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INTERVIEW: CONOR MAYNARD FEATURES P.14-15

THREE'S A CROWD, FOUR'S A PARTY
DOUBLE BLIND DATE SPECIAL P.26-27

theguardian STUDENT MEDIA AWARDS WINNER Publication of the Year

Union calls referendum on biometric scanning

- University could be implementing 'fingertip swiping' in to lectures
- Online votes to decide position of the Students' Union on the issue

By **Ben Travis**
Editor

The Students' Union is to hold a referendum to gauge student opinion regarding the monitoring of course attendance on campus.

The decision to hold it was voted through the Students' Union Council on 8 November.

The University is looking at the possibility of implementing biometric fingertip swiping as a method of attendance monitoring. Other methods are also currently being researched, with the chosen method expected to come into effect from September 2013.

The move follows a crack down by the UK Border Agency (UKBA) on international students abusing their student visas by working in the UK rather than studying for their degree. In response to the London Met scandal over the Summer, universities have sought to keep a better record of international student attendance.

The referendum will run alongside the Students' Union Elections commencing on Monday 26 November. Consisting of three questions, the referendum will decide the Students' Union's stance on whether the attendance of all students should be monitored, or just international students, and whether students feel fingertip swiping is an appropriate method to do so.

Other methods being looked into by the University include smartcard scans and the sign-in sheets already being used on campus. Outlining their official position on attendance monitoring plans, the University said: "If we chose [a fingertip scan] option the University would also allow for an alternative method – e.g. a smartcard scan and PIN input by the student, although this would be time-consuming."

Whilst it is only international students whose monitoring is required by the UKBA, the University's stance is that all students' attendance should be monitored, saying: "Overall there was agreement that if attendance had to be monitored in class then it should apply to all students".

Speaking on the University's reasoning behind the stance to monitor both sets of students, Students' Union Welfare Officer Esta Innes said: "It is only a legal requirement for international students to have their attendance monitored, but to segregate one community within the student body [...] would be wrong. It's subjecting one group of students to certain principles and not another.

"When doing [student] halls [of residence] runs, during which [the Students' Union Officer Team] asked people if they felt it would be appropriate

continued on page 4

The Courier is cream of the crop News p.2

The Courier picked up Student Publication of the Year at the Guardian Student Media Awards last week, ending 18 years of hurt Photo: David Coverdale

Uni balks at 'living wage' proposal

By **George Sandeman**
News Editor

The University has decided not to implement the Living Wage despite calls from politicians on private and public employers to adopt the measures.

Prime Minister David Cameron, London Mayor Boris Johnson and Labour Leader Ed Miliband have publicly backed the campaign, organised by the Living Wage Foundation, that seeks to increase the current £6.19 per hour national minimum wage to £8.55 in London and £7.45 outside the capital.

In recent weeks Nick Forbes, Leader of Newcastle City Council, contacted hundreds of companies and organisations in the North East urging them to consider implementing the measures, saying:

> Increase wages from **£6.19 per hour to £8.55** in London and **£7.45 outside**

"We understand the difficult economic climate and some of the challenges this could present for different organisations and firms. But a living wage makes good business sense too.

"Research shows that putting more money into the pockets of the lowest paid means more is spent in local shops giving a welcome boost to our economy. And there are additional benefits such as easier recruitment and retention of staff; better attendance and reduced sickness absence.

"It can also lead to better productivity, motivation, loyalty and quality of service to customers."

The city council also said that they would partly pay for the increased cost

continued on page 2

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NEWS

PREPARE TO MARCH
Students' Union prepares for the nation NUS Demo 2012 5

CANCER RESEARCH
University scientists chosen to lead pioneering research 7

COMMENT

WHAT SHOULD EU DO
Should Britain remain in the European Union? 11

RAPE IS RAPE
Lydia Carroll talks politicians' new definitions of rape 13

SPORT

BANZAI!
Karate kids impress in competition 46

RINGER ALLEGATIONS
Intra Mural teams come under scrutiny 48

The Courier claims coveted Guardian award

By **Ben Travis**
Editor

The Courier was named Student Publication of the Year at the Guardian Student Media Awards ceremony last week.

The prestigious award was presented for issues of *The Courier* produced between September 2011 to June 2012 under the editorship of Kat Bannon, marking the first time *The Courier* has received the accolade in 18 years.

Speaking on the newspaper's success, Bannon stated:

"This is such an incredible achievement. The commitment of last year's team was faultless, dedicating countless hours and late nights that could have been spent in Sinners, or, god forbid, even on their degrees, ensuring *The Courier* was up to scratch every single week.

"I'm so proud of them and grateful to all editors and sub[editor]s of times gone that have built the paper into what it is today. I've no doubt it can only get better."

Members of last year's team have been quick to praise Bannon's editorship. Former Sports Editor Colin Henrys, who was present at the awards ceremony, said:

"Nobody deserves this more than Kat Bannon - though having her leaning over your shoulder at 4am when you've been in the office for almost 20 hours straight, telling you a line's out of place on a page is incredibly frustrating - but I would definitely do it all again if I could."

Last year's Deputy Editor and creator of *The Courier* Online, Elliot Bentley, added:

> "While the award belongs to everyone who worked on *The Courier* last year, Kat led the team with a bold vision of what a student paper could be"

"While the award belongs to everyone who worked on *The Courier* last year, Kat led the team with a bold vision for what a student paper could be.

"She often worked seven day weeks to ensure that every aspect of the paper, from the biggest news stories to niche sections, was up to the highest possible quality.

"Winning this award is, I think, a testament to her hard work, dedication and general brilliance."

However, Henrys also recognised that the quality of the paper was a team effort.

"Anybody who knew us as a team least year knows how hard we worked, and how well we worked together. It set a really high standard for each other, and it's fantastic we now have this award to show for it."

Bentley stated: "We worked hard on *The Courier* last year, but had loads of fun doing it, and hopefully that came across to the judges - and, more importantly, our readers."

The ceremony took place on Wednesday 7 October in London at *The Guardian* offices.

"The awards ceremony was a great evening," Colin Henrys recalled. "I was really surprised to find so many people knew of *The Courier* from outside Newcastle, and it was great to be able to meet professionals who still show a lot of interest in student media."

It was also a chance for recognised student journalists to rub shoulders with important industry professionals.

"The awards ceremony itself flew by, but not without a touch of (journalistic) celebrity razzmatazz, including a speech from [*The Guardian* Editor] Alan Rusbridger and an appearance from the editor of *NME*," said Bentley. "It was the closest I've felt to being some sort of media luvvie."

The last time *The Courier* received the award was in 1994 under the editorship of Simon Bird, now a sports writer for the *Daily Mirror*. Tweeting of the paper's success, he posted:

"Huge congrats to Newcastle Uni paper The Courier for winning Guardian Student Media best paper. @kat_bannon and team. Champs: 1994, 2012!"

Further support from the industry flooded in on the social networking site, with congratulatory tweets from James Lyons, the *Daily Mirror*'s Deputy Political Editor, and *BBC Sport* journalist Jamie Gavin.

This is the second year in a row that *The Courier* has seen success at the Guardian Student Media Awards, with former News Editor and Editor Elect Simon Murphy claiming Reporter of the Year at the 2011 ceremony.

"We want to make Newcastle a fairer city"

continued from page 1

of labour by making savings amongst senior management.

Studies carried out by the Greater London Authority and Queen Mary University of London found evidence showing that more than 80 percent of employers believed the Living Wage had enhanced the quality of the work of their staff, that 75 percent of employees reported increases in the quality of their work and that 70 percent of employers felt the Living Wage had increased consumer awareness of their commitment to be an ethical employer.

Forbes added: "We want to make Newcastle a fairer city, but the council cannot do it on its own.

For the economic benefits of a Living Wage to make a real impact on the economy we need as many employers as possible to adopt it."

The UK Living Wage, for those areas outside of London, is calculated by the Centre for Research in Social Policy according to the basic cost of living in the country.

Although entered into voluntarily by employers, those signed up to it include KPMG, PriceWaterHouseCoopers, Lush as well as councils in Glasgow and Birmingham.

A Newcastle University spokesperson said: "The University is committed to fair pay and during the last year we conducted a full equal pay review, however, we are also conscious of the need to protect jobs in the longer term.

"For employees who have been with the University more than one year the current minimum pay point is £7.10 per hour, but there is a pending increase which will raise this to £7.17 when implemented.

When the full package of pay and benefits are taken into account, including our final salary pension scheme, the hourly rate equates to £8.04. We believe our rewards at this level are competitive and fair.

"We will keep under review our pay rates in the broader context of our terms and conditions, including the national pay award but [...] we are not signing up to the national 'Living Wage'.

Professor in court

By **Anna Templeton**
News Editor

A professor from the University, Stephen Graham, will appear before Newcastle Magistrates Court on Wednesday 14 November.

Professor Graham, an expert in cities and society in the school of Architecture Planning and Landscape, did not enter pleas to four charges of criminal discharge when he appeared in court.

The charges relate to the alleged damage of 24 cars parked in Northumberland Gardens, Jesmond, in August.

Cars were reportedly scratched with words such as "very silly", "really wrong" and "arbitrary", thought to have been etched into paintwork with a screwdriver.

The cars targeted included a Mercedes SLK, BMW 520, a BMW X5 and a Land Rover. The vandalism was reported when a resident spotted a man in black shorts and a black jacket crouching down beside a car.

Professor Graham had been due to appear in court on October 3. However, due to teaching arrangements, his solicitor asked for him to be excused from the hearing.

District Judge Stephen Ear refused the request, stating that every defendant must be treated equally. He was ordered to attend court that afternoon.

He said: "If this man wasn't a university professor, then I would be asking why he isn't here.

"I am not sure the public would understand if I excused him. There is no good reason why he can't be here.

> Cars were reportedly scratched with words such as "very silly", "really wrong" and "arbitrary", thought to have been etched into paintwork with a screwdriver

"Justice is something that must be seen to be done."

Justin Gibson, prosecuting, told the court that the value of the damage amounted to an estimated £17, 874.

Judge Earl recommended that the case should be dealt with by Newcastle Crown Court. He adjourned the case for committal this Wednesday.

THE COURIER
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The Courier is a weekly newspaper produced by students, for students. It's never too late to get involved in the paper, whether you're a writer, illustrator or photographer. Just visit thecourieronline.co.uk/getinvolved for more information.

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World record sees pole dancers make history

TERRIFIC TWIRLING TRIUMPH

The pole dancers amassed 29 hours to smash the previous record and raise over £1,000 in the process Photography: Newcastle Uni Pole Dance Society

By **Anna Templeton**
News Editor

Last week, the Newcastle University Pole Dance society completed an epic 30-hour pole dance marathon. Starting at 2pm on Sunday 4 November they continuously danced all the way through to 8pm on Monday night.

The previous record stood at 24 hours, but the society managed to power on to smash the previous record and dance for a total of 29 hours.

Their dedicated Committee and teachers took danced the whole night shift, with President Melissa and Events Rep Harriet undertaking a 'pole-off' at 5am.

Melissa reported "Lots of injuries… Blistered and shredded skin on our hands, burns all over our bodies".

During their 'pole-off' at 5am, the dancers "pulled out all of our biggest tricks despite being knackered".

Melissa said: "The event was absolutely incredible but completely exhausting. I can't enough say how proud I am of all our members, the beginners did a fantastic job despite not having much experience and even came back to do extra shifts! Harriet, Kathryn and Yasmin have done an amazing job helping to organise this, we've been planning it since the start of summer.

"I have such a dedicated committee and teachers; they did all the night shift and helped out though the day with stewarding and putting in more time".

Money raised will be given to the RAG fund and The Infant Trust. The Infant Trust is a UK based charity that campaigns to break the cycle of violence, rape and abuse against young children in South Africa.

The society managed to raise over £1000 and thank everyone who donated to the cause.

They also thank everyone who gave up their time to witness, people from local dance studios, gyms and University staff who helped them to achieve the record.

Fundraisers build up head of steam in Nepal

By **Holly Callis**

After a year of fundraising, The Head of Steam have raised enough funds to build a new school in the village of Mayum, situated in the mountainous, eastern region of Nepal.

The Head of Steam have been fundraising through the Paher Trust Nepal charity and have raised £15,000 to build the school for the seventy children who live in the village.

Fundraising has been taking place mainly in The Cluny in Newcastle and The Central in Gateshead and activities included Rock 'n' Roll Bike rides and charity gigs, continuing the venues' music themes.

Enthusiastic staff also walked the Highland Way in Scotland which contributed thousands to the campaign.

so the public and customers can keep up to date with the building work they helped to fund.

There will also be pictures displayed of the school the children presently use, to illustrate just how valuable a new school building will be to the local community.

Tony Brooks, managing director for The Head of Steam, told *The Courier* that the campaign came about when Mr Brooks and his wife met Mr and Mrs Green on a cruise two years ago.

The Head of Steam has a company history of raising money for other projects with charities such as Water Aid, and were keen to get involved with the Paher Trust Nepal.

The fundraising has not stopped, however, as the new school will need furniture and a new computer.

Mr Brookes said that the local people's skills will be used for the furniture mak-

Fundraising through the Paher Trust Nepal charity, they have raised £15,000 to build the school for the seventy children

On the 4th of November a cheque was presented by The Head of Steam to the chairman of Paher Trust Nepal, Howard Green MBE, at The Cluny.

Mr Green and his wife, Sue, were in Tyneside to visit relatives and on their visit were able to collect the cheque.

Mr Green said: "It's a wonderful job The Head of Steam have done, especially Dave Campbell at The Central and Julian Ive at The Cluny".

He went on to explain how building work in Nepal will start immediately now that the sufficient funds have been raised.

Progress reports and pictures from Mayum will be displayed at The Central

ing and the actual construction of the school, turning the project into a community effort.

The efforts by the Head of Steam will also benefit the local Gateshead community, as there is talk that the Nepalese school will be twinned with one in Gateshead. Mr Campbell said: "We are in discussion with Gateshead Council to twin a Gateshead school with the new school in Nepal.

There is a significant Nepalese population in Gateshead, which will be really useful to help communication between the two groups of children. Who knows – maybe there will be visits of children between the schools in years to come".

MOUNTAIN HIGH

The new school will help educate children in one of the world's most mountainous countries Photo: Head of Steam

SNP cuts leading to fewer female students

By **Sophie Hunter**

Over the past five years the number of students continuing on to further education in Scotland has fallen, with the percentage of men completing further study dropping by 13 per cent.

The number of female students continuing to higher education has fallen from 161,559 in 2006-7, to 118,447 in 2010-11: a decrease of 26 per cent. Opposition parties to the Scottish National Party, claim that this is a "national disgrace".

The main reason for this decrease is the Scottish National Party's decision to cut part-time, evening and weekend college courses; in an effort to raise the number of full-time courses for younger students to tackle youth unemployment.

Women are most affected by this decision, as (according to a report by the Scottish Funding Council) they are more likely to participate in part-time day courses, as it gives them the flexibility to work around childcare and work commitments.

This cost-cutting strategy has created, and will continue to create issues for women in Scotland, as many are now unable to continue their education and increase their employability.

This is echoed in the released unemployment figures from 2012, which shows how female unemployment has continued to rise, despite male joblessness beginning to fall.

The Resolution Foundation for the Commission on Living Standards has issued a report recommending an expansion of vocational education courses, to help female students access the world of work.

The report anticipates an increase in these courses will halt the deterioration of living standards in low-income households; due to women being able to have access to training and education to help them gain work.

The main reason for this decrease is the SNP's decision to cut part-time, evening and weekend college courses; popular with women for the flexibility around childcare and work

The Scottish National Party has responded to these reports and outcries by promising that the government is seeking to tackle "inequality in gaining employment, and committed to maintaining full-time equivalent student numbers at 2010-11 levels."

Scotland's first ever women's employment summit was held in Edinburgh this September, in corroboration with the Scottish Trade Union Congress.

This summit aimed to identify ways for employers to remove the barriers preventing women from fully participating in the economic world.

KING OF THE HILL
SNP leader Alex Salmond is currently laying the groundwork for Scottish independence in 2014
Photo: Ewan McIntosh

"Should it be up to the individual student to choose whether or not to attend a lecture?"

continued from page 1

just to have international students' attendance monitored, the response that frequently came up was that it would be seen as racist or discriminatory.

"In terms of equality across all our students [...] it would have to be rolled out across all students in my opinion."

However, Innes also detailed the potentially negative implications of implementing strict attendance monitoring for all students.

"Monitoring attendance can be quite arbitrary – not everybody learns in the same way," Innes acknowledged. "Just because you're attending lectures does not necessarily mean that you're actually learning anything, taking anything in or engaging with your course and your studies."

The University also states: "Research has shown that attendance monitoring can help identify students in need of support and enable university staff to intervene to improve the chances of a student's successful completion."

Conversely, Innes said: "Monitoring attendance doesn't necessarily tell you how students are performing. However, there is also a wider issue in that once you're an adult and you're at university, and you're paying £9,000 a year, should it be up to the individual student to choose whether or not to attend a lecture?"

Opening the issue up to all students via referendum amends a vote made at the previous meeting of Students' Union Council on 11 October, in which a motion was passed to reject the use of biometrics as a method of attendance monitoring. Following the new motion on 8 November, the results of the referendum will be used to determine the Students' Union's stance on the issue, acting as a representative body of Newcastle's students.

Rachael Thornton, the Students' Union Education Officer, further outlined the complexities of determining a system with universal appeal: "Under UKBA regulations, the University is in a predicament of trying to remain within the law but also ensuring the student experience isn't affected.

"The Union is working with [the University] to ensure the student voice is heard so that attendance monitoring doesn't affect the ethos of University and the appeal of coming to Newcastle.

"This is why the Union is holding a campus-wide referendum on attendance monitoring - so that students can have their say. It's important that everyone votes so we can consider every single student's opinion on this issue and create a form of attendance monitoring which doesn't constrain students' learning."

Politically-motivated society NFEN (Newcastle Free Education Network) staged two protests on campus in late October in order to raise awareness of issues surrounding the use of biometrics in attendance monitoring. A wooden frame, mimicking a security post, was set up on King's Walk between the Students' Union and the King's Gate building, with NFEN encouraging passersby to walk through the check-point whilst handing them leaflets with more information on the issue.

NFEN activist Luke Neal explained: "We are of the belief that attendance monitoring in general is wrong. Education is about engagement, and stems from our choice to learn. This choice extends to how and what we think, and therefore to how and when we learn.

He added: "Any measures that further segregate the international community are an attempt to divide students at a critical stage of Higher Education reform. For this reason universal measures are preferable."

Union prepares to march in NUS demo

By **Anna Templeton**
News Editor

On Wednesday 21 November, with the slogan 'Educate. Employ. Empower', the Students' Union will support the National Demo after 97% of Council voted in support.

In April 2012, NUS National Conference voted 'to organise a national demonstration in the first term of 2012-13 against cuts, fees, higher interest on student debts and privatisation'.

The demo will take place in London and will be attended by students from Higher Education all over the country. Union officers, as well as representatives from *The Courier,* TCTV and NSR will support NUSU in the demonstration.

Liam Burns, the NUS President said: "We will come together with a clear message - we own the future and we need an education that prepares us for it".

Addressing student delegates, Burns said politicians did not look out for the interests of students, saying: "Youth unemployment is at an all-time high, getting on the property ladder is next to impossible and we don't even have the safety net of pensions to look forward to any more."

The demonstration will take place on a Wednesday, coinciding with the Prime Minster's Questions - the best day to impact policy and the press.

Rachael Thornton, Education Officer at Newcastle, explained the three key reasons why NUSU are supporting the demo. These issues are: increase of fees, the manipulation of international students (including attendance monitoring) and the levels of graduate unemployment.

Rachael said: "These three issues are affecting students on our campus but as a citizen it's important we stand up for those who simply can't afford to pursue higher education, especially the North East with the lowest participation rate to higher education in the UK, so their voices can be heard too."

Rachael also said how the Union feels "dissatisfaction and frustration at the government's repeated attacks on our future.

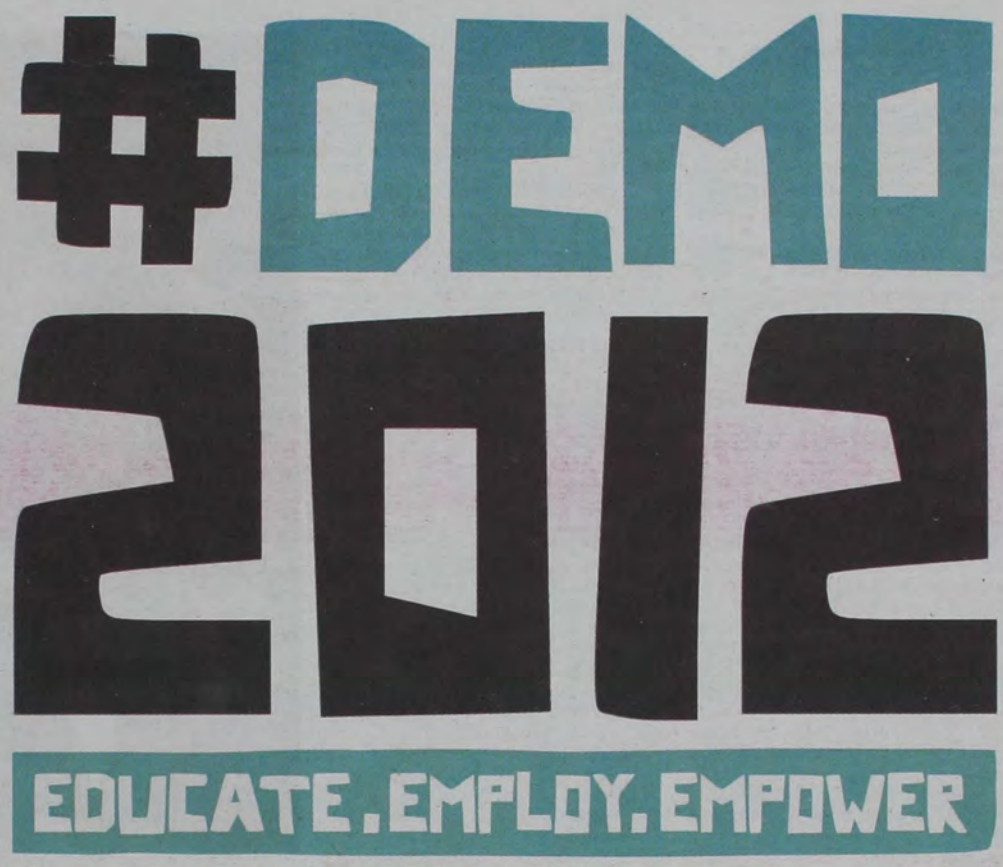
"It's your education, and it's time to make it more."

Other events being organised for students to have a voice include an anti-fees rally outside the SU on Tuesday 13.

On Wednesday 14, students can also take place in a banner-making session in preparation for the demo from 1-7pm in the planning room.

Students can sign up to the actual demo and buy tickets at reception in the Students' Union. Tickets are being subsidised by the Union so cost only £10 to cover travel costs to London.

See the official website: http://www.demo2012.org.uk
Follow updates on twitter via #demo2012



Newcastle's Koosday set to go global

By **Anna Templeton**
News Editor

Koosday, the notorious Newcastle club night, is preparing to expand their brand worldwide.

Koosday started out as a midweek night in a Newcastle bar before growing into one of the region's most popular club events.

Collingwood Street's bar Madame Koos initially hosted the night three years ago, before it moved to Tiger Tiger at the Gate last year.

The director of Koosday Brian Elgey, said: "I think people love Koosday due to the fact it offers more than just a night out and we're always improving on it with things like quality shows, technology and personal appearances by artists.

"It's not only fun but it simplifies going out and having a great time without it being seen as a binge-drinking session. In fact, a lot of people come out and still manage to work the next day.

"I think Newcastle offers one of the best clubbing experiences in the UK and we have taken that to other cities.

"It's worked because Geordies know how to party. I also feel we have allowed people to feel a part of the brand and there isn't many in this industry that have such a brand following these days."

The company is currently developing a Koosday smartphone app, to improve on their current Koosday messenger, which allows people to view events, add themselves to the guestlist, get tickets and link with facebook to view and tag photos.

Koosday are also organizing a tour for next year. A Koosday experience with pyrotechnic shows, lasers and top DJs will tour over 40 cities in the UK, Australia and Ibiza.

Among tens of thousands of party-goers have been One Direction's Harry Styles, Tinie Tempah and Lil John

Among tens of thousands of party-goers have been a range of celebrities. Figures such as One Direction's Harry Styles, Tinie Tempah, Lil John and Ja Rule, as well as a host of TV stars and Premier League footballers.

