams. It was Castle Leazes who

took an early lead with a wonderful strike from Dave Macmillan after only five minutes.

Rather than let their heads drop, this untimely goal seemed to spring Fluffy into life, with several bombardments on the Leazes goal eventually leading to a penalty. Stevie McIntyre was felled in the area and centre back Rich 'Kavos' Capstick dutifully dispatched the ball into the net to level the scores.

Further Fluffy momentum was causing chaos in the Leazes defence as Wilson's midfield three of Jones, Parker and Robinson were working tirelessly to close down the space.

Leazes were given little time on the ball and Fluffy soon took a shock lead. A lightning counter attack allowed McIntyre space on the left hand side and his low effort some how found the back of the net via the boot of Leazes defender Ben 'Statto' Stephenson.

With half time fast approaching, Leazes found a second wind and a hand ball inside the Fluffy area lead

to the second, but by no means the last, penalty of the game. Ed Elliot placing the ball home to level the scores 2-2 at half time.

The second half exploded instantly into life and proved to be one of the most entertaining matches of the season so far. Leazes started off the better however, and a corner, bobbed around the Fluffy area before being poked home from close range again by Elliot. This was the first dubious decision by the Leazes player standing in as ref, as the corner awarded should clearly have been a goal kick.

Despite this setback Fluffy continued to keep going upholding the club's notion of 'we ride together, we die together'. Such a mindset created a golden opportunity for Fluffy to equalise, after some great pressure from workaholic forward Rowen Goldthorpe. After intercepting a clearance, Goldthorpe then expertly rounded the 'keeper before firing home cleverly from a tight angle, much to the jubilation of the Wilson players who rushed to celebrate with

their goal scoring hero.

This was proving to be a wonderful cup tie and in vintage cup style, controversy was soon to follow, with an unbelievable decision to award Leazes a penalty for an innocuous challenge on the edge of the Fluffy area.

Cue furious scenes of protest at the decision, as even many Leazes players seemed bewildered at the verdict. A diabolical judgement which when the resulting spot kick was scored, gave Elliot his hat-trick and Leazes a 4-3 lead.

Fluffy surged forward in search of that priceless equaliser with Ally McIntyre, who recently obtained a work permit to play for the club, seeing his effort cleared off the line. Leazes looked dangerous going forward though and Fluffy's manager Brooks made some crucial saves to keep his side in the game.

The final whistle eventually blew on a controversial 4-3 win for Leazes, who advance to the quarter-finals of the cup. Fluffy were left incensed that a potential giant killing was thwarted by some very dubious refereeing, but can keep their heads up high after such a spirited display.

Lindop saves pay Dividends for Henderson

BY OWEN MARRIOT

REAL MA-DIVIDEND 1
HENDERSON HALL 1
(Henderson win 4-1 on penalties)

GOALKEEPER Alasdair Lindop was the hero as Henderson Hall beat Real Ma-Dividend 4-1 on penalties to progress through to the quarter finals of the Inter Mural Cup. With the score tied at 1-1 at the end of ninety minutes, Lindop made two dramatic penalty saves from Joel Clegg and Dan Trodden to extinguish the cup hopes of their division one rivals.

The opening half reflected the league positions of both teams with Dividend challenging at the top of the table and Hendo struggling at the bottom. Real completely dominated the first half and should have been more than one goal up at the break. They created and squandered a whole host of opportunities as Hendo looked well off the pace.

The best of these chances fell to striker Adam Smith. Firstly, he was unlucky to see his shot blocked on the line by Joe Richardson after a fine run by Nick Glover. Then minutes later Lindop managed to somehow turn the ball wide as Smith was foiled from close range.

Smith did manage to atone for his earlier

misses as he struck the half's only goal. Following a fine passing move he cleverly turned his marker in the box and fired a low shot across Lindop and into the bottom corner of the net.

Soon after, Clegg almost doubled the advantage when he burst through on the left but his shot from a narrow angle struck the upright and rebounded clear.

After some strong words at half time Henderson came out fighting in the second half and looked a totally different side. Within minutes of the restart they drew level with a fantastic goal. Michael Paul crossed for John McGrady to hit a wondrous left foot volley beyond the helpless Real 'keeper.

