

LOCAL ELECTIONS

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Our guide to using your
 vote this Thursday



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FASHION UNIVERSITY

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Fashion tips whatever
 your style

SILENT KILLER

- Student dies after taking herbal medication
- Concerns about the proliferation of alternative medical remedies

Gemma Davies
 Editor

A CORONER has described how 25 year old PhD student Ling Wang was "tragically killed" by a Chinese herbal remedy which she used to treat a stomach ache and skin rash - a remedy you can't even buy on the internet.

An inquest over the Easter holiday returned the verdict of misadventure, as coroner Karen Graham said that there could be "no other reason" for Ling's death, explaining: "Her liver failure was due to the reaction of her body to Chinese herbal medicine."

Ling, an engineering graduate, died after lapsing into a coma causing her liver and other organs to shut down.

Known to friends as 'Carrie', Ling enrolled at the University to study engineering seven years ago and died so suddenly that she couldn't even tell doctors what she had taken to cause her illness.

The inquest heard that whilst the medicine could not be identified, it was most likely to have been Jin Bu Huan, which is available as a tea or pill and is best known for its powerful painkilling properties.

The Courier set out to prove how easy it was to get hold of this remedy as a warning to other students, but instead we were shocked at how difficult it was

to obtain.

We were expecting to type 'Jin Bu Huan' into Google and see an abundance of sites ready to dispatch 30 days worth for £9.99 but instead what we actually found were a number of sites that held the same caution... 'danger', 'poison' and 'warning'.

The closest we came was a DVD with a similar name!

We also discovered that this is a substance banned in the US and Canada because of its links with hepatitis. Considering the difficulty we had tracking down this 'herb', or 'drug', as some sites refer to it, questions are inevitably raised about where Ling Wang got hold of such a dangerous herb and who had recommended she take it.

Doctors at the Freeman Hospital where she died said that Ling was very unwell even when she first arrived at the hospital.

Dr Stephen Stuart, a consultant pathologist, said: "Her blood pressure was low and her heartbeat was very quick and she was not able to hold a conversation. She became comatose."

"We suspected it was a Chinese herbal remedy and I did not feel she would survive at that point."

"No treatment we tried had any impact on her as Chinese remedies are often a mixture of different compounds. There was nothing we could have done for her."

This tragedy raises this issue of the

safety of herbal medicines which are so readily available and are big business.

The link between hepatitis and Chinese herbs was investigated here at the University in 2002.

Professor Margaret Bassendine, Head of Haematology here at the University said, "The use of Chinese herbal medicines is increasing, and they are perceived to be free of side-effects, but they remain largely unregulated."

In the study done here, scientists observed eleven patients who had taken Jin Bu Huan for minor complaints and contracted hepatitis. Although the link was not 100% conclusive there is clearly a very real danger surrounding this and other herbal remedies.

Ling, who lived on Ancrum Street in Spital Tongues, was a devout Christian and friends who she met through her involvement at Jesmond Parish Church have paid tribute to her.

Ramzi Adcock, a parish assistant at the church, said: "She was the life and soul of the party, very warm and totally committed to her friends. It seems such a waste."

She was also a committed member of the Newcastle Chinese Christian Fellowship.

Student Support Officer, Rosie Duffield, warns students to be careful when seeking alternative therapies: "Alternative therapies can sometimes be helpful but I'd advise seeking advice from a professional before taking anything."

Photo: Stephanie Feng



SEEKING THE ALTERNATIVE...a seemingly 'harmless' alternative remedy turned out to be a killer

>> On the Web This Week



www.thecouriernewcastle.com

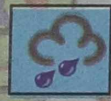
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Although the sun will be shining on Monday, unfortunately they will be joined by thundery showers. It looks like we'll have another week of thinking summer has arrived only for the rain to tell us otherwise.



The temperature, however, will improve as the week goes on so we might get the odd barbeque in by the weekend (if the rain holds off!).

Bronze award for going green

Anoushka Periyar

NEWCASTLE UNION SOCIETY has received bronze recognition for its eco-friendly efforts in The Sound Impact Awards.

The annual award scheme, led by the National Union of Students, credited Newcastle with bronze status for its contribution towards preserving the environment. Loughborough University were the overall winners with Leeds and Edinburgh also achieving Gold Status. Northumbria University, amongst six other Unions, earned silver.

Set up by Anna Heywood, a student who objected to over-packaging in her Student Union, The Sound Impact Awards intend to 'encourage, nurture, reward and celebrate environmental best-practice in Students' Unions'.

Speaking to *The Courier*, Ethics and Environment Officer, Jen Miller, commented that under the guidance of a workbook provided by the scheme the Union had made several changes to reduce energy consumption on campus. Co-ordinated by the Commercial and Operational managers, the officers interacted with staff to campaign towards a reduction in the temperature of the heating, use of unnecessary lights and excessive electrical equipment within the Union.

Newcastle already prides itself on its Fair Trade ethics with Café Direct coffee machines and cafes, such as Bistro,

stocking food and drink that reaches Fair Trade standards.

Furthermore, 2003 saw the opening of the Devonshire Building, the centre of environmental and scientific research within the university. Designed to be sustainable, cost and energy efficient whilst utilising recyclable materials where possible, it was the first building of its kind in the UK.

Last Wednesday the Ethics and Environment Officers met to discuss further improvements in Newcastle Union's quest to become eco-friendly.

There is hope of an Anaerobic Composter being bought for the Union which will enable all waste products, excepting some plastic crisp and sweet packets for example, to biodegrade on site.

There are also plans to use recycled paper in the printers on campus whilst currently a trial of omitting the header sheets on all printouts made on University campus is being carried out to reduce further unnecessary waste.

In addition, many students have expressed their discontent at the unnecessarily high temperature of the heating in University buildings which not only wastes energy but creates an uncomfortable working environment.

Jen Miller acknowledges that there is still a way to go for the university however events such as 'Ethics and Environment Week', which will next year be split to span the year, allow more students to get involved and campaign towards the eco-revolution of the university.

To access more information and get involved visit the Ethics and Environment website through www.unionsociety.co.uk.



GOING GREEN... Ethics and Environment Officers Jen and Katie

Rent return

Sarah Scott

STUDENTS at Warwick University are celebrating a victory over their landlord after he failed to register for an HMO license for his two student houses.

As of the 6th April 2006 landlords of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) were obligated to obtain a license for

HMOs of three or more storeys, occupied by five or more members in two or more households.

These licensing laws were introduced to protect students from landlords whose housing was not up to standard on fire safety and other amenity regulations, which would render houses unsafe for students to live in.

In this case, the University of Warwick Students' Union represented their own students in a battle against a landlord

over unlicensed HMOs, and won; a breakthrough for students suffering at the hands of slack landlords.

Their landlord was prosecuted in June 2007 and fined £3057.80 for failing to apply for an HMO license and following this the students applied to the Residential Property Tribunal for a rent repayment order for the time period over which the HMO was unlicensed.

Whilst living in the property the students said they were subject to living in very poor conditions and when they experienced problems with the house they were not addressed for a considerable amount of time, if at all.

The Tribunal noted the student's complaints but focused on the failure of the landlord, whose property portfolio is estimated at £2.5 million, to apply for an HMO license for his properties.

On receiving the students complaints the accommodation was inspected and the Tribunal judged that it was generally of "above average" standard and therefore they decided to reward the students an amount equivalent to 50% of relevant rent payments.

This totalled £18,450, a rent repayment of £9,000 per household. This was the first in the country under the new legislation, the Housing Act 2004.

The Courier has already reported this year on campaigns to extend the Housing Act to cover those in smaller HMOs in the Newcastle area.

At the time *The Courier* spoke with Councillor Ron Armstrong of the Liberal Democrats who indicated plans for the Council to look into eventually introducing HMO licensing for all shared housing in Newcastle.

However, before anything can be finalised the council must try a voluntary scheme through which landlords of smaller HMOs have the option of complying with the licensing laws implemented on the larger HMOs.

Students should be aware of being subject to similar situations and what rights they have in regard to the standards of their housing to avoid being mistreated by landlords.

This case is a step towards students receiving more rights and being treated fairly.

Newcastle Council has made moves recently to crack down on shady landlords who have still not obtained an HMO license for their properties.



WARWICK UNIVERSITY...Flying the flag for their students



Contact us on:
0191 239 3940
07964 921116

The Courier and Pulp,
Union Society, King's Walk,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE1 8QB

Editor

Gemma Davies
editor.union@ncl.ac.uk

News Editors

Paul Brannon
Fran Infante
courier.news@ncl.ac.uk

Features Editors

Holly Poynton
Sophie Robinson
courier.features@ncl.ac.uk

Sports Editors

David Coverdale
Rich Noon
James Parker
courier.sport@ncl.ac.uk

Design Editor

Kerry Hyndman
pulp.design@ncl.ac.uk



Music Editors
Jimmy Asquith
Ruth Sleightholme
pulp.music@ncl.ac.uk

Film Editor

Sam Parker
pulp.film@ncl.ac.uk

Entertainments Editor

Emily Butterworth
pulp.ents@ncl.ac.uk

Arts Editor

Holly Willats
pulp.arts@ncl.ac.uk

Photo Editors

Joe Currin
Chris Kay
courier.photos@ncl.ac.uk

Sub-Editors

Lindsay Gulliver
Lucinda Hancock
courier.proof@ncl.ac.uk

Web Editors

Alice Herbert
Theo Johnson
courier.webmaster@ncl.c.uk



The Courier
is printed on
recycled paper



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

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

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>> MAKE SURE YOU USE YOUR VOTE IN NEXT WEEK'S UNION ELECTIONS - VISIT VOTE.NCL.AC.UK TO MAKE YOUR CHOICES

Photo: Elliot Lowndes

Cows ont' Moo-oor

Elliot Lowndes

FOR ANYONE who has ever lived at Castle Leazes the grazing of the Town Moor cows is a familiar if not always appreciated sight.

Love them or loathe them they are a memorable (and terrifying) part of the archetypal first year experience, and now there's one more of them...

During early afternoon on the 16th April, residents of Moor Crescent witnessed the unexpected arrival of a calf on a small stretch of Town Moor, just north of Newcastle City centre. Residents alerted the city council after hearing the mother in distress. Once the calf had appeared it did not seem to be moving. People from the council arrived and attempted to approach the calf, at which point its mother charged at them. The mood was tense as the small van made a hasty retreat and the rest of the herd gathered around.

The commotion seemed to have stirred some life into the little one as it staggered up and headed for the protection of the other cows who were by that stage engaged

in a face-off with the council vehicle.

The Town Moor Act, passed in 1774, allows free grazing rights on the areas known as the Town Moor and Hunters Moor, but it is uncommon for calves to be born on this land. "Protective mothers can pose a serious threat to members of the public and dog walkers in particular," a council spokesperson told *The Courier* after his close encounter with the enraged cow. The mother and calf were of a Galloway mixed breed and are "notoriously temperamental, even under normal circumstances" he explained. For these reasons they eventually managed to split the mother and her calf from the herd, and safely take them both back to their farm. The spokesperson said this was a rare event that he had only experienced once before. Measures are taken to prevent pregnant cows from grazing on the Town Moor, but this one must have been missed by the vet.

Under normal circumstances cows are peaceful and timid animals and pose no threat to other users of the moors. However, while rare in occurrence, it is important to stay clear of a cow seen to be with newborn calves.

Legally Blonde

Newcastle law student crowned Miss York

Paul Brannon
News Editor

A NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY law student has been crowned Miss York for 2008 in a closely fought contest.

Helen Jackson, 19, from Claxton in York has become the crown of the city after claiming the title at a glittering ceremony at the Royal

York Hotel. Helen is studying Law at Newcastle University and plans to become a solicitor.

She told the York Press: "I can't believe I've won - I'm ecstatic and I won't be able to stop smiling. It's all down to my mum Linda. She and all my family have helped me through everything."

"I found a picture of her when she was Miss Yorkshire and I decided to go for Miss York, although I didn't tell her at first. I didn't just want to

be a beauty queen; I wanted to be Miss York because I'm proud of the city and wanted to represent it. It will probably take all year for it to sink in!"

The 25 contestants also raised more than £1,000 towards Caroline's Rainbow Foundation, the charity set up in memory of murdered York backpacker Caroline Stuttle.

On behalf of everyone at *The Courier*, I send great congratulations to Helen!



MISS YORK...
First year Law undergraduate Helen Jackson

Photo: Ron Disney Photography

12
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INTERVIEW

Straight talking: Nutritionist Gillian McKeith...

We speak to 'You are what you eat' presenter about how students can watch what they eat better without splashing the cash and if she took her own advice when she was a student...



Fran Infante
News Editor

Fran: A lot of students try to eat as healthily as they can but with the combination of large occupancy houses (and the lack of refrigeration space that results) and increasingly high prices of fresh (and especially organic) produce it can be difficult and expensive. Do you have any tips for eating healthily on a budget?

Gillian: Many people think that eating well is expensive but this does not have to be the case. Whole natural foods are actually better value for money than processed foods. Manufacturers take raw ingredients and turn them into products so that they can charge more for them. They call this "value added". Value to them but not to you. I have also found that people spend a fortune on take aways. Meanwhile beans and rice cost next to nothing.

Many natural ingredients are incredibly inexpensive; brown rice, oats, millet, barley, buckwheat and quinoa are all grains that can make up a substantial part of your diet. Cooking pulses from scratch saves money and packaging; try chickpeas, mung beans, lentils, aduki beans, borlotti beans, butter beans etc. Even ready canned cooked pulses are not expensive. Buy fruit and vegetables that are in season from markets especially farmers markets or pick your own!

Grains, pulses and vegetables should make up the bulk of the diet with a small helping of nuts and seeds daily. Fish, lean meats and eggs can be eaten less often.

Think of all the money you will save by not buying crisps, chocolate, biscuits, confectionary, alcohol and ready meals and spend this on whole foods.

F: Generally it is perceived that if you look after your health once you graduate and become a 'real adult' then it's ok to not worry so much while you're a student. How important is it for students to take an early interest in their own nutrition?

G: Eating well and looking after your self physically are not just for the long term. Poor health can start when you are a student and may then plague you for years afterwards. Short term benefits to taking control and responsibility for what you put into your body include improved concentration and brain function, clearer skin, glossier hair, stronger nails, less bloating, improved body shape, more energy and hormonal balance to name a few. All things that can improve student life as well as standing you in good stead for future health.

F: Another issue barrier to healthy

eating that students face is time and or lack of cooking expertise - what is your favourite quick and simple meal to cook?

G: The too long to make healthy food thing is a head game that people play with themselves. Healthy food is quick and easy to make. You don't even need to turn on an oven to make fruit soup (3 minutes) and Avocado sushi (5 minutes), or Aduki bean and corn salsa salad (3 minutes). Also quick cooking is Red Lentil stew (8 minutes), Pea and mint soup (6 minutes), smoothies (2 minutes). I make a fab Mung Bean Curry that takes no time at all. The list is endless.

F: You graduated with a degree in linguistics from Edinburgh, were you particularly health conscious while you were studying?

G: No I did not eat properly while studying at Edinburgh or while studying for my masters at University of Pennsylvania in the USA. Most students I knew were exhausted, tired and ate badly. It was my own ill health and intervention that spurred me to spend many years retraining in the field of nutrition. Be proactive with your body. Take action now.

F: At what stage did you make the switch from Linguistics to Nutrition? What prompted this move?

G: My health got so bad, I had no choice. I had to do something. I was chronically exhausted, on injectable pain killers for migraines. The list of ill health symptoms was as long as my arm. I once fainted in the street, my period pains were so bad. The turning point came when I was dropped off at a macrobiotic (wholefoods specific way of eating) seminar by my then boyfriend for 3 days and left there with no car to escape! I was furious at the time. But this was his gift to me and for my birthday, a present that changed my life forever. There was a woman at that conference called Elaine Nussbaum. She talked about her recovery from cancer using food. That was the kick in the pants I needed. I worked my bahookee off to get well and spent several years retraining, studying and working towards my masters and Phd in holistic nutrition. I want to make sure that people understand that they can and absolutely must take responsibility for their own health. They must take the reigns back.

F: Human Nutrition and its related subjects are popular degree choices here at Newcastle, what is your advice to young graduates who are looking to get into the industry?

G: I think it is fantastic that Newcastle offers such subjects. Learn as much as you can from as wide a range of sources as possible. Keep studying even after you graduate - there is so much more to learn. Keep your mind open and be prepared to change your mind! Never stop learning. There is always something new.

Remember that we are all unique and needs vary depending on stage

of life and from person to person. Experiment for yourself with different ways of eating and with new foods.

F: What, would you say are the 5 most important foods to include in an average 20 year-olds weekly diet?

G: It is more realistic to choose 5 food groups rather than 5 individual foods as variety is important. My choices of food groups would be fruit - locally grown and seasonal where possible; vegetables - especially green vegetables; whole grains - such as oats, brown rice, millet, quinoa, buckwheat, rye and barley for their complex carbohydrates and B vitamin content; pulses - probably the most inexpensive and versatile form of protein you can eat. Try chickpeas, lentils, mung beans, aduki beans, borlotti beans, butter beans etc. All great in soups, stews, casseroles and salads and nuts and seeds - for their essential fat and mineral content. Include a range from hemp seeds, sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, almonds, cashew nuts, walnuts, Brazil nuts and hazelnuts.

If I had to choose 5 foods I would say: berries, broccoli, brown rice, aduki beans and hemp seeds but really variety is key.

F: Part of what has made you famous is your emphasis on the importance of faecal examination - what makes you so passionate about poo?

G: What we eliminate can tell us a lot about the health of the body and how it is dealing with what we put into it. Many people do not even know what it is like to experience healthy bowel movements. Once you have normalised your bowel movements you will know what it feels like to be healthy and you won't want to go back! It gives me so much information and I have used it in private practice for more than 15 years. You can even get early warning signs of bowel cancer from the poo. In fact I am a spokesperson for the Beating Bowel Cancer organisation. This is one of the few cancers that if caught early enough can save lives.

F: You've become renowned for your straight talking no nonsense style. What is your response to criticism that your shows such as 'Gillian moves in: You are what you eat' encourages crash dieting?

G: I cannot imagine how the recommendations I give to people could be misconstrued as an encouragement to crash diet. My message is the absolute opposite of this. I encourage steady, long term weight normalisation with the focus on health rather than weight. I encourage people to eat widely and abundantly and to eat regularly and often.

I do not put people on a diet purely in

order to lose weight. I change people's dietary and lifestyle habits for ever. The people on the show and the people I work with do not want to go back to their previous habits when they stop seeing me. They have experienced the full range of benefits that healthy eating and exercise can bring. These include clearer skin, improved body shape, more energy, hormonal balance, better digestion and more stable moods. For many of them this is the first time they have experienced what it feels like to be healthy.

I have several clients who are now controlling type two diabetes with food and lifestyle.

F: You have been reported to follow a pescetarian vegetarian diet i.e. you eat fish but not the flesh of mammals, when and why did you make this choice? Especially given the common conception that lean chicken breast for instance is a relatively healthy choice? Is this dietary choice suitable for everyone?

G: I don't like to label myself at all. It is limiting and I do not live by limitations.

I create recipes as part of my health plans for many different types of people, so I may taste a food for flavour that I do not normally eat. If you checked out what I eat, you would probably say I am vegan if you are labelling me but then I have to try my recipes and I do create for example fish dishes for some people, so...everyone is different. Some people do well on a vegan or vegetarian diet. Some like to include fish for the benefits it can bring. Some like to include lean meats and poultry as well. Animal products are not essential but they are a source of protein, minerals and essential fats. These are individual choices. The main thing is that people make informed choices about what they put into their bodies. I personally do not like meat even although I grew up eating it. I feel better on my diet of beans, grains, seeds, nuts, seaweeds, pulses, legumes, veggie juices, vegetables, smoothies, herbal teas and leafy greens, sprouted seeds.

Any meat or poultry eaten should ideally be from organically raised

Gillian McKeith's
FOOD BIBLE
THE COMPLETE
A-Z GUIDE
TO A HEALTHY LIFE

animals from small producers. There are many issues around intensively farmed animals such as animal rights and whether meat from animals raised in this way can possibly be good for your physical body or your soul. I am sure, as students, you are aware of these things so I won't harp on about them now.

The main point is that meat should not make up a significant part of the diet but can be eaten as part of a balanced diet based largely on plant foods.

GILLIAN McKEITH'S FOOD BIBLE THE COMPLETE A-Z GUIDE TO A HEALTHY LIFE is out now. See www.gillianmckeith.info for more details.

The Courier has 10 exclusive free personal health profiles to give away to 10 lucky readers. See www.gillianmckeith.com for info on these. To stand a chance of winning one of these simply e-mail editor.union@ncl.ac.uk by 12pm on Friday 2nd May and the winners will be chosen at random.



WORDS OF THE WEEK

Paul Brannon

Quotes of the week:

"The girls in skimpy dresses should be removed from the ground as this is distracting the batsman." - **Shahid Afridi, Pakistani all-rounder**

"She's citing fraud as the reason for the breakup. Which is kind of funny - Pamela Anderson is the last person who should be complaining that something is fake." - **Jimmy Kimmel on Pamela Anderson's filing for divorce**

Drunk Darth Vader's Jedi assault

A man posing as Darth Vader attacked a Star Wars fan, who had founded a Jedi Church, a court has heard.

Arwel Wynne Hughes, 27, from Holyhead, Anglesey, admitted assaulting Barney Jones and cousin Michael with a metal crutch. They suffered minor injuries.

Hughes, who was drunk and dressed in a black bin bag, shouted "Darth Vader!"

Earlier, when Hughes failed to arrive on time, District Judge Andrew Shaw issued an arrest warrant, adding: "I hope the force will soon be with him."

In the event, Hughes turned up and the case at Holyhead magistrates court resumed.

The court heard he had jumped over a garden wall wearing the bin bag before the attack.

Outlining the case against Hughes, prosecutor Nia Lloyd said Barney Jones had recently started the Jedi church in Holyhead - in honour of the Star Wars' good knights.

It had about 30 members locally and "thousands worldwide".

The cousins had been filming themselves playing with light sabres in the garden before the attack.

Hughes admitted two charges of common assault.

The court heard he has a "chronic alcohol problem" and had drunk the best part of a 10 litre box of wine.

Hughes could not remember the incident and only realised what had happened when he read about it in local newspapers, the court told.

Defending, Frances Jones said alcohol was "ruining his life" and he had no idea where he got the crutch from.

NZ man 'used hedgehog as weapon'

A man in New Zealand has been charged with using a hedgehog as a weapon, the New Zealand Herald has reported.

Police said William Singalargh, 27, had hurled the hedgehog about 5m (16ft) at a 15-year-old boy.

"It hit the victim in the leg, causing a large, red welt and several puncture marks," said Senior Sgt Bruce Jenkins, in the North Island town of Whakatane.

It was unclear whether the hedgehog was still alive when it was thrown, though it was dead when collected as evidence.

The police spokesman said the suspect was arrested "for assault with a weapon, namely the hedgehog."

Mr Singalargh is due to appear in court on 17 April. If convicted, he faces up to five years in prison.

Sat-nav takes cabbie into river

A driver, stranded after he drove into a river, said his sat-nav system guided him in there.

The mini-bus driver was on his way to collect a fare in Castle Acre, near King's Lynn, Norfolk, when he took a wrong turn into the River Nar.

Pat Bowles, from Streamline Taxis, said: "Normal people would stop and back out but because his sat-nav told him to keep going that's what he did."

"I don't think he did think until he couldn't go any further."

The incident happened as the driver was following his sat-nav on Saturday.

Ms Bowles said it had given the driver's colleagues plenty of amusement: "He's had taxi drivers going into the office with snorkels on."

"We've also had phone calls, texts coming through asking if they can book river trips."

All stories found on the BBC News site, www.bbc.co.uk/news

Uni fines are extortionate and unfair



Kate McCann

OK, so we're all skint and yeah, as semi-responsible adults we should be expected to look after our own flat or study room, but in the current economic climate us students, along with everyone else, need to hold onto every penny we (don't) have, and forking out £60 for that stain you can't remember making doesn't really seem all that reasonable.

Pretty much all of us know someone who got fined in first year accommodation and most of us are probably already members of one of those insightful Facebook groups like "I've been f***ed by the Ricky Road Accommodation Office".

Indeed, just browsing through the wall posts on another Facebook group I come across one guy who got fined £100 for letting someone into the Richardson Road car park and another who was charged £500 to replace his study room carpet because of one small cigarette burn!

So how fair are the accommodation fines at Newcastle and just how do you justify charging someone £100 for lending a friend their parking permit?

Most of you veteran Ricky Roaders will be familiar with the staff from the accommodation office, if not because you've been on the receiving end of a "friendly chat" but because they can often be found striding from block to block sniffing out students to fine.

In fact, in Ricky Road, they're pretty much all at it, from the maintenance men who remove road cones from your flat, to the cleaners who report back to the staff on any "mystery" stains they just can't remove.

In all seriousness though, I realise this is beginning to sound like a rant from another bitter student but really, how fair is it to charge students for things which seem

completely ridiculous?

And don't think I'm being too liberal, for all you first years who enjoy mashing food into the floor or using the fire extinguishers for a foam party I have to say grow up; you've moved out of home and yeah, you're entitled to a bit of fun but not when it means someone else, typically the long-suffering cleaning staff, have to clean up your mess.

Of course fines are sometimes justifiable, but what I object to is when the accommodation office fine students large amounts of money without first letting them have their say and

“

...but really, how fair is it to charge students for things which seem completely ridiculous..?

”

often without even explaining why they charge the amounts they do.

Of course, the real icing on the cake is that annoying little "administration fee" which the office add on to any fine they serve up. After questioning the office about this additional £10 fee PER PERSON, we were told it was to allow for "...any letters written and delivered to residents about the offence".

Now, correct me if I'm wrong, but does it really cost them £60 to ask the maintenance man to wander down to our block and post a letter through our front door? I think not.

The fact is, I was one of many first years to be subjected to a "chat" from the staff whilst at Ricky Road, and I wasn't the only one.

If you break it, you deserve it you half-feral monsters



Robert Cooper

SO what planet do you live on? Have mummy and daddy wrapped you so tightly in your cocoon that you have absolutely no concept of being held accountable for your actions?

There was I thinking that if you smashed up your rented accommodation it would be perfectly reasonable for you to have the shit fined out of your arse.