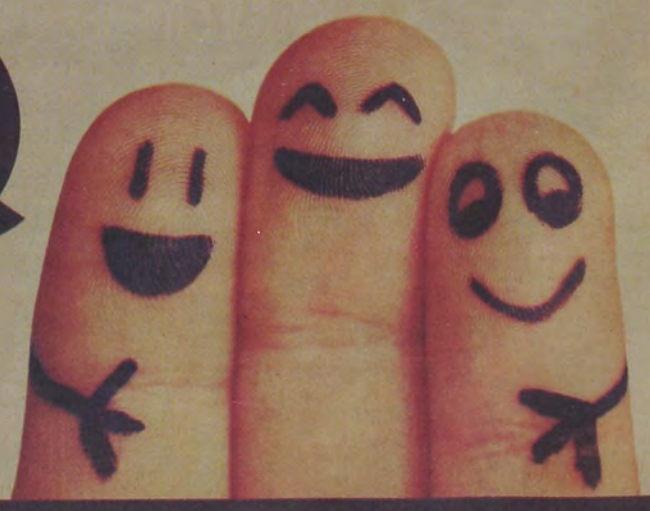
X Factor star Amelia Lily and The Only Way is Essex cast members Mario Falcone and Joey Essex have also made appearances at the Tuesday night bash, where the MTV show *Geordie Shore* was partly filmed.

The celebrity-frequented night has already spread to Manchester, Belfast, Leeds and Nottingham but now Koosday bosses are planning to expand further afield to Singapore, Australia and Ibiza.

GLOBAL GREATNESS
The celebrity-frequented event will now potentially enjoy success of their brand worldwide
Image: David Domingo

Let your fingers do the talking.

join us today



www.nusuforum.co.uk

Uni chosen for pioneering cancer research

By **Cathy Bundy**

Scientists from the University, along with Cancer Research Technology Limited (CRT) and Cancer Research UK, have been chosen by the Californian pharmaceutical company Astex to lead UK based cancer research.

The collaboration will lead pioneering research into drugs associated with biomarkers, a route that is hoped will bring about exciting progress in cancer treatment.

The collaboration will lead pioneering research into drugs associated with biomarkers

Astex is a company who specialise in the discovery and development of novel small molecule therapeutics.

The strategic drug discovery alliance is set to last for five years. During this time Astex will provide £1m funding annually to the University to support research across biology, chemistry, pharmacology and imaging at the Northern Institute of Cancer Research (NICR).

The aim of the research is to develop new cancer drugs and identify the associated biomarkers, which can be used test patients compatibility with the drug and whether or not it is effective.

Parties involved hope that this alliance will speed the development of new drugs which have the potential to save many lives.

The project will be lead by Professor Herbie Newell, co-director of the Cancer Research UK Drug Discovery Program at the Northern Institute of Cancer Research.

"This exciting alliance represents an innovative route to the development of more effective cancer drugs by combining the partners' expertise and experience and ultimately develop medicines to take into clinical trials that will provide new ways to treat the disease and increase survival."

The NICR, which is based at Newcastle University is "one of the Cancer Research UK's leading drug discovery centres" says Dr Harren Jhoti, director and president of Astex Pharmaceuticals.

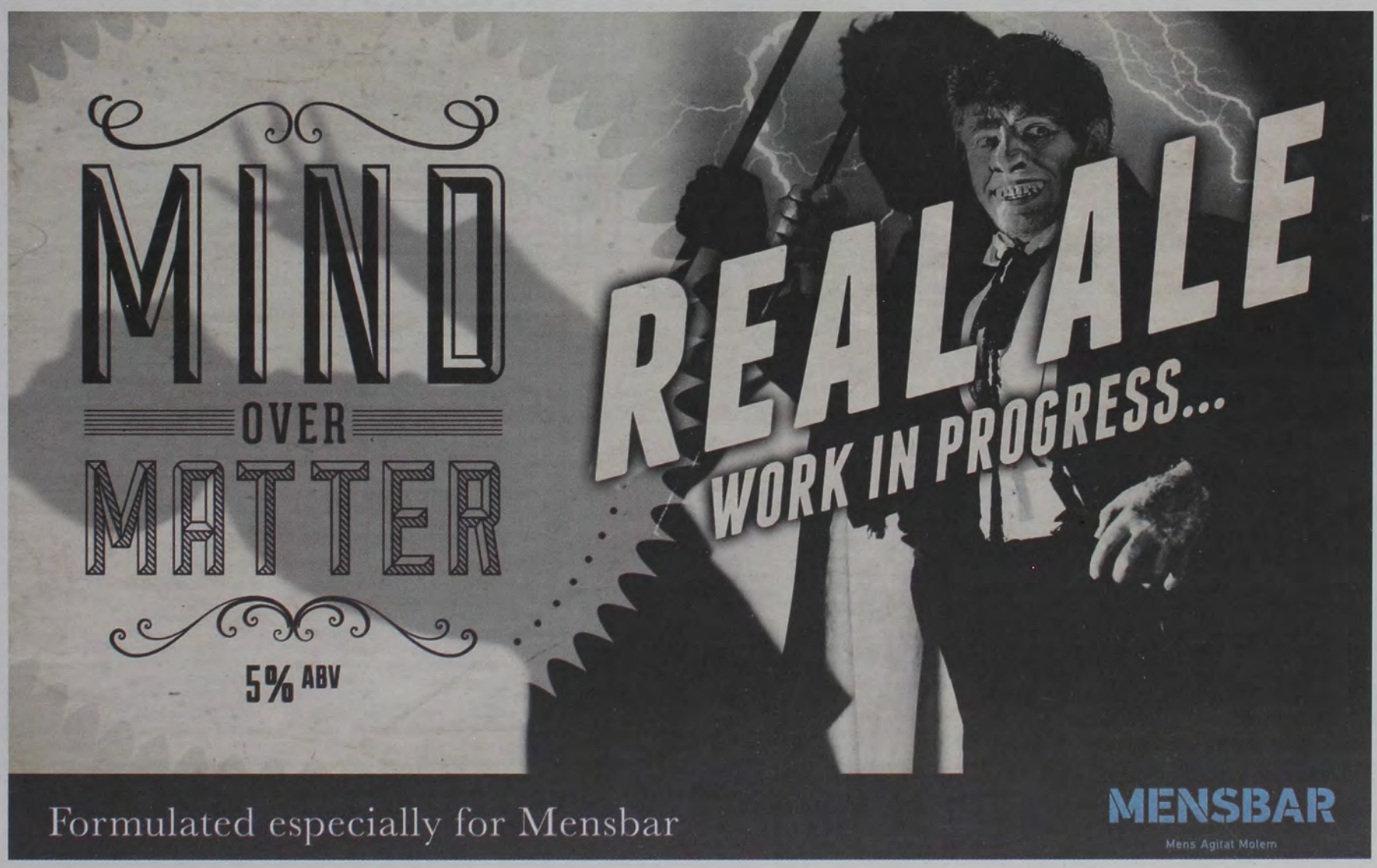
This isn't the first time that Astex has worked with Newcastle University and CRT – the Fibroblast Growth factor Receptor (FGFr) is a key cancer target developed with the help of both organisations and is about to be tested in a clinical trial.

All parties concerned are optimistic about the alliance. Dr Keith Blundy, Cancer Research Technology's chief executive, said: "This major collaboration, which builds on the successes and impressive track record of all partners, will further develop Cancer Research UK's world-class research into cancer treatments".

TIME LIMIT

A mixture of steroids and anti-sickness pills usually taken as part of a chemotherapy regimen

Image: limowreck666



Sit up, look sharp: slouching makes you sad

By **Faye Chivers**

It's been proven: there is a quick-fix to feeling better! Stressed about exams? Feeling a bit down in the dumps? Or are you just plain lazy?

Well, the smallest of changes can have big effects. Recent research at San Francisco State University has shown that slouching leads to lower energy levels, and can make you feel more depressed.

In the trials, students were made to first walk slowly and slouching down a corridor, and then to skip down it. After the skipping they felt significantly more energised, whereas after slouching their mood was lower and they felt more tired.

Professor of Health Education Erik Peper, writing in the journal Biofeedback, said: "When you choose to put your body in a different mode, it's harder to drop into depression."

Slumped in front of a computer screen, students don't spend a lot of time standing to attention

It seems it's time to think 'Miss World' and get that posture sorted out.

Students in particular have dubious posture, whether it's from lugging those heavy bags stuffed full of books from the library (or bottles of value vodka and two-litre bottles of coke from Tesco, who's judging?), or from being slumped in front of a computer screen, we don't spend a lot of time standing to attention.

The research showed that even walking slouched brings your mood down.

Previous research has found that exercise and movement can increase energy and happiness. But Professor Peper said these feelings can also be achieved by people sitting in more upright body positions.

Slouching has also been linked to causing career problems. Those who walk slouched are perceived as being not vital, reports NBC News.

It is also linked to an increased risk of death and disease, making people look heavier, cutting off circulation and causing stress.

The other problem is that old habits die hard, and so even though as you're reading this you're probably making yourself sit up straight, we both know you aren't going to keep that up for more than five minutes. It does seem, however, that there are real benefits to be had from making small changes.

So, next time you're hungover and on your way to lectures, straighten up and put a little spring in your step. You never know, it's free and it might just work.

What's your opinion? Response to articles can be left at: www.thecourieronline.co.uk

STRAIGHTEN UP

Slouching not only puts you in a bad mood, but could also lead to career issues Photo: College-Degrees360 (Flickr)

Walton Robinson launches new Chinese lettings bureau

By **Evgeniya Boykova**

The Newcastle estate agents Walton Robinson have set up a Chinese lettings bureau this autumn as part of their services.

Two new members of staff are hired to accommodate the growing client base of Chinese students in the city.

Newcastle University graduates Alice Lam, 27, and Qi Wang, 23, have been hired as part-time letting consultants to accommodate the growing client base of Chinese students in the city.

Alice is from Hong Kong and speaks English, Mandarin and Cantonese while Qi is from Beijing and speaks English and Mandarin.

Walton Robinson partner Jamie Hocking said the firm thought it right to recruit two new consultants that have knowledge of the cultural differences between China and the UK and the experience themselves of arriving in Newcastle to study and finding their way around.

"We will be able to offer a bespoke service to our Chinese clientele".

"We spend a lot of time helping students find accommodation, navigate their way around and generally settle in to Newcastle life.

"By recruiting Alice and Qi we will be able to offer a bespoke service to our Chinese clientele, in their native tongue and by young people who have been in their shoes."

Walton Robinson aims at tackling the significant cultural barriers between China and the UK to offer specialist expertise to their customers.

Both Alice and Qi provide more than lettings services in the clients' native language.

Their added benefit being they went through the relocating-for-university-experience themselves.

The consultants have an inside knowledge of the difficulties in the process and use it to help new tenants feel more looked after.

"We spend a lot of time helping students find accommodation, navigate their way around and generally settle in"

Alice Lam explains: "It can be daunting to make such a big move from home at such a young age; there are many cultural differences that can make organising aspects of your life that bit more difficult."

Alice also points out Newcastle's established and growing Chinese community – local Chinese supermarkets, places of worship and China Town for nights out.

There are the issues, however, of getting a UK mobile phone contract, installing internet access at home, and understanding how to pay bills. Things that are all very different than in China.

The UK Council for International Student Affairs reported that 17 per cent of the entire North East student population is international.

Walton Robinson was quick to notice a rise in the number of Chinese nationals looking for good quality accommodation in Newcastle.

Mr Hocking, partner at Walton Robinson, commented: "It's great to live in such a multicultural city and have so many international students attracted to studying here.

Newcastle is a wonderful place to live and study, and we want to make sure all of our customers experience that feeling from the minute they arrive here."

Swansea students warned over cheeky confessions affecting future job prospects

By **Ciaran McKenna**

Fears that students are jeopardising future job prospects has led to Swansea University warning its students not to contribute to its 'Uni confessions' Facebook page, threatening disciplinary action if recent trends continue.

This follows complaints from current and former students who believe that it may be doing irreparable damage to the University's standing among employers. Similar pages have surfaced on many social media outlets in the past few weeks causing controversy throughout the UK with Exeter University pressurising their anonymous creator to close the page, which they subsequently have.

Despite this, another page has been created without the university name and as such is exempt from its regulations.

Many students see the pages as harmless fun and have defended them citing freedom of speech as a justification. However in a statement released by Swansea Student Union president Tom Upton this is challenged.

"Students are sharing personal information (including explicit content) with an anonymous page administrator, who has no accountability.

"There is no evidence that the page administrator is even a fellow student.

"The Internet and social media are governed by laws relating to defamation and public order, and as a result, there is no such thing as absolute freedom of speech."

> "There is no such thing as absolute freedom of speech"

Part-time vacancies

Careers Service
where opportunities begin

Search vacancies online at: www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/vacsonline

Job Title: Male Personal Assistant
Employer: Disability North
Closing date: 16.11.2012
Salary: £8.00 per hour
Basic job description: A Male Personal Assistant is required to work 7 hours per week supporting a young man who has mental health needs. You will support him to develop skills and routines around daily living tasks such as shopping, food preparation and cleaning his flat. The aim is for him to be able to manage these tasks independently in the future. You will also be required to accompany him to the gym and train with him or attend other sporting interests, such as swimming or playing pool.
Person requirements: Knowledge and experience of working with people with mental health needs, good interpersonal skills and an understanding of the need to maintain boundaries would be an advantage. You will need to be reliable, trustworthy and flexible. Driving license and access to a car is also required.
Location: Newcastle upon Tyne.

Job Title: Jewellery Sales Representative
Employer: Eva London
Closing date: 28.11.2012
Salary: £7.00 per hour
Basic job description: We are recruiting sociable and organised sales reps to attend graduation events promoting unique jewellery to graduates and their guests. You will need to set up the stand, sell the jewellery and report back on sales at the end of the day. In particular we are looking for someone who is available on the 4th, 5th, and 6th of December to work at the University of Newcastle graduation ceremonies. We also have events throughout the year so please get in touch if this is of interest.
Person requirements: We are looking for people with enthusiasm, motivation and great interpersonal skills that can multitask and are comfortable working independently in a busy environment.
Location: Newcastle upon Tyne.

Job Title: Kitchen Staff
Employer: J.D. Wetherspoons
Closing date: 17.11.2012
Salary: £6.19 per hour + bonus
Basic job description: Kitchen Staff are required to work 16 hours per week at The Five Swans in Newcastle. As a member of our kitchen team, you will be responsible for ensuring all food and associated products are prepared, cooked, served and presented to our high standards.
Person requirements: With excellent customer service skills, you should be professional and well presented - able to communicate clearly with people at all levels. You should be a self-motivated team player able to work unsupervised in a busy environment. Conversational English is essential and you'll have to be confident, friendly and reliable to succeed with us.
Location: Newcastle upon Tyne.

Job Title: Sales Advisor
Employer: Karen Millen
Closing date: 15.11.2012
Salary: National Minimum Wage
Basic job description: A Sales Advisor is required to work 8 hours per week at the Karen Millen store in the Metrocentre, Gateshead. A big part of your role will be getting to know your customers, building relationships & offering expert stylist advice which fits perfectly with each customer's individual needs. Hours are mainly weekends & evenings, however applicants must be flexible.

Person requirements: This role is suited to somebody with previous retail experience who really cares about excellent sales service & possesses a love of luxury fashion. You will be a team player working to achieve exceptional personalised customer service, have a real interest in people & have superb communication skills to demonstrate your genuine passion for the Karen Millen brand.
Location: Gateshead.

Job Title: Sales Advisor
Employer: Mint Velvet – House of Fraser
Closing date: 16.11.2012
Salary: National Minimum Wage
Basic job description: A Sales Advisor is required to work 8 hours per week at the Mint Velvet concession within House of Fraser, Metrocentre. Duties will include stock replenishment, liaising with customers to create sales & meet targets, cash handling & merchandising. You will be working evenings and weekends.
Person requirements: Previous retail experience essential, along with excellent customer service & communication skills, and the ability to work within a team.
Location: Gateshead.

Job Title: Newcastle Work Experience - Data Development Testing
Employer: Gavurin Ltd
Closing date: 18.11.12
Salary: £600 bursary upon completion of placement
Basic job description: Gavurin Ltd develop online geographic intelligence software. Gavurin Ltd handle highly sensitive data and have a series of secure testing procedures associated with data input. They would like them formalised in their development environment and the results associated with an SQL Server database. Additionally, an attractive front end (GUI) requires development to allow those with appropriate access to test data.
Person requirements: This project will suit a stage 3 computing science student. Core skills include: Fundamental appreciation of object oriented development and testing with the ability to turn complex and technical information into plain English - a high level of English language is required. Core personal attributes include: Analytical, lateral thinking, tenacious in tackling problems, self disciplined, organised, deadline driven, team player, but comfortable working alone.
Location: Newcastle upon Tyne

Job Title: Newcastle Work Experience - Multimedia Resource Developer
Employer: e-Quality Learning
Closing date: 18.11.2012
Salary: £600 bursary upon completion of placement
Basic job description: e-Quality Learning provides software training on assistive technology products to help individuals of all ages overcome the challenges of dyslexia, visual impairments and other disabilities. This exciting and developing role will see you assist our current Developer with the planning and production of a range of multimedia resources. You will be writing scripts, organising voice overs, creating screen recordings along with a number of other creative tasks.
Person requirements: You must have excellent communication skills and a passion for technology. Experience using Adobe Creative Suite 5 or higher on an Apple computer is essential. You must possess excellent written English skills and be able to write clear instructions.
Location: South Tyneside.

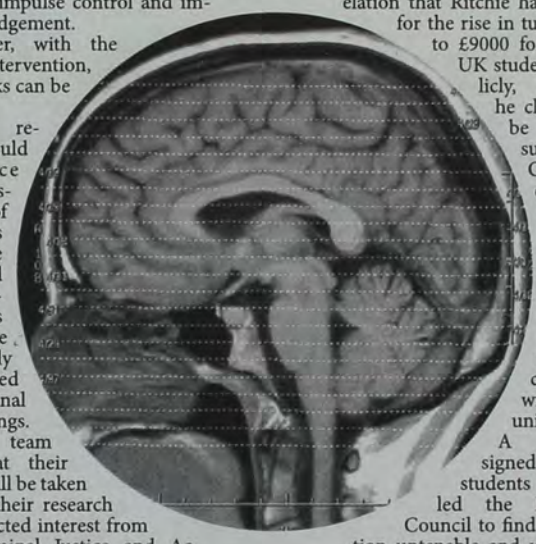
Job Title: Newcastle Work Experience - Feedback Research
Employer: Newcastle University
Closing date: 18.11.2012
Salary: £600 bursary upon completion of placement
Basic job description: This placement is based within the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE). The undergraduate student body has flagged "feedback" as an area in which we under-perform, and it is a matter of priority in the School that the experience of the student body in this area is addressed and corrected. Using our recent NSS scores as a basis, we would like the placement student to organise and hold focus groups, conducting market research with our current students on key issues surrounding feedback.
Person requirements: The placement is primarily about engagement and facilitating productive discussions so the successful candidate should be confident with excellent communication skills. The ability to interpret your findings and offer a professional presentation is also required.
Location: Newcastle upon Tyne.

Link between brain injuries and crime

University of Exeter

Research led by Exeter researchers has determined a link between brain injuries and an increased likelihood of criminal activity. The head injury might cause difficulties in relaying information correctly, which could result in reduced impulse control and impaired judgement.

However, with the right intervention, these risks can be offset.



The research could influence the prosecution of persons who have suffered such injuries as these are rarely considered in criminal proceedings.

The team hope hat their advice will be taken up and their research has attracted interest from the Criminal Justice and Acquired Brain Injury Interest Group.

Student President forced to resign

University of Strathclyde

Stuart Ritchie, the student president of Glasgow University has been forced to resign due to student pressure on campus and the Student Representative Council calling for him to give up his post. These protests came after the revelation that Ritchie had argued for the rise in tuition fees to £9000 for Rest of UK students. Publicly, however, he claimed to be against such fees.

On another occasion, he sought to exclude another council member from discussions within the university.

A petition signed by 576 students finally led the Executive Council to find his position untenable and was asked to resign.

Students vote to remove porn filter from uni PCs

Exeter College

The representative body for students at Exeter College has passed a motion calling for the removal of an internet filter that blocks 'pornographic' websites.

The motion pointed out that there were ways to circumvent the filter already and that the filter blocked websites needed by students for genuine research purposes. As examples students cited not being able to access a book called 'The Origins of Sex' and any material on 'Deep Throat' – a whistle-blower who uncovered the Watergate scandal.

Representatives further believe that students are adults who are able to make their own ethical judgements given that viewing pornography is not an illegal activity.

Move towards semester system inevitable

University of York

The University of York has stated that the change to the semester system away from a term system is not a question of if, but when.

The semester system would consist of two 15 week semesters instead of the three 10 week terms the University currently has.

These 15 week semesters would be broken down into 12 weeks of teaching followed by a three week assessment period.

Students have voiced concerns over the new system's impact on the academic performance due to longer periods without breaks as well as student experience.

Sabine Kucher

Photography: Ein86 / missy & the universe (Flickr)

Simply the breast

PREENED FOR PRIZES
Kim, Nicole and Cheryl scooped some of the evening's most sought after awards.

Illustration: Rosie Glasse

SUSIE BEEVER

Ladies, have you ever felt so inferior to the other half of society that our phenomenally-less-significant achievements simply merit a different level of recognition? Not to fret, a 'woman of the year award' seems to be just the right answer to this particularly sticky predicament.

A familiar phrase is brought to mind. 'Sexism! Here is some sexism I see!' said just about every woman in the world in her head, once.

Last week, fashion designer Anya Hindmarch was awarded champion of this new trend, where political correctness dresses up in 'a nice new frock' and goes to the awards. Elizabeth Windsor wasn't lagging too far behind, either, finding herself crowned 'Female icon of the year'. Which was nice, seeing as she's a little short of crowns at the moment, being the queen and that.

The idea behind the awards seems to be a form of merit to women 'working in a man's world'. Yet, if women have equal opportunities in the world of work these days, why is it we are refrained from competing at the same level as men? Are we naturally less intelligent, less able? Or is it that our girly brains are just too damn pink and frothy to even grasp the concept of private equity and the stock market? (Running into murky hypocritical territory here; what I know about finance I could just about fit onto a post-it note.)

> "Are we naturally less intelligent, less able?"

Potential 'women of the year' lining the red carpet last Wednesday, for the two separate ceremonies, hosted by the magazines *Harper's Bazaar* and *Cosmopolitan* were scrutinised by the press for what they were wearing, rather than saying or doing. Heaven knows what the papers would have talked about if female celebrities turned up in a polo neck. Their achievements, maybe? (This is by no means condoning polo necks, they're itchy, unflattering on the bust, and will always make you look like Tom Cruise.)

The point is, why segregate the sexes when it comes to ability and achievement? It's the equivalent of giving the girls in the classroom a dot-to-dot and painting-by-numbers assignment while the boys are struggling with simultaneous equations, or something they find even more taxing, personal hygiene, for instance. (Bit of inverted sexism here, definitely time I started wrapping things up.)

Women and men don't need to be divided into a class each of their own, if only the gents would just stop feeling so threatened by us and lumped us all into the same boat for a change.

To respond to this week's articles visit thecourieronline.co.uk/comment

Best Online Responses

Responses to: University education: right or privilege?

Luke Neal says:

This article basically argues that because the labour market 'doesn't need graduates' (which, besides being plainly untrue, is the wrong way of looking at the question), the taxpayer shouldn't fund education provision. For many, HE is perceived as a necessary step towards skilled employment; it is a method of bypassing the some of the structural inequalities of a society which is yet to rid itself of hereditary wealth and privilege. Moreover, many of the employment problems you describe are systemic, owing to a lack of investment in jobs over the last 30+ years.

True, "Having brains does not mean you should go to university." But having brains and being of a lower socio-economic background does not mean you should not even have the chance to continue studying, to broaden your horizons and opportunities in life. There is mounting evidence that the current fees system is deterring young people from HE, through the prospect of lifelong debt.

"Yet I still fail to see the basis for this idea that we are entitled to state-subsidised tertiary education, particularly when it is we who will benefit" – this is perhaps your most dangerous argument. You fail to appreciate education as a public good, the benefits of which are felt by all in society. For this reason you opt for the individualist model – students should fund their own education – rather than the rational collectivist option, in which we all fund social goods through progressive taxation.

Comment

Comment Editors: Georgina Moule and Laura Wotton
Online Comment Editor: Jennifer Evans
thecourieronline.co.uk/comment
courier.comment@ncl.ac.uk | @Courier_Comment

HELP OR HINDRANCE?

Britain has been a member of the European community since 1973
Image: Amio Cajander (Wikimedia)

Should Britain stay in the EU?

FAYE CHIVERS

YES

I'm sorry to break it to everyone, but the world-dominating, empire-building Britain of yesteryear is long gone, and probably for the best.

Yes, we're in a dire financial state and yes, if you asked people if they loved how Britain was now, they would probably say no. Is that the fault of the EU? Absolutely not.

It's simply too easy to play the blame game, instead of seeing national problems for what they are – national problems. Britain is first and foremost an independent state, and when the media throw about words like 'federation' and 'compromise', they're just scaremongering.

A popular Eurosceptic argument is that Britain doesn't get enough back for what we 'sacrifice' to be a part of the EU, but I have two big issues with this argument. Firstly, what exactly do people think we're sacrificing? Half of the supposedly nasty European initiatives that Parliament has to vote on only seem nasty because the idea came from Brussels and not London. Secondly, most people have no idea about how much we get back financially from the EU because the media likes to pretend that we're 'making it on our own.'

