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union society

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LOVE IS IN THE AIR

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The different sides to Valentine's Day



RAG WEEK PICS

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The best snaps from the week



BACK HOME

Stan Calvert Cup returns to the Uni

See pages 22-28

TAXI TRAGEDY

Paul Brannon & Gemma Davies

AN EX-NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY student was tragically killed on a busy dual carriageway near his home in Jesmond last Saturday evening when he was hit by a taxi.

At 4.16am on Sunday, February 3, police were informed that a vehicle had been in collision with a pedestrian on the Great North

Road.

A 20-year-old male was found at the scene having been struck by a VW Passat taxi, taken to Newcastle General Hospital with multiple injuries in critical condition and died of his injuries at 11am on Sunday morning despite the best efforts of doctors at the hospital.

The man was identified as Richard Dominic O'Neill, who until 2007 was a Mechanical Engineering student at Newcastle University.

CONT. ON PAGE 2

>> On the Web This Week



The Courier website has had another revamp. Go to www.thecouriernewcastle.com to check out all the regular features and more, this time with a brand spanking new design!

www.thecouriernewcastle.com

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>> Weather Watch

Things should start to improve on the weather front this week as the temperatures rise to average. Some overnight fog and frost could linger into some mornings, however.

This week will be much drier and there is likely to be a few sunny and bright spells so things are definitely gradually getting more like spring!



the courier est. 1948

Pulp

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Tragic death of ex-student

Ex-student knocked over by taxi on busy road

Paul Brannon and Gemma Davies

CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE

Richard O'Neill was from the Wirral in Merseyside and had studied at Newcastle for two years before he left and had been working various temporary jobs while living with friends in Jesmond since he left his academic studies.

Richard's friends have paid tribute to how he lived life to the full and how much he enjoyed his social life and this sad tale reminds us to make the most of every moment and be happy in your life, as Richard was.

One of his many friends, a third-year English student commented that: "He was such a nice guy and had a great personality. He always made everyone feel comfortable and welcome and was amazing to be around."

"He was very young hearted and lived how he wanted to live - he didn't believe in regrets. He was passionate about music and football, and supported Manchester United."

"He loved spending time with his mates and they always meant so much to him, and he to them. We're all in so much shock."

"Richie's antics will never be forgotten and he will be sorely missed by many."

This incident raises the issue of safety and how cautious students need to be when walking home - particularly at night.

The accident happened just a few minutes walk away from the Robinson Library on a route many students will take on their way home from University.

Union Society President, Jamie McDonnell, commented that: "On behalf of everybody in the University community we extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends and this difficult time. Although Richard wasn't a current student at the University, we all feel the loss of someone who was once a part of our community."

Richard's friends and family have requested that, rather than donating flowers, donations should be made to the charity Christ the King Handicapped Children's Group, which cares for severely disabled



RICHARD O'NEILL...Sorely missed (picture kindly provided by Richard's friends)

children who could not be helped by other charities.

Richard regularly volunteered for the charity by taking the children away to Lourdes and the organisation have since praised Richard's work for them, commenting on the great impact that he made on those around him and how privileged and proud they were to know him.

If you would like to donate to Christ the King Handicapped Children's Group for Richard's cause please visit their website at www.hcg.org.uk or post a cheque paid payable to 'CTK Handicapped Children's Group' to Christ the King HCG Treasurer, Unit 8 Claremount Courtyard, Old Clatterbridge Road, Wirral, CH63 4JB.

Crossing the line

Council takes drastic traffic action

Ben Woodward

A SECOND-YEAR Jesmond resident was shocked when she returned from holiday to discover that not only had her car had double yellow lines painted under it, but she was to be fined for being parked on them.

This particular incident could be seen as a continuation of the escalating tension in some areas of Jesmond between students and long-time residents. Many feel that some of the council's plans - such as discouraging the provision of student housing in Jesmond and making parking more difficult for short-term residents - are implicitly anti-student.

Marina King, a second year English Literature student at Newcastle University, took a four-day break beginning on Sunday 27th February. As usual, she left her car parked outside her house on Osborne Road. When she arrived home on the 30th, she found that her car had been interfered with and that there was a fresh set of dou-

ble yellow lines on the road.

"It was in a different position to where I'd left it. Only I had a set of keys, so it had clearly somehow been moved so that whoever it was could put the lines under it. I thought parking outside your own house in a residential area wouldn't be a problem. When I saw the fine, I couldn't believe it."

Marina was particularly annoyed by the lack of courtesy extended to her before and after the lines were painted;

"If they'd actually wanted to warn me about what was going on, my housemates were all home. But no one spoke to them about it. The council were also extremely unhelpful when I phoned them. Thankfully the police were great. They seemed equally outraged by what had happened and got me in touch with the head traffic warden straight away. If I can provide proof that I was away when the lines were put there, I'm hoping I won't have to pay the fine."

At the time of going to print, the situation is ongoing and unresolved.



Photo: Joe Currin

ABSURD...The lines painted under Marina's car while she was on holiday

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

No place like HMO

Sarah Scott

A CAMPAIGN to introduce HMO licensing to all shared housing in Newcastle has been raised by local Labour Councillor Henri Murison.

This would benefit students living in smaller Houses of Multiple Occupation in areas like Jesmond, Heaton and Fenham and protect them from landlords whose housing does not meet relevant standards on fire safety and other amenity regulations.

At the moment HMO licensing covers houses which comprise of three stories or more and house five or more persons who form two or more households as stated in the Housing Act of 2004.

This means that people living in HMO's with less than five persons are not covered by HMO licensing.

Councillor Henri Murison is campaigning to extend HMO licensing so that people living in smaller HMO's would also benefit from the same level of protection. He told *The Courier*, "People living in Heaton in my ward deserve better protection from irresponsible landlords."

"The sad truth is the law is not being used to protect those living in Tyneside Flats for example, with the mandatory basic fire safety, bathroom and other amenity regulations provided for by the Housing Act 2004 not being applied."

In response *The Courier* spoke with Councillor Ron Armstrong of the Liberal Democrats, who have been in control of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne City Council since 2004.

He informed *The Courier* that the Council was looking into eventually introducing HMO licensing for all shared housing in Newcastle. How-

ever, before anything can be finalised the council must try a voluntary scheme through which landlords of smaller HMO's have the option of compiling with the licensing laws implemented on the larger HMO's. Councillor Ron Armstrong told *The Courier* that, "The City Council has no power to pass this itself. We think it would be a good idea but we need to provide evidence for the Government, through the voluntary scheme, to show them that licensing for all HMO's needs to be made mandatory. For example if too few landlords signed up to the voluntary scheme it would be prove that licensing for all HMO's should be introduced."

Students living in HMO housing in Jesmond should also be aware that from September 2008, the availability of car parking in this residential area will be further restricted. Whilst speaking with *The Courier* Councillor

Ron Armstrong said that by September of this year most of Jesmond will be resident parking only.

This is due to the lack of space in the area to accommodate the amount of cars at the moment.

This will be enforced through the placing of more double yellow lines and restricting parking permits to two per house. Councillor Ron Armstrong said, "This will mean that a large number of students will not be able to park their cars in the area."

"However, this policy will apply to all houses; it is not just singling out students. Families and other non students living in the area will only be authorised two parking permits per house as well. It is treating students in exactly the same way."

The Council also hopes these new policies will stop commuters who park around the residential area near West Jesmond Metro Station to commute into the City Centre.

Parking permits cost £20 for the first permit and £40 for a second. Students are advised to consider these permits when thinking about bringing their car to University in September.



TO LET...or not to let? Is there a future for student housing in Jesmond?

Felch Flop

Controversial society becomes the first in living memory to be expelled from the Union

Fran Infante
News Editor

FELCH SOC has caused massive controversy by becoming the first society in over ten years to be de-ratified from Union following allegations that the sexual innuendo evident in their provocative name was indicative of a much greater and more perverse reality.

Founded in Autumn of 2006 by Maths student Shane Benton, the Felch society was approved by the Union on the ground that they would be a social group that promoted sexual health and guidance. Despite the obvious paradox of their name, society members maintain that this truly is their aim, stating on their Facebook group that "Felch actively promotes sexual health and awareness, so remember boys and girls, the commonly perceived meaning of felching IS NOT CONSIDERED SAFE SEX."

However the design of the society's new hoodies which featured silhouette drawings of a man and woman with a straw leading from his mouth to her bum, sparked complaints about the society's activities and the appropriateness of their being linked to the Union Society. Further investigations were made into the activities of the society and revealed five main issues which collectively led to the forcible removal of their status as a Union society last week.

These issues were summarised as a) the unnecessarily explicit design of the hoodies, b) the involvement of non society members (including non-students) in society activities which is against Union rules, c) the alleged practice of initiations, which is also restricted by Union Society rules, and finally the alleged failure to promote safe sex which was the pretext under which the society got ratified in the first place.

Further issues were taken with the explicit material found on their Facebook group which featured links to pornographic sites, definitions of the act of felching and a graphic 'Felch rap' which jokes "stick a straw in have a good suck its much better than your average f***". All of these factors severely detract from any well intended argument from the society

that the name is nothing more than a racy joke and has little to do with the substance of the group.

These allegations led to consensus at the Society Executive Committee on 28th January that the Felch Society should no longer be allowed to be part of the Union, a decision which was later confirmed by the decisive rejection of the society's appeal two days later at Union Council. Members of Felch Soc, fronted by treasurer Ian Dodds, argued vehemently against each one of the allegations, represented by Activities Officer Scott Adam on behalf of Societies Executive Committee, and continue to claim that the result was, to quote Felch president, Toli Benson, "very close". It was not. The result from the Council was a very categorical 19 'no' votes against their appeal with 16 abstentions of vote. The society failed to gain a single 'yes' vote.

The society defends their hoodies arguing that, as Ian Dodds told *The Courier*, "They weren't meant to be insulting - just funny, a sort of tongue in cheek joke." However he did recognise that to wear them in front of University staff and around the city as an advertisement for the Union Society would have been 'unsuitable' and maintains that as soon as they found out there was a problem they halted the hoodies distribution and would have been willing to change them if given a chance.

However, all clubs and societies' committees have trust installed upon them to run in accordance to their Constitution, something which it is argued Felch failed to do.

The Felch Committee responded that they would have made all the necessary changes had they been given the chance to and are victims of a 'one strike and you're out system.'

One of the most important issues is that of the promotion of unhealthy sexual activity, despite this contradicting their grounds for ratification.

Events Organiser, Andrew Berrie, contests this as he told *The Courier* about the pub crawls they had organised at which free condoms were handed out. Furthermore he highlighted the fact that the society "held a Felch Wednesday event to coincide with S.H.A.G. week's 'Pee in a Pot' event at which we they were the single most represented society and therefore clearly aware and proactive about sexual health". However this element is some-

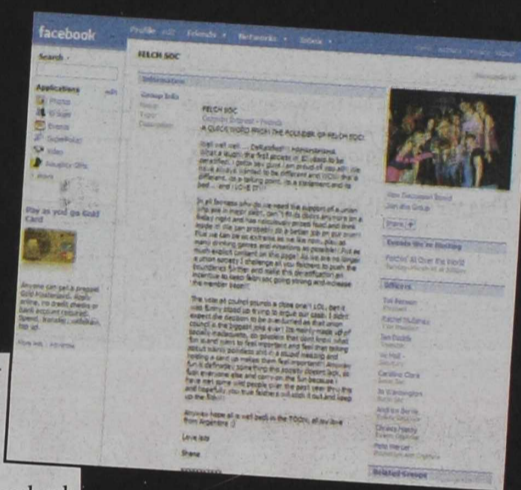
what overshadowed by the allegations of sexual challenge initiations and of course the ever contentious name, Felch.

Following the termination of their status as a society Benton issued an angry statement on the society's Facebook group slating the Union as an institution that is "in major debt, can't fill its doors anymore on a Friday night and has ridiculously priced food and drink" and referring to the Union Council as a group of "a few small minded arseholes who are socially inadequate do gooders that don't even know what fun is".

It is interesting therefore that despite these comments around 10 of the 57 registered Felch Soc members are rumoured to be running in the elections to be Union Officers next year; a further indication of the confusion and contradiction that has wracked this society from the outset. Union officials state that there are no issues with the individuals involved and that they appreciate the hard work that many of them dedicate to the Union as part of RAG and Freshers' Week teams but that this does not exempt the society from following Union Society regulations.

In losing their status as a Union society the former Felch Soc lose their right to apply for funding from the £35,000 budget allocated to Union societies as well as the use of the Union banking service and use of the Union website. Furthermore they are no longer allowed to feature the Union Society logo on any of their hoodies or Facebook groups and cannot hold stalls at the Freshers or Refreshers fairs. When asked about the future of the Felchers, president, Toli Benson, responded adamantly: "We began without the Union and we can carry on without it. We don't need the Union." Yet, when asked the same question, founder Shane Benton concluded, "I think that the publicity that the whole de-ratification will give to the society may increase the members but it will probably die out over the next 12 months."

Amidst allegations from the society's members that the issue was handled unfairly and without due notice or support, Scott Adam has insisted that there is still the possibility for the Committee to re-launch their appeal at a later date, if they believe they have genuine cause to do so. Whether that is the case or not remains to be seen.



FACEBOOK FROLICS...The controversial Facebook Felch Soc group



HARMLESS FUN?...The design for the society's hoodies that featured this image as well as the Union Society logo

>> CAREERS WORKSHOP: CAREERS FOR A CAUSE, MONDAY 11TH FEBRUARY (TODAY), 12-2PM IN THE KING'S ROAD CENTRE

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INTERVIEW

Andy Scott-Lee: Making his comeback

EMILY HOPCROFT talks to Andy Scott-Lee about fame, friends and Craig David...

**Emily Hopcroft**

Emily: Hey Andy! It's been a while since we last heard anything from you-what have you been up to since we saw you on MTV's "Totally Scott-Lee"?

Andy: I've actually been very busy spending most of the time in the studio working on an album

bum which should be coming out later in the year and obviously the single which is coming out on February 11th so just working hard in the studio really.

E: I saw that you had dedicated your new single to your wife Michelle; does that mean that you are writing a lot of your new material?

A: Yeah, I mean I have written quite a bit of it but at the same time I have had quite a few songs which have come forward which I really like. If I find a song that I like, I am always up for recording it. I've also got quite a few good songs off a guy called Robbie Craig, who did a single called "Woman Trouble" with Craig David and he's a really talented guy so I was honoured to work with him.

E: Your new single, "Unforgettable" is quite ballad based, what kind of style would you say your new material is?

A: The first single is obviously quite ballad based and hopefully that will do well as Valentine's Day is round the corner. The two main influences for the album are probably Stevie Wonder and Michael Jackson. The album is definitely not all ballads and there are a number of tracks which are upbeat and mid tempo. There is definitely something on there for everyone!

E: Have you got a release date for the album yet?

A: The album is aimed at being released towards the end of March but I think it will probably get put back a bit purely as there is still quite a lot of work to be done on it.

E: And have you got any tours in the pipeline? Or does that depend on how successful the single and album are?

A: Well I'm doing a school tour for the single so that means I'll be up and down the UK doing primary and high schools which is great 'cause they are so much fun. Hopefully later on in the year, I'll be able to do some

more. I mean I'm always gigging up and down the country keeping busy.

E: It seems ages ago since you were in the band 3SL with your brothers. Do you ever miss being in a band?

A: Yeah it does seem that way. Obviously I still see them but they have their own careers now. Actually it was quite funny as just the other day we got asked to reform.

E: All of your family seem to be very musical - were either of your parents in the performance industry at all?

A: My Mum actually couldn't sing at all and neither could my Dad! Although he could play the drums and he used to be in a band called "The Box" many years ago. I suppose its always been in the blood really.

E: Oh really? I suppose with the Spice Girls reforming a lot of bands are going to be asked.

A: Ha, yeah it would be good, but I don't think it will ever happen personally but I do miss being around them and just the whole band feeling. We had a lot of fun together.

E: I saw that you and Michelle both took part in a pantomime in Sunderland over Christmas. Have you ever thought about releasing a duet together?

A: I don't think we ever have really as people have asked us in the past and we have always been like, "No way!" but you never know. Just the other week Michelle brought it up but who knows, maybe one day.

E: You've been on a number of reality TV shows such as "Pop Idol" and "Totally Scott-Lee" - would you ever consider some of the newer ones such as "Strictly Come Dancing" and "I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here!"?

A: I'd actually love to do either of them! Although the thing about "I'm a Celebrity" is that it would probably be good TV but I can't stand bugs! I've always had a bad phobia of them and I live near the river so that doesn't really help as there are always spiders everywhere. I would love to do either though as they are both great opportunities.

E: What was Simon Cowell really like on Pop Idol then?

A: Yeah, he was actually the nicest judge out of all four of them. I mean most people think, "Oh, Simon's the hardest to impress" and he is in a way, but for some reason with me he was brilliant and very honest, as always.

E: So I read that apparently there is a record trying to be broken with the pre-orders of the single.

A: Yeah I heard that but I mean, I've never actually said that personally myself and obviously my main priority is to get in the charts and if it does break a record then that's amazing!

E: Well Good Luck with the single and hopefully it will be a chart success.

A: Thank you. Take care and thanks for your support.

WORDS OF THE WEEK

By Paul Brannon

"Thanks for the question, you little jerk."

-Republican candidate John McCain after being asked by a high school student if he was too old to be president. For good measure, McCain then threatened to draft him into the military...

"I would have to investigate more of Bill's dancing abilities, you know, and some of this other stuff before I accurately judge whether he was in fact a brother."
-Barack Obama on whether Bill Clinton was "the first black president."

Jumpers for icy chickens

A group of former battery farm chickens who had their feathers pecked out have been given woolly jumpers to keep warm.

Brigitte Hawley, from Benenden, in Kent, gave the four bald birds a new home last November after receiving them from the Battery Hen Welfare Trust.

She designed the knitwear to protect them during the winter as they adapted to life away from the chicken sheds. Ms Hawley said her invention, which she calls a "chux tux", had been adapted from a bobble hat, and came in different designs depending on which parts of the bird were in need of insulation.

Her bespoke design was the winning entry in a national knitting competition.

Since their release from captivity, her four battery hens are now showing signs of recovery, thanks to the designer knitwear.

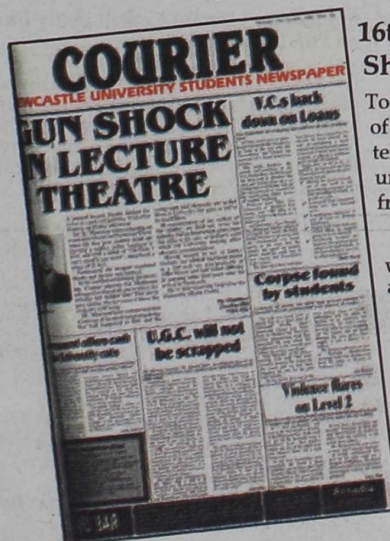
Don't drop the soap...

The son of a U.S. Governor is marketing a prison video game called "Don't drop the soap".

The son of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, is selling the game he created as part of a class project at the Rhode Island School of Design, which includes missions such as starting and participating in a prison riot, stealing painkillers from medical staff and organising prison-breaks.

John Sebelius, 23, has the backing of his mother and father, U.S.

Celebrating 60 years of The Courier



16th October 1985: Gun Shock in Lecture Theatre

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of The Courier's existence this term we will be running this column looking at the best stories from the past.

This is a front page story which would be virtually unthinkable today - and probably in 1985 when it happened, too. A packed lecture theatre had to duck for cover as a fresher fired at his lecturer. No-one was harmed in the incident but the attacker also left behind a poem which revealed that he had not settled into university life after not being able to live at his first choice halls, Leazes Terrace.

Magistrate Judge Gary Sebelius, and reportedly sought legal advice to ensure his game was going to be legitimate in content.

He is selling the game on his Internet site for \$34.99 (about £17.00) plus packaging, shipping and handling.

Some kind of manikin love

A teenager has been charged with indecent exposure after he was caught trying to have sex with a female mannequin on display at an arts centre.

Guards said they had noticed several times before that the dummy's clothes had been removed at the centre in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, US. If convicted, the man may be registered as a sex offender.

Security guards found the man who cannot be named for legal reasons, sprawled with the dummy on the floor with his trousers and pants down, imitating the sexual act; however, sources report that the mannequin didn't seem that keen...

I picked a major I liked and one day I'll be living...in jail.

In Medford, Oregon, a 27-year-old jobless man with an MBA blamed his college degree for his murder of three people. "There are too many business grads out there," he said. "If I had chosen another field, all this may not have happened."

Slippery criminal

An Indian man allegedly hurled a slipper at a court judge who promptly threw a paperweight back in reply.

Nazir Mohammad was in court in Baroda on charges of housebreaking and theft when he jumped out of the witness box and rushed towards the judge.

The robber, reportedly irritated with the slow pace of the case, took off his slipper and threw it at Chidjudicial magistrate C D Vaghela. Judge Vaghela immediately picked up a paperweight from his desk and threw it back at the accused.

Members of the Baroda Bar Association went on strike after the incident to protest at the lack of security for judges, lawyers and witnesses.

Can we trust our politicians at all?



Michael Watt

In today's media driven, twenty-four hour news society, the whiff of scandal is never too far away from Westminster, those famous few square miles within which our government goes about its business.

However, in recent weeks this whiff has become a very bad smell - many Members of Parliament on both the Labour and Tory benches have been accused of various, misdeeds and abuses of power, some of them very serious indeed.

Although such allegations are regularly slung like mud during the hurly-burly of parliamentary politics, only to be washed off soon after, these particular charges have a good chance of sticking where it matters most, in the minds of the general public, because they reveal a seemingly endemic lack of basic integrity on both sides of the House.

The most publicised of these scandals is the case of Derek Conway, a Conservative MP who has been accused of using taxpayers money to pay his son Freddie a £50,000 per year salary for doing research for him while Freddie was a full time student at our very own Newcastle University.

No foul play there I hear you say. Except that no evidence of any 'research' undertaken by Freddie has been found, leading to the likely conclusion that Mr Conway had dipped into public funds to help finance his son's lifestyle at university. If only higher education funding was as easy for the rest of us...

This stench of financial scandal will not leave Westminster easily because this cannot be shrugged off by our legislators an isolated incident involving one party. Several other MPs are being investigated for allegedly employ-

ing their family members in an unsuitable manner.

The "cash for peerages" investigation which dogged the later years of the Blair government has returned to haunt the Labour Party in a new form, as several MPs, including Cabinet ministers such as Wendy Alexander, Alan Johnson, Harriet Harman and Peter Hain, have been confronted with allegations of receiving inappropriate donations from various sources. Mr Hain has already resigned over the

levels of saintliness and honesty) to 5 (a level of kleptomania and corruption normally associated with scum like Robert Mugabe).

They responded with an average of 3.5, and although this is a better score than those achieved by European or American politicians, our parliamentarians shouldn't celebrate just yet. This score leaves them as the most distrusted profession in the country, lower than dodgy mechanics and builders, ambulance chasing lawyers and, yes, even us journalists.

I find this worrying. The essential business of Parliament is to make laws which govern our society. To do this effectively, it must have a legitimacy borne from both the electoral process the instinctive loyalty of the public. If politicians cannot return this loyalty by keeping their hands clean, and their House in order, then how can they expect us to take their legislation seriously? Those people who assert that politics has always been like this and will never change ignore the simple fact that it just cannot afford to continue in this vein. Politicians can't rely on the deference of the electorate and the ignorance of the media to brush misdeeds under the carpet. With the educated electorate and the enormous level of scrutiny into the private and professional lives of politicians that goes on in today's society, our legislators must work harder to earn and gain our trust. No one expects them to be paragons of virtue, but given the level of power they have, we must expect them to use this power responsibly and appropriately, without feeling the needs to line their own pockets with public money or abuse our trust in a similar way.

During his final Prime Minister's Questions, Tony Blair remarked that politics is often accused of being a place for 'low skulduggery'; it is now up to his predecessors in the House to prove this accusation wrong.

“ Politicians hold the most distrusted profession in the country, lower than dodgy mechanics and builders, ambulance chasing lawyers and, yes, even us journalists. ”

matter. In 1997, Tony Blair promised a fresh break from the sleaze politics of the previous Tory government, saying that his party would be "whiter than white" while in office.

However, eleven years of spin, mis-truths and deception over domestic and foreign policy issues, and now these recent financial misdemeanours in the Brown era, have shown this to be empty rhetoric. Can we really trust our politicians anymore?

A post-hangover chat over coffee with a few of my friends revealed that all four of them answered "no" to this question without a moment's pause. In a more rigorously scientific poll conducted by Transparency International, British citizens were asked to rate their politicians and political parties from 1 (Mother Theresa-esque

Entertainment or voyeurism?



Ruth Sleightholme

If you thought Big Brother was sex obsessed then try this: the 'Vanity Lair' only has room for ten full-time beautiful people, and each week they get a batch of new arrivals from whom they have to pick the most attractive.

Then, because there can only be ten 'lairmates', the new arrival must pick the least attractive contestant to leave. Although my five (female) housemates and I sat spitting feathers, we all watched the whole thing and thoroughly - guiltily - enjoyed ourselves.

That was, up until contestant Tony Le Britton burst into tears and then ran, retching, shaking and vomiting in to the toilet, followed naturally by the cameras. Why?

He had just seen a projection of a test which mirrored the left and the right side of his face. The test showed that he only had 54% facial symmetry, the worst in the bunch; his left side was very feminine and his right side very masculine.

It did look bizarre, but whereas ninety percent of us would cringe, cover

our face and laugh: this man had what appeared to be a physical breakdown.

Tony had been described by Vanity Lair as 'possibly the vainest contestant in the lair'.

We watched him announce that if ugly people approach him he just blanks them, and he was the quickest to slate potential new housemate Kaveh's looks, calling him a 'bulldog'. What had a first seemed like simple

“ The effects of body image on young men are relatively unknown, and I presume, underestimated ”

shallowness showed itself in that moment to be an obsession.

And, as my housemate said, his self-disgust is understandable if we consider the possibility that appearance is the only category by which he judges himself: seeing his 'unattractive' face sent his world crashing down.

To see a man, - and here I must add an emphasis onto 'man': the effects of

body image on young men are relatively unknown, and, I presume, underestimated - retch and gag at the sight of his own asymmetry made everyone in the living room extremely uncomfortable.

He is of course a consenting adult, but this is no important social experiment; this is not a Milgram, or a 'Total Isolation' or even a Derrin Brown: it is pure, cynical entertainment.

The very selection structure of a programme like this is designed to groom a person for vanity.

Tony was 'talent spotted' for the show, aged eighteen, on our own Northumberland Street. Such vanity is, in an extreme case like Tony's, and incubated in a body-obsessed environment like the Lair, no less than a symptom of real body dysmorphia. All for our entertainment.

So what is my judgement? Channel four, learn! If the outrage that a racist remark on Big Brother caused taught you anything, it is to act if a housemate is threatened.

And if displaying obvious signs of long term mental distress as a direct result of the environment placed in isn't enough to have the man removed from the programme, then what is? Get him out and get him some counselling.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Lindsay Gulliver

Do you want to sky dive?

NCH WANTS YOU! The National Children's Homes charity is looking for brave Newcastle students to take part in a tandem sky dive over County Durham.

The charity - which runs sixty-five projects across the North East, helping 28,000 children, young people and their families every year - is hoping to raise £400,000 through their year long 'Growing Strong' appeal, with the aim of boosting the emotional wellbeing of children in the region. Parachute jumps are available every weekend from Peterlee Airfield and no experience is necessary - just the courage to jump out of a plane at 10,000 feet for children across the North East.

If you're interested, get in touch with Linda McDonald at linda.mcdonald@nch.org.uk or call 01325 308 180.