This stunned Real and the second half was a much more even affair as a result. Real struggled to break down a much more resilient Hall defence which was marshalled impressively by Phil Thompson. Meanwhile, although Hendo were more attack minded, they were restricted to long shots from Paul and Dean Oliver as the game became edgy and tense with neither side wanting to lose.

However, with the spectre of penalties looming, a last gasp Real attack almost stole victory. Danny Shevill's header appeared to be going in but was somehow cleared off the line.

In the dramatic penalty shootout that ensued, Lindop's two saves left Sam Thornton to bury his penalty and Dividend's cup dreams.



Photo: Chris Kay



Castle collapse to four goal Met

Royals slip into drop zone after lesson from Leeds

MEN'S HOCKEY 1STS

BY CHARLEY WRIGHT

NEWCASTLE 1STS 1
LEEDS MET 1STS 4

A HIGH TEMPO game at the Stan Calvert Memorial Pitch, Longbenton, saw a well organised and physical Leeds Metropolitan side overcome Newcastle, despite the home side taking the lead in the first half.

Both sides looked up for it from the first whistle, with the Blues' ball pace round the back starting at an impressive tempo. This ball speed allowed gaps to be found all over the pitch, stretching the Leeds Met press and enabling Rollo Lewis and Steve Hill to get the ball in dangerous areas.

However, in the first ten min-

utes chances were hard to come by with the ball sticking in the midfield and possession shared by both sides.

Suddenly, Newcastle got the breakthrough from a counter attack. A long ball was played through to striker Mike Shkurka who calmly rounded the 'keeper on the top of the 'D'. He then preceded to slash at the shot, miss-hitting it into the corner, past the desperate defender on the line who didn't judge the bobbling shot well enough; 1-0 to Newcastle.

The away side, who had won the corresponding fixture comprehensively, did not take this lying down and stepped up the intensity. The Blues matched their skills, passing and pace at every turn and managed to manoeuvre some chances of their own, including a short corner which came to not-ing.

From the resulting 16 yard hit Leeds played a long through ball, slightly over-hit, towards

their attacker. Goalkeeper Will Poole anticipated the ball and cleared it to safety, only to be pushed to the ground recklessly by the Leeds player. Poole reacted to this badly pushing the forward back before the umpire got involved and calmed the pair down, without displaying any cards.

Half time came and went with Newcastle continuing to attack the Leeds Met goal continuously, making numerous chances for Shkurka, Ollie Fraser and Lewis. Frustratingly for the home side none were converted thanks to some impressive goalkeeping by the Leeds 'keeper and poor finishing from Newcastle forwards.

Leeds Met countered on the home side's missed chances, pressuring the Newcastle defence constantly. The continuous pressure eventually told when a short corner was converted weakly for the equalizer, the ball just making it through

the legs of the grounded Poole.

For the following ten minutes Newcastle saw very little of the ball, desperately trying to hold onto a point or snatch a win on the break.

Unfortunately it wasn't to be for the home side when Leeds scored their second, a delicate tap in at the far post for the lead.

In an attempt to salvage something the Blues replaced a defender with a forward in a daring tactical gamble. Aggravatingly, it didn't pay off. The lack of a fourth defender allowed the fast Leeds Metropolitan forwards to exploit the space in the opposing half of the pitch, scoring 2 goals in the last 5 minutes to see off the Blues with a 4-1 victory.

Newcastle will be looking for a better performance and a win in their rearranged BUSA match against Sheffield on Sunday.