Admittedly, Britain receives proportionally less in direct funding than other member states, but this is because the British economy benefits significantly more from the EU markets than others, to the extent that in November 2011 alone, UK exports to the EU were worth £13.9 billion.

Let's not forget that by being part of the single market and the EU, British companies benefit from lower taxes and tariffs, and we benefit from free movement ourselves. I know, it's a shame not getting a stamp on your passport but it's a small price to pay for those cheap flights and shorter queues at passport control.

On top of this, judging 'how much money we get from the EU' is nearly impossible because it makes its way across the Channel in a hundred different ways. Perhaps the most interesting for us students is the investment the EU makes in education and research.

Since 2007 the European Commission has been setting up more and more funding, of which the UK has received about 15% (a huge percentage given that there are 27 members in the EU), and which adds up to about £3 billion. Of the 79,000 participants who have received money (universities, research organisations and businesses across Europe), 10,000 have been in the UK. So let's not pretend the EU gives nothing back – in fact, it's sending plenty of money our way.

There's one more massive initiative that as a language student would've changed my university experience significantly, which is of course the Erasmus programme.

Do people have any idea how much it costs to study abroad outside of the EU? Factor in the reduced or non-existent fees, the sizeable Erasmus grant that any fourth year language student will tell you is an absolute life-saver, the free movement between EU universities and the invaluable experience of being an Erasmus student – and it becomes clear that leaving the EU behind means leaving behind things we are unwilling to give up.

So, should Britain stay in the EU? Frankly, the idea of leaving is laughable.

JOHNNY FARRAR-BELL

NO

My Dad used to say 'the more you put in the more you get out, get stuck in' on the way back to school at the beginning of term.

Much is made of the extent to which our Olympic athletes had to put hard graft in training in order to stand a chance of winning a medal. Fifa players will also know how hours spent on practice mode honing free kicks can pay off when a goal down in the 90th minute.

This seems to stand fast in most of what we do, but not when talking about the EU, where it seems the more we put in the less we get in return. This is shown most clearly by financial imbalances in our EU budgetary contribution, much of which ends up being wasted.

> "Let's not continue to waste time with an institution that wastes our money"

For example in 2010 Britain contributed €12.1 Billion to the EU budget but only received €6.7 Billion in return, leaving us with a deficit of €5.4 Billion. This equated to a loss of around €90 per person. No small figure.

If we break the budget into its miniscule details –which is infinitely dull - what strikes me most is the fact that half of what the UK spent was on paying for the cost of regulation.

That is bureaucrats, committees, things such as the fact that every month the institution has to be packed onto lorries and moved from Brussels to Strasbourg. There is more, though, with 30% being spent on resource misallocation, such as our contribution to the Common Agricultural Policy, something which mainly benefits French dairy farmers.

There is much more wastage, such as the cost of regulation, but the most controversial, and well publicised by the Daily Mail, is our on-going immigration fiasco, where a huge number of jobs in Britain are being given to people from EU countries whose wage demands are lower. All this points to the fact that on an economic level there is a serious case for withdrawal.

But the impact of the EU is also a political and democratic issue. It is a matter of whether we want to have our elected parliament controlled by unelected officials in Brussels.

Whether we want to have our sovereignty continually eroded by treaty after treaty all of which we no longer have the right to veto. It is a question of whether we want our future decided by ourselves, or by people who have never been to Greggs.

No doubt there are positives of being a part of the EU, but the figures clearly show that it is not worth our while. Countries such as Norway and Switzerland have remained outside of the EU and have not suffered – we can do the same. Let's not continue to waste time with an institution that wastes our money!

Follow the Comment section on Twitter: @courier_comment

Memory of Savile erased

HARRIET SALE

Frankly, Jimmy Savile has escaped. Apart from the mass of shame that is now attached to a sheer connection to his name, Savile will not pay the penalty for his crimes.

The question the BBC now face is how to, if they can, fix his atrocities? What else can be done for the poor victims who have endured decades with such burdens? Can they ever have peace of mind?

The Courier's recent cover story (Disgraced Jimmy Erased from Great North Run History) showed the extent of actions throughout the whole country that are being taken to remove Savile from history. Now, the BBC have confirmed that they 'will no longer show Jimmy Savile presenting *Top Of The Pops* in program re-runs and that they will also carefully 'asses the editorial justification for any other Savile appearances.'

It is this decision that has split opinions. Some people believe that the popular culture, which Savile played a part in, helped shape the modern era; the musicians and music will go on and should not have to suffer as a consequence.

> "History is at times barbaric; there is not often a license to edit"

It is very sad if the repulsive behaviour of one man ruins the reputation of such a great programme as *Top Of The Pops*.

However after evidence of the presenter molesting a girl on a live programme, the show only brings more scandal. But it can be argued that history is at times barbaric; there is not often a license to edit.

On the contrary, victims and the general public alike should have the assurance and solace that Jimmy Savile will no longer haunt our televisions.

In the present circumstances the BBC must prove that they have taken every possible action in an attempt to resurrect the dishonour that has been brought on individuals and indeed the BBC.

I do not believe that they are trying to pull a blanket over the shame of the situation by editing the *TOTP* presenter out; the BBC are taking immediate measures, as they have to in such a public scandal as there will never be a clear solution or resolution.

Really, we cannot rewrite history and the national disgrace that is Jimmy Savile will not be forgotten.

Yet hopefully by stripping him of all honour the victims can have the slightest feeling of consolation.

To respond to this week's articles visit thecourieronline.co.uk/comment

REMOVED The BBC has stopped showing archive footage featuring Savile Image: Oxyman (Wikimedia)

Come out to play

ADAM LAMBERT

School sports days, twice weekly P.E lessons and Saturday sports clubs. It's fair to say, sport plays a big role in the education system.

That's all well and good if you were the sporty one; I however, was not that child. I vividly remember year 7 rugby lessons, and the all too strict P.E teacher. Lining up on the sodden field about to pick teams, wearing cast off football studs and sporting a stomach to rival that of Homer Simpson, it's no surprise I was the last picked.

> "It's in my head that the people in sports clubs are those same kids that picked me last"

Team sports rarely felt inclusive and that's why I hardly find it surprising that LGBT students find sports clubs 'unwelcoming'. After reading last weeks article in *The Courier*, I questioned my own involvement in sports (or lack thereof), and whether it's as a result of sports clubs being 'unwelcoming', or my own fears and prejudices. When I think back to the Freshers' fair, I subscribed to as many of the mailing lists as possible all with the best of intentions, and perhaps to get a look at the swimmers, but never joined. Why? The teams wanted as many people to sign up as possible, so I doubt it's the fact they were 'unwelcoming'.

It's in my head that the people in sports clubs are those same kids from school that picked me last and sighed when I joined their team and assured imminent failure for all.

However true or untrue that is, it's the view I have of sport because of my past experiences.

It's undoubtedly a view shared within the LGBT community as according to last weeks article, 46.8% of LGBT students find the culture surrounding university sport "alienating or unwelcoming".

While it's true there have been milestones regarding homophobia in sport, most famously Gareth Thomas becoming the first openly gay rugby player, headlines like "Footballers refuse to appear in FA's anti-homophobia video 'because they fear ridicule" from the *Daily Mail* are still hitting the stands. I'd argue we've still got a way to go.

Playing the victim is all too easy. I need to look at my own prejudgment; my view of what sports clubs are like is based solely on my past experience, so how can I form an opinion of University sports? We need to let go of our own prejudices before we demand that others let go of theirs.

Got an opinion you want to share? Come along to our meetings: Mondays 3pm in the History Room on Level 1 of the Students' Union

"Not really, but then I love Christmas. I'm like Santa's son, It can't come early enough for me."
Jamie Rubie,1st Year Economics

"It depends. Fenwicks display was up far too early. It hadn't even been Halloween yet!"
Becky Chadwick, 3rd Year Zoology

"Christmas comes to the high street too early, and it ruins its magic."
George Sandeman, 3rd Year Politics

"Winter is like a chesty cough that you get from too many nights out. Christmas is like a tablespoon of cough medicine when you wake up."
Georgie Hextall, 1st Year Combined Honours

"No, not at all. I like Christmas. It's an exciting happy time."
Tim Lamb, 3rd Year Chemical Engineering

COMMENT ON CAMPUS

In a brand new feature, *The Courier* went out on campus to ask students:

Does Christmas come too early?

"It does come too early, and it is too commercialised but I love it anyway. It definitely cheers people up"
Georgie Rice, 2nd Year Modern Languages

"Yes but I'm not complaining! I'm an international student, so I think it's awesome."
Larika Desai, 1st Year Architecture

"Things shouldn't be in shops before Halloween. That's just wrong. Let me celebrate my festivities individually!"
Genna Stainforth, 2nd Year Modern Languages

"Yes it does. I think it's inappropriate for it to start this early, and it takes from the true nature of Christmas."
Sally Priddle, International Relations MA

"Winter is so depressing that you need a splash of over-commercialism to get you through the dark months."
Rosie Glasse, 2nd Year Psychology

"I love the build up to Christmas, I think it's better than the actual day"
Nick Gabriel, 3rd Year Geography

"Yes it does, the lights in Fenwicks in October? That's obscene. The only plus is the arrival of Festive bakes in Greggs."
Ralph Blackburn, 3rd Year History

Cameron should reveal his texts to Rebekah Brooks

JAMES TITLEY

David Cameron has again come under increasing pressure to release more messages between himself and the former News International chief executive Rebekah Brooks.

On October 17th Labour MP Chris Bryant accused the Prime Minister of withholding information, claiming Cameron had a whole "stash" of "salacious" and "embarrassing" messages between himself and Brooks. To make matters worse, on November 4th new text messages emerged revealing how Brooks "cried twice" during his party conference speech in 2010, and that she looked forward to "working together" in the future.

So do these new revelations warrant a need for more messages to be released? Since the fallout from the News of the World phone hacking scandal, the Prime Minister's relationship with Rebekah Brooks has come under increasing scrutiny. From what we know Cameron has attended numerous functions hosted by the Brooks family, and visited their county house on a number of occasions too. The two are also reported to have exchanged a total of 150 personal messages.

Whilst these details are clearly an embarrassment to Downing Street, this practice is hardly uncommon for British Prime Ministers. For the past two decades Conservative and Labour Party leaders have both attempted to maintain warm relations with News International. One only has to look at Tony Blair, who just last year was revealed to be the godfather of Rupert Murdoch's two youngest daughters.

Granted, it is unfair to single out David Cameron for his conduct when so many politicians before him have behaved in the same manner. Nevertheless, these latest messages seem to paint a far murkier picture of the Brooks-Cameron relationship.

> "Surely the phrase "working together" must concern us all"

In a country where the press and the government are meant to be separate, surely the phrase "working together" must concern us all. Inevitably Rebekah Brooks will claim this message to be nothing more than a flippant remark; whatever her excuse, I still struggle to see how her words can be null of danger when it involves the CEO of a media empire and the current Prime Minister of the UK. If the Leveson Inquiry is to conduct an honest investigation into media ethics, especially the relationship between political parties and newspapers, then the most recent messages may have to be taken into account as well.

Media moguls have already gained an alarming amount of political influence in Britain; Rupert Murdoch and News International hold a lot of sway in general elections, and Murdoch has an alarming level of access to our political leaders.

Alistair Campbell even claims Murdoch tried to pressurize Tony Blair into accelerating Britain's involvement in the Iraq war. In a democracy it is surely unjust that businessmen like Murdoch should hold such influence over our politicians when it is we who elect them.

In the case of Rebekah Brooks, no one can truly determine what her statement implied. None the less, even if it gives the slightest hint of potential collusion between News International and Downing Street, surely that is enough of a warrant for Cameron to publish all messages of correspondence.

TEXTS Critics have called for texts between Cameron and Brooks to be revealed Image: Alton (Wikimedia)

Emails in response to articles should be sent to courier.comment@ncl.ac.uk

LYDIA CARROLL ON THE BLOG

#5 - Surprise! Rape is rape

It's been a really great year for rape, hasn't it? We've seen the invention of many, many entirely new ways to get raped.

We've had: 'emergency rape' (Linda MacMahon),'forcible rape' (Todd Akin, and friends), 'legitimate rape' (Todd Akin again), 'honest rape' (Ron Paul), and even some 'bad sexual etiquette' (our very own George Galloway).

Hm. Looks like if I've learnt anything from the recent US election campaigns it's that rape just isn't what it used to be. There must exist somewhere a kind of Republican 'insane manifesto of things to say about rape' book, with an increasingly bent and weathered spine.

To give you that quote of the year again, Todd Akin claimed that pregnancy from rape was "really rare" because "if it's a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down". This is 1) completely incorrect; 2) implies that there exists 'illegitimate rape'. It also insensitively implies women who have become pregnant as a result of rape were just, in fact, liars.

Now like Todd here, I'm not an expert in anatomy, but it seems what happened was that Todd's male body shut his brain down – just shut that whole thing down - several seconds before this statement left his mouth. Somewhat predictably, this statement threw a large spanner into his campaign machine.

Enter 'Todd Akin' into Google and immediately the first suggested results are all 'comments', 'rape comments', 'legitimate rape' and 'mental' (might have imagined that last one, through a red mist of rage).

The invention of all these qualifiers seems to imply that rape is only rape when the specific circumstances conform to the politician's preconceptions about what a rape should be. Like, preferably in the dark, with a stranger and a virgin and stuff. Nuances in the law already allow for different prison sentences depending on the severity of the crime. What the recent spate of comments seems to imply is not that some types of rape are worse than others, but rather what factors other than consent define a rape. When consent - and the capacity of the victim to give it - is really the only defining factor in the ever fun game of 'Is It A Rape'?

Obviously if I got angry about all the things politicians said I would just pace my house all day, fuming. But if you're particularly brave and want to make me really angry you could try to defy the law given definition of rape altogether. Geroge Galloway, an honest to God MP, recently commented on that time Julian Assange was accused of having sex with that woman who was, you know, *asleep*. He described the incident not as rape - even though the woman would have no capacity to consent at the time – but just 'bad sexual etiquette'. George! Bad sexual etiquette is telling someone, mid coitus, that they're 'really quite fat for a thin girl', or 'you taste weird – kind of bad, like an old pie'.

It's something that would, I assume, happen *after* consent had been given to be in a sexual situation in the first place. Falling asleep next to someone does not constitute consent. Example: I fell asleep on a guy on a plane once, and nothing happened, nothing at all, even after I did an alluring drool on his nice blazer. Or perhaps he was just a decent guy. Still, narrow escape, eh?

Conor 'ave a go if you think you're Maynard enough

Before his show at O2 Academy, **Jack Thomas** sat down with the supposed 'British Bieber' and talked about his collaboration with SuBo, Frank Ocean's coming out and that illustrious Nandos 'black card'

Not quite fitting the profile, that profile being pre-pubescent teenage girls proudly sporting 'I Love Conor' t-shirts, I walked by the queue of eager 'Mayniacs' on my way to meet up with the man himself. Much to the envy of those in the queue, who were 3 hours early and bombarding me with twitter addresses to pass onto him, a steward jokingly announced me as his cousin, which was met with a chorus of shrieks and numerous requests to have my photo taken. Wow. If his 'cousin' were to get this reception, God only knows what they'd have done if Conor had casually popped out for some fresh air. Who was this man they were so enamoured with? I was intrigued to meet him.

I asked how it all began. How had he gone from covering songs on YouTube to signing a record deal? "It didn't suddenly happen or anything. I first started doing covers when I was about 16 and I signed a record deal just before I was 18. So I'd been doing the covers for about a year, but it was a cover of 'OMG' by Usher. For some reason it blew up and got like 100,000 views."

"Next time I did a cover of 'Beautiful Monster' by Ne-Yo and that one hit one million views. I started to get an online following, and carried on doing more covers then after that, I got a phone call from someone claiming to be Ne-Yo's manager and he said, 'Ne-Yo's seen your video of 'Beautiful Monster' and he wants to sign you and work with you.'"

He touched on how sceptical he had been at first, "I didn't really believe it at first but I went with it, and then he was like 'we need to fly you over to America' and I was like OK, it's getting a bit too much now; I don't mean to be rude but is there any way you can actually prove you know Ne-Yo, like I haven't heard from Ne-Yo. So after that I ended up sitting up on Skype with Ne-Yo talking about music. It was crazy".

Pictures, Conor's debut album, sees a number of collaborations with the likes of Rita Ora and Ne-Yo; while the album itself is written by another artist, Frank Ocean. Conor was quick to point out how much of a fan of Ocean's he was, "I think he's probably my favourite artist right now. His *Channel Orange* album has been insane. Yeah I think working with him was a really, really cool thing to do. He's definitely one of the names I'm proud of having written on the album".

Ocean recently announced that he was bisexual, an honourable move considering the stigma attached to homosexuality in urban music. Conor commented, "Yeah, that was an extremely brave thing to do. He's one of the only hip hop artists to really come out and do that. I think for me, it doesn't take anything away from his music. He's an incredible musician and I don't really see why people are so shocked about it, it's just the modern day we're in".

It had been reported, that Maynard had shown a desire to collaborate with Susan Boyle at some point in his career! An unlikely duo, I know. He clarified things for me, "Ha. Yeah I think there was an interview I did where I was like yeah let's think outside the box. I think if we did do that it would be one of the weirdest songs I've ever heard, I dunno if it would really fit, but you know if we had a song that really worked together then yeah why not, let's do it".

When quizzed on any other desirable collabora-

"If I could get stuck in a lift with [Mila Kunis] I would not mind what so ever. Oh my god!"

tion's, he revealed that there were two artists he'd love to work with, "I'd love to collaborate with Drake! I love his music and think he's a great song writer. Someone who's slightly different but equally as amazing, John Mayer. If I could work with him that'd be cool".

I gave Conor a proposition, if he could spend an hour in a lift with anyone, who would he choose? He answered swiftly, "Probably Mila Kunis. If I could get stuck in a lift with her I would not mind whatsoever. Oh my god." Sticking on the subject of girls, we talked about the selection process behind choosing the renowned 'Vegas girl', "there was like loads of different girls who auditioned for the role. I saw the final 8 on screen, and then there was three we couldn't choose from, so we met the final three. The manager didn't tell me I had to meet all three in the same room, at the same time. It was pretty awkward". Personally, I could certainly think of worse positions to be in.

Obviously Conor receives a lot of attention from female fans, I pressed him on whether he'd ever date a fan, "yeah, I think if I met someone who I connected with and they were a fan of my music that wouldn't really stop me, so yeah I suppose I would do".

Talk then moved, in stereotypical alpha male fashion, from girls to food. Conor made admission to his love for Nandos, and laughed about how he'd "actually just had one". I quizzed him on whether he'd joined the likes of Jay-Z and Ed Sheeran and bagged himself the illustrious 'Nandos Black card'. He proudly answered, "Yeah ha, I've reached the pinnacle of my career. I did a gig for them and then I did a thing with them and Google". Free Nandos for Conor!

I was intrigued to discover what celebrity circles the nineteen year old found himself in, so I asked him to reveal his best two phone numbers; he sighed as if he was struggling to narrow it down, "Erm, wow. I've got Neyo's number. Niall from One Direction. Rita Ora, Tom Daley. So yeah those four, choose from those four".

He struck me as a man who enjoyed a spot of reality TV, however he was quite the opposite, we discussed local hit show *Geordie Shore*; "I don't watch it. In my place I didn't have TV for a month, It didn't work (laughs). So I couldn't watch any TV. That kinda sucked. But everyone keeps asking me, so I'm gonna have to catch up". I then probed him on whether he'd like to become a judge on *The Voice*, given rumours suggesting he would; he commented, "I think it'd be fun, you know, the *X Factor* or *The Voice*. I think judging it would be a cool thing. I think sometimes it's good to get feedback from an artist, you know someone who's been up there and done it before".

So what would he be doing now if he'd never started singing; Conor had completed his AS levels before getting signed by EMI. He studied Geography, Music Technology, Drama, Media Studies and I.T. "I'd have probably gone to Uni. I think I've definitely missed out a bit not going to Uni. I would have definitely enjoyed doing that."

"I think it'd be fun, you know, *The X Factor* or *The Voice*. I think judging it would be a cool thing. I think sometimes it's good to get feedback from an artist, you know someone who's been up there and done it before"

He Can't Say No

We put Conor through his paces with a quick fire quiz. Questions, questions, questions, he just can't say no!

Kate or Pippa?
Kate… oh wait Pippa's the sister right? Oh yeah, yeah. Pippa.

Noel or Liam?
Noel.

Bum or boobs?
Bum or boobs? Oh fuck, that's really hard. Both!

Blonde or brunette?
Brunette.

The Saturdays or Little Mix?
Little Mix.

X Factor or The Voice?
X Factor's on right now, so I'll say that.

Kylie or Danni?
Kylie.

Eminem or Jay-Z?
Oh fucking hell. Shit. They're both amazing, I can't even try and do that. Erm, depends what mood I'm in.

L.A or Brighton?
Brighton.

Conor Maynard

O2 Academy, Newcastle

Tuesday 6 November

Let's start with the support: Brighton born Casanova, who's drawn dubious comparisons to pop parasite Bieber, appeared more reminiscent of another Justin: Timberlake, before he ditched catchy love songs for on screen flings with Mila Kunis anyway. A career path Maynard would much love to replicate, judging by his interview. The occasional lyrical faux pas is the only thing bearing resemblance to his pre-pubescent counterpart, Bieber, 'peel my banana' being far too sexually geared for an audience who, for the most part, look like they still have bedtime curfews. Perhaps he was just stressing the importance of their five a day; I'm not one to judge.

Despite a splashing of mainstream tongue 'n' cheek, there's a subtle undercurrent of musical prowess creeping through as he plays out his album, *Contrast*. Dabbles of engineered dubstep, and vocals with impressive range and depth, set him streets ahead of fellow teen pin ups. Collaborations with Frank Ocean and Rita Ora give credible substance, whilst his chart hits go down a treat with the hordes of admiring onlookers, with the exemption of the parents accompanying their children, who looked to the bar for some consolation. Highlights were the acoustic covers of 'Starships' and 'Diamonds'; two upbeat, chart, crowd-pleasers that he slowed and gave a really edgy dimension too. Essentially, back to what had served him so effectively in the past.

"Dabbles of engineered dubstep, and vocals with impressive range and depth, set him streaks ahead of fellow teen pin ups."

Wow. I nearly forgot his supporting acts, who were entertaining, but for all the wrong reasons. PW, at least I think that's what he called himself, had some stage presence but little else. One song entailed him repeating 'swag' for a good 40 seconds. Not forgetting the endorsement of his Twitter after every song. He was bearable, but I'm really surprised fans stuck around, when PW introduced the next support act, Starboy Nathan. Admittedly I had heard of his name before, probably because it sounded just as fucking stupid then as it does now. It suited him. At one point he asked his audience, if there were any 'single ladies'; then followed up by asking, I quote, 'Is there any single ladies that wanna come my room make some noise'. No, Nathan. Just no. You're 26 and most of the crowd still believe in Father Christmas.

Jack Thomas

Marathon Man

Just how much pop cultural gluttony can one man take? ***Features Editor*** **Tom Nicholson** steels himself to take on the Tyneside cinema's near-legendary 14-hour-long all-night cult film marathon

Earlier this year, the Tyneside cinema on Pilgrim Street hosted an extravaganza of cult classics at the eminently reasonable price of 75p per ticket in celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of its opening. Unsurprisingly, the magic combo of great films, massive comfy seats and a beautifully-restored theatre setting made it a massive success. When the second all-nighter was announced - subtitled *The Revenge* - I took it as a personal challenge to my pride to make it through the whole shebang. After a preparatory 3-hour nap, I met *Editor* **Ben Travis** and **Jack Gelsthorpe** for a coffee and headed into the cinema to face the ultimate test of our fortitude, our friendship and film fandom...

10:30pm: *The Room*

If you're not familiar with *The Room*, I'll attempt to explain: it was written by, produced by, directed by and stars a mysterious auteur named Tommy Wiseau and is in essence about an immensely destructive love triangle. That's where the comparisons with normal cinema end. It's riddled with continuity errors, characters who enter and leave without any explanation or even names in some cases, and bits that are just batshit mental. The characters make a drink which is half whisky and half vodka. The main set features a framed picture of a spoon in the background whose every appearance is greeted by a maelstrom of plastic spoons given out by Tyneside staff and thrown by the audience. I'd been wanting to see the so-called "*Citizen Kane* of bad films" for some time since hearing about the raucous audience participation which accompanies screenings, and I was not disappointed. Various wags offered their thoughts freely: "THA'S BOLLICKS, LAYK!" shouted one following a transparently false declaration of love; "GERRIM TELL'T, PET", yells another as a suitor is rebuffed. The hideously unsexy slow jams which soundtrack the gratuitous and repeated shots of Wiseau thrusting his sinewy backside at his unfortunate leading lady prompted mass clap-alongs, each pump accompanied by a collective "URGH". The world of *The Room* is wonderfully absurd and almost impossible to resist. I floated out of the room on a cushion of joy, then realised I was on my own for an hour before Ben and Jack got out of *The Big Lebowski*. Happily the Tyneside's collection of old newsreels playing on a loop was more than interesting enough to pass the time, though after watching the *Hindenburg* crash for the twelfth time I was getting a bit morose.