What's your North East?

THE "STUDENT CHALLENGE" has recently been launched by Regional Development Agency One NorthEast with the aim of raising the profile of design, media and advertising students in the region's universities and colleges.

The competition has been designed to recognise the creative talent of these students and help promote the area. To take part, students must come up with a creative idea to show what they believe to be the best feature of the North East, using any medium including photography, film and animation - as long as it can be shown online.

The winner will be able to choose one week placements at four of the region's top media and creative organisations and a state-of-the-art laptop. They also stand the chance of having their winning idea incorporated into One NorthEast's 'Passionate People. Passionate Places' campaign.

One NorthEast's Director of Communications and Tourism, Stacy Hall said: "To encourage creative people to stay in the North East we must show them that there are real job opportunities here for them after they finish their studies." After strong growth of the North East's Commercial Creative Industry - now worth £800 million - employment opportunities will certainly be available, with over nine thousand new jobs to be created in the region in the next five years.

Companies taking part in the competition include; Metro Radio, Trinity Newspapers, Different Advertising, Design and Marketing, PressAhead, Tyne Tees and the photographer Kevin Radcliffe.

The challenge is open to full-time students aged 18 or over studying in the North East. The public will decide the winning entry in the spring. For more information visit www.northeastengland.co.uk/studentchallenge.

Are you an Egghead?

EGGHEADS, the BBC quiz show, is returning for its ninth series and looking for teams to take part.

They will be holding auditions in the Newcastle area over the next few weeks and are particularly interested in hearing from university teams - especially those who are members of interesting societies. In September 2007, a team from Oxford Brookes University went home with £75,000. If you're interested, keep an ear to the ground for details of the regional auditions.

A smart idea

Fran Infante
News Editor

DISCUSSIONS have begun about the introduction of Smart card scanning equipment in certain faculties in a potential bid to combat the steadily decreasing levels of lecture attendance.

It is possible that such a scheme, if brought into use in years to come would be launched in the Engineering schools and feasibly be extended to include others including Dentistry to monitor the number of classes that each student misses.

The idea has a number of practical considerations which classify it specifically as an idea for development rather than an actual proposal for the new technology that would make it possible.

It is true that student attendance has become an increasing problem at Universities across the country and similar schemes that have been set up at other institutions have been seen to help the issue.

The scheme is not without its problems though as it would require a sophisticated database system to record the detailed information and there are further issues defining who would be responsible for its maintenance as well as how the information could be stored and accessed by staff.

Despite some scepticism over the need to have students monitored so closely, enthusiasts of the scheme maintain that this would be a system used to aid learning and assist students with genuine problems with their degree by supply-

ing them with evidence of genuine effort and attendance.

Furthermore it gives Professors the opportunity to step in early and offer help to students who are shown to be consistently not attending, before it gets to a level that may jeopardise their degrees long term.

It has the advantage of making the smart card more useful and therefore value for money as well as centralising a system of attendance information' commented Civil Engineering student Charles Ashington-Pickett.

The Engineering school has begun consultations with the Staff/Student committee and so far early reactions have been generally positive. Second year student Kitty Randall told *The Courier* 'I think it's a good idea - it encourages you to go [to lectures] because there seems to be more of a consequence to missing them.'

It's really easy to ask your friend to sign you in, but having to scan your smart card makes it more of an issue.'

Her fellow 2nd year Civil and Structural engineering student Katie Morris concurred, adding that 'practicals are an important part of the course and the sign in sheets just don't work because they're so easy to fake.'

However she did also make the point that as a member of the Student/Staff committee she 'told those who suggested the scheme that though I agree something has to be done the point of Uni is that you have that freedom to make your own choice, I think people are just going to start bringing in other peoples smart cards and swip-



KEEPING TABS...Students' attendance at lectures could soon be monitored

ing them instead, it could be perceived as being too much like school.'

Other uses of similar technology which has been considered involves issuing all students with a pocket sized 'clickers' which they could use to register their attendance in the lecture rather than a smart card.

This technology it is also hoped could be used to increase class participation with students asked to click at an appropriate time to generate 'Who wants to be a Millionaire' style results of the group as a whole.

What must be remembered though is that these ideas are at a very experimental stage which Education Officer Ben Potter described it as 'embryonic' and warned that it 'won't be met with universal approval from the University academics' who will be expected to manage the new technology.

Just how much of it will be incorporated into Newcastle classrooms, and the effect that it will have on the student population and attitudes remains to be seen.

Racing ahead for Newcastle engineers

Emily Hopcroft

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING students here at Newcastle University are currently designing and building a single-seater racing car for a competition in the international Formula Student event.

The Formula Student event is held annually at the world famous Silverstone race track.

Silverstone is best known for being the home of the British Grand Prix and the track regularly features on TV shows such as Top Gear and movies to include the James Bond film, "Thunderball".

Sally Nicholson, the team manager explains her decision for taking part by commenting that "Formula 1 allows us to develop the skills that employers are looking for while still at university, in a way other projects simply cannot. Being

able to complete designs, see them manufactured and then actually test them on the track is enormously rewarding." Manufacturing of the car has been going on for a while now and many of the parts have already been completed including the front and rear chassis, hubs, steering column, suspension wishbones and plates etc.

The car (NR5) is based around an innovative aluminium monocoque chassis, and is powered by a Ducati Monster 600cc motorbike engine, which has already been tested and is ready to go as soon as the rest of the car is complete. Sally Nicholson commented that "with the rolling chassis almost complete, it is definitely an exciting time for Newcastle Racing."

It is important to mention that this project has been completely self-funded, meaning that the students have had to raise the required budget of £15,000 themselves through assistance from the business community.

At the moment, they have raised sponsorship of around £9,000 which is a little short of the target

but hopefully they will continue to receive sponsorship. All of the group have stressed that they are "still actively looking for sponsors to join our team to help us complete the car and would encourage anyone interested to get in contact."







Sponsorship is important for many reasons as not only do these companies ranging from internal companies such as BP to local service providers such as Acorn Laser, they also donate both their time and technical expertise to the team as well.

Finally, the project supervisor Dr. Jack Hale comments that "It is tremendously satisfying to see all the students working together to achieve this common goal. With the team's performance steadily improving year on year, I believe the target of a top 10 UK finish at the event in 2008 is entirely achievable." We all want to wish the team the best of luck in completing their car and in the future race at Silverstone!

For more information on the team, log on to the official website www.nrracing.co.uk

VOX POP: HAVE YOUR SAY

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION, PUT TO YOU BY Anna Silverman
What do you think of RAG week? Do you get involved?

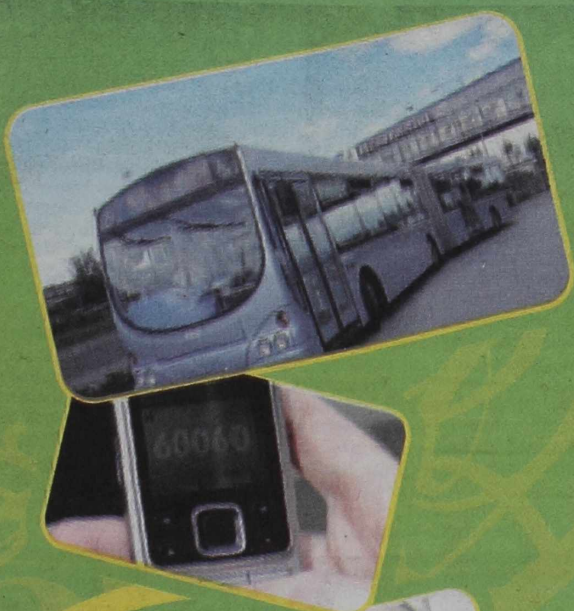
 <p>Catherine Riley, 19, 1st Year Sociology</p> <p>"I've just been talking about this and I think it looks like good fun and a great way to raise money. I think next year I would consider getting involved."</p>	 <p>Sarah Churchill, 18, 1st Year Psychology</p> <p>"I haven't really done much yet but I do want to go to some of the events, like the silent disco. It looks like a good way to raise money, maybe in the future I would like to get involved."</p>	 <p>Valentina Klejnow, 19 2nd Year Mechanical Engineering</p> <p>"I'm part of the rag week crew and think it's a really good idea, it's probably the best way of raising money for universities as it gets people involved in lots of different ways. I've had a lot of fun."</p>
 <p>Tom Hawkins, 18, 1st Year Ancient history & Archaeology</p> <p>"I don't get involved but I have given money for it. I think it's a really good way of raising money and I'd like to get involved next year."</p>	 <p>James Hadfield, 20 2nd Year Biomedical Science</p> <p>"I haven't been involved in it this year but I think it's a really good idea as it gets people involved by catching their attention with the bright t-shirts and obviously it's for a good cause."</p>	 <p>Chris Morton, 21 2nd Year Marketing and Management</p> <p>"I don't really know what it is or know anything about it, all I know is it's for charity. To be honest it hasn't really raised my awareness and I doubt I'll be involved now or next year."</p>

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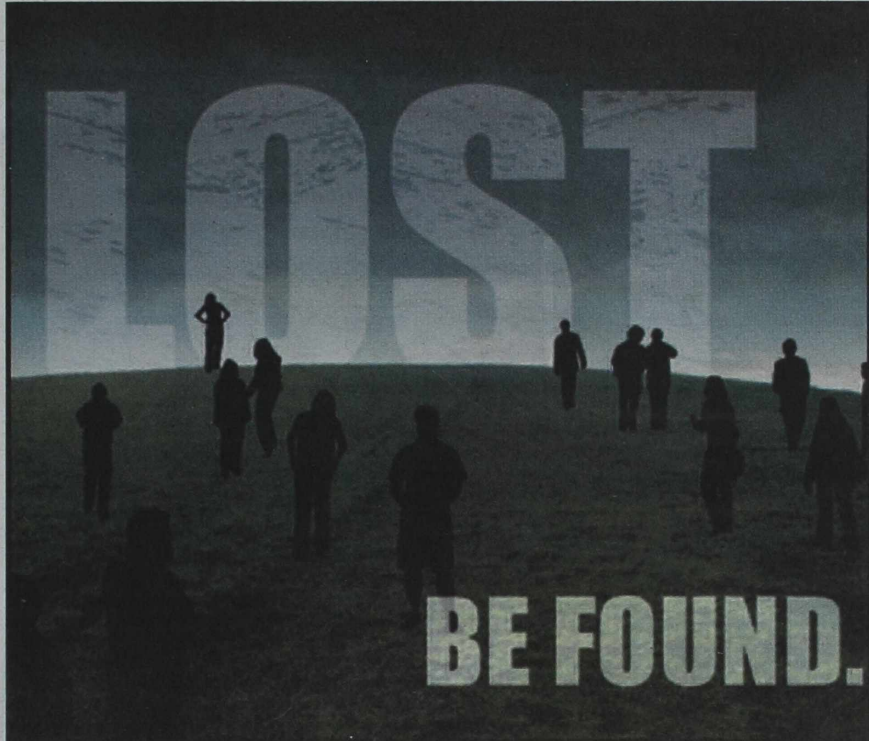
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Christian Union on a Mission



George Hewitt

ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM TEMPLE was once quoted as saying, "The Church is the only organisation that exists for the benefit of non-members." Well, next week (11th - 15th February) is the Christian Union's Event Week which is most definitely for the benefit of non-members!

Today, it is common to find opinions on Christianity, whether they be positive or negative. Often the media is quick to draw attention to the negative impacts and the issues that they themselves either don't agree with or don't understand.

The CU Events Week is all about giving students at Newcastle University the opportunity to explore the very centre of Christianity - Jesus Christ - for themselves. It's not about attempting to force beliefs on other people, but about sharing honestly what the Bible says, and why it's still relevant now.

The week is entitled "LOST: Be Found" and explores the life of Jesus Christ as presented by the eyewitness accounts from John's Gospel. The talks will be given by a visiting speaker, Mr. Nick Howard. Nick is from a Jewish background but became a Christian at the age of fifteen. He studied English at Oxford University before working for an economics think-tank and also as a researcher in the House of Commons. Having completed Theological training at Durham University, he now travels widely as a Christian speaker, often giving talks in University settings.

There is a marquee outside the Union for the whole week, where there will be talks with a free lunch every day (12pm - 1pm, and repeated at 1pm - 2pm, with enough time given on either side to get to and from lectures). The talks will tackle some common questions asked of Christians, such as, "Why doesn't God do something about suffering?" and, "Isn't the Bible just a bunch of myths?" Also, the Wednesday lunchtime talk is based on the issues surrounding Richard Dawkins and his book, 'The God Delusion', and asking the question, "Are atheists deluded about God?" There's also a good amount of time set aside at each talk for questions.

In the evenings, there will be relaxed events, such as a Curry Night, an Acoustic Night and a Jazz Night. The talks at these events are based on how Jesus interacted with others, and how what we can read from the situation is still relevant today.

The chief organiser of the week, Jake Eggertsen, a third year History student, encourages everyone to come along: "The week offers every student the chance to investigate whether there is actually credible evidence in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Whatever stage you're at, the talks encourage people to weigh up what the Bible says in order to see whether the case for Christ is conclusive."

As with all of the Christian Union's events, the talks and evening events are open to anyone, and everyone who is able to come will be welcomed! More details can be found at the Events Week website, www.lostbefound.co.uk

No place to hIDe

Katie Bristow

BIG BROTHER is watching you, or so the Labour government plan. Despite the promise that ID cards will be an optional entity, by making them compulsory in order to receive a student loan, students are being backed into a corner.

The *Guardian* newspaper has revealed that a leaked government report has exposed Labour's intention to make it compulsory for anyone applying for a student loan or opening a bank account from 2010 to have an ID card. Such proposals are claimed by the Tories as 'blackmailing' students into owning ID cards which will cost £100 to the individual and as much as £200 to every taxpayer.

The scheme in total is estimated by the Home Office to cost £5.4 billion although the *Telegraph* has suggested that an assessment by academics at the London School of Economics has put the bill as high as £20 billion. It is also worth noting that should you refuse to purchase an ID card in such necessary situations, you could be fined up to £2,500.

The Liberal Democrat Youth and Students (LDYS) have reacted angrily to these reports and have begun a petition against the scheme. LDYS NUS Executive member Tom Stubbs has lambasted the government for singling out students:

"The government is looking to make ID cards compulsory and in order to do this will first try and make it impossible for people to live their lives without one. Labour is looking to snare students and young people in their trap first, as they view us as soft targets."

According to *The Telegraph*, "The document says: 'We should issue ID cards to young people to assist them as they open their first bank account, take out a student loan, etc.'... Ministers will argue that carrying the cards will make it easier for the young to

gain access to services and prove their age when trying to buy alcohol."

Issues over the ID cards include not only situations reminiscent of George Orwell's '1984', but also, with recent embarrassments faced by the government regarding the loss of sensitive information, a threat to personal security and the increased likelihood of identity fraud.

Despite promises of increasing national security, there remains the fact that the existence of ID cards in Spain did not prevent the Madrid bombings of 2004.

The liberal democrats have begun a petition against the ID card scheme and have quoted the ex-head of MI5, the British Security Service, Stella

Rimington, as saying, "I don't think that anybody in the intelligence services ... would be pressing for ID cards."

The leaked report suggests that the scheme will come into force in 2010, the original date set for extending the scheme to anyone applying for or renewing a passport.

With millions of young people in higher education, the scheme will impact upon many as well as hitting hardest those students that rely on a student loan to finance their education.

With the additional cost to purchase the card itself, this scheme looks set to ruffle a few feathers.



COMPULSORY ID CARDS...Could this be the future for students wanting loans?



ON A MISSION...The Mongol Rally hopefuls

Hey, ho, let's go

Joe Daunt

THREE NEWCASTLE University students are participating in the 2008 Mongol Rally.

The team consisting of Andrew Harle, Alex Herrity and Thomas Connelly are enthusiastic, but have not been without a few glitches along the way!

Andrew told *The Courier* that within five minutes of moving the car, 'The General', from its home in Halifax to top it up on fuel, there was petrol leaking out of the bottom causing a bit of a problem.

However, they are optimistic despite statistics from the 2005 rally showing that two teams were robbed at knife point, three engines fell completely out of the cars, one

team was rammed off the road over an argument about water melons, three teams were chased by armed bandits and one team got engaged! The boys will certainly have their work cut out.

The journey should take about 3-4 weeks and the team are looking for any sponsorship or support anyone can offer.

Money raised goes towards helping charities in Mongolia and truly is a worthwhile cause. Furthermore, the car stays in Mongolia and is given to charity.

The team have been fortunate enough to have help from Ges Ratcliffe who is connected with Penrith F.C of £1,000 but any other help would be greatly appreciated.

The team are on facebook and more information can be found on their group, 'Mission to Mongolia'.

Rag Week in pictures

Rag Week 2008 was a huge success, with over £20,000 raised for charity to date. Photos include action from Solution, Last Man Standing, the Scottish ceilidh and Silent OutRAGE - the silent disco at World Headquarters. The chosen RAG charities which will receive a huge boost from the money raised are Mercy Ships, SCAN, The Children's Foundation, the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK and Grace House North East.



Photos by Peter Dixon and Gemma Davies

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Dreams of Knighthood

■ HANNAH BURNS on whether chivalry is dead

THE WORD chivalry has been interchangeable with knighthood for hundreds of years, and in its essence today it means gallantry, civility, nobility and downright good manners towards others especially the 'weak'.

So are guys today less chivalrous than their forefathers? The mere mention of the word chivalry conjures three little words: 'chivalry is dead'. But is it? And if so who killed it? In this modern world it is so easy to think the idea of men 'protecting' women is archaic and that the notion we aren't strong enough to defend ourselves is out-dated and patronising.

The feminist movement to get equality between the sexes in society may make some think we have forgone the need and right for men to act in a courteous way towards us. Guys also get the impression that although we want to earn the same as men, we want to be treated in the same way men treat other men. Not true. It is still nice to be regarded with respect and kindness.

From a women's point of view it can also be hard to accept acts of

chivalry as they can so easily cross into the realms of sleazy. There is also the notion of owing something - it is ridiculous to think that a generous act from a guy immediately indebts us, but that is a fear amongst many women.

It's just a balance that needs to be found. Guys shouldn't be afraid to act gallantly and girls should accept more of the acts of kindness, in a less suspicious manner. 9/10 times it is most probably sincere.

If any boys or girls want to learn how to become a modern day knight in shining armour, then there's an American who runs a series of workshops and offers advice in articles and podcasts about becoming more chivalrous.

He comments: "Chivalry in the world today is a return to a sense of ethical behaviour and personal values in all aspects of modern life. It is an understanding that brutality is not strength, and that restraint is not weakness. To be a chivalrous person means to always be looking outside yourself and asking, 'What can I do to make the world better?'. Check out www.chivalrytoday.com.



"It depends how far through you are in a relationship. I'd make more of an effort at the start, give a good impression."
Rob Wood, Stage 3, Electrical Engineering.

"Well today a boy closed a door on my face so I'm not feeling it's too alive. You can tell the difference between generations though. My dad would always walk on the car side of the road when we're on the pavement."
Lucy Ryder, Stage 3, Psychology

"As girls we value it less - boys tend to think that girls take offence if they're acting chivalrous."
Katharine Gibbins, Stage 3, Medicine

"My Boyfriend carries heavy things for me and other women. I think it depends on your upbringing. I don't like the feminist point of view that we don't need it and can do things for ourselves, it's nice when a guy offers."
Jenna Pollard, Stage 3, Sociology

"On nights out you're more likely to have your arse pinched by a guy

than have one act gentlemanly"
Sophie Pepper, Stage 3, Architecture

"Today I let a girl go before me at the bar, and then happy hour ended. She didn't say thank you and told me not to be so much of a gentleman!"
Melvin Byres, Stage 3, Business Management.

"There isn't much around as their used to be, due to a mixture of men not being as chivalrous and women being more suspicious."
Dave Robinson, Stage 4, Mechanical Engineering

"You do get the odd guy who is, though bad boys are often more attractive than the nice guys."
Brid Vellette, Stage 2, Maths

"Well chivalry died in the 1970's. Girls want to be more independent now, and a guy is only going to act in a chivalrous way if he knows that the girl is going to react in a positive way."
Anonymous American Football president

"I don't want my boyfriend to pay the bill at the end of a date, I'd want to split it, but it's nice when he offers. Sometimes you think if a guy is over chivalrous that he's a bit of a sucker and asking for someone to take advantage."
Sarah Richardson, Stage 4, Medicine

"It is different in other countries - abroad men can be more courteous to women. If you're bought a drink here by a guy there tends to be an expectation there, it's not out of the kindness of their heart."
Sarah Lord, Stage 4, Medicine

Chivalrous Deeds: Tried and Tested

1. Offer your coat.

A dual winner. Makes you look strong and masculine as well as caring.

2. Pick her up.

Simple, but not only stops you waiting alone at the venue, it is an innocent act, which driving her home is less likely to seem.

3. Make sure she gets home safely.

Not code for barging into her home at the end of the night, but walking her to the door, and waiting to be asked in.

4. Hold the door open.

I personally believe this is basic manners, rather than chivalry. It shows class, but only when done discretely.

5. Walk on the outside of the path.

To be done naturally, don't manhandle a woman and force her to walk on a certain part, at risk of seeming strange, but as a fluid action.

6. Offer to pay.

In this day and age, girls are willing to pay their own way, however it is nice for a gentleman to offer.

Addiction Affliction

■ EZRA FIERCE talks candidly about his experiences as a student addict

ADDICTION is a word that gets thrown around too much these days. Every day you hear people complaining that they're addicted to chocolate or coffee; I'm pretty sure my flatmate thinks he's addicted to love.

The fact is, people are addicted to

the idea of being addicted. Addiction isn't something you wake up one morning and consciously realise. Real addiction, on its most basic and ugly level, is something far more sinister - it is when you start losing a game you didn't even realise you were playing.

It started as a casual pastime: 'Fancy taking a pill when we go out tonight?', 'Yeah, why not?' But it rapidly became a frightening obsession. I felt amazing when I first used to do pills - you feel connected to everyone you meet, and love everything that happens to you. It's hard to write about without my bleary nostalgia infiltrating the words, and making you think it sounds like fun. I can't lie to you - it was fun. And slowly - though not THAT slowly - but surely, these little branded pills took over my world. But pretty soon, that wasn't enough.

Having waited outside what looks like a typical Jesmond maisonette for three hours, my dealer gets home. I scarpers inside the house like a mouse, eager to get upstairs and stock up. My dealer's eyes are bloodshot - he's been riding a Valium high for three days and hasn't had time to sleep. He makes me up my little bags of pills and powders, and I throw money at him, desperate to get out. After all, I'm just a casual user, he's a junkie. I'm fine.

After a particularly heavy night (my friends and I had an unwritten challenge to see who could consume

the most different types of drugs at once), I came home and crashed on my bed. I then underwent what I presume was a near death experience, but may have just been a bad hallucination. I found myself looking down at my own corpse, which I confess was the most pathetic thing I had ever seen - my nostrils were covered with chemical burns, my skin was flaky and pale, my eyes were sunken in dark shadows. I came to, and vowed that this was the end of my habit. I lay there until 6am, wracked with kidney pains, too scared to go to sleep. Then I got up and got ready for work.

Of course, this wasn't the end of my habit. After a two week stint of sobriety, I found myself snorting a concoction of ketamine, coke and MDMA. And that feeling in my head, the feeling of invulnerability, the feeling that everything that was happening to me was perfect, the feeling that this moment was all that mattered, came back.

I won't bore you with the details of my reformation, but after another week of partying far too hard, I was facing the comedown from hell, and I realised that I was tired of pushing

the people who loved me away, tired of breaking down in tears when I realised I had run out of milk, tired of the person I was turning into.

Far too many addiction stories come from either pregnant thirteen year olds addicted to heroin or surly tattooed men from the Deep South who 'find God' when they get thrown in prison for possession.

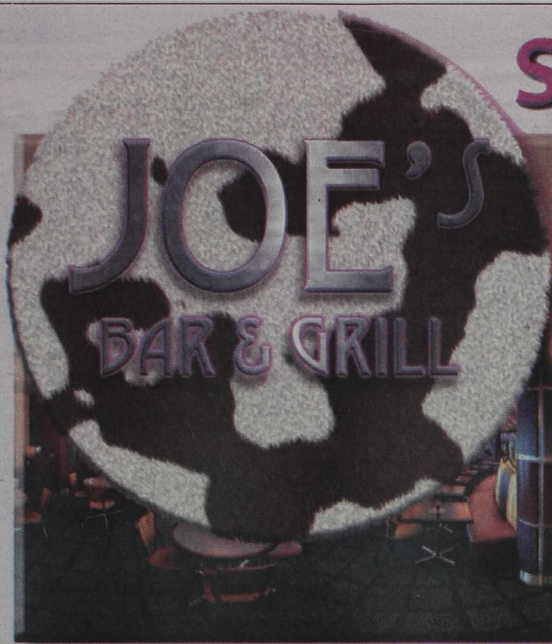
These are not the only people affected by addiction - shock horror, addiction also affects upper middle class public schoolboys just like me. I don't remember anyone ever telling me this.

I hope you'll forgive me for becoming the narrator of my own melodramatic sob story, but I am writing to tell you that I am just like you. Or I was some time ago. These days, I am a man intra - I'm not who I was, I'm not who I used to be and I'm not sure who I'm going to become. Maybe it's too late to save myself, but maybe this story can save you. You might think you can get away with taking stuff because you don't have an addictive personality - you're wrong, because as long as you're alive you'll be fighting the ongoing battle that we fight against addiction every day.



Photo: Mindaugas Miskinis

KICKING THE HABIT...the battle against addiction



Student Discount

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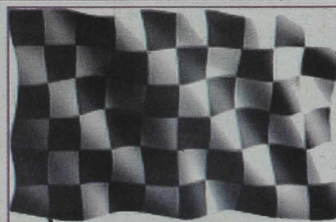
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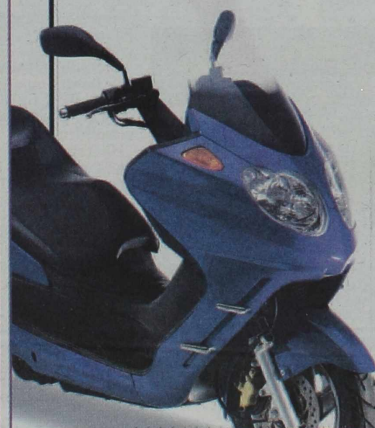


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What's love got to do with it?

With Valentine's Day looming, the nation is divided. February 14th: commercial crap or the perfect excuse for a romantic rendezvous?

■ SUZI BATCHELOR

Attached Girl

I MUST admit to being as sentimental and corny as many other woman about affairs of the heart, but even I can see through the hype that is Valentine's Day! You may feel that you should do the clichéd thing and go for a posh meal but why not be original and save a few quid.

My favourite way to spend Valentine's Day is to head somewhere you haven't been before and have a wander, (cuddling and kissing is optional but may add to the 'romance'). I would recommend a rendezvous on Tynemouth beach, whose rattling wind gives you another excuse to keep each other warm, a midnight picnic down on Jesmond Dene or where I spent mine in second year, the Metro Centre, packed with a wide range of food establishments for every palette. I do not see the attraction of being lined up in a restaurant like dominos, surrounded by an invisible pressure to hold hands and stare blissfully at one another before having to sell my kidney to pay half the bill.

Cards are another surplus expense, why not show how much you really care and create a masterpiece from scratch. I am no Picasso, but I assure you your loved one will be more

touched that you have tried (all be it with little success) to make a Valentine's Day greeting that is personal to them.