But then I forgot, the rules are different for students, aren't they? We don't have to act responsibly. We're too vulnerable and naïve. So really we should be allowed to do whatever damage to student accommodation we chuffing well feel like.

Would you like the accommodation office to wipe your arse while we're at it?

I don't understand the position of students who complain about being fined. Fair enough, some fines seem a bit harsh, but this doesn't just apply to student accommodation.

In any walk of life, people have to make sure that what they do doesn't infringe upon the rules that have been set out before them. If they do breach them, they can expect to face the consequences. That's just life I'm afraid.

In my personal experience, student halls are pretty fair. Let's face it; students are not exactly ideal tenants. We have parties, get drunk regularly and often spit on the

floor. Some of us are not the best at acting responsibly or respectfully towards other people's property. Some of us frankly are immature, guffawing idiots.

As a result of this, things inevitably get damaged and stolen. To be honest I've seen a lot more damage go unpunished than I've seen people fined unfairly.

Back in first year, one of my flatmates hauled a load of road signs into the

“

It's not that it's full of Stalinist jobsworths, drooling over the prospect of bankrupting some poor student... ”

flat for reasons unclear to anyone else. The porters told us in advance that if we didn't get rid of them, there would be a fine for the person responsible. It turns out they were pretty lenient, because although the flatmate in question never removed the stolen property, the issue was never followed up.

Frankly it would have been no less than she'd deserved if she'd had the last shirt fined from her back and been paraded in the stocks like a medieval trollop.

There's no wonder the accommodation

office is keen to fine people. After a particularly intense food fight between blocks 13 and 14 last year, our flats were collectively charged around £200 for professional cleaning services. Now ok, we did throw quite a bit of flour about and I do recall someone bringing Yorkshire puddings as a fairly tasty alternative to eggs, but in the main, we cleaned up after ourselves and aside for a few smeared windows on the top floors the block looked pretty much the same.

Alas, days later a letter popped through the door of every flat in block 13 and 14 telling us we'd have to cough up £200 between us along with that added administration fee for "Professional Cleaning Services", if we refused, the charge would be increased. Grudgingly, we paid up in full and a week later two guys with a ladder turned up to clean the windows, a 10minute job at most and the block is still covered in stains.

So was it really worth the £200+ that we paid? Probably not, and the worst part is, when we went up to the accommodation office to have a word about the standard of cleaning we received for our hard earned student loan, we overheard a conversation between office staff about another flat who had been fined over two chairs with small holes in; "...It's a shame we had to find both chairs at the same time, we could have had two lots of administration fees off them..." Sound responsible to you? Me neither.

In the end, the argument comes down to money and responsibility, and not simply the responsibility of students.

Sure, you can argue all you like that fines are fair and that as students living away from home we should be able to look after our furniture, but you show me one student who happily pays £200 for cleaning which was never required in the first place and you'll have found the exception to the rule; especially when those dishing out the fines are doing everything they can to prise yet more money out of our pockets.

office is keen to fine people.

It's not that it's full of Stalinist jobsworths, drooling over the prospect of bankrupting some poor student. Nor is it an unscrupulous operation designed to slurp up extra revenue for the university.

It's simply that these dedicated, diligent professionals are paranoid to buggery about what a group of half feral monsters might do to the property for which they are responsible. And understandably so.

The student accommodation office is one thing, but why do private landlords get so much flipping stick? If we didn't have landlords, no other bugger would put a roof over our heads. My landlord's a bloody nice bloke. So I see no reason why anyone else's wouldn't be. Out of sheer benevolence, they offer a necessary service to students. Is it so much for them to expect that we treat their investments, their hopes for the future, with a bit of cheesing respect? They're shelling out for mortgages on multiple properties and all they ask for is some rent to help them balance the books and keep them going through the winter months.

And that we don't smash holes in their walls and rub shit into their carpets. If we can't even manage this, why should we not pay for the damage?

Come on, folks. Let's be honest; we've all stumbled in at four in the morning and smashed up the ironing board or blocked up the sink with worms.

But fair's fair. If we're going to insist on rabidly arsing about, let's hold up our hands and say, "Yeah, here's some money for a new skirting board."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rebecca O'Brien

Get rid of it now!

Last week, Newcastle Uni played host to one of Cancer Research UK's Donation Station events.

Various points around campus acted as drop-off points in a campaign to encourage students to give any unwanted goods to the charity, which is the foremost in organisations dedicated to research into cancer. Five locations on campus served as drop-off points in this 'amnesty' for spare CDs, books, DVDs, clothes and other quality items cluttering up students' rooms around the city. This initiative was organised by 6 Media, Communications and Cultural Studies students at Newcastle Uni, who advertised the scheme extensively, to benefit the local charity base.

By handing in a bag of goods, donors could enter into a prize draw to win one of a fantastic selection of prizes including restaurant vouchers, a complementary haircut, or tickets for gigs at the Union. The organisers would also like to thank all participants.

Following on from Donation Station week, the charity would still welcome any saleable homeware to boost stocks in their retail outlets. The nearest shop to Newcastle Uni can be found on Saville Row.

Brassiere than your average?

If you're still feeling charitable, and not afraid of baring your bra for a good cause, then why not consider entering the SunWalk Newcastle 2008? This fundraising extravaganza will take place on Sunday 7th September in Exhibition Park, in aid of breast-cancer causes. Kitted out in your own bra (females AND males, over 13's only!), you can walk a 5, 10 or 22 km route, without worrying about standing out from the crowd. Entrants are asked to raise minimum sponsorship of £100, plus addition entry fee, but will be sent a bra, hat and t-shirt to wear. Music and a warm-up are part of the programme for the day. See www.walkthewalk.org for further details.

Hone those Interview Skills

Concerned about how to succeed in interviews? At the Student Job shop, throughout the summer term, weekly interview workshops will offer students to improve their confidence and competence in interviews.

Sessions will give you the opportunity to gain skills often needed in job or course applications.

Participants will be able to work in small groups, using role-play to take on the perspective of both interviewer and interviewee, with standard questions given by the workshop staff.

Practising speaking in front of a few people might seem embarrassing, but is a realistic interview format, so don't be shy, and head along!

Made In Poland

Polish culture has been of increasing interest to many Brits and people of other cultures recently, inspiring the North East Polish Community Organisation (NEPCO) to put together 'Made In Poland'.

The festival will take place in May, including art and dance workshops and performance, a 3-day football competition (24-26th May), a music showcase at Stereo, photography exhibition (ArtWorks Gallery) and Polish film-showings (Tyneside Cinema). Dates, venues and details may be confirmed nearer the time, but see www.nepco.org.uk to find out more.

Tracheostomy tragedy

■ Newcastle student dies near the completion of her studies

Paul Brannon
News Editor

ON TUESDAY 1st April there was a death of a Newcastle University student after suspected complications with her pre-existing medical condition **Guillain-Barré Syndrome**: a disorder in which the body's immune system attacks part of the peripheral nervous system and as such was classed as disabled.

Because of her condition she had a permanent tracheostomy tube in her throat.

Serena Elisa Watson died on Tuesday 1st April 2008. She was a final year Psychology student at Newcastle University and had been preparing for her examinations.

Serena was on a night out with a friend and had a couple of drinks in Switch. Her friend went home and she started drinking soft

drinks, something confirmed by a bartender at the venue. The staff at Switch closed the bar and checked the toilets at closing time and Serena was found slumped over in the corner of a stall. The manager tried to revive her with CPR, but she was already dead.

A post-mortem examination was carried out which was inconclusive and friends and family are awaiting the results of a second post-mortem to see if any of her prescription medications had caused complications.

Speculation surrounding the death has led people to hypothesise that because of the position she was found in, her chin may have covered her tracheostomy tube, causing her to suffocate. However, this has not been confirmed by medical professionals, the coroner or Northumbria Police.

Serena was a keen member of St. James' Metropolitan Community Church and was baptised a few

days prior to her death. She was heavily involved in voluntary work, particularly for the Samaritans. She also supported a group of Schizophrenic patients at St Nicholas' Hospital. As well as giving generously of her time, Serena regularly donated to several charities.

Her friends have commented that she always prided herself on being different and helped other people feel comfortable and confident with themselves if they too were different.

Serena had such a thirst for knowledge as her lecturers would attest to. She was doing a mechanics course so that she could look after her aging Vauxhall Astra which was famous for its dents and scratches because her driving was apparently so bad. One of Serena's Lecturers, Quoc Vuong commented: "Serena was a brave and hard working student, and a pleasure to supervise. I will remember her smile and how

she would unexpectedly cry out "yeah!" when she had new ideas in class."

Her friend Alice Lidell also commented on Serena's resolve and nature: "Throughout her life, Serena faced many forms of prejudice and ill health but she always pulled through smiling. Rather than thinking the world owed her a favour, she used her troubled experiences to empathise with, and help others. She was a wonderful, caring person and she will be greatly missed"

As well as Serena's funeral, her friends have been paying tribute to her in their own way. One of Serena's friends, Samantha Henley, missed her funeral on April 10th because she was away but held a ceremony of her own up on Holy Island, lit a candle on the beach and read out the order of service from her funeral.

As well as that lovely gesture, Samantha has arranged for a plaque for Serena's grave as Serena's mother Shirley was on an allowance as Serena's carer, therefore wasn't working, and was subsequently unable to afford a headstone for her daughter. Samantha said, "I didn't want to see Serena in an unmarked grave, so I contacted some artists who have helped me with making a wooden cross with a name plaque on it."

I am going to erect it by Serena's grave so it's a surprise for her mother when she visits. Amazingly, the engraver (Alan from ABC signs) heard Serena's story on the news and thought that my gesture was so nice in such a tragic situation, that he's donating the name plaque and Mick from the Frameshop at Newcastle Arts Centre also donated his time to carve the wooden cross. The generosity when the costs were scrapped made me cry!"

Serena Watson will be missed and any death within the University community is deeply saddening. The Courier extends its deepest sympathies to her friends and family.









SERENA WATSON...Will be sadly missed by her family, friends and colleagues

VOX POP: HAVE YOUR SAY

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION, PUT TO YOU BY MICHAEL WATT

Do you think the fines handed out by the Library and Accommodation Services are unfair?

 <p>Tom Chamberlain, MSC Drug Chemistry</p> <p>"I think the fines are pretty fair, and it's your own fault if they're late. It's very easy to renew books online so you can't really complain about being fined if you can't be bothered to it."</p>	 <p>Aaron Lowry, 4th Year Maths</p> <p>"I think the Accommodation fines are a bit of a scam. In Ricky Road we got fined £150 for an iron burn that wasn't our fault, and they only replaced about a square foot of carpet!"</p>	 <p>Mindaugas Miskinis, 1st Year Marketing and Management</p> <p>"The office at Ricky Road wanted to charge me £100 for having a messy room, which is ridiculous I think. It should be up to you to look after your own space, and you shouldn't be fined if it's untidy. £100 is totally out of proportion, just unfair."</p>
 <p>Kate Lowe, 4th Year Maths</p> <p>"I know handing books in late is my own fault, but I still don't think that the sizes of the fines are very proportionate! Having said that, I always hand books in late, my record fine is £40!"</p>	 <p>Kate McCann, 2nd Year Politics</p> <p>"At Ricky Road the fines were really out of proportion, they charged us £60 quid each for cigarette burns on some chairs. It wasn't our fault, and the repair job didn't cost anywhere near that amount. It seems like they just want to take your money."</p>	 <p>Philip Rivers, 1st Year Accounting and Information Systems</p> <p>"I got pretty lucky with the Library fines - I handed in a book two weeks late, but didn't get charged for it. I didn't even get an email telling me to hand it in. It's probably a one-off though; I won't be trying it again."</p>



LOCAL ELE



Conservative

The message from the Conservative party for the local elections on the 1st of May is a simple one, Vote Blue, Go Green-and save money.

Conservative Councils deliver better services at better value. Of the Councils with the top 20 highest 'overall satisfaction' ratings by residents, 16 are Conservative and none are Labour or Liberal Democrat controlled.

But why vote Conservative?

Conservative councils are greener. For example, Bournemouth Borough Council has saved the equivalent of 37 tonnes of CO2 emissions by installing high-efficiency fluorescent lighting in the town's major leisure complex. But environmental change is not just about the stratosphere: it's about the street corner. Our councils make it a priority to improve the local environment and protect green spaces in our towns and villages.

Conservative councils are also safer. Our councillors are totally committed to fighting the crime, anti-social behaviour, and vandalism that ruins people's quality of life. For example Fenland District Council has adopted a proactive policy to stop teenagers congregating and causing trouble, whilst at the

same time providing them with discounted access to leisure facilities to give them something to do.

Conservative councils also offer better value for money. On average, Conservative councils levy lower council taxes than their Labour or Liberal Democrat counterparts. That really matters; especially at a time of economic difficulty.

Only the Conservatives have the long term policies which will result in a Britain which is greener, better for families, and where society is more respectful - so vote Conservative on May 1st!



Labour

If elected, there are four major issues that Labour will be pursuing to make Newcastle a better place to live for students this year and in the future.

Cracking down on irresponsible landlords

Students contribute greatly to the local community in Newcastle, particularly in Jesmond, Heaton and Fenham. Thanks to legislation introduced by the Labour Government it is now possible for local councils to issue licences to protect against unscrupulous landlords.

With your support, Labour will:

- Fully enforce and extend HMO licensing to include all types of student accommodation, improving standards of rental accommodation for all students living in Newcastle.
- The Lib Dem Council have not made these licenses compulsory, Labour will.

Cooperative Halls

Cooperative Halls are common in the US, and are run on a non-profit basis ensuring rents are low whilst offering affordable, safe, and high quality accommodation.

- The Lib Dem Council want to limit student

numbers in Heaton, Jesmond and Fenham, whilst not offering alternative solutions.
- Labour will support this cause.

Safety

Unfortunately there have been a few attacks on students this year. Labour has been working actively with the Students' Union on proposals to improve safety for students.

Recycling

The Lib Dems have not run an efficient recycling scheme, leaving many without access to boxes. Labour would make it easier for students to do their bit.



Liberal Democrats

Since the Lib Dems taking control of Newcastle City Council in 2004, they have made major efforts to compensate for years of Labour neglect.

From implementing new successful recycling initiatives to keeping their promise of making sure Council Tax rises BELOW inflation the Lib Dems are having a positive influence on the city.

Our councillors' work tirelessly for the residents

of Newcastle, as their passion is for Newcastle to keep on progressing and evolving.

The Lib Dems are becoming more and more popular each year in the city, a reflection on the fact they are meeting the demands of Newcastle residents.

A key belief of the Lib Dems is to gain power to use it for the people and to give it back to the people,

so remember, Lib Dems are fighting to win council seats in your ward, so vote to keep Newcastle improving, **vote Liberal Democrat.**



vox pop

We ask: are you going to be voting in the local elections this year?

"No because I've never considered what effect it has on the issues I'm concerned about, but I do vote in general elections."

Ruth Sleightholme, 3rd year English Literature

"Yes, because I think it's important to vote as it's the best chance you'll get to influence what happens in politics, but of course it's not perfect. Plenty of

people moan about Government decisions, but you've got no right to if you haven't even used your right to vote."

Rich Noon, 2nd year History

"Yes and I registered all my flatmates, too! I study Politics and it's important as you can't affect anything if you don't use your vote. People shouldn't complain about things if you don't vote. It affects us as students too as

the Lib Dems and Labour have very different views on student housing so it's probably more important to vote here instead of at home. You almost have a responsibility not just to you, but for the students who'll come here in the future."

Kate McCann, 2nd year Politics

"No, I haven't registered or paid any attention to local elections. I think it would be more important

if I was a home owner up here, for example."

Sam Parker, 3rd year English Literature

"No because I'm registered to vote at home in London and I see the mayoral election down there as having more effect on me."

Chris Kay, 3rd year English Literature

ELECTIONS 08 - HAVE YOUR SAY

GEMMA DAVIES and FRAN INFANTE give you all the lowdown on this week's local elections, with a little help from your political societies and the students who are actually campaigning for a position on Thursday...

LOCAL ELECTIONS will take place across the Newcastle area on Thursday May 1st and it is vital that students get involved. Students are entitled to register to vote both in their home towns and at their term time address, this is an opportunity that most do not take advantage of and as a result the student population of many cities is largely unrepresented.

In popular student areas such as Heaton and Jesmond there is a solid and reliable Liberal Democrat base, and one that is markedly anti-student as well. There are a number of issues that specifically affect

students and of which they should be aware.

The first and arguably most important issue is the recent area of housing mix legislation which places a limit on the loft conversions and restricts the number of new student properties developed, which in turn forces up the prices of properties in high demand areas and will ultimately force students out of the market.

Parking is another contentious issue. There is one indisputable fact - there are more cars in Jesmond than there is space to accommodate them and this is what the

latest Lib Dem legislation tries to tackle. In principle it sounds reasonable to restrict parking permits to no more than two per property, even though this may cause problems in larger student houses in which more than two people own a car.

However, the real controversy is in the details of the new policy: permits will only be issued to cars that are registered to the address which requires the permit. This seems to be directly targeted to discourage students from bringing their cars to uni as almost all have their cars registered either to their home address and or in their parents'

names in order to cut down on insurance costs and thus will not be granted permits to park outside their term time addresses.

Gemma Tumelty, NUS President has told *The Courier*: "By voting, students can ensure that their voice is heard at a local and national level. However, by not doing so, students are allowing politicians to overlook the issues that affect them the most. That is why it is absolutely essential for students to vote and show politicians that the student voice cannot be ignored."

Make sure you use your voice this Thursday.



Labour

Sophie White

SOPHIE WHITE is standing for Labour in North Jesmond, and together with Tom is one of only two student representatives running in this local election. She graduated from her undergraduate degree at Newcastle in 2005 and is currently studying at the University part time.

"As the former Welfare Officer (now Student Support) at the Union Society 2005-6," she told *The Courier*, "I worked full time dealing with issues on behalf of students such as issues concerning community relations, housing and safety, working closely with external organisations such as the City Council and Northumbria Police. I believe I have the unique and unrivalled experience of representing students full time and being most able to act on behalf of students in the Council."

She adds, "Students make up to 33% of the electorate in wards such as North and South Jesmond - your vote can really make a difference!"



Labour

Tom Hardwick

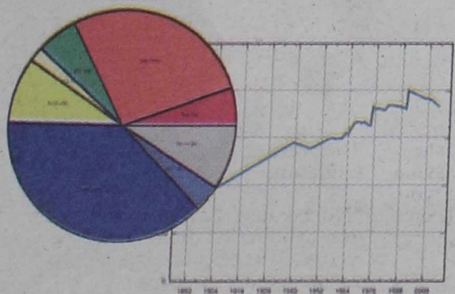
3RD YEAR Economics student Tom Hardwick is the Labour candidate for South Jesmond. If successful he will win a four year council service term and his aims are clearly strongly influenced by his years as a student in Jesmond. One of the main reasons he says he is standing is so that students and young people in South Jesmond have a voice.

He told *The Courier*, "Currently all 6 Jesmond seats are considered safe Lib Dem seats yet they have failed to select any candidates that reflect the age range of the whole community in Jesmond."

"I want to bridge the gap between residents and students encouraging a greater sense of community instead of trying to isolate students and young people. I will be an alternative view within the Lib Dem monopoly who will champion the concerns of all the community to ensure that the councillors are not complacent."

"The main issues I will campaign on for students are the full introduction of HMO licenses ensuring the highest standards for all student tenants. Also I want reversal of the area of housing mix legislation which limits loft conversions without offering alternatives for housing demand and thus drives property prices up."

"The new anti parking permit legislation is a joke as it requires cars applying for permits to be registered to that street - a clause which seems to directly target students most of whom have their cars registered to their home address. I never really pursued a career in politics but when I realised how much it affects people, I thought if I can help it's worth doing."



The stats 07

In 2007 the votes in the big student constituencies were split as follows:

North Jesmond

1065 - Lib Dems
316 - Labour
311 - Conservative

Fenham

1373 - Lib Dems
1377 - Labour
305 - Conservative

North Heaton

1734 - Lib Dems
698 - Labour
386 - Conservative

South Heaton

1620 - Lib Dems
1783 - Labour
212 - Conservative

South Jesmond

908 - Lib Dems
309 - Labour
351 - Conservative

GRADUATION BALL '08

THURSDAY 12TH JUNE - LANCASTRIAN SUITE

JUST JACK : THE FILLERS

CHART-TOPPING DJ

TOP 'KILLERS' TRIBUTE BAND

NEWCASTLE UNI. JAZZ ORCHESTRA

THREE COURSE MEAL WITH WINE

FAIRGROUND & DODGEMS

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FEATURES

STYLE UNIVERSITY: Class now in session

STU BRADLEY offers fashion advice to the stylistically challenged

I KNOW, I know, a fashion section for guys is a risky venture but I'm enthusiastic about it, so please be enthusiastic with me! If it makes you feel better we can call it a 'style section' - makes it sound cooler.

I'm writing this for two reasons - firstly, because I love fashion, secondly, because you NEED it. The average male student doesn't have enough places to find out about dressing and looking better. Your style really affects the way people (especially girls, hint hint) look at you, and if it's done right, it should also make you feel better about yourself. With summer just around the corner, I've put together a few simple ideas to introduce you to my stylistic brain.

Legs - I love shorts, a love I clearly inherited from my father who seems to want to wear them all year round. Use the remaining time left in spring to get the calves in shape. I'm thinking dark green/camo shorts until the summer truly arrives then switch to khaki.

Three quarter lengths are not an option - you're not Avril Lavigne. Hotpants-esque is definitely a no as well - you're not Daisy Duke either. Try and get shorts that are loose around the waist (show off the Calvins...) and end just below your kneecaps.

If you don't feel brave enough for shorts, chinos (younger guys look better in flat fronted; ask the shop assistant if you don't know what I'm talking about) always look good (pair them with a navy blazer if you get invited to dinner at the yacht club! rah rah rah).

Body - I want to see polo shirts. The colour pink is not your enemy. Aside from making a tan (and, by the way, get one - careful of panda eyes) look much better, it's bright and will catch people's eyes. If you're not feeling that brave, try a lime green, a baby blue or maybe even black with a bright logo. I know I'm asking a lot.

Hoodies are okay, provided they're quite slim fitting, but please don't buy a cheap one! A good one can last you a long time, so splash out a bit.

Photo: Joe Currin



Photo: Joe Currin



Shoes - Flip flops and sandals will never go out of style, but NO SOCKS! You may want to start wearing them around the house to get your feet used to them - I always find that flip flops tear my feet up at first. If you're wearing shorts, trainers (especially really wide ones) are out of the question. Converse might work, but lo-tops only. Try to wear hi-tops with shorts and, once again, we're slipping into sk8er boy territory.

If enough people read this, I may come back with a more evening orientated outfit. Until then, my biggest tip is to try things on before you buy them - you'll figure out what makes you look and feel good quickly. If in doubt, take a girl - if you're too shy to ask her on a real date, she won't say no to a shopping trip.

Head - Long hair is just impractical. Those frosty mornings in Starbucks, flicking your hair and making eyes at the girl who's nursing a hot chocolate and waiting for you to talk to her are gone. You're going to get sweaty and end up looking like an Afghan hound that's just come out of its weekly bath.

If you want to keep some length, get the sides and back trimmed and try a fauxhawk. Woolly hats can stay for a while longer, on the condition that the colours are muted. Trucker hats to be worn ironically only. Good luck, and stay pretty.

LUCY MARSDEN on how to keep ahead in the style stakes

FASHION and women are quite simply two inseparable concepts. Clothes, shoes, handbags: you name it, we want it. Candidly speaking, shopping is undoubtedly superior to anything else stereotypically affiliated with women. Take chocolate for example: nice but there are all those calories to think about which prey on the conscience a little. Then there's chick flicks: fun to giggle at with fellow singletons, but ultimately shallow and unrealistic (we're all familiar with the face book group 'Disney gave me unrealistic expectations about love').

But when it comes to a bit of retail therapy, no amount of moaning from a tag along boyfriend can ruin what can only be described as the favourite female pass-time. All that's needed is a budget to support those overwhelming desires. Unfortunately, the average student loan (unless Daddy foots the credit card bill) doesn't quite fund our splurging habits so here are a few tips towards achieving the latest looks without breaking the bank:

Don't be a snob

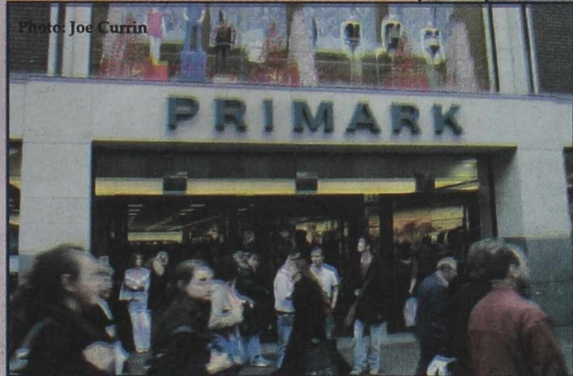
Newcastle is the shopper's haven of the North, and as the new loan instalment's just in, it's tempting to rush to Fenwicks and grab that dress you've dreamingly admired from afar since the Christmas carols were drifting through the air. However, don't ignore Primark. Granted, it might be permanently packed but it has more to offer than tacky fluorescent tights commonly purchased for fancy dress nights out. It's useful for basic essentials, plain t-shirts, sexy underwear you might only want to wear once. It also has great accessories at bargain prices.

Don't shell out hundreds when you don't have to. Unless everyone develops x-ray vision, nobody will ever know what's written on the label. Your bank will like you more too.

Photo: Claire Gunn

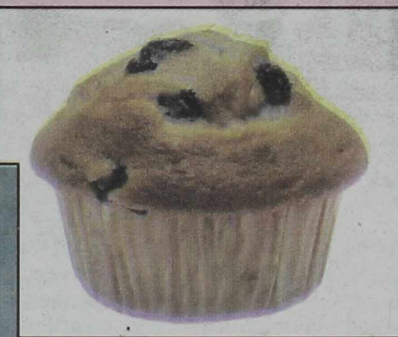


Photo: Joe Currin



Take Risks - Alan Sugar did not develop a multi-million pound empire without a little risk-taking. The same applies to fashion. It's tempting to join the clone like figures donning Uggs and pashminas just to fit in with the 'elitist' club but, let's face it, we're not in school anymore.