12:30am: Fresh as a daisy.

3am: Starting to feel the strain.

1:20am: *Mad Max*

Having never seen Mel Gibson's opus, I was concerned that being a little way off top form I'd struggle to make the most of it. In actuality, I could have spent the previous eight hours in the land of nod before a refreshing dip in a woodland stream and six cups of coffee and it wouldn't have made any more bloody sense. The total lack of any narrative structure for the first twenty minutes did nothing for our attention spans, especially since Jack seemed to be on the verge of mental collapse already – a shot of a baby falling over incapacitated him with giggles for a good four or five minutes. Sadly, Mad Max isn't just two hours of babies falling over. There's quite a lot of rape, murder, car crashes, amputations (Mel's wife appears to have the entire left side of her body amputated), and very tight leather trousers. The baby falling over was really quite misleading. For shame, falling baby. For shame.

3:15am: *The Thing*

Charging on through the disorientation of *Mad Max*, all three of us were buzzing for *The Thing*. Another film we hadn't seen, we figured that a dose of body horror would provide the sharp slap in the face we desperately needed. In the event, *The Thing* didn't just slap us about a bit, it got us in a headlock, smashed our noses to bits on its knee and made us beg for mercy. John Carpenter's seminal body-horror was, again, a film we'd not seen, notwithstanding a fabulous reconstruction starring Pingu on YouTube. Basically, an alien with the ability to imitate any living thing turns up at an Arctic research station and Kurt Russell gets a bit flamethrower-happy in the ensuing mêlée. It was very enjoyable indeed, though half four in the morning is probably not the ideal time to see a man have his forearms bitten off by a mouth which suddenly appears in his mate's stomach. We needed a bit of a sit down afterwards, so after leaving Jack to watch *Highlander* (which he picked because he liked sound of the title), we repaired to the Tyneside's bar for a swift pick-me-up and chatted to some fellow all-nighters soothing their post-*The Thing* trauma with a showing of *The Muppets*. Clearly seasoned pros of this sort of thing, they'd brought in bags of food, duvets and pillows. By comparison, Ben and I looked like those people you hear about who attempt to scale Kilimanjaro while wearing P.E. shorts and necking Stella.

5:13am: A nice lady saw me yawning and gave me a satsuma. The satsuma did not help me stay awake.

"FREEDOM!": Jack's memories of *Highlander*

"I thought it was going to be about an angry Scotsman, like *Braveheart*, but it turned out that I brought my war paint for nothing. It had much more time travelling in than I expected. I fell asleep for a bit and when I came to, Sean Connery was in a conquistador outfit in the highlands. I was immensely confused by the whole experience."

5:20am: *Drive*

Our new pals accompanied us to *Drive*, starring Ryan Gosling's Perfect Cheekbones. I'd forgotten quite how brutally violent it is; the crunching of a man's skull while Gosling jumped up and down on it like he was trying to launch a particularly stubborn stomp rocket was far too much to bear at half past seven in the morning. As a rule, I don't like to hear craniums cracking before lunch. It sends me a bit squiffy. It's the kind of film which makes much, much more sense late at night, and hearing the staggeringly good soundtrack on a massive sound system was worth the price of the ticket on its own. I spied Ben drifting off into a light doze before a sudden burst of gunfire brought him abruptly back to consciousness. Funny as this was, the only reason I didn't join him was that I couldn't take me eyes of Gosling. I don't think I blinked for two hours. As we came out, I noticed a helpful sign on the wall advising that having a quick nap on the premises was perfectly acceptable, but to try to "find a spot where people aren't likely to fall over you". I settled down in a deserted corridor and tried to drift off. When I did actually drift off I fell sideways and whacked my face on a radiator.

8:15am: I had aged thirty years in the previous six hours.

8:30am: *Ghost in the Shell*

By this point the adverts before the films became unbearable. Kevin Bacon's advert for some 4G phone company was the worst: by this point the four puns he makes about bacon had merged so far that it felt like every other word was bacon. "Hi, I'm Kevin Bacon, and if you want a bacon slice of the bacon bacon you can sign bacon up to bacon the new 4G baconbaconbaconbaconbaconbaconbacon..." His awful impression of Frank Carson was getting on my tits too. He sounded more like Dot Cotton. When the film itself started I had every intention of seeing it through, but within ten minutes I found myself slumped deep down in my seat. I looked to my right and made eye contact with another all-nighter in a state of physical weariness and mental dishevelment. We nodded at each other and snuggled down into our respective coats for some shut-eye. I was awakened about twenty minutes later by an enormous crash and the sight of a naked woman android exploding and waggling her robotic stumps about alarmingly. I must have missed an important plot point or two because the rest of the film made little to no sense. From what I could piece together, it seems that the robots were becoming sentient and as a direct consequence they took all their clothes off and shot each other. My faculties of logic and reason were impaired somewhat by this point.

10:30am: Defeated. Hold me, Daniel.

10:30am: *2001: A Space Odyssey*

Meeting up outside the bar, I asked Ben how he enjoyed *Spaceballs*. "It was terrible," he said, close to tears. I could empathise; *Ghost in the Shell* had snapped something in my brain. I was hungry, I was tired – I was grateful to manage thirty seconds nap in front of a huge cardboard cut-out of Daniel Craig – and I was convinced Kevin fucking Bacon was following me everywhere. Ben was still hopeful of trudging manfully through *2001: A Space Odyssey*, but on seeing the 150-minute running time, his resolve began to crumble. Mine was already in ruins. Perhaps the final straw for me was a grim moment of clarity when I saw a homeless woman shuffling past the front doors and wondered how she had come to such a low ebb in her life; she turned and looked at me in almost exactly the same way. "I need to go to bed, Ben", I said, stifling a sob. We looked at each other and we both knew we'd come as far as we possibly could. Staggering out into the blinding autumnal sunlight, the pair of us were muted. "Where's Jack gone?" I asked, remembering it had been a good three hours since I'd seen him. "I really want some coco pops", said Ben.

The all-nighter had defeated us, but we will return. Also, if anyone has any information relating to the whereabouts of Jack Gelsthorpe, please get in touch. He was last seen painting his face blue and attempting to source a kilt.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Stock up on food beforehand
- Don't grab coffee too early or you'll crash
- Dodge the bacon adverts bacon bacon
- Do the more difficult, thinky films sooner rather than later
- Finish on a comedy

Check out the latest film listings, upcoming special events and free screenings in the bar on the Tyneside Cinema website at www.tynesidecinema.co.uk.

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TYNESIDE CINEMA

Style swap shop

Are our perceptions of how the opposite sex should dress spot on, or slightly off the mark? Four of our fashion writers set out to find the answer

Josh styles Amy

Vest: £10, eBay
Disco Pants: £74, American Apparel
Shoes: £60-£70, Jeffery Campbell via eBay

Amy's verdict: 7/10

"When I opened Josh's wardrobe, I was pleasantly surprised by the fact he probably owns more clothes than me" - Amy

Josh on choosing Amy's outfit:

Considering fashion is the last thing on my mind, I initially thought this was going to be a laborious task, but once I got into the swing of things I found myself (worryingly) having fun. Since I'm the sort of guy who doesn't know his Topshop from his River Island, I decided to dress Amy in a band vest and some legging type things which I'm assured are called disco pants. Far from being an educated choice, I managed to come across some shoes which looked expensive and relatively appropriate to the rest of the outfit. I think the outfit I chose for Amy would probably be put down as a bit informal, but considering that she'd probably have her head down a toilet most of the night anyway, it's probably for the best.

Amy's verdict:

I would probably be more likely to wear the outfit Josh has chosen me for a shopping trip or casual drinks, not for a 'proper' night out. It surprised me when Josh picked out the disco pants and heels though, I honestly thought he'd hand me a pair of jeans and some converse. If he'd changed the band shirt to a more 'dressy' top, I would definitely wear this on a night out!

Amy styles Josh

Jeans: £36, Topman
Shirt: £6, Criminal Damage via eBay
Belt: £14, Levi

Josh's verdict: 7/10

"I found myself (worryingly) having fun" - Josh

Amy on choosing Josh's outfit:

I always think boys have it easy when dressing for a night out; chuck on a t-shirt and jeans and you're done. However, when I opened Josh's wardrobe, I was pleasantly surprised by the fact he probably owns more clothes than me, even if the majority of them were shirts and skinny jeans in an array of different styles and colours. I decided on a red checked shirt, not too formal and perfect for a night out, especially with those drunken walks home to contend with, as it's still on the warm side. I was quite limited when choosing Josh's jeans. His wardrobe only consisted of various colours of the same pair, so I went for a grey colour to compliment the red shirt.

Josh's verdict:

The outfit that Amy chose for me is something that I would usually wear on a night out. I'll most likely be wearing it this Friday if I'm being honest. The only thing I would change would be to have worn an oversized band t-shirt underneath.

The Couple

Amy O'Rourke & Josh Hummertson dress for a night out

Tom styles Kathy

Dress: £29.99, River Island
Jacket: £59.99, Zara
Shoes: £42, Miss Selfridge
Tights: £3.50, M&S
Clutch: A present from my brother
Bracelet: Pandora

Kathy's verdict: 8/10

"I really like the thought that he put into choosing the outfit" - Kathy

Tom on choosing Kathy's outfit:

I chose this outfit for Kathy because I prefer girls to have a sophisticated, appealing look, especially on a first date - that's how you know she's a keeper. I also think it's important for a girl to be able to know how to dress for an occasion (like Kate Middleton). Basically, don't turn up to the cinema in heels, but don't think it's a good idea to rock your Converse on Osborne Road either. I'd seen Kathy in the dress before and knew it was flattering, so that's why I chose it.

Kathy's verdict:

It's probably not what I'd choose for myself for a first date but I really like the thought that he put into choosing the outfit. It was really lovely that he went into detail. He chose my jewellery, told me the best way to wear my hair and how to do my make-up. To be perfectly honest I'm just glad he didn't put me in a body-con dress and ballet pumps.

The Best Friends

Kathy Davison & Tom Nicholson dress for a first date

Kathy styles Tom

Jumper: £16, Retro
Jeans: £18, Retro
Shoes: £60, Footlocker

Tom's verdict: 10/10

"I think Kathy picked the perfect outfit, but that's to be expected considering we're such BFFs!" - Tom

Kathy on choosing Tom's outfit:

I chose this jumper for Tom because I think the colour really suits him and cable-knit is really on trend. It looks smart, but not too over the top, so it's a good alternative to a plain, old t-shirt. Black jeans are always a safe bet as they go with everything and still manage to look fairly smart, which is important on a first date. His trainers keep things casual, but as they are black they don't look scruffy.

Tom's verdict:

This outfit is definitely something I'd wear on a first date, Kathy got it just right. I agree that it's not too smart, but it still looks like I've made some sort of effort. Another bonus is that it's practical, which is something I would've never considered when putting an outfit together for a date, so Kathy obviously knows me better than I know myself! Overall, I think Kathy picked the perfect outfit, but that's to be expected considering we're such BFFs!

The Course-mates

Georgina Grant & Jack Gelsthorpe dress for drinks with friends

Jack styles Georgina

Top: £15, H&M
Jeans: £9, Primark
Brogues: £50, Clarks

Georgina's verdict: 7/10

Jack on choosing Georgina's outfit:

I feel that I need to say straight away that I am not a fashionable person by any stretch of the imagination and this is probably the first time that the word fashion and my name have ever been in the same sentence. Ever since I found out that I was doing this feature I have woken up every night at 3am with cold sweats, imagining the disgust on Georgina's face when I accidentally try and dress her up in pyjamas because they looked so comfortable. Anyway, I gave it a good go and bumbled around looking through her clothes pretending to know what everything was. I chose a pretty top, however Georgina did say she would have to wear something underneath it as it was see through. The concept of a see-through top still vexes me greatly. I thought her trousers matched well with the top and I think the shoes worked well too; I liked the style of them. Overall, I think she looked lovely and definitely looked like she was going out for casual drinks with friends. The outfit was very simple yet fashionable in my eyes, and it 'worked' (I think that's the correct use of the word).

Georgina's verdict:

I think Jack did well to choose anything from the massive heap of clothing I set aside for this challenge! After having to explain some items of my clothing to him, as apparently 'skirts don't always look like skirts', I'm starting to see why some men dislike fashion. Things were starting to look good when he picked out my black skinny jeans, a delicate floaty top and a pair of brogues. I love all of these items, but sorry Jack, I wouldn't really pair them all together. The black jeans seem too dark with the light pink top, and I would have played up the brogues with a more preppy style. But I'm being really picky, and all in all, Jack did a solid job picking out clothes for casual drinks.

Georgina styles Jack

Shirt: £20, ASOS
Trousers: £15, H&M
Shoes: £9, Primark
Belt: £15, Topman
Watch: £30, Superdry

Jack's verdict: 9/10

Georgina on choosing Jack's outfit:

I like clothing to be on the smarter side, so even though I was dressing Jack for a few casual drinks, I chose a shirt rather than a t-shirt. On guys I think you can't go wrong with a checked shirt and jeans. I have a bit of a weird thing about men's shoes though, as it's the first thing I'll notice about what a guy is wearing, so was relieved to see that Jack had a nice pair of brown desert boots which I teamed with the rest of the outfit. I found dressing Jack pretty easy, either because I have two brothers, or because Jack has lots of checked shirts which easily go with anything.

Jack's verdict:

I had great faith in Georgina and she basically chose all my favourite clothes, so I feel that my faith in her was most certainly rewarded! She chose my favourite shirt straight away out of the massive pile of chequered shirts I own and then she went straight for my favourite shoes (well, I only gave her two options). There was a hairy moment when she went for my baggy lounging around jeans though. I was sneaky and put them in as a red herring, but as soon as she saw me in them she turned me right back around, marched me back to the pile of clothes and made me put on my favourite trousers. She did really well; either that or I just have a pile of clothes that are all the same. I genuinely think that if there was ever a barn dance night in Newcastle, getting ready for it would be the easiest thing in the world now, but for any other occasion I am so screwed. This is definitely what I would wear for meeting up with friends and having a drink either in a fancy bar, or a decent pub.

"I had to explain some items of my clothing to him, as apparently 'skirts don't always look like skirts' " - Georgina

"The concept of a see-through top still vexes me greatly" - Jack

The Housemates

James Parr & Holly Douglas dress for a day at Uni

James styles Holly

Trophy Jacket: £40, Zara
Dress: £60, River Island
Pixie Boots: £55, ASOS
Tartan Shopper: Hand-me-down from Grandma
Necklace: £90, The Pearl Factory

Holly's verdict: 8/10

James on choosing Holly's outfit:

Creating an elegant and refined look for my flat mate Holly, who usually prefers a more edgy look, was a challenge. I paired a chic, fairytale inspired dress with an upscale trophy jacket and finished the outfit by adding a tasteful pearl necklace. Adding some retro inspired pixie boots and a traditional tartan shopper bag let Holly's shabby-chic style shine through, if only a little bit!

Holly's verdict:

I loved the look but thought it was perhaps a little over-cooked for Uni; it's possibly more suited to yachting holidays! I wouldn't have chosen it myself for Uni, but if I ever go to an upscale event, I'll know to give James a call. For now though, I think I'll stick with the obligatory leggings. Having said that, I adored the boots and dress combo and the tartan shopper bag added a bit of vintage-chic to the outfit.

Holly styles James

Panda Jumper: £1, Vintage Store
Skinny Jeans: £85, Levi
Loafers: £95, Bravo Bull
Fur Lined Padded Jacket: £125, Abercrombie and Fitch
Pearl Faced Watch: £295, Michael Kors

James' verdict: 8/10

"'Vintage', to me, is a delusion of the masses and should be banned!" - James

"[The outfit] is possibly more suited to yachting holidays!" - Holly

Holly on choosing James' outfit:

To keep things casual, I teamed a novelty jumper with skinny jeans as the base of the outfit, in order to create a playful winter look. To top off the look, I added a stylish yet practical fur-lined winter jacket to keep James warm on these cold winter mornings! Some navy suede loafers added a touch of class and a sophisticated watch finished off the final look.

James' verdict:

Holly brought a jumper with her for me to wear, which was definitely not to my taste; 'vintage', to me, is a delusion of the masses and should be banned! Still, I approved of the black, skinny Levi jeans paired with the chunky winter jacket. Holly then topped off the look with the leather barrel bag and a glossy pearl-faced time-piece, which I think gave the look a pleasantly sophisticated edge.

What I wore this week

Laura Nicholson

Course: English Literature
Year: 3

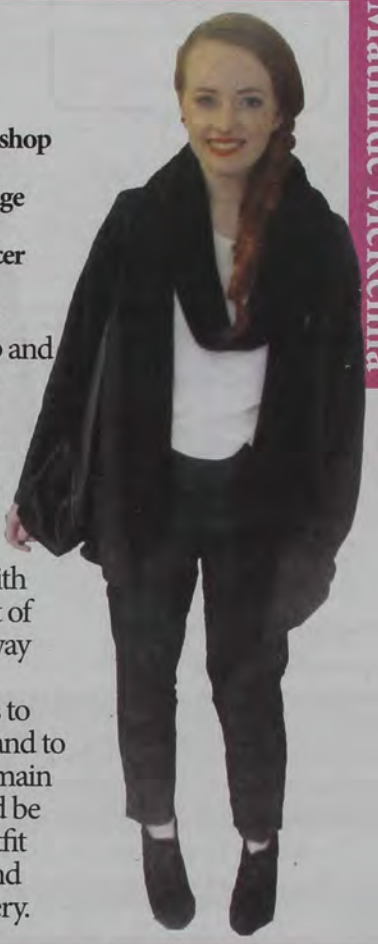
Blazer: £68, Topshop
Trousers: £40, Topshop
Top: £36, Topshop
Shoes: £25, Topshop sale

After a long summer of ignoring Topshop, its presence in my wardrobe is definitely back with a vengeance. Bold patterns and lace are two separate trends that magazines are claiming are 'bang on trend', so when I saw the two combined I couldn't resist the temptation to buy this combo. My favourite part of this outfit is the peplum top, as it really defines my waist and I love the embellished collar. I think this outfit is perfect for evening drinks on Osborne Road.

Mathilde McKenna

Course: Chemistry
Year: 3

Boots: £30, Topshop
Cardigan: £3.99, charity shop
Trousers: £36, Topshop
T-shirt: £10, Miss Selfridge
Scarf: £7, Zara sale
Bag: £35, Marks & Spencer



I recently bought these trousers from Topshop and they're quickly becoming my favourite item for Autumn. I like that they're in a muted colour which makes them more wearable. I paired my trousers with the maximum amount of knitwear I could get away with - I don't do cold. I chose black accessories to keep my outfit simple and to make the trousers the main focus. I think this could be a good day to night outfit with a change of bag and some statement jewellery.

Kitten heels - heaven or hell?

Are kitten heels your idea of heaven or hell? **Lizzie Hampson** and **Nicole Stevenson** battle it out over the fashion world's most controversial item

HEAVEN

The towering stiletto is outdated compared to the chic kitten heel. Oozing elegance and 1950s glamour, the kitten heel is worn by ladies with an understanding of style. Being one of L.K. Bennett's infamous designs, a renowned part of Audrey Hepburn's characterisation and a favourite of style icon Alexa Chung, the kitten heel is a symbol of high fashion.

Perhaps the reason for their subtle comeback is because they refreshingly mix beauty with comfort, providing a stark contrast to the tastelessness of stilettos and Lady Gaga-esque platforms.

As Gaga, the Queen of Kitsch, frequently fails to withstand the challenges that wearing high heels presents, it is safe to say that few of us stand a chance of perfecting our strut when wearing them. No woman wants to be the subject of whispering in regards to her robotic, awkward strut, as opposed to the flirtatious air that one possesses when casually sashaying in kitten heels.

The high stiletto has been popularised by celebrities, but it was initially worn by female 'dancers' - surely not the connotations girls would like to convey. In other words, the higher the heel, the lower the class.

The commercial and the common are not the defining features of style; however, the practical and flirty kitten heel most definitely is. As well as being a marker of timeless fashion, kitten heels always look unique and original, making their wearer appear interesting and allowing them to stand out from the crowd.

Nicole Stevenson

Image: buynowbloglater.com

HELL

When it comes to fashion, it's important to be open-minded, as fashion hell to you might be fashion heaven to another. However, there is a point at which you have to acknowledge that certain things are not acceptable.

Shell suits I can forgive, but kitten heels I cannot. They are arguably the most universally despised item in the world of fashion, and with good reason. They serve no function and somehow manage to give the illusion that your legs are inches shorter than they really are.

There is never any excuse to abuse your feet with kitten heels. If you want to wear heels but tend to tumble about when wearing them, practice makes perfect! However, if you are a comfort seeker, invest in some statement flats.

There will undoubtedly be individuals who believe that kittens are "so out, they're in", and as long as designers are putting them on their catwalks and celebrities are putting them on their feet, then they will follow suit. For all you kitten heel lovers, here's something to consider: Lady Gaga may have worn that meat dress, but you wouldn't go out in that would you? Apply this rule to kitten heels, please!

So be warned, don't let their name fool you, kittens are cute but kitten heels are most definitely not. Fashion may be a form of individual expression but nobody should subject themselves to kitten heel hell, regardless of whether they're Primark or Prada.

Lizzie Hampson

Winter warmers

Frances Stephenson talks us through some of the cosiest coats making an appearance on the high-street this season

Missguided.co.uk, £48.99

Trench

The trench coat has been around for centuries (since the 1800s), so the good news is that you can just bring out last seasons', or root around in a charity shop for a second hand one if you don't much cash to spare. The key to bringing this trend up to date is to create a cinched-in waist, which can be achieved with a thin leather belt. Trench coats are a classic wardrobe staple, taking inspiration from a range of influences from Sherlock Holmes to Burberry. This Misguided trench opts for leather sleeves and collar, making it perfect for a shopping trip or night out, but perhaps it's not so ideal for the sub-zero artic winds of Newcastle.

River Island, £85

Boyfriend

Crisp tailoring is autumn's big thing and elegant, long–line, tuxedo-style jackets are the perfect example. With a nod to this season's heritage tweed, this boyfriend jacket would look great with cigarette trousers and androgynous shoes. You could add a fur scarf if you were feeling the cold and it would also soften the look if you felt it was a bit too masculine. The size of the boyfriend coat is also an advantage, as you can layer up underneath with woolly jumpers and cardigans, but just be careful you don't end up looking like a bag lady (although when its this cold I'm inclined to say forget the haters and just wrap up warm!)

Primark, £25

Parka

Quilted outerwear is not just for the ski slopes, and with temperatures set to plummet, a good quality quilted jacket is a wise investment. Quilted jackets adopt the luxe sport trend that's still around in the post Olympic comedown, whilst avoiding taking the look too far and making you feel like Sporty Spice. Khaki, navy and black all work with this style so you've got a lot of colours to choose from. The quilted jacket is probably the most versatile of the lot, so if you're looking for a 'sensible' piece, then this is it. The belt on this parka allows you to create a cinched-in waist, meaning you can create a feminine silhouette.

River Island, £95

Statement

Bold prints and textures most certainly aren't for those who like to play it safe. A statement coat can make a refreshing change and help to jazz up your winter wardrobe. This season, tartan is all over the high street, and winter coats are no exception. If you want to stand out from the crowd though, go for a more unusual print, or even a bold texture. This gold foil coat from River Island may be a bit too daring for some, but paired with a simple, understated outfit it would make a great evening jacket to be worn on special occasions.

Monsoon, £75

Quilted

Quilted outerwear is not just for the ski slopes, and with temperatures set to plummet, a good quality quilted jacket is a wise investment. Quilted jackets adopt the luxe sport trend that's still around in the post Olympic comedown, whilst avoiding taking the look too far and making you feel like Sporty Spice. Khaki, navy and black all work with this style so you've got a lot of colours to choose from. The quilted jacket is probably the most versatile of the lot, so if you're looking for a 'sensible' piece, then this is it.

Miss Selfridge, £89

Fur

There is nothing more luxurious (or cosy) than a big fur coat. This Miss Selfridge coat is a subtle nod to the animal print trend, but isn't as reminiscent of Patsy from Ab Fab as the leopard print alternatives. Team with a fur headband and 60s glam make up - lashings of mascara and matte lipstick. The downside to fur coats is that flouncing around Uni in one, despite making you feel a million dollars, can make you look, as my housemate kindly described, a little 'eccentric' (in other words, a bit bonkers).

Fashion Blog of the Week

www.amy-babyface.blogspot.co.uk

amybabyface

Amy is one of our very own: a first year Media, Communication and Cultural Studies student and a writer for the fashion section of *The Courier*. She also happens to have a lovely, not-so-little blog, where she documents personal style posts, with a few beauty reviews thrown in for good measure. If you like your look to be casual but still well put together, you're bound to find some style inspiration on Amy's blog.