Valentine's Day is now all about money but never get sucked into the commercial dream that the amount of money you part with is proportional to how much you care about that person. This is ridiculous; love makes the world go round, not money. There is no better way to show someone you love them than by making them laugh, and Valentine's Day is just one of another 364 days when you should make that special someone smile.



Photo: Mindaugas Miskinis

AS A NEWLY single girl, strolling down Northumberland Street only a few days before the dreaded February 14th can only be described as a pretty nauseating experience. Romantic cards, giant teddy bears and enough chocolate to make even the self-confessed chocoholics amongst us want to throw up are just a small fraction of the fictitious, commercialized crap forced upon unsuspecting shoppers in the run up to Valentine's Day.

Shops attempt to exploit innocent men desperate to live up to idealistic expectations their girlfriends naturally expect of them. Single girls dream of the kinds of gifts they could receive had they only met the perfect man.

The reality is that Valentine's Day is a falsified vision of love; a day which makes men and women feel obligated to shower one another with lavish gifts in an attempt to prove their undying love for each other when in fact there are 364 other perfectly good days in the year for this to occur at a much cheaper price and with much more sincerity. Why let society and the media dictate to us when and how we should treat our loved ones? Why make us single girls feel alienated, worthless and incomplete without the materialistic affection of a man?

The whole beauty of love is its spontaneity and unpredictability. A girl can feel fulfilled on her own. At the end of the day what's better? Having a boyfriend who thinks buying you expensive flowers (recommended by the female retail assistant) as a false symbol of love will make up for his all round laziness, jealousy and usual lack of romantic gestures, or being a happily single girl, admittedly without chocolate or a soppy card, but perfectly happy on her own. Free. I know which one I'd prefer.

Single Girl

■ LUCY MARSDEN

■ CHRIS KAY

Attached Boy

SOME COUPLES are ethically principled and self-righteous enough to eschew the pink, red and chocolate shaped glut of the traditional Valentine's Day, holding firm that their love transcends the banality of the first post-Christmas commercial drive. Most couples are not. For the average male, like other national days dedicated to the ones you love, Valentine's Day is the calendared kick-up-the-arse most need to actually lavish some attention on their better half, with special rewards that Mother's and Father's day (depending on your family of course) can't provide, the beauty of romance induced sex.

The well-trodden male path to Valentine's success is to make sure you book a table early, once done half the job is in the bag. In Newcastle the obvious male fall-back plan comes from taking your better half somewhere within the polished palace of The Gate, preferably avoiding the greasy smothering of romance inevitable at Pizza Hut and Wokmania. Among males there is no darker Valentine induced pleasure than the smug warmth that comes from having booked a table early and hearing the naïve boasts of another coupled male who, on the day of the 13th, still believes that he will be able to book a table anywhere that

doesn't serve family buckets and fries.

In this manner Valentine's Day can be turned into a competition of rivalry and one-upmanship. The mechanical clogs of the male mind often reason that the more elaborate the romantic gesture the more our relationship is seen as a success. As such Valentine's Day is more of an exam, and like disagreeing with views of your lecturer, the safest bet is to stick to cliché rather than explore the dangerous grounds of originality.

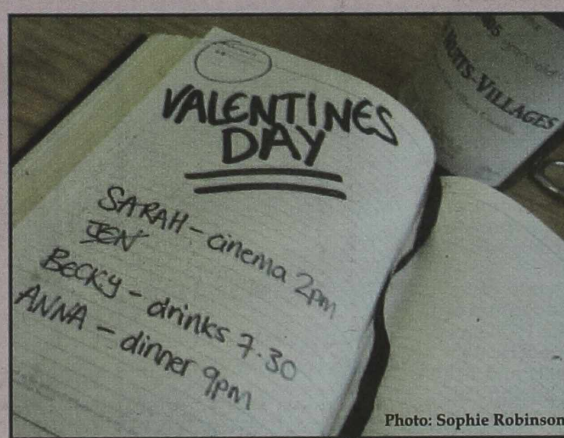


Photo: Sophie Robinson

OH SHIT. I just looked at my calendar and realised it's the 10th of February. Four days until the most dangerous day of the year. I'm casually seeing four girls, but have fought to remain technically single.

Valentine's Day could really upset this delicate balance. Are they all going to want presents? If I turn up to see them without a card am I going to get in trouble? Is it immoral to buy them all the same card? Too many questions. Jesus Christ! They're not expecting me to ask them out are they?! I can't take this pressure.

It must be so much easier for the emotionally stable

people in their happy little relationships - here's a card, here's some flowers, here's a necklace. Let's go have a nice meal somewhere, then back to mine for some pseudo-romantic sex with a few candles scattered about. Maybe if he's lucky he can bribe his flatmates to stop cheering through the walls.

My flatmate's single too, but he actually has morals, and objects to juggling girls. Lucky bastard doesn't know how easy he has it. Maybe I can break his legs and make the excuse that I have to look after him. Oh CHRIST, how am I supposed to see them all on the same day? I don't have that kind of stamina anymore. Maybe when I was sixteen, but I'm twenty now.

'Single' [that's still what my facebook status says.] on Valentine's Day...what a nightmare.

Single Boy

■ ERZA FIERCE

paris
is
burning

Pulp

no
country
for old
men

- Featuring*
- 1. kim
 - 2. cloverfield
 - 3. sweeny todd
 - 4. dizzee rascal
 - 5. light speed champion

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issue no. 1164
11th february 2008

ARTS

SOUTHERN COMFORT

In 2003 BRIAN SEWELL caused uproar amongst gallery-going Gateshead folk when he claimed that an exhibition to be held at the Baltic was of 'to much significance' for Tyneside and should instead be accessible to 'more sophisticated audiences' in London.

This, of course, is the north-south divide at its most potent, fuelling the notion that anything above the Watford Gap has been posited into part of an indefinable wilderness within which there is a social, cultural and intellectual vacuum.

I think it's accurate to state that in times gone by there were trends and temptations to focus the British Art Scene upon southern cultural centres, particularly London of course.

Our nation has in the past suffered from distinct divides in many senses, whether related to class, gender, race or otherwise.

Geographically there existed a similar story. To put it (far too) simply, the 'industrial North' was murky, grimy and industrial, whereas images of the Home Counties evoked leafy lanes, trimmed accents and mock-Tudor prosperity.

I find myself using the past tense here almost without thought, as I'm unconvinced that there can still exist such stigma or stereotypes in a modern age where all aspects of identities and boundaries are every single day fused and confused.

On one hand, however, a divide cannot be ignored, not least in terms of art.

Anyone with a vague interest in art will have heard of and probably visited the Tate Britain, but this is a space with outstanding potential which I more often than not am slightly disappointed with.

On entrance to the gallery, the Turbine Hall promises light, space and scale. In reality this never materialises and one is left fighting through the crowds in a

few cramped upstairs rooms to witness any part of the permanent exhibition.

I'm of the impression that art-lovers (and others) are beginning to realise a new Renaissance for the North. London is and will always remain a novelty and somewhere to experience, but it is tinted with an unattractive 'spacelessness' and screams of overuse.

The crucial decisions to hold last year's Turner Prize in Liverpool last year as well as the BP Portrait Awards in The Laing, reflect such a shift in thought, and indicates a more even 'spreading' of new and exciting art across the nation. It must be indicated, though, that in terms of galleries focusing on pre-twentieth century art there does exist more of a divide.

This is in line with the aforementioned traditional divisions in Britain between southern cultural centres and northern outposts. London is home to the National Gallery, Victoria and Albert Museum and so on, which are equalled in quality by superb venues like the Barber Institute in Birmingham, or our own Hatton Gallery, but do not have the same 'everyone's been there without fail' recognition.

I suppose I'm not adding anything to my argument by using these examples, as my general view is that new art will travel further as cultural centres in northern England gain the further recognition they deserve as part of an inevitable cultural evolution.

The North has opened up and is now fully recognised on a social, cultural and intellectual par with the South, however you might define these two ambiguous spheres.

Audiences are demanding art up North, and if current trends are anything to go by, then they will be treated to more of what can only be described as a new wave of artistic promise.

Luke McFarlane

EVERYONE LIKES BISCUITS

THE BISCUIT FACTORY is no ordinary gallery, not only can you buy the paintings but the art on show boasts an array of talent, from stunning oil paintings to playful children's drawings.

On a Sunday afternoon a friend and I wonder around this bustling gallery and it almost feels as if we have stepped into a tidied up artist's studio.

The original aim of the Biscuit Factory was to demonstrate the artistic talent of the North East, and it certainly does this in a dynamic way, but now it has gone beyond local talent and we see paintings of Venice and work from Uzbekistan.

The oil paintings by Noel Bensted are beautiful not only in style but also in the story that they tell, and the photographs by Lee Frost dramatically portray the Northumberland countryside.

If you are a fan of sculpture or ceramics you will find some real treasures, and you can even take home a piece of arty jewellery, but unfortunately at a price!

It seems that this versatile gallery provides traditional, abstract and eye-catching art. I am sure that anyone who visits will find something to their taste.

The Biscuit Factory also acts as a place for parties and a small music venue, and as I walk around the gallery I can hear the happy playing of a brass band.

So this gallery is bright, welcoming and the art is full of life.

Opening hours: Sunday and Monday 11 am-5pm, Tuesday- Saturday 10 am-8pm. Entrance is Free. Stoddart Street, Byker.

Amelia Bingham

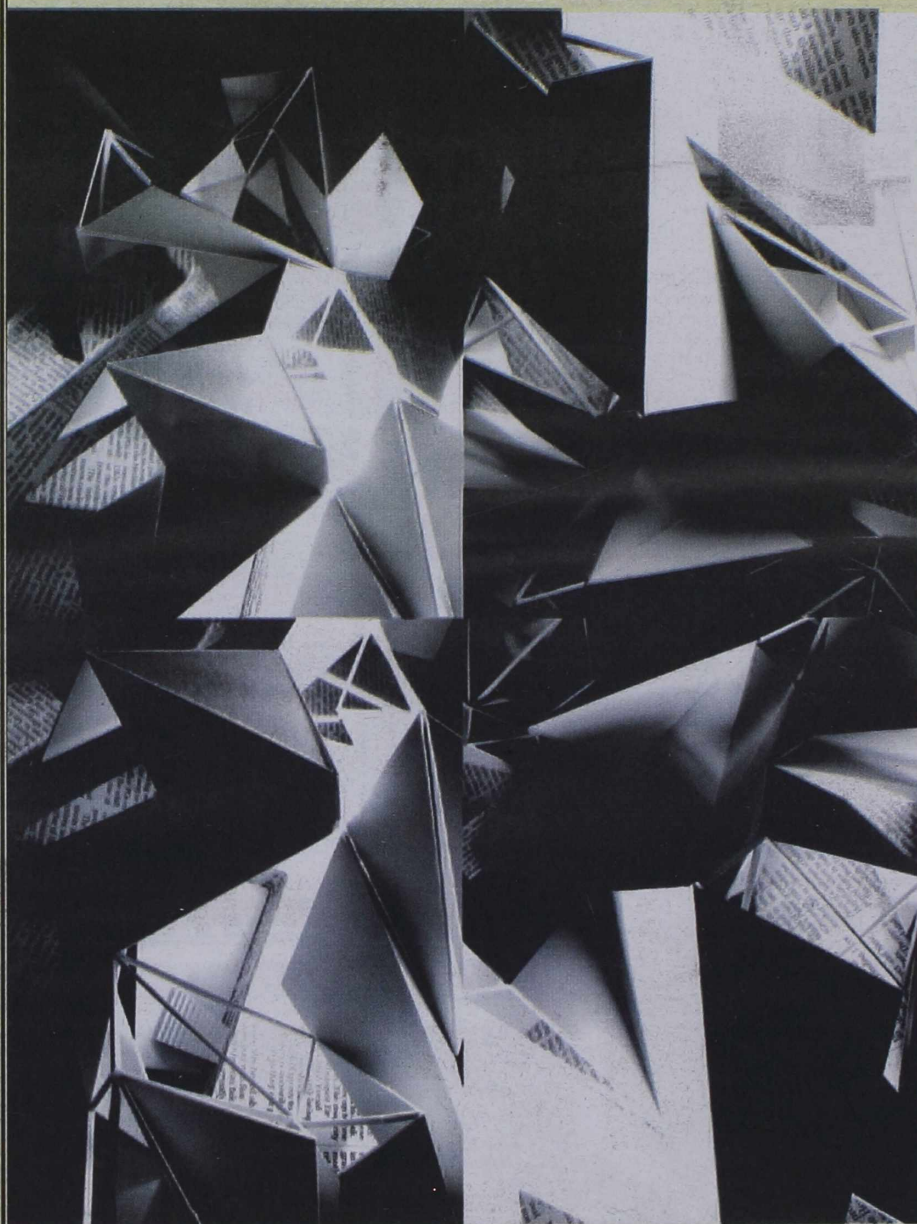
HAPPY VALENTINES!?

- This week there is a day that cannot be avoided
- - Valentine's Day. A day that is both anticipated and dreaded, however, mainly the latter.
- Often hated by singles not wanting to be reminded that another year has gone by without the said 'partner', but equally dreaded by many in a relationship - as to how to behave and to what lengths to go to in celebration.

Stuck on ideas? A hint for the boys here, a trip to the theatre or an art gallery will show you are in touch with your cultural side and is DIFFERENT - no thank you to chocolates, a trip to see Noughts & Crosses - yes please. (And I hope my boyfriend reads this...)

Holly Willats

SHOWCASE SPACE



THIS WEEK'S SHOWCASE: PHIL TURNER

Residential Design: Artists in Residence Project

MY MAIN OBJECTIVE was to create an environment that 'turns it's back' to the harsh industrial surroundings, forming a series of expressive and non-repetitive spaces to help nurture and progress creativity.

I wanted to create privacy without using walls, but instead by changing ground levels, and I wanted to encourage social activity not by allocating certain areas for communal use, but by providing passages that are centralised and interlinked, allowing for social connection via everyday routine.

Phil Turner

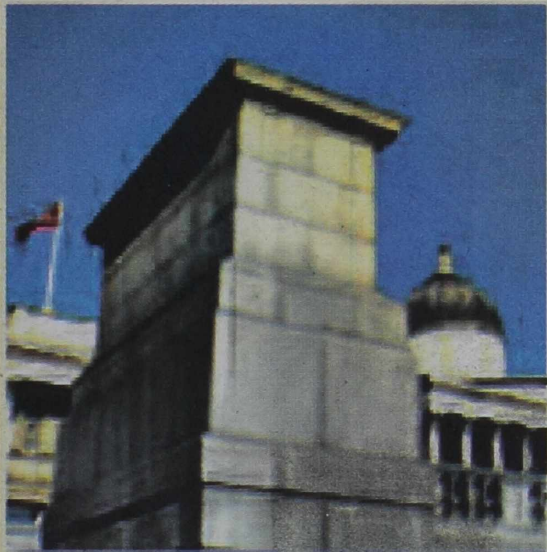
BATTLE OF THE PLINTH DO NOT MISS.....

FROM 1841-1999 The Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square was vacant and went under the nickname of 'empty plinth'.

Nowadays however it is a place where leading contemporary artists can install a piece of their work for up to two years.

Of course this is a very appealing prospect for most artists, so competition is fierce. This year there are six different artists all hoping that their work will be chosen to embellish the Fourth Plinth.

Their work is currently being exhibited up until 30th March at the National Gallery. The Mayor of London will announce the selected piece later in the year.



Jeremy Deller's installation, *The Spoils of War*, is the remnants of a car which was destroyed in an attack on civilians in Iraq, and aims to highlight to the public some of the consequences of war.

Something for the future is Tracy Emin's proposal for the Fourth Plinth and is a sculpture of meerkats.

Emin has had an interest in the behaviour of meerkats for some time as they tend to stick together in groups and demonstrate altruistic behaviour amongst one another. She hopes that the sculpture will highlight the need for unity and safety in modern civilisation.

Antony Gormley's *One and Other* is a truly unique concept.

Gormley is hoping to encourage members of the public to constantly occupy the plinth for an hour each, which will result in 8,760 people participating in the display over the year.

He hopes that in allowing human beings to occupy the space viewers will be alerted to the vulnerability of the individual in society.

A living thing occupying the space will also contrast to the statues that inhabit the other plinths in the square.

Anish Kapoor's *Sky Plinth* comprises five mirrors that reflect the sky from different angles, allowing us to see the sky being brought to the ground.

It promises to be an incredibly beautiful piece, as the sky will in some way be turned into an actual monument right before our eyes.

Nelson's *Ship in a Bottle* is Yinka Shonibare's piece, and is a replica of Nelson's ship, the HMS Victory, in a giant glass bottle.

Shonibare hopes that it will mirror how Nelson's victory of Cape Trafalgar in south west Spain led to multiculturalism becoming such a huge part of British life.

As Shonibare says himself, the work will celebrate 'the many cultures and ethnicities that are still breathing precious life into the sails of the UK.'

Bob and Roberta Smith's *Faites L'Art, pas La Guerre* (Make Art, Not War) is a structure that reads the title of the piece, 'Make Art, Not War'.

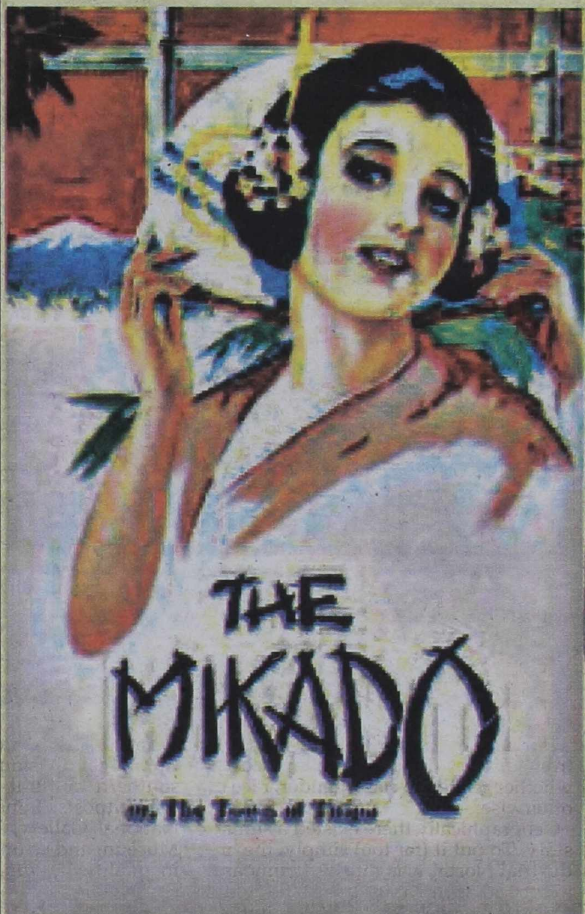
This message will stand in stark contrast against the military theme of Trafalgar Square, and the artists hope that it will change Trafalgar Square from a memorial of past military conquests to a symbol of hope for Britain's cultural and artistic future. The illuminated composition is also powered solely by the sun and wind, which addresses the current issue of the need to find renewable energy sources.

As you can see, it looks as though there is going to be tough competition to find the best installation for the Fourth Plinth.

The work of each artist is certainly worthy to be in the shortlist, but Gormley's *One and Other* really stood out for me as the idea of actual people occupying the plinth as opposed to statues is in my opinion a really original idea and would challenge the more traditional military theme of the square.

I also think that Kapoor's *Sky Plinth* is visually amazing, as its mirrors depict the skyscape as it changes continually throughout the day which is stunning in itself and furthermore it will seem as though you can reach the sky from the ground.

Joanna Sweeney



THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY TAKE THE STAGE

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY, one of the oldest societies in the union, are putting on the *Mikado* on the 14th, 15th and 16th February at the Royal Grammar School, next to Jesmond metro station.

Gilbert and Sullivan is not as well-known as it was when the society was founded, but their comic musicals are always crowd-pleasers.

The *Mikado* is a love story involving typical Gilbert and Sullivan silliness and lots of mistaken identity, set in Japan.

The cast and orchestra have been rehearsing since October and are looking forward to performing their first show of 2008.

Tickets cost £7, or £5 NUS and will be available on the door or from any member of the society.

We look forward to seeing you there.



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NOW ON SALE

HIGHLIGHTS include Ibsen's classic story of sacrifice and self-discovery, *A Doll's House*; English Touring Theatre's *Uncle Vanya*; Franz Kafka's eerie tale of transformation, *Metamorphosis*; and the delightfully mischievous family show *The Doubtful Guest*.

With 2 for 1 first nights in Stage 1 and a Money Back Guarantee in Stage 2, there's more to life at Northern Stage.

Log on to www.northernstage.co.uk for details of the full season.

Tickets and Information: 0191 230 5151
For more information and to book online visit:
www.northernstage.co.uk

LOVE IS A SMOKE MADE WITH

THE FUME OF SIGHS

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

VALENTINES



IT'S VALENTINES Day this week folks!! For many this is a cue to be completely cynical and bitter (like me), or, for those of you living in the land of 'lurve', an opportunity to show your partner how much you truly care...awwww.

Boys, do well and you will be rewarded generously. You know what I'm talking about. Girls, do well and there might be a plastic rose in it for you. What can

I say, life's not fair. Whatever your situation there's ample opportunity to partake in the entertainment put on especially to celebrate this momentous day. However, if you are dreading the public displays of sickly affection and prefer to ignore the existence of Valentine's Day completely then you'll be pleased to know there's other options available. For the fashion enthusiasts, there's a couple of notable events to jot in your diary. Alternatively if you want to be amazed by the UK's breakdance talent, the annual University championships takes place soon, and comes highly recommended by the Pulp crew. (Not that you give a crap what we think). If however you do find yourself miserable and alone this week just remember there is always someone out there worse off than yourself. I for instance have to deal with the fact the only thing I'll be getting this Thursday is a card from my Dad (who will consequently deny he sent it), a heart shaped biscuit from my mum and a nine o'clock lecture. Ahhh...life is sweet.

Emily ents

ARE YOU A LOVER OR A HATER???

FEBRUARY 14TH @ WHQ

World Headquarters are putting on an all encompassing Valentines event. Never one to discriminate, the clubs owner has decided to put on two events, one downstairs and one upstairs.

Downstairs will cater for the needs of those who are strictly anti-Valentines and attendees are promised an energising Indie rave, guaranteed to get your heart racing. Your night will be saturated with Indie clas-

sics and cheap drinks, and all those love woes will be instantly forgotten! Alternatively, upstairs is aimed at those who believe 'love is fab', and the tunes up there promise not to stray away from all things loving throughout the entire evening. That means copious amounts of Barry White, warbling women and seductive old smoothies. So, if you have just been dumped for your best mate, it's probably advisable not to get the two confused.

Entry fee: £4 girls free before 11.30pm!



GET LOVED UP

ALRIGHT SO it's fairly predictable but most of you will be romancing your loved one this Valentines Day, and bearing in mind we are poor students, are probably are not totally familiar with the numerous gems Newcastle has to offer. Or maybe you just prefer to spend your money on booze. Either way we have compiled a list of recommendations, to ensure your evening unfolds perfectly. Booking is, of course, advised with the restaurants as you will probably not be the only ones looking to impress this Thursday.



RESTAURANTS:

- >>Blackfriars Restaurant - Newcastle City Centre ££££
- >>The Fishermans Lodge - Jesmond Dene ££££
- >>La Gabbia - Sandyford ££ - bring your own booze!!
- >>Marco Polo - Newcastle City Centre £££
- >>Tiger Tiger - The Gate >> special menu £40 per couple!
- >>As You Like It - Jesmond £££

COCKTAIL BARS:

- >>Apartment - Central Station
- >>Tup Tup Palace - Central Station
- >>Revolution - Central Station
- >>Tokyo - Central Station
- >>Popolos - Newcastle City Centre

LAID BACK BARS AND PUBS:

- >>Mr Lynch - Jesmond
- >>The Forth - Central Station
- >>The Cluny - Ouseburn

UNIBREAKING!



FOR THE sixth consecutive year, Newcastle University Student's Union will be hosting the Official UK University Break Dance Championships on Saturday 16th February.

Featuring crews from Surrey, Plymouth, Reading, London, Glasgow, Coventry and Leeds universities among others, this event hopes to further the reputation of the event and showcase some of the talent that is very much alive in what is becoming one of the fastest growing subversive markets in the UK.

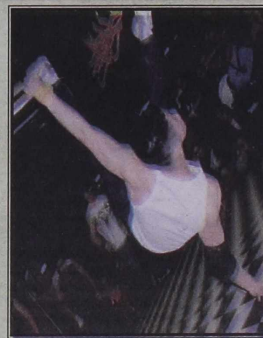
Last year eight man crew finalists from Newcastle and Edinburgh battled it out with Edinburgh eventually emerging supreme on the floor. Also featuring artists such as Blak Twang, Format and Abdominal, as well as masses of new talent from across the north-east and the south, this is also an opportunity to showcase the latest

in hip-hop music. The organisers claim their ultimate aim is to establish a highly regarded, well attended, annual event that is proof positive of the vibrancy of hip hop culture, student life, but most of all, the skill involved in bboying. The Live acts are not the main attraction of the show, but rather bolster the solid reputation for the level of dancing witnessed at the Uni-champs that is sure to set a new precedent once again this year.

This is likely to be a sell-out event, so book tickets early, (available at the Union).

Sophie Robson

www.unibreaking.co.uk



LOCATION: NEWCASTLE UNION

DAYTIME EVENTS: 10.30-4.30PM - TICKETS £2

NIGHT TIME EVENTS: 8.00PM - LATE - TICKETS £8 ADVANCE/£10 ON THE DOOR

CALLING ALL BUDDING DESIGNERS!



FINALLY A CHANCE TO SHOWCASE YOUR TALENT.....

FANCY YOURSELF as the next Lagerfeld, Marc Jacobs or Vivienne Westwood? Fifth, a new fashion store opening in the cultural oasis of the Ouseburn Valley, is looking for new local talent in order to sell and showcase their items.

Elizabeth Okaroh, who is behind the project, said: 'Our aim is to support talented designers and artists, hopefully to retain all the talent we can, here in the North East.'

Elizabeth, a local fashion designer and model, has teamed up with friends Nina McDonnall and Luke Kane to promote stu-

dents, postgraduates and undiscovered talent via previews, shows and original events.

Ouseburn Valley is the hub of the creative and arts industry in Newcastle, famed for its arts and music scene and even boasting its own festival. It is therefore the perfect setting for Fifth, which opens in March 2008 on Lime Street.

Alex Siggers

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE THAT SPECIAL SOMETHING THAT NINA AND ELIZABETH ARE LOOKING FOR, SUBMIT A SAMPLE PIECE OF YOUR COLLECTION WORK WITH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR INDIVIDUAL STYLE TO INFO@FIFTHAT55.COM.



CHARITY FASHION EVENT @ BOX NIGHTCLUB IN AID OF MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE

THIS FASHION show promises to be a truly worthy event, complete with dazzling outfits, a touch of bubbly and a five hundred strong audience.

The evening will commence with cocktails and a cava reception for the first 150 guests. Following this, the audience will then be treated to a spectacular opening ceremony.

The venue, Box, which has recently been newly renovated, will be lavishly deco-

rated especially for the evening, contributing to the events glamorous mood. Special Drinks Offers are available, and the event will continue into the late hours of the night. All proceeds are going to Marie Curie Cancer Charity, so all in all it's a fantastic opportunity for you to make a difference whilst thoroughly enjoying yourself! Get there early to avoid disappointment.