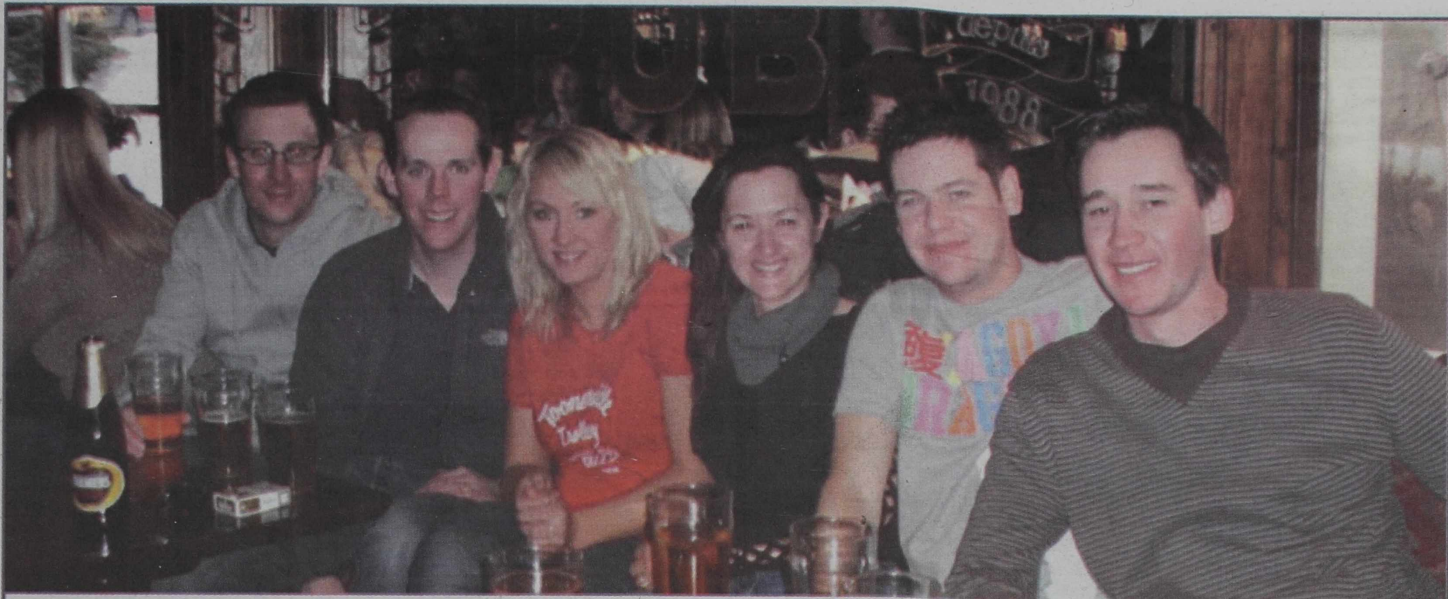
Nobody should try and compromise their individual style to gain popularity points. If you like those baggy jeans, despite the fact skinny ones are all the rage, screw it. Wear what makes you feel comfortable. (Plus, avoiding the £100+ Ugg price tag will also leave more for the beer fund).



Dress for your figure

I don't claim to be Trinnie or Susannah, nor do I have the expertise of Gok Wan, but every girl knows that when you've piled on the pounds, low rise jeans are probably not the best idea. Not unless you want a muffin top bulgy enough to rival the chocolate chip temptation in Starbucks. Nobody's saying you can't be curvy and still turn heads, but make sure you don't do yourself an injustice just because a certain look suits the skeletal frame.

So now you've saved your pennies up, developed your individual look and dressed to enhance your figure you're ready to wow the world. Be confident in yourself and let the compliments roll in. Treat others as you wish to be treated yourself is what I say, so next time you're tempted to make a bitchy remark about those leggings being 'so last season', or the fact that skirt does nothing for that girl's 'fat arse' remember we will all always be life-long fashion students. There are no rights or wrongs, but a few guidelines to help us along the way won't do us any harm.



graduate recruitment consultants

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
EXCELLENT SALARY + BONUS + CAREER PROGRESSION

If you're a regular reader of *The Courier*, you will most likely have seen the articles about what it's like to be a graduate at Nigel Wright. Over the past few weeks we have covered off all the ins and outs of what it's like to be a trainee consultant, so now let's talk about the fun side...

'The social aspect of working at Nigel Wright is second to none. Whether it be a mid-week session of go-karting or a long weekend skiing, there is something for everyone. There are regular sporting events and the Summer Party and Christmas Ball are always fantastic, with a huge turnout every year. The key thing in all this is the diverse range of people who work here - they make Nigel Wright a great place to work.'

KATHRYN KELLY, BSc (HONS) MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY, CONSULTANT (CONSUMER PRODUCTS UK)

'Because Nigel Wright employ such a wide range of individuals, there's always something great happening which you can get involved in. The strong sports scene generates an excellent team spirit, both in and out of the office, and with the new inter-company football tournament about to kick off, there'll no doubt be lots to talk about over the coming months.'

TIM RISHWORTH, BSc (HONS) GEOGRAPHY, CONSULTANT (IT)

'I went on the skiing trip to Val D'Isere, this was my first time skiing and it was a trip to remember! It involved skiing from the crack of dawn (in my case learning how to ski) followed by dinner and socialising in the evening. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet and mingle with colleagues I don't directly work with on a day-to-day basis. I had a super time and I'm already looking forward to the next one!'

MARGARET-MARY DOUGLAS, BSc (HONS) ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT, CONSULTANT (FMCG OPERATIONS UK)

'I used to be a Student Union Officer at Newcastle, joined Nigel Wright as a resourcer and now I am a Consultant recruiting for senior roles. I've been skiing three times with work and have been rowing. The Christmas parties are always high quality, as is the Summer Ball. Previous party venues have included Seaham Hall, Close House, Gosforth Race Course and the Hilton.'

ANDREW BICKERDIKE, BA (HONS) MUSIC, CONSULTANT (FMCG OPERATIONS UK)

'I am involved in the ski trip to Chamonix/Val D'Isere every year. There are new faces every trip and it's a great opportunity to spend time with colleagues outside your immediate team remit. It's usually a good mix of skiing and socialising and there are always plenty of stories to tell when we get back! Alongside that, there are often drinks after work, within your team or with most of the business on a Friday night!'

JEMMA MOFFATT, BA (HONS) ENGLISH LITERATURE, SENIOR CONSULTANT (CONSUMER PRODUCTS UK)

If you would like to be part of a professional, international organisation where you will be expertly trained, rewarded and recognised please call Claire Rubin on 0191 222 0770 or email a copy of your CV to keepanopenmind@nigelwright.com quoting the reference number EOU05.



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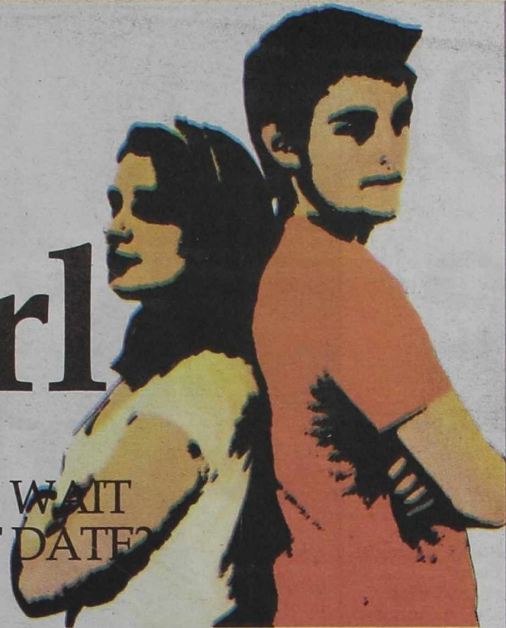
NEWCASTLE

COPENHAGEN

BRUSSELS

PARIS

Boy v Girl



This week:

SEX: WORTH THE WAIT OR ON THE FIRST DATE?

ED MANSEL LEWIS

if you don't sleep together you could risk being nudged into the 'friend zone' - a particularly loveless angle of affection that climaxes with a risky spooning session over a tub of Ben and Jerry's

ETIQUETTE dictates that the first date should end with the gentleman walking the lady home, perhaps parting terms with a kiss before heading home himself. Women deserve respect, and it's important to spend time getting to know them before sex enters into the equation.

But isn't this all a bit old hat? It's not like you're trying to marry the girl. In this modern world you have to look beyond Sunday school boundaries. Why shouldn't a man and a woman step on the good foot and do the bad thing if the mood is clearly heating up? Besides if you don't you could risk being nudged into the 'friend zone' - a particularly loveless angle of affection that climaxes with a risky spooning session over a tub of Ben and Jerry's.

No, that will not do. As men we have a not too uncertain lust that dwells in an ancient place within us, which needs to be satiated in order to maintain a minimum level of harmony. If an opportunity arises that could result in a bit of bedroom aerobics I would strongly advise you to take it.

You may lose her respect and suffer a bit of a blow to the dignity, but come on, we're not Samurai. We're students. The simple fact of the matter is that times have changed. Yes be polite, hold open the door, tuck in her chair, maybe even pay the bill, but don't be afraid to take her to bed if you can see your way clear.

I feel it is important to mention at this point that post-coital chivalry is key.

The way you behave during the pillow chat has a massive impact on future perceptions. Having crashed the yoghurt lorry the worst thing that you can do is roll over and turn off the light. It is imperative that you spend at least three minutes cuddling and playing with her hair. I know it's boring but it is a great way to feign affection.

At the end of the day women and men want the same thing, but society blinkers us towards good form, shadowing life's exceptional possibilities. As men we have to do our best to restore clarity on these masked experiences by shunning the dogma surrounding occasions such as the first date. In the words of Mae West, "When I'm good I'm very, very good, but when I'm bad I'm better."

LUCY ROUE

if he is willing to abide a minor wait it shows he probably cares about you, or at least believes in perseverance

SLEEPING with someone on the first date can be a complex decision. Whether it's a guy from your course who's been buying you drinks all night or a gentleman who's just wined and dined you, every girl must wonder, "How do I get what I want whilst keeping my dignity in tact?"

It's definitely a tricky question, regardless of previous moral grounding. Sure, most adults would probably take it slowly and ensure self-respect prevailed, but as students we have a slightly different take on life. Our needs are stereotypically more hedonistic and our patience is limited.

That is not to say we all agree to sex on the first date though. To give in on the first date, as tempting as it might be, could hint at easier

tendencies and the guy may lose a certain amount of respect for you. Although it largely depends on the situation and individuals involved, maybe we should keep the enigmatic female act going a bit longer. That way, if the guy is only after one thing (and presuming you're not) then there probably won't be a second date, in which case you can consider them screened out. And if he is willing to abide a minor wait it shows he probably cares about you, or at least believes in perseverance!

Sex on the first date is not a cardinal sin, however. If he is just as willing as you are, then who's to say you don't lose mutual respect for each other? I hate the fact that it is seen as 'officially' the girl's choice and therefore guys are free to slate your easiness

or frigidness at will. When it feels expected of you, then trying to take things more slowly becomes harder than it sounds. So I guess it depends mainly on who you are and whether the guy you're with is going to be an arse about what you decide.

Sometimes we may ponder whether there really is a problem with it? Long gone are the days of chivalry and disapproval of sex before marriage, so why pretend to honour a moral code that most of us don't believe in? From a girl's point of view, being lady-like and satisfying libido does not exactly go hand in hand, so why not just flit between the two. As long as you are happy with what you are doing and stay safe, I don't really see what the problem is.

Procrastination inspiration



LINDSAY GULLIVER advises how to get first class honours in time wasting

OKAY KIDLETS, with exams fast approaching, essays due and a dearth of friends willing to actually leave their desks, here's my guide to the Top Ten ways to procrastinate this May (conveniently composed in lieu of essay writing):

1. The Furniture Shuffle - it's an oldy but a goody. You're in a room full of ugly flat-packed furniture that you didn't pay for and for which you hold no particular affection. Go crazy. Ever wondered what the chair looks like on top of the desk? If the clothes hamper is better situated under the window? How would the bed look protruding vertically from the southern wall? It blocks the door? No worries - drunken friends will love vaulting the mattress to access the vodka on top of the wardrobe (wardrobes, by the by, might require a fellow, burly procrastinator). Personally I discovered the wonders of the Furniture Shuffle in halls my first year - they really shouldn't give you so many desks to play with...

2. Spring Clean - the student 'spring' clean comes too early in January and a bit too late in June. All of your MDF reshuffling will have littered the floor with wood shavings and chipped plaster, and if you were really successful, might have opened up a little more floor space - to the Dyson! Quick money earning tip - if your flatmates are too book-bound to wash up, offer your services. It wastes half an hour and funds any impromptu Metro journeys you might embark upon.

3. Addiction - now I'm not suggesting a glamorous crack habit, merely the old student standby of Facebook. So what if you've spent the last six months lambasting the virtues of various applications, you'll soon be the best Vampire out there! Admittedly this little hobby will open the floodgates to far bigger distractions - your sister's best friend's little brother is no longer listed as in a relationship?! Two hour phone call an absolute must.

4. To do lists - write down everything you need to read, reread, highlight or write up. Lists tend to become more and more desperate the further down you read, for example: call Sarah, have a shower, cook lunch. It's also fairly common to add things to the list that you've already done, just for the joy of crossing them out. In pretty colours. Instructional doodle optional. Yes, we procrastinators lead such fulfilling lives.

5. Be a good friend - develop a new interest

in getting back in touch with all your primary school buddies, i.e. "So, how are the two toddlers and deadbeat boyfriend? Ohhh, fiancé now - wedding plans going well?" Of course by this point, your real friends are refusing to pick up their phones and listen to your insipid, Lady Macbeth style whisperings - they don't fancy a picnic, a dinner party or bit of cake. Even if it is chocolate. They have work to do. Spoilsports.

6. Take up a hobby - always wanted to learn a language? Knit a scarf? Now is quite obviously the time to better yourself. Who wants to know about Portuguese maritime history, when you could learn Mandarin in ten simple steps? Plus you always intended to learn to cook when you came to uni, and score! That's a brand new mess to spring clean.

7. Explore the world - well Northumberland at least. Long meandering walks through Jesmond Dene and Heaton Park. Historical and educational explorations of castles. You're not studying history? Beside the point. Take a trip out to the coast on the Metro for a refreshing sniff of sea air and a few sandy chips. Take a few books with you. Throw them at seagulls if they get too close.

8. Plan your summer trek - whether you're heading to Nepal or Newquay, this is good clean procrastinating fun for all the travelling family. Generally leads into an impromptu accounting session as well. Two budgies with one pebble. Awesomeness.

9. Stock up - highlighters, biros, note pads, bigger note pads, ink cartridges, snacks, Pro Plus. Added bonus, you get to make a list! ...Try to contain yourself.

10. The Last Resort - now I honestly don't recommend this lightly, but if you've followed steps 1-9 and still can't face that essay, if your eyes won't focus on your notes and your highlighters cease to highlight, then take a deep, deep breath, surround yourself with provisions to last three days, and call a relative. For maximum wastage of time, and subsequently phone credit, I suggest choosing an elderly family member who will delight in detailing every morsel of every meal they've eaten since they last saw you. You'll forget what a flashcard even looks like.

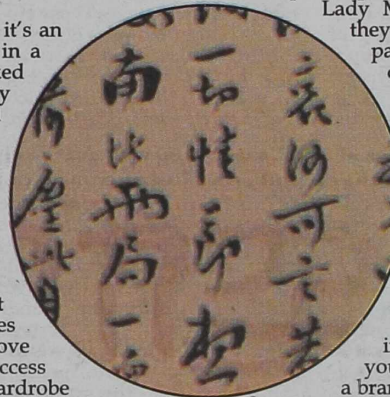


Photo: Mindaugas Miskinis

A degree of difference

BETHAN STACEY investigates whether the traditional British degree classification system gives a fair representation of a student's achievements at university

SO EASTER is over and it's time to face reality. For almost a third of the student body the reality is that it's not just the last term, it's the last term EVER. It's the final straight, the last leg, you can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Whatever metaphor you wish to use to express the fact that it's oh so very nearly all over, it cannot disguise the fact that for a lot of students this term is possibly the most important of their university career - for many it ALL rests on these final few weeks.

So, as someone in this rather daunting position, considering the possible outcomes in eight weeks time - which all really amounts to what number I'm allowed to write on my CV at the end of it all - I take time out of my busy schedule of library, library and more library to ask two questions which, funnily enough, have been playing on my mind recently...

Firstly, are university degree class boundaries fair? And secondly, does it actually even matter what class of degree you get?

What I really mean to say by the first question is does the class of your degree really do justice to the amount of work you've put in? Does it give credit to the sheer amount of time, effort, concentration, care and the seemingly endless number of hours spent slogging in the library? Are four classes of degree really able to represent the academic achievement and ability of each and every student?

The classification system that currently exists for undergraduate honours degrees has been in place

for over 200 hundred years, and every student is classed as one of four categories (well, five if you include a fail...) depending on which 10% band the average of all of their work falls into. But that 10% covers quite a large range of ability, and in covering quite a large range, it simply doesn't manage to distinguish enough between individuals. This is especially an issue for those students on the border between grade classes. A student with an average of 69% may be awarded the same 2.1 as a student who achieved 60% at the end of their degree. Equally frustrating is the situation for the student who achieves 58% yet may not be awarded that same 2.1 grade. Doesn't seem quite right, does it?

I say 'may' because, in fact, most schools in most universities are more than aware of this issue and deal with it by considering every student who is a 'borderline' candidate.

Unsurprisingly (and fortunately) then, the recognition of weaknesses in the system is now finally being confronted by the powers that can actually change things: The Measuring and Recording Student Achievement Steering Group produced a report on the issue of degree classification in 2006. Professor Bob Burgess, chair of the group and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester, said: "The report presents a strong case for change. The UK honours degree is a robust and highly-valued qualification, but the degree classification system needs updating... Graduates

deserve more than simply a single number to sum up their academic work when they leave university."

Similarly, professor Burgess remarked in the Telegraph that "The current system, using upper second, lower second and so on, cannot describe - and so does not do full justice to - the range of knowledge, skills, experience and attributes of a graduate in the 21st century. "A simple numerical indicator cannot fully capture the true strengths and weaknesses of a student's performance over the course of their degree. This is not fair to the student and, in turn, gives employers relatively little information about the student's achievement."

The proposal is then a kind of 'report card' which goes alongside the degree classification, which would particularly highlight achievements of interest to employers.

About time too! Universities have changed considerably in the last two hundred years, not least with regards to the increasingly rising number of young people entering higher education. With that in mind, and then the fact that the most common degree of classification is a 2.1 (43.4% of students attained this in 2006), it seems that a change to the system has never been needed more - how can it be that nearly half of all graduates are identically classified, completely indistinguishable in terms of their academic performance?

We all know that academia isn't everything and other experiences are important. But the problem is that,

GRADUATION: Will you be happy with the grade you receive?



because of a system which doesn't credit individuals enough, any student aware that they are on the borderline are almost obliged to make sacrifices in other areas of their life in order to attempt to make that higher degree classification, and get the recognition that they deserve. And when this includes forgoing relevant work experience, participating on committees or volunteering, the sacrifices seem rather large.

Speaking with the careers service, they advised me on the importance of grades to employers or for continuing education, where a first rather than a 2.1 is an advantage for highly competitive professions (such as becoming a barrister or graduate entry to training in medicine), and a 2.1 is usually a prerequisite for entry to employment in areas such as law, investment banking, chartered accountancy, and management consultancy.

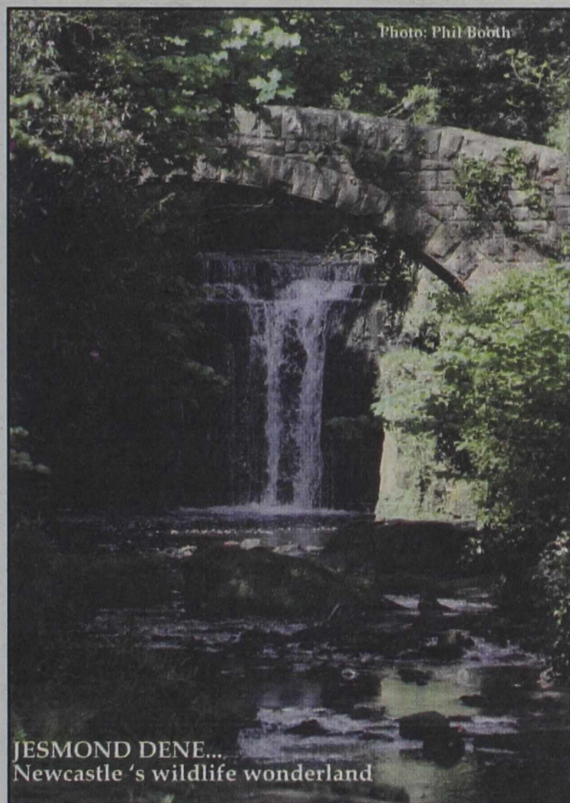
However, most telling is that, in addition to academic success, employers place great emphasis on the importance of evidence of skill development, which can be achieved through extra-curricular activities, committee work, volunteering or workplace experience. An important

skill, which employers tell the careers service is difficult to find in many new graduates, is commercial awareness.

So it's a bit of a balancing act then. And for some students, maybe happily able to stay slap-bang at a mid-2.1 whilst also juggling various extra-curricular activities (and even keeping up a decent social life), others have to make great sacrifices to break their way into a higher grade band.

Finally, aside from what employers want or what looks good on a CV, on a more personal note, of course every hard-working student wishes for some kind of recognition of what they've invested whilst at university. I certainly know that I would - for practically giving up my social life entirely for a year, for being fairly broke for fear of a part time job interfering with my studies, for sacrificing certain opportunities and other experiences that I otherwise would have taken up, and spending Sundays in the library. But then that's the choice I've had to make because of the weak system that we have to work with.

Although none of us will be directly affected by the proposed changes (not expected before 2010), many would welcome them for future students.



JESMOND DENE... Newcastle's wildlife wonderland

Keen on the Dene

CHARLOTTE HANGER discovers the delights of Jesmond Dene

ONE of my favourite natural highs of student life is a long walk in the fresh country air of Jesmond Dene. Strolling through the greenery, taking in the woodland and walking over bridges alone or with a friend is a delight that should be denied to no-one, especially if like most students you live in Jesmond and it is practically on your doorstep.

If you are not a huge fan of countryside walks, don't start worrying yet as Jesmond Dene offers an array of other activities! One of the main attractions is the Pets' Corner, which holds a collection of farm animals and birds. If you have a younger sibling visiting, I definitely recommend this. Alternatively, you could go by yourself and get in touch with the inner animal inside of you!

Outside Pets' Corner, wandering wildlife aplenty can be found in and around Jesmond Dene, such as squirrels, field mice, rats (!), interesting insects such as damselflies, dragonflies and exquisite butterflies. If you are a wildlife aficionado or just want to catch up on your animal gossip, then you can check out the list of recent wildlife sightings behind the door of Millfield House (see map on entrance to Jesmond Dene) that the rangers constantly update. Some of which are currently on this

list include kingfishers, chaffinches, robins and blackbirds, frogs, blue tits, magpies and rabbits - go down yourself to see the full range that they have noted, or better yet, make a few sightings of your own! There are also at least four types of bat that live in the Dene. Who needs Jesmond Halloween house parties when this myriad of weird creatures lives just down the road?!

Armstrong Craft Fair is a healthy outdoor alternative to the busy shops of Northumberland Street. This fair takes place every Sunday on Armstrong Bridge in the Dene and usually starts at about ten o'clock in the morning and carries on until late afternoon or when the rain comes to spoil the fun. Lots of interesting and popular goodies are to be found here, ranging from watercolour paintings to hand-made leathers.

There is nothing like delving into the old history books and visiting places of historical interest of our surroundings to awaken the romanticism that can be found in all of us. Although there is an industrial history to the Dene, most of what you can see in the Dene today is a result of Sir William George Armstrong. In 1835, Armstrong had Jesmond Dene built in preparation for his marriage, and in 1883 he donated

it to the Mayor and Citizens of Newcastle upon Tyne as a public park. In 1884 the Prince and Princess of Wales officially opened Jesmond Dene to the public.

There is a history trail that you can follow which takes you through the Dene, to Our Lady of Jesmond or St. Mary's Chapel. This is the oldest church or chapel in Newcastle and dates from as early as the twelfth Century. Opposite this chapel the trail takes you to the Banqueting Hall which was built and used for many a fine dinner party by Lord Armstrong himself in 1835. The trail also takes you to the 'Old Mill' by the waterfall. This mill, which was built with sandstone from local quarries, dates back to the thirteenth century and was occupied by a family of old money - the Freeman family, who used the mill to grind flour. It was later used as a watermill. The mill eventually passed into the hands of Sir Armstrong and was used as a dwelling house until the 1920s. Although in ruins now, the mill is still in good viewing condition.

Jesmond Dene also has a cheap and cheerful cafe on site if you fancy a rest! More information on the history trail and wildlife can be found on www.jesmonddene.org.uk. Have fun - I certainly did!

sam
sparro

Pulp

colin
farrell



grayson
perry

issue no. 1170
28thst April 2008

- 1.charity fashion show
- 2.treasure island
- 3.true romance
- 4.madonna
- 5.mystery jets

ARTS



I MET SOMEONE inspirational this week - hoping not to sound overly sentimental with this, but Nathalie Levi, who features in the article below, is someone worth listening to.

As you will find if you read the article - Nathalie took it on her own initiative to get in contact with the Polish artist, Katja Mragowska and now several months later the artist and student are collaborating together in their own project.

Now, isn't that a pretty good example of not letting things get in your way?

Nathalie didn't think that anything would come of her ideas, that no one would listen to her as she's a student they wouldn't have heard of, and yet, now it's happening.