SEEKING RED... Newcastle squander first half advantage

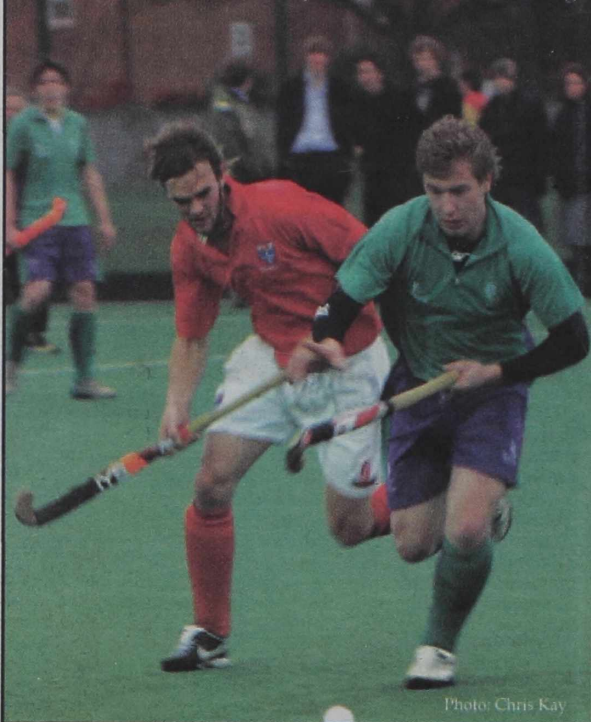


Photo: Chris Kay



Royals put an end to away day blues

MEN'S RUGBY 1STS

BY BEN MERCER

NOTTINGHAM 1STS 20
NEWCASTLE 1STS 30

ON A GLOOMY Wednesday, Newcastle secured their first away win of the season, beating a combative Nottingham outfit to build on the outstanding victory against Loughborough the previous week. Despite the high scoring nature of the encounter, the game itself was a staccato affair with neither team really exploding into life.

After a rocky start, Newcastle attempted to force the game into a stiff breeze. The away side managed to gain some territory, and after a series of good half breaks from the centres were awarded a penalty which was duly converted by stand off Luke Bettesworth for the first points of the game.

The manner in which Newcastle managed the rest of the half was exemplary, especially considering the obdurate nature of the Nottingham defence. After maintaining a period of pressure on the Nottingham line, their number eight dived offside at a ruck to prevent Newcastle spreading the ball and denying a try scoring op-

portunity. The excellent referee duly dispatched him to the sin bin for his misdemeanour and his head must have been in his hands as Newcastle proceeded to drive the ball over from the resulting lineout, prop Ian Richards flopping over to cap off an impressive rolling maul from the pack.

The tone had been set and after some excellent scrummaging from the forwards forced a turnover, Keith Laughlin rampaged into the Nottingham red zone. From the breakdown the ball was spread wide to enigmatic winger Pete Cole with two enormous passes from Bettesworth and Mercer giving him the outside. Cole duly sped round his marker and flummoxed the full back with some nifty footwork before diving over for a well-finished score.

Bettesworth converted both tries but when Newcastle were awarded a penalty just inside the Nottingham half he was unable to step up due to an underhand poke in the eye which left him floundering. Fortunately full back Adam Armstrong is blessed with a prodigious length on his kick and he sent an enormous effort sailing into the trees behind the posts giving Newcastle a 20-3 halftime lead.

Unfortunately for the Royals, Nottingham came out all guns blazing in the second period and took advantage of the sin-binning of Rob Fahrenheit to drive over from a lineout. Newcastle looked rattled for the first time. The lineout, previously well mar-

shalled by Stephen Knights-Trench and Greg Bramhall (who was making a playing return to his hometown), began to falter and a series of unnecessary penalties allowed Nottingham to kick to the corners. The home side took their opportunity with another try after the sin-binning of Laughlin for a petulant kick at a prone Nottingham player.

Nottingham were closing in on Newcastle and although not posing much of a wide threat, were well-managed by scrum half Rob Springall and mounting some potent forward drives. However Bettesworth, curbing his natural attacking instincts and desire to unleash the likes of Holroyd and Shales outside him, began to relieve the pressure with some raking touch-finders and forced Nottingham to play from deeper. Once Cole scored his second try, cruising away from the cover after some great work on the floor granted the Royals turnover ball, the game looked beyond Nottingham, although they continued to pummel Newcastle's line for the remaining ten minutes.

The Newcastle management must have been impressed with the stout defence that the Royals maintained right up until the final whistle and despite allowing Nottingham back into the game in the second half, the team can be satisfied with a sound win away from home and some solid individual performances.

Hadley salvages point from second half shambles

MEN'S RUGBY 3RDS

BY ANDY WALKER

NEWCASTLE 3RDS 30
LEEDS 2NDS 30

LAST WEDNESDAY'S 3rd XV game at home to a relatively strong Leeds side could not have epitomised the phrase 'a game of two halves' any more. With the towering second row James Kennedy making his first start of the season after injury and a fierce backline consisting of a couple of seconds players, Dave Noble and the well endowed Ben Simms, Newcastle also fielded a formidable fifteen.