'SPRING FEVER' FASHION SHOW

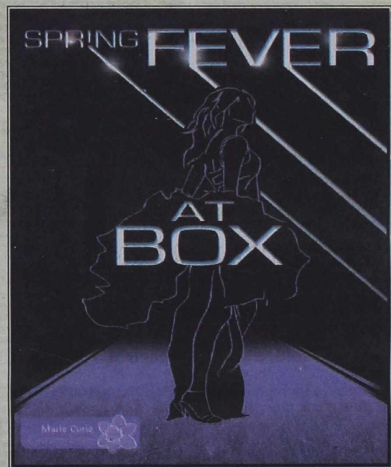
>>Date: 3rd March 2008

>>Location: Box Nightclub

>>Doors Open: 8pm

>>Show time: 9-11pm

>>Price of ticket: £4



READER REVIEWS



UNION ENT'S BOB MARLEY'S EARTHDAY CELEBRATION SATURDAY 2ND FEB@ NEWCASTLE UNION

ment an awesome 3-hour set of live reggae, ska and funk spanned the evening. The set was interspersed with Marley greats - Redemption Song sticks in the mind - and was made all the more striking by the face of the man himself projected, beaming, from behind the band.

A great night appeared to be had by all, whether dancing up a storm in the dancehall-for-a-night green room, swaying contentedly around the basement or spending a small fortune at the Rasta Fairy stall. Even better, the event helped keep the legend and legacy of Marley alive whilst raising money for a fantastic cause as all proceeds will be heading to the Alpha Boys School, Jamaica.

Rachael Atkinson

LAST SATURDAY was a world away from a usual Union night. Yeah there was music, yeah there was alcohol, but everything was tinted red, green and gold, we drank rum instead of skittles and it was all about Bob.

The atmosphere was tranquil, perhaps to some extent due to the slightly sparse attendance and the fact the event was spread across four rooms; yet perfectly mirrored the peaceful ethos of the evening. In the base-



CHARLOTTE HANGER INDULGES IN SOME STAR SPOTTING!

SPICING IT UP

OVER THE Christmas holidays I was fortunate enough to see the Spice Girls in concert at the O2 Arena in Greenwich.

Although they kept us waiting for an hour, in my mind this was compromised by a certain celebrity's appearance. Whilst waiting, I spotted a white-suited perma-tanned figure with bright blonde hair. It was David Beckham (in the flesh!), accompanied by his children! I joined in the audience's wild cheers and started happy snapping.

Finally, the Spice Girls walked onto the stage, and began the evening with one of their number one hits, 'Stop'. There wasn't a seated bottom in the arena as, en masse, everyone started

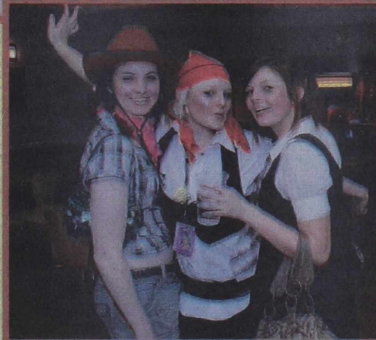
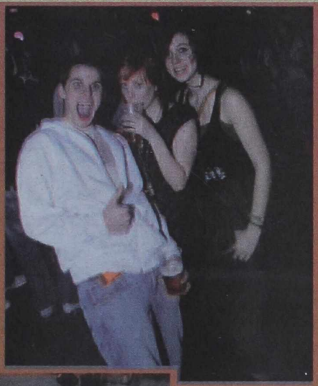
dancing and singing along to them. They then belted out a couple of old favourites, and also performed individual songs from their solo albums, except for Posh Spice, who instead, pranced down it pretending to be a supermodel! The group finished the concert with their infamous 'Wannabe' song, and a smattering of glitter floated onto the audience. The atmosphere was incredible and it was one of those truly epic and unforgettable moments that I just knew I would never forget.

Charlotte Hanger

ARE YOU THINKING OF PUTTING ON A NIGHT AND NEED TO SPREAD THE WORD?? OR DO YOU WANT TO GET A RESTAURANT REVIEW PUBLISHED?? PERHAPS YOU JUST WANT TO A SHARE A RECOMMENDATION WITH THE ENTIRE NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY STUDENT POPULATION! WHATEVER YOUR DESIRES, PULP ENT'S WANTS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. IF YOU THINK YOU CAN HELP US...OR THINK WE CAN HELP YOU THEN EMAIL PULPENTS@NCLAC.UK NOW!

SOLUTION

If you're lucky enough to be circled, you and a friend have won guestlist places for this week's Solution. Pop into The Courier office (opposite Cochrane Lounge) with your smartcard to claim your prize by 10am on Friday (ask for Gemma).



All Photos: Peter Dixon

HUGE PRIZE TAKEAWAY WALKERS
FIRE MAGIC STILT WALKERS
BRAND NEW MUSIC LINE-UP
LIVE DANCE VIDEO FEEDS

NEWCASTLE'S BIGGEST STUDENT FRIDAY NIGHT

ALL NEW! SOLUTION

PUZZLES

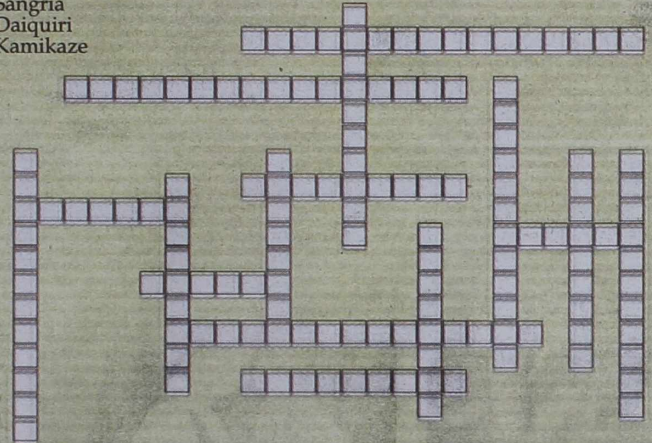
KRISS KROSS

Fit these cocktails in the list into their correct positions in the grid.

- Mai Tai
- Zombie
- Sangria
- Daiquiri
- Kamikaze

- Bucks Fizz
- Manhattan
- Margarita
- Sea Breeze
- Pina Colada
- Screwdriver
- Cosmopolitan

- Havana Zombie
- Tequila Cocktail
- Harvey Wallbanger
- Long Island Ice Tea



LESSONS IN LOVE

Compiled by Puzzles Master Megan Darby

There's no getting away from it: Valentine's Day is a time when thoughts of love and romance are thrust upon all of us. But which of these famous thinkers is responsible for each of these nuggets of wit and wisdom on the topic?

- A William Shakespeare, poet and playwright, 1564-1616
- B Mae West, U.S. actress and comedian, 1892-1980
- C Germaine Greer, writer and academic, 1939-
- D Oscar Wilde, Irish poet, playwright and wit, 1854-1900
- E Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, French writer and aviator, 1900-44
- F Dorothy Parker, U.S. writer and wit, 1893-1967

joys, blinding and masking the essential personalities in the frozen gestures of courtship.

- 3 Love is like quicksilver in the hand. Leave the fingers open, and it stays. Clutch it, and it darts away.
- 4 Love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking together in the same direction
- 5 When my love swears that she is made of truth, I do believe her, though I know she lies.
- 6 Love conquers all things except poverty and toothache.



1 To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance.
 2 Love, love, love - all the wretched cant of it, masking egotism, lust, masochism, fantasy under a mythology of sentimental postures, a welter of self-induced miseries and

Answers: A5, B6, C2, D1, E4, F3

COURIER CROSSWORD

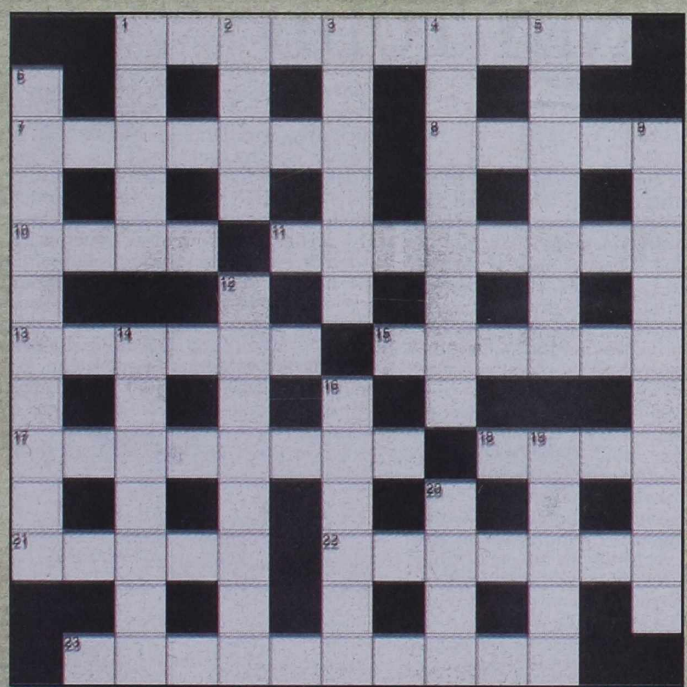
The first person to drop their completed crossword into The Courier office (opposite Cochrane Lounge) will win guestlist for themselves plus a guest to this week's Solution! Crossword compiled by Katya Chatterjee.

Across

- 1 Classic romance film from the 1940's (10)
- 7 Pertaining to marriage (7)

- 8 Tracks made for walking (5)
- 10 Opera by Giuseppe Verdi (4)
- 11 To sing or play music to - traditionally from under a window (8)
- 13 An ideal world (6)

- 15 If "Roses are red" then this flower is "blue" (6)
- 17 Skilled (8)
- 18 "How do I love ___? Let me count the ways" (4)
- 21 Activity requiring two partners e.g. Tango, Waltz (5)
- 22 An individual who secretly appreciates someone from a distance (7)
- 23 In utter confusion or disorder (5,5)



Down

- 1 Roman god of love and sex (5)
- 2 Vessel, such as the Titanic (4)
- 3 ___ for my Valentine: popular rock band (6)
- 4 Sweet baked fruit dish (5,3)
- 5 Shrill whistle or shout expressing disapproval (7)
- 6 Besotted with someone or something (10)
- 9 A term of endearment (10)
- 12 Women who are engaged to be married (8)
- 14 ___ Bloom: romantic lead in Pirates of the Caribbean (7)
- 16 Individual who pays rent (6)
- 19 When ___ Met Sally: title of a popular romantic comedy (5)
- 20 Spanish word for love (4)

Last Week's Answers: Across 1 Constellation 8 Tsar 9 Visitors 10 Kryptonite 12 Fences 14 Gossip 15 Architects 19 Comedian 20 Ogre 21 Thousand ships Down 2 Observer 3 Syrup 4 Envious 5 Lassi 6 Tatters 7 Oars 11 Gift-wrap 13 Chateau 14 Grinned 16 China 17 Epoch 18 Posh

MAGIC NUMBERS

- 12 D of C = 12 days of Christmas. Can you work out the following? By Megan Darby
- 57 HV
- 21 S on a D
- 13 H in a P of C
- 1 is the AN of H
- 4 H of the A
- 42 is the A to L, the U and E
- 12 I to a F

- 1984 is a N by GO
- 147 is the MB in S
- 10 PB
- 2001 ASO

QUIZ CORNER

This week every answer in the quiz includes a colour. For example, if the question was "What is the name of the band which wrote and performed "Smoke on the Water"?" then the answer would be... "Deep Purple" as "Purple" is a colour. Good Luck!

- 1) What was the nickname given to the 1900's election in which in which the Conservative Party government of Lord Salisbury was returned to office with an increased majority over the Liberal Party?
- 2) Which two piece Detroit band released the album "Elephant" and "White Blood Cells"?
- 3) Which 1987 off-Broadway play, made into a movie in 1989, features Julia Roberts as Shelby Eatenton Latcherie?
- 4) Which of the British political parties was formed in Coventry during 1973 as "People"?

- 5) Which suspension bridge spans the opening of the San Francisco Bay onto the Pacific Ocean?
- 6) Which South London celebrity worked as a dental nurse before she became a contestant in the third series of the UK version of Big Brother?
- 7) Which 1999 film stars Hugh Grant stars as lawyer Michael Felgate, an English auctioneer living in New York City who becomes entangled in his soon-to-be father in-law's mafia connections?
- 8) In CS Lewis books, what is the fourth book in the "Chronicles of Narnia"?
- 9) In the game Cludeo, what is the name of the owner of the house?
- 10) Which American rapper released the singles "Kiss Kiss" and "Run it"?

Answers: 1) Khaki Election 2) Steel Stripes 3) Mickey Blue Eyes 4) The Silver Chair 5) The Green Party 6) The Golden Gate Bridge 7) Jade Goody 8) Jade Goody 9) Dr Black 10) Chris Brown

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Just another day at the office for a high performer.

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POP CORN FILM



VALENTINE'S DAY eh? Nice to get flowers, send a card, have a kiss. But let me ask you this: who invented the day? Eh?

Certainly not ole' Valentine himself, sitting all cross legged and raven-haired beneath an old oak tree, playing the lute with one hand and dropping a grape in his lovers gob with the other: 'This will be my day, Geraldine, for I am Valentine: saint of love, patron of shaggin'...

No, it'll have been the categorical opposite of romance: some tiny-eyed, wheezing fat man in a suit, up all night neglecting his wife, trying to think of the latest money spinner to appease his bosses at the card factory, so he can get back to his golf swing and his farm porn.

Nice to eat a box a chocolates, with white ones n everything... but what kinda films do they release for the sticky-pawed adolescents to shuffle awkwardly into at this time of year, eh? Not good 'uns, that's for sure. They'll only be gobbling each other in the back row, ignoring the action on screen, fumbling for genitalia, walking out red-faced n bandy-legged like Clint Eastwood when the lights come up - give 'em PS - *I Love You*, they'll never notice...!

Romance should occur arbitrarily in life, like a rainbow or a sunbeam yawning through a window, or one of them bits when you share a silent joke with a stranger, not a on a set day of the year, every year...

Valentine's Day. Nice to ignore it, write mardy gobshite about it, wish it away...

Been even nicer to have a date, though. Sam.

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN

DIRECTED BY: THE COEN BROTHERS
STARRING: TOMMY LEE JONES, JAVIER BARDEM

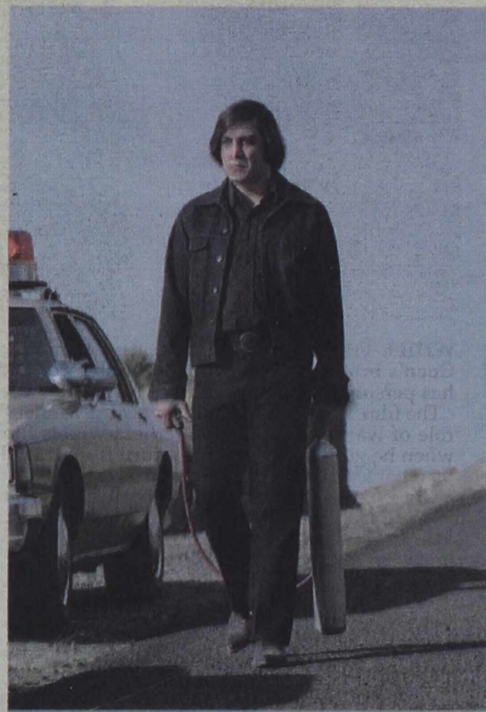
JOEL AND Ethan Coen's latest begins on the Texas/Mexico border, where Llewelyn Moss (Josh Brolin) comes across the aftermath of a Mexican drug-deal gone awry.

Without thinking, he pockets the two-million dollars left up for grabs, and returns home to his wife. Unfortunately for almost everyone, he is then pursued both by the local sheriff (Tommy Lee Jones) and Anton Chigurh (a star-making turn by Javier Bardem), an invincible mop-topped psychopath who slaughters nearly every character he comes into contact with.

The traditional Coen Brothers humour is still here, but it's buried beneath a desensitising amount of brutal violence. This is possibly their best film, yet it relies so heavily on Cormac McCarthy's novel that it is hard to tell who deserves the most credit.

For a Western, the bloodshed is surprisingly arbitrary and reliant on chance. People find themselves strangled, hit by cars, or more often than not killed by Chigurh's trusty bolt-gun, regardless of whether they are good or evil. The result is a thriller which will keep you guessing until the end. Helped by a unanimously brilliant cast, *No Country For Old Men* is a haunting return to form for the Coen Brothers.

Benjamin Woodward



TYNARINO Cinema

SURVEY

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

1. LOVE ACTUALLY
2. DIRTY DANCING
3. WHEN HARRY MET SALLY
4. 10 THINGS I HATE ABOUT YOU
5. ALONG CAME POLLY



CLOVERFIELD

DIRECTED BY: TODD HAYNES
STARRING: CATE BLANCHETT, RICHARD GERE, CHRISTIAN BALE, HEATH LEDGER, JULIANNE MOORE

EVER SINCE that fateful day I went to see the *Matrix Reloaded*, I've learnt not to let myself get too caught up in the hype about any film, as it only ends in disappointment.

However, when I saw the trailer for *Cloverfield* I couldn't help but get a little bit excited. Thankfully, *Cloverfield* not only lives up to the hype, it exceeds it.

Director Matt Reeves takes a relatively simple, unfussy plot (something is attacking New York and nobody knows why) and turns it into a genuinely frightening and gripping film. Once the action starts it doesn't dwindle: where some thrillers can drag or dwell in parts, *Cloverfield* is relentless, not allowing its audience to drift off for a second.

This isn't to say that it doesn't allow for character development: the great thing

about this film is that you actually care about the main characters, willing them on to escape the myserious 'thing' that is ripping New York to pieces. The fact that it is all filmed using a hand held camera gives the film an added realism making the situation and characters much more believable and, therefore, the film all the more terrifying. Importantly, for a 'disaster' movie, the special effects are definitely up to scratch, with a headless statue of liberty no doubt due to remain an iconic film image for years to come.

Matt Reeves has achieved a remarkable thing, making a film with a relatively unknown cast, experimental use of camera and a simple plot that is both absorbing and breathtaking for every one of its 85 minutes. You'll need a cup of tea and a nice lie down once the credits roll.

Alison Humphries



EMPIRE

SWEENEY TODD

DIRECTED BY: TIM BURTON
STARRING: JOHNNY DEPP, HELEN BONHAM-CARTER

EVER A stickler for the Gothic, Tim Burton succeeds where many would fail in translating this Victorian gore fest - slash musical - to the silver screen.

'There once was a barber and he had a wife and she was beautiful'... This is pretty much the sentiment the plot pivots around, as Todd, (Depp), loses said wife and his daughter to the villainous Judge Turpin, beautifully 'hammered' up by the ever hammy Rickman.

Seeking revenge, Todd enlists the help of the calculating Mrs Lovett (Bonham-Carter), culinary mastermind to the 'worst pies in London.' Together the gruesome pair cook up a recipe which conveniently sorts out both the troublesome homicidal streak Todd develops and the dwindling business of Mrs Lovett, resulting in lip smacking pies. Two birds, one stone you might say.

The film stays true to its musical origin, and although it takes a while to get used to Johnny Depp bursting into song, the sombre composition of Broadway composer

Stephen Sondheim and Burton's grimy depiction of London work perfectly together. Deliciously dark and gruesome, the film certainly doesn't hold back on the gore, yet despite Todd's slash-happy antics, one retains empathy with the main character. Brilliantly portrayed by Depp who, like Edward Scissor Hands, retains the emotional burden of Todd's past throughout the film.

It's not all doom and gloom though. There's a vein of romance between Todd's apprentice and his daughter, and a much needed glimpse of colour from Sacha Baron Cohen as the hilarious Spanish con man, Pirelli. However, the usual gothic genius of Burton occasionally descends into the downright depressing. This is a film which cuts to the point and goes straight for the jugular.

Frances Kroon



EMPIRE



IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH

DIRECTED BY: PAUL HAGGIS
STARRING: TOMMY LEE JONES, CHARLIZE THERON, SUSAN SARANDON



WHILE THE Tommy Lee Jones film gaining most interest at present is the Coen's brothers overrated *No Country For Old Men*, the one for which he has personally been recognised is *In The Valley of Elah*.

The film, directed by academy award winner Paul Haggis, puts Jones in the role of war veteran Hank Deerfield who is forced to go looking for his son when he goes AWOL on his return from Iraq. The film is turned on its head by what Deerfield discovers, and he is soon forced to question his belief in the army and the effect of the war on American soldiers.

While *Elah* follows the pattern of many of the Iraq themed films from last year, it does so in a much less preachy way, and by sticking with the story of just one man the film allows the audience to connect much more with the story.

Jones is superb in the film; his portrayal of a man slowly losing his faith in the service he gave his life to is unsettlingly believable and if were not for Daniel Day-Lewis in *Theirs Will Be Blood*, I'd say he was a shoo-in for the best actor Oscar.

The film also stars Charlize Theron and Susan Sarandon in what are fairly basic roles but the film is essentially a one man show and proof that Jones is one of the best actors around today.

Whilst the final scene of the film does push its message too far; the symbolism being just a fraction less subtle than a sledgehammer to the head; the film is as good as if not a better than Haggis's last film and by far better than any of the Iraq films released last year.

Pete Duggan

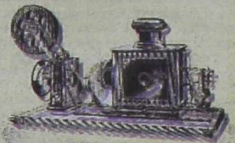


EMPIRE



MUST SEE MOVIE

THIS WEEK: A LIFE LESS ORDINARY



IT MIGHT not be one of Danny Boyle's most celebrated films, but *A Life Less Ordinary* is definitely worth watching. Starring Ewan McGregor and Cameron Diaz, it is a story about love. And kidnapping. And angels. And dreams about game shows.

To be honest, I'm not a hundred percent sure what it's about other than love, but what I do know is it's a very funny, sweet film - a romantic comedy in the best sense of the phrase. The same stylish cinematography evident in some of Boyle's other films (e.g. *28 Days Later*) is used beautifully here as well, and the 90's soundtrack will take you right back to being...however old you were ten years ago.

Diaz and McGregor play off each other surprisingly well as the mismatched couple - he is a cleaner who has just been fired and replaced with a robot, she is the rich, spoiled daughter of the head of his former employers, whom he kidnaps. So far, so boring, but a couple of angels have been sent down to Earth to make them fall in love. It sounds like nonsense, but somehow Boyle managed to avoid complete inanity and direct a movie I'm prepared to watch over and over, and would recommend to anyone who likes their films light, entertaining, but above all original.

Clare Baldwin



CLASSIC SCENE

#2 NOTTING HILL BY KATIE WITCOMBE

LOVE IT or hate it, *Notting Hill* is the rom-com that established Hugh Grant as the world's favourite floppy-haired leading man (arguably something that not everyone wants to thank Richard Curtis for).



Proving that the course of true love never did run smooth, the film's will-they-won't-they plot culminates in one of the most romantic, and undeniably cheesy, moments in cinema history: a press conference. Ahem.

Who can forget the stereotypically hard-nosed hacks, the gaggle of "adorably eccentric" friends or Hugh Grant's hideous pink shirt? Despite the questionable style of the film and the downright improbability of the situation, even the most hardened cynic cannot deny feeling teary when Will admits that he's been "...a daft prick" (who says that romance is dead?) and begs Anna to reconsider her decision to leave London for America.

It might just be the down to the fantasy many of us have had about declaring our love for another to the world, but the word "indefinitely" - Anna's response to a journalist's question about how long she'll be staying in London following Will's declaration - will forever more be imbued with a sense of tear-jerking romance and sentimentality. Classic.



HEATH LEDGER

1979-2008

IT WAS news that has rocked the film community to its core: actor Heath Ledger died on 22nd January, 2008.

Ledger was a rarity in Hollywood, a household name who somehow managed to achieve this status by letting his performances, rather than party antics or political beliefs, speak for themselves.

Since his death, I have asked numerous people what they will remember Ledger for. Many said Patrick Verona, his character in 1999's *10 Things I Hate About You*, made when Ledger was only nineteen. It was unusual for a teen movie to star an actor who was actually a teen; and his swagger and charisma in this film illustrated a maturity that hinted Ledger was destined to soar out of the teen genre, with which so many actors start and finish, and onto more diverse roles.

The following year Ledger filled on this early promise, starring as Mel Gibson's eldest son in *The Patriot*. But it was 2001 that really made Ledger a force to be reckoned with, starring in both *A Knight's Tale* and *Monster's Ball*, two films that categorically could not be more different. Once again, Ledger triumphed in both. In *Monster's* he was heartbreaking as the suicidal son of racist Billy Bob Thornton, cementing his skill at handling dramatic roles and in *Knight's* managed the impossible task of making himself both the man every girl wanted and the man every guy wanted to be. Ledger was paid \$3 million for *A Knight's Tale* and clearly could have dominated the heartthrob market, but instead took a salary of just shy of \$50,000 to make *Ned Kelly*, an art-house film based on an iconic outlaw from Ledger's native Australia. While the film was less than successful, Ledger continued to rise in Hollywood and in 2005 he made no less than four films.

Each role demonstrated Ledger's range, from the stoner surfer in *Lords of Dogtown* to the dashing titular hero in *Casanova*, but it was his Oscar nominated role in *Broke-*

back Mountain that the majority of people I asked gave as their definitive Ledger film. His portrayal as Ennis Del Mar was an exercise in internalised emotion, a character experiencing forbidden and potentially fatal desires in 1960s America.

Ledger's death itself has been surrounded in controversy. Earlier this month, two American television shows acquired footage of Ledger talking about drugs at a Hollywood party two years ago. The man he is talking to is seen snorting a substance, thought to be cocaine, off of a table, while Ledger talks about how he used to smoke five joints of marijuana a day. The networks responsible advertised that they intended to show the footage the following night, but were met with massive backlash from the Hollywood community, including Tom Cruise, Natalie Portman and Ledger's own public relations company. They subsequently decided to cancel the exposé.

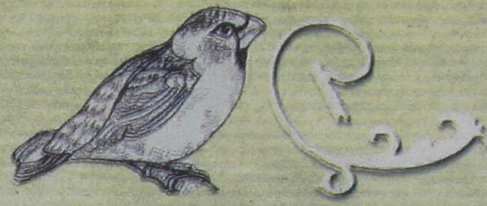
Perhaps the role I will always remember Heath Ledger for is playing heroin addict Dan in the film *Candy*, lending this story an extra level of tragedy whether or not his death was drug-related. His last role was as The Joker in the next Batman film *The Dark Knight*, and early footage has already suggested something truly stunning from Ledger's work on this film. Hopefully it will be a fitting epitaph for one of Hollywood's greats who died before he truly got to enchant filmgoers for years to come.

In one of Ledger's last interviews, he said: "I'm not good at future planning. I don't plan at all. I don't know what I'm doing tomorrow. I don't have a day planner and I don't have a diary. I completely live in the now, not in the past, not in the future."

Alex Howes



MUSIC



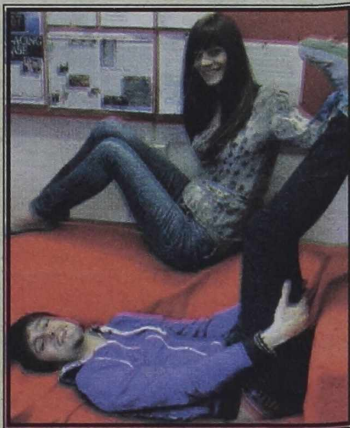
MY BLOODY VALENTINE

THERE are so many great gigs this week we hardly know where to start. Apart from the four luscious nights we managed to fit in below, and the five best gigs we thought we best mention, there is also Beatnicks Boogaloo Jazz night on Friday night at the Black Swan; Inertia at WHQ on Tuesday, and of course Valentine's Day! Over the page Roz gives us a seriously vital lecture on minimal, homework attached :) We also finish with a brand new feature this week: Gemma gives us her summary of releases in the sparkly, sickly world of Cheese. Yes, Cheese with a capital C.