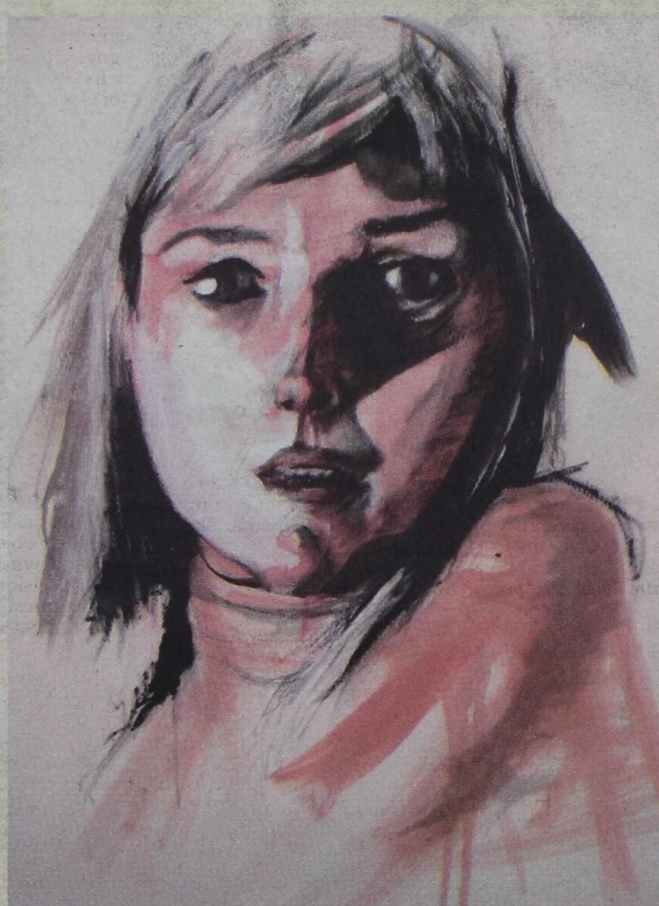
And inspiration is something me and my dissertation is really looking for at the moment.

Holly, Arts Ed.

ARTY QUOTE FOR THE WEEK:

"PAINTING IS SO POETIC, WHILE SCULPTURE IS MORE LOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC AND MAKES YOU WORRY ABOUT GRAVITY" - DAMIEN HIRST

SHOWCASE SPACE



THIS WEEK: KERRY HYNDMAN
www.kerryhyndman.co.uk

A CULTURAL COLLABORATION



KATJA MRAGOWSKA, A MULTI AWARD WINNING POLISH ARTIST TEAMS UP WITH NATHALIE LEVI, A NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY ART STUDENT

NATHALIE LEVI, a twenty-two year old Newcastle University Art student must have had some spirit to approach the multi-award winning thirty-three year old Polish artist, Katja Mragowska with a proposition of a collaborative figurative project.

Levi first discovered Mragowska's work when looking through her Polish friend's art catalogues and books.

Mragowska has won the Oleszczynski Prize, the "Art in Public" Competition, and has been shortlisted for the Bachhuber Prize.

Levi was immediately interested in Mragowska's work, in particular Mragowska's interests in the younger generation, anti-Capitalism and new figurative art.

Both Levi and Mragowska are interested in abstractions on the human form and new ways of looking at the body.

Levi took several months, but with the help of her Polish friends with writing emails to galleries she managed to get in contact with Mragowska.

Mragowska responded to Levi's proposal and accepted the offer. She arrived in Newcastle on Friday 18th April to stay for six weeks.

Mragowska has been criticised for not having gone to art school by some art critics but coming to Newcastle University has given her chance to prove these critics wrong.

Mragowska is living the student life by staying with Levi in her student house, and sharing her University studio and materials.

Mragowska and Levi's project deals with the human form.

They are making a life size resin piece. Mixing glue with fibre glass and building up the strength of the medium by layering, they will make a cast of the human form.

They will then remove the finished form out of the cast and break it down into pieces and integrate it into an environment.

Mragowska returns to Poland in five weeks, so the piece will have to be completed before she leaves.

Levi is looking for a space to exhibit the piece when it is completed.

When I met Nathalie Levi she was modest and clear headed - but this collaboration is a big deal for both this student and the University.

It also emphasises Newcastle as a city whose art scene is well established and has built good connections across Europe.

Holly Willats

PURE GOLD?



BIRMINGHAM STAGE COMPANY'S interpretation of the Stevenson classic 'Treasure Island' is coming to Newcastle Theatre Royal this April/May.

With the company's previous Newcastle successes 'Danny the Champion of the World' and George's Marvellous Medicine' already under its belt, it promises to be a corker.

The story goes a little like this; when Jim Hawkins discovers a mysterious treasure map, he shows Squire Trelawney, who is overwhelmed with excitement about the discovery. They decide to set sail in a bid to find the island, in tow with some memorable characters including the ship's one-legged cook Long John Silver.

But Long John has a shocking revelation in store for the explorers, which leaves Jim facing the most thrilling and yet perilous adventure of his life.

The production features a talented cast with the brilliant Long John Silver played by Gavin Robertson who recently appeared alongside Christian Slater in West End triumph 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest'.

Treasure Island is on at Theatre Royal, 29 April - 3 May

Joanna Sweeney

INTRODUCING ... ALAN DAVEY

THE ARTS COUNCIL was born under the unlikely abbreviation, CEMA (Council for the Encouragement of Music and Arts) in the early years of World War Two.

Though funded by the government it has tried to maintain a distance between the UK Arts Policy and current governments ever since the first chairman John Keynes established the council's direct relationship with the treasury.

However, in hindsight, arts trends perhaps inevitably match decades and changes of government.

In 1994, an age of devolution, the Arts Council of Great Britain split into quarters.

The Arts Council of England, as it is currently known, stands in good stead from these sentimental pounded pledges of hope.

The increased swell of Arts council money has demanded greater responsibility which perhaps prompted the restructuring of 2001 that merged all regional boards to form a single organization.

The dependence which arts have on funding agents has created bitter disputes about the art council's distribution.

A spate of ill advised backing decisions in recent years has questioned the role of such a council who effectively make or break artists.

This winter's funding settlement, which has meant an increase in funding cuts, has left many people including Kevin Spacey very angry, questioning the nature of its oversized bureaucracy.

Who is justified to make these decisions? What are their objectives? How is it possible to rank art and what guidelines do they use to make their decisions?

The quest lately to 'donate diversely' has been criticized for out-prioritising talent and quality.

Some, such as writer in residence and literary manager, Mark Cravenhill, attack the council's 'middle-centric' class attitude which fails 'to involve the least wealthy in our society'.

Out of the temperate pan, as head of culture at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, steps Alan Davey into the fiery role as new director of the Arts Council of England.

He is proposing two courses of action. First, he is going to find a way of reintroducing an element of peer review to assessments of organisations; in other words, artists themselves will be involved in making these judgments.

Second, he wants to create a culture change in the council and bring about a situation in which the arts council can cope with, and support, art at its most ambitious. However, some consider that this sort of courageous staking is at odds with the nature of the organisation.

Director of cultural regeneration, Chris Naylor observes that 'while a single funding agency may be the way to support our establishment culture...asking that body to think outside the box, back hunches, take real risks, just doesn't make sense'.

But Davey, a man of charisma and a chuckle, who professes a taste for string quartets, renaissance choral and the Canadian roots singer Justin Rutledge, may just be the man for the job.

Currently undergoing a PhD in Roman masculinity, Davey has learnt to differentiate the men from the boys, and is game for the challenge of ironing out Art Council loggerheads and bringing a golden age of Art to England.

The future's bright.
The future's centurion.

Miriam Davies

LOVE AT THE LAING

IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE FOR THE LAING AT THE MOMENT AND SARAH RICHARDSON, THE KEEPER OF FINE ART SPOKE TO PULP ALL ABOUT IT

Pulp: Love is the theme for this exhibition, but how did you decide on this idea and do you feel the works fit into this title?

Sarah Richardson: For this series of exhibitions, we were looking for themes which have a relevance across the centuries.

The majority of the paintings and the works come from the National Gallery collection, which covers a very wide time line ending in 1900.

We wanted to have a theme that would represent the whole range of the National Gallery and collections but that would also be relevant to contemporary practise and modern art works produced after the 1900s.

Part of the way the exhibitions are set up is that we would like to have a continuum from the historical works into the modern and contemporary period.

And so, as well as the core works from the National Gallery, we do have a number of quite important loans from public collections and from artists' dealers and from the artists themselves.

Pulp: And as a result of this broad time line you have a broad variety of works, so for instance you have a Vermeer and a Grayson Perry - do you feel that these works group together well in the exhibition?



this

Sarah: Yes, it is very much an exhibition where the visitor goes and makes those connections themselves.

We've laid the exhibition out in a certain way and the catalogue is arranged in a certain way but that doesn't stop people making their own connections, and there are a wealth of connections that can be made within the exhibition.

But it is lovely, for example, to see Grayson Perry's piece, 'God please keep my children safe', with heartfelt plea for the

safety of the children and that's something that parents can relate to directly. And Raphael's 'The Madonna of the Pinks', which is an early sixteenth century painting with the Virgin Mary looking lovingly holding her child on her lap. So, you've got those connections across the centuries.

Pulp: The Yoko Ono piece relies on the viewer to participate. Do you think the Newcastle community will respond well to this?



Sarah: I'm sure they will. It's based on the idea you can go and make the artwork. You've got this very respected, contemporary artist, and she's inviting people to collaborate with her. She has the concept and she is asking people to make their contributions and I think people will respond to that. In Bristol, where the exhibition showed first, people did respond very creatively.

So, I'm sure that will happen again.

Pulp: And how was the touring exhibition funded?

Sarah: It is a partnership exhibition, and the last in the series between The Laing, Bristol museums, art galleries and archives and The National Gallery.

It's funded, to a large extent, by the Heritage Lottery Fund. But also there are financial contributions from the Esmée Fairbairn Trust.

Pulp: And lastly, what was your personal favourite piece in the exhibition?

Sarah: My personal favourite is the Marc Chagall's 'Bouquet with Flying Lovers', which I think is just beautiful, the colours are wonderful and I think it was a painting which was done after the death of his wife and I think it's a celebration of their life together.

It's, in these beautiful blues, with some purples as the background and the figures emerge from that.

His wife, as a young woman is floating in the sky dressed in her wedding dress and he's reaching from a window to embrace her.

So there's this mix of sadness and love, which I think is touching.

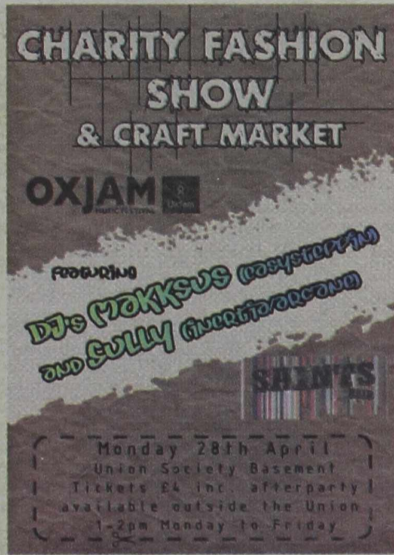


'Love' is on now at the Laing Art Gallery until Sunday 13 July

Grayson Perry (born 1960)
God please keep my children safe, 2005
Private collection
(c) Grayson Perry.
Courtesy of Victoria Miro Gallery, London

EVENTS

UNION ENTS PICK OF THE BEST



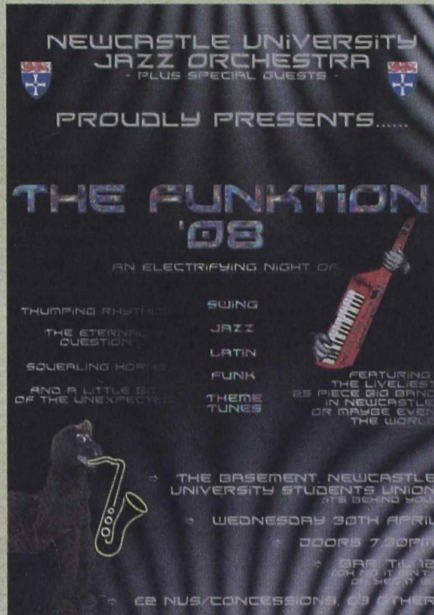
OXJAM CHARITY FASHION SHOW AND CRAFT MARKET

WHERE: Union Society Basement

WHEN: 28th April, Doors open at 7pm with the show starting at 7:30pm. The after party will start around 10pm in Basement 2 with Dj MakkSuS and Sully (Inertia, Arcane) on the decks.

TICKETS: All proceeds will be going to Oxfam. Tickets are £4 and are on sale 1-2pm outside the Union or can be bought on the door

The charity fashion show has been organised as part of Oxfam's 'Oxjam' fundraising campaign. The night hopes to bring music, fashion, drinks, stalls and fun all for a good cause. Dj MakkSuS (Easy Steppin') will providing the music, and Oxfam Percy Street will be providing the clothes. There will also be a small gathering of craft stalls where local designers such as Polka Dot Lilly, Doris Illustrated, Gaf, The Libertarian, True Believer Clothing and Karina's bags will be selling their wares. Saints hairdressing has kindly offered to style the models hair for the event.



NU JAZZ ORCHESTRA: THE FUNKTION '08

WHERE: Union Society Basement

WHEN: 30th April, Doors open at 7.30pm

TICKETS: A£2 NUS/£3 others

A night of swing, jazz, latin, funk and theme tunes, all performed by our very own Newcastle University Jazz Orchestra (and special guests).

READER RECOMMENDATION: CAFE ANTIPASTO TREAT YOURSELF TO A CHEAP AND CHEERFUL ITALIAN IN JESMOND



Situated in the Cradlewell area of Jesmond, Café Antipasto is coffee shop, restaurant and cocktail bar all rolled into one chic bistro-style venue.

With its mismatched furniture, candles in wine bottles and comfy sofas, the unpretentious décor adds to the relaxed experience of what they call 'social food and drink'. The menu revolves around piattini, small dishes designed to work in a similar way to tapas.

The extensive menu of meat, fish and vegetarian dishes along with mini pizza and pasta options caters for everyone's taste. We ordered one of the platter options consisting of an assortment of their most popular dishes for £10/£15 per head shared between either 2 or 4 people. Although delicious, a bespoke selection of the same amount of dishes would work out only slightly more expensive. Open

from 8.30am, they also have a breakfast and lunchtime range.

With regards to special deals, they offer a 20% discount to all "Jesmond Video" card holders. They also have a student-friendly lunch-time deal of any mini pasta or 6 inch pizza, served with potato skins and a mixed salad for £5.

Although the prices are in keeping with those you would normally expect to pay, the variety and quality of the food is far superior to that of the inauthentic and over-priced chain establishments. So if you are looking for excellent Mediterranean-inspired food, at reasonable prices, in relaxing surroundings then this is the place for you.

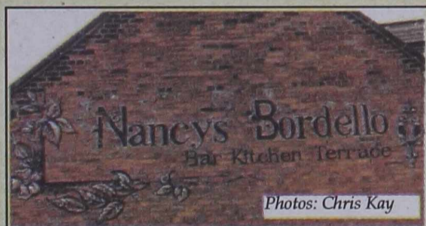
www.cafeantipasto.com

Lucy Blackwell

CAFE ANTIPASTO OPEN FROM 8.30AM!!

ADDRESS: 217- 219 JESMOND ROAD, JESMOND, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

TELEPHONE: 0191 281 2111



FANCY NANCYS!

IS IT CAR?! NO IT'S A DAMN FINE NEW WATERING HOLE

This is latest member of the Lynch, As You Like It, Apartment family and it is the little sister that got the good looks and the personality... lucky bitch.

The décor is the most striking thing about this place, whoever does the interior design for these places is some kind of genius. The walls are dressed with bold printed wallpaper in all different patterns and designs, and it's packed with quirky little artefacts, for instance the grandfather clock with a rabbits head inside. Bizzare I know, but strangely it works. The bar is lined with a row of old lampshades which, as my friend pointed

out, would look shit on their own but look bloody good all bundled together. It's nailed that cosy, homely feel and is big enough not to be squeezed to death, but small enough to pull off a more discreet crowd without losing its appeal. I went on a Friday and it was relaxing but buzzing, busy but not too busy, just nice really. The tunes were a mix of tasteful dancey, souly stuff, just quite cool really and the crowd was a good eclectic mix.

The cocktail menu is definitely worth checking out, I would strongly recommend the Mojito variations is you're feeling a bit fancy. Homemade

food 'like your mam used to make' is served from 12 noon- 9pm every day. Grub on offer includes nachos, salads, sarnies, burritos, plus a good veggie range. They also do bar nibbles, if you're just a little bit peckish or skint (starting from £1). It doesn't close till 1.30am and additional features to tempt you include a Sun Terrace and Pool, plus Pac Man, Kerplunk, Scrabble and Space Invadors for the child within.

Best Bit: The brilliant staff especially the New Zealand chick.

Emily Butterworth

LOCATION: WHERE LOGIK USED TO BE, NEAR MOOT NEAREST METRO: MANORS T: 0191 260 2929 13 ARGYLE STREET NEWCASTLE



Photos: Chris Kay

LOOK OUT FOR

Acoustic Sundays Every Sunday from 2.30pm til 5pm Sunday Lunch served all day from 12 noon There's guitars, sitars, harmonicas, vocals and locals every Sunday afternoon to help wind down and recharge your batteries.

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN.... AN ANGELIC CAFÉ WITH DEVILISHLY GOOD FOOD!

This little café is hard to spot but well worth the 5 minute walk from the library for a lunchtime treat. Conveniently situated next to STA Travel, it is hidden away down a short flight of steps which lead you to a menu crammed with tantalising choices of food and drink.

They serve a range of both sinful and saintly food, depending on the kind of mood you're in, including jacket potatoes, soup, sandwiches, paninis and a range of cakes. They also have a breakfast menu for the early risers, including bacon sandwiches, toast and jam or a smoothie selection. Better than this though, they boast a particularly extensive hot chocolate range, including hot chocolate with chilli, a real winter warmer! You can sit in

or take away, I recommend the former as the hot heaven and hell themed décor provides a welcome alternative to the gloominess of the library. If you're feeling extra devilish they've even got a drinks license so you can enjoy a glass of wine with your panini, perfect. One of the best things about this place though is the welcoming atmosphere. The ladies in charge are chatty, smiley and eager to help. They don't even mind if you want to make a few cheeky alterations to their menu, providing they've got the ingredients of course! It really is a place not to be over looked.

Emily Butterworth



Photos: Stephanie Feng



Photos: Stephanie Feng

A FEW CHOICES IF YOU'RE FEELING HEAVENLY:

Jacket potato Neptune melt - tuna and mozzarella melt £3.75

Panini W-hey - feta with olives and pepper £4.20 (Both served with side salad, coleslaw and nachos)

Heart warming soup with buttered roll - £2.25

A FEW CHOICES IF YOU'RE FEELING SINFUL:

Jacket potato Spicy moo - chilli beef £3.75

Panini Yum in a bun - bacon and brie £4.20

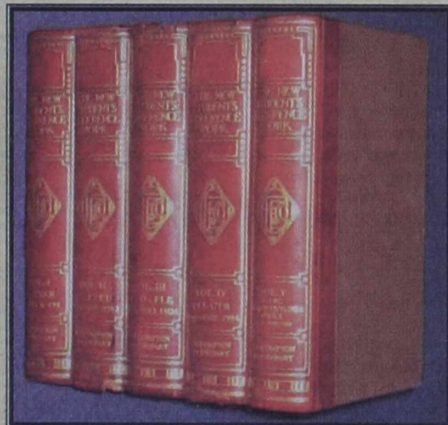
Homemade cheesecake £3

FRIDAYS AT STAIRWAY 211

Cheesy/retro music
Melted cheese nachos & wine or Taco & Bud - £3.50
Plus Alcoholic Milkshakes

Opening Hours: Mon-Thurs 10am til whenever, Fri 10am til 2.30pm + 6pm til whenever, Sat 10am til whenever.
11 St Mary's Place, Newcastle - To order in advance phone: 07702976466

HEXHAM BOOK FESTIVAL 08 FEMINIST GERMAINE GREER JOINS EVENT LINE-UP



The Hexham Book Festival, now in its third successful year, invites you to a weekend celebration of all that's exciting and new in the world of books.

The programme which has been published for this year's event encourages young and old, the prosaic and the poetic to join in with award-winning writers of children's books and contemporary fiction, a lively poetry slam and a graphic novel event, a talk by a controversial chef and two nostalgic footballers!

Authors are starting to sit up and take

notice of the Hexham Book Festival - last year's headliner Will Self has been equalled this year by novelist, arch feminist and Celebrity Big Brother contestant Germaine Greer. The festival is inching towards national recognition and fulfilment of its founder Susie Troup's dream.

Other notable names this year include Simon Hoggart, Guardian journalist and News Quiz presenter, and screenwriter Michael Chaplin, creator of prime time TV series such as Monarch of the Glen and Foyle's War.

FOR THE FULL PROGRAMME VISIT:

www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk

Tickets available from the Queen's Hall
telephone: 01434 652477

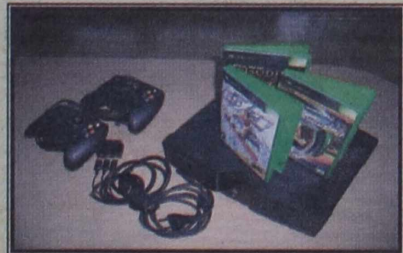
TICKET PRICES START AT £3.50
MANY EVENTS ARE FREE!!

FRIDAY 2ND
TILL MONDAY
5TH MAY

ALERTING ALL GAMERS!

XBOX 360 TOURNAMENT NUMBER #2: HALO 3

You are invited to the second in a weekly series of Xbox 360 tournaments at the Union Society! This week is a Halo 3 knock-out tournament with 32 Places! Plus waiter service courtesy of the Global bar staff who will be taking drinks orders and delivering the straight to your hand in the Union Lounge!



IMPORTANT STUFF

Map: Guardian
Weapons: Standard Map Weapons
Time limit: 6 minutes.

The tournament will begin at 14:00
with registration from 12:00
(There will be a tournament board for
you to sign up in the Union Lounge)

PRIZES:

1st Place: £20 Union Drinks voucher
+ £5 food voucher + Halo 3 Prizes
2nd Place: £5 Union Drinks voucher
+ £5 food voucher + Halo 3 Prizes

WILD CARD



BLUE REEF
THE LOCAL TROPICAL
PARADISE
OPEN FROM 10AM DAILY

Alright so it's a bit random but it never hurt anyone to think outside the box. It's got seahorses for goodness sake and a seal cove!!

It's the local tropical paradise, situated in Tynemouth near the beach, and it promises to take you on an undersea tour from the British coastline to far away tropical reefs. I for one definitely need to be taken to some faraway tropical reefs, so I'm in.

You come face to face with amazing undersea things like giant crabs and tropical sharks and it's all educational with over 40 naturally recreated displays. Never mind that

though, back to the seal cove, where a captive bred colony apparently reside in an outdoor naturally created facility. Pretty sure 'seeing a live seal' must be top of your list of things to do before you die!

The sea life centre is right next to Longsands beach which is probably one of the best beaches within easy reach. So after you've visited the seals you could have a quickie surf and a refreshing stroll before stuffing your face with vinegar laden chips. The ticket is valid all day so you can meander as you please!

METRO: nearest stop Cullercoats then just a short walk
BY CAR: follow A19 taking the A1058 (coast road) signposted Tynemouth. Follow the tourist signs to the aquarium on the seafront

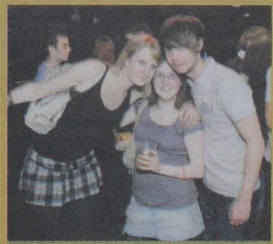
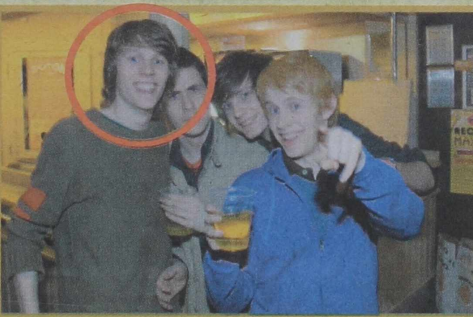
Blureef Aquarium, Grand Parade, Tynemouth
Tyne & Wear
0191 2581031



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

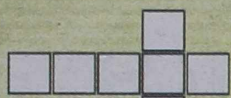
NEWCASTLE'S BIGGEST STUDENT FRIDAY NIGHT

ALL NEW! SOLUTION

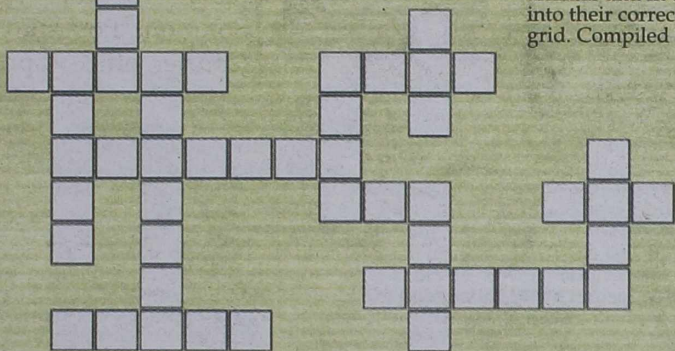
PUZZLES

Compiled by Puzzles Master Megan Darby

KRISS KROSS



Act
God
Gip
Bare
Toga
Lino
Drib
Shore
Dread
Braze
Wheal
Sneak
Corona
Paroled
Rooters



Unscramble these anagrams to get animals and fit the resulting words into their correct positions in the grid. Compiled by Caroline Melloy.