Newcastle camped themselves deep into the Leeds twenty-two for the first ten minutes playing some smooth flowing rugby and really pressurising the Leeds pack. Consequently we were rewarded with a number of penalties which Gavin Hadley coolly slotted to give Newcastle a 6-0 lead.

Leeds fought back and soon made it 6-6 after twenty minutes. However, after another wave of Newcastle pressure and some quick ball, fresher, Mike Black, broke the Leeds backline and crashed over from thirty metres to regain the lead.

The remainder of the first half saw Newcastle play their best rugby of the season thus far with some great carries from the three props, Dave 'the chat' Wilby, Dave Noble and in particular the dominant Oli Grimes, setting a good platform for the backs to work from.

They made full use of this and a slick handling move set off Andy Binner on the right wing, who elegantly stepped his opposite man before nudging it past the covering full back and calmly touched it down in the corner. Ginger again converted to make it 20-6.

Not content with this lead Newcastle continued to dominate up front with the back row, of Duffus, Steer and English, making the hard yards and setting the base for well worked patterns.

These in turn allowed Black to cross the white wash for his second score of the day after a quality step inside,

leaving the Leeds centre for dead, the score at half time 27-6.

However, the second half performance was a million miles away from that of the first. In fairness Leeds, after being rattled in the first half, came out after the break much more focused, while Newcastle seemed far too relaxed and complacent.

Things were not helped by the loss of Kennedy and Simms through injury. This led to a blitz of Leeds tries, totalling four in the space of twenty minutes, after some poor tackling, rucking and mauling from the Royal Blues.

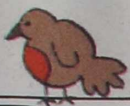
With ten minutes to go the score read 30-27 to the visitors. Defeat was not an option, especially after last week's last minute loss to Durham, something had to be taken from the game to keep our promotion hopes alive.

Fortunately a penalty was awarded after the Leeds open-side attempted to kill a rare second half Newcastle attack. With balls as big as a house, that man Hadley again stepped up and sweetly struck the ball between the Leeds sticks to salvage a draw for the relieved Newcastle squad.

It finished that way, yet the expressions on the faces of the lads said it all. After such a solid first half display it felt like a loss.



Photo: Phil Booth



BUSA MATCH REPORTS

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Double Trouble

Uni punished by the Poly again

MEN'S FOOTBALL 2NDS

BY MARK LEVINE

NEWCASTLE 2NDS	1
NORTHUMBRIA 3RDS	3

THE NORTHUMBRIA 3rd team picked up all 3 points to do the double over Newcastle this season, as the Royals of Newcastle simply failed to capitalise on a second half lead.

Labelled 'poor' by Newcastle coach Andy Windscheffel after the game, Northumbria gave a distinctly unconvincing performance but nevertheless, put away the only three real chances that came their way.

In a format that seems to be repeating itself, Newcastle started the better of the two teams, with Aaron Lowery testing the Poly goal keeper early doors. As the game developed, the Royals looked particularly convincing on the left, with Chris Musonda creating waves going forward and looking very dangerous. Meanwhile at the other end, Paul Macaulay was called into action to tip a Northumbria corner that was mis hit, over the bar. Another half chance followed soon after, with Macaulay hardly breaking a sweat in dealing with it.

The only tactic that Northumbria ever seem to play when faced with an organised Royal team is the long ball over the top; this game was no exception. It was their only weapon of choice in an otherwise uninspiring attack. After Northumbria tried and failed with a series of simi-

lar attacks, well dealt with by Blues defenders Ward and Coleman, it was Joe Chapman's turn to try and change the game. After good build up play, his strike was saved by the cumbersome Poly goalkeeper.

Needing to take control of the game, the blues almost took the lead not once, but twice in the space of 5 minutes. The first wave came from the left with Alex Savage crossing and Lowery challenging. The loose ball was then picked up and smashed towards goal by Musonda. The goalkeeper, reacting well for his size frame, tipped it onto the bar and out for a corner. The second wave came again from Alex Savage. The left back played in a superb swinging cross that confused several Poly players and fell straight to the feet of Musonda who this time slotted wide. The score stood at 0-0 at half time.