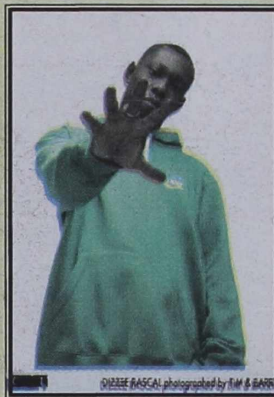
Also this week we have a brand new golden compilation from Kitsune, a dandy clubnight in the shape of Paris Is Burning and Daft Punk release a live album just to remind you what you missed!

Ruthy and Jim

pulp.music@ncl.ac.uk



TOP FIVE THIS WEEK



- 1) Dizzee Rascal @ Carling Academy, Saturday 16th February
The Uber-Lord of grime returns...
- 2) Paramore @ Carling Academy, Tuesday 12th February
'Somewhere between screaming emo and perfect pop' - Gemma Askey
- 3) Music Junkie @ The Cluny, Friday 15th February
The Ballarats, Left at Montreal and Downfall of Paris at the Cluny
- 4) Los Campesinos! @ Northumbria Uni., Saturday 16th February
- 5) Dillinger Escape Plan @ Carling Academy, Wednesday 13th February

PREVIEWS

PARIS IS BURNING

NEW MONTHLY ELECTRO-RUMBLE WITH SOME OF THE YEAR'S BIGGEST UP-AND-COMING DJs

IT SEEMS that every man and his dog is setting up an electro night in Newcastle at the moment. Wherever you look there's lanky students handing out the same generic flyers all spewing 'electro/breaks/tech' and a list of acts that make people wet in the crotch. But all lacking any sort of independent spirit, or crucially, a strong DJ booking to really lift the night above the rest. So it's a welcome sight to see Paris Is Burning launch this month and put the others to shame by actually doing something a leeeetle bit different and hitting Newcastle's newest underground venue, The Northumberland Arms, for an unmissable launch night with Brighton's hottest upstart L-Vis 1990 headlining. After spearheading the 'bass' revolution in Brighton, L-Vis will be knocking jaws to the floor with his huge wonk and bassline-house sets. Confused? Think Crookers, Duke Dumont, Alter Ego, Switch, Boy 8-bit and lots of wobbly bassline all over the place! In support will be Paris Is Burning and Eatdisco resident DJs, who've been carving their name heavily into the local scene with their underground parties at Moot. With their European Animal visuals accompanying their electrifying sets, Eatdisco bring the party wherever they go, spinning fuzzy German tech, glitchy alt disco, setting the benchmark high for those that follow!

Paris is Burning residents will be looking to burn their own trademark sets into the mind of dance-floor dwellers, and none will be disappointed upon hearing the relentless barrage of filthy electro that they unleash. Calling up D.I.M, Toxic Avenger, Para One, Yusek and Herve along with better known names such as Sebastian, Boys Noize, Justice and Sinden, this'll be a non-stop riot to the very end!

PARIS IS BURNING - LAUNCH NIGHT!
FRIDAY 15th FEBRUARY
@ THE NORTHUMBERLAND ARMS (BETWEEN M&S AND ELDON SQUARE,
OFF NORTHUMBERLAND STREET)
DOORS 8PM
FREE BEFORE 12. £3 AFTER
DJS: L-VIS 1990, PARIS IS BURNING AND EATDISCO



UPCOMING PARIS IS BURNING DATES:
FRIDAY 7TH MARCH - TRONIK YOUTH (BACK-YARD/VICE)
FRIDAY 25TH APRIL - JERRY BOUTHIER (KIT-SUNE/BOOMBOX)

LIGHTSPEED CHAMPION @ THE CLUNY 12TH FEB

ON the 12th June 2007 Kate Nash, then a spritely and largely unknown up-and-coming singer-songwriter played a particularly joyous set at The Cluny. Exactly 8 months later and Kate, much maligned by an industry that has persisted in turning her into the my-little-Allen she should never have been, finds herself residing in the 'girls night in' section of HMV. Does a similar fate await Dev Hynes, a.k.a Lightspeed Champion? Feted as England's answer to Bright Eyes and loved by everybody since approximately last Wednesday when The NME made his debut album of the week, will being 2008's first it-boy ultimately consign him to the bargain bin? Who gives a shit? This is pop music, there's no need for such austerity, especially when you can expect tongue-in-cheek baroque sing-a-longs that go on for 8 minutes. Bring some friends, drink some beer and cross your fingers he's wearing that spider-man costume. This is going to be a right larf.....

Dave Wingrave

PETE & THE PIRATES @ THE CLUNY, WEDS. 13TH FEB

PETE and the Pirates seem to hail from a kind of pop-culture 'Neverland', as it were, where Indie music never has to grow up and will continue to flourish as long as music fans keep on tapping their feet and declaring, "I believe in lo-fi guitar music!" And thank God such a place exists. The Pirates' proffer good old-fashioned, jangling, pop songs, replete with enchantingly raucous harmonies and cheerful melodies. There's nothing overly big-and-clever about these lost boys; they follow neither the current electro/dance trend nor the folksy one in the alternative scene. They make you want to jiggle about in the kitchen whilst waiting for the kettle to boil.

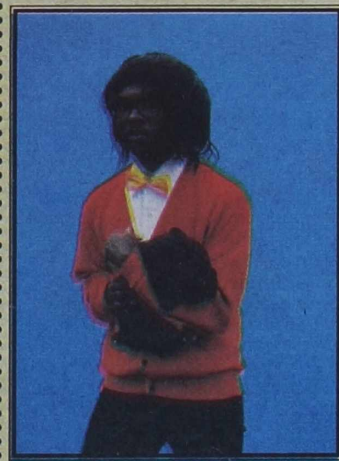
The Reading four-piece play at The Cluny on February 13th, offering an evening of up-tempo escapism from the mid-term, mid-winter gloom.

Anna Coatman

CRYSTAL CASTLES @ THE OTHER ROOMS TUES. 12TH FEB

THIS is chance you should grab with both hands. Anyone who was lucky enough to witness Crystal Castle's last gig in the very same intimate venue will know why. For those who didn't, the filthy electro pair are sure to bleep their way through an exciting and very original set. With angular vocals from Alice Glass and sounds reminiscent of an old school video game, the fusion becomes something pleasingly melodic. You might like them if you liked the tune from your Game-boy. Their ambition is "to write a song that can make the entire world vomit in unison"; they don't please everyone's palate but if you like inventive music get yourself down there.

Heather Welsh



A MAXIMUM GUIDE

TO MINIMAL

ROZ TUPLIN GUIDES US THROUGH THE SUBTLE LAND OF THE MINIMAL



AN OLD friend of mine once articulated her inability to 'get' dance music thusly; "it just sounds like a modem starting up, doesn't it?" Fair enough. But what we'll be discussing today, class, is minimal, in all its stripped down rawness and coldness; music, in short, that sounds like a modem shutting down and then killing itself. The Leonard Cohen of the dance world - dance music lying dead in the bathtub of a sordid roadside motel, warm blood bubbling from its wrists.

Alright that just sounds creepy, but then minimal isn't to everybody's taste. You may find it unsettling, discomfoting, even troubling - but you can't deny its intensity. Steady, pulsing rhythms, kooky blips and atonal moodiness are all aspects of the minimal sound. It's a music that seems to blend into the background, and yet, like a venomous animal camouflaged against the jungle fauna, waits for the moment to slither up and bite you hard. It's hypnotic, incessant, persistent and unrelenting.

So from which circle of hell was such a sub-genre spawned? If you're looking for the roots of minimal you're probably going back to the primordial soup to root around amongst the slime for the first traces of humanity. Minimal takes music back to basics, stripping it of all the unnecessary frivolities and presenting it raw and unsullied, a cold, naked foetus of sounds. But if you're looking for someone more specific to blame, Kraftwerk are as good a place as any to start. With ground breaking tracks such as "Trans-Europe Express" and "Computer Love" the German purveyors of droid-pop made a music that was icier, harsher and more clinical than ever before. Of course, 'stripping down' is one of the basic tenants of rock n roll, inherent in all the classics your dad harps on about, from Lou Reed's nerve-shattering "Metal Machine Music" album to the freak-funk psychosis of the Stooges "Funhouse". Think of all those great records that sound like they've been recorded in a public lavatory on a rusty old dictaphone with leaky batteries. Powerful music doesn't need dressing up; it just needs to look good naked.

What makes minimal so remarkable, though, is the amount of variety within a genre which is based on simplicity. Compare the itchy, petulant urgency of Miniale's "Maximum Minimum", the warm, rich and organic sounds of Mini-logue and the haunting sparseness of Robert Babicz' "Sin". Minimal is a hotbed of contradictions; quiet music to be played at maximum volume, music of simplicity yet depth, music that goes forward by taking two steps back.

Doing the genre proud with his latest release "A Cheerful Temper" is Robert Babicz, German minimal-techno extraordinaire. The lugubrious nature of his music will alienate some listeners but enchant others; equal parts eerie and evocative, Babicz ushers you into a deep k-hole of introspection with his strange, echoing soundscapes, forcing you on a strange journey inside your own head. A little esoteric for a quiet Wednesday afternoon, granted, but just the thing for spacing out and trying to get grips with the universe and/or one's own mortality, if that's your bag. Failing that, there's always the innovative mind bending of



Top left: Trentemøller, *The Last Resort*; Top right: Gui Boratto, *Chromophobia*; Above: Robert Babicz; Right: Booka Shade, *Movements*; *Five Years Get Physical*

Misc, whose passion for slow build ups and ethereal sound effects that appear to come from another, much more twisted dimension have resulted in them producing some of the most indefinable and odd electronica going. Sexy, spooky or just plain sinful? This is techno so base it could be anything you wanted it to be.

Hamburg's Egoexpress have an experimental, almost jazzy take on minimal. Listen to "Beautiful Music" off the "Hotwire My Heart" record, an audacious, cheeky little number for those of you who are easily panicked by the dark and gothic elements of German electronica but enjoy the

random, mercurial nature of experimental sound. Sprightly, energetic and bubbly, the track bounces around down unlikely avenues and keeps you guessing till the end.

Your best route in to the genre, however, may be the ever-popular Trentemøller. An icy Slavic wind rattling the stained glass windows of the church of noise, Trentemøller's music is pure black and white, from the throbbing and creaking of "Rykketid" to the hypnotic, curling wisp of smoke that is "Vamp". The atmospheric photograph of a Norwegian forest on the cover of the "Last Resort" album pretty much sums it up.

Of course, if you don't want to start throwing pennies at a genre you aren't yet sure about, next time you're out clubbing why not drop into that basement room you normally avoid because it once gave you a funny turn, try and absorb the strangeness and beauty of those dark and disorientating rhythms. Alternatively there are compilations available to give you a taster of the genre, including the brand new Get Physical compilation which features recognisable names such as Booka Shade and M.A.N.D.Y., the folks behind the absolutely massive "Body Language", a track that blew Ibiza apart and was undoubtedly a major anthem of 2005, proving that a love for minimal sound is catching on.

In fact, this may be the start of a minimal revolution, so maybe its time to ditch that fussy, busy drum n bass nonsense you never really liked that much in the first place and get minimal, before all the cool kids get hip to it and make it suck for the rest of us!

Roz Tuplin

LISTENING LIST

- Booka Shade - Night Falls
- Tom Dazing - Ticheldanser
- Robert Babicz - Sin
- Kraftwerk - Computer Love
- M.A.N.D.Y. - 4 Plus 1
- Ego Express - Beautiful Music
- Misc - Dance Your Name



ESSENTIAL ALBUMS

- Robert Babicz - A Cheerful Temper (Systematic)
- Gui Boratto - Chromophobia (Kompakt)
- Booka Shade - Movements (Get Physical)
- Trentemøller - Last Resort (Poker Flat)
- Ego Express - Hot Wire My Heart (Ladomat 2000)
- Various Artists - Five Years Get Physical (Get Physical)



LOST LOVE

BLOC PARTY - SILENT ALARM.

AFTER modern indie's glory days of the early Noughties, when Pete, Jules et al. were on form and 'a fender and a pair of Converse' appeared on many a Christmas wish list, a series of derivative acts began to clog up record store shelves (did anyone buy The Bravery's album?). The purchase of Bloc Party's debut at 9am on the day it came out was a discovery of an oasis in a desert of filth. Slick, unpretentious, immediate and undeniably cool, they provided proof that punk's clamours of 1977 weren't just awesome in their own right but provide the ideal starting point for creating a decent indie sound. I urge you to play this masterpiece again. I did today for the first time in a while and I'm dripping with joy.

Stephen Norwood



LIVE REVIEW

SEASICK STEVE @ ACADEMY

LOOKING like an extra from the film *Deliverance*, Seasick Steve, with his slouched shoulders and dirty grey beard, took to the stage with a swig from his bottle of whiskey. Wearing denim dungarees and a white trash vest, Seasick illustrates a stereotypical image of his Deep South origins, making the boys of Kings of Leon look more like they were raised on a fine country estate in Gloucester. With only a three string guitar and a wooden box, he managed to generate as much sound as a 16 piece orchestra. Between playing songs of heart felt blues, he would tell amusing and intriguing tales of his rags to riches story; "I used to live under a bridge, now I'm playing in front of 2,000 people. How amazing is that?" For well over an hour the audience were held captive to Seasick's charm, humour and crazy ass solos. Accompanied for some songs by a Swedish drummer, who plays and looks remarkably like Animal from the Muppets, there was never a dull moment. Finishing with the foot pounding Doghouse Boogie, I was left feeling inspired to grow a beard, take three strings off my guitar, tune them to G, G, B and sing the blues myself... if only I could grow a beard.

Paul Cantwell

REVIEWS

ALBUMS

DAFT PUNK ALIVE 2007

THE sonic spectacle that was Daft Punk's homecoming gig at Bercy, Paris last summer has, in the few short months since then, become the stuff of legend, with attendees prone to bouts of 'greatest show on earth' hyperbole. And not without reason. This is *Alive 2007*, and every inch of press praise, attention and publicity is well and truly deserved. So what, there's not going to be a DVD? This is the ultimate Daft Punk mix-tape, the pinnacle of live albums and a truly outstanding effort in capturing a scene of sheer euphoria. No mere run-through of the hits, Guy & Thomas cement their position as the supreme kings of spice, chopping and changing, spinning and shaping the most memorable dance music ever into an aural maelstrom. Ladies & Gentlemen, stick in on the best sound-system you have and just crank it!

10/10

Dave Wingrave: Elliot Smith, Emmy The Great, Talib Kweli, Fryars



THE CAVE SINGERS THE BEDLAM IN GOLIATH

THE Cave Singers seem to be one of those bands that, unfortunately, will never get enough recognition regardless of how good their music is. *Invitation Songs* is a magic little surprise of folksy poppy happiness that you could chuck on any time and thoroughly enjoy. Pete Quirk's vocals aren't doing anything new - think nasal Bob Dylan - but they're also not trying to be anything. The whole record has a wonderfully fuzzy quality that feels like a big folksy hug, with corks 'Seeds of Night' and 'Oh Christine' really shining through. The whole thing is eloquently understated, much like the band who made it, but if you fancy a really listenable record it's well worth checking out.

7/10

Alice Vincent: The Mystery Jets, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Bombay Bicycle Club, Patrick Wolf

BIOMECHANICAL CANNIBALISED

SAY - anyone know the exact point when underground metal started to devour itself? There was a time once where even a Belle & Sebastian loving wimp like myself could be delighted and amazed by the works of bands like the hardcore-and-then-some Converge, the stunningly technical thrash of Meshuggah or the downright psychotic noise attack of Today Is The Day. Yet when I attempt to reacquaint myself with this old flame, it all sounds strangely conservative and tame, and Biomechanical's third album 'Cannibalised' steadfastly refuses to buck this trend. Almost every metal cliché can be found within these ten tracks - the Cookie Monster growls, the double bass drum fills, the barely reheated death metal riffs, even the obligatory mock-classical guitar interlude - and they pile up to the point where 'Cannibalised' doesn't so much shock or provoke you rather than feel like you've just drunk a large mug of Horlicks. You can turn this one up as loud as you like, but these screams are never going to sound like anything other than sighs.

1/10

Mark Corcoran-Lettice: Radiohead, Captain Beefheart, The Fall, Nick Cave

KITSUNE MAISON 5 GOLD EDITION



From their early compilations such as *Midnight* through to their meteoric rise in the *Maison* series, Kitsune have always seemed to pass all expectation placed on their shoulders. Even after the juggernauts that were *Kitsune Maison 2* and *3*, they still managed to reignite the imagination with the indie-fuzz of '4. Now thundering further still toward world domination, and with the imminent release of a new fashion line, fans were keen to get their grubby mitts on this super-special *Kitsune 5 Gold Edition*. Seemingly brimming with juicy dancefloor fillers, Kitsune keep their indie roots intact, but manage to take us on a whole new journey through electro-trance, French jutter-pop and some seriously twisted remixes. An absolutely ground-breaking compilation for the new year - roll on *Maison 6!*

10/10

Jimmy Asquith: Tom Deluux, MSTRKRFT, The Toxic Avenger, Mr Miyagi

SINGLES

STRANGERS IN POLAROIDS DEMO EP

WHEN I grabbed this I expected something deep and foreboding like *Editors*, or an epic throng reminiscent of *Arcade Fire*. Although it contains elements of both, it really is so much more. Opening track 'Smoke and Mirrors' bursts forth with such a great fusion of spunky jazz and threatening chords, and with singer Matt's vocals crying over the top it is a slice of utter enjoyment. With their next sessions booked for early this month expect some great things from *Strangers* in 2008.

Chris Mandle: The Whip, One Night Only, The Ting Tings, Palladium



DAVID FORD I'M ALRIGHT NOW

'I'm Alright Now' is the third single from David Ford's amazing second album, *Songs For The Road*. Typical of the majority of Ford's songs, 'I'm Alright Now' is a brilliant mixture of beautiful heart-felt lyrics and soft, romantic instruments. Tackling depressing issues such as regret and self-loathing, but showing that they can still lead to happiness with a helping-hand from love, Ford clearly shows his ability to write songs about complex and differing emotions. If he continues to write songs quite as good as this one, it can only be presumed that David Ford will be far better than alright.

Daniel Whyley: Taking Back Sunday, Brand New, Death Cab For Cutie, The Format

SHERYL CROW LOVE IS FREE

Inspired by the natural disaster in New Orleans, Sheryl claims that 'this is the most honest record' she has ever made. Unfortunately her good intentions are tarnished with a sickly insincerity that hardly differs from the Crow we knew and left behind somewhere in the mid 1990s. However, if you've missed the all too happy, clappy, sappy female folk from your youth then this may prove a familiar and satisfying dose of 'good Samaritan' rock.

Petra Costandi

VINYL KIM FISTOGRAM

NOT content with kicking out the cosmic jams in Australian indie-dance twosome *The Presets*, Kimberly Isaac Moyes (aah see that's why he's called KIM!) likes to craft robotronic disco 12"s with deep booty stomps nicely complementing the interstellar trancey synth that adorns his tracks. And so into 2008 with a new tune, and a hot remix in the shape of the B-side, which see's DIM (no relation!) shit all over the mid-section with bowel-emptying results. As soon as the track takes it's first steps into DIMs post-noisecore hell, cataclysmic robo-guitars strike, showering the unexpected listener in euphoric module-morphed bass! Love this?! Then dig out *Wet 'N'* Wild from last year, and be treated to more Austro-electric madness.

Jimmy Asquith: Tom Deluux, MSTRKRFT, The Toxic Avenger, Mr Miyagi



GEMMA'S CHEESE SLICES

CHEESY HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK!

CHEESY releases this week include the comeback single from ex-3SL member Andy Scott Lee, 'Unforgettable' (check out page 5 for an exclusive *Courier* interview with Andy!). Everyone's favourite Scottish band, The Proclaimers are also making a long-awaited return with their new single 'New Religion' - not quite as cheesy as '500 Miles', this is still guaranteed to get you singing along. My favourite for this week, although not strictly cheese, is The Feeling's 'I Thought it was Over' - buy it now!

Gemma Davies

Venetian Blinder

BETSY POWELL floats through her time in Venice, and advises where to romance your loved one to leave them watery-eyed

WITH FEBRUARY comes Valentine's Day. For couples comes the pressure of finding a suitable gift and the spending on the day itself. Maybe you'll treat or be treated to dinner but, we're not in school anymore folks, so, if you really want to make an impression, what better than whisking your lucky other half away for a dirty few days? Paris? Forget it, could you get any more clichéd? Tom Cruise proposed to Katie Holmes on top of the Eiffel Tower for god's sake. No, cast your search a little wider; think of canals, of quaint bridges, of lagoons, of ancient buildings steeped in tradition and finally, gondolas; think of Venice.

Venice may appear as clichéd as Paris in the romance stakes but it is that little further a field, it represents slightly more imagination, more than a trip from St Pancras station. More importantly, it's future is far more uncertain. With rising tides and changing weather becoming more apparent, Venice is threatened by devastating floods. By the grace of god, Paris will remain standing throughout your lifetime, visiting Venice however may become a little more difficult unless you have your PADI training.

You fly into Marco Polo airport and if your captain is feeling particularly generous he will circle first over Venice for some fabulous views. Our pilot was clearly less interested in tour guiding and more with hitting the arrival time. I might add at this point, that my experience of Venice is limited to spending time there with three equally as giddy and excited girls as myself. The mood for love didn't affect us unless you count gawping after some especially tasty gondoliers.

It is very easy to get a taxi across to the island. It is fairly straightforward to locate the bus station (right outside the terminal, although it took us some time: we were rather preoccupied composing new lyrics to "Hungry Eyes", instead focusing on one woman with a wedgie, resulting in the unsurprising version "Hungry Ass"). You buy your tickets for the bus in the airport, but I really recommend getting a taxi; there is nothing wrong with the buses but they do tend to have a habit of dropping you at some remote stop and without the necessary command of Italian, this can be slightly worrying.

But where will your taxi drop you? Well, one hopes your hotel. But where is that? For the most ease, search for a hotel or hostel on the actual island. There are plenty around, ranging hugely in price but rooms go incredibly fast so you are advised to book as far in advance as is feasible. (Rather putting a dampener on an impromptu trip I know).

On the other hand, if your budget doesn't stretch that far, there is a great campsite on the mainland, where you can rent a heated cabin for a pittance and a ferry two minutes from the site takes you over the water.

That first trip over the water to Venice is unforgettable. Buildings present themselves for artistic capture. You'll pass several much smaller islands bearing a resemblance to leper colonies so empty and remote they seem yet somehow, also full of excitement.

Once in Venice, what to do first? I recommend getting your bearings in a number of ways. First, you can simply wander around the streets. You'll hap-

pen upon idyllic houses, lopsided as they meet canals. You'll wander down a tiny narrow street and suddenly stumble into a great open square complete with immense and fantastic churches, topped with huge domes and decorated with gargoyles. If you're very lucky, it might even be scaffold free and if you're truly blessed, there'll be a gelateria tucked into a corner. "Ice cream?" I hear you cry. Most definitely. Italian ice cream is legendary and regardless of the weather, it must be tried. I strongly suggest you pick a scoop of nutella flavour with some stracciatella for light relief.

If you are not one for aimless strolling, make your way to the Grand Canal and there hop onto vaporetto 1. The vaporetto will take you right up and down the canal, up to and under the famous Rialto Bridge. You can jump on and off as well so if anything takes your fancy you're a free agent.

Once you've seen the Rialto from the water, you'll want to see it from land as well. Buy a map (an absolute essential, though not more so than ice cream), and you'll easily find your way there. I guarantee it'll be quite crowded - there are stalls all over the place flogging cheap tour-

isty rubbish. Surprisingly, this beautiful bridge, subject of so many artistic endeavours, is covered in graffiti; whether you think this is desecration or not is your decision.

Try to watch a sunset from here, you'll probably be jostled by others but it is definitely worth sharpening your elbows for.

Next up, St Mark's Square; home to thousands of pigeons. Again, you'll find this landmark easily. You can buy a pack of seed or corn for a handful of euros and the birds will flock to you; they will perch on your head, arms, back, anywhere; after the feeding frenzy you will be covered in angry red scratches and very possibly, bird shit. I write from experience; of the scratches that is, not the shit. For some this is unmissable, for others, to be avoided at all costs. If you're feeling naughty, throw some seeds towards an unsuspecting tourist and watch them scatter in total panic. We found groups of Japanese particularly susceptible.

From the feeding of birds to yourselves, food here is great. There are many shops with open fronts selling panini and foccacia, with prices varying on how close they are to tourist traps. Restaurants abound, the same rule applies regarding price. Wherever you go, you are rather certain of getting good pizza and antipasta, but for an aperitif, you must sample a peach bellini; born in the local "Harry's Bar" they are a divine way of causing liver failure.

Romancing couples cannot miss a gondola ride. The rate is exorbitant but you should never deny your lover anything they want. Make sure someone is on hand to take a photo as evidence. There are museums aplenty here to amuse the more cultural visitors, as well as some truly amazing churches. Just across another stretch of water lie the islands of Burano and Murano where you can witness sinfully bright houses and glass blowing respectively.

Whatever takes you to Venice, whether it is a cheeky Valentine's present, or something more innocent, you won't be disappointed. There's perhaps not much to interest the traveller for longer than a week at most but what there is is breath taking and well worth making the effort for. Remember, this archipelago connected by bridges may soon be as obsolete as Atlantis.

St Mark's Square; home to thousands of pigeons. If you're feeling naughty, throw some seeds towards unsuspecting tourists and watch them scatter in total panic

Try to watch a sunset from the Rialto Bridge. You'll probably be jostled by others but it's well worth sharpening your elbows for



CORDELIA ROSA

My favourite of all the cities is our great capital, London. This is partly because I am a Londoner and therefore it would be wrong for me to choose any other city but mainly it is because it is the most culturally diverse but at the same time so very British.

The big double-decker red buses, Buckingham Palace, the changing of the guards, Mme Tussauds, Portobello market, and of course the tube... There is always something to do in London: theatre in the West end, tea at the Ritz, art exhibition at one of the many art galleries, you can never get bored.

It's the priciest of all the cities but nowadays with your Oyster card there are lots of good deals. The bustling, busy, cosmopolitan atmosphere is exciting and with your friendly P.C Plod standing on most main street corners there is always someone there to make you feel safe or just give you directions.

As a self-confessed shopaholic London is definitely one of the top 5 cities in the world for shopping, if you're not willing to spend a fortune at Harrods, Harvey Nicks or Selfridges there is always Camden or Spitalfields markets not to mention the millions of charity and second hand shops.

My favourite abroad destination is Bali. The people there are friendly, the weather is good and the cocktails are cheap. It's a favourite party destination for the Aussie surf bums but only half an hour outside the party town there are beaches and a real authentic Balinese experience.

The two things I can't travel without are, my St Christopher, the Patron Saint of travels, necklace and my digital camera...

A story from my travels that I told and retold many a time is one from my gap year when I was in Ecuador. I was with a group of girlfriends and we happened to bump in to a group of guy friends who were travelling more or less the same route as us.

Our meeting turned in to a raucous night out with tequila shots a plenty. Three of the boys got rather over-excited when the Full Monty song came on and proceeded to take their clothes off and start dancing on the bar naked...

The bar men phoned the police, the police arrived and two out of the three boys managed to run away one however did not. He was promptly arrested and taken to the Ecuadorian male prison, not a nice place. He was fully clothed for his night in his cell but was so scared of the other inmates that he set fire to his socks to keep people away.

He was released the next day, hung over and a lot more subdued. A lesson to us all: never dance naked in a bar in Ecuador.

I miss snuggling in my duvet on the sofa in front of T4 Sunday with Miquita Oliver and Steve Jones when I'm away from the UK.