SUDOKU...SUDOKU

	7			5			9
		4				7	
5			6				2
	4			3			1
		9					
6			4				5
	1			9			3
		7				4	
2			7				6

MAGIC NUMBERS

By Megan Darby

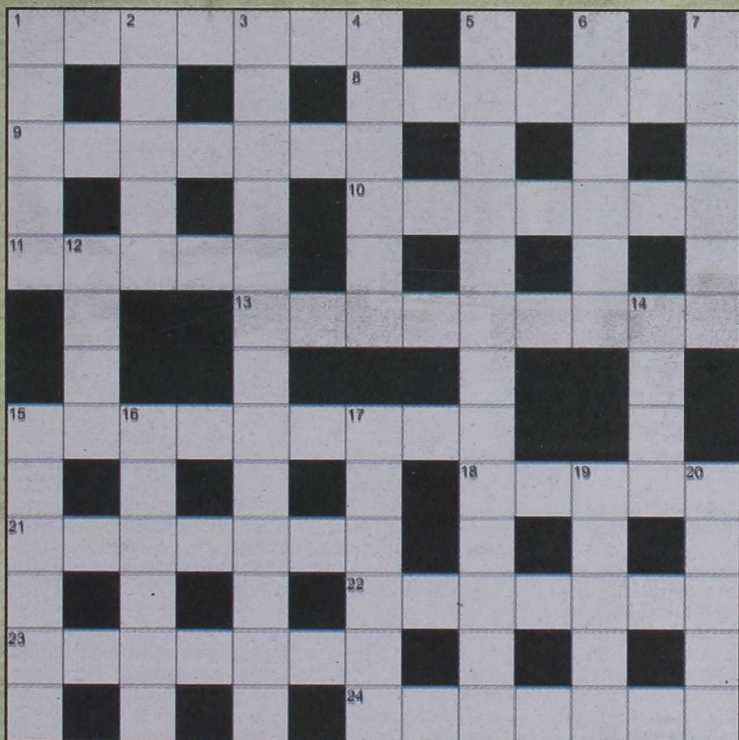
8
206
9
79
3

F to a M
B in the AB
C of H
is the AN of G
F in NU

8 S in the F of MS
9 S in the F of H and SS
10 S in the F of S, A and E
1215 saw the issue of the
MC
646 S in the H of C
738 S in the H of L

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

- Flow in abundance (7)
- Vehicle drawn by horses used in Ancient Egypt, Greece etc (7)
- Dramatisation with interludes of song and dance (7)
- Clumsy (7)
- Bonnie Parker's notorious partner in crime (5)
- Director of Pulp Fiction, Kill Bill (9)
- The Hunchback of Notre Dame (9)
- Flourish (5)
- 15th century Dutch scholar; student exchange programme (7)
- British indie-rock band; senior members of a publication team (7)
- What someone in education does for a living (7)
- Stop temporarily (7)

Down

- Funny ha ha (5)
- Timid or cowardly individual (5)
- Famous French monument (3,2,8)
- Elongated pastry (6)
- Ice-cream franchise famous for its 31 flavours (6,7)
- Indian festival of lights (6)
- Artist's workroom (6)
- Hawaiian-themed party (4)
- Famous Disney clownfish (4)
- Traditional keyboard layout (6)
- Image representing a user on a computer (6)
- Think about excessively (6)
- Gas that forms a layer above the earth (5)
- Pondered (5)

QUIZ CORNER

The title of this week's quiz is "Gold". Every question or answer will have something to do with Gold. Good Luck. Compiled by Joe Ambrose

- Which 80's band, of which Martin Kemp was a member, released the single "Gold"?
- What is the pseudonym of the superhero Michael Jon Carter?
- Which 1974 thriller starring Susannah York was based on a novel by Wilbur Smith includes Roger Moore as Rod Slater, a General Manager of a South African mine?
- The "World Jewish Congress lawsuit against Swiss Banks" was launched to retrieve which legendary asset?
- In the Film "Goldeneye", who plays "006"?
- Which Edgar Allen Poe story is about a man named William Legrand who seemingly goes mad after being bitten by an insect thought to be made of pure gold?
- "Gold Digger", the 2005 number one single recorded by Kanye West, features the vocals of which actor?
- What is the name of Neil Young's only number one single?
- Which Drum'n'Bass MC guest starred in "The World Is Not Enough" and "Snatch"?
- Which American Actress is married to the actor Kurt Russell?

MAGIC NUMBERS ANSWERS: Answers: 8 furlongs to a mile; 206 bones in the adult body; 9 circles of hell (in Dante's Inferno); 79 is the atomic number of gold; 3 Faculties in Newcastle University; 8 Schools in the Faculty of Medical Sciences; 9 Schools in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences; 10 Schools in the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering; 1215 saw the issue of the Magna Carta; 646 seats in the House of Commons; 738 seats in the House of Lords. QUIZ ANSWERS: 1) Spandau Ballet 2) Booster Gold 3) Gold 4) Nazi Gold 5) Sean Bean 6) The Gold Bug 7) Jamie Foxx 8) Heart of Gold 9) Goldie Hawn LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS: Across 1 Amoral 4 Latvia 8 Opera 9 Adopted 10 Seasons 11 Delhi 12 Overrides 17 Shrub 19 Neglect 21 Imbure 22 Alibi 23 Option 24 Analog Down 1 Alonso 2 Oregon 3 Alamo 5 Avoided 6 Vital 7 Aldrin 9 Assurance 13 Embargo 14 Special 15 Eskimo 16 String 18 Robot 20 Grain

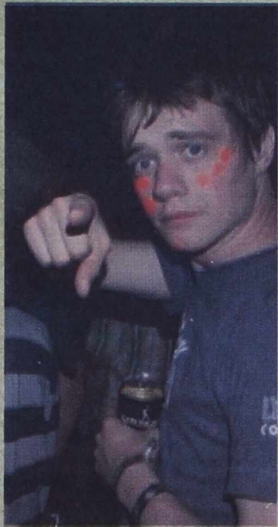
accenture

High performance. Delivered.

Graduate careers in consulting

Rising and shining.
Just another day at the office for a high performer.

2 FILM



WELCOME TO my new quiz show, 'A Question Of Fame'. You ready? Here we go with round one.

Reader - which face out of all of those you can see on this week's film pages is the MOST FAMOUS? No answer? I expect you're trying to decide between the man on page one and the man on page two, the old rocker with the twinkle in his eye and the sexy Irish man with juicy gossip to tell... me or Mr. Pete Duggan.

The correct answer, of course, is neither. Welcome to our humble pages Mr. Mick Jagger and Mr. Colin Farrell, 'tis an honour to have your company. Luckily, your films are both alright too, so there's no need to put the boot in as you walk out the door, or paint things black, as it were.

There's something warm and comforting about Mick Jagger, mainly because the man is old enough to be our granddad but is still twelve times cooler than we'll ever be. Reassuring to know that our twilight years need not be characterised by mismatched trouser/jacket combos and cautious shuffling, but rather timeless rock n roll and Martin Scorsese hanging around with his camera like a giggling school girl.

See you next week film fans (for the last time ever!)

- Sam (pulp.film@ncl.ac.uk)



IN BRUGES

DIRECTED BY: MARTIN MCDONAGH
STARRING: COLIN FARRELL, BRENDAN GLEESON, RALPH FIENNES

COLIN FARRELL has had a rough run of choices in recent years.

After bursting into the mainstream in 2002 with *Minority Report* and *Phoné Booth*, he lost momentum starring in some average blockbusters such as *The Recruit* and the total catastrophe that was *Alexander*.

It has taken a return to his Irish roots to bounce him back towards the big leagues and *In Bruges* should hopefully do just that.

Farrell and Brendan Gleeson play two hit-men, Ray and Ken, who, after a tragically botched job, are sent to hideout in Bruges while they await orders from their boss Harry (Ralph Fiennes, successfully channelling Ben Kingsley's psychopath in *Sexy Beast*).

The hit-men on the run idea has been done many times before, but *In Bruges* is so radically offensive and over the top and yet, somehow, so moving that it actually feels fresh.

At the core, the film is a two-hander between Farrell and the avuncular Gleeson as they discuss ideas on right and wrong, the nature of friendship and honour through profanity laced and surprisingly profound dialogue. It is unsurprising that first time feature director Martin McDonagh made his name in theatre with the exchanges between the leads first rate.

Making such a jump from theatre to film leaves McDonagh open to the film feeling stagey but he injects the action with so many outrageous characters and situations

that he makes this jump seamlessly.

Amongst these characters are a drug-addled, racist dwarf named Jimmy (Jordan Prentice) and Ray's love interest Chloe (Harry Potter's Clemence Posey) with a profession almost as disreputable as Ray's.

When Harry finally arrives into Bruges "as a matter of honour" the film enters its surprisingly bloody denouement and you find yourself genuinely caring for the lives of Ray and Ken despite their mass-murder and drug-abuse.

This is largely due to the outstanding lead performances. Farrell's hangdog eyes give Ray a vulnerability and boyish charm that is irresistible. The first time he sees Jimmy, Ken says "C'mon, let's go back to the room," to which Ray gleefully retorts, "Fuck off, Ken, they're filming midgets," before running like a child to get a closer look.

Gleeson is the perfect foil for Farrell's enthusiasm, his weathered hit-man Ken bearing the brunt of a number of deeply complex decisions with a samurai-like code of honour. Even Fiennes brings an unexpected sympathy to Harry that makes the climax all the more intimate.

A great blend of comedy and drama with a hint of tragedy that will put Farrell back on the map and marks McDonagh out as a talent to keep an eye on.

Alex Howes



FLASHBACKS OF A FOOL

DIRECTED BY: BAILLIE WALSH
STARRING: DANIEL CRAIG, HARRY EDEN, JODHI MAY

THIS IS a film about aging Hollywood star Joe Scott (Craig).

Joe leads a hedonistic lifestyle of girls, booze and drugs and as a result his career

has taken a severe nose dive. Then he receives a call from home to tell him that his childhood best friend has died.

In a process of soul searching, Joe begins to think of the past, portrayed in the form of a lengthy flashback to summer in the 1970s and Joe's adolescence. We are witness to his sexual and emotional rites-of-passage including his tentative relationship with Ruth and his seduction by neighbour and friend of his mother, Evelyn (May).

The effect of director Baillie Walsh choosing one long flashback instead of the usual format of several shorter ones, is that the narrative becomes rather fragmented and it is difficult to marry Joe the boy and Joe the man together as the same character.

Lucy Cadman



EMPIRE



SHINE A LIGHT

DIRECTED BY: MARTIN SCORSESE
STARRING: THE ROLLING STONES

Everyone is well aware that the Rolling Stones are getting on a bit, but it is doubtful you'll find a more potent reminder of this fact than through Martin Scorsese's no-wrinkle-spared close ups of the legendary quartet performing at New York's Beacon Theatre in 2006.

Indeed, the startling extent of the canyons etching the faces of Mick Jagger and Keith Richards in particular makes the decision by some IMAX cinemas to screen *Shine A Light* in brutally high resolution appear like a mischievous schoolboy prank. But don't let the aesthetics mislead; for the Stones as performers are as timeless as the hits they have crafted over their forty-plus years of traditional rock and roll debauchery.

Jagger as a front man is typically resplendent yet visceral, still persisting with his famed rooster-with-a-hormone-imbalance dance routine whilst the pirate king of substance abuse that is Keith Richards exchanges charming glances with his fellow Stones, as if he is still seeking an approving nod after all these years.

Cinematically, *Shine A Light* is fascinating; Scorsese has effortlessly captured the emotional dynamics of the group whilst highlighting their distinct mortality. This is achieved through archive clips of past interviews which casts a previously unseen air of vulnerability about the Stones, most noticeable when Jagger poignantly claims that the band could perform together for 'another year at least' in an interview dating from the mid sixties.

However, whilst *Shine A Light* is lovingly assembled, as a picture it doesn't become anything more than a handsome showcase for Scorsese's and the Stone's respective talents, and fails to break new ground within the tricky genre of concert films.

Matthew Stoppard



EMPIRE

OFF THE RECORD, ON THE QT AND VERY HUSH HUSH...



... WITH PETE DUGGAN

This Month's Big News ... June 18th 2010. Mark that date down in your diary now because it's a day your going to want to keep free.

On that day, more than 10 years after part 2 the most anticipated three-quel ever will hit cinema screens, yep you guessed it, *Toy Story 3!* Whilst the curse of part 3 does provide certain trepidation to this project if anyone can pull this off then it's the kings of animation Pixar; all the cast will be back and the story, for those geeks among us who remember, will mirror Jesse's heartbreaking tale from part 2. Excited? Me too, now all we have to do is wait 2 years.

Other News ... Unlike any filmmaker in recent memory Oliver Stone loves controversy. From *Natural Born Killers* to JFK to the recent World Trade Center there is no subject to touchy for him and with his next project, a *George Bush* biopic this seems unlikely to change. The film is quite likely to have the whole of America talking, add to that Stone plans to look in-depth at Bush's alcohol fuelled youth and later conversion to Christianity and you just know there's a storm brewing. So far casting is going well; Josh Brolin, the real star of the Best Picture winner *No Country For Old Men* will play the president while Mr Fantastic Iain Grufford will play our very own Tony Blair. ETA is sketchy but a early 2009 release date is likely, just in time for Oscar season eh?

This Month's Trailer ... With most of the big blockbusters having already released their trailer's I thought it would be a good time to decide which of this years is the best of the bunch; not an easy task by any means considering how many times my jaw has dropped in the last few months. Some of my personal fave's include the trailer for Guillermo Del Toro's next film *Hellboy 2: The Golden Army* and the recently released Ed Norton produced *Incredible Hulk* reboot. The best trailer of the year however, and possible the last few years is the *Dark Knight* preview. Released before Heath's death it provided just the right amount of insight and info to leave you begging in anticipation, since the tragedy its become something much more, a somewhat scary build up for what will no doubt be the most emotional film of the year. For more see next weeks edition and our Big Summer Preview.

Finally ... Whilst there is still no confirmation on this the big talk on the final *Harry Potter* film is that it in fact will be cut into two. Whilst we still have *The Half Blood Prince* to endure before we get that far it is believed that *The Deathly Hallows* was considered just too in-depth to be crammed into one film; why this bothers director David Yates after the way he butchered *Order of The Phoenix* is beyond me. Hopefully this means we may finally get one book made into a worthwhile film adaptation. Then again....

MUST SEE MOVIE

THIS WEEK: TRUE ROMANCE

DIRECTED BY: TONY SCOTT
STARRING: CHRISTIAN SLATER, PATRICIA ARQUETTE, VAL KILMER, DENNIS HOPPER, GARY OLDMAN, BRAD PITT

HE'S A quirky comic book geek with a thing for Elvis. She's a naïve southern girl and first time hooker.

When she's sent to him as a birthday present, they fall in love and marry but as with any story penned by Tarantino, the action doesn't end there. Clarence (Slater) indulges in some male bravado and goes to get back his new wife's belongings. He has a run in with her violent pimp Drexel (Oldman) which culminates in a spectacular fight scene of the calibre we have grown used to from Tarantino. Amidst the confusion, Clarence ends up with a suitcase full of cocaine instead of Alabama's (Arquette) clothes. The couple travel to LA to sell the white gold while, unknown to them, the rightful owners are hot on their heels and out for revenge. The film is worth watching for the fantastic last fight scene alone which is full of twists, turns and dead bodies. The only question is... who will be left standing by the end?

This film is a must see for all Tarantino fans and for fans of romance without a floppy haired hero in sight. A whole host of huge names often in small or cameo parts make this film all the better but without taking away from the fantastic individual performances and chemistry of Slater and Arquette as the central couple. Brad Pitt's performance as Floyd the terminal stoner and Val Kilmer's as the spirit of Elvis who guides Clarence through the whole ordeal are notable appearances.

This film bombards the audience with brilliantly shot images of blazing guns, brutal beatings and lots of gushing blood as well as a witty script and bags of style which combine to make for an extremely interesting tale. It is not a film which pretends to be something it isn't and Tarantino sticks to what he knows best: violence and, as it has often been termed, "gutter poetry", without trying to delve too deep into the psyche of the characters, leaving the film to stand alone as a piece of pure entertainment.

After watching this film, I was left echoing the words of Alabama... "You're so cool." A true piece of movie escapism - you must see this movie.

Lucy Cadman



CLASSIC SCENE #5 THE NOTEBOOK

I HAVE rarely come across a woman in this day and age, who did not enjoy *The Notebook*.

A touching love story, the film is wildly romantic and idealistic about love and its ability to endure whatever comes its way. While it may not be the most realistic or serious film of our time, I would still like the share everybody's favourite moment, just to humour the notion that great love is still out there...

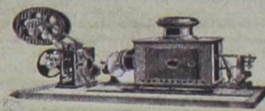
Allie: Why didn't you write me? Why? It wasn't over for me, I waited for you for seven years. But now it's too late.

Noah: I wrote you 365 letters. I wrote you every day for a year.

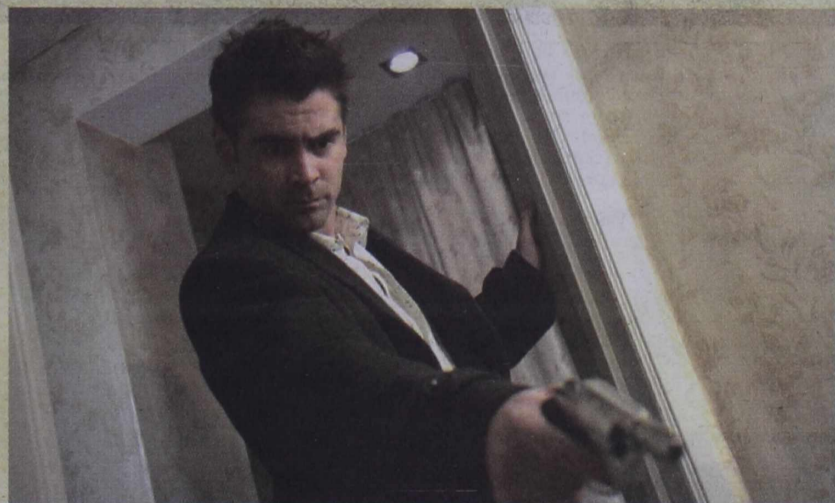
Allie: You wrote me?

Noah: Yes... it wasn't over... it still isn't over!
(cue passionate kissing and removal of clothing)

Ashley Fryer



COLIN FARRELL TALKS TO PULP ABOUT IN BRUGES...



PULP: What did you really think of Bruges?

COLIN FARRELL: I really enjoyed it. It is a strange place though and there is beauty to its strangeness. It is somewhere that I think you would have to be strong of mind to make it through a winter there if you were not from there. But it is a gorgeous city and the people were great.

PULP: What was it like shooting in Bruges during the Belgian winter?

COLIN FARRELL: Frigid...dark...depressing. I found it a little bit tough because it was dark just after three or four in the afternoon. There was nobody on the streets, it really did feel as though the plague had hit town. It was very eerie and Bruges is an eerie enough place anyway with all the ancient architecture and all the cobblestone streets and the fog that was hitting the canal. But Spring came and life began to change and it all worked out, it all panned out for the better.

PULP: Did most Americans that you have met know how to pronounce Bruges or even where the city is?

COLIN FARRELL: No. They don't know where Ireland is. When I told a taxi driver in Los Angeles that I was from Dublin he thought that was in the Caribbean.

PULP: You have been in big Hollywood epics - so how good is it to come back to a low budget European movie?

COLIN FARRELL: It's great. There are swings and roundabouts. Each job is a different experience. A huge budget brings a certain amount of pressure but that's not a bad thing either, you always feel pressure anyway, to bring yourself up to whatever level the script subscribes to. The likes of Alexander was such a brilliant experience, even though it was hammered. It was battered, left, right and centre. I think we all got a good lick. Oliver [Stone] got a bigger lick than I did but I got a pretty good beating myself. But I would do it all over again. It was a brilliant adventure on a story that I really believed in. And this was lovely again. The script was so tight - it was such lovely stuff to work on. So regardless how big or small your trailer is or how good the craft service is, the bottom line is that once you have a script that you really connect to - which *IN BRUGES* was for me - that's the treat, really.

PULP: Was this one of your demanding roles because of how emotionally exposed Ray is?

COLIN FARRELL: The more I became a subject of Martin McDonagh's words then the more painful it got. We had a great laugh doing it but it is not the most comfortable place that this character is in. He is incredibly despondent; he is suicidal for three days. It was one of the experiences where I did start dreaming of certain things. And when you start dreaming you know that you are fairly deep into it.

PULP: Colin, your character thinks he is going to be in Bruges for two weeks yet he only seems to have one shirt?

COLIN FARRELL: I was in a rush; I spent too long doing my hair. (jokes) He is really not together. I went over with Martin what my character would have taken with him. I was going on the promise that they sold knickers in Bruges; I wouldn't even have brought a change.

PULP: Surely he wouldn't have much luck with the ladies while wearing a two-week-old shirt?

COLIN FARRELL: It hasn't done me any harm! (laughs)

PULP: Cheers Colin!



MUSIC



SUPER F-A-RESH!

NO Jimmy editorial would be complete without a Boys Noize reference, so lets go full throttle and say that this guy is THE sensation of the past 18 months. With an album that puts every pretender to bed and is light-years away from even the Ed Banger crew, anyone who doesn't own this embodiment of pure perfection should just pass those ten coins over RPM's (or HMV's) counter, go home, listen in delight at the wonderful groaning synth, then go online and buy a ticket for Dour Festival. This festival being one of Belgium's largest independent festivals with possibly the best lineup I have ever seen! It's about embracing new music abroad, sacking off the overpriced British festivals and having a great mini-holiday! BLAM!

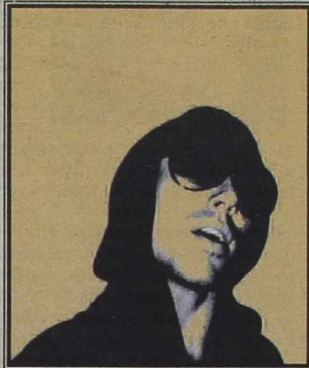
Note from Ruth: there's a Jack Penate interview and a piece about a rare gem by Neutral Milk Hotel online this week! :)

Jim's Noize and Ruth-selektor
www.thecouriernewcastle.com



TOP FIVE THIS WEEK

- 1) Sam Sparro @ Other Rooms, Friday 2nd May
The coolest new smooth-souley disco sensation comes to the Other Rooms
- 2) Crevecouer @ Head of Steam, Monday 28th April
Possibly the most interesting gig you could turn up to in the North East this week...
- 3) Wax:On feat. MSTRKRFT @ Digital, Friday 2nd May
Jimmy's none to pleased with MSTRKRFT at the mo. Nonetheless, win tix below!
- 4) Chuck Prophet @ The Cluny, Thursday 1st May
Laid back country/blues with a touch of funk!
- 5) Roots Manuva @ Digital, Thursday 1st May



PREVIEWS

PARIS IS BURNING + EATDISCO KITSUNE PARTY! @ THE END, SAT 3RD MAY

TWO of the North East's electro heavyweights team up for their biggest night yet, flying guests over the channel to spur on a blitz of party anarchy!

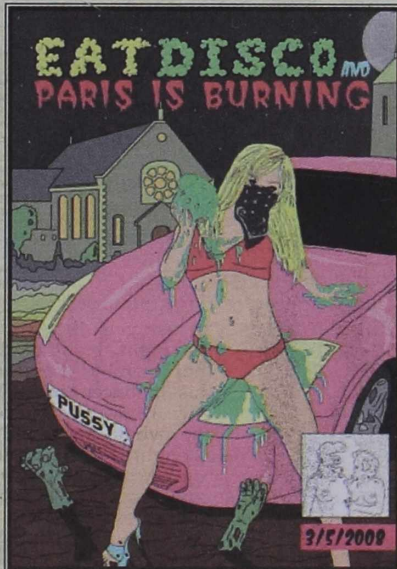
Jerry Bouthier (Kitsune/BoomBox)!! A truly awesome and original DJ and producer who has played alongside the likes of MSTRKRFT, Autokratz, Tronik Youth and pretty much anyone else you could want to have fun with across the world! As a producer his JBAG alter ego has seen him work with Rex the Dog and Adam Sky and remix everyone from Kylie to Baso and Brooke and S'Express (also our single of the week!!).
<http://www.myspace.com/jerrybouthier>

Tom Deluux (Boxon/Just A Band)!! Mr Deluux is blowing up right now in every way possible! His 'Curse Words' EP on Boxon has been getting hammered in clubs from Berlin to Beirut and New York to Newcastle!! He's also been opening for Justice on tour and plays with Ed Banger just for kicks! This will be his first gig in the UK and it's a one not to be missed!
<http://www.myspace.com/tldxx>

Plus resident DJs Paris Is Burning and EatDisco will be hitting some high notes, playing tunes from... Boys Noize, Modeselektor, Siriusmo, Ed Banger, Digitalism, Feadz, Kitsune, Erol, Van She, Surkin, Duke Dumont, Crookers, Turbo, DIM, Sebastian, Goose, The Bloody Beroots, Yuksek, Justice, Para One, TEPR, Cryptonites, Simian Mobile Disco, Alan Braxe, The Presets, Daft Punk, Alter Ego, The Toxic Avenger, Zombie Nation, Institutbes, Vitalic, MSTRKRFT, Miss Kittin, Ocelot, Dilemn, Kissy Sellout, Arcade Mode, Brodinski... basically hard, filthy electro and techno!

Watch out, watch out! This shit's coming at you like futuristic Italian sex! Upcoming guests include STRIP STEVE (Boys Noize Rec), Prostitutes and Policemen, Fake! and more gold!

Jimmy Asquith & Paul Patterson : Jim Starck, Tuff Wheelz, Fukkk Offf, The Whip



CREVECOUER @ THE HEAD OF STEAM, MON. 28TH MAY

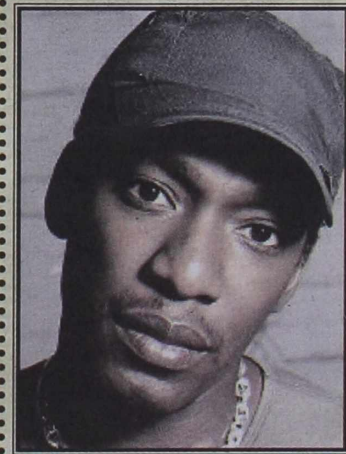
CREVECOUER are French and they make weird film score-esque pop music that's as ramshackle as it is alienating, what's not to like? Smart-Alec previewers aside however, CC are a band that it may be worth spending some to getting acquainted with. Harking back to the golden age of film music in the 1920's before the 'talkies' when, bless them, a live orchestra had to play at the front of the cinema affair, making up what they lack in vocals with an atmosphere of melancholy nostalgia to make you run for you cigarette holders and curse the smoking ban with all your might. Not a gig where the fouts are going to be making a killing, but certainly intriguing enough to warrant your Monday evening, if only to see some frogs not signed to Ed Banger. Support comes in the form of locals Chippewa Falls, who are also pretty Canny.

Dave Wingrave: Emmy The Great, Mystery Jets, Neutral Milk Hotel

ROOTS MANUVA @ DIGITAL, THURS. 1ST MAY

CELEBRATE the first official day of summer in Digital (it'll probably be raining anyway) to the epic sounds of Roots Manuva. He's British hip hop at its best with a healthy scattering of reggae and dub (its just not cool to be defined by one genre anymore). Ok, so the room may be full of people only there to dance to 'Witness', but there's a reason for that as the song has just been voted the best hip hop track of all time. Yes of all time. Oh and with another five epic albums as a back catalogue, he certainly won't be short of ace material. Open your mind for a sonic journey into the mind of Stockwell's favourite son - it's time to put that infamous Digital sound system to the test once again.