Follow Amy on Twitter: @amy_babyface

Elissa Hudson

Online Shop of the Week

www.daisystreet.co.uk

Online shopping is an obvious form of procrastination during those revision breaks, but did you know there are other online boutiques other than Asos?! Daisystreet.co.uk is a newcomer to the world of online fashion but it's well worth a visit. The baroque trend is huge this season and Daisystreet have a gorgeous collection of jumpers and coats, as well as an eclectic range of trousers and leggings. Daisystreet will most certainly leave you spoilt for choice!

Follow Daisystreet on Twitter: @daisystreetcouk

Rebekah Finney

15 NOVEMBER 2012

SCAN AND MAD FOUNDATION

PRESENTS

MASQUERADE

BALL

6:00 PM TRANSPORT INCLUDED TO AND FROM
PIPER AND DRINKS RECEPTION 3 COURSE MEAL
HALF A BOTTLE OF WINE DISCO TILL 1:00 AM £45 TICKET
TICKETS AVAILABLE SCAN OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, NUSU

LUMLEY CASTLE, CHESTER LE STREET, COUNTY DURHAM DH3 4NX

Beauty Editor: Annie Morgan
Online Beauty Editor: Amy Macauley

thecourieronline.co.uk/beauty
courier.beauty@ncl.ac.uk | @Courier_Beauty

How to: Fake It

It does not matter what you look like, everyone has something about themselves they consider to be flawed or they are not totally happy with. **Molly Deaville** shows you how to enhance your natural looks with these simple tricks.

1. Lengthen Your Lashes

Ensure your false eyelashes are the correct length for your eye by cutting them down with scissors. Next, apply eyelash glue to the rim of the false lashes and leave them for one minute before placing them as close as you can to your natural lash line. Curl your real and false eyelashes together with an eyelash curler to ensure that they are intertwined with your natural lashes. Lastly, apply mascara to finish the look.

2. Slim Down Your Legs

Get a false tan that is a shade darker than your current or natural skin tone and you are ready to begin contouring! Reduce the width of your pins by applying and blending the darker shade on the inner and outer sides of your legs, they will look thinner and longer as a result. However, if you are worried about going streaky, it is recommended to go to a salon and leave it to the professionals.

3. Plump Your Lips

If you have naturally thin lips, use light pink and nude lipsticks to achieve more luscious lips. Try applying white eyeliner over your cupids bow and use your finger to blend it into your skin to add further definition to your lips. Lip-gloss is a great finish to any look; it also reflects light and helps your lips appear much fuller.

Tip of the Week

As students, we always try to go for the cheaper products, however sometimes it is worth looking outside of the heavily priced beauty department and heading to a health store. A product you can get from any health store, which is cheap and more effective than most beauty branded products is coconut oil. **Hayley Durrant** talks about the benefits of coconut oil and why this cheap beauty buy is a must have, especially at this time of year.

Coconut oil is a favourite natural beauty product among the stars, with a less than designer price tag, it is cheap and delivers amazing results. The best thing about coconut oil is that it is a multiuse product.

Coconut oil can be used as a body moisturiser as the small molecular structure allows the oil to seep deeply into the skin, providing intense moisture which is perfect for winter when your skin is dry, irritated and sometimes goes a little flaky.

One of the best and most popular ways to use this oil is as a deep moisturising hair conditioner. It stops protein loss of damaged hair and when left on the hair as a mask for half an hour helps to create smooth shiny locks which scream hydration. There is no need to buy an expensive deep conditioning salon treatment, instead use the natural goodness of coconut oil to bring your hair back to tip top condition.

However, if you are not the biggest fan of the smell of coconuts, you can always substitute this for a rich nut oil such as shea, almond or macadamia oils.

1 Pour one cup of hot water into a small bowl. Scoop three teaspoons of coconut oil out of the tub and place into a container, next place the container into the hot water, this will turn the solid coconut oil into an oil consistency.

2 Massage the coconut oil gently onto damp or dry hair, concentrating it on the ends. Spend up to ten minutes working the oil through your hair.

3 Wrap your hair in cling film or cover it with a shower cap, you can leave this product on your hair for half an hour if you are in a rush or if you need to you can even leave it on overnight. Shampoo twice to make sure there is no build-up of oil left in the hair.

4 Once your hair is dry, it should be silky soft, smooth and frizz-free.

Holy Grail Product!

Online Beauty Editor Amy Macauley shares her beauty essential this week, which is her all-time favourite Givenchy mascara.

Product: Givenchy Phenomen'Eyes Mascara

Price Tag: £20-£22

Cheaper Alternative: L'Oreal Telescopic Explosion Mascara (£10.99)

As a self-confessed mascara junkie I can safely say I have tried most brands, but nothing has come close to Givenchy Phenomen'Eyes in Extension Black. My ideal lashes are the blackest of black, long, thick and curly, but without clumps that many larger brushes can lead to, which is why this product is ideal. The small, round, spiky brush might seem a bit odd at first but it is ideal for coating the bottom lashes without ending up with mascara underneath your eyes, which can be very easily done with most brushes if applying whilst half-asleep before a 9am lecture!

The only downside to it is that it tends to dry out quite quickly- not ideal when spending this amount of money on it. There are cheaper versions available on the high street such as L'oreal's Telescopic Explosion Mascara (around £10.99), if you are wanting the same effect at a more reasonable price tag.

All in all, I believe with this product you definitely get what you pay for and more.

Autumn/Winter Nail Colours

As the summer months have come to an end, so have the brighter colours. Towards the end of the year, dark, matte and metallic colours always make a comeback. Deep reds, royal blues and maroons all create a sophisticated image and look great teamed with dark coloured Autumn/Winter outfits. Groomed nails are a must for this look so be sure you keep them neat and tidy. **Safiya Ahmed** explains what colour schemes to go for.

Deep Reds

Burgundy is hot right now. Take the bright red down a notch with a red wine colour, perfect for this time of year. Great for parties and nights out, the colour ranges from deep red to dark rusty purples. Dark reds look amazing with any complexion so also try matching it with your lipstick for extra style points.

Forest Green

Green is the perfect colour to bring you into autumn, and is great around Christmas time because of the festive connotations. With so much to choose from, go for olive, pine or forest green but stay clear of anything neon if you want a more demure look. Try the ombré technique by blending a moss green with deep emerald for a subtle, yet stunning transition. With military big on the fashion scene, green nails will definitely compliment your outfits.

50 Shades of Grey

Metallic colours are key this season. Say goodbye to glitter as the shimmery metallic look is sophisticated, chic and more suited to this time of year. For a dark alternative to black try a gunmetal grey shade and for a lighter colour opt for a rich gold. Go for shimmer rather than glitter for that edgy sparkly finish.

Chocolate Browns

Dark nude or sandy colours are great for Autumn/Winter, as they are alternatives to black. Neutral shades such as dark browns and caramels are always perfect for this time of year, especially as they mimic the fallen leaves. Try highly pigmented shades like dark cherry chocolate or deep copper that go great with any choice of outfit.

Listings Editor: *Sally Priddle*

Monday

University Challenge Heats

Venue, Students' Union

This is your chance to represent the University in the highest possible academic arena. Of course, I am talking about *University Challenge*. Come, try out and make your parents proud.

Deaf Havana

7pm

O2 Academy

An english alternative rock band who after the success of latest album *Fools and Worthless Liars*, are ready to go crazy on their biggest tour ever.
Tickets from £15 available from O2 Academy website or box office.

Michael McIntyre

7.30pm

MetroRadio Arena

Your last chance to see the legend himself.
Tickets from £35 available online

Sally Morgan: *Psychic Sally On the Road*

7.30pm

City Hall

A beautiful singer who scored her first US number one at the age of 18. Her latest album, *The Dreaming Fields*, examines the tides and seasons of women's lives, aches and triumphs.
Tickets from £15 available from The Sage website or box office.

Tuesday

Paul Foot: Kenny Larch is Dead

7pm

The Stand Comedy Club

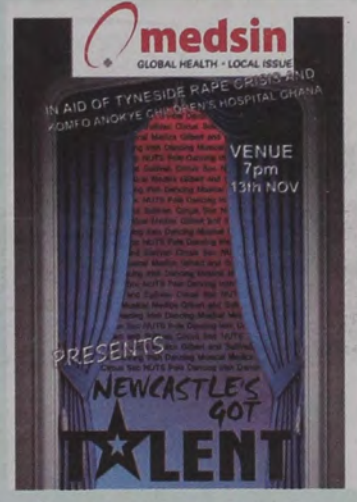
Expect the unexpected from this baffling and hilarious man.
Tickets £12.50 available from The Stand website or box office.

Medsin: Newcastle's Got Talent

7pm

Venue, The Students' Union

Newcastle MedSin presents its first varsity talent show in aid of
Tyneside Rape Crisis and the refurbishment of the Paediatrics Unit
of the Komfo Anokye teaching hospital in Ghana.
This promises to be an evening of unforgettable entertainment where YOUR societies compete for the winning title, including NUTs, the comedy society, pole dancing society and musical medics.
Tickets available for £5 on the door, or £4 in advance from NUSU or Medical School Foyer.



Homemade Jam

8pm

Mens Bar, Students Union

Your chance to show off your musical talents, no need to book just head down and join in.

Wednesday

Beautiful Burnout

7.30pm

Northern Stage

Cameron Burns is going places. He's fighting for his club, his Mum, and his place in the world. And this boy is a natural. He has an affinity with the violence, the balance, the ritual, the grace and the power of the most controversial sport of our time.
Tickets from £12.50 available from the Northern Stage website or box office

Let's get Quizzical

8pm

The Tyneside Cinema

The great Tyneside film quiz is one of the highlights of the week, test out your knowledge of films from mainstream to cult, this your chance to shine.
£5 per team, maximum 5 members per team.

Thursday

University Challenge Heats

5pm

Planning Room, Level 1 Students' Union

This is your chance to represent the University in the highest possible academic arena. Of course, I am talking about *University Challenge*. Come, try out and make your parents proud.

Masquerade Ball- SCAN

6pm

Lumley Castle

- Transport to and from venue
- Piper and drinks reception
- 3 course meal
- Half a bottle of wine
- Disco 'til 1am

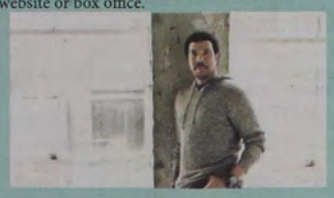
Tickets are £45 available from SCAN Office

	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700
M	Beans on Toast	The Monday Club	Off Topic	Flashback	Afternoon Delights	Ed & Fred Show		Alluringly Acoustic	
T	Cal Redhead		The Chaz and Ted Show		The Penny Floater	Guava Beats	Whip round	NSR Music and Enterta ment	
W	Nothing to Declare		Live on the Tyne	The Jack & Paddy Show	The Lost Hours: Redux	The Northern Connection	Influences	The Courier Music For	
T	Continental Breakfast	Jon Ginty's Crazy Music Show	The Grapevine	I Wouldn't Believe Your Radio	Vox Unpop	Under the Covers	The Grace Womersley Show	Under The Radar	
F	2nd Hand Noise	NSRock-Fans	The Kinison Show	NSR Sport-Sport Talk	Courier Film Show	Supercheese	The Charming Man Show		Darragh Keeff
S	The Morning After	ReCover	Coffee and Juice	Luke & Adam Show	On The Radio	Isabelle Marking & Henry Chandler	The Funk & Soul Revue	NUSU Music Soc-Mussoc Mash	Alt R
S	Free / 24 Hour Stream To book 1-2 hours for 1 week, contact- production@nsrlive.co.uk		Low Vibes Radio	Have You Heard the News?	The Lowdown	Shaddo Show	SRA CHART SHOW		The Fa

Friday

Lionel Richie

8pm
Metro Radio Arena
A man who needs no introduction. His classic stand up has taken the UK by storm. Now is your chance to see him at his finest.
Tickets from £35 available from the Arena's website or box office.



Grandmaster Flash

11pm-3.30am
Digital
90s Hip-Hop House Party
Earlybird tickets £10 available from Digital website:
www.yourfutureisdigital.com

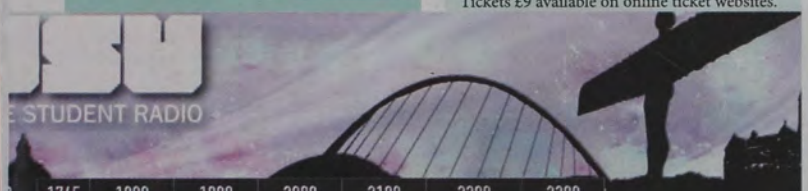
Something for the weekend

Reclaim our NHS

Saturday 17 November, 10am
History Room, Students' Union

Clock Opera

Sunday 18 November, 7pm
Students' Union
Clock Opera are a group who came about by chance and organisation, who once in passing defined themselves as making "chop pop", but perhaps it's best if that's not how they are actually described.
Tickets £9 available on online ticket websites.



	1745	1800	1900	2000	2100	2200	2300
	The Feed	We Must Warn Tokyo		Altitude		Downtempo	
in-	The Feed	The Sean and Simon Show: Hometime		Essentially Unessential		Super Fresh Bad Boyz	
um	The Feed	The Half Cut Radio Show	Sound Judgement	PLAY GROUND WARM UP: Sub Sessions	PLAY GROUND WARM UP: Your House Or Mine		Daily Craic
	The Feed	Cat Amongst the Pigeons (The NSR Rock Show)		Beat Bandits	Sound of the Overground	Kicking Back with Narker	Doe Mehmet
O' e	The Feed	NSR Vs.		The Purple Hour	The Antoine Weir Show		Friday Night Takeover
ock Show		CCTV WARM UP: The Weekenda		CCTV WARM UP: The E Equals MC 'BASS Takeover!'		CCTV WARM UP: Identity	
g t	Si Show	Genki Up North	Sundays with Katy and Ellie	Waves	The Expedition	Go Global	

Eclectic/World Music
Entertainment
Courier
24 Hour Stream
Sport
Dance/ Electro
Hip Hop/R&B
Indie/Rock
Specialist Shows
Chart/Mainstream
NSR Shows
News

Not in Newcastle...

With the Metro going to Sunderland, trains to Durham only £5 return with a Railcard and special weekend deals on trains and buses to Scotland there really is no excuse for your weekend or evening activities to be limited to the Toon. Expand your horizons and find out what the whole of the North East and beyond has to offer.

Tynemouth Blue Reef Aquarium

Over 40 naturally-themed habitats take you on a fantastic journey from the Newcastle coast to exotic tropical waters. Come face to face with everything from adorable seals and otters to clownfish, seahorses and graceful stingrays.
Step into the incredible world of the tropical rainforest with our stunning new Amazonian feature. Meet our colony of monkeys, including tiny pygmy marmosets and comical looking cotton topped tamarins.
A full programme of entertaining talks and feeding displays take place throughout the day.
Adults tickets £8.75

Radio show of the week: The Courier Film Show

This is a unique and exclusive film show that brings you quality banter and great discussions on *Courier* reviews, DVD swaps, extended features and goes into a more depth analysis than any other film show.

When do you tune in?

Fridays 1-2pm

Something free: Tabletennis with Go Play

Monday and Wednesdays 12-2pm
Venue at The Students' Union

Beginner? Expert? Possible Olympic champion? This is your chance to challenge your friends for free at table tennis. Just go to the Venue to Monday or Wednesday (or both) and enjoy. What have you got to lose?

Something to look forward to: Richard III

7-8 December, 7pm
Theatre Royal Studio
The Mike Fry Foundation welcomes you to the sinister world of the most vilified monarch of England: Richard III. Concentrating on the cold and terrifyingly rational mind of the monster we explore the darkest areas of this play. This is not a production of Shakespeare as you may have seen; open your eyes, ears and your mind as Richard schemes his way to the throne in this contemporary piece of theatre.
Tickets £10 available from the Theatre Royal website and box office.

follow us on twitter @CourierListings

Library chat-up lines

Excellent advice for courting from your friendly neighbourhood *Courier* team

I don't have a library card, but do you mind if I check you out?

Baby, if you were words on a page, you'd be what they call FINE PRINT!

You're like a dictionary, you add meaning to my life

If you were a Dementor, I'd be a criminal just to get your kiss

I wasn't a big fan of 'Eat' or "Pray," but there ain't nothin' wrong with "Love"

Bumper Blind Date

Karys Barton, 2nd year Marine Biology, *meets* Tom Nicholson 3rd year English Literature

Karys on Tom

What's your usual type?
I normally go for the generic tall, dark and handsome look. I like funny guys who can actually hold a decent conversation.

First impressions?
We actually saw them at the Metro and wondered if they were the other Blind Dates. Turns out they had thought the same. Tom came across as really friendly when he introduced himself.

If both of them were walking down the street, which one would have caught your eye first?
I would have noticed Tom first by the way he carries himself. He comes across as confident but not in a cocky way.

What was the weirdest thing you talked about?
For some reason we talked about donating blood. Chris said "Everytime I see blood I just get this dull pain in my left foot"; it sounded really funny in his Yorkshire accent.

Did anyone on the Double Date dominate the conversation?
I think everyone was pretty equal in terms of how much they inputted into the conversation.

What did you think of your mate's date?
I think Chris seemed pretty shy at first. As the date progressed he came out of his shell more. He seems like a really cute, wholesome guy.

Halfway through the date, would you have 'No likey, no lightey'-ed by now?
No, they were both coming out with funny snippets all the time. They seemed like really genuine guys.

What did you think of your date's outfit choice?
He was wearing a denim jacket which I liked. It was all very James Dean. I remember his red shoes.

What was their most attractive physical feature?
Tom had a really nice smile.

What was their worst personality trait?
I genuinely can't pick anything out of the couple of hours we spent together.

Do you think they fancied you?
That's the worst question. I honestly can't say. I guess it'd be nice if they did.

Were you tempted to lean in for a kiss?
No, to be honest as there were four of us the chance wouldn't really have arisen. We didn't really couple off.

Would your parents approve?
My parents would be well chuffed. Both guys were very chivalrous and true gentlemen. Having someone buy you drinks is a bonus in any situation.

Marks out of 10?
9/10

Snog, marry or avoid?
Marry

Tom on Karys

What's your usual type?
My normal type would tend to be bookish, intelligent and funny, with a massive rack.

First impressions?
When we first met, Karys came across as very open and friendly, which was a relief. Looks-wise, probably not my usual type but I was open to persuasion.

If both of them were walking down the street, which one would have caught your eye first?
I would have probably noticed Jenni first as she's shorter. Karys is quite tall and above my natural eye level.

What was the weirdest thing you talked about?
We talked about what we'd do if an emperor penguin attacked you. Our discussion was inconclusive.

Did anyone on the Double Date dominate the conversation?
No, though at the start mainly Chris, Karys and I chatted. However, as the date progressed Jenni became more comfortable.

What did you think of your mate's date?
She seemed much quieter than Karys, especially at the start. She came across as sweet and intelligent, but not in a patronising head-patting kind of way.

Halfway through the date, would you have 'No likey, no lightey'-ed by now?
No, it was enjoyable chatting to her. I think we'd established by that point that it was going to be a massively romantic evening.

What did you think of your date's outfit choice?
She definitely looked nice, but I'm struggling to remember specifics clothes-wise. She was certainly wearing clothes of some description.

What was their most attractive physical feature?
She had a nice open smile which put me at ease.

What was their worst personality trait?
No bad traits became apparent in the three and a half hours we spent together.

Do you think they fancied you?
Well, she's only human.

Were you tempted to lean in for a kiss?
We were separated by 6ft long tables so it would have been logistically difficult.

Would your parents approve?
Yeah, she has a wealth of marine and sea creature knowledge.

Marks out of 10?
8/10

Snog, marry or avoid?
Marry.

How do you think this weeks blind date has gone? Think they'll make it to meet the parents level?

Jenni Wilson, 2nd year English Literature and French, *meets* Chris Haywood, 3rd year English Literature

Jenni on Chris

What's your usual type?
I don't really have a usual type. I guess I normally prefer tall and dark guys. I think if a guy has a really attractive personality it makes them generally a lot more attractive.

First impressions?
Chris seemed friendly at the start and seemed nicely dressed. Both guys offered to pay for drinks so that was very gentlemenly.

If both of them were walking down the street, which one would have caught your eye first?
I feel really bad answering that one. I guess I'll say Chris as he was my date.

What was the weirdest thing you talked about?
We talked about loads of really random stuff actually. We talked about rocks, I think it was something to do with Karys' course. I remember Tom talking about different types of rocks.

Did anyone on the Double Date dominate the conversation?
No, strangely enough. It wasn't really like that due to the four of us chatting altogether. So there was less pressure than if there'd been just the two of us.

What did you think of your mate's date?
Tom came across as really nice as well. He was really funny, that stuck in my mind.

Halfway through the date, would you have 'No likey, no lightey'-ed by now?
No I don't think so, I got to like him more as I got to know him. He was quiet to begin with and turned out to be really different to what I thought at first.

What did you think of your date's outfit choice?
I was pretty impressed; he was wearing a shirt and jeans. I always look at guys shoes and he had good shoes so he passed.

What was their most attractive physical feature?
Apart from the shoes, I think he had nice eyes. His eyes were blue I think...

What was their worst personality trait?
I can't really think of one. He was funny in a weird way. Maybe because of his Yorkshire accent, that made things funnier too.

Do you think they fancied you?
I guess I hope so. Why wouldn't they?

Were you tempted to lean in for a kiss?
No, definitely not. It wouldn't really be appropriate either with the four of us being there.

Would your parents approve?
Yeah definitely, I think he'd get on well with them. He's not similar to other guys I've brought home before but he was friendly and open. He does my course too.

Marks out of 10?
9/10

Snog, marry or avoid?
Marry.

Chris on Jenni

What's your usual type?
More than anything, I like girls that can take a bit of banter. It's important that a girl is intelligent with a good sense of humour too. And of course, she's got to be pretty hot.

First impressions?
She seemed quieter compared to Karys. I forgot her name instantly also and had to mumble it throughout the date.

If both of them were walking down the street, which one would have caught your eye first?
I would say Jenni, she's more my type.

What was the weirdest thing you talked about?
We talked about *Gladiators* for a bit too long. We talked about Wolf, as Tom's friend's mum once dated him. We tried to stay away from normal First Date-type conversations.

Did anyone on the Double Date dominate the conversation?
Tom was a bit of a dominatrix.

What did you think of your mate's date?
She was a bit out of his league of course. Tom had a similar personality and sense of humour to Karys, plus both of them could take a joke.

Halfway through the date, would you have 'No likey, no lightey'-ed by now?
It'd take a lot for me to turn off my light.

What did you think of your date's outfit choice?
I don't really notice stuff like that to be honest. She did look nice though, I remember that.

What was their most attractive physical feature?
She had really nice dark eyes; I prefer dark girls like Jenni.

What was their worst personality trait?
It's not bad, but she seemed really shy at first.

Do you think they fancied you?
No, not at all. I'm not that much of a catch, to be honest.

Were you tempted to lean in for a kiss?
When we parted, we were stood outside Tescos and I kind of wanted to get some baked goods before it closed. So no, cookies > girls every time.

Would your parents approve?
I can't imagine why they wouldn't; she seemed to be a really nice girl.

Marks out of 10?
7/10

Snog, marry or avoid?
Marry

Unlucky in love? The Courier is here to help! Send your details to c2.lifestyle@ncl.ac.uk

Naked Bakin'

White Chocolate Cheesecake

For me there is nothing more satisfying than a cheesecake, especially when you can feel the creamy goodness pile on your thighs as you eat it. My particular favourite is white chocolate cheesecake because the sweetness of the chocolate combats the cream cheese adding up to one of the best desserts you will ever have. If you wish you can add fruit to the mixture to convince yourself that the dessert is slightly better for you; however I feel that this is just an unnecessary addition and delusion. The art of cheesecake is one that is highly debated, as some people (who are wrong) prefer a baked cheesecake whereas the true lovers of cheesecake prefer the contrast between a buttery biscuit base and an intensely creamy topping that you will genuinely lick the bowl for.

You will need:

A round tin
A rolling pin (or any large, hard objectsuitable for banging)
A mixing bowl
Whisk (either electric or manual)
300g digestive biscuits
150g butter
A generous table spoon of golden syrup
600g soft cream cheese
100g icing sugar
300ml double cream (a mid-sized pot)
200g white chocolate

1. Weigh out your biscuits and break them into pieces. Then put into a carrier bag (preferably clean) and tie it up. Then take your large, hard object and go to town (this is a great anger release as well as serving a purpose).

2. Put the butter and golden syrup into a microwavable dish and place in the microwave for a minute. Stir the mixture and put it back in for another 20 seconds (or until the mixture is fully melted).

3. Mix the biscuits into the now-melted mixture and make sure all the biscuits are covered. Then transfer the mixture into your tin (putting foil over the tin will make taking the cheesecake out a lot easier). Press the base down into your tin until it is compact and equally spread out, then place it in the fridge while you make the filling.