The next travel destination on my list is Cuba - I want to go there before the mighty Fidel Castro - dies, because I want to speak Spanish, dance Salsa, drink Rum and coke and smoke a couple of "proper" cigars. I am also hoping to have a "Dirty Dancing 2; Havana nights experience".



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STUFF

Win! A trip to Ibiza and a Malibu Soundclash for your Union!

Students get the chance to win a Malibu Super Soundclash for your union ... plus a holiday in Ibiza!
 For a second year running, Malibu brought their award winning Soundclash extravaganza to universities across the country. The tour hit over 27,000 students at 25 different uni's across the UK!
 Take a look at all of the fun and frolics that took place and see our exclusive event pictures at www.malibusoundclash.com

Although Newcastle University was not visited by the infamous Soundclash tour, here is the chance for your readers to win this amazing event at your union!
Here's what you have to do to win...
 Get online now at www.malibusoundclash.com and tell us, in 20 words 'What is the best night you and your mates have had at Uni so far.'

Don't think that by entering the competition only once that your university has it covered though! Everyone needs to get involved and interacting online to increase the chances of winning the Super Soundclash!
 The person who submits the winning entry will get the chance to pack their bags, grab their mates and enjoy a sun filled weekend of fun in Ibiza sponsored by Malibu!
So what is The Malibu Sound-

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 A unique event unlike anything your union has witnessed before! Two sound systems and some of the freshest DJ talent, will battle it out live on stage for your musical pleasure, to decide once and for all who rules on the decks; Eastside or Westside? If you like what you hear and want to keep the DJ playing, scream and shout to show your appreciation and he'll keep on spinning those records! Oh and there's more... At the SU-



PER Soundclash Malibu will provide not only one but two world-class DJ's to grace the decks on the night!
 If all of the excitement and dancing simply gets too much, look for that distinctive Malibu bottle and enjoy a refreshing Malibu and Cranberry cocktail, served with a measure (25ml) of Malibu, topped up with Cranberry juice, plenty of ice and a sharp twist of fresh lime - the perfect way to enjoy the party with mates.
 Like the sound of it?
 So what are your students waiting for?

Terms and conditions apply - please visit www.malibusoundclash.com for more details.

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 JOE CURRIN

"I took this photo in the car park on top of John Lewis. Although it is not obviously a photo of Newcastle it epitomises to me the interesting and unique places that can be found across the city. If you haven't been up there yet it is worth a visit to see the great view."



Jobshop Listings

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.unionssociety.co.uk.

Vacancy 5203 - Elections Assistant - One Week only
 Job description: The Students' Union at Northumbria University is seeking additional help to staff elections stands across campus, encouraging students to vote in the online elections and also ensuring that both candidates and voters adhere to election rules during the elections from 11-13 March. You will need to ensure that candidates do not encroach on the voting area, advise voters and see that the voting process runs smoothly and fairly.
 Person specification: You should be a good communicator, very enthusiastic and committed. Most of the work will take place the week of 10 March, but you will also need to attend some training and briefing sessions the week before, and interviews will be

held on 20 February.
 Hours of work: 10-15 hours total
 Start date: 10/03/2008 Contract: One week (plus training w/c 03/10/2008)
 Rate of pay: £5.59/hour
 Closing date: 18/02/2008 at 12pm
 Location: Northumbria University Campus
 Apply by: Calling into the Job shop for the application details when we are next open

Vacancy 4959 - Student Assistant Dance Teachers - URGENT
 Job Description: A children's dance school with locations in Jesmond and Gosforth is seeking assistant student teachers for ballet and tap stage jazz. You will be working in Jesmond on Mondays and Tuesdays, and in Gosforth on Thursdays.
 Person specification: Reliability is of the utmost importance. You must have Ballet up to Grade IV to assist in ballet classes; level is not important for tap stage jazzing. You must be very good with little children as most pupils are between 4 years and 9 years of age. You should have a happy personality and be able to work along beside the teacher or sometimes on your own.
 Hours of work: 3.15-6pm on Mon, 3.30-4.45 on Tues, 3.30-4.30pm on Thurs
 Rate of pay: No less than NMW;

considerably more for experienced person
 Start date: Ongoing Contract: 1 to 3 years
 Closing date: Ongoing Location: Jesmond and Gosforth
 Apply by: calling into the Job shop for the application details when we are next open

Vacancy 5198 - Easter/Summer Sports Coaching
 Job description: An organisation based in the Newcastle area provides multi sports courses for children aged 5-14 years during their Easter and Summer school holidays. They are seeking motivated and dynamic sports coaches to help throughout one or both of these periods.
 Person specification: A wide variety of sports coaches are needed. Applicants should have Governing Body Coaching awards and experience of coaching within their chosen sports.
 Hours of work: 30-40 hours/week during holidays
 Start date: Easter or Summer 2008
 Contract: Seasonal - during holidays only
 Rate of pay: Above NMW (will depend upon experience)
 Closing date: Summer 2008 Location: Newcastle - Jesmond and Heaton
 Apply by: Calling into the Job shop for the application details when we



CONSUMER ISSUES

I want to buy a mobile phone with a contract which ones are best?
 • Be very careful when purchasing a mobile phone contract as there are a few issues you need to check out.
 • See how long the contract is for and that you can afford to pay the monthly costs.
 • If you are being offered a cash back deal make sure you FULLY understand the terms and conditions of that cash back before you sign.
 • Do you really need all the extras that come with that contract?
 • If not consider a pay as you go where you can keep track of your money as you use it.
 • If in doubt don't sign and come to see an adviser at the Student Advice Centre (SAC)

I have switched energy supplier and now I have two bills, what should I do?

- Make an appointment to see an adviser in the SAC as soon as possible as you will not have cancelled off one supplier, before starting with another one, and that is why you have two bills.
- Some suppliers promise lots of things to get you to switch and then do not deliver.

I bought a laptop off an internet bidding site and the item has not arrived - what can I do?

- Firstly, contact the seller to see if the item is delayed due to illness or holiday. If you receive no reply then send a second email to the seller to give them chance to reply.
- If you still receive no reply then contact the internet site to complain and give the seller negative feedback.
- If the item cost you more than £50 and you paid through Paypal then you can try to claim through Paypal to get your money back.
- In future you should check all seller feedback before bidding and make sure they are not asking for direct transfer of money or through another money transfer service.

Where can I find out more information?

Contact the SAC on 0191 239 3979 or check out our website at www.unionssociety.co.uk/sac



are next open

Vacancy 5194 - Higher Education Summer School - Newcastle University
 Job description: 55-60 undergraduate Student Representatives are needed to work with groups of up to 10 Year 10 students (aged 14-15 years) during the residential Higher Education Summer School at Newcastle University. The aim of the summer school is to raise the awareness and aspirations of local pupils towards higher education. You will co-ordinate your group and act as a mentor to provide help, support and encouragement to the pupils. You will need to stay for 2 nights at Castle Leazes with your group.
 Person specification: No experience is required. You will need to be enthusiastic, energetic, hardworking and responsible. You should enjoy

working with pupils, organising and participating in team activities and providing help, support and advice to others. The work is rewarding and fun (and looks great on your CV) but is also extremely demanding. Note that you will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure through a CRB check.
 Hours of work: All day + overnight stays
 Start date: Wed 02 July 2008 Contract: 3 days - until Fri 04 July 2008
 Rate of pay: £215 total
 Closing date: 29/02/2008 Location: On campus
 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.

COURIER CLASSIFIEDS
07964921116

Send in your Happy Birthday messages, general banter, dating requests and sales listings to *Courier Classifieds*. If you want to advertise for a new roommate or maybe you're looking for a room or if you've got books to sell then text us on the number above. The only cost is the text itself.

YOUR TEXTS

Big jock knew! I agree it needs to spread.

Ba, I can hear Mexico City calling.

The Courier brings out the devil in me

Rag week was great. Claudia you were super fit.

Can you tell Wendy to stop having really loud lesbian sex, I can't look her in the eye anymore.

Tell Wendy to stop dry humping me. Love her frightened flatmate.

I'd just like every1 reading this 2 know how awesome Ben Potter is. I can't think of any1 better 2 love over Valentines day. I hope I can spend a long life snuggling into his curly (and straight) hair. Oh my god Ben Potter. You're my 1st, my last, my everything. Love ya loads. Brid. x x

SALES

No messages this week

DATING

Hot gay man wanting a date! tall dark with a sexy accent! Interested? meet me at the next full moon outside the union!

I need a date for Valentines day? any offers? I will put out!

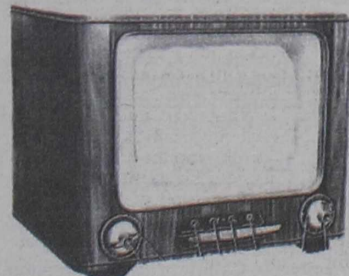
One horny lesbo hooked on pineapple juice, wants the final ingredient to make her pina colada

BIRTHDAY TEXTS

Happy 21st birthday to becky no breasts

HOUSE HUNTING

No messages this week



ON YOUR TELLY BOX

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...

THIS WEEK: Teacher

Name: Natasha Holroyde
Year of Graduation: 2005
University Subject: Politics and History
Job Title: Class Teacher
Company: South Avenue Junior School

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

After university, I moved back home. Having done the Students into Schools module at Newcastle, I had decided that I would like to be a Primary School Teacher. However, I was too late to apply for the PGCE for the year I graduated. So I had a year of work, in an insurance claims centre (because I was unable to find any education related work) while I applied for my PGCE. I was still undertaking work at a children's holiday club, during the school holidays, so I did have some related work experience. I was successful in applying for the PGCE, so began that in September 2006 at Canterbury Christ Church University. This was a really hard year, and very intense with lots of essays and theory work, coupled with practical placements in schools. It was very hard to find a job after the PGCE as there were hundreds of graduates, and a lack of new positions for us to apply too. I applied for over 50 positions and was invited for a number of interviews before I was successful. I have been in this job since September 2007.

Describe a typical day in your job: I arrive at school at about 8am and prepare for the day ahead. This might include gathering resources needed for the lessons, setting up the interactive whiteboard with resources, marking work, liaising with the TA - it is different every day. At 8.45 the children start arriving, and we commence lessons until 10.30, when we have assembly. Break is from 10.40-11.00 but it is very unlikely that I get a break - there are usually more things to set up, or issues to be dealt with from the morning sessions. Then we have more lessons until lunchtime - 12.15. After lunch, we continue through the afternoon with more lessons until 3.15. After school, you spend time tidying the classroom and preparing for the next day, and usually try to get some marking done. They will usually be discussions with colleagues about any incidents or issues that have been raised in school that day. It is not unusual to be at school until 5.30 finishing various things off.



Ben Woodward

Student Classic Watch

Hollyoaks, Channel 4, Weekdays 6.30pm.
Whatever could creepy Niall want with poor Michaela? Probably whatever Mercedes currently sees in sister-shagger Rhys. Top-notch entertainment as usual, and there's something endearingly messed-up about lovely Zoe falling for the, er, dashing Mike Barnes. A step-up from Darren? Of course it is.

What did you wish you'd known when you first left university?: That however much you have learnt at university about your subject, or about yourself, there are still many more things for you to learn. You are constantly learning every day.

What makes you employable?: My experience of Students into Schools helped me get into my PGCE course, as they are keen to see relevant experience within the education sector. University really built up my confidence in myself, and it presenting myself to other people. The variety of experience that I had helped to show employers how much you have to offer, and what sort of person you are.

Best thing about your job: Every day is different. Seeing the moment when a child finally understands something that you have been trying to teach them, that really helps remind you why you are doing the job, and why it is important.

Worst thing about your job: The constant stream of paperwork that we are expected to complete. And the Government's decisions to change things in schools nearly every year, usually going back to something that was changed a few years before. This lack of continuity makes it hard to become settled into the job, and really improve your skills.

Why should someone do your job?: If you like working under a lot of pressure, and are prepared to work hard - but are aware that not many people will appreciate you for it, then you can teach. Even though most days you do not appreciate that you are affecting someone's life, you are in a unique position in that you are shaping what sort of person these children are going to grow up to be.

Even if you only make a very small difference, you will still have made one.

LIKE WHAT YOU HEAR?

Then let the Careers Service help you out!

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

- >> enthusiasm for the subjects you teach
- >> the ability to develop good working relationships with a wide range of people
- >> commitment to working with pupils, parents and carers of different backgrounds and different levels of ability
- >> the ability to work in a team as well as use your own initiative
- >> good organisational and time-management skills
- >> the ability to manage classes and deal with challenging behaviour
- >> excellent communication skills
- >> patience and a good sense of humour. (Source: LearnDirect)

Where do I find out more information about this job?:

The following websites can help you research this career:
>> The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) website (www.tda.gov.uk) contains information on every aspect of becoming a teacher. They also have an advice line 0845 6000 991 if you have any specific questions.

How do I train to be a teacher?:

There are a number of different ways to train as a teacher including a PGCE, SCITT (school based teacher training) and Teach First. The most popular route is the PGCE.

Applications to study on a PGCE and SCITT are made through the GTTR (www.gttr.ac.uk). An extremely important part of the application form is the Personal Statement. There is information available on the Careers Service (www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/occupations) and TDA (www.tda.gov.uk) websites on how to write your personal statement. Once you have a draft of your personal statement you can call into the Careers Service and get a Careers Adviser to have a check through it - no appointment necessary.

An alternative option is Teach First which is a two year programme where students work in challenging secondary schools in London and Greater Manchester. Alongside training to be a teacher, participants also study leadership/business skills. For

details on Teach First and how to apply see their website (www.teach-first.org.uk).

How can I find work experience to help me get into this job?

Before applying for teacher training, getting school-based work experience is highly recommended and for some courses is essential. The TDA recommend that you complete a minimum of three weeks work experience if you are interested in primary teaching and one week for secondary teaching. Ideally you should try to experience both the primary and secondary, even if you think you already have a preference.

There are a number of ways you can get school based work experience:

- >> Students into Schools (www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/cu) allows you to gain experience in a primary or secondary school and gain academic credit towards your degree
- >> Students Associate Scheme (www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/cu) - paid work experience in a secondary school. Primary opportunities are very rare.
- >> Alternative work experience, such as community work with young people, can be extremely valuable but should not be a substitute for school-based experience. Contact SCAN in the Student's Union for details of possible opportunities (www.scan.ncl.ac.uk)
- >> The Experience teaching section of the TDA website (www.tda.gov.uk) has information on other ways you can gain relevant work experience including Three-day Taster Courses, Students Associate Scheme and Visit a Classroom.
- >> Contact schools directly to see if they are able to offer you any work experience.

How much will I get paid?:

From September 2007 newly qualified teachers (NQTs) in England and Wales will earn £20,133 a year (£24,168 in inner London). Headteachers in Inner London can expect to earn up to £104,628! Teachers are paid to pay scales set by the Government and depending on performance can expect to move up this scale each year. For full details of the salary scale see the TDA website (www.tda.gov.uk)

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

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

Filling the Void

Friends/Scrubs, E4, Weekdays 5-7pm.

Simply because they're on E4 100 times a day by law. Why not make a game of it? Down a drink every time Monica shrieks or J.D looks like he's going to cry as he has one of his daily epiphanies. Warning: You may need your stomach pumped after the first ten minutes.

For all the flat/Night in...

MADE, MTV, Weekdays 7pm.

You can't help but admire the deluded optimism of that fat kid who wants to be an all-star Football player/unfriendly goth who wants to be Prom Queen. And they always learn a valuable lesson, of sorts, about accepting who they are. Well not really, but it is MTV.

Hangover Choice

The Jeremy Kyle Show, ITV1, Weekdays 9.25-10.30am.

Ah, the therapist who never solves anything. Admittedly not a great choice if loud noises (such as scream-

ing) are liable to hurt your sensi-

tive little head. Yet Jezza is, in some weird way, feel-good TV. After all, however bad you may look and feel, it can't possibly be as bad as these people do.

Pick of the Week

Skins, E4, Monday 10pm.

Now we can finally find out just how badly being hit by that bus in the Series 1 finale messed up the already pretty dysfunctional Tony.

>> FILL IN THE UNION'S SURVEY AT VOTE.NCL.AC.UK FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A NINTENDO WII AND TO HAVE YOUR SAY



Betsy Knows Best

"Let Betsy sort your life out"

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

Babysitting Blues

Dear Betsy,

I am sick and fed up of having to look after my flatmate all the time, whenever we go out. She just gets as drunk as she physically can and then she disappears. At first, it used to take me ages to hunt her down but then I noticed a pattern; she's always in the toilets, fast asleep, head slumped onto chest, with her knickers round her ankles and sick on her skirt. I am getting increasingly bored of

pulling her pants up, wiping her face and trying to persuade a taxi to take her home. Plus, she wears rubbish pants, which aren't even remotely entertaining and she doesn't even have the decency to have a proper wax. How do I handle this?

Love Sick and Tired of Sick

Sick,

If there is one thing I hate more than falling over while trying to have a serious conversation with someone, it's sick. The smell of it; its steaming fumes, the consistency with its persistent presence of stomach lining, the orange yellow colour and its unfailing availability to bring vomit into my own mouth. I think you need to lay down ground rules; make sure she always carries a plastic bag (check for holes!), chewing gum, possibly a toothbrush and insist on interesting underwear. Failing that, you should take photos of her in this state and post them on Facebook. This should soon stop the offending behaviour.

Love Betsy

Butch Lovin'? Tongue Tied

Dear Betsy,

I've met this girl who I really like but, she's a rugby player. Not only am I quite intimidated by this but I have a few more concerns: will she hurt me in the bedroom?; will she be too rough? More importantly, I don't want to feel like the woman in the bedroom, I have my masculinity to protect. Also, there are certain assumptions surrounding women's rugby, do you think I'm barking up the wrong tree. I don't think my fragile heart can take another rejection.

Love Minor Male

Dear Mr Insecurity,

Don't believe the hype about rugby girls. Honestly, if we all believed what we were told and "saw" then I would be a genius and also the owner of a fine pair of double D's. If you're so concerned about your fragile heart then that's what I really think might challenge your masculinity. Be a man and then she might not have to be. Women don't want men with feelings, we want men with balls (and not shaved ones).

Love Auntie Betsy

Dear Betsy,

With Rag Week just gone, I have fallen for one of my fellow crew members. I had the opportunity to pole dance with her and around her during the week which was a big rush and made me realise the true extent of my feelings for her. When I was pole dancing with her I managed to lick her tights and I really enjoyed the taste of her. The only problem is, she's not my usual type and I want to know what further things I can do to woo her. I know she loved the feel of my tongue but where can I go with this?

Love Tight Taster

Dear TT,

I have to say I enjoy a good fetish as much as the next person but even I am a little disturbed by your hosiery obsession. I myself have a thing for rubber and leather but that is where my perversions stop, well, mostly. I should imagine that the next place for you to tantalise her with your tongue was fairly obvious and rather more north than her legs. I would proceed with caution unless you're entirely certain of her reciprocal feelings otherwise her response may be rather less worthy of filthy fetishes and rather more fitting for a fight.

Love Betsy

LESSONS LEARNED

'what I wish I'd known'

Sam Parker

...Setting yourself on fire doesn't impress girls

NOR DOES getting off with other blokes. Or a swift head butt. All of which I have performed in the hopeless pursuit of coitus at some point during the last three years.

The head butt was actually head butts plural, and were it not for a protective layer of beanie, could have resulted in hard time rather than column inches.

Leaning against a corner of the Union during the fog end of a wicked Arcane, some beautiful apparition in a blue dress floated towards me smiling. As the drum and bass reached a crescendo, she opened her mouth and said something to me I couldn't hear: probably 'Do you need a doctor?', but hopefully, 'Can I buy you a drink, before you definitely, definitely get to shag me?'

Either way, my reaction was to undo twenty years of mastering the human working envelope by planting one on her. Amazingly, I got away with that common assault but when she appeared to laugh it off and say something else I couldn't hear - well, I did it again, didn't I, causing her to abruptly turn on her heels and storm out of my pathetic life forever.

Kissing my handsome though heavily bearded friend Callum was not the liberating sexual experience it perhaps ought to have been. We were in effect banging skulls over the same pretty 2nd year for whom we hoped to demonstrate our bisexual nonchalance; an image that actually describes the moment quite accurately.

On the wave of a 'have you ever?'/ 'truth or dare' type conversation boys start to get girls to do or admit to something they can't get them to do or admit to through charm, we puckered up, lent in and thought of England. The resulting clash must have had all the self-assured sexual rhythm of Man's First Wank, because once we'd pulled apart, pretty 2nd year and her pretty friends had pretty much fucked off.

Setting myself on fire was my punishment for never learning to juggle. Crashing back to someone's flat after a night out, I found myself in the improbable scenario of being alone, on a bed, with two auburn haired princesses. As one did a drunken crab on the floor, the conversation turned fruitfully towards party tricks. Probably imaging an exotic menage-a-trois that would no doubt have terrified me into impotency anyway, I declared I was able to light matches off my teeth. Not exactly Darren Brown territory, but you can only work with what you've got.

Naturally, the chemical head of the match clung to my bottom lip like a nervous toddler in a supermarket, setting it, and me, temporarily on fire. Having raced into their bathroom to put myself out, I soon stood over the sink, the blister on my mouth sulking to the size of a golf ball as quickly as my pride - and the menage-a-trois - ran off down the plug hole.

If only I had known at these moments that girls simply don't want a blind drunk, circus trick-performing sex-adventurer. Or at the very least, they want one that's successful.



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

Ingredients

- Serves 2
- 2 chicken breasts, sliced
- 15g butter
- 1 tbsp oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 6 mushrooms, sliced
- ½ cup white wine
- 1 heaped tsp wholegrain mustard
- 150ml double cream
- Salt and pepper



Method

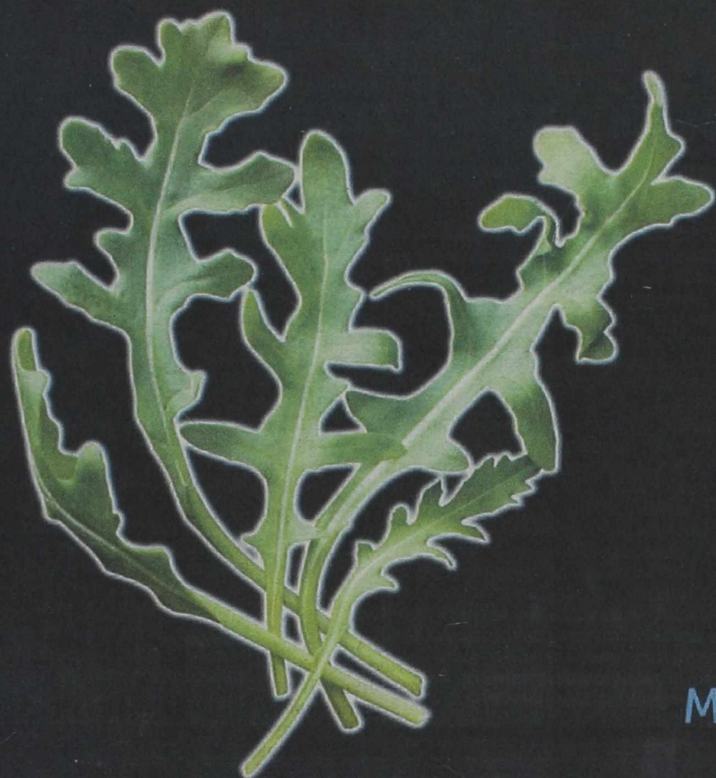
1. Heat the oil and butter in a pan. Using a bit of both prevents the butter from burning. Once the butter has melted, add the chicken to the pan and cook on a medium heat for a couple of minutes until the meat is slightly browned. Remove and set aside on a plate.
2. Next, add the onion to the pan and cook for a couple of minutes on a medium heat before adding

the garlic.

3. Cook for 5 minutes then add the mushrooms and season to taste with salt and pepper.
4. Allow this mixture to cook for a further 2 minutes before adding the wine. Turn up the heat, bring to the boil and simmer until the wine has reduced by half.
5. Return the chicken to the pan along with the mustard and the cream and simmer on a low heat until the chicken is cooked through.

By Lucy Blackwell

>> HAVE YOU GOT THE U FACTOR? TRY YOUR LUCK AT THE UNION THIS THURSDAY FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £300!



Rocket.

Mediterranean salad ingredient
or career trajectory?



So here you are. You've always promised yourself a career where the sky's the limit. Where the possibilities are endless. No endless 9 to 5s in a career cul-de-sac – wondering exactly when it was that your 'get-up-and-go' had got up and gone. The Aldi Graduate Area Manager Training Programme could have been purpose-built to keep this bleak future at bay. It rewards enterprise, spirit and drive with a rapid rise through the ranks.

From day one, the pace is fast, but never frenetic. You'll start at the grass roots and you'll learn everyone's job by doing it yourself. From stacking shelves to working the tills. During this time, you'll sharpen your instincts for what motivates your team. You'll learn how to lead from the front and, crucially, how to drive up sales and bring down costs. In just a few short weeks, you can expect to be managing a store. Then, over the following months, you'll move into phase two of training to take on Area Management responsibilities – where you'll be given every opportunity to display your leadership skills and commercial awareness.

When this training is over, you'll have total responsibility for four to six stores, effectively managing your own multi-million pound business. It's unlikely that you'd be operating at such a heady altitude with so much authority and empowerment in any other business. But, we never said Aldi was just another ordinary business. In fact, the material rewards are extraordinary too. The starting salary is £39K plus an Audi A4, rising in annual increments to £56K after three years and includes a pension, private healthcare, life assurance and five weeks' holiday.

There are also opportunities for Area Managers to spend two years on secondment in Europe or further afield. Within five years, there is every chance of a directorship.

Dizzy heights indeed.

If you want to go further, faster, you can apply online at www.aldi.co.uk or send a CV together with a letter illustrating your leadership potential to: Aldi Stores Ltd, Area Management Recruitment, Faverdale North, Faverdale Industrial Estate, Darlington. County Durham DL3 0UW. Please quote ref: SCC1 on all applications.

Graduate
Area Manager
£39K + Audi A4
rising to
£56K + Audi A4
after 3 years
Opportunity for
directorship within
5 years



COURIER SPORT



>> STAN CALVERT RESULTS SPECIAL
 >> RESOUNDING VICTORY FOR NEWCASTLE AGAINST CROSS CITY RIVALS
 >> OXENHAM: "I SLEPT WITH THE CUP!"

Arthur puts Hendo to sword

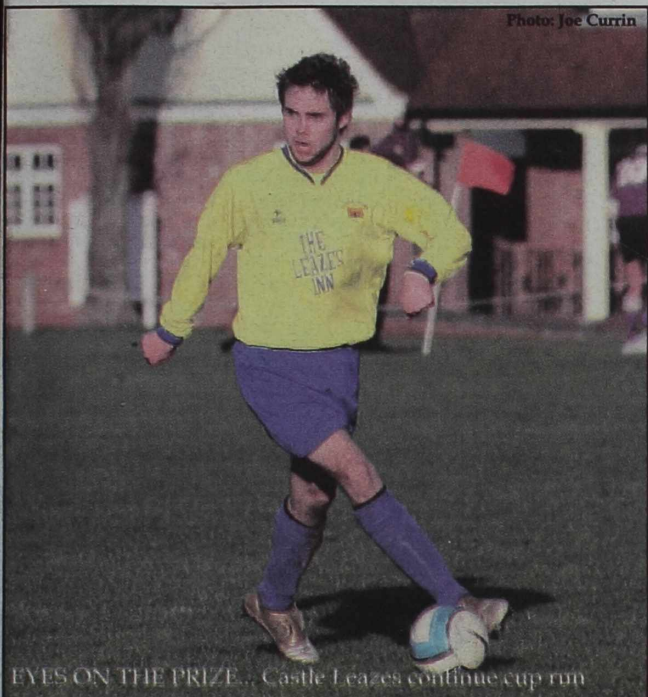


Photo: Joe Currin

INTRA MURAL FOOTBALL CUP

HENDERSON HALL	1
CASTLE LEAZES	2

Ed Elliot

CASTLE LEAZES put aside their dismal league form to book a place in the semi-finals of the cup with a victory over Henderson Hall in a pulsating contest at Heaton.