Harriet Fitzgerald



SHINDIG 16TH BIRTHDAY @ DIGITAL, WKEND 3RD/4TH MAY

FOR many, Shindig is not so much a club night as a way of life, an essential end to a busy week and the beginning of many new experiences, lifelong friendships and fresh musical discovery. One of the most important house music clubs in the country, and Newcastle's biggest weekly rave-up, Shindig celebrates its 16th birthday this week with a massive weekender featuring major heavyweights of the house music scene. The weekend kicks off on Saturday night with turntable granddaddy Carl Cox spinning anthemic house and techno, followed by a sinful Sunday with Steve Angello, of the Swedish House Mafia. Both nights continue till 4am and an uplifting, electrifying and unifying atmosphere is guaranteed as a sweaty crowd of avid party goers come together for what is sure to be one of the most sizzling and stimulating nights of the year.

SHINDIG 16th BIRTHDAY
Carl Cox, Scott Bradford, Scooby, Del
@ DIGITAL
Sat 3rd/ Sun 4th May, £15 Adv.

Roz Tuplin: Simian Mobile Disco, Kylie, M.I.A



COMPETITION!

For tickets to Wax:On, Friday 2nd May feat. MSTRKRFT, send us the answer to the following question:
What was Mark Houle's big Ibiza splash record?

Answers to pulp.music@ncl.ac.uk

BLACK LIPS

WE MANAGED TO SEND OUR LOVELY TERRI EATON FOR A FEW PARTING WORDS WITH ATLANTA BORN GARAGE GODS BLACK LIPS BEFORE THEY DASHED AWAY TO DESTINATIONS FAR MORE EXOTIC THAN NEWCASTLE...

I WON'T lie to you; I had a few cans of Fosters prior the interview to give myself a bit of Dutch, or rather Australian, courage.

On meeting Black Lips, they said that their equipment had not arrived and that they fancied getting a bite to eat before sound checking. When asked if I cared to join them, I said casually, "Sure ok", but my head was shouting, "Hell yeah I'll come to dinner with you!" No sooner had I began checking out their parka jackets and high tops, I was whisked away to show Black Lips the gastronomic offerings of the Toon. So there I am sauntering around China Town with Black Lips, all of us standing out like five sore thumbs amidst the chavs and the Chinese populace of the area. After much deliberation, we settled for Japanese food. I sat and watched them order plates of Sushi and pots of green tea whilst I fumbled with the voice recorder on my phone (remaining professional all the while). Surrounded by raw fish, Americanisms and moustaches, I began the interview...

The title of your new album 'Good Bad, not Evil' is inspired by the Shangri-La song, "Walk right up to him (give him a great big kiss)". Was this a subliminal tactic whereby you hope girls will in fact walk up to you and give you a great big kiss?

(Ian)- Haha, we like that. We like that. We've never thought of it that way.

Awww, whatever. But anyways, the album has got a lot of dark undertones that people may miss when they dance along to it. You only have to listen to "O Katrina", "Transcendental Light" and "How do you tell a child has died?" to notice this. Have you always included these dark undertones in your music?

(Cole)- Well we've always had dark lyrical content but we try to make the music 'poppy' to counteract that.

(Ian)- I'm from New Orleans and we were in Holland when hurricane Katrina hit. The next night, we went backstage and started writing "O Katrina".

"Buried Alive" is one of my favourite songs, but the lyrics embody my worst fear ever of actually being buried alive. That's pretty clever tactically...

(Jared)- Have you seen "The Vanishing"? If you're scared of being buried alive you really shouldn't watch that because I'm afraid of that too.

How's the tour going?

(Jared)- Good yeah, good. It was really rough the first time we came to England but now this is, like, our sixth time this year and it just gets better. But last night, I got dicked (not literally, Terri) by this bouncer in Glasgow. I haven't been out the whole tour and I thought I'd try going out. We played so early and I was really sober but when we walked in, I looked at the guy and I didn't know what to do because he just carted me away, saying "You're on something, you're on something, and we got kicked out. I had just walked in and hadn't even said anything!"

A couple of my friends went to Nasty Fest in Leeds and they said that you were really good. Did you enjoy playing the event?

(Cole)- It was fun because our friends, Deerhunter, were playing so we got to hang out with them. One of the guys we went to high school with, so it was really cool to play our music, and then play together.

What has been your best and worst gig ever?

(Cole)- You see, some shows are great because there's loads of audience participation and some of them are really big shows and that's always really fun. We played the Primavera Festival and that was great playing to a huge crowd. The hotel was awesome and a lot of our friends were there and it was great playing on a beach in Spain.

What are your first impressions of Newcastle?

(Joe)- Er, the locals are interesting.

(Jared)- Yeah, we're walking around with giant parka jackets on and other people are just walking round in shorts and flip flops.

Speaking as tourists rather than a band, what's your favourite part of Britain that you've seen so far?

(Jared)- Brighton is pretty cool. But our least favourite place is definitely Manchester by a long shot. We've been robbed

'Newcastle locals are, er, interesting'

of our possessions and our dignity and our time in a lot of instances.

Oooh, that's not good. But on a lighter note; do you think you guys as a band are doing to the psychedelic what Justin Timberlake did to the sexy i.e. bringing it back?

(Jared)- No, no. I can see a lot of people doing this kind of thing. There seems to be resurgence going on at the moment.

Do you mean like King Khan and the BBQ club, etc. (friends of Black Lips)?

(Ian)- Haha, ok, if you're going to put it like that, then yes, we are responsible for bringing it back.

Your last album "Los Valientes del Mundo Nuevo" was performed in Tijuana, and I've also been given a tip-off that you like Corona? Do you have a slight obsession with the Mexican?

(Jared)- For me, personally, Mexico is my favourite country. It's awesome... the food, the beer, the tequila; it's all awesome. Everything about that place is the best

(Cole)- But they don't actually drink that much Corona down there because that's more an export.

Is this a bad case of English perception where we think Corona represents all that is Mexican when it actually really doesn't, like when we put a boiled egg on bread and call it Tapas?

(Jared)- If you want to be a real Mexican and drink like a Mexican, you have to mix Tecate with clam tomato juice... (Cole)- ...and michelada!

Do you want to tell me about your time as VBS TV correspondents in Israel and Palestine, especially your acoustic performance to Palestian kids in Bethlehem? That story is a babe-magnet!

(Cole)- Ha, yeah we honestly just took a wrong turn and that's how that came about. We totally missed the checkpoint, so...

Final question, how would I describe your music to my mum? Keep it clean...

(Joe)- You can tell her that we're cooler than your Dad. (Jared)- But tell her she shouldn't listen to our music when she's cleaning because she'll probably trash the house.

Terri Eaton



LOST LOVE... WILCO: YANKEE HOTEL FOXTROT

REPRISE records famously took one glance at Yankee Hotel Foxtrot, couldn't see any money-making potential in it and swiftly, unceremoniously, despatched Wilco from their roster. So Wilco released it independently, watched it soar to the highest echelons of critical and commercial success and, I imagine, sat back very smugly indeed. It's the kind of yarn that makes you warm to the album even before you listen to it, but last week when I put it on for the first time in about three years, it was the music, not the David-and-Goliath back-story that did all the talking. I'd quite simply forgotten what a seamless masterpiece it is, even with multiple genres bouncing around and entire minutes of radio crackle perforating the perfect melodies. It's an album you simply have to listen to in its entirety. Opening with the beautifully ramshackle seven minute composition 'I am trying to break your heart' and moving through what could easily be a Lo-Fi greatest hits compilation, you might forgive Reprise for not identifying it with the singles market. What you shouldn't forgive, however, is how they overlooked one of the most truthful and brilliant records of our post-9/11 age.

Dave Wingrave: Neutral Milk Hotel, Daft Punk, Emmy the Great, Elliott Smith



REVIEWS

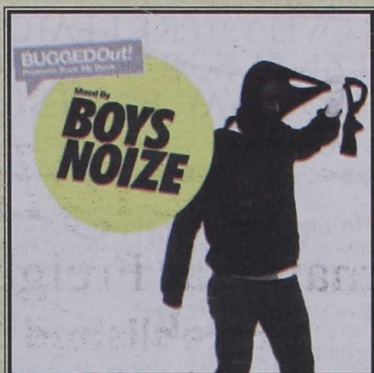
ALBUMS

BOYS NOIZE BUGGED OUT: SUCK MY DECK

Following the huge success of Simian Mobile Disco's *Suck My Deck* compilation, (yes that's an E there!) Berliner Alex Ridha of Boys Noize fame presents a diverse set of songs on an exciting new release. The mix displays the range of music he enjoys and really does reflect the fact that he has been a professional DJ for a whopping ten years (he's now at the ripe old age of 25). Of the 37 tracks highlights include exclusive new material from Frenchies Feadz, Surkin, Justice and SebastiAn, along with some work from those on his own label; Housemeister and Shadow Dancer. Look out for vintage techno and classics from Alter Ego and Lil Louis and not forgetting the minimal masterpiece and ravers' favourite, Laurie Anderson's 1981 hit 'O Superman'. Successfully mixing the old and the new, and rising to all expectations, this album is a must for electro/techno heads!

9/10

Heather Welsh: Surkin, Bloc Party, D.I.M.



TRIGGER THE BLOODSHED EP REVIEW

Intense drumrolls sounding like the rapid-fire of an AK47; a man groaning and grunting like an extra from *Lord of the Rings* and a song called 'Laceration' all point towards a genre of music seemingly designed to inflict haemorrhaging of the brain. As I begin to lose consciousness amid screams of pure loathing I wonder what the singer's mother thinks of his choice in career. Did she envision her son's musical tastes sounding a lot like the decapitation of Matt Damon?

1/10

Chris Mandle: Infadels, Sam Sparro, Vampire Weekend, MGMT

TINDERSTICKS THE HUNGRY SAW

All things considered, the spring of 2008 is a fairly apt time for Tindersticks to make a comeback. April showers continue to turn the sky a mournful grey, while the wind blows as hard as it has done for months: grim atmospheres call for grim music, and on 'The Hungry Saw', they further their brand of soulful introspection that soundtracks the season perfectly. Songs such as 'Yesterdays Tomorrows' and 'E-Type', with their backdrop of lounge jazz guitars and mournful horns layered with Stuart Staples's strained, reedy baritone highlight the artistic debt that bands like Elbow owe them, and show a band seemingly undamaged by their lengthy hiatus. Although not all of 'The Hungry Saw' can match the standard of these tracks or the epic closer, 'The Turns We Took' (with 'The Organist Entertains' in particular being a shameless flagrant piece of filler), it's still an atmospheric, at times almost elegiac piece of chamber pop that lingers well after the curtains fall.

8/10

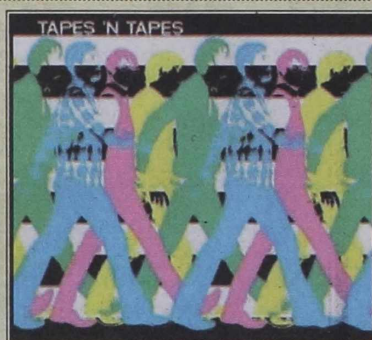
Mark Corcoran-Lettice: Radiohead, The Fatima Mansions, The Fall

TAPES 'N TAPES WALK IT OFF

Without doubt, Tapes 'n Tapes are the next big thing. Still, or again, or whatever... After 2006's *The Loon*, the Minneapolis foursome is back with 'Walk It Off', and some may say it's about time. The *Loon* was a raw and impressive debut, backed by a lot of hype that never really seemed to materialise into anything. With their follow up, you would hope this would be remedied. The influence of Flaming Lips producer Dave Fridman is plain for all to see, combining T 'n T's folksy rock with a more psychedelic twist. Though at times they do sway dangerously close to being a bit too generic, fans of bands such as Modest Mouse and Arcade Fire should appreciate what these folks are doing here. Opener 'Le Ruse' sets the tone for the album with an epic, powerful feel, while standout song 'Headshock' should make a thunderous live anthem. In all, the album is a striking and powerful piece of work that should finally bring Tapes 'n Tapes into the limelight they deserve.

9/10

Rob Sellars: Ryan Adams, Motion City Soundtrack, Feist



SINGLES

JACK MCMANUS BANG ON THE PIANO

No, he isn't related to her off *Pop Idol*. Jack McManus, however, shares one thing in common with Michelle; both are adept at producing bad music that might linger for a few months but will soon fall off the edge of the world. I'm no pianist, but you just don't bang on pianos.

Chris Mandle: Infadels, Sam Sparro, Vampire Weekend, MGMT

MAKE MODEL THE LSB

As the hype machine coughs and splutters another Next Big Thing out onto desks of the eager press, it's tempting to assume another talentless group of youths desperate for a coke habit have been manufactured. However, this time a rare gem might actually be shining in amongst the debris, in the form of 'Make Model'. Hotly tipped, hotly anticipated, 'The LSB' is a jubilant, addictive, Arcade Fire style epic that will have you chanting along until the wee hours.

Gordon Bruce: Clinic, Benga, Blood Red Shoes, The National

ROBYN WHO'S THAT GIRL?

An ultra-cool slice of pop from Swedish sensation Robyn, this latest track fuses vicious electro-chomps with sassy retro beats; the whole thing stews together amid lyrics of dissolving self-esteem and intense jealousy. The single features some incredible remixes from Rex the Dog and Drop the Lime, so check them out!

Chris Mandle: Infadels, Hercules and Love Affair, The Last Shadow Puppets

S'EXPRESS STUPID LITTLE GIRLS

Stylish girlie disco meets hot-headed London hipsters remixing fingers, on what was the highlight of Jerry Bouthier's *Kitsune Boombox* compilation. This is more of a 'dare-you-NOT-dance-to-it' song and has evoked wild scenes on the European club scene. Along with the ace original and remixes from Punx Soundcheck and Eon's Blacklist accompanying it, this is the perfect party-time banger!

Jimmy Asquith: Boys Noize, Surkin, Renee Van Munster



MADONNA 4 MINUTES

Madonna! You've got four minutes to salvage your career - go! The sexy image shatters as she murmurs lyrics like an unloved animal. Justin TimberFake's impression of Michael Jackson does nothing to help. Basic, unimaginative lyrics and Timbaland belly-rapping over the song do absolutely nothing. But as the song says, in 4 minutes the world will be saved - this pile of drivel will have ended! Huzzah!

Chris Mandle: Infadels, Hercules and Love Affair, The Last Shadow Puppets

SIA THE GIRL YOU LOST TO COCAINE

Granted, not the most uplifting title. But don't let that put you off; the star behind the achingly beautiful 'Breath Me' delivers a gutsy, stomping new single driven by brass sounds and a determined set of vocals. Saander Van Dorm's minimal remix comes as part of the package, and is probably better than the original. Deep tech-trance builds up, teasing riffs lead up to an immense drop with Sia's dreamy vocals kicking in at the break. Tech-trancer and folk singer: an unlikely musical pairing, but they sure produce a great climax.

Heather Welsh: Belle and Sebastian, Bloc Party, Kings of Leon, Digitalism.

LIVE REVIEW MYSTERY JETS @ THE CLUNY

The Mystery Jets recently found a place in my heart after releasing their second album 'Twenty One', with passionate, playful, and memorable songs revealing a more grown up band and ultimately simple, attention-grabbing songs. Highlights include the dreamy and wonderful 'Young Love'; featuring Laura Marling and some tender vocals that were a little, but pleasingly unexpected. So, it was with this new found enthusiasm that I stepped through the front doors of The Cluny thinking the combination of wonderful new melodies with the intimate venue would leave me in a whirlwind of happiness. Not so. Unfortunately I think I may have expected too much from the boys, who just seemed to be going through the motions. They pulled out some old favourites including 'Zoo Time', which of course came after the chants of some pleased die-hard fans. And yes, a few interesting instruments came out - a cow bell was hit enthusiastically - but the energy of the group didn't leave me uplifted. And, dare I say it; I actually didn't get any more enjoyment seeing them live, over listening to them sat in the comfort of my own home.

Heather Welsh: Belle and Sebastian, The Strokes, Digitalism.

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Par for the Corsica

BETHAN STACEY explores the unspoilt island of Corsica

THOUGH it pains me to start with a cliché, I really can't think of a better way of putting it than to say that Corsica feels like an undiscovered gem. My motivation for going was really just to visit my boyfriend who'd been working out there for the summer. Otherwise I think I'd never really have considered it - at the moment I seem to have more of a wanderlust for wanting to escape to some far away exotic place that requires at least an uncomfortable 12 hours in no-leg-room-economy, and where, on arrival, part of the local transportation consists of riding on, or in the company of, some animal.

However, with my funds not even slightly able to back up my daydreams and a 'dutiful girlfriend' role to fill, I had to stop being a Europe snob and try and organise myself a holiday to the small French island in the Mediterranean on as minimal a budget as possible.

The first challenge was finding a cheap way of getting there which, at first glance, seemed like an impossible task - there are four airports in Corsica, but flying directly from Britain was not economically viable for me. A little bit of searching led me to discover that boats leave from a few ports in the south of France (or alternatively from Italy), so with a good old EasyJet flight to Nice followed by a foot passenger ferry ticket, I arrived in Bastia in the north of the island for under 40 euros - bargain!

And, in fact, getting myself there within budget and not missing my plane or ferry were actually the only challenges, because from the point of arrival on the island, it literally became plain sailing and utter bliss (well, apart from a few tent battles), mainly

thanks to having my own personal tour guide and chauffeur (a.k.a. my boyfriend) for the rest of the trip.

For those without such a person at their disposal, but still in possession of a car (this is the most commonly recommended way of getting round), Corsica is a wonderful place to explore and extremely easy to travel around. If you don't fancy driving your car all the way down from the UK, hiring costs less than £20 a day.

For the first part of the holiday we were based on a campsite in Golfo di Sogno, in Porto Vecchio in the South East of the island, usually a pretty popular place for holiday makers, simply because of its beautiful beaches. However we had the advantage of being there in low season, which starts at the beginning of September, and so it felt like one of the least touristy destinations I've ever been to, unussy and unspoilt. It was even possible to get from front door to sea without crossing paths with a single person.

From here, we explored the beaches along the East coast. One that struck me in particular was Santa Giulia because stepping onto it was like walking into a postcard, or a film even, so unrealistic was it in its perfectness - the sea was so turquoise and the sand really pure (as well as being blooming hot! - even at that time of year the temperature was reaching up to 30C during the day). It was stunning. Really. What I was about to realise though, was that this was just the start of it, and I was going to be repeating myself with adjective after superlative in an attempt to express how beautiful the island is.

It wasn't all just lazing around and sunbathing in an incredibly beautiful setting, though - we wanted to take

advantage of the watersports on offer, usually from a (roots) sailing 'centre' run from little shacks or huts at the water's edge. And as the French aren't too bothered about whether you know how to sail or not in order to hire out a boat to you, you can take one out by yourself as a complete novice! Alternatively, if that idea scares you, lessons are quite cheap.

After a few days of being in one place, we decided it was time to get moving as the idea was to have driven all the way round the perimeter of the island and back to Bastia for our ferry in 5 days time. We said goodbye to our hut on the beach and the next stop was Bonifacio (or Beautiful Bonifacio, as I named it - original I know).

Our campsite was just a short drive away from the town and the oldest part of it is spectacular, built high on top of bright white cliffs so that when you see it from afar it looks like it could all topple straight into the sea.

Known as the St Tropez of Corsica, down below has a slightly different atmosphere as the port is understandably the most popular stop-off point on the island for yachts and other exceedingly expensive pleasure craft doing a tour of the Med. As such all the restaurants surrounding the port were filled with languages and accents from all over and this is about the only place on the island where I encountered any fellow Brits. Despite its popularity and unbelievable beauty, the town is too small and unspoilt to feel like a real tourist destination, again adding to my idea of Corsica as this 'undiscovered' place.

From here we headed up the west coast, also known as the 'côte sauvage' (wild coast), because of its more rugged, rocky coastline, where

BEAUTIFUL BONIFACIO...the St Tropez of Corsica



the considerable contrast of scenery was probably more impressive than the beaches of the east coast. As we followed the one road that leads more or less round the periphery of the island, again I felt as if we were driving through a film set. There are still plenty of beaches on this side, though, and it only takes leaving the main road to drive down a little track and usually you'll find yourself a small bay that apparently only a couple of other people know about.

Each night took us to camp in a different spot as we worked our way to Bastia, and at each campsite I was thoroughly impressed at the facilities and how inexpensive it was - but then Corsica is part of France and the French do their camping properly!

Despite being constantly on the move it didn't feel like we were rushing ourselves, taking time to stop off in Ajaccio to check out where Napoleon was born and wandering

around the larger town of Calvi and its (in my opinion abandoned) Citadel. In fact by the time we were packing our tent away for the last time (thank goodness - putting it up and taking down for four successive nights was quite enough!) it felt like I'd been there for longer than 10 days - the chilled and peaceful atmosphere had got to me, and I'd relaxed and slowed down to the pace of life on the island.

And really, I'd say, that sums it up. If you are someone who enjoys a beach holiday but wants a bit more than that, who would prefer tranquillity to raving in Ibiza, and could do with a bit of chill-out time from the rush of uni life, then I would tell you to consider Corsica.

For me then, I hadn't had to spend a silly number of hours on an aeroplane nor had to share a bus with a chicken or a goat, but had enjoyed the most relaxing time, discovering a beautiful island.

CALVI...one of Corsica's larger towns



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Find Your Feet around campus for the chance to win Bestival tickets!

To celebrate the launch of their new summer range, our friends at Kickers have joined forces with Bestival to offer you the chance to win a pair of tickets to the festival this summer on 5th, 6th & 7th September. To be in with a chance of winning these tickets you should don your photography hat and get creative juices flowing!

bring the legs to me (in the Courier office, opposite the Cochrane Lounge) and they're yours, it couldn't be easier!
For more info and festival news visit www.bestival.net.

All you need to do to take part in Find Your Feet is find 1 of the pairs of Kickers cut out legs that have been positioned around the University campus.

Once you Find Your Feet, pinch them and place them in weird and wonderful locations in amusing positions around the campus or city hotspots. Take photos of your legs as you go and when you're done simply leave yours legs for someone else to find and upload your pics to www.kickers.co.uk.

Kickers want to see your funniest and most creative pictures for example; legs tackling the rugby captain, scoring for the football team, appearing onstage with your band, at the salon for a wax or even behind a lectern filling in for your favourite lecturer.

Find Your Feet pictures will be judged on creativity and originality of placement. The closing date for entries is 30th May.

In addition to this, one pair of INSTANT WIN Kickers legs have been hidden on campus – find these with their special GOLDEN LACES and a pair of Bestival tickets are yours. Simply



Designs for Life

**Shipleigh Art Gallery
Gateshead**

Open 20 March 2008
Shipleigh Art Gallery

Designs for Life is an exciting new gallery showcasing more than 300 objects designed over the past 2000 years.

Shipleigh Art Gallery
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Gateshead
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Win! Exclusive JD set tickets and JD goodies!

The next JD Set destination is in Newcastle on 8th May where Captian will be taking to the stage for one of their energetic live sets at the city's Cluny venue.

Your friends at Jack are offering one student the opportunity to create an authentic Jack Daniel's

night out with your friends by winning our exclusive Jack Daniel's prize.

The amazing prize contains 4 tickets to the JD Set and also a bottle of Jack Daniel's, a full set of seven Jack Daniel's glasses, a range of mixers and a Jack Daniels' cocktail menu card for

you to create the perfect Jack Daniel's cocktails for you and your friends before your night on the town!

To complete the fantastic prize, we are even throwing in a pack of Jack Daniel's playing cards, a Jack Daniel's dealer chip and two CDs with live performances from some of the cutting edge talent who have played other JD Sets this year including The Wombats and Foals.

Be the envy of all your friends by entering to win this unique prize...and start to decide who is going to be on your guest list!

For the chance to win this great night out curtesy of Jack Daniel's simply answer this easy question:

Which venue in Newcastle is the JD set being held?

E-mail your answers to editor.union@ncl.ac.uk by 12pm on Friday 2nd May 2008 and the winner will be drawn at random.

Every Friday you will also

be able to watch the JD Set on Channel 4 after midnight. Click on www.thejdset.co.uk for info on forthcoming live gigs in Belfast, Glasgow, London, Manchester, Newcastle, and Nottingham, together with exclusive video footage, photo galleries and tracks from previous JD Sets.

Know when to unplug. Please drink responsibly.

Terms & Conditions apply, visit www.thecouriernewcastle.com (Extras section).

Entrants must be over 18 years of age. There is no cash alternative.

Usual Courier rules apply.

Advice Corner

Moving into the Private Rented Sector

If you are about to move into the Private Rented Sector for your next year at University, hopefully you will be aware by now you have signed a legally binding contract, usually binding you with 'joint and several liability' to other housemates moving in with you. So what else might you need to know?

What domestic arrangements will I/we need to consider?

- Cleaning - organise who is going to do what and when.

- Utility bills - take a reading as soon as you move in and on the day you move out. Monitor the consumption on a regular basis and do not rely on estimated bills as you can soon find yourself in an arrears situation. Discuss with each other how you will calculate who pays what amount and whose name (if not all of you) will be on the account. When your tenancy comes to an end the landlord may retain deposits to cover unpaid utility bills.

- Ask your landlord/agent for any operational instructions for heating systems, security alarms etc, location of fuse box and stop cock.

- Ensure that you organise the purchase of a TV licence. This can now be done online.

- Inform all relevant people of your new address including the University!

- What day is rubbish collected and who will take responsibility for this.

- Make sure everyone is clear and agreeable to those arrangements. You may wish to consider setting up a house file with a copy of your tenancy agreement, correspondence from the landlord/agent, inventory, bills and receipts etc.

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- Make sure everyone is clear and agreeable to those arrangements. You may wish to consider setting up a house file with a copy of your tenancy agreement, correspondence from the landlord/agent, inventory, bills and receipts etc.

What Safety and Security measures do we need to consider?

- Be aware of your own personal safety especially at night. Walk in well lit places.

- Ask the Landlord/agent for a copy of the Gas safety certificate before you move in.

- If you have a house alarm, use it.

- If you think something is unsafe report it to your landlord in writing.

- If you have a lock on your room door, use it.

- Ensure windows and doors are locked at night and when you are out.

- Student Households are targets because they tend to have electronic, portable goods than other households. Make sure you are insured.

What do we need to do if something is broken or in need of repair?