4. Put the cream cheese and icing sugar into a bowl and fork until fully combined.

5. Melt the white chocolate in the microwave and set aside to cool.

6. Add your double cream to the cream cheese and icing sugar mixture and get ready to work those arm muscles. Whisk the mixture until the cream has become more solid and fully part of the cream cheese filling.

7. Stir in the white chocolate and make sure it is fully combined with the rest of the mix.

8. Take the base out of the fridge and add the filling on top. Next smooth out the mixture with a cutlery item of your choice; I would recommend a spoon. Put back in the fridge for as long as you can resist (ideally an hour but at least the amount of time it takes to lick the bowl out and wash it up), and your cheesecake is ready.

Sally Priddle

Lavinia Eastwood

TupTup

Diary of a Party Girl

#3 - Halloween'een

By now I think we're all aware that Newcastle doesn't do things by halves; Halloween is a clear example of this, with the festivities lasting pretty much the entire week. This probably has more to do with squeezing every last drop from the promo cash-cow than any kind of die-hard devotion to the event, but it's all fun and games so we'll let it slide. As always, in the couple of days before Wednesday was upon us everyone had clearly had the same thought… What the hell am I going to go as?!

Now I've experienced the hellhole that is Magic Box the day before Hallowe'en, and it is a fate I wouldn't wish on anybody. Plan ahead next year people, because the queue was down the stairs and out of the door. They'd even employed a faux-bouncer and were working on a one in one out policy.

Personally I'd been coming up with a number of ideas, but with Halloween comes a minefield of issues. Scary? Sexy? Is painting yourself black offensive? [*Ed: Yes.*] Is it too soon for Jimmy Saville jokes? [*Ed: Yes.*] Surely there should be some kind of guidebook for the 'do's and 'don't's of Halloween. According to a vaguely reliable source about 68% of you think Halloween is the one night a year it's okay to flaunt a bit of your bod, in which case I'd seriously like to hear your thoughts on the clientele that descend on the Bigg Market every night of the week.

Last year's outfit consisted of bunny ears, cuffs, collars and a whole lot of condescending glances from the haters who'd gone for the 'scary' option, so this year it was time to mix things up a little and join them. There was a point when I was intent on being either Kanye or Jay-Z, with tooth gems for grills and do-rags, but after dismissing the idea as too much effort, a group of about ten of us opted to go as a pack of goths.

After being voluntarily mugged in Magic Box, (£15 for contact lenses with a free dose of conjunctivitis) I found myself trussed up to the nines in leather, studs and a black wig which meant I closely resembled Ozzy Osbourne. However this made for a brilliant night, as all of us looked completely vile; I spent a great deal of my time in TupTup being told how great my costume looked, but never to dye my hair which I've decided to take as a compliment. It was great how much of an effort everyone had made, as there were some truly brilliant and truly terrifying outfits along with a healthy dose of controversy. I mean, there's always one Hitler, isn't there?

Restaurant Review

Coast to Coast

There's been a something of a cultural phenomenon with American dining in recent years, which I'm mostly putting down to Adam Richman and his ability to make smearing a giant, dripping cheeseburger all over your face inexplicably sexy. Lo and behold, then, the springing up of American diners all over the country, what with their colossal portions, boothed seating and walls lined with various 'artifacts' from the wild west.

Coast to Coast is exactly that. It's not quite the cliché of your average diner joint; there's no jukebox, no garish black and white tiled floor, no glaring neon signs. Instead we walk through the doors to find a darkened, Frankie and Benny's-esque colour scheme, burgundy leatherette circular booths, with an open kitchen staring out across the floor.

We're greeted by the friendly waiting staff, introducing themselves by name and giving detailed accounts of their personal lives, which if we were in a family-run establishment would be endearing; in a commercial chain snuggled in and amongst the vice and corruption of The Gate on a Friday night, is all a little contractual, a little too forthcoming.

Opening times:

Mon - Sat: 9am to 11pm
Sun: 9am - 10.30pm

The Gate, Newgate Street
Newcastle NE1 5TG
0191 261 2730

☆☆☆

"It's not quite the cliché of your average diner joint"

It's nice though, to hear about the guy in a Hulk costume who came in after closing hours on Halloween and wouldn't leave, or about our student waitress' summer in Magaluf, or to be asked if you want your Long Island Iced Tea watering down after you take a slurp from your straw and pull a face (see my column headshot for reference).

Although it's probably due to the cocktail bloat, we struggled to demolish a mountainous starter of dry nachos that were definitely lacking on the cheese front by anyone's dairy standards. For our mains, we chose the delicious yet highly impractical Hickory Red burger, topped with crispy bacon, fried red onions, rocket, and every condiment in the cupboard, and the Cajun Melt: crispy spiced chicken with cheese, lettuce and mayo wrapped in a flour tortilla and served with spindly 'straw' (read: McDonalds) fries and homemade coleslaw, which all arrives speared with a giant flag stickered cocktail stick (all a bit too Nandos for my liking).

After the continuous onslaught of alcoholic liquids went straight my head, my commitment to serious food criticism dwindled somewhat, and my desire to become the next Grace Dent was overcome with a greater need: to get wasted. Where's the nearest pub?

Cocktails:

1. Raspberry Lynchburg – A bit like a Woo Woo, just without the girl tears or the after-lust for boys in V-neck t-shirts.
2. Long Island Iced Tea – The rich man's treble. Goes down way too easily, but luckily Sinners is just downstairs for emergency top ups.
3. Caprihana – I have no idea what this was or how to pronounce it, but it tasted pretty good. Less on the rocks, more in the ocean next time please.
4. Cosmopolitan - I like to think I'm Carrie Bradshaw when I drink these but usually just end up throwing the thing over myself, which is why they should be served in beakers.
5. Mojito – Disappointing. Looks a bit like a drink made to commemorate the ending of a recent utopian war in which the lime almost became extinct.

Lifestyle Editors: Lauren Stafford, Em Rae and Catherine Davison
Online Editors: Rosie Devonshire and Colette Hunter

Society Swap

One brave member of the English Society abandons her books for the Kickboxing cage

As an English Literature student and Social Secretary of the English Society, I tend to do a lot of reading. So, even if we did relocate our reading to the Sinners cage in one of our recent socials (no joke, we not only had *The Complete Works of Shakespeare* in there, but *50 Shades of Grey* too), I thought trying something a bit more active and a bit less book-ish would be a nice change. So last Tuesday, I went along to Kickboxing Society.

Off I went into a dark, dodgy looking stairwell in a building tucked away down a back street near Monument. As it turns out, the AFC (Advanced Fighting Centre) resides a few flights up, complete with punch bags and a cage - scary! But reassured by a pair of pink boxing gloves and the sound of club anthems rising in the background, it was time to try some moves.

I'm not going to lie, I was atrocious at it! My inability to copy what had just been demonstrated in front of me, follow simple instructions, or even distinguish my left from right became horribly apparent. Oh, and it turns out I'm a 'Southpaw'- a Lefty to you and me, which, in a room of Orthodox fighters (right-handed people), confused me even more. So essentially, I was ungraciously flailing around the boxing gym, rather than transforming into a tough, strategic kickboxing genius with fists and feet of steel - but hey, we all have to start somewhere. All I can say is that I tried my best… and it's a good job that I can laugh at myself! It's OK though, John the coach and the other members were excellent at laughing with (at) me too. They were also really helpful, so, with a bit of banter, and a lot of patience (on their part) I actually learnt a lot.

After a warm up, we got in partners and one held the pad, one tried the kicks that had just been demonstrated, and then we swapped. We practiced lots of different kicks, some of which hurt my feet, some which I really liked and – shock horror - could actually kind of do! This was not only loads of fun, but also promises to be a fantastic way to keep fit, if the sharp pain in my thighs whilst walking back down the creepy stairway on the way out is anything to go by. I will definitely be going again - although I will probably try to lay off eating two plates of spaghetti and meatballs half an hour before the class next time (not much fun when the kickboxing instructor demonstrates a move by 'placing' his foot on your stomach…) Rookie error.

Thanks a lot to Newcastle University Kickboxing Society - see you next week!

Danielle Crispin

Jonathan Webster, President of the Kickboxing Society, discusses how she did...

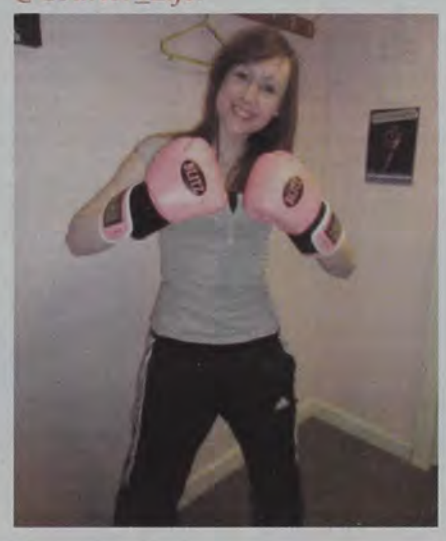
How do you think Danielle did for her first lesson?
She was great! I don't know if she'll make it to professional standard any time soon but who knows! Stranger things have happened and with lots of training I'm sure it might be possible.

What do you think her best assets are as a kickboxer?
Definitely her 'angry face'! On being asked to pull a more serious face whilst defending, Danielle burst into uncontrollable laughter, leaving her reasonably vulnerable for getting a couple of kicks in… On the other hand, I'm sure that laughing while throwing a punch or kick would confuse her opponent – they would probably think she's nuts!

As president of the Kickboxing Society, have you ever used a move to impress a girl?
The only time I have mentioned it to a girl on a night out, she took one look at my broken ankle and said "you obviously aren't that good, are you?!" and walked off!

Who would you recommend kickboxing to?
Anyone who wants to have fun and keep fit at the same time. Also, picturing your annoying housemates/ coursemates/ lecturers on the other end of the punches and kicks proves a very effective way to relieve stress!

Fancy trying something new and promoting your own society in the process? Get involved with Society Swap! Email us at c2.lifestyle@newcastle.ac.uk or tweet us @Courier_Life.



Made in Jesmond

With Henry Frinton-Smith

5th November
Just got off the phone with Mummy. Literally, she couldn't stop gabbing about this quality TV programme, you know *Downton Abbey*? It's that new fly-on-the-wall documentary they've been showing on Sunday nights on ITV. I love a bit of gritty British realism. Anyway, off to Starbucks to meet Louisa, such a fit bird! She owns her own skis. I think I might be in with a chance. Last time I went out with her I took a photo on Instagram and put it on Faceyb so all the lads could check out the talent. We 'checked in' to let everyone know of course. It was a totes hilar night.

6th November
Got a free bar of Cadbury's with my *Telegraph* in the Union shop this morning. It's like, literally huge. Mummy and Daddy rang to say they'll be up in the Range this month, probs next weekend 'cause Daddy's down in Salcombe at the mo visiting old pals from Harrow. Anyway, finally heard back from last year's landlord this afternoon. He says he's not giving us back our deposit 'cause of that sick house party where Freddie broke the banisters. Defs a cringeworthy moment there, does he really think I'm phased by a £300 fine? #awkward

8th November
Literally hanging this morning! Went out last night, literally got so bloody smashed. Decided to go to Perdu, met George from the Art History crew who's a promoter for the top student night they do there. George is such a man-whore, total quality lad. Literally, what a lad. Our dads used to work together so he got me and the Leazes lot (a.k.a The Big Lads' Plaza Massive) in on the spesh VIP guestlist. I love a bit of quality drum and bass. A sick night. Literally. The photos on Faceyb we were tagged in are amazing. Girls on my left, girls on my right. It was like Bantanamo Bay in there. There's a great one of me and the lads, one of those professional ones they take in all the clubs with loads of strobe lighting. It highlights all my well-sculpted features so might make it my new cover photo. At the moment I've still got that one of me with all the African kids from last summer when I volunteered. Don't know why I haven't got round to changing it yet, probs just so everyone knows what a compassionate and giving sort of guy I really am. Birds love that.

Susie May Beever

Illustrations: Daisy Billowes

Hottie of the Week

Ayesha Bradley, 18

Interviewed by *Katie Smith*

Course: Biomedical Sciences, stage 1
Single or Taken: Taken
Ideal type of guy:
Dark hair, greeny-brown eyes, reasonably hench, good dress sense.
Favourite chat up line:
How much does a polar bear weigh? Enough to break the ice.
Favourite sex song:
I don't have one but I have sung Akon/ Lonely Island's 'I've Just Had Sex' after!
Worst thing you've said on a date?
I started talking about Nazis. I'm not sure why... It's just where the conversation flowed...
The relationship deal breaker?
Cheating… or veiny arms.
Most embarrassing Uni experience?
Finding out that my window is positioned so that the block next door can see into it - whilst I was having sex. Note to self: close blinds.
Finally, how do you stay looking so good?
I cheerlead 3/4 times a week.

Trending Topics of the week

#Mercury Prize
The Mercury prize is the less conventional member of the awards family, and values talent over commercial attention. It was awarded to Alt-J this year, although there was some criticism - for some they just weren't unknown enough.

#Starbucks
The Christmas drinks are out, and they serve them in red cups! There was much excitement about this. Plenty of people not going to class because their need for an Eggnog latte was just too great. A few pointed out that for Starbucks Christmas lasts two months.

#Movember
The Mo's are back. Many men were beginning their Movember journey by posting pictures of their freshly shaved face and asking for sponsorship. The aim is to grow a moustache and raise awareness for men's health. It's a great cause, but as one tweet pointed out for the next month we will have no way of knowing who is charitable and who is just a little creepy.

#Sandy
It was heartening to see Twitter being used for the right reasons in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Updates and information were being shared in more than 20 million tweets.

#TeamObama
With election fever hitting the UK as well as the US, it was impossible to avoid hearing the latest updates, with the whole of Twitter seeming to have a political opinion.

Erin Walden

Arts Editors: *Lisa Bernhardt and Millie Walton*
Online Arts Editors: *Grace Harvey*

Writers' Corner

The Final Raindrops
by Felicity Powell

A crowd has gathered, everyone on Earth
Stands on the ocean bed,
Staring into the sky.

They are waiting:
It was measured
That here the final raindrop would fall.

They'd drained the Atlantic
Scoop by scoop
Until nothing but sand remained;

They'd melted the icecaps,
Mountains of solid water,
Until nothing but solid remained;

They'd poisoned the rivers
Until a chemical trickle
Was held in high demand;

They said there was never enough water,
But there has always been the same amount.
It is us who has changed.

They are waiting for the final raindrop.
From a waterfall, ten miles high,
Look up, here it comes

A tiny globe teetering on the cloud's lip
Spilling out, a single tear
To be divided, drank and wept by all.

Not long now.
Mouths open in unison,
Waiting for the final raindrop to fall.

The Lake at Night
by Felicity Powell

The lake at night is still,
The surface smooth as paper
And black as heaven's ink.
Stars are written on the water.

I read them from my windowsill.
Sunlight is minutes old,
And faraway lights died long ago.
Stars are memories on the water.

Forget which way is heaven
And lake becomes sky,
Truth becomes myth.
Stars have fallen in the water.

A ripple murmurs through the ink,
As though an angel's feather
Has fallen upon the surface.
Stars are flying across the water.

Further apart they soar,
The space between them changing;
Neutron, red dwarf, supernova.
Stars evolving on the water

What if every star's a sun to another world
And someone there is watching me,
Watching the stars on a lake like this?
Stars are suns for different waters.

The lake is black as heaven's ink.
I sit awake, uncertain,
Not knowing where water ends and sky begins,
Watching the burning memories
Of long-extinguished stars.

If you want to read Felicity's piece 'Shadow Tide' and more contributions to our Writers' Corner column, visit www.thecourieronline.co.uk/arts

Built Around You: What makes a house a home?

Faye Chivers and **Nathalie O'Donovan** visited the exciting new arts project based in a house in Heaton and talked to the artists about student housing and the meaning of 'living somewhere'

Take a turn off Chillingham Road and you'll find 188 Simonside Terrace, a seemingly typical student maisonette. It may look like your average student digs, but this October the arts group Situation Rhubarb attempted to explore the question of what makes a house a home, by transforming a vacant student house into the *Built Around You* exhibition. The aim of the project was to encourage "regional artists to locate their work within unfamiliar settings and dialogues, encouraging them to engage with challenging situations."

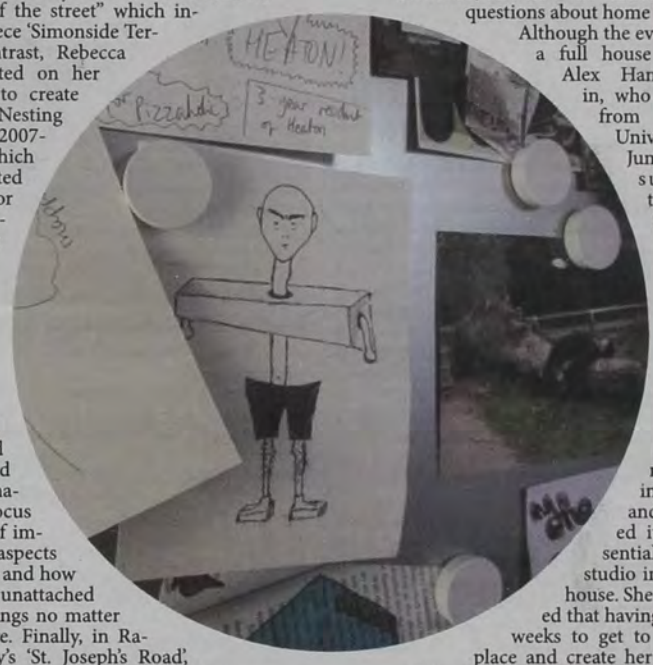
Alex Hanson-Deakin, Claire Rowlands, Rachel Maloney and Rebecca Travis were each given a room in which to express how they felt about transient living. Sheila Gonzalez, co-curator of Situation Rhubarb, explained that, "When you move from house to house, you kind of put up your own exhibition in your room, you put up pictures of life and then afterwards you have to take it all down." This is especially true for students, as we spend at least three years hopping from one student let to another.

From Tuesday 16th to Monday 29th October, the *Built Around You* exhibition invited people from the community into their 'home' to take part in activities ranging from bread-baking to knitting, from board game nights to alternative football, from a housewarming gig to a private dinner party. At each of these events, guests were invited to explore the house before the artwork was installed and while the artists in residence were creating their pieces.

Situation Rhubarb is a fairly new arts organisation, created by two Newcastle University alumni Sheila Gonzalez and Hannah Marsden, and sets out to "support emerging artists and create opportunities for them to work in a professional situation." They both appreciate how hard it is for young artists to promote their work: "artists are expected to make work and put a lot of energy and money into things, and never get paid for it." *Built Around You* continues Situation Rhubarb's mission to do this by working in non-traditional gallery spaces to challenge the artists to respond to their environment. The whole house has been taken over and each bedroom reflects what 'home' means to each artist.

Alex Hanson-Deakin spent time walking around the area and based her work on the "the reflections in the bay windows, mirrored on either side of the street" which inspired her piece 'Simonside Terrace'. In contrast, Rebecca Travis reflected on her past homes to create her room 'Nesting Grounds 2007-2012', in which she recreated scale plans for every bedroom she has lived in since moving to Heaton.

In Claire Rowlands' work, 'Structure', she used abandoned objects and temporary materials to focus on the role of impermanent aspects such as food, and how we remain unattached to certain things no matter where we live. Finally, in Rachel Maloney's 'St. Joseph's Road', she approached the challenge of what traces remain in a room once people have left and how "once a place or person is photographed, that moment is physically rendered in the 'past'".



Based largely on funding from the Arts Council, *Built Around You* also relied on support from Newcastle City Council and several local companies to help with holding the events. 'Rington's Tea' supplied the exhibition with enough tea and biscuits to feed an army. Sky Apple Café, a vegetarian café, provided them with the food and assistance for the dinner party. Stud-lets.co.uk helped the company to secure a venue for one month, and even contributed post cards to the 'Mail Art Exhibition', an eclectic collection of postcards written from visitors all about life in Heaton. Situation Rhubarb also relied on the local community for their publicity, by placing flyers through their neighbours' doors and in local cafés, instead of relying exclusively on the social media approach.

The house was certainly an original approach to non-gallery art, but how do you judge the success of such a project? Ultimately, this comes from the community response, how the artists felt they benefited, and how the exhibition raised questions about home owning.

Although the events meant a full house at times, Alex Hanson-Deakin, who graduated from Newcastle University in June 2012, supported the project by saying that despite the potential distraction that the events posed, it created a welcoming atmosphere in the house and prevented it from essentially being a studio in a student house. She commented that having just three weeks to get to know the place and create her work was "more of an opportunity to experiment [and] to really concentrate hard on something for a set period of time."

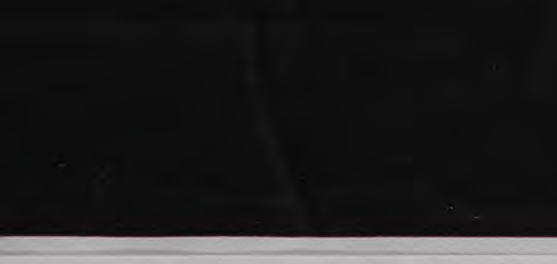
Ultimately, *Built Around You* experimented and played with common perceptions of 'home' and how easily they can change. It was an innovative and creative way of making you question your own attitude towards what you really call 'home'.

Nesting Grounds - Rebecca Travis
photography by Faye Chivers and Nathalie O'Donovan)

Opera North at the Theatre Royal

Online Arts Editor **Grace Harvey** previews the upcoming season of the acclaimed opera company

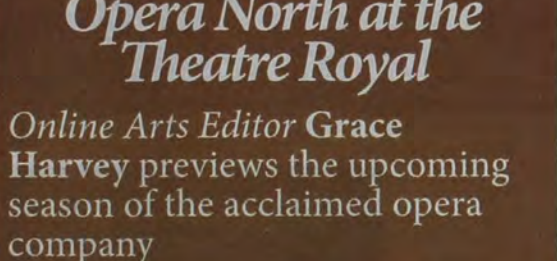
It's that time of year again. Reading is starting to build and assignments are starting to mount up, so many of us will be looking for reasons to avoid the Robinson with a justified night out. This always seems to coincide perfectly with Opera North's return to Newcastle, and this year is no exception. From Tuesday 13th until Saturday 17th of November, Opera North will perform three of their finest operas at the Theatre Royal, with tickets from £15. The touring company, based in Leeds, have an un-parallel ability to reignite the passion and melodrama of operatic classics and they never disappoint. Their award winning productions are accessible and modern, and only feature the finest vocal performers from across the globe.



Faust

Leading this season's tour is Gounod's *Faust*, one of the most popular operas worldwide. Recounting the classic tale of the scholar who sells his soul to the devil, Opera North guarantee a wholly innovative production of this timeless story. Featuring scenic projections rather than a static and tangible set, the whole performance will be brought to life in a way no other company has ever managed to do.

As Faust learns of the consequences of his new lifestyle, not everything is as rosy as he imagined and he continues to seek redemption for his loss.



Don Giovanni

No opera season is ever complete without a hint of Mozart: *Don Giovanni*, Mozart's most cherished opera, features an elegance and humour that most composers fail to master. Telling the story of the demised and hedonistic hero's contest with his abused and scorned victims, *Don Giovanni* promises dark-humour, flawless vocals and an outstanding production directed by critically acclaimed Alessandro Talevi. Sung in the original Italian (don't panic, there's English subtitles), Opera North's retelling of the infamous classic will prove to be only the finest crescendo of this seasons' tour.

The Makropulous Case

Janacek's infamous opera is an operatic performance in its truest sense. Questioning some of the oldest philosophical questions, *The Makropulous Case* is a comedic thriller that sends shivers down your spine. Its gripping plot, combined with beautiful vocals maintains an air of mystery until the very end.

Conductor Richard Farnes' re-imagination of Janacek's is the only production of this season's tour to be performed in English (titles are still available) so there really is no excuse to miss what looks to be one of the most intense evenings seen at the Theatre.

previews

Starlight Express

Sunderland Empire

13 - 24 November

Now that Fenwick have unveiled their festive window displays, it's safe to say Christmas is on the horizon. With that in mind, what better way to ease yourself into the holiday spirit than with some old-fashioned roller skating fun.

Starlight Express, one of the most successful and longest-running musicals in theatrical history, has been revived for a new UK tour by theatre producer Bill Kenwright (responsible for the record-breaking tour of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*), starting at the Sunderland Empire.

On the surface, *Starlight Express* is just a story about a group of toy trains that come to life, but underneath it's a tale of love and determination, accompanied by some phenomenal roller-aerobics for good measure. With a soundtrack from the renowned Andrew Lloyd-Webber, and choreography from Arlene Phillips (*Strictly Come Dancing*, *So You Think You Can Dance*), it guarantees to be a production to please everyone.

So if you fancy a distraction from looming deadlines, get your skates on and head to Sunderland before the show closes!

Kate Foster

Beautiful Burnout

Northern Stage

13 - 17 November

Macho and brutal, two words you would not expect to hear in relation to a play, *Beautiful Burnout* follows the life of five young men as they venture into the mean and gritty world of Glaswegian boxing. This Scottish tale builds upon a physiological dynamic along with a tactful poetic approach on what many consider to be a blood sport - do not be fooled into expecting two hours of mindless violence, similar to that of a Sylvester Stallone *Rocky* film.