The second half started brightly for the Royals and they had to wait less than 10 minutes to take the lead. Edwin Tizzard with a jinking

run on the right produced some space and his ball to Musonda allowed the impressive striker to finish well. The goal had been coming and it looked as though Northumbria would struggle to find a response.

However as is the way with the Royals this season, within 10 minutes, the game was level. The Poly attacked down the right and forced a good save from Macaulay with the ball unfortunately coming back off the post. Presented with an open goal, Northumbria's number 10 could seldom miss.

Worse was to follow. Despite the introduction of Atherton and Jackson, Northumbria were to take the lead for the first time, capitalising on a decent counter attack that had come from a Royal corner. A through ball was delivered, with Pearson only inches away from cutting it out. The striker however, made no mistake.

2-1 down but still streets ahead of the Poly, Windscheffel threw on experienced striker Harry Hibbert. Hibbert almost made an immediate impact when his sublime cross from the left fell to feet of Dan Jackson at the far post, but the winger could only shoot wide.

Martin Graham who had worked tirelessly all game then drove down the right only to be



Photo: Phil Booth

cropped by the Poly's lumbering left back. The free kick was duly delivered and Hibbert headed just over.

In the last 10 minutes, Newcastle had 3 chances to draw level. Hibbert forced a corner after good work from Dan Jackson down the right. The corner was then almost put away in style by Musonda, who continued to look dangerous. His volley though was met by the big frame of the Poly keeper who knew little about it. The second corner was then headed just over by Ward.

Just when it looked like a goal for the Royals would come, the Poly snatched another almost straight away. The vulgar number 10, who had previously verbally abused the Newcastle sideline, made a pact with the devil and rounded Macaulay to score.

With tricky fixtures to come for the Royals, it's clear that they now must dig deep to find similar will and good fortune.

FOILED AGAIN... Newcastle fail to break down Northumbria despite creating a host of chances



Photo: Phil Booth

Eleventh hour Thomson rescues seconds

MEN'S HOCKEY 2NDS

BY MATT JONAS

NEWCASTLE 2NDS	3
NEWCASTLE 3RDS	2

THE SHOWDOWN between the Newcastle Men's 2nd XI and 3rd XI resulted in a narrow victory for the 2nds, leaving the 3rds looking around them in despair and bewilderment as the final whistle blew on another classic encounter at Longbenton.

Twice the 3rds had taken the lead with opportunist strikes from Stu Boneham and Freddie Glasswell. However the familiar phantom menace of Harry Thomson for the 2nds returned to haunt yet another opposition team, scoring twice from well taken short corners in the dying minutes to steal a last gasp win for the 2nds.

It was in fact the 3rds that took the lead after only ten minutes. A free hit outside the

area took a deflection and ricocheted around the goalmouth and with both teams wondering what had become of the ball, Glasswell nipped in to tap home the opener.

Shocked, stunned, surprised, the seconds woke up to reality and started to play some classic hockey, keeping possession well and looking menacing. However, the 3rds had shut up shop and it was only the introduction of Ryan Kerr that sparked some life into the team. By half time the seconds equalised following excellent work from Kerr to set up Freddy Allen who equalised theatrically from a couple of yards.

The second half followed much of the same pattern as the first. Both teams were intent on keeping possession and played as if passes could win matches. However, following a loose pass in midfield, Ed Cracknell released Stu Boneham with a text book through ball leaving Boneham to round the onrushing Matt Jonas and slot in at the near post.

Incensed, the 2nds restarted the play with plenty of aggression and passion, realising that defeat would in all possibility cost them

the BUSA championship. The 3rds began to give ground under the onslaught and following a sustained period of pressure, Thomson blasted home a short corner to level matters.

Clearly deflated by all their hard work, the 3rds were caught out again by another short corner five minutes later, Thomson rounding off a fantastic team move by calmly slotting in for his eleventh of the season.

Sticks flew around the pitch in disgust as most of the 3rd team believed that the short corner had been given too easily, adding a degree of controversy to an already thrilling match. The relief emitted by the 2nds at the sweet sound of the final whistle clearly emphasised how narrow and crucial this victory had been.

However, following the decision to award a 'dubious' short corner, the 3rd team captain, Jimmy Greene was less than impressed. "I was exceptionally pleased with the 3rd team performance" he stated, "but our opinion is that Thomson robbed us with his Ronaldo style antics".