- Inform your landlord/agent as soon as possible in writing.

- Your responsibilities may be set out in the tenancy

agreement but if not you still have legal obligations to adhere to.

- Tenants & landlords have responsibilities towards keeping the accommodation in a good state of repair. The tenant has to maintain the property in a 'tenant-like' manner possibly undertaking minor repairs or duties.

- The landlord is entitled to take action for possession/damages if the tenant breaches her/his repairing obligation.

- The tenant is not responsible for making good 'fair wear and tear'.

- The landlord has a large responsibility for repair either covered in the Tenancy agreement or further by various Acts of Parliament.

- Complete an inventory (list of contents) and a Schedule of Condition as soon as you move into a property and when you move out. This should be signed by both the tenants and landlord/agent.

What is Tenancy Deposit Protection? Do I have it? Do I need it?

- If you paid a deposit after 6 April 2007, to a landlord/agent for an Assured Shorthold Tenancy (AST) in England and Wales (where annual rent is under £25,000) this now has to be protected by an authorised tenancy deposit scheme. AST's are the usual tenancies made between a private landlord and his tenants.

- Within 14 days of receiving the deposit the landlord/agent must provide specific information to the tenants about how and where their deposit(s) are protected.

- If disputes arise about the return of deposits, the schemes run an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) service, who can investigate and make an independent decision.

- Inventories and Schedules of Condition will help them decide if deductions from deposits are fair and reasonable.

I/We are going to be away from the property for a number of weeks, what do we have to do?

- Check to see if your contract specifies about leaving the property for an extended period

- If it doesn't say anything still notify the landlord/agent and they may give other instructions.

- Damage to the property during absence might be as a result of your neglect and the landlord/agent will pursue for costs.

- If you are going away during the autumn/winter months leave the central heating on timer for a minimum period each day to prevent the system from freezing up and bursting the pipes

The SAC provide a leaflet on 'Moving In' which can be downloaded from the SAC website or you can call in and collect one.



Jobshop Listings

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

Vacancy 5326 - Apple Products Demonstrators

Job description: A Field Marketing company requires Apple Demonstrators to work over the summer demonstrating Apple products to potential customers in retail outlets in and around Newcastle. You will need to be proactive in your approach and have the ability to grab the customer's attention and sell! This job will only be over the summer, but there will be other similar opportunities available throughout the year for those who are interested.

Person specification: Should be confident, sales driven, enthusiastic and a reliable communicator. You should be an Apple enthusiast with outstanding Apple knowledge and previous retail or sales experience. You will need to be smart in appearance. You must have daily internet access for data entry purposes. Having your own transport will be an advantage.

Hours of work: Approx. full time hours - Weekdays & Week-ends

Start date: June 2008 **Contract:** Summer (possibility of continuing)

Rate of pay: £75 per day **Closing date:** Mid July 2008 **Location:** Newcastle areas **Apply by:** Calling into the Job shop for the application details when we are next open

Vacancy 5318 - Retail Assist-

ants x 70 positions
Job description: Required for a new High Street Retail store opening at the end of August 2008. There will be a wide variety of positions available across the store from shelf stacking (working the late shift from 7-11pm across various evenings) through to face-to-face customer service roles during the day time.

Person specification: Customer service experience is essential. You must be staying in the Newcastle area over the vacation periods as these positions are permanent. Vacancies are to start at the end of June 2008 for staff training, with the store due to open at the end of August 2008.

Hours of work: From 7 - 20 hours per week (to be arranged) opening hours of the store are 7am-7pm Mon-Sat + usual Sunday opening times

Start date: End of June 2008 **Contract:** Permanent, part-time positions

Rate of pay: £at least national minimum wage + store discount + profit sharing company scheme

Closing date: 12/05/08 **Location:** Eldon Square, Newcastle City Centre

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

Vacancy 5316 - CV Interns - POSTGRADUATE ONLY

Job description: The Careers Service is looking to recruit 3 part-time CV interns to work throughout the months of October, November, February and March. Interns will provide 1-1 CV and covering letter feedback to students and graduates of all degree disciplines and all academic stages as part of a drop-in service and via e-mail. The successful applicants will undertake relevant training with regard to best practice in CV writing and basic advice and guidance skills. This will in-

clude attending workshops and employer presentations. You will be expected to develop and maintain a thorough knowledge and understanding of the resources and services offered by the Careers Service and liaise effectively with colleagues across the Careers Service.

Person specification: You will be qualified to at least degree level or equivalent and must be a Newcastle University post-graduate student throughout the academic year 2008 - 09. Experience of the workplace and experience of giving 1:1 advice would be an advantage. You will be enterprising, self-motivated individuals with excellent communication and team skills. The ability to motivate and deal sensitively with students and graduates is essential. You should be flexible and have a proven record of reliability.

Hours of work: 8 hours/week (flexible to suit other commitments)

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www.corusgroupcareers.com

challenging projects for ambitious undergraduates to undertake in small and medium-sized businesses, community organisations and social enterprises. Various companies based across Tyne and Wear, Durham and Northumberland are looking for students to undertake a wide variety of projects, including computer programming, web design, database development, graphic design, mechanical engineering and marketing.

Person specification: To apply, you must be a second or penultimate year undergraduate; Shell Step is not open to part time or temporary exchange students, postgraduate, first or final year students. You are not expected to be an expert in the field, but have the necessary knowledge and skills to be able to complete a given project.

Hours of work: 35 hours per week

Start date: 23 June 2008 **Contract:** 8 weeks

Rate of pay: Weekly training allowance of £200 (exempt from Income Tax and N.I. contributions).

Closing date: 16/05/2008 **Location:** Various across Tyne and Wear, Durham and Northumberland

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

Vacancy 5300 - Summer Placement Projects - Computing, Engineering, Design, Business etc.

Job description: Shell Step is a dynamic work placement programme dedicated to providing



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.

Society Award Nominations

Society Awards Ceremony
Tuesday 29th April at
the Thistle Hotel

Most Successfully Managed
Debating
Fellwalking
Irish Dance
Jazz Orchestra
Psycho Soc

Best Departmental Society
Bio Sci
Maths
Modern Languages
Politics
Psychosoc

Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community
Erasmus
Rugby Referees'
Wilderness Medics

Best New Society
Anglo Japanese
Anime
Children In Need Institute (CINI)
Rugby Referees'
Tango

Member of the Year
Becki Turner (20 Minute Club)
Jared Chapman (Breakdancing)
Rachel Smith (Anime)

Event of the Year
Secret Holiday - 20 Minute Club
Uni. Breakdancing
Championship - Breakdancing
Erasfest - Erasmus
Hitch - Hitch
The Sea Maid - Irish Dance
Barcelona Excursion -
Modern Languages
Wild West Bar Crawl - Psycho Soc
Newcastle Swing Thing
- Swing Dance

Officer of the Year
Arata Otake (Anglo Japanese)
John Kerr (Modern Languages)
Katie Innes (AfterMath)
Melvin Byres (Rugby Referees')
Miriam Orcutt (Yoga and Tango)
Peter Dixon (Photography)

Most Improved Society
Dance
EngSoc (English)
Erasmus
Labour
AfterMath (Maths)
Politics
Sociology
Surgical Society

Accenture Society of the Year
Bio Sci
Dance
Erasmus
Hitch
Irish Dance
Links
Modern Languages
Rugby Referees'

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: Recruitment Consultant**

Name: Laura Hilton
Year of Graduation: 2006
University Subject: Politics
Job Title: Recruitment Consultant
Company: Nigel Wright, Newcastle upon Tyne

How did you get to where you are today?:

Whilst at university I researched various career paths and completed a number of work experience placements. This gave me a really good idea of the reality of the workplace, what I might be good at and, most importantly, what I would enjoy! My work experience in a recruitment firm really suited me and definitely helped me to convince Nigel Wright that I was serious about pursuing this career path and would be a good asset to their team.

Describe a typical day in your job:

In recruitment there really is no such thing as a typical day. You are working in a changeable environment, priorities need to be quickly re-evaluated when a new assignment is called in or a client has an urgent piece of work to be completed. Generally my days will include meeting clients, interviewing candidates, candidate sourcing, advertising roles, business development and managing my multiple assignments.

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

I wish I had known just how much responsibility and autonomy there

was working for an entrepreneurial owner managed business as opposed to a plc. I think there is a common perception when you first graduate that you should work for a large multinational company which has become a household name. In fact it is often the smaller companies that can offer you real independence from day one and really care about getting you successfully up the career ladder as quickly as possible as you are not just a number!

What makes you employable?:

Being employable in recruitment is very much about personality. You need to be outgoing with excellent interpersonal skills and a determined and ambitious nature. You mustn't be shy of hard work and will sometimes need to work long hours. I am very hard on myself and always push myself to my limits, so work well in this highly demanding environment. Recruitment is a meritocracy where you will thrive if, like me, you are motivated by targets and being recognised for your success.

Best thing about your job?:

The best part is definitely meeting so many different people all the time and understanding what motivates them. I tend to spend about an hour with each candidate, understanding their whole career path so far, what they have enjoyed and what hasn't worked for them. It is really interesting to understand so many different mind sets and find out about such a variety of roles and companies. I love that no two days are the same!

Worst thing about your job?:

People are very unpredictable and this is what makes the job interesting but can sometimes be frustrating. It is really important to understand exactly what motivates the individual and what they are looking for in a new role so that the roles you find for them are going to be right for them for the future. We need to very quickly gain the individuals' trust and work hard to retain the relationship for the long-term.

Why should someone do your job?:

Recruitment gives you real variety, great financial rewards and a real buzz to every day when you never know what will happen! Recruitment tends to have a great social side to it as the people working in this career are generally very sociable and enjoying interacting with others. At Nigel Wright we work hard in the day but really enjoy socialising together in the evenings and even have ski trips and parties organised through the com-

pany. If you are well-organised and ambitious with good team work skills and enjoy interacting with a wide range of people then recruitment could be the career for you!

LIKE WHAT YOU HEAR?

Then let the Careers Service help you out!

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

Being able to show evidence of the following skills will help you in your pursuit to become a recruitment consultant:

- >> A confident and positive attitude
 - >> An ability to set and meet deadline and goals
 - >> Strong interpersonal and communication skills
 - >> Team-working
 - >> An ability to prioritise and manage your time effectively
 - >> Tenacity
 - >> Problem-solving skills
 - >> Ability to work under pressure and meet targets
 - >> Customer service skills
 - >> Good sales and negotiation skills
- Although most vacancies are open to graduates of any discipline, a degree in a specific subject area may be an advantage if the agency operates within a very specialist field.
[Source: Prospects, learndirect and REC]

Where do I find out more information about this job?

The following websites all provide further information on working as a recruitment consultant, including case studies and typical career routes:
>> Prospects - www.prospects.ac.uk
>> Learn Direct - www.learndirect-advice.co.uk
>> Also see the online publication 'Do you have what it takes for a career in recruitment?' published by the Recruitment & Employment Confederation (www.rec.uk.com).

How can I find vacancy/employer information?

The following websites regularly advertise graduate job opportunities in the recruitment sector:
>> Life in Recruitment - www.lifeinrecruitment.co.uk
>> The Recruiter - www.recruiter.co.uk
>> Recruitment Careers - www.recruitmentcareers.co.uk
>> Recruitment Consultant - www.rec-con.co.uk

Many of the larger agencies recruit several trainee consultants each year. Some of them offer specialist gradu-

ate schemes such as Reed (www.reed.co.uk), Michael Page International (www.michaelpage.co.uk/gts) and Nigel Wright (<http://www.nigelwright.com>).

You should also check the national press for vacancies. The Guardian, The Independent, The Times and The Telegraph all have extensive vacancy pages, most of which can also be searched via their websites. See our Online Newspapers section for links - www.careers.ncl.ac.uk/students/pages/newspapers.asp

How can I find work experience in this role?

Any Sales, Marketing or Customer Service work experience, is likely to help you develop many of the key skills recruitment agencies are looking for in their future employees. Some of the larger recruitment agencies, such as Hays (www.hayscareers.com), offer opportunities for those looking to undertake an industrial placement year.

You may also want to consider making a speculative approach to agencies using a CV and covering letter. The REC member directory (<http://www.rec.uk.com/member-directory>) lists the agencies signed up to its code of practice, but you could also use Yellow Pages online (www.yell.com) to search for agencies in a particular geographical area.

How much will I get paid?

Most recruitment consultants earn a basic salary, plus commission and/or bonuses.

Salaries can vary depending on sector and location, but the average starting salary for trainee recruitment consultants is between £15,000 p.a. and £22,000 p.a.

Following training, consultants can expect to earn a basic salary in the region of £25,000 p.a. with managers earning around £5000 more than this. The average bonus is around 40% of your annual salary, although this could be much higher or lower depending upon the agency's policy on pay and, of course, your sales success!
[Source: Prospects, learndirect and The Recruiter magazine - salary data collected 2006/07]

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.



Rachel Atkinson

Student Classic Watch

Hollyoaks, Channel 4, Weekdays, 6.30pm

It was always going to be hard to follow up the Rhys - Beth incest storyline but the writers at 'Oaks have done their very best. Somewhat unfortunate Louise gets arrested for Sean's murder. And there's some more heroin abuse and domestic violence. Just a normal week, then.

Filling the Void

Home and Away, Channel 5, Weekdays, 6pm

One of the greatest risks viewers ran in the difficult Neighbours transition from one to five was the danger of being sucked into Home and Away. It was inevitable; but not so bad, the second best Australian soap combines with the old favourite to form a lovely shiny pre-dinner hour of antipodean delight. Better than Doctors, anyway.

Hangover Choice

Frasier, Channel 4, Weekdays, 8am

Deep as we are into essay writing

hell, if you're still affording the odd night out chances are you've made a deal with yourself: you can go out. But only on the condition you don't drink too much, and that you will claw your way out of bed and to the library at the crack of dawn the following day. Frasier should help with the inevitable pain.

For all the flat/Night in

How to Look Good Naked, Tuesday, 8pm

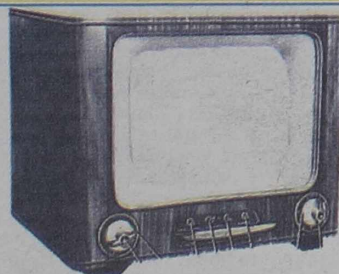
Irritatingly in your face he may be, but it's pretty much impossible not to adore Gok and his go-girlfriend attitude to the not quite perfect fe-

male form. And when you see those let-than-svelte ladies flitting around, happily naked, it can only make you feel better about just having eaten your own weight in chocolate in order to get through your dissertation.

Pick of the Week

Britain's Next Top Model, Monday, Living, 9pm

Not a patch on America's, obviously, but still worth it, if only for Lisa Snowden's tragic attempt at doing a Tyra. And watching the poor girls weeping into their recently removed locks when they get the inevitable 'makeover' this week.



ON YOUR
TELLY BOX

>> DON'T FORGET THE SOCIETY AWARDS, TUES 29TH APRIL AT 8PM AT THE THISTLE HOTEL: WILL YOUR SOCIETY BE SUCCESSFUL?



Betsy Knows Best

"Let Betsy sort your life out"

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

Waving goodbye

Dear Betsy,

I live with five other guys, three of whom are graduating this summer. The rest of us have all had placement years and therefore, another year of studentdom to look forward to. The soon-to-be graduates have yet to find jobs and are getting more and more irritable and are deciding one by one to go travelling after graduation. I am very jealous of this freedom to travel and want them to refocus

on their looming entrance into the adult world. Is it really mean to keep reminding them of this, rubbing it in that soon debts will have to be paid off and student cards will become void?

Love Student Soul

Student Soul,

I too have another year at this fabulous estab-

ishment but am refraining from reminding imminent leavers of this for the simple reasons that next year it'll be me and I'll be crapping myself then, these very people might be in a position to help you get a job later on, and when a chair is thrown at you with enough force, it hurts, as do baguettes if the correct power is applied. On the other hand, if these so called friends of yours continue in mentioning their travels around the world, I have to conclude all is fair in love and war. Jealousy is not a pretty thing so both sides of this argument should be aware that eyebrows might be shaved, toothbrushes soaped, and whipped cream might be a variable. Don't say you haven't been warned.

Love Betsy

Tongue Tied Stress head

Dear Betsy,

I had my tongue pierced last year but since then my sex life has left much to be desired. I haven't even had the chance to show someone how dexterous my tongue is and the great advantage a piercing is but the damn thing is irritating the hell out of me. I keep chipping my teeth, biting it when I eat and swallowing the balls which causes complete panic unless I have some spares. As well as this, I am always fiddling with it, sticking my tongue out and generally having a party in my own mouth but now I want the party to end. I want to have an uninhabited mouth and a tongue that behaves itself and not look like a dribbling fool. Should I wait to take the piercing out until I have had the chance to demonstrate its attraction or should I just get rid of it?

Love Piqued Piercing

PP,

Piercings can be controversial and tongue piercings are rumoured to increase the pleasure of oral sex however, drunken conversations have also brought to light that the sensation can just be too much for some people to handle. In short, it is not the be all and end all of blowjobs. Enthusiasm seems to be the most valued asset. As it costs about £40 to get your tongue pierced you might not want to waste this 'investment' but, if the piercing annoys you that much take the thing out and invest instead in some interesting lube and sex toys. I bet your mum will be pleased, not with the sex toys but with the lack of piercing and the granny in me has to point out that when you realise the cost of dentistry you'll be grateful as well!

Love Betsy

Dear Betsy,

Like most people I know, I am under lots of stress at the moment. I'm only in second year but I still have several deadlines to meet as well as exams to revise for and when I get to the library I find half the books I need are out and the other half in the student text being eagerly perused by some other stressed soul. I am terrified about the results of this semester. At the moment I'm averaging a 2:1 but if my grades slip I might finish this year with a 2:2. For some people that's fine but I want to go in fashion and it's such a competitive industry that nearly all the jobs ask for a 2:1 or higher. What should I do if my grades fall? I'm thinking about dropping out. Is this too drastic a solution?

Stressed Student

Dear Student,

Stop! Listen to yourself. Surely a degree is better than nothing at all? If the industry is that competitive then even a 2:2 is going to get a foot in the door somewhere, certainly more than a 0:0. Most employers seem to be looking for experience in the field as well as a degree. The best way to set yourself apart from your peers is to organise a placement over the holidays. The careers service in the Armstrong Building is well worth a visit even if you have to wait a few minutes and they will sort you out with websites and prospectuses. The best advice I can give is to not panic, and on that note, I shall close this week's advice knowing that at least on one occasion I gave proper advice. Get in.

Love Auntie B



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

THIS WEEK: Homemade pizza

Pizza recipe

Ingredients for dough:
 1 1/2 teaspoons dried yeast
 225g strong white flour
 75-100 ml warm water
 1 teaspoon salt
 1 teaspoon olive oil
 1 egg, beaten
 1/4 teaspoon sugar

Ingredients for sauce:
 1 tin chopped tomatoes
 1 tablespoon tomato puree
 1 teaspoon oregano
 Salt and pepper

Method:

1. Take a bowl and pour in the water which should be warm to your hands but not boiling
2. Add the yeast and then leave the bowl for 10-15 minutes until the mixture has a frothy top
3. Take a large mixing bowl and gradually sift the flour and salt together
4. Once ready add the yeast mixture to the flour and salt followed by the beaten egg and mix together until you are left with a soft dough (more flour or water may be needed)
5. Knead the dough on a clean

6. surface for about 10 minutes until it's relatively elastic and then return to the bowl
7. Cover the dough with the oil and then seal the bowl with cling film; leave in a warm place to rise for an hour and meanwhile pre-heat the oven to 220°C
8. After an hour knead the dough again for 5 mins and form a circular pizza base, ensuring that the edges are pinched in to form the crust
9. To make the tomato sauce simply blend the chopped tomatoes, tomato puree, oregano and salt and pepper and spread over the



centre (if you don't have a blender push the tomatoes through a sieve and mix the sauce by hand)
 9. For the topping cover the sauce with mozzarella cheese and then the choice is yours!
 10. Leave on one side for 10 minutes before baking in the oven for 15-20 minutes until the base is crispy

LESSONS LEARNED

what I wish I'd known

Sam Parker

...You're nowhere near as clever as you once liked to think

I SUSPECT that for you, like me, going through education has been like hopping into bigger ponds becoming smaller and smaller fish.

That's where you get the initial impression that you're awfully clever: primary school is basically a puddle full of tadpoles, and if you manage to be the first to stop having nose bleeds every day and start reading books with full sentences in them, you're quickly established as the intellectual shark. Having the most 'house points' or being the narrator in the school nativity add to this sharkyness enormously.

Then you move on to Middle School, which, if you're from down south, will have literally just meant 'mid-school' rather than a whole separate place as it can be up here. Nevertheless, the puddle becomes a reasonable sized garden pond, and being the biggest in it requires a little more: a decent project on the Victorians, for one thing, and probably the best return on the SATS. Embellish this with a good pog collection and you're probably still a healthy sized carp.

High School gets bigger still, a country lake if you will, but since you scored A level grades good enough to get you here then chances are you were still one of the shiniest looking trouts about (albeit, possibly, with a soggy cigarette in your mouth and loud music playing in your gills).

At this stage it is really very tempting to believe that you know everything. I certainly did, and so when the time came to flop off into the ocean that is university, I did so smug in the knowledge I'd probably still be some sort of blue whale: a cruising, all-engulfing epic-fish with a brain casting a gigantic shadow across the marine floor.

What a shock to find I was actually a minnow, struggling pathetically against the tide, swordfish and sea bass passing me by (has the fish thing gone on too long?).

Three weeks into uni I remember my English Language tutor holding my Phonology homework in her hand and asking, in all earnest, if I had deliberately 'thrown' the exercise and pretended to be thick, so as to strengthen my case to be allowed to change courses as I was attempting at the time. I remember the sheet of paper all limp and red in her hand, held out to me sadly like she'd found Rupert The Bear's scarf snagged ominously by the side of railway track. I'd actually tried for hours, but it was too hard.

Now, at the final hurdle, after three years of sitting in seminars listening to people display knowledge and discuss ideas that go further over my head than dear Orion's belt, we are some of us approaching the finish line, struggling with that demanding missus 'the dissertation'.

If final confirmation were needed that I'm neither A) as clever, nor B) as original as I used to like to think, then it is she, Lady Tation. Pop along to the library today and watch a while. Scores of friends and acquaintances who were once so happy in each other's company now exchange glances like the accidental witnesses of a car crash: solemn, afraid, suddenly unsure about the world.

'How's the work going?'

'Terrible. Awful. I want to cry.'

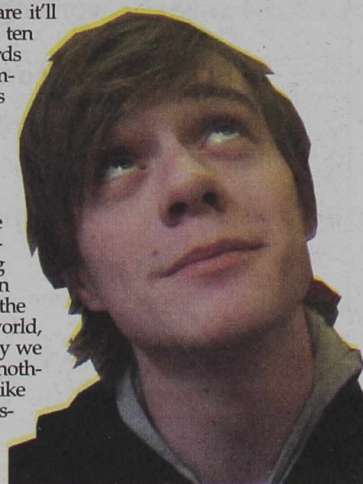
'I know. Me too. How did it get to this?'

There is solace though, in the pond theory.

With each successive leap, we recall with longing our place in the previous pond, where the stakes were lower and the competition less fierce. Whatever happens in the great beyond after univer-

sity, chances are it'll make writing ten thousand words on Hemingway's ecofeminism seem like colouring in with crayons.

When we finally emerge from education, evolving legs so we can walk into the wild wide world, realising finally we know next to nothing will seem like the sweetest lesson we ever learnt.



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Newcastle left in Aw

■ Oxford's international stars prove too strong in Sheffield

WOMEN'S FENCING

Christie Waddington

FOR THE first time in many years, the women's fencing team made it to their first BUSA Championships, this year held in Sheffield's Don Valley Stadium over the weekend of the 13th to the 16th of March. After a gruelling series of knock out rounds, Newcastle finally confirmed their place at the prestigious tournament by defeating UCL, 127-106 with a tough but convincing victory.

Newcastle's first round opponents in Sheffield were Oxford, the same side that had knocked the Blues out of the Championship at the semi final stage last season. With the loss of key player and elite athlete Robynne Stenner, the girls knew a tough match lay ahead of them. But with the help of coach Iain Aberdeen, the girls entered the match with confidence, knowing that they would be required to pull out all the stops.

The match was refereed by Mavis Thornton and Keith Bowers, two international referees bought in especially for this showpiece tournament. The weapon order was chosen at random, with the match starting with Newcastle's weakest weapon, foil.

Foil proved to be Oxford's strongest weapon. With a team made up of USA international Justine Aw and Great Britain star Sophie Troiano, Newcastle knew that the odds were strongly stacked against them. Newcastle's main aim was to collect as many hits as possible. Chris-

tie Waddington managed to match the Oxford fencers point-for point, but the skills of the Oxford team finally proved too much for the Royals; Newcastle losing this round 23-45.

Sabre followed, but as Newcastle finishing fencer Robynne Stenner was forced out due to illness, fresher Emily Mould was brought in to take her place. Oxford were not competent at this weapon, but their speed was impressive enough that they managed to rack up a number of points, ending up with a close score of 45-41 to the Royals.

Going into the final round of epee, Newcastle realised that in order to win, Oxford could not score more than 19 hit. This seemed like an impossible feat considering that the Oxford team consisted of internationals from both Germany and Norway.

Newcastle were lucky enough to have a first choice team at their disposal, including 2nd year PhD student Laura Pascoe, a former elite athlete. Iain Aberdeen produced a tactical plan to put into play, as Newcastle looked to produce an unlikely victory. Newcastle were level after the first few matches, but still needed a substantial lead in order to take the overall victory. No matter how hard the Royals tried, Oxford held strong, defeating Newcastle 44-45, and inflicting an overall loss of 134-108.

Despite the loss, with two BUSA individual finalists, and with the team now recognised as one of the top four teams in Britain, the women's team have had a very good season this year. There is no reason why the side shouldn't reach the finals of the Championship next year.



TOON WATCH

BY JAMES PARKER

That time of year again

As the season draws to a close, the rumour mill is up and running as per usual. The Toon, more than most, are being linked to countless names with the likes of Steve Sidwell, Giles Barnes and John Arne Riise. Not exactly household names, the Magpies however are looking abroad also in their bid to bring talent to Tyneside. Croatia International Luka Modric is apparently being lined up by King Kev, the highly rated 22 year old being seen as the missing creative link from the club's midfield. Other names being banded around include Russian starlet Andrei Arshavin. So will this duo of Eastern Europeans be strutting their stuff in the North East next season? One can only hope. Fingers crossed there's a budget big enough to help bring in the never ending list of Toon wanabees. Rumour of Thierry Henry joining the club? Surely not.