Both sides went into the game dreaming of cup glory and looking to resurrect below par seasons. Leazes' manger Rishton faced a selection headache and was without a number of key players. Firstly, Anthony 'good touch for a big man' Elders was retained on trial at Stevenage Borough for a further week and unavailable for the game.

Charlie Bromley-Martin remained away at The African Cup of Nations and a late fitness test revealed that flying full back, Johnny 'Mischief' Dimmock is still some weeks from a return to action with a broken toenail.

Leazes started in commanding fashion with the centre-back pairing of James

Oldroyd and veteran John Bracken dominant in the air.

At the other end, Leazes were looking dangerous with the best of the chances falling to Josh Arthur. After a free-flowing move on the edge of the Henderson area, the pocket-size hitman narrowly missed out on connecting with the cross-field ball as he slid in at the back post.

Henderson came back into the game and began to show more attacking prowess, nearly taking the lead on a couple of occasions. Firstly a defensive slip-up resulted in a one-on-one situation.

Rishton, however, stayed big and did well to put off the striker who shot wide. Then Rishton pulled a save 'right out of the top drawer'. A melee inside the Leazes' box produced a goal line clearance that fell at the feet of a Henderson attacker. With the attacker having more than half the goal to aim at, Rishton somehow turned the ball over the bar with a salmon like dive, keeping the scores level at the interval.

Leazes' made the breakthrough shortly after the restart. A super-jinking run on the left by Macmillan resulted in a ball in from the left that was controlled well by Wilkinson. With team mates looking for a lay off to the edge of the area, Wilkinson held off his man before hooking the ball over the stranded 'keeper into the

far corner in a Gerald Sibon-esque fashion.

Henderson came back strongly and were quick to restore parity. Good play on the wing resulted in a left-wing corner and with Leazes slow to mark up, Scott Cowie was on hand to head home to put his side back on level terms, albeit with the help of a slight deflection.

Leazes' winner came with around twenty minutes left as Josh Arthur finally ended his goal-scoring drought. Good linkup play on the left-wing between Wilkinson and Macmillan resulted in the latter driving a killer ball across the box, Arthur met it at the back post and scuffed a shot under the despairing dive of the 'keeper.

Controversy then descended on the game as Cowie appeared to have snatched an equaliser to force a penalty shoot out. Fortunately for the Castlemen the flag was up and it wasn't going to count.

In a game full of meaty challenges, it looked as though tempers may boil over when Leazes' full back Charlie Morgan was scythed down by a challenge containing an air of cynicism. Luckily, the ever-present youngster limped away unhurt as Leazes held on for well-deserved victory.

Soc rock on after penalty drama

INTRA MURAL FOOTBALL CUP

ECOSOC BERLIN	4
BOROUSSIA	4

Ecosoc win 4-3 on penalties

Stuart Chadwick

A BARMSTOMING CUP TIE at Redhall saw Ecosoc Berlin emerge triumphant in a keenly fought game that both sides contributed a large deal to.

Boroussia can perhaps count themselves unlucky to be out of the tournament, after a comeback in the last ten minutes saw them level at 4-4 after trailing 4-2.

They had themselves been leading twice, taking an early lead after five minutes after a snap shot from the edge of the area.

Berlin levelled after some quick thinking saw Adam Williams send a free kick into the net whilst keeper Jamie Denholm was still rearranging the wall.

It wasn't long however before Boroussia were back in front as they took full advantage of the downhill slope, a strong wind, and some sloppy Ecosoc defending to make it 2-1 going into the half time break, with Berlin struggling to get a foothold in the game.

Ecosoc came out in the second half looking a completely different team, competing for the ball, winning tackles and passing the ball around the park. Their reward wasn't long in coming as Will Taylor made a dash

down the right byline and sent a looping ball into the far post, which Will Hardy made contact with and the ball fell into the net to level the tie.

Seven minutes later things got worse for Boroussia when Steve Ho checked infield and fed the ball through to Williams who sent a shot goalwards. The keeper appeared to have it covered but it squirmed horribly under the keepers hands and into the net.

The game appeared to be over minutes later, as Williams once again beat the offside trap to meet a lofted ball and send a looping header over the keeper for his hatrick and a 4-2 lead.

Boroussia, however, had other ideas and they launched another attack down the right. A clipped ball saw the Boroussia striker dink a header

over Ed Cockburn and they were right back in the game.

Ecosoc had their backs to the wall and a couple of players were suffering with cramp, possibly due to their exertions in Krakow the previous week. Craig Aldis and Stuart Chadwick were brought on in an attempt to tighten up the game at the back, and their efforts appeared successful, as the game meandered into the final minutes.

Boroussia, however, did not give up the fight and one final attack saw the ball fall kindly to their inspirational captain on the edge of the area. He fired in a shot which just evaded Cockburns fingertips and thundered in off the inside of the post to break Ecosoc hearts.

The final whistle soon blew to signify that this pulsating tie would be decided on a penalty shoot out.

The first four penalties were also missed with two saves from Ecosoc's Cockburn, and misses from McKinlay and Williams. Boroussia

got their noses in front as they slotted away their next two, and with Will Taylor missing Ecosoc's third, Chadwick stepped up for Berlin knowing he could not miss.

Chadwick didn't let the pressure show however, as he confidently buried the ball into the left hand corner.

If Boroussia scored their fifth penalty they would have gone through, but it was struck high and wide, and with Dave Carr scoring for Berlin, the shoot out went into sudden death.

The sudden death swung either way, but it was left to Ecosoc's Will Hardy to finally send his side into the semi finals as his penalty squeezed in off the keepers fingertips. Cue wild celebrations and a 14 man pile up on the centre circle as Berlin celebrated victory in a truly fantastic game.

Medics revival falls short

INTRA MURAL RUGBY CUP

CHEEKY LADIES	23
MEDICS	21

Krisay Koslicki

A GLORIOUSLY bright winter's day at Close House brought yet another tense and gripping Wednesday afternoon, as the Cheeky Ladies played the Medics in a true game of two halves.

The Ladies were totally dominant in the early proceedings of this Cup match with good breaks from Will Jeffs and unstoppable work from Tom Greaney leading to try after try

for the Ladies.

A period of scrappy play led to one of the Cheeky boys being sin-binned due to a high tackle, meaning that despite the difficult conditions, they had to start fighting in order to maintain their convincing lead.

At this point in the game, tensions rose, causing a few handbags to be thrown just before the half time whistle blew, with the score standing at 20-0 in the Ladies favour.

The second half started with both teams escalating the pace and Cheeky still knew they were in a game despite a quiet first half for the Medics.

Tom Eddison made a superb drop goal early in the second half pushing the Ladies even further into the lead.

But these were to be the last points the Ladies would score, as the Medics surged back. In a niggly period of play, a string of penalties were con-

ceded by either team, but then

the Medics scored a quick try which was converted by their fly-half, Tom Whitley.

A controversial penalty was later awarded to the Medics putting the Ladies under more pressure as their advances were confounded by the change in wind direction.

The Ladies' defence was faltering increasingly, allowing Andrew Cavanagh from the Medics to score another try, which caused even more tension between the sides. This meant the score moved to 23-21 and the Ladies were right up against, needing to regain their composure in order to avoid this potential cup upset.

The last few minutes of play saw more contentious decisions made by the referee but strong and determined advances by the Ladies towards the Medics' line once again put their op-

position under pressure. Finally, a decisive kick into touch by the Ladies meant this tense game finally came

to an end and the Cup holders could breathe a sigh of relief as they advanced into the quarter-finals.



Photo: Krisay Koslicki

Brave Knights beaten by the clock

Both Basketball sides put in good performances against higher league opposition

BASKETBALL 1STS

NEWCASTLE	50
NORTHUMBRIA	68

Robin Biggs

THE KNIGHTS will be disappointed with their performance in the Stan Calvert Cup as Northumbria comfortably beat them by 18 points. A weak first half was the main reason for the defeat as at half-time they were staring at a 15 point deficit.

In the third quarter the Knights came out fighting and managed to cut the deficit to eight points behind some excellent play from Nik Hobbs and

Simon Morton. They hit a number of three-pointers in this period to keep the Knights in touch.

However it proved that Northumbria were just too strong in the end and they managed to maintain their lead throughout the game.

Special mention should go to Nik Hobbs who was excellent in the second half and scored 19 points. This is the level that the Knights aspire to, as with such a good league showing, they are going to have to play at this level next year if they are to stay in the BUSA premier league.

Newcastle are now looking forward to a trip to Worcester, the UK champions, as they look to progress in the Championship knockout.

BASKETBALL 2NDS

NEWCASTLE	56
NORTHUMBRIA	58

Robin Biggs

NEWCASTLE'S 2NDS can feel extremely hard done by, as they succumbed to a last second defeat in very controversial circumstances. The referees failed to notice that the last offence by the Northumbria team took place after 26 seconds instead of the conventional 24 seconds. The basket should not have counted, but the referee allowed it and this handed the game to Northumbria.

It left Newcastle feeling robbed after an excellent performance against a team two leagues above them.

The Knights will be even more disappointed with this defeat, after letting an eight point lead slip in the last five minutes. Newcastle choked at the death and some poor decision making ultimately cost them the game.

Aaron McGowan played excellently and was deadly from the free throw line converting six of his seven attempts and finishing with a Knight high 17 points.

Other notable mentions should go to Liam Neligan who, off the bench, was the catalyst to Newcastle building a lead. He contributed nine points and eight rebounds in limited playing time. An excellent achievement.



SO CLOSE... In form Knights suffer rare defeat

ICE HOCKEY

NEWCASTLE	5
NORTHUMBRIA	0

Steven Gill & Tom Davis

LAST SUNDAY, an under-strength Wildcats side showed no signs of weakness with a crushing 5-0 victory over the 'Poly' to give Newcastle vital early Stan Calvert points.

From the onset they set an unmatched pace, with Peter Traynor in particular frequently bewildering Northumbria's defence.

Traynor soon gave Newcastle the lead and further contributions from Hadfield and Hinkley showed Newcastle's overwhelming superiority, meaning the result was never in doubt.

However Northumbria did have their share of chances at the other end. Stephen Gilmore was a deserved man-of-the-match, the Newcastle goal keeper frustrating all of Northumbria's efforts on goal.

The second line of Newcastle's team also deserve credit, providing the strength in depth to see off Northumbria's challenge at all times. The Wildcats controlling the game throughout.

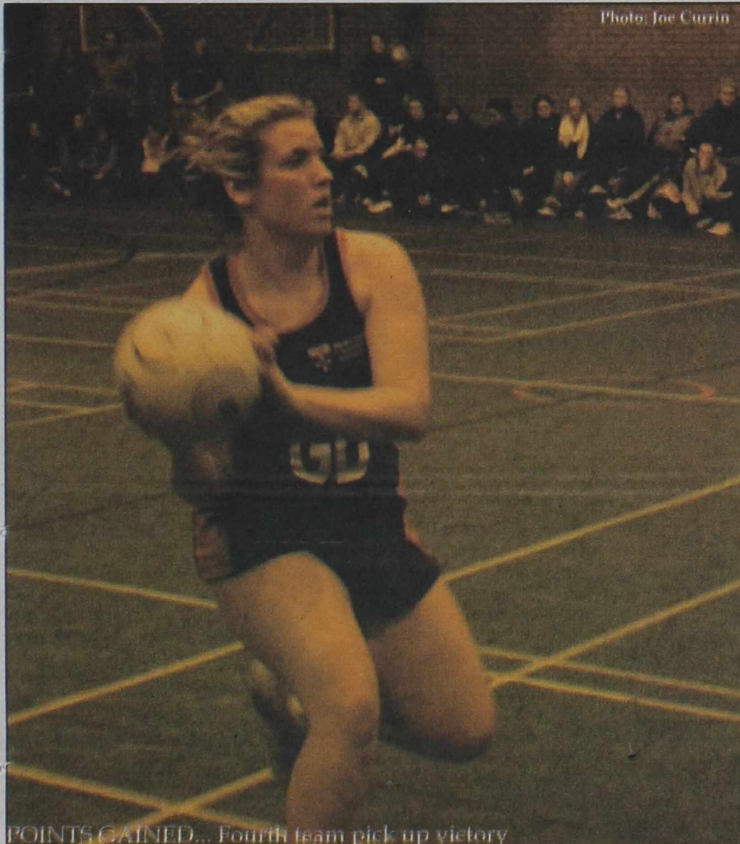
Special mention must go to Andrey Kuznetsov Dickson. Belying his obvious lack of fitness (due to his insatiable addiction for Russian cigarettes and Sloppy Guiseppe pizzas), his strength was invaluable to the Wildcats victory - rebutting Northumbria's frustrated 'dog-fight' tactics with heavy-handed tactics of his own.

His trip to the penalty box mid-way through the game was scant punishment after his body checks had left one too many Northumbria players in a heap on the ice.

It is fair to say that the Wildcats superb support also played their part in the victory. The Newcastle fans turned out in their masses, dwarfing the pitiful few Northumbria followers.

The crowd's continuous mockery of the Northumbria team, inquisitive to know why the 'puck' they were allowed into university, was great banter. Warmed by tins of Carling and hot-chocolate the crowd were not to be disappointed, being thoroughly entertained by dazzling ice-hockey.

It was a game that provided everything a Stan Calvert clash should; class, excitement, handbags and a trip to the scenic Whitley Bay.



POINTS GAINED... Fourth team pick up victory

Fantastic fourths claim surprise win

NETBALL ROUND-UP

Hannah Lucas

THE NETBALL CLUB offered spectators four enthralling matches, with an atmosphere created that was more than worthy of the competition.

The fourth team started Newcastle's campaign off in the best possible fashion with a superb win against a strong Northumbria outfit. The Royals got off to a great start, and despite changes made by Northumbria at the quarter mark, Newcastle played on strongly to remain in the lead at half time.

Northumbria were piling on the pressure but Newcastle held firm and pushed on to the end, with the shooters and attackers having a great game. The final whistle came giving a historic victory to The Royals.

The thirds could not quite emulate the achievements of the fourths de-

spite evenly matching their challengers in the early stages. As the game progressed it seemed that Newcastle started to make some mistakes, throwing a scattering of wild passes, which Northumbria capitalised on to extend their lead.

After making some changes, the Uni came out in the second half with renewed energy, but it wasn't enough as Northumbria just squeezed the third team out.

The seconds were determined to get Newcastle back in front in the netball standings, and again started their match with great energy. However, with the team still suffering from injuries, the set plays were a little unsteady with players finding themselves out of position.

The shooters fought on, converting some difficult shots, but by half time Northumbria had pulled ahead. Despite a more positive and exciting second half performance, the seconds were met with a disappointing loss.

Northumbria were now one win ahead in the day's netball and so

Newcastle were pinning their hopes on the first team who faced a very tall and confident Northumbria team, unbeaten in the BUSA Premier this season.

Newcastle seemed to struggle to settle, but as the first quarter progressed the Royals found themselves behind but holding their own.

Newcastle's attack played together smoothly and confidently, but Northumbria seemed capable of pre-empting the Uni's set plays, intercepting the ball and converting goal after goal to go into a substantial, unsurmountable lead.

Despite another loss, the firsts can be proud of their display against such quality opponents, with defence and attack working equally as hard as each other.

Overall the day will be remembered for a fantastic win for the fourths who contributed some all important points to the Cup. The other three teams produced brilliant performances but were outmatched on the day.

STAN CALVERT SPECIAL

Photo: Mindaugas Miskinis



SANTA CRUISE... Harry Santa-Olalla in action on the wing

Castle crumble at Coach Lane

■ Newcastle throw away three goal lead as Poly storm back to take share of points

MEN'S HOCKEY 1STS

NORTHUMBRIA	4
NEWCASTLE	4

Charlie Wright

AN ENTHRALLING Stan Calvert tie saw in-form Newcastle throw away a three goal lead to let Northumbria claim a point from the 14th Stan Calvert meeting between the sides.

The game started frantically, with the away side Newcastle pressuring early. Within two minutes the Blues were in front thanks to an expertly placed pass from Daniel Bensley finding the end of Ollie Fraser's stick, deflecting it in to the bottom corner.

The lead was doubled 5 minutes later when Mike Shkurka got on the end of another fantastic pass from Bensley, who excelled in the middle of the park throughout the game.

Northumbria took a while to adjust after the double whammy of New-

castle goals but eventually found some possession and two short corners. However the corners were not converted and the Blues looked dangerous on the break.

After one Northumbria attack was broken down Newcastle capitalised, firing a ball to Shkurka high up the pitch. He rounded the two defenders brilliantly but fluffed the shot, luckily getting a second chance after a goal mouth scramble which he put away well. However, the two Northumbria umpires found something wrong with the goal, disallowing it.

Newcastle's surprise at this decision didn't last long. Some more brilliant build up play from Bensley and John Yarrow provided Shkurka and Fraser with chances before Matt Colison secured a 3-0 lead at half time with a stunning reverse stick shot.

After the break it was the home side that looked the strongest. Through their longest period of possession Northumbria managed to manipulate two short corners in succession which were both convincingly put away with stunning drag flicks.

With their lead reduced to one goal

Newcastle started to get back into the game. Two good attacks came to nothing before a free hit outside the 'D' was quickly played to Rollo Lewis who fired in a storming reverse stick strike past the Northumbria goalkeeper.

At 4 - 2 the Blues looked good for the win but a lack of concentration at the back provided an unmarked Northumbria player at the back post with enough time to pick his spot and place the shot past Will Poole in the Newcastle goal.

A tense last 5 minutes left the crowd on tenterhooks. But with 3 minutes to go a bad decision from defender John Colville left the Newcastle defence in a 4 on 2 situation. Northumbria capitalised, equalising with a well placed strike.

For a moment it looked like the Blues had won it at the other end when Fraser fired a quick reverse stick shot past the keeper. However, it flew agonisingly into the side netting leaving the game at 4 - 4.

With Newcastle clear favourites before the game, these must be considered points dropped.

Undefeated

■ Women's hockey 1sts produce stunning draw whilst second and third teams record impressive results



Photo: Stephanie Feng



Photo: Mindaugas Miskinis



Photo: Stephanie Feng

WOMEN'S HOCKEY 1STS

NEWCASTLE	3
NORTHUMBRIA	3

Rachel Lesser

WITH THE ODDS stacked against them, no one expected the first team to take anything from this match. The ladies seemed to revel in their underdog status though, producing an inspiring and well deserved draw.

From the moment the first whistle was blown the match hit a furious pace. However, Northumbria showed their perceived superior ability early on, producing an early goal.

Newcastle heads stayed high though, and despite Northumbria managing to put another one in the back of the Newcastle net, the Poly never looked dominant. Some great midfield pressure saw Victoria Harries, Kirsty Osbourne and Jojo Gwynne-

Jones produce some great link up play. A short corner was executed by Dawn Logan, who used the 'super strike' method, a tactic which paid off deflecting nicely off the opposition's stick, to put Newcastle back in the game.

The rest of the first half saw Newcastle on top, Jos Plummer finishing in typically ruthless style. This was followed up by an equally composed goal from Jenny Simms, putting the underdogs ahead for the first time.

As the teams stepped up for the second half Newcastle remained composed, looking to safeguard their 3-2 lead. Elite athlete Rosanna Innes was in commanding form, demonstrating some clinical tackles to keep the opposition clear of the Newcastle 'd'.

However, Northumbria broke away and slotted home an unexpected equaliser. The remainder of the match was fraught with drama, with the sin binning of two Poly players.

The match finished with the scores level, with Newcastle earning a surprise but much deserved point.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY 2NDS

NEWCASTLE	4
NORTHUMBRIA	2

Claire Gunn

THE SECOND TEAM produced an excellent but routine victory against a lacklustre Northumbria side.

The scoring was opened by man of the match, Tutu Osifodunrin, giving the home side a huge early boost. With the team spirits high, the Royals got a little complacent allowing the opposition a number of chances, resulting in a goal from a spectacular strike from a Poly short corner.

With Newcastle fighting relentlessly in the first half they retained much of the possession but failed to convert any of their chances in the remaining minutes of the first half.

An inspiring half time talk from Ollie Townley rallied the Newcastle team who set about producing a goal glut in the second period.

With Katie Siese, Cat Graham and Alice French putting in some sterling midfield performances, the attackers came back hard at the Poly with a string of goals. Camilla Handford began the onslaught, demonstrating her speedy reactions on the rebound.

Anna Butler claimed Newcastle's third with a precision short corner strike, while Osifodunrin's silky skills produced her second and Newcastle's fourth.

Unable to maintain 100% of the possession, the red and black's sneaked one goal back making the final score 4-2. This was a well deserved victory for Newcastle, demonstrating the side's superior ability.

A great result, earning some priceless Stan Calvert points, testament to how well the team played.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY 3RDS

NEWCASTLE	1
NORTHUMBRIA	1

Claire Gunn

TENSIONS WERE RUNNING high after sleepless nights for many of the third team, who were first to step up and face the poly.

Rachel Little led an inspired team from the very first whistle, with the home side making fantastic use of the pitch. The evenly matched teams fought hard from the start, with some excellent defending from Harriet Godwin and Maeve McNally preventing the opposition from taking the lead.

The midfield worked tirelessly, offering numerous opportunities for the attack with Sarah Sturgeon's quick reactions put to good use on rebounds. Only some excellent saves from the

red and black goalie kept the scores level as the half time whistle blew.

Northumbria came back strongly after half time, managing to sneak an early goal, taking the lead against the run of play.

The support on the sideline picked up the royals spirits, inspiring the team to regain control of the match. Man of the Match Kate Campbell refused to let the Poly back in her 'd', producing some superb tackles to deny the Northumbrian attackers.

The Uni took control of possession again, fighting back to level the scores. A fantastic shot from Little was finished off by Verity Holder.

The result proved to be a frustrating one after such a hard fought game. Hopefully, the match will inspire the Royals to victory next week - the two teams will meet again in the first match of the BUSA plate. Sure to be another tense and tight encounter, the game promises to be one of the highlights of the season.

CONT. FROM BACK PAGE

Despite much deliberation, only one of Northumbria's appeals was accepted and after an agonising wait, the news began to filter through that the Stan Calvert Memorial Cup was to return back home.

Speaking to Courier Sport the day after the sensational win, Fraser Kennedy was in jubilant mood.

"I'm really proud with the whole of Team Newcastle for such a brilliant result against such a proud sporting institution as Northumbria," he said. "Realistically we do well to compete with Northumbria let alone beat them so it is a fantastic achievement."

"The whole day was superb; the new sports were a big success and the event's organisation was first class. The crowd at Gateshead were buoyant but exceptionally behaved. The atmosphere was outstanding all day."

Throughout the day the competition had been warming up, as Newcastle and Northumbria pitted themselves head to head across the sporting spectrum. From the indoor cricket in the morning to the rugby union at night, fixtures were keenly contested across the city between two proud sets of students.

Performances across the board were doing Newcastle proud. The men's football team produced arguably the shock of the day with a superb 3-2 win, and with the underdog women's hockey seconds battling to a 3-3 draw, Northumbria were starting to feel the pinch as the evening closed in.

As attention started to turn to the Gateshead International Stadium, Northumbria were still fighting hard and they scored crucial victories in netball and basketball. Still, with neither camp sure of the scores it looked like the rivalry was going to be fought out on the rugby pitch.

At six o'clock the rugby league kicked off in front of a growing mass of supporters, a game Newcastle dominated from start to finish. The hits were felt in the stands as aggressions on and off the field began to mount. By the time the first skirmish broke out on the field the chants between the two sets of fans were visceral.

Half seven and it was time for the finale. With the total scores still a mystery the rugby union sides came face to face to play out the bitter rivalry on the pitch. The game began at a furious pace. Raucous applause rang out as mascots, cheerleaders, fans and players battled on the Gateshead turf, but Newcastle were winning the war.

Five minutes in Newcastle had touched down in the corner after they turned over a line out. And it kept going from there. Newcastle romped to a 33-15 victory in the rugby, and despite the seven appeals from the beleaguered Team Northumbria, Newcastle romped to an overall 54-40 victory in the Stan Calvert.

By the time AU president Lydia Oxenham stepped up to lift the trophy, Northumbria supporters had disappeared. All that was left in the Gateshead International Stadium was the sweet smell of victory and the rapture of applause to soar into the night.

Newcastle foiled in tough test

Women's match cancelled as men crash to heavy defeat

FENCING ROUND-UP

Christie Waddington

ONCE AGAIN, the Stan Calvert approached and Newcastle fencers were keen for a fierce fight. Having comfortably defeated the Northumbrian women's team last year, the Blues were eager to repeat the victory this year.

To Newcastle's surprise, the Northumbria women's team cancelled the evening before, with a BUSA play-off fixture against Manchester. To enhance this disappointment, Newcastle were gutted to learn that a walkover would not even be granted, with the Royals missing out on the change for two vital Stan Calvert points.

The men's team had prepared themselves for a tough match and were eager to get the match underway. Some of the key players from the team were absent due to illness and injury, and so some of the less-experienced members of the second team were called upon. This contrasted greatly with the Northumbria team which was comprised entirely of international fencers. Their confidence was very much apparent in their poor attitude, with the spirit of the Stan Calvert seeming to mean nothing to them. Nevertheless, old rivalries stuck in the mind, and old dog Robert Panting, with four years experience on the Men's first team, loudly declared that he was "going to kick 'em in the nuts".

The weapon order was decided, starting with épée, a slow and tactical weapon, in which both teams had their strongest players. Newcastle

fought to the best of their ability, with all members of the team putting in a gallant effort. Robert Panting was able to match the Northumbrian skill with some impressive deceptive attacks, but their superior ability was too much for our men to handle, losing 45-31; a respectable score line.

Secondly was sabre, a very fast "slashing" weapon, with the upper body the target. This was the weakest for the Newcastle teams with no club members specialising in this weapon. Northumbria dominated from start to finish. Ed Bailey, a newcomer to the sport, played particularly well in his first match, scoring the most points on the Newcastle side. Despite this impressive display, whether it was beginner's luck or pure talent, Newcastle were still defeated 45-15.

Foil was the finale of the trio of weapons; a small fast weapon, with

the trunk of the body serving as the target. Newcastle men's captain, Paul Davis, led the side, but with a poor start it seemed a win was impossible. Paul was the only one to score more than three points in any individual bout, with a particularly noteworthy performance against Irish international Stephen Fenwick. Paul's quick speed, fast footwork and neat blade work produced a victory over the Northumbrians with a score of 6-3. Alas, a battle cannot win a war, and the final score was 45-17 to Northumbria.

A final score of 135-63 was certainly a disappointment, compared to last year's score of 135-108. Newcastle's Director of Fencing, Iain Aberdeen said, "The team fenced very well and worked very hard to get there. We should be proud as a university. There's always next year."

Photo: Christie Waddington



Poly bashing

DAVEY'S DAY... Northumbria's Matt McClelland desperately tries to stop Key Davey increasing Newcastle's lead.



Photo: Phil Booth

Jones' men thrash rivals in night of joy at Gateshead

RUGBY LEAGUE 1STS

NEWCASTLE	20
NORTHUMBRIA	4

Kevin Davey & Edward Ainscoe

COACH Rob Jones' devotion to the rebuilding of NURL is similar in scope and awe -inspiring genius to

Gaudi's Sagrada Familia. Yet whilst the Catalan's work remains unfinished, few can doubt that NURL's Lazarus-esque resurrection is complete following the atonement for last year's loss in the fixture.