The second team captain thinks otherwise...

Ainscoe's men down Leeds

MEN'S RUGBY LEAGUE 1STS

BY KEV DAVEY

NEWCASTLE 1STS	32
LEEDS 1STS	0

A DOMINATING victory at Leeds exemplified NURL's impressive turnaround under the stewardship of Pizza Hut dwelling trench-coat loiterer Ed Ainscoe.

Despite no warm-up Newcastle immediately looked the stronger side and within four minutes Cumbrian bad boy Michael Ward had got the first try.

Winger Dave Furniss was making good yards bashing away like his namesakes husband on the ivories and NURL's gutsy go-forward was complimented by suffocating line speed in defence.

After 20 minutes, Rick Davison managed

to capitalise on the supremacy with another score after some good work from Ward who was cutting lines like Sweeney Todd at a geometry symposium. The Leeds outfit were ragged and their captain Josh Dangerfield was chief pilot of some low flying aircraft at Weetwood, fortunately NURL had no trampolining giraffes and the Loiners skipper was soon left carrot squatting after testing his shoulder on centre Rob Munday.

NURL managed one more try before the interval when whippet Liam McGee gave a deft offload to burly Dan Robertson, who held on to the pig skin long enough to score with his first touch of the game.

The try was duly converted but like Achilles before him, NURL kicker and demigod John Thompson's ankle was on the fritz so Neil Barrett went in at 6 for the second stanza which began much like the first.

Prop Liam Gasior was playing well, swinging his arms like idol Adrian Chiles at a BBC audition, and incumbent full back Liam Clarke

touched down early on after some slick passing down the line. Leeds struggled to contain Paul Wood who was racing down the line like a turkey on an electric scooter while fellow Dunelmian Davison spread the ball like C minors from the Lurpack trumpeter.

NURL's aggressive defence was epitomised by 2nd year Mikey Bryan who threw his debut successful pass in a sequence of play that led to a trademark two metre flop try from skipper Ainscoe.

Newcastle were playing with a confident swagger and gargantuan loose forward Steve Moorecroft was bossing the languid Leeds frontline with some grotesque hits and smart running, Captain Ahab himself couldn't have caught the whopper on this day.

As the Yorkshire sun began to set, Newcastle managed one last score and this beauty would have even made Chris Blains hair stand on end. Neil Barrett gave his famed inside dummy to no-one, before giving an ingenious spatula pass out the tackle for Liam Clark to juggle over the line and collect his second try.

The win puts NURL at 5th in the table with a crunch match with John Moores on Wednesday that may decide championship qualification.

BUSA RESULTS 28/11/07

TEAM	OPPOSITION	RESULT
Badminton Men's 1	Central Lincs	W 5-3
Badminton Men's 2	Huddersfield	W 6-2
Basketball Men's 2	FASC 1	W 90-47
Basketball Women's	Durham	W 40-26
Fencing Men's 2	Sheffield 1	W 127-121
Fencing Women's	Nottingham	W 130-126
Football Men's 1	Teesside 1	W 5-1
Football Men's 2	Northumbria 3	L 1-3
Football Men's 3	York 2	D 4-4
Football Women's 1	Sheffield 1	W 2-0
Football Women's 2	Leeds 2	L 1-4
Golf	Durham	L 1.5-4.5
Hockey Men's 1	Leeds Met	L 1-4
Hockey Men's 2	Hockey Men's 3	W 3-2
Hockey Men's 4	Leeds Met 2	D 2-2
Hockey Women's 1	Durham 2	D 1-1
Hockey Women's 3	Sunderland 1	W 3-2
Hockey Women's 4	Bradford 1	Walkover Win
Lacrosse 1	Birmingham	D 5-5
Lacrosse 2	Liverpool	Walkover Win
Netball 1	Leeds	W 43-40
Netball 2	York 1	W 36-34
Netball 3	Bradford 1	Walkover Win
Netball 4	York SJ 3	W 40-18
Rugby Men's 1	Nottingham	W 30-20
Rugby Men's 2	Lancaster 1	W 61-10
Rugby Men's 3	Leeds 2	D 30-30
Rugby Men's 4	Sheff Hallam 2	L 14-32
Rugby Women's 1	Durham 2	L 5-22
Rugby Women's 2	Bradford	L 0-68
Rugby League 1	Leeds 1	W 32-0
Rugby League 2	Teesside 1	L 22-40
Squash Men's 1	Durham 2	W 5-0
Squash Women's 1	York 1	L 1-3
Squash Women's 2	Northumbria 1	L 2-3
Table Tennis Men's 1	Leeds 1	W 9-7
Tennis Men's 1	Hull 1	L 2-8
Tennis Men's 2	Teesside	W 10-0
Tennis Women's 1	Durham 2	D 5-5