The show has journeyed down from the National- Theatre of Scotland to our very own Northern Stage in the heart of Newcastle University. It is sure to equal, if not surpass, the usual standard of productions performed in the North East, with a long line of four and five star reviews from *The Independent*, *The Guardian*, *The Sunday Times* and the *Evening Standard*. Alongside the ratings, it has also won a 'Fringe First' at the internationally acclaimed Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

The production promises a high tech video backdrop, realistic fighting scenes and a thrilling night of performance. With nights selling out fast, any self-respecting theatre lover needs to buy their tickets without delay.

James Ricketts

reviews

Medea

Northern Stage

30 November - 3 November

☆☆☆☆

The words 'unique adaptation' are bandied around far too often, but Olivier award winning writer Mike Bartlett's innovative production of *Medea* is truly one of the greatest.

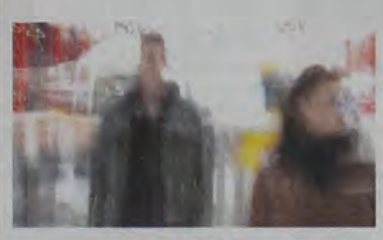
Based on the classic Greek tragedy, the performance was by far one of the most intense spectacles I've ever seen- despite being a relatively short performance, it packed a tight punch.

With a minimalist set and a small cast, the attention to detail did not go unnoticed and the overall production was flawless. The staging was both simple and contemporary with hints of music and innovative design providing a platform to propel the quality of acting to the forefront of the performance.

Rachel Stirling's *Medea* was compelling, inspiring and surprisingly funny, beautifully depicting the savage ferocity of her character. Her combination of terror and humility allowed Adam Levy's command of Jason to perfectly compliment her performance.

Headlong's combination of extraordinary talent with the ordinary suburban staging and relationships is sure to mark the company's re-imagination as the new standard.

Grace Harvey



London

Live Theatre

30 October - 10 November

☆☆☆☆

Simon Stephens' plays have a reputation of breaking the mould and *London* was no exception.

The first of the two monologues of which *London* is comprised, was utterly absorbing. Via individual headsets the audience were allowed access to an anonymous mother's chaotic stream of thoughts as she recounted painful memories and revealed her complete inability to cope with her hectic lifestyle, resulting in a paranoid fear of the outside world. Alongside the recorded monologue an actress moved silently around the simple bedroom set. However, the thoughts were so powerful that it could be appreciated as a purely oral piece.

The second section, 'Seawall' was equally impressive. Father and photographer, Alex lulled the audience into a false sense of security with humorous anecdotes about his family before terrifyingly recounting how his perfect life was destroyed in one swift moment. The lack of set and the glaring lights forced the audience to experience the trauma alongside him, as if trapped in some horrific nightmare. The acting was phenomenal in its rawness and believability as the audience were reduced to tears, making it one of the best pieces of emotional theatre I've seen.

Millie Walton

Daniel Sloss

The Stand

4 November

☆☆☆☆☆

It was half way through the show when I realised I couldn't see because I was crying with laughter that I realised this was the best stand up show I had ever seen. Kai Humphries warmed up for Daniel Sloss, and he was nothing short of hilarious; a Geordie born and bred, his localised humour delighted the crowd, discussing what it was to be working class and taking crude comedy to a new level - despite his parents being in the audience.

Then Daniel stepped up. Playing on his age, he kept us all laughing discussing his new hair, moving out, sex, drugs and generally just how being an over confidence little shit has worked ridiculously in his favour. Daniel's offensive charm of insulting most people in the audience worked wonders, although I can honestly say I would not want to be some of the poor girls that Daniel discusses. The show was concluded with a Q and A session between Kai and Daniel that ended in Kai being utterly humiliated in front of his parents with one of the best (worst) sex stories I have ever heard.

I can't recommend enough either of these comedians and if you have a chance to see either of Daniel or Kai in the future, take it with both hands.

Sally Priddle

Andi Osho

The Stand

6 November

☆☆☆

With a *Sex and the City* overture and an anticipatory audience, the evening started on a high note. I immediately warmed to Osho's chatty, yet chilled out character. However, my hopes were slightly spoiled by a guy called John. Don't get me wrong, he was lovely, but he was also rather battered and had one of the broadest Geordie accents I have ever heard. His interjections were all rather random and it was hard to tell who was more confused, the audience or John.

Even so, Osho did well with engaging the audience - something comedians love do to - but by the interval, that's all that really happened. Osho was charmingly funny, but I was a little unsure if the show was ever going to start. I was looking forward to being regaled by disastrous tales of her ridiculous relationship mishaps - after all, the tour was called *All the Single Ladies*; instead, it was an hour and a half of toilet humour, dissing Cheryl Cole and John's ex-wife. That being said, what her material lacked in refinement was made up by Osho's charisma and energy. She could have made it an evening of hilarious lady banter, but unfortunately just missed the mark.

Anya Thaker

Music Editors: Chris Haywood and Sam Summers
Online Music Editor: Sophie Coletta

How To Buy...
Radiohead

A favourite among both listeners and critics, Radiohead have sold over 30 million albums worldwide over the last two decades. But which of their records should we be looking out for?

For Beginners:
***In Rainbows* (2007)**

In Rainbows is a pop masterpiece. It is also a strikingly powerful assemblage of songs. It is very difficult to find a band who are so capable, so comfortable at making music which is as emotionally provocative as it is powerful, but Radiohead indeed did just that in their 2007 release. Opening with '15 Step', an electronic, rhythmic powerhouse, and closing with 'Videotape', a slow piano-driven number, it's clear that what we are witnessing here is a band who can experiment just to the right degree as to not ruin the purity of their songs. Listen and maybe 'Bodysnatchers' will become your new pre-drinks music, if your friends will put up with you dancing like a lunatic...

For Experts:
***Amnesiac* (2001)**

For fans of Radiohead, 2001's *Amnesiac* is an album which should be embraced. There are a collection of song elements which - as an appreciator of Radiohead's music - you're happy to hear when they emerge in a song. In *Amnesiac*, those elements range deeper than they had previously. Many suggested that *Amnesiac* was Radiohead disappearing up their own arses, but if you're a fan of band, that's precisely what you want to hear! Radiohead were having fun. From the jerky time signature of the beautifully sorrowful 'Pyramid Song' to the audible distress in the vocals for 'Life in a Glasshouse', *Amnesiac* is one of Radiohead's finest achievements. It may not be easy to listen to. But it must be listened to.

For The Bin:
***Pablo Honey* (1993)**

Radiohead were not Radiohead proper until their third album, *OK Computer*. To that end, I would specifically advise potential Radiohead fans to avoid *Pablo Honey* at all costs. It is a relic of an older, stale band emerging from the haze of grunge, and it certainly seems to be the case that Radiohead as a band had not yet found themselves. It is worth pointing out that their arguably most well known song, 'Creep' can be found on *Pablo Honey*. I'd also point out that 'Creep' is also a product of a band other than modern Radiohead. Moreover, it's a poor representation of the band ever since the mid-'90s! They don't like it, and neither do I.

Tom Rhodes

Trilogy
The Weeknd
☆☆☆☆½

Everyone knows what the 'R&B' and 'rap' genres consist of... or do they? The relatively unknown and mysterious artist who goes by the name The Weeknd – real name Abel Tesfaye – has introduced a new style that cannot necessarily be seasily pigeon-holed into a genre that the music industry knows so well. The Weeknd has been associated with Drake, a household name with regular chart appearances thanks to his popular album *Take Care* last year; however their music is far from synonymous.

A year after releasing a trio of free online mixtapes to massive critical acclaim, Tesfaye has compiled all three onto *Trilogy*, his first physical release.

The Weeknd's first mixtape *House of Balloons* is an example of a different direction. 'The Party & The After Party' and 'Loft Music' particularly explore some of Tesfaye's interests; namely drugs and parties as the track names may suggest. With a slightly different use of his voice than in the later mixtapes, *House of Balloons* is a record that demonstrates his work in rap as opposed to singing, but one that still uses different and more interesting beats than what you would expect to appear on a standard rap track; more homemade and original stuff.

While it is difficult to fault The Weeknd, his second mixtape *Thursday* does not particularly stand out next to his other work. It seems as if he has tried almost too hard to stray from the path, with tracks like 'Lonely Star' and 'The Birds Part 2' hinting at quite a haunting and disturbing feel. The choice of music behind the vocals is somewhat odd and quite dark, making this possibly the least accessible out of the three mixtapes.

Even though it was released last, The Weeknd's third mixtape *Echoes of Silence* would be a good place for new listeners to start. Released in 2011 this is his most recent work and includes an interesting take on Michael Jackson's 'Dirty Diana' – probably not a track you would expect from an artist of this genre. What will appeal to most new

> "What will appeal to most new listeners is Testfaye's ability to sing, something [...] rare and surprising among rappers"

listeners is Tesfaye's ability to sing, something that can be quite rare and surprising among rappers and makes it easy to get to grips with his work. Tracks such as 'Same Old Song' and 'Montreal' introduce impressive vocals and easy-going beats.

At only 22, this guy has a long and successful career of ahead of him, and the fact that he is yet to produce an official studio album makes him even more interesting. Even if you're not a fan of the umbrella genre that is 'rap', this will surprise you.

Recommended download:
'Loft Music'

Jessica Jones

If you like this, try ...
Frank Ocean
Channel Orange
☆☆☆☆☆

Young Hunger
Chad Valley
☆☆☆☆

From the first song, Chad Valley's debut album Young Hunger relentlessly washes over you with entrancing euphoria. Like wading through soft neon lights whilst pleasantly tripping balls, Chad Valley throws you into a sea of chillwave, only letting you come up for air in the brief moments between tracks.

Hugo Manuel - the one man show that has created this unique sound - recently stated in an interview with *Rolling Stone* that he'd "like to think that the scenery had something to do with the way this sounds." Recorded in the beautiful Norwegian countryside, this striking imagery saturates the music, pouring out of every synth and reverb soaked falsetto vocal.

It's Manuel's vocals that are the most striking feature of the album, habitually recurring in every song and soaring above his multitude of impressive collaborators, the likes of which include; Twin Shadow, Active Child and Totally Enormous Extinct Dinosaurs.

The album's title track pushes forward with a strong bass line and an electrifying synth reminiscent of the 1980s club scene, layering more entrancing harmonies as the song progresses. 'Tell All Your Friends' sounds like it's being passionately shouted from the top of a Norwegian mountain across barren, beautiful countryside.

The most distinctive track on the album is 'Fathering/Mothering,' purely due to the silence and minimalist approach, something that could be used slightly more throughout the album to give a minor respite from the unavoidable imminent flood of sound. Though, with this flash flood of euphoric noise, Manuel succeeds in suspending time whilst the listener joyfully floats through the beats.

Recommended download:
'I Follow You'

Charlie Dearnley

Say It To My Face
Huey and the New Yorkers
☆☆☆☆

Described in his press release as 'a rock 'n' roll renaissance man', former Fun Lovin' Criminals frontman Morgan has created an eclectic album ranging from techno-funk in 'Stick It To The Man' to the more mellow 'Shaniqua' and the old school blues feel of 'It's Alright'.

Throughout the record, he uses a range of topics to entice listeners into his diverse musical world, with each song bringing a different sound or vibe to the table. Romantic and poignant lyrics such as those from 'Fall Into Me' make you want to curl up on a winter's day and forget the world for a while. Whereas the blues flavoured 'Dirty Bird' and 'Let My People Go' make you want to get up and dance, showing again the diversity of Morgan's work.

You can see why his radio show on BBC 6Music has such a following if this album is anything to go by. With help from a 1920s acoustic guitar and esteemed friends including former member of Fun Lovin' Criminals Frank Benbini on drums and Grammy Award winning keyboard player Pete Levin, Morgan creates a sonic landscape that unequivocally reflects middle-aged life, which is accessible to anybody though.

The press release for the record says it's "a grown up album about other grown-ups, for other grown-ups", which is, in my opinion, a hyperbole too far. Being about middle age it could be a dour, boring and slow album, but Huey Morgan brings a smile to the face with his deep, husky voice, mix of genres and at some points comical lyrics.

Recommended download:
'Die Life'

Josh Nicholson

A Map Of All Our Failures
My Dying Bride
☆☆

My Dying Bride are immeasurably dark. Their album "a map of all our failures" focuses on the evil, depressing and murky parts of humanity, every note resonates unjustified malevolence, and death.

Each song tells a story, but does so very slowly. This is not the kind of metal that involves jaw droppingly fast guitar solos and a double bass pedal that becomes one continuous hum. Alternatively, My Dying Bride have created an incredibly haunting and atmospheric album. It is as if every song is bathed in a dense fog, and the listener is forced to journey with the band as they delve into shadows.

Quite often the lyrics aren't sung and instead they are spoken, for example in "A Tapestry Scorned," when the vocalist speaks of his gradual deterioration towards death, whilst backed by thumping drums and a church organ. The album's title track differs slightly with the use of screeching violins, whispered screaming and many changes in pace. Everything inevitably adds to the melancholic and hopeless feel of the music whilst the terrible tale is told with haunting vocals.

As I approached the sixth song on the album I realised I hadn't smiled since I started listening. I was miserable. The painfully slow pace had begun to take its toll and I was bored. All of the songs had begun to blur together to form one dense, depressing mess. If your mind is filled with darkness and you welcome depression with an open hand then this album is just for you, but it is an acquired taste.

Recommended download:
'Dream Song'

Charlie Dearnley

For more album and live reviews, as well more exclusive online content, check out The Courier music section online at www.courieronline.co.uk

sceNE: Shields

Delving into the region's exploding music scene, Charlie Dearnley brings you a sample of what the North East can offer you...

I sat down in Blank studios, and sank into the sofa coffee in hand, with the band whose infectiously energetic music had been stuck on a loop in my head for the past two days. Having recently returned from gigs around Europe and with one day off from their busy touring schedule, I managed to catch up with Shields, a band who are rightfully building a huge name for themselves.

The first thing that becomes apparent is that they are all clearly good friends. They're incredibly comfortable, laughing at each other when the conversation descends into the realms of the absurd; they discuss conspiracies surrounding the Desperate Housewives and their "fake dead faces," and do impressions of Michael Jackson that were far closer to the squeak of a petrified mouse.

Shields are known for their live performance, seeking as they do to "refresh people's enthusiasm for music" with their electrifying shows. When I asked them how they go about creating such an electrifying atmosphere the response is beautifully simple, "[we] ensure everything's live, so many bands play to a backing track these days." This live experience also gives them a chance to "try out different things with the tracks," providing a completely unique performance and one that differs from a standard recording. The past has seen them perform on an adjacent stage to Bruce Springsteen, something that they all laugh about. Their recent concert with Placebo contrastingly created an immediate buzz of excitement when mentioned; "the adrenaline was ridiculous" they state, and this show has clearly had a lasting affect.

When asked about the music scene in Newcastle, they responded that there are "quite a lot of good bands coming out with an alternative-pop sort of sound," which has consequently resulted in a strong scene and a growing interest in the music form. Somehow, out of this Shields have still created a unique and noticeable sound, admitting themselves that "there is a thread that runs through all of our songs like the angular guitars and vocal harmonies for instance. Each song that they write then is bursting with musical finesse, and is exceedingly dynamic; the result is music that you can't help but dance to.

All of these distinctive features are apparent on their impressive unreleased EP *Kaleidoscope*. Since it's their first major release, it's been a "huge learning curve" especially when it came to production. Most of it was recorded in the twilight hours; "looking like shit," they deliberated over every minute detail stating "it doesn't help that we're really anal about everything." Nevertheless, ultimately this drive for perfection has resulted in a very polished and complete final product.

Kaleidoscope is released on the 19th of November, with a launch concert at The Other Rooms on the 17th. But what's next for the band once they see the back of this launch? Writing an album seemed next on the agenda, but they were all noticeably excited about jumping straight back into touring, dishing out more feverishly dynamic live performances, and spreading their infectious enthusiasm

Latest Release
Shields
Kaleidoscope (E.P.)
☆☆☆☆½

New EP *Kaleidoscope* resonates with infectious joy and an energetic enthusiasm that makes me grin like a Cheshire cat from the outset. Each song is bursting with a musicality and electricity that compels me to tap my feet.

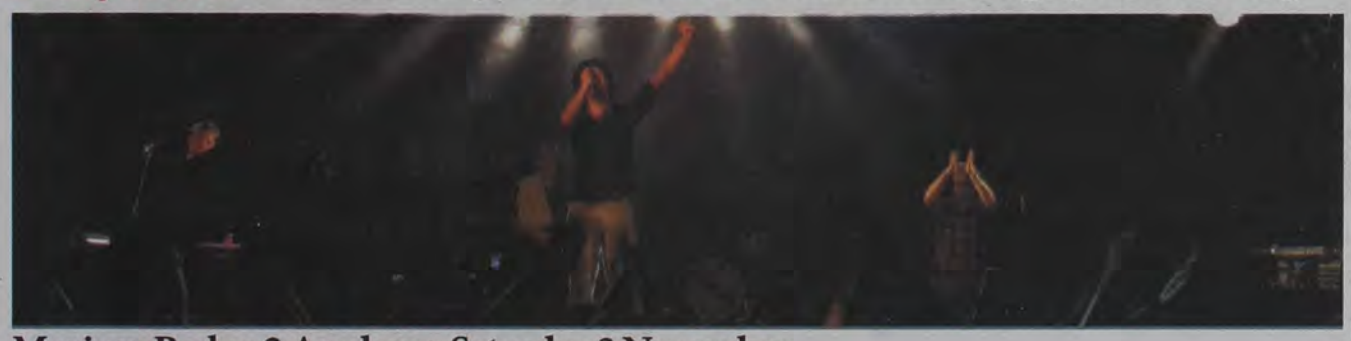
Although each song is indisputably distinct from the rest, there is a common thread throughout: a sound and a feel that Shields have arguably coined as their own. Buzzing synths, beautiful vocal harmonies, and parasitically unforgettable melodies tie everything together to create a very complete sound.

The sock-puppet driven video for the first single taken from the EP, 'Mezzanine', has been tweeted about by Kylie Minogue and is just one glimmer of the attention this release really deserves. The band have also ambitiously covered 'Pharaohs' by SBTRKT, and their alt-pop interpretation is impressively successful, though I would have liked to have seen more of an explorative diversion from the original.

With each song so strong it's hard to pick a favourite, but the palm-muted guitar riffs, Barbershop style vocal melodies, and sharp contrasting dynamics of 'Momentum' result in a triumphant song amidst a glorious EP, which has me dancing like a fool around my room each time it graces my speakers.

Oh, What A Night

Matty Aston watches the major North-East titans return for a mighty homecoming



Maximo Park: o2 Academy, Saturday 3 November

Saturday evening saw local indie heroes Maximo Park bring their The National Health tour home to a sold out o2 Academy.

'It's good to be back on Tyneside,' proclaimed frontman Paul Smith within minutes of their triumphant live return to the north-east. 'I even used my own bath,' joked the Teesider before launching straight into the title track from their latest studio album.

It was clear that, despite the best efforts from a rather subdued crowd, the lads were in the party spirit and determined to make the most of the evening, firing off track after track from *The National Health* in the first half of their set, with 'The Undercurrents' perhaps the most warmly received number.

Nevertheless, the biggest cheers of the night were reserved for their older indie classics 'Graffiti,' 'By The Monument' and 'Going Missing' which finally succeeded in gaining a reaction from audience members, sadly an hour too late.

With a back catalogue including 'The Kids Are Sick Again,' 'Books From Boxes' and 'Apply Some Pressure,' it was clear the local lads would have no problem ending the gig in style and a frenetic 'Our Velocity' was greeted with rapturous reception, bringing the evening to a close.

Whilst it is always a treat to see Maximo in their hometown, their new record unfortunately fails to match up to their older material in terms of crowd reaction. They've mastered the live circuit. It's now time to produce another hit album to delight their legion of fans.

Unknown Pleasures

No artist. No title. No clue...

This week we gave Mike Slaski a renowned, experimental and avant-garde outfit's attempt to wrongfoot its audience.

Throbbing Gristle
20 Jazz Funk Greats (1979)
☆☆

Bloody Nora. I'm feeling pretty overwhelmed by this 'Unknown Pleasure.' I mean I'd like to consider myself pretty open-minded when it comes to music, but what is this? A word of warning, I have very few positive words to say about this album.

It's definitely pretty 'out-there' (i.e. weird as hell), since it's not got any conventional songs (verse-chorus-verse etc) and it definitely feels pretty 80s, but in a 'New Order put on gimp masks and do sadomasochism' kind of way. Yes, it's pretty sinister. Essentially the album comprises some spooky ambient music, a couple of techno-ish tracks and some macabre spoken word but we'll get to that in a bit.

The ambient tracks on the album are pretty forgettable, unfortunately they make up about 40 minutes of the hour runtime if the record so it's a bit of a yawn-fest. They sound kind of like the soundtrack to a really boring nightmare. Plodding along, a bleep here a bloop there, the sound of a chainsaw here, distant crashing noises over there. It's not necessarily bad for what it is; eerie background music, but it is just pretty bloody dull.

Track 3 ('Still Walking') is horrible. It's just a load of really high-pitched chainsaws, drills and buzzing noises. Painful to listen to, I made it halfway and skipped the rest. Did not enjoy that at all, oh well. Onward we go.

So it's not quite all doom and gloom, eventually we reach Track 7, ('Hot on the Heels of Love') which is actually good. Hooray. It's an 80s techno banger, got a sample of a whip being cracked, some woman whispering in a sexy voice and some high-pitched synths. Four and a half minutes of weird, sexy techno fun. Definitely the high-point of the album, but it goes pretty downhill from here.

Onto the main talking point of the album, Track 8 ('Persuasion'). So this is an unusual album, you know by now, but Track 8 takes the weird to its logical conclusion. Basically, it's a monologue of a man talking about molesting a girl and persuading her to let him take naked photographs of her. In the background there are sounds of a girl crying and screaming. Wow. The man keeps saying "I persuade you". "I've got a little biscuit tin to keep your panties in, soiled panties, white panties, school panties, Y-front panties". What is going on? This isn't music; it's an audio recording of a pervert.

Well here we are. I apologise for being a complete whiny little girl, but there we go. I hate this album, so what more can I say? So much for 'Unknown 'Pleasure"; I feel like I've been violated, excuse me while I go take a shower and try to think happy thoughts. You might think I'm being dramatic, but you weren't there man.

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Oh burger off...

With Twitter arguments and controversies making for more music industry drama than ever before, *Online Music Editor* [redacted] takes a look at some of her favourite beefs in the business...

Deadmau5 vs. Madonna

After announcing Aviici at Ultra Festival with a wild cry of 'has anyone seen Molly?' grinding granny Madonna came under moral judgement from EDM buffoon Deadmau5 for allegedly promoting drug use to the teenage crowd: 'You're a role model to 100's of millions. You have a powerful voice, EDM could use your positive influence, not 'molly' talk', he accused on Twitter before Madonna posted a photoshopped picture of herself with mouse ears and the caption: "From one mouse to another, I don't support drug use and I never have. I was referring to the song called "Have you seen Molly?" written by my friend Cedric Gervais who I almost worked with on my album. Er, right, and I suppose 'Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds' was actually about a skydiving bejewelled girl too?

Winner: For artistic retaliation and not spending 80% of her waking day in a knob-tastic Mickey Mouse helmet, Madonna.

Beef Rating: Corned beef hash - incidentally, great for hangovers and come downs.

Azealia Banks vs. Everyone

T.I, Lil Kim, Nicki Minaj, Iggy Azealea, Jim Jones, Kreayshawn, her management, is there anyone this woman won't take on? After drunkenly accosting her one time in the CUT I can personally vouch that she's not as belligerent in real life; however, her online quarrels have ranged from trivial topic matters such as who first invented the word 'vamp', to non-consensual track samples, to retweets of '212' directed from a porn site, too?

Winner: For sheer persistence and taking on anyone that will listen, Azealia Banks.

Beef Rating: Beef Carpaccio - whilst delicious and thinly sliced, it's still hunks of cold, raw, virtually mooing cow and after fourteen slices it's all just a bit too much.

Lady Gaga vs. Calvin Harris

Notable only in terms of its participants, this particular beef was actually something of a let down, due to the promptness of its reconciliation. After taking on South Africans Die Antwoord, who took the piss out of her in a recent music video, GaGa proceeded to start on the Scottish producer after he claimed in an interview that he turned down the opportunity to work with her because he 'didn't like' the songs she sent him. GaGa was quick to respond with a 'cuz I'm a woman I don't know about EDM right?' sneer, before Harris replied with the sheer gusto of an 11 year old schoolboy, 'The illuminati's after me lol.' After a few more back and forths, they were quick to kiss and make up.

Winner: For taking on one of the world's biggest pop stars with the word 'lol', Calvin Harris.

Beef Rating: Roast beef and mustard sandwiches - whilst delectable and juicy, doesn't last very long. GaGa obviously prefers to wear her beef rather than wield it.