The first stanza began at a frantic pace, with the blues immediately given the upper hand by a ponderous polytechnic prop, committing the cardinal sin of allowing the pig skin to bounce dead from the kick off, inviting a bold and rampaging assault on Northumbria's line which would have done the Vikings proud.

Mikey Ward, defying his age, provided the game breaking moment, marauding around the paddock and breaking the line at will, with his powerful surge and adroit offload putting cantankerous winger Kevin Davey into enough space for him to sniff out the line for NURL's opening score.

For the remainder of the half Newcastle were their own worst enemies, continually attempting the enigmatic when the pedestrian would have sufficed. The handovers resulting from errant offloads and frustrating indiscipline began to sap the energy of NURL's blitzkrieg defence and Northumbria were able to eat their cake when a slice of luck went their way.

Northumbria talisman Bobby Bahadori made an impressive break down the grandstand flank, and had

the line in sights when Paul Wood, who was receiving physiotherapy not 5 seconds before, rose from the turf to demolish the Northumbria stand-off. It was a big bang that Rowan Williams himself couldn't refute, and Bahadori was left stunned like a turkey in a cull.

The second half began extremely well for Newcastle with "Steam-roller" Ste Moorcroft using his tank of a carcass to cataclysmic effect. His barn-storming run set up the platform for another score after some slick passing down the right side. The crowd momentarily believed Tom Selleck had sprinted the final 20 metres to ground the ball before the announcer assured the frenzied masses that the moustachioed bandit was in fact Davey collecting a brace.

Following Northumbria's somewhat disputed try, the men in black continued to throw all they had into the iron curtain of NURL's defence, all to little effect. NURL full back Liam Clarke provided more than a match for Bahadori and Jardine's tactical kicking, collecting every kick and surging his way up the turf as though running on hot coals, despite the impediment of only possessing three studs in his archaic boots.

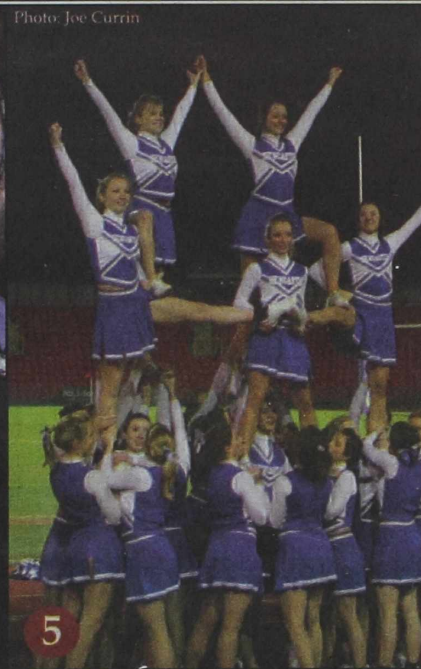
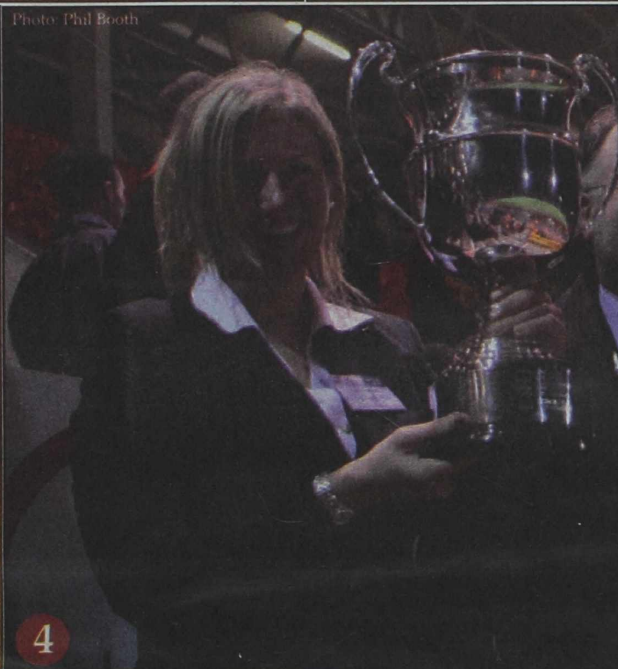
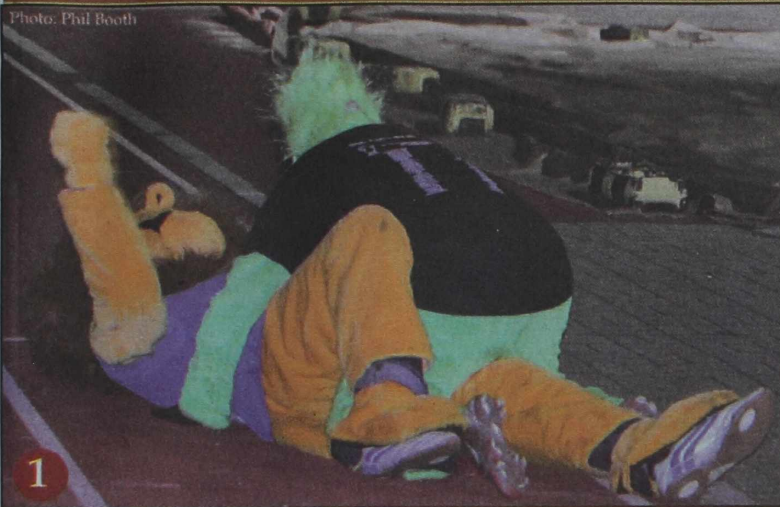
The crowd, bolstered by the vociferous presence of several of NURL's dedicated Old Boys, was baying for more from the bashers in blue, duly provided when Ward danced his way over for a try, scything through the tiring Northumbria like a hot knife through a pork scratching.

Paul Wood finished the scoring, adding the finishing touch to a classy Newcastle move, with the ball flowing across the pitch with the irresistible force of the Tyne. NURL firebrand Chris Blain ensured that this was not the end of the action, with the prop hunting for poly teeth with his burly arm rarely lowering from horizontal.

This led to some sterling fisticuffs thrown in what was an inevitable brew-ha ha. Team Basher Liam Gasior was obviously in his element, while special mention must go to Mikey Bryan for his much warranted attack on Northumbria's diminutive scrum half.

As a dejected Northumbria team trudged from the battle ground, Andy Stanton wore a smile as wide as Christmas Day, safe in the knowledge that NURL had contributed their part to a stunning Stan Calvert victory over their city rivals.

STAN CALVERT PHOTOS



James Parker Sports Editor

With the Stan Calvert fixtures that were held before Wednesday, Newcastle find themselves 7-5 down at the start of the day. After disappointing rugby results last Saturday, Sunday saw the ice hockey team storm to victory 5-0 at Whitley Bay. Hopes were high that this would bode well for Team Newcastle on Wednesday.

12:00

The Stan Calvert Cup doesn't start well as the cricketers are beaten in the morning. Not the opening Team Newcastle were hoping for, although the American footballers earn Newcastle their first points of the day without even breaking a sweat; Northumbria pulling their side out resulting in a walkover being awarded.

14:30

The men's hockey matches are over and Newcastle find themselves with two draws and a victory from the 3 fixtures. It's looking good but it's still too early in the day to be getting excited. The golfers also draw at Slaley Hall.

15:00

Things are really starting to heat up, with results coming in from all over the North East. Both men's and women's badminton sides record victories adding to Team Newcastle's growing haul of points.

15:30

Both lacrosse men and women record emphatic victories; the least of what was expected from them. Things are going to plan but Northumbria are sure to fight to the wire.

17:00

The women's hockey teams emulate their male counterparts, remaining unbeaten, although the netballers are not faring as well, with Northumbria looking on top in these fixtures. Things start to look worrying though as both the tennis and table tennis teams are beaten; Northumbria are right back in it.

19:00

And it's looking even more worrying now, with the basketball men's and women's sides failing to record any much needed points.

19:30

Some good news at last, Newcastle hammer Northumbria in the rugby league firsts to emulate the seconds earlier in the day.

21:30

The Stan Calvert showpiece sees the rugby union firsts cruise to victory, coupled with positive results from the swimming, rowing and skiing. The atmosphere is tense as the results are recorded from all the fixtures of the day and appeals are lodged.

22:00

The result is finally announced and the Stan Calvert goes to Team Newcastle, who fantastically manage an overall 54-40 victory. Jubilation ensues as AU President Lydia Oxenham lifts the Cup.

1 - Most supporters were well behaved.
 2 - Newcastle fans in fine voice.
 3 - The basketballers put up a good fight against class opposition.
 4 - AU President Lydia Oxenham with the trophy.
 5 - The cheerleaders show their support.
 6 - The hockey club remained undefeated.
 7 - Newcastle players ecstatic with victory.
 8 - The football club produced one of the shocks of the day.
 9 - New Vice Chancellor Chris Brink takes in the action.
 10 - Both badminton sides were successful.

Poly sick as a parrot

Northumbria crushed as Newcastle top off triumphant day

STAN CALVERT MAULING... Newcastle on the attack again

Photo: Phil Booth



MEN'S RUGBY 1STS

NEWCASTLE	33
NORTHUMBRIA	15

James Parker
Sports Editor

THE SHOWPIECE of the Stan Calvert Cup. A sure test of grit, nerve and determination. Newcastle went into the battle looking for revenge after the Kingston Park defeat to their bitter rivals just before Christmas.

This time round though, there were more than just BUSA points at stake. Sure to be a tense and fiery encounter, there was huge anticipation before kick off, and the game delivered in every aspect as Newcastle overcame a spirited 'Poly' side with a swagger of flair and confidence.

As the teams emerged from the tunnel, a packed stadium greeted their imminent warriors with a huge roar. With the pre match cheer leading routines over, the scene was set for Newcastle's biggest game of the year.

And it was the Royals who thundered out of the blocks with an explosive start. On ten minutes, Ben Mercer had a try disallowed for offside, but rather than deter his side, this only spurred them on. The first points of the game were kicked via the boot of Luke Bettesworth, after Northumbria were penalised for handling in the ruck (3-0).

Newcastle continued to pour forward after a long cross field kick found touch. The resulting lineout ball was secured by the Royals, who dispatched a sweeping move across the length of the pitch leading to an overlap on the far side from Adam Armstrong who scored the first try of the game (8-0).

The resulting conversion was missed however, as the wind plagued Gateshead stadium was causing problems for both sides, especially when kicking.

With Newcastle firmly in the driving seat, the game looked to be running away from their rivals until a lack of concentration allowed last year's winners champions to get back into the game.

Good phase play provided the Northumbria backs with some quality ball, and with Scott Riddell thundering forward, an overlap on the blindside created space for the Poly's first points of the evening. The resulting conversion was scored via the post by Simon O'Farrell, the fly half very lucky indeed to see his effort bring the scores to 8-7.

With the scores expectedly close, and with emotions running high, it was no surprise that tempers began to boil over, as a fracas erupted which involved all 30 players. Common sense prevailed from the referee as he calmed the situation down but nevertheless there was still a lull of ill favour in the air.

Just before the half hour mark, Newcastle's consistent rhythm forced Northumbria into giving away yet another penalty - something of which was becoming a recurring theme. The kick was brilliantly glided home by Bettesworth to further the Royals lead (11-7).

You would have been forgiven for thinking that Newcastle would start to run away with the game due to their superior possession, but as with vintage cup style, it was Northumbria who scored next.

Turnover ball in the centre of the park allowed the 'Poly' the platform on which to attack. A well secured scrum left fly half O'Farrell to run openside. His depleted backline however were all involved in the ruck and so with acres of space to run into, and with few options, he kicked for the posts scoring a beautifully struck drop goal (11-10).

Newcastle instantly replied however, winning yet another lineout; the Royals dominating set pieces throughout. Dom Shaw receiving the ball from the ever industrious Alex McKenzie, he in turn popped the ball to Peter Cole who skidded over the whitewash to extend Newcastle's lead. Another Bettesworth conversion took Newcastle into half time leading 18-10.

The interval couldn't come soon enough for Northumbria, who were in for a second half

shock as a resurgent Newcastle set out to inflict maximum damage on a disjointed 'Poly' performance thus far.

Newcastle continued from where they left off, with wave after wave of attack. Good handling, coupled with some solid pack play, allowed the Royals backline with plenty of ball, although it was a forward who would extend Newcastle's lead. Alex McKenzie storming through the Northumbria defence to score bang on the hour, Bettesworth this time though, wayward with his conversion (23-10).

Newcastle flooded forward in search of even more points. And their search would not be in vein. Prolific winger Peter Cole creating space on the near touchline to thunder over the try line, the back was enjoying an exceptional game.

Bettesworth found his range with the kick to take the scores to 30-10, and with only ten minutes left, the contest was effectively over. Nevertheless these weren't the last points of the game, Northumbria's Drew Long scoring a consolation try under the posts on 77 minutes posts.

However, with seconds remaining, it was Newcastle who ended the scoring with another penalty, the reliable Bettesworth ending his evening on a personal high (33-15).

The full time whistle blew much to the jubilation of players and fans alike. News of the Stan Calvert overall victory had spread, and AU President Lydia Oxenham celebrated with supporters who had been superb throughout.

Director of Rugby John Fenn was full of praise for his battling heroes. "That was an awesome display today, it was a massive team effort from everyone," he said. "We all stepped up to the plate today especially as it's against the Poly, and we know what they're like."

"I'm pleased with the behaviour of the crowd, our students were like what we expect from the quality people they are. But on the field today every one of those boys stepped up, especially the front row, that was a hard display today."

NEWCASTLE PLAYER RATINGS BY STEVEN IMPEY



Man of the match: Zack King

Backs

15. Adam Armstrong: Scorer of Newcastle's opening try. Miss timed the flight of the ball at times but great covering and work-rate from full-back. Solid performance. 8/10

14. Peter Cole: Very resilient and extremely determined to stay on his feet with the ball. Scorer of two of Newcastle's tries with some great awareness. 9/10

13. Ben Mercer: Had an excellent all round game until brought off injured late in the first half. Especially strong in defence with some outstanding hits. 8/10

12. Rob Holroyd: Had a great impact on the game. Hit the line in offence as hard as he tackled in defence. A very confident performance. 8/10

11. Anthony Shales: Very quick off the mark with some fancy footwork. Tackled low and hard and refuses to give in, whether he is chasing down a high ball or just simply unfit to continue. Brave performance. 8/10

10. Luke Bettesworth: Great decision making on the night. Knew when to play and, just as importantly, knew when to clear his lines. Very composed performance and controlled the game with clinical kicking at goal. 9/10

9. Dominic Shaw (v.capt): Always thinking one step ahead of play. Never afraid to confront or tackle anything above his weight and controlled his forwards very well. 8/10

Forwards

1. Harrison Pickervance: Excellent game at the scrum. Turned ball over very well, creating a great platform for the team to play from. 9/10

2. Andy King: Struggled at times to find his jumper in the line-out, but was very strong in other areas around the field. Made his presence known at the breakdown before having to come off injured with a shoulder injury. 7/10

3. Ian Richards: Big performance all round. Hard guy to pass and has some excellent hands. Was turned in the scrum on the odd occasion but great performance nonetheless. 8/10

4. Greg Bramhall: Competed very well at the line-out, sometimes even without being lifted. Played with a lot of grit and determination, and was unlucky to find himself sin-binned in the first half. 8/10

5. Stephen Trench: Was always at the breakdown and covered extremely well. Stopped the flow of the Poly's play with a lot of work off the ball. 9/10

6. Zack King: Man of the match (see above). Excellent overall game. Gave all sorts of problems to the Poly stand-off and deserves his accolades for his man of the match performance. 10/10

7. Rob Fahrenheim (capt): Played extremely well off the fringes and looked like he had a point to prove. Lead with conviction until brought off with a knee injury. 9/10

8. Daniel Thompson: His pick and drives were outstanding. Controlled the scrum well at 8 with great decision making and had a big influence on the game with some important 'grunt-work' at the break-down. 9/10

Subs used

16. Keith Laughlin: Showed an improvement at the line-out for the team. Great work-rate. 8/10

17. Dave Warwick: Needed to be very versatile when on. Played in a variety of positions including Flanker and Number 8. Solid performance. 7/10

18. Calum Chesterman: Worked hard at the breakdown and took advantage of his time on the field with some important tackles. 7/10

19. Rob Jackson: Came on in a difficult period at full-back. Tackled under pressure and relieved pressure with some expert kicking. 7/10

20. Ben Duncan: On at inside centre. Solid performance for time on field and was another that didn't disappoint with a hard act to follow. 7/10

21. Alex McKenzie: On at outside centre just before half-time. Very composed performance in defence with some commanding tackles scoring a wonderful try. Excellent performance. 9/10

STAN CALVERT SPECIAL

Dominant Uni pick up posh points

Lacrosse sides march to victory over sorry Northumbrian rivals



Photo: Chris Kay

EASY PICKINGS... Newcastle trounce poor Poly

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

NEWCASTLE	28
NORTHUMBRIA	1

Sam Thomson

NEWCASTLE'S STARTING line-up consisted predominantly of 3rd year students allowing them to have one last shot at the poly before graduating; the majority of the 1st team were on the bench cheering on their teammates in what would eventually be a fantastic victory.

The tone of the game was set in the first three minutes with three fast paced goals from Newcastle, two from Zoe Thomson and one from Elizabeth Hodgkinson.

The goals came flooding in after this point with the Poly failing to keep up with the high pace, another five goals hitting the back of the net without Northumbria showing much presence. The poly finally made a dash run into the relatively unfamiliar territory of Newcastle's half to score a cheeky goal just before the end of the quarter.

It was at this point that Newcastle decided to mix things up 'just for fun' by switching their defence and attack around. However, this tactic did not slow the blues down and the goals continued to rain in. Clemmie Stanley contributed to the increasing score gap, looking more than comfortable playing at the opposite end of the field. The pace of the game slowed down towards

half time but the addition of the previously benched 1st teams' fresh legs in the third quarter, allowed Newcastle to dominate the rest of the game.

With the important BUSA play-offs next week, the Newcastle team tested out some new tactics, which appeared to work well with every player in attack scoring several goals. Megan Passey and Helen Hodgkins formed an excellent partnership up-front with superb passing whilst Newcastle's goalie, Emily Fenton, was left feeling bored with the poly not even within Newcastle's half. Praise should also go to 3rd year Ottilie Stoot who played for the full energy-sapping 80 minutes, and contributed to the Newcastle win in this thoroughly one-sided match.

MEN'S LACROSSE

NEWCASTLE	17
NORTHUMBRIA	3

Sam Thomson

NEWCASTLE WALKED confidently onto the field with much more experience than their poly counterparts, fully expecting nothing less than a walkover against Northumbria's relatively new team.

The Poly came out enthusiastically, although unfortunately lost

their president and most experienced player, Adam Fadle, in the early stages due to a damaged ankle. With Fadle out of the game, Newcastle quickly took advantage and Captain Mark Healey easily placed the ball in the net.

Following this, the majority of the play centred around Northumbria's net with shots flying in from all angles. Takeshi 'The Sniper' Fukuzawa scored a beautiful goal and set up American superstar Patrick Smith for another just before the end of the quarter.

The second quarter started badly with a defensive slip-up

leading to a Northumbria goal. Newcastle soon pulled the game back into control however with an excellent goal by midfielder Duncan Moodie. Healey continued to increase the lead up until half time with assistance from the more than capable Newcastle attacking line-up.

The third quarter saw Northumbria venturing more often into Newcastle's half and they pulled two back; however, amazing up-field runs from defenseman Rob Challens put a halt to the Poly's attacking spree. Fresher Jonny Brown frequently found himself in good positions next to the goal and, with pin point accuracy,

placed the ball past the keeper from close range. Newcastle continued to push forward allowing Moodie to slide three more into the net.

Tensions were high in the final quarter and, after some ungentlemanly behaviour by the Poly, a brawl ensued which resulted in a man from both teams being sent off. The game became very aggressive and ground balls were highly contested with big hits by both teams. Mark Healey put the final nail in the coffin when he scored a terrific goal from long range right on the stroke of full time.

Stan Calvert Results 2007 / 2008

SPORT	TEAM	RESULTS
American Football	Men's 1sts	W - Walkover
Badminton	Men's 1sts	W - 5-3
	Men's 2nds	W
Basketball	Womens 1sts	W
	Men's 1sts	L - 50-68
Cricket	Men's 2nds	L - 56-58
	Womens 1sts	L - 122-22
	Men's 1sts	L - 83-84
Fencing	Men's 1sts	L - 135-63
	Womens 1sts	VOID
Football	Men's 1sts	VOID
	Men's 2nds	W - 3-2
	Men's 3rds	D - 1-1
	Womens 1sts	VOID
	Womens 2nds	D - 0-0
Golf	Men's 1sts	D - 3-3
Hockey	Men's 1sts	D - 4-4
	Men's 2nds	W -
	Men's 3rds	W - 6-1
Ice Hockey	Womens 1sts	D - 3-3
	Womens 2nds	W - 4-2
	Womens 3rds	D - 1-1
Lacrosse	Men's 1sts	W - 5-0
	Womens 1sts	W - 17-3
Mountain Biking	Men's 1sts	W - 28-1
	Men's 1sts	L - 10-17
Netball	Womens 1sts	L
	Womens 2nds	L
	Womens 3rds	L - 26-37
	Womens 4ths	W - 41-17
Rugby League	Men's 1sts	W - 20-4
	Men's 2nds	W - 36-6
Rugby Union	Men's 1sts	W - 33-15
	Men's 2nds	W - 47-10
	Men's 3rds	L - 3-25
	Men's 4ths	D - 20-20
Rowing	Womens 1sts	L - Walkover
	Freshers Men	W
	Freshers Women	W
Skiing	Novice Men	W
	Men's 1sts	W
Squash	Men's 1sts	L - 2-3
	Men's 2nds	W - 3-0
	Womens 1sts	D - 2-2
Swimming	Men's 1sts	W - 5-2
Table Tennis	Men's 1sts	L - 4-12
	Men's 1sts	L - 2-8
Tennis	Womens 1sts	L - 2-8
	Men's 1sts	L - 3-2
	Womens 1sts	W - 3-1

Royal Rumble

Written off Royals claim shock victory over much fancied rivals

MEN'S FOOTBALL 2NDS

NEWCASTLE	3
NORTHUMBRIA	2

Jamie Gavin

JUBILANT SCENES greeted the final whistle at Cochrane Park as Newcastle proved to be a class above an ill disciplined Northumbria side. The 3-2 score-line flattered the 'Poly' as only the woodwork and a dubious penalty decision prevented the Royals from securing a more handsome victory.

There were a few sore heads on Thursday morning as a Newcas-

tle side woke up to the tune of victory, a tune that is becoming ever more familiar to this vastly improving squad.

The Royals fielded an experienced line-up, boasting mainly final year students and maturity and discipline flowed through the team, who were visibly fired up for the encounter. Inspired by club captain Paddy Paisley and Gordon Howarth at the back, they started solidly and had the lead inside ten minutes.

A blistering drive from Simon Thorpe was simply too hot to handle for Northumbria's 'keeper, who tipped the ball into the roof of his own net.

The home side's lead, however, was premature, as just minutes later, the referee awarded the visitors a soft penalty when Pais-



Photo: Chris Kay

SHOCK OF THE DAY... Footballers produce remarkable win.

ley was harshly adjudged to have fouled the visitors' striker. A well taken penalty levelled the score at 1-1.

The Royals, undisturbed by the decision, set about their task once more and they were soon back in front. Stand-in social secretary Joe Robertson volleyed home from close range, taking full advantage of a defensive mistake.

Cracks now began to appear in the Poly's back line, and it was striker Dave Woolman who finally stretched Newcastle's lead when he found himself with time and space in the box. His cool finish took the score-line to 3-1 at the interval.

Northumbria offered little reply in the second half and never looked like scoring from open play. Newcastle, however,

threatened throughout and twice hit the woodwork.

First through Woolman, who came inches from adding to his tally when a speculative effort struck the foot of the post, then through substitute Rio, whose thunderous half volley hit the bar.

Only another converted penalty five minutes from time gave the Royals a nervy last few minutes, but they held out and secured the vital cup points.

Triumph over their rivals and a hard earned win for the underdogs meant jubilant celebrations for the football club on Wednesday evening. One thing's for certain, the final year students that will leave soon, ensured they left their mark in a memorable Stan Calvert win.

Poly in our pocket



Photo: Phil Booth

■ Newcastle bring Stan Calvert trophy home with resounding 54 - 40 victory

STAN CALVERT MEMORIAL CUP

NEWCASTLE	54
NORTHUMBRIA	40

David Coverdale & Ben Robinson

AFTER A DAY of the highest sporting drama, Newcastle University overturned their bitter rivals to emerge victorious in the 2007/08

Stan Calvert Cup. The fourteenth year of the varsity event was brought to a glorious climax in Gateshead International Stadium, as hundreds of Newcastle students stayed to see AU President Lydia Oxenham lift aloft the Stan Calvert Memorial Trophy.

Oxenham was understandably delighted with the win as she said, "It still hasn't sunk in. Throughout the afternoon I was convinced we had lost, it seemed everything was heading in their favour."

"I would like to congratulate all of our teams for the immense amount of effort they put into the day; I couldn't have asked for more. The

rugby finale was a fitting end to a brilliant competition and well and truly hammered the final nail in the coffin."

All the experts predicted one of the closest results in the event's history. What do the experts know? A fourteen point win does not lie, and Newcastle were the dominant force throughout the day.

Before the masses descended on the evening's events at Gateshead, the outcome of the trophy had already been pretty much sealed, barring seven fixtures that went to the independent adjudicators for appeal.

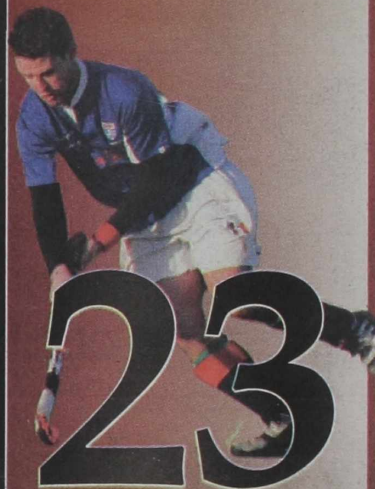
Six of these fixtures were challenged by Northumbria, just one by the Uni.

At one point the results of the American football, men's football seconds and thirds, men's lacrosse, women's rowing, women's rugby and mountain biking were all up in the air.

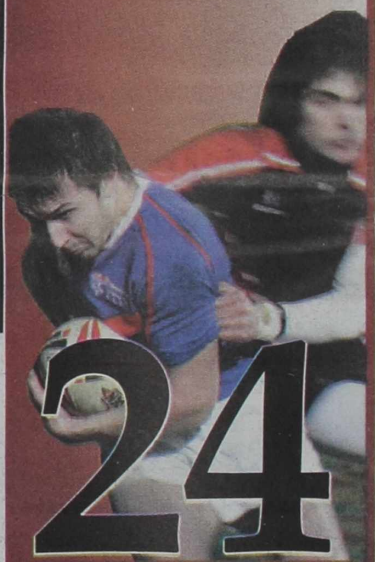
The winner of Stan Calvert was essentially decided in Gateshead Stadium's VIP Lounge, as Oxenham and Performance Sport Manager Fraser Kennedy met with Northumbria's equivalents and the two independent adjudicators mid-way through the men's rugby union.

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>> Men's and Women's Hockey



>> Rugby League



>> Men's and Women's Lacrosse



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'Son of a Gun...'