Fantastic Five



Rejuvenated Royals back on track after crushing win over Teesside

MEN'S FOOTBALL 1STS

BY JAMIE GAVIN

**NEWCASTLE 1STS 5
TEESSIDE 1STS**

A MAGNIFICENT display at Cochrane Park saw an inspired Newcastle first team put five past Teesside. The second straight win means Newcastle now leap frog the 'smoggies' and move off the bottom of their BUSA group.

The Royals, back in their traditional blue shirts, were dealt an early blow when they conceded a penalty. A Teesside striker was fouled just inside the box by midfielder Joe Foote, who arrived a split second too late to make the challenge. Newcastle had no complaints and the spot kick was converted past keeper Phil Bruce to give the visitors an early lead.

Whether it was the sports psychology seminar they received on Monday night, or the sheer team spirit they have developed, Newcastle seemed unfazed by the early blow and they responded immediately. Fred Brunt swung in a pinpoint corner which was met by the unmarked Joe Robertson at the near post. Robertson

rose well, heading low to the keepers' right to put the home side back on level terms.

Newcastle sprung to life after the equaliser and began to stretch their opponents. However, a stray pass in midfield sent a Teesside striker through on goal and only a tremendous goal saving tackle by Sam Newton denied the away side.

This proved to be a turning point in the game and the Royals, enthused by the let off, began to dominate. Some confident football created several openings and they were soon in front. Will Deledicq, making his first appearance for two weeks, turned the Teesside defence inside-out before laying an inch perfect through ball into the path of Brunt. The striker dully obliged and a cool finish completed the turnaround.

From then on it was one-way traffic. Brunt was involved again and the scorer turned provider to set up Dave Woolman for number three. The striker beat a man inside the box before a first-rate finish extended Newcastle's lead. At last there was daylight between the two sides as they headed into the interval.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33...

Inside Your Courier Sport This Week...



Rugby League boys run riot
>>> see p.35



Rugby 1sts gain victory on the road
>>> see p.34



In depth Intra Mural coverage
>>> see p.32 & 33



Review of BUSA campaign so far
>>> see p.31

Late goal dents title bid

WOMEN'S HOCKEY 1STS

BY RACHEL LESSER

**DURHAM 2NDS 1
NEWCASTLE 1STS 1**

THE SUN may have already set with a late 4:30 start at Durham, but the energy of the Newcastle team was

highly visible.

Newcastle knew that a win here would put them in pole position for the Northern 1A league title, but Durham were keen to show their presence after suffering a 6-0 thrashing in the last meeting between the two sides.

Right from the off the game was fast paced. Newcastle showed some great passing movement to leave Durham chasing shadows.

The first half saw some excellent defence from the likes of Harrison and Advent, leading to a number of breaks with narrow misses from the Newcastle side.

The first half was spent predominantly in Durham's half, at one point all 11 Durham players were placed in the defensive zone. This tactic appeared to pay off with a score line of 0-0 at half time.

After a motivational talk at

half time from the Newcastle captain Rosanna Innes, Newcastle looked revitalised and ready to take charge of the match.

After some excellent movement up the pitch from the likes of Gwynne-Jones and Warters, a short corner was awarded. Mary Mackinder stepped up to the mark and perfectly placed the shot in the bottom right corner, to put Newcastle in the lead.

Towards the end of the match both teams looked weary and not at the top of their game. Five minutes before full time a short corner was awarded against Newcastle after some controversial umpiring. With the clock ticking down Durham began to pressurise the Newcastle defence and eventually equalised with a superb finish, leaving the game at 1-1.

Newcastle ran out of time in their search for a winner, leaving the game against Manchester on Wednesday crucial to Newcastle dreams of the BUSA title.

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT
BY ROB

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The Pianos of Frankensteinway & Son...