Rozen-hauled out

David Rozenhal left the Toon last week with a parting blast at Kevin Keegan. After his confirmed transfer to Lazio, the Czech international slammed the club for "ruining his dream move." Speaking to Italian journalists, he claimed the club was "unloyal" and that he did not expect to be left out of the side. "You don't come to a club to sit on the bench," he sulked, "the new manager never gave me a chance." Well, in light of recent results, and with Rozenhal's less than impressive performances in a black and white shirt this season, seeing the back of the tall defender doesn't feel like such a bad thing in all honesty. Now just out out Cacapa and Carr and the defence will be free of any resident misfits. A lot of deadwood needs clearing out indeed. Should the likes of Smith, Emre, and Ramage be told to leave? With such a small squad anyway, it's unlikely any of the named trio will be forced out. Which is a shame.

Getting left behind?

With the Magpies being linked with possible names left right and centre, the Newcastle Falcons appear to be a stark contrast to their footballing neighbours with rumours suggesting financial constraints will blighten their bid to bring in new talent. Even worse for Falcon fanatics are rumours of several players leaving as the powers that be inflict cost cutting measures; surprising as profits must be on the rise considering attendances so far this year.

Dates for your diary

Newcastle United v Chelsea. St James' Park, Monday 5th, KO 4pm.

Durham County Cricket Club v Yorkshire, Riverside, Wednesday 14th May.

We're having a ball!

David Coverdale & James Parker Sports Editors

THE EAGERLY awaited AU Ball takes place this Sunday at the Marriott Hotel in Gosforth. Below we name the nominations for this year's awards. The winners will be revealed in next week's Courier Sport.



Former AU President, Anthony Keane with last year's award winners

Courier Sport Writer of the Year Award Nominations:

Charley Wright - Men's Hockey - Provided reports for the hockey firsts to a very high standard every week

Claire Gunn - Women's Hockey - With photos and reports, Claire has been an invaluable asset to us at Longbenton every week.

Hannah Lucas - Netball - Her regular round-ups have enabled us to cover a sport that might otherwise have been neglected.

Kevin Davey - Rugby League - Without a doubt our most flamboyant writer and always a pleasure to read his work.

Mark Levine - Men's Football - With his interviews, round-ups and weekly reports, Mark has been consistent all year round.

Robin Biggs - Men's Basketball - We would not have been able to cover the basketball sides success this year without Robin's contributions.

Most Improved Club of the Year

Nominations:

Cycling - Performed well in BUSA competitions in addition to much improved club organisation.

Jitsu - This year has seen the club take the overall university title at the BUSA Jujitsu Championships.

Men's Basketball - 2007/08 has seen the club form a 2nd team for the first time in BUSA.

Men's Cricket - Having come from nothing, both the firsts and seconds achieved promotion.

Men's Squash - Managed to gain 25 BUSA points for the University.

Rugby League - Both the 1sts and 2nds enjoyed great wins in Stan Calvert, coupled with mid table finishes in the league.

Team of the Year

Nominations:

Men's Badminton 1sts - Only one league defeat

all season, finished 1st, and after three gruelling play-off fixtures gained promotion to the BUSA Premier.

Men's Basketball 1sts - Winning their respective league, NC1A, they will compete in the BUSA Premier next year.

Men's Table Tennis 1sts - The only 1st team within the university to remain undefeated this season. An astounding year indeed.

Netball 1sts - A great league campaign gained them promotion to the Premier league. Only two defeats all season shows the additional training is paying off.

Ski & Snowboard Club - Performs consistently well and boasts a trio of elite athletes.

Women's Fencing 1sts - Finished 2nd in the Premier and only suffered two narrow defeats.

Club of the Year

Nominations:

Badminton - Contributed massively to Newcastle's Stan Calvert victory with all three teams winning.

Boat - The boat club continue to be the benchmark for all other clubs in terms of attitude, commitment and professionalism.

Canoe - The club were overall winners of the canoe WWR BUSA Championships, picking up 94 BUSA points along the way.

Fencing - Has come on leaps and bounds over the last three years.

Ski & Snowboard Club - Ever impressive performers. A flagship for Newcastle in terms of organisation.

Women's Hockey - All four sides have enjoyed emphatic seasons, notably the 3rds winning their BUSA league convincingly.

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AU INTERVIEWS

Lifting the Lyd on the AU

■ As her time as AU President comes to an end, Sports Editor **James Parker** speaks to Lydia Oxenham about her year in charge

JP: How do you feel this year has gone?

LO: It's gone quite well really on the whole, financially we've more or less made back the deficit from last year, we've done well in trying to make that back up.

On the field we've had an excellent year, we're currently 5th in the BUSA rankings, also we won the Stan Calvert back which of course was a momentous occasion for everyone.

On a personal level it's been a huge learning curve, I feel I'm starting to perform better in my job now due to the fact I've learned so much over the past year or so.

JP: Do you feel you've stuck to your manifesto?

LO: Well, winning back Stan Calvert was one of my main manifesto aims and we convincingly managed to achieve that with the record win.

Wednesday nights were also another main aim for me, as the social side at the end of last year was starting to suffer.

Although it was a bit of a gamble, the deal at Blu Bambu, which we opened to all AU clubs this year, has also gone really well and has proved extremely popular. I think the free drinks have been crucial in keeping the clubs attending!

Financially again, reducing and making up the £23,000 deficit was another main objective.

Supporting everyone involved with sport at the University in terms of financing has been difficult but I've done it as best as I can and regardless of how hard you try, unfortunately there's always going to be clubs or teams you can't support as much as you would like to.

JP: Any particular highlights this year?

LO: Stan Calvert of course is the main one, we won it by a record number of points and that's a hugely proud moment for the Athletic Union.

All the hard work that went on behind the scenes largely goes unnoticed but when it all comes together, and with the

result we got, it's fantastic.

The AU ball will hopefully be another highlight, again there's been lots of hard work going on for months and so it should be a great evening.

JP: What would you say hasn't gone quite according to plan?

LO: I was a bit disappointed with the turnout for the Team Newcastle Bar Crawl; it didn't perhaps get as much support from all the clubs that I had hoped for.

I think I was a little bit naive in thinking every single club would get involved; not all the clubs were enthusiastic for an event which was meant for raising money to help clear the financial issues which ultimately would have helped them out.

We still made a decent profit but we could have written off half the debt in one night if more had attended. Nevertheless we still made some much needed money for the AU so it was relatively successful.

JP: Do you have any advice for Jimmy?

LO: Definitely use the members of staff around you and work really closely with them as they are the key to the AU's continuity.

They certainly know their stuff so you should never be afraid of asking questions - it's the only way to learn. Also always check your budgets before you start spending.

Due to the AU's dire financial situation, I always had it in the back of my mind and was very cautious about steaming ahead and spending.

I would definitely recommend that Jimmy takes that approach too. I would also advise that you should try to be as approachable as possible with all the club members; building up good relationships with the captains is really important as they'll be more willing to help you out if you get on well.

A good rapport will hopefully make them more understanding when you have to explain that you can only do what's within your power, and quite often you can't give them the resources

or the money that they perhaps want.

Although sometimes demanding, all the clubs appreciate the help they are given, so I would say to Jimmy to just do the best he can.

JP: What does next year entail for

Lydia?

LO: I'm currently applying for jobs, I'm hoping to go into Human Resources and I'm sure my time as AU President will put me in good stead for the future.

I'm also lucky enough to be one of the supervisors for the next Freshers' Week

so I'm clinging on to my last few days at the University!

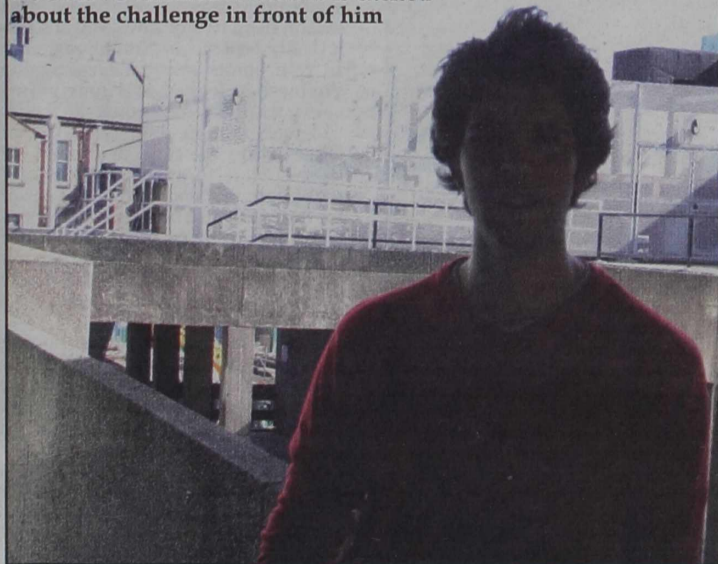
I'm hoping to stay in touch with the other Sabbatical Officers and all the friends I've made here. The University means a lot to me and I've loved every minute of my time here.



SWEET VICTORY...Oxenham celebrating the Stan Calvert win; her highlight of the year.

The future's bright, the future's Greene...

LOOKING AHEAD... Greene is excited about the challenge in front of him



CONT. FROM BACK PAGE

THE SOCIAL LIFE of the AU is something that has thrived under new sponsorship this year and Greene has underlined how important it is that this continues. He said, "I would really like to keep the 'family fun' aspect of the AU, making sure that everyone enjoys their time playing University sport here at Newcastle."

"I think that Blu Bambu has been a good venue for us this year, Wednesday nights have been really good fun, but we will just have to wait and see what happens."

"Depending on the feedback I receive from club captains, I think we will be going in a similar direction next year. I will be looking to get the best deal for all concerned."

Greene gets to work in just under three months and has been looking at certain areas of the AU that he feels could be improved.

"I would like to work more closely with the Activities Centre, as I feel there are quite a few clubs that would come under the jurisdiction of both sports and activities."

"I also want to maintain close links with the University so that sport and academic commitments do not clash. It would be to the detriment of the University as a whole if people were deterred from playing sport as a result of their academic commitments."

"Where individual clubs are concerned, there has been some discussion concerning the fencing club not receiving enough money. As one of our biggest points scorers in the BUSA Championships this year, I think this is an aspect I will have to address."

An immediate concern for Greene is the actual 'Team Newcastle' brand that has come under threat from the University over complaints that the red lion in the logo is being used away from the Newcastle University crest.

"I think the brand is an important

thing to maintain," the Geography student said. "With individual teams running themselves through committees, I think it is important to keep hold of a centralised brand encompassing all sports. The brand also encourages healthy competitions between teams."

Greene intends to continue to work closely with *The Courier* as he commented: "I think *Courier Sport* has been very good this year. I would like even more captains to send in match reports from their games, so as to improve it further still and I think it is something that a lot of people would be interested in."

He plans to keep in close contact with the club captains via email over the summer months and he is hoping that his organisational skills can help him with the role which he is very much looking forward to getting started with.

"I can't wait, I think it's going to be awesome. I will continue to do my best and we will see what I can do!"

Rishton's men find form for final

■ New look team peaking at right time, says Leazes boss

INTRA MURAL FOOTBALL WEDNESDAY CUP FINAL

David Coverdale
Sports Editor

CASTLE LEAZES manager Graham Rishton is hoping that his side's recent resurgence can carry them to Intra Mural Cup glory on Wednesday as they prepare for their much anticipated clash with old rivals Dyslexic United.

Having struggled earlier on in the season, Rishton's new look Leazes outfit appear to be peaking just when it matters and go into Wednesday's Cup Final hopeful of claiming their first piece of silverware for many years.

"We're producing our best form of the season at the moment," Rishton said. "As the season has gone on we've got better and better as a lot of the lads have adapted to the Intra Mural game."

"We've finally started taking our chances and scoring some goals recently. We've scored more goals in our last six games than over the entirety of the season, so we have every reason to go into this game confident."

Credit must go to Rishton for getting his men to a Cup final, having had to shape an almost brand new Leazes squad for this campaign.

With a large number of third years moving and long term injuries to cult

hero Omar-Al Naimi and Rishton himself, Leazes have only had two of last year's regular starters available this season.

"It is a real achievement," said the Leazes chief. "Many of the lads are playing their first year of Intra Mural football so for this squad to reach the Cup Final at the first attempt is a fantastic effort."

Like their league form, Leazes' performances in the Cup has got better as the rounds have progressed. Having received a bye in round one, Leazes stuttered past a resilient Fluffy Wilson in the second round before edging past fellow top flight side Henderson Hall 2-1 in the quarter-finals.

They then met high flying Division Two side Henderson Hall A, and, despite some experts' predictions prior to the game, put in a fine display to banish memories of last year's semi-final heartbreak.

"Our performance against Hendo A in the semi-final was particularly pleasing," said Rishton. "It was full of good football and a lot of heart, managing to equalise in the last minute to take it to penalties."

Currently sitting above them in the league, Dyslexic will undoubtedly be the toughest test Castle Leazes have faced thus far, but they are a side Rishton's men know well. Leazes recored a 2-0 win over their rivals back in October, but then lost 1-0 in the return fixture before Easter. The two enemies have also met on a Saturday, a game which resulted in a draw, so Rishton knows his team must work hard if they are to come



THE MAN TO BEAT...Leazes' shot stopper Phil Rishton in action, dubbed by his manager as the best keeper in the Intra Mural system

out victorious on Wednesday.

"It should be a very balanced game, but we'll turn up and look to play positive. Our defence has been our strong point this year so hopefully we'll keep it tight for the first 15 minutes; before looking to play some more expansive football."

"Whatever happens, it's the Leazes way to absolutely work our socks off so I'll be looking for us to pressure Dyslexic all over the pitch and give

them no time on the ball."

It has been a frustrating season on a personal note for the Leazes manager, as last season's 30 goal hit man has not been able to take to the field once this season following two operations last Autumn. Rishton has been a major miss for Castle Leazes this year but with no other absentees, he is sure that his side have enough quality in their ranks to come out on top.

"In Phil Rishton we have without a doubt the best goalkeeper in Intra Mural. Our skipper Ed Elliot has a great engine and is superb on the ball, so we will be looking to him to provide some good service from the right of midfield."

"Also, we have Anthony Elders, the big man upfront. He is surprisingly good on the floor with the ball at his feet and when he's in the mood we look a different team."

Mercer plans Cup final onslaught

■ 'Attack, attack, attack' the motto for free scoring Dyslexic side

INTRA MURAL FOOTBALL WEDNESDAY CUP FINAL

David Coverdale
Sports Editor

A CERTAIN Kevin Keegan would be proud of Ryan Mercer's approach to their game against Castle Leazes on Wednesday with the Dyslexic boss planning all out attack at Cochrane Park.

Untied have already bagged 13 goals on their way to this year's final, and apart from the big three, they are the top scorers in Intra Mural Division One.

Mercer is hoping for more of the same come Wednesday. He said, "I'll be going into the game with a very much attacking line-up. We don't want to just score one and sit back, that's not the way we play."

Untied go into the game in good form, a 3-1 win over University Reserves a stand out, but Mercer has warned his men that they must be focused if they wish to add another trophy to the Saturday Cup that they won last year.

"I am confident because I know we have the ability and on our day we can beat anyone," he said. "However I am a bit worried that some people might not turn up mentally, which has happened far too many times this season."

Mercer has the bonus of being able to select a full strength squad for the



FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS...Dyslexic look to add the Wednesday Cup to last year's Saturday triumph.

first time all season, and the availability of one player in particular pleases the manager.

"Eddie Blount is our secret weapon. He is on placement for 80% of the season, but is now back with a

vengeance."

With ex Aston-Villa winger Steve Agnew also in the squad, Dyslexic have the attacking prowess to test Leazes' in form stopper Phil Rishton and a back four that has only leaked

18 league goals this campaign.

Untied have conceded 30 goals in contrast, but anyone who thinks this Cup final will be a case of attack versus defence only needs to look at Dyslexic's Cup run so far.

Mercer's men have conceded just one goal en route to Cochrane Park and this came in the semi-final against free scoring Ecosoc Berlin. Their run to that point had been impeccable with a 1-0 win over Pro Evo Panthers, 3-0 win against Mathletico and then a crushing 7-0 triumph over FC Babbage in the quarter-finals.

However, old rivals Castle Leazes will be the first top flight opposition Dyslexic have faced in this year's Cup. In what has arguably been disappointing league campaigns this season from two of Intra Mural's historically best sides, Untied currently sit five points above Leazes in the Wednesday league and four points above them on a Saturday.

Mercer though knows full well what Leazes are capable of and will be desperate to avoid a repeat of a nightmare first encounter this season for both him and the team.

"We lost to them 2-0 at the start of the season," he said. "I also broke my arm in that game and had to miss several key games in the league because of it."

The Dyslexic chief will be hoping the only attention his arm receives on Wednesday is from The Courier photographers as he lifts the Intra Mural Cup.

The game kicks off at 2pm at Cochrane Park on Wednesday. See next week's Courier Sport for full match coverage.

INTRA MURAL HOCKEY CUP



Architects left to Grieve in Cup

■ Dribblers stun league champions after penalty flick drama

INTRA MURAL HOCKEY CUP FINAL

DRIBBLERS	1
ARCHITECTS	1
<i>(Dribblers win 3-2 on pf)</i>	

Iain Grieve

TEAM DRIBBLER ran out winners of the Intra Mural Cup last week, beating the Architects on penalty flicks in a fascinating final at Longbenton.

Having already won the Division Two title, Iain Grieve struck with the final flick of the competition to complete the double and upset the Division One champions and favourites.

A tranquil Spring afternoon awaited the two sides, who had competed in contrasting semi-final encounters earlier in the day. In a hard fought contest, the Architects were the first

to strike.

A saved short corner fell kindly to the Architects' midfielder Will Gamble who managed to slip the ball under the goalie and find the backboard.

The Architects took this 1-0 advantage into half time thanks to superb keeping from Ali Marshall and it wasn't until halfway through the second half that Team Dribbler produced a crucial equaliser.

Carrying an injury, Gowing set up camp on the goal line and was rewarded for her supreme tactical awareness and key positioning. Some excellent link-up play from Spackman and Taylor in midfield resulted in a glorious through ball to Jimbo.

The young lad's silky skills left the defender stranded as he sent the ball goalwards, where Gowing ensured it found its target to make it 1-1.

A solid performance from both sides defences, which had been strong all day, ensured the score remained level until the final whistle. The Dribblers'

Hiscoek and Architects' Paul and Whiting both had super games as the game went to the predicted penalty flick competition.

Wokes was first up for Team Dribbler and earned his title of the mailman by once again delivering. Putting the ball low and to the right, he earned his fourth goal of the day. The Architects responded to this early hammer blow with a decent flick into the bottom left which made it 1-1.

Up stepped Henshell and following Wokes' lead, she slammed the ball hard and low into the backboard to make it 2-1. This time the Architects didn't respond and a comfortable save maintained the Dribbler's lead.

A string of spectacular saves by both keepers meant that it came down to the final two flicks. With the score at 2-1 the pressure was on the Architects, but with the best flick of the competition they pulled level, rippling the rigging in the top left hand corner.

It was therefore down to the final

flick. With sudden death looming, The Dribblers had this opportunity to score and win. They were not to miss out on the opportunity, as learning from Henshell and Wokes, Grieve stepped up and picked his spot to

send the ball into the bottom right and secure the Cup for his side.

It capped a fantastic season for Team Dribbler with the win meaning that their only loss all season came when they couldn't field a team.



INTRA MURAL HOCKEY SEMI-FINAL

BIOSCI	0
ARCHITECTS	1

Matthew Collison

AN EARLY START meant Biosci were caught off guard as the Architects came out fast. In the opening ten minutes the Architects applied heavy pressure through advancing midfielders Henry Jones and Will Gamble, although a strong defence held together by Simon Anderson, Thomas Wylie and Roz Hawkes kept the Architects at bay.

This stayed true until the 12th minute when Harry Thomson broke the stronghold with a skilful dribble across the by-line, passing two players and drawing the keeper out before slipping it in at the near post.

This goal seemed to wake the docile Biosci team into action as an injection of speed from Ryan Kerr and skilful link play from Pippa Evans created many chances in the remaining ten minutes of the half.

This positive attacking play continued into the second half with endless chances being turned away by the Architects keeper Alistair Marshall.

After another ten minutes of intense pressure on the Architect's goal, a chance came for Laura Perry who hesitated on the ball, allowing the opposing keeper time to pounce and cover the goal mouth.

After this, Architects Anonymous receded to a defensive formation to conserve their lead only forming a couple of attacks with little conviction for the remainder of the game.

Biosci Legends however continued to pile on the pressure creating chance after chance. Skilful play outside the D and an incisive pass to Kerr standing on the back post formed a great chance denied by the fast smothering goalie.

Further strikes from McChesney and Collison and were narrowly pushed wide, then finally in the dying minute Danny Bensley took a snap shot reverse stick effort from the top of the D only to strike the crossbar.

It was a narrow escape for the Division One champions with just seconds left on the clock, but they managed to hold on to take their place in the final.

INTRA MURAL HOCKEY SEMI-FINAL

DRIBBLERS	6
NUSSC	0

Jonathan Powell

IN THE SECOND semi final, Dribblers ran out 6-0 winners against NUSSC Hockey, a fantastic achievement from a side playing their hockey in the league below.

The scoreline though did not truly reflect the game, and was harsh on NUSSC who have enjoyed an impressive campaign, finishing second in the top flight, just one

point behind champions Architects.

It was a well-matched affair, but it was essentially The Dribblers slick short corner routine that made the difference, accounting for five of their six goals.

Dribblers did have the best of the play in the first half and deserved the 2-0 lead they took into the break. However, with a strong opening to the second half, NUSSC were looking like they could get right back into the game.

This was not to be though, and The Dribblers kept on scoring at the other end while NUSSC searched in vain for an opening. NUSSC continued to throw everything they had at the goal in a last ditch effort, but the Dribblers' keeper was not to be beaten on the day as his side marched on to play Architects Anonymous in the final that afternoon.

Rugby refs scoop award

Melvin Byres

A NEW Newcastle society are celebrating after coming runners up in a prestigious Rugby awards scheme.

In the six months since the Newcastle University Rugby Referees' Society has been in existence, a great impression has already been made. The NURR have made an outstanding impact on rugby, not just within the University, but the community as a whole.

"I've played in the Intra Mural league for 3 years. In previous years the competition has not been let down

by the players, nor the desire to play at a high standard, but the lacklustre state of the officiating. The Referee Society has given the Intra Mural league a cohesive structure and the air of professionalism which was so desperately needed", said Andrew Richardson, Captain of Intra-Mural side Medics.

The Society has not only impacted rugby within Newcastle University, but within the greater Northumberland region; they are now the main source of new referees to Northumberland Rugby Union Referee Society.

Because of the progress the Society has made in such a short space of

time, Newcastle University Rugby Referees' Society were nominated for the Presidents XV award - a nationally sought after competition open to all clubs around England.

The Presidents XV award scheme seeks to identify and reward best practice in community rugby. The award decision panel consisted of RFU President Bob Taylor and RFU Director of Rugby Rob Andrews, who recognised the excellent work the Society has already done. Consequently, Newcastle University Rugby Referees' Society were awarded the runner up prize in the refereeing category - a major achievement given the Society is still in its first season.

John Fenn, Newcastle University's Director of Rugby, is a strong backer of the Society and believes they fully deserve the award. "A strong student referee society will undoubtedly aid the further development of rugby within the University, by giving me the ability to expand the IM rugby program, offer RFU tournaments to be held in Newcastle, and provide Community rugby opportunities."

The Society Committee would like to thank everyone who has helped the society get off to such an excellent start. Special mentions go to John Fenn from NURFC, Denis Murphy from the Sports Centre, Will Halford from the RFU, Brian Callander from the Northumberland Rugby Union, the Northumberland Rugby Union Referee Society and all the teams and players who were supportive during the initial teething issues. Most

importantly huge thanks go to the Referees themselves for making all this happen.

The Society plans to expand further next season and become a major source of referees for local school matches. This is an excellent way to start refereeing for those not comfortable refereeing within their own age group initially.

For anyone considering refereeing now is the ideal time to start. Excellent training and support are provided by the Society members and the RFU. The society is always looking for new members, regardless of gender or rugby experience. Anyone interested in receiving more information should contact next year's President, Ciaran Hutchinson, via j.c.hutchinson@nc.ac.uk.

Greene outlines blueprint for success



■ New AU Officer in pledge to retain Stan Calvert trophy

David Coverdale
Sports Editor

IN HIS first interview with *Courier Sport*, the incoming AU Officer Jimmy Greene has highlighted his ambitions for his year at the helm.

Greene will take over from Lydia Oxenham on 14th

July and has set retaining the Stan Calvert Cup as one of his priorities. This year Newcastle recorded a record win over their Northumbria rivals and Greene is already looking forward to tackling the Poly once more.

"I would love to do them over again," Greene said. "I saw a video on YouTube that had been manipulated to make it look as if Northumbria had won the Stan Calvert this year, which just shows how much winning means to both sides."

"Hopefully we will win the event again this year and I will do everything in my power to retain it."

The current third team hockey captain is a big fan of the event and is not expecting to make any major alterations to

the current Varsity format.

He said, "I think the whole day as a whole is something that people can really enjoy. I don't think it needs to undergo any big changes although I would like to keep as many sports as possible on the day."

"There is a real healthy rivalry between the two institutions, which will always exist and this is something I really enjoy. The event as a whole is massive, the real centre point of sport at Newcastle University."

As well as Stan Calvert glory, Jimmy Greene is keen to build on what has been a very impressive season so far for Team Newcastle.

"I would really like us to maintain the high position that we have achieved in the BUSA Championships so far this year," Greene said. "At the moment we are sat in fifth place in the overall rankings table which is a mightily impressive place to be."

"Although it may be difficult to stay in this position with a lot of points still to be counted, Durham are only just ahead of us in the standings so it would be really nice to get one over on them."

"If we can carry on this sort of form next year then I will be really pleased."

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>> Intra Mural Hockey



TOO CLOSE FOR
COMFORT
by Rob Smedley

"Damn it Kenny,
shut up! They're
going to hear us
coming!"