Lily Allen vs. Cheryl Cole

A feud that extends beyond the very existence of Twitter, these girls first clashed horns in 2005 with Allen writing a diss track called 'Cheryl Tweedy'. Cheryl then labeled Allen 'a chick with a dick' and Allen retaliated with harsh-but-true remarks about her not being able to sing. Five years later, after Sarah Harding faced assault charges from her boyfriend, Allen made an innocently factual (ha ha) comment on Twitter that '40% of Girls Aloud have now been convicted of assault'. Cheryl let her fans do the dirty work, unfollowing Allen and letting twelve year olds accost her with all sorts of crap digs like 'LMFAO you is pregnant bitch'.

Winner: Seeing as wor Chezza wussed out, Lily Allen.

Beef Rating: Boeuf Bourguignon - delectable, but takes a bloody age to make.

Chris Brown vs. Frank Ocean

The most annoying thing about Chris Brown perhaps, is not what he's done, it's his point blank refusal to show any sort of remorse when confronted about it. In 2011, after he took to Twitter to state that Frank Ocean reminded him of a 'young James Fauntleroy or Kevin Cossum', Ocean mocked both Brown's terrible dye job and his previous woman-beating tendencies, retaliating with, 'Chris Brown reminds me of a young Sisqo or Ike Turner.' Evidently this comment was a little too much for Brown's sensitive soul, who later eloquently replied, "F*** odd future! Make sure y'all small-time n****s stick yo chess out when u speak to me...Ain't no battery in my back! U just getting on a**n***s! Don't let them pills go to yo head! I was tryna help yo sales n***a. You f****n clown! You and @f**ktyler would be casted great for planet of the apes!" What a lovely, misunderstood chap.

Winner: For his lack of dickhead-ry, eloquence, ability to stay calm, and surviving a subsequent LA car chase from Brown's cousins, Frank Ocean.

Beef Rating: Beef Burger - no matter how much you dress it up, it's still a slab of processed parts of a cow you would rather not know about.

BADvertising

Becca Price enters the world of opera singers with side jobs as car salesmen. A dark, dark world. With annoying singing and the decline of a young man's career

Deep in the Enchanted Forest, a young opera singer named Wynne Evans was hurrying through the wood with a picnic basket for his sick grandmamma. Suddenly, a wicked Trickster Goblin appeared and sat on a toadstool. 'Fatty!' the goblin cackled, pointing a long warty finger, 'I shall grant you one wish, but beware – my wishes carry a terrible curse!'

Wynne thought for a moment. 'I want success as a performer. I want to bring opera to the masses. I want my voice to be known in every home across the land. I wish…for a big break!'

The Trickster Goblin laughed, clicked his fingers, and disappeared in a puff of smoke. Wynne's mobile began to ring. 'Alright mate, busy tomorrow? I've got you some TV work...'

And so it was that The *GoCompare* Man was born. In reality, it wasn't goblins that created him, but the same husband-and-wife advertising team that gave us *Sheila's Wheels*. They have evil in their hearts and they must be stopped.

This most hated of mascots has been on television for over three years now. You remember the classics – Stone Age *GoCompare!* Georgian *GoCompare!* Ghost *GoCompare!* An animated special with the three little pigs, and the original breakthrough masterpiece in the cafe! It's as if the company wanted something that could replicate Meerkat Mania, and tried to create endless variations of the ad until the nation would finally give in and grow fond of him.

Recently, however, they've changed their approach. Finally realising that Britain would never take 'Gio Compario' to their hearts, they've released a new set which sees him being attacked by mildly recognisable celebrities. If anything, it makes me like them even less.

Next time Wynne pops up, don't change channel. Look beyond the cartoony moustache and silly hair. Somewhere, deep inside the fat suit, is a man's soul. A man who once topped the classical chart, was compared to Pavarotti and occasionally presents Welsh TV. His name is Wynne Evans, and he is a human being, not The *GoCompare* Man. But he is trapped forever as Gio Compario, unloved and unknown, and even his own company pretends not to like him in an attempt to impress the cool kids. The whole thing is just tragic.

Hebburn
BBC2, Thursday 10pm

If there's one thing about us Geordies, it's that we love producing a TV show for the rest of the nation to feast upon. New BBC2 sitcom *Hebburn* arrived on our screens a few weeks ago and has brought with it nothing but widespread approval from critics.

The programme, far removed from that despicable reality show that I refuse to name, features writer Jason Cook's take on life in Newcastle suburb Hebburn, and pokes fun at its working class inhabitants. The plot centres around the Pearson family and their son Jack (aspiring Geordie comedian Chris Ramsay), who returns on a visit home having left for Manchester to pursue a career in journalism. Little do the Pearson's know however, the real reason for his return is to slowly break the news of his secret marriage to middle-class Jewish girl Sarah (Kimberley Nixon) whilst drunk in Las Vegas. Unsurprisingly, Jack's plan fails miserably and the truth comes out following a tortuous evening in the local pub featuring a terrible karaoke singer, an unexpected death, his new wife vomiting and the final revelation of wedding photos on her phone, courtesy of grandmother Dot (Pat Dunn).

And if that wasn't entertaining enough, *Hebburn* returned with an even better second episode, focusing on Dot's move from her care home back to the small town. The whole family, including Jack's parents Joe and Pauline (Vic Reeves and Gina McKee), assist in the move despite the obvious tension between mother and son. In an effort to appease his mother, Jack insists on having a proper wedding by using the money from his £30,000 book deal on Gazza's memoirs. The family's joy is short-lived however as the book deal collapses and Dot is forced to move back into her retirement home, having bragged about her departure only hours earlier. To top it all off, Jack and Sarah are left unable to pay the bills for their flat and move back to the family home on Tyneside, thus setting up the rest of the series rather nicely. *Hebburn* is undoubtedly one of the best new sitcoms of 2012 and I couldn't recommend it any more highly.

Matty Aston

The Hour
BBC2, Wednesday 9pm

As the BBC still tries to recover from the on-air out-burst over the Suez Crisis and the existence of a communist spy high up in the BBC hierarchy, the groundbreaking BBC news show, *The Hour* begins to lose its edge. As lead anchor Hector is being lured in by the ITV, everything is not looking too good for the once pioneering news show. *The Hour* is back as we delve into the seedy underbelly of the media.

Faced with the opposition of a commercial news channel and having dismissed investigative reporter, Freddie Lyon, the BBC bring in a new Head of News in Mr. Brown (a character specifically written for Peter Capaldi, giving him something to do now *The Thick of It* is over). This shake up brings back Freddie while Hector delves further into the gangland world of Soho.

Evoking the style of *Mad Men* with the sharp witted, snappy dialogue of anything churned out by Aaron Sorkin, *The Hour* made a big splash last year, marking the start of some great original BBC dramas. Once again, *The Hour* is set out to be the leader of this autumn's BBC drama schedule and for good reason. With *Spooks* like espionage and *Mad Men* like suits, *The Hour* was a bit of a slow starter but, once it got going, audiences were hooked. 1950s historical events collide with how it is dealt with in the media while those behind the media deal with their own problems. Gripping.

Chris Taylor

Full English
Channel 4, Monday 10:50pm

Is it *The Simpsons*? Is it *Family Guy*? Nope, but you're not far off; it's the new Channel 4 comedy-cartoon series *Full English*.

Aiming to prove that Brits can produce an animation to rival the long running US imports, it's based around a quintessential British family, filled with references to the monarchy, the economy, popular culture, and all that jazz associated with the country today. It's safe to say that the producers are riding on the coat-tails of 'British pride' coming out of 2012, and who are we to deny them that opportunity?

Created by Harry Williams, Jack Williams & Alex Scarfe (son of influential political cartoonist Gerald Scarfe), the hand-drawn characters of the Johnson family (Edgar, Wendy, Dusty, Jason, and Eve) seek to hit all the stereotypical buttons associated with your usual British family, i.e. giving us the 'Full English' spectrum (oh how witty of the producers) to relate to.

The first episode serves to give us an introduction to this strange, anarchic world, filled with over-the-top caricatures of celebrities such as Simon Cowel, and even shoving in the Queen in there just to add insult to injury. It's such an overdone family-based cartoon, and the number of similar oversubscribed American imports will most definitely give them a disadvantage from the outset. Let's just hope they prove me wrong!

Beth Durant

Secret State
Channel 4, Wednesday 10pm

Running off the back of the success of US hit *Homeland*, Channel 4 have decided to have a stab of their own in the political thriller genre with *Secret State* a four part mini-series starring Gabriel Byrne (from such films as *The Usual Suspects* and *The Man in the Iron Mask*) and Gina McKee.

The plot centres around the aftermath of an industrial accident in Teeside and the resulting investigation that takes place, headed by deputy prime minister Tom Dawkins (Byrne), that raises questions on the safety procedures of the American petrochemical giant involved. Dawkins has to navigate his way through the dealings and interest of those involved, including those of the government in order to find justice for the families involved. It soon becomes clear that a lot more has gone on between the company and the government than was first apparent.

This series, at first sight, draws obvious comparisons from both the aforementioned *Homeland* and especially the 2003 BBC series *State of Play* (later ruined in film form by the Americans) that arguably made the careers of John Simm and James McAvoy. *State of Play*, also a political conspiracy thriller, similarly focused on the main character uncovering corruption in the government involving a US oil giant. It will be interesting to see how the similar plot of *Secret State* holds up against the brilliant *State of Play*, though from the outlook a good cast and engaging story leaves you hopeful it will deliver.

Tim Sewell

A pop culture guide to...throwing the best party ever

They say that TV is the best teacher you can have (apart from those with actual degrees in teaching). So, why not take advice from the Great Big Magic Box as **Tom Nicholson** grabs his punch bowl and nibbles to put on the best party!

DO

Make sure your belongings are vomit-proofed by following *Peep Show*'s Mark and Jez in setting up designated puke points. Probably best to exclude inviting Super Hans too. And don't make 5 lasagnes.

Make absolutely sure you've got a decent music selection. Father Ted Crilly did not do this. Father Ted had to make do with listening to The Specials' Ghost Town for four hours straight. Father Ted did not have a good party.

Get Tamsin Greig round to play the part of a flatmate's mum a la her role in *Friday Night Dinner*. She'll mortify them and you'll have ammo to use against them for weeks.

DON'T

Invite your creepy landlady. If she's anything like Marsha from *Spaced*, she'll sour the atmosphere more effectively than several lead balloons tied to a white elephant and attempt to seduce the weakest of your flatmates.

Let James "Arg" Argent wear a bow tie if you've invited him. He will look, as always, like a bag of suet being throttled. He will try to sing while doing that creepy smile and sound like the wind whistling down a long drainpipe. He will be girl-kryptonite.

Invite the cast of *Skins*. They'll "smoke" some "doobs" and "drop" some massive rocks of "crack" while staring meaningfully at each other in stairwells. They will refuse to play pass the parcel. They're pretentious wankbags.

Giant eggs, frozen planets and life itself

David Attenborough, soothing-voiced nature expert, reaches a landmark 60 years at the BBC during which he's had his fingers in more departmental pies than a box jellyfish has eyes. **Joanna Whitty** looks through his illustrious career to see the effect he's had at the BBC

As David Attenborough celebrates 60 years at the BBC, it is apparent that everyone wants to celebrate with him. It is not often that the nation takes someone into their hearts, but when it comes to David Attenborough there are few hearts he has yet to touch.

His modesty and charm has meant he inevitably appeals to the masses as a public figure and his love of nature is truly infectious. He is responsible for bridging our understanding of the natural world and has captured the magnificence of the planet we live on, bringing it all into our living rooms.

David was born in Isleworth, West London, where his enthusiasm for the natural world was apparent as he spent his youth collecting fossils and other natural specimens. His love of nature saw him graduate from Cambridge University with a degree in the natural sciences. It was in 1952 that Attenborough was given his first job at the BBC after only ever seeing one TV programme in his life. After initially being refused the chance to appear on TV due to his 'large teeth', Attenborough produced and presented his first programme: *The Pattern of Animals*. He went on to create programmes such as *Zoo Quest*, which revolutionised naturalist programmes. He enabled people to escape to parts of the world they had only dreamt of seeing, and introduced people to species and fossils that had not been seen by the masses before.

Attenborough wasn't just revolutionising on-screen viewing; he had a major impact behind the scenes when he was Controller of BBC Two from 1965 to 1969. He transformed the struggling station, which seemed too niche at the time, and made it into the diverse station it is today. While in charge of BBC Two, it became the first station to broadcast in colour and commissioned such shows as *The Old Grey Whistle Test* and *Monty Python's Flying Circus*; very unique shows that probably wouldn't have worked elsewhere. He was later promoted to Director of Programmes but turned down the role of Director General because he wanted to return to making nature programmes, for which he clearly has a burning passion.

The *Life on Earth* series, with its ambition and scope, set the bar high for the numerous programmes which followed. It memorably included a face to face interaction with a gorilla which initially began as a simple piece of the gorilla's opposable thumbs, but provided a beautiful ad lib, an experience which has stuck with him for years. His strong environmentalist views are seen in many of his later series - such as *Frozen Planet* - which raised awareness of the delicate nature of our world.

His programmes have not only entertained and informed the public but brought incredible discoveries in biological science as well as new film-making techniques. The BBC is celebrating the anniversary with a three-part series aptly named *Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild*. The longevity of his career is certainly to be celebrated along with his many other achievements including his knighthood and having been given 29 honorary degrees by British universities. His trademark voice is difficult to forget and his mesmerising tone is one that has informed us about the beauty of nature for the past six decades. Attenborough may well be 86, but he has several more projects lined up for the future and I know I will not be alone in hoping that we are able to continue exploring the natural world with him for a long time yet.

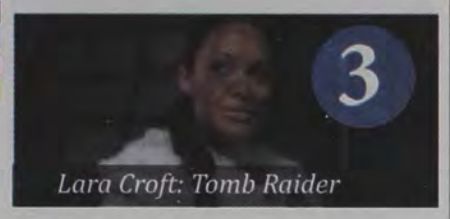
News Flash: BBC have announced via Youtube that *Luther*, the dark, gritty detective drama starring Idris "Stringer Bell" Elba and Ruth Wilson, is set to return for a third series of four episodes! No clue as to when it'll return though...

Top 5

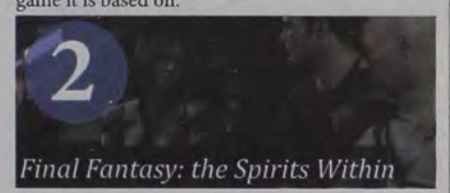
Video Games to Films

The director of this lengthy 2006 horror, Christopher Gans, wrote to video-games company Konami to explain how important the games were to him. With their approval he created a horror film based around Sharon, an adopted daughter and a cult, with a whole host of monsters and a dark and mysterious setting: the town of Silent Hill.

Disney's recent video game-based release was promoted as the "new *Pirates of the Caribbean*" by producer Jerry Bruckheimer. Based on a young prince and princess who must stop a villain unknowingly close to destroying the world, this 2010 box office hit is the highest-grossing video-game adaptation of all time.



This 2001 action film stars Angelina Jolie as Lara Croft, an action woman who faces a race against time to stop villains and recover ancient artefacts with great powers. Starring in such a physically demanding film means that Jolie looks impressively fit, with the film closely modelled on the video-game it is based on.



Based on the hugely popular and long-running video-game series *Final Fantasy*, this 2001 film sees an invasion of alien phantoms. With the help of a team of soldiers, a female scientist attempts to make a last stand on earth. This film is full of action and drama, with impressive computer generated effects.

Following the success of the Capcom survival horror games, *Resident Evil* tracks a military unit as it battles an out-of-control supercomputer and hundreds of flesh-eating creatures after a laboratory accident. This film is scary, with high action scenes and a plot which lives up to the greatness of the original video-game.

Alex Gray

Cinemanic rant

Quentin Tarantino is considered the one of the world's leading directors, but is his reputation deserved? **Luke Hearfield** gives us his take

Visionary, innovative, genius; these are some of the words you usually find coupled during a discussion about the work of Quentin Tarantino. There's no argument that the man has a gift for telling a bloody good story. Much like the wave of modern art you would find at the Turner Prize exhibit, Tarantino's work often splits opinions and reeks of critical analysis. You may have caught a glimpse of his latest outing - *Django Unchained*. I'm not going to lie; I'll be the first in line to see his latest feature, but for all the hype and glimmer that surrounds his name, has the man actually garnered his status as such an influential director? Strip his work down to the crux and you may see that his 'originality' has an origin.

While I will give credit where it is due for giving the world such gems as *Pulp Fiction* and *Inglorious Bastards*, his other works that are dubbed 'one of a kind' or 'mind blowing' are hardly unique. The *Kill Bill* films may be a freaking awesome ride, but how does the story differ exponentially from *Lady Snowblood* or *The Bride Wore Black*? Is *Jackie Brown* not simply a retelling of *Rum Punch*? And how often did critics point out the parallels of *Reservoir Dogs* to *City on Fire*?

Despite his sly thievery from other film makers, Tarantino has a get out-of-jail-free-card simply because of his so called 'style'. He has a knack for creating those riveting characters and that sharp dialogue, over-loaded with pop culture dribble. It is this which is so deliciously engaging. Often he breaks down the fourth wall and teases the audience with an occasional wink to current sociological factors. But despite his efforts to change up the traditional conventions his work isn't particularly groundbreaking. *Django Unchained* could potentially disclaim my argument; let's just hope it's not a 'copy and paste' carbon copy disguised as something new.

Medium combat: film vs video gaming

With the release of video game adaptation *Silent Hill: Revelation* this week, **Muneeb Hafiz** considers which medium is superior

The long-standing and fiercely contested debate amongst film devotees and gamers has been re-ignited recently - which is the more sophisticated medium? There is little doubt that film, Hollywood in particular, has traditionally regarded itself as head honcho of the image entertainment world. However, the progression of video gaming, not only as entertainment but also as an art form, is unequivocal. Utilising near perfect in-game graphics and narratives that are progressively complex yet interactive, surely video games are a worthy adversary of film? Not to mention the shameful number of cliché-ridden, feeble-minded multi-sequels. Hollywood's case as the dominant force in the entertainment world seems bleak at best.

Photograph: Fernando de Sousa (Wikimedia)

That the video gaming industry has progressed significantly does not negatively correlate to the performance of film, in fact it would be imprudent to assume so. The groundbreaking effort of cinema as THE patriarch of entertainment cannot be neglected, and continues to effectively transform, adapt and appeal through the decades. That is not to suffer a self-appropriated amnesia with the *Piranha 3DD's* and *Wild Wild Wests* of this world, but instead to acknowledge the feats cinema has achieved in its preeminence. Not simply economically, (with films such as Avatar earning a phenomenal $2.8 billion at the box office) but also artistically. The manner in which cinema can provide impetus for people to think in new ways about the world they live in is invaluable, and is arguably a feat yet to be actualised by video games.

Another criticism of gaming is their goal-orientated nature and it is here that cinema may have the edge. In gaming, every scene has a function, a desired and sometimes necessary outcome to your quest. There is rigidity, no matter how complex or intriguing. There is no room for 'Royale with cheese' chitchat like Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*, nor the power of imagination as in Nolan's *Inception*. In the US, 2010 saw video games accrue $18.6 billion to the $10.6 billion earned by cinema. Clearly, whilst the economic competences of the gaming industry are indisputable there is work to be done with regards to the emotional connection created via the gaming experience. The endorsement and active participation of Hollywood actors can not overcome this deficit. However, their involvement underlines just how far gaming has come - Hollywood hot shots Gary Oldman, Patrick Stewart and Samuel L. Jackson have all dabbled in the virtual world.

So who wins this battle? Who knows. I certainly don't, but what is prevalent is the growing significance of video games on the globe of visual entertainment. Few can still label the gaming industry as the snot-nosed punk it once was and the 'Nintendo generation' is less comprised of spotty, geeky teenagers. Video games have become more complex, demanding intellectual and emotional intelligence in a more absorbing way. Nevertheless, many argue the immersive quality of cinema remains unrivalled and is the dominant global force it has been for decades. It seems the two mediums exist symbiotically whilst remaining unique in their own way. The hyper-information, hyper-entertainment society we find ourselves in caters for both, and maybe the real issue is choice: sophistication and appeal lies is in the eye of the beholder.

Silent Hill: Revelation (15)

☆☆

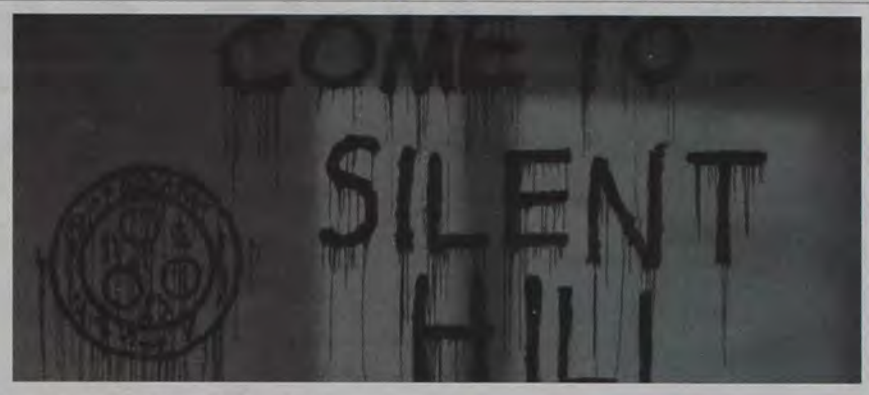
Back in the romantic days of early console gaming a company called Konami released a video game in response to rival Capcom's defining survival horror, *Resident Evil*. If *Resident Evil* was about killing zombies and envisioning a skilled mercenary mindset; *Silent Hill* was equally immersive, involving elements of mystery, science–fiction and psychological horror whilst stepping into Lynchian territory with dead knife-wielding babies and abstract body horror. Both games tested the bounds of censorship and became increasingly cinematic, leading to inevitable film franchises. Although *Resident Evil's* financial success under Paul W. S. Anderson has led to a string of sequels, the franchise has become increasingly silly.

While the original *Silent Hill* attempted to explore the game's supernatural world with debatable success, it stayed true to the aesthetics and tone of the frightening video game, making it an interesting addition to the horror genre. With sequel '*Revelation*' out this Halloween under director Micheal.J.Bassett, we return to *Silent Hill* to confront its horrors again. Unfortunately, we return in a cliché-ridden, predicable creep show that (literally) treads familiar ancient Indian burial ground in 3D! Sigh.

The film follows Heather Mason, a kooky troubled teenager evading forces she can't understand due to her over protective father Sean Bean (who also has similar problems replicating an American accent). Plagued by waking nightmares and visions, the kidnapping of her father leads her to return to the ominous town of Silent Hill to confront her destiny and put its spirits to rest. However the movie's dialogue surrounding ancient conspiracies and cults falls flat, with the script working as an extended opportunity to place horror set–piece upon horror set- piece. Although the dream –sequences are shot in a stylised manner, the *Jacob's Ladder*-esque waking dream scenario mediates the flow of the script. From a mall filled with clowns, an abandoned mannequin factory and state asylum, to a finale in the 'abandoned fun fair', it is 'horror by the numbers' in the worst possible way.

Apart from some great visual effects, including an impressive spider type creature made from mannequin parts, and Malcolm MacDowell in a glorified cameo as a lunatic, the film quickly throws away its promising opening for a final act of monster mayhem resembling footage from fighting game *Soul Caliber*; sadly adopting the video game aesthetic that it had once proudly sought to detach itself from.

When the developers of the original video game



Silent Hill used visibility blocking fog for narrative mood building , its main purpose was to hide the under –developed and poorly rendered environments of the virtual world. This analogy unfortunately fits *Revelation*, as a sloppy mess of a film hidden beneath spectacle clichés and a convoluted plot.

VERDICT: ***As an episodic, disjointed film** Silent Hill: Revelation **is a little too much like a video game to enact real 'horror', putting all the time spent on creepy suspenseful visuals and talented actors to waste. An absolute nightmare in every sense of the word; perhaps we should have taken the tagline 'Don't go to Silent Hill' seriously after all.***

Chris Binding

Still Showing

Skyfall (12A) ☆☆☆☆

Ginger and Rosa (12A) ☆☆☆

Stitches (18) ☆☆☆

EMPIRE CINEMAS empirecinemas.co.uk

TYNESIDE CINEMA tynesidecinema.co.uk

For a Good Time, Call... (18)

☆☆☆

The theme of financial stability is one that many a student can relate too. What lengths would you go to in order to keep a roof over your head? Much like Seth Rogen did in Zack and Miri make a Porno, this film explores the seedier options that one can undertake to survive.

The story has been done before; two opposites are forced to live together and eventually learn to love each other. Lauren (Lauren Powell and Rogen's real life wife) plays the recently single yet sweet natured go-getter, while Katie (Ari Graynor) provides the contrast as the free-spirited party girl. The only thing they have in common is their mutual gay best friend (gleefully played by Justin Long) who brings them together in their coincidental time of need. After the awkward settling-in phase, Lauren learns that Katie operates a phone-sex line to pay the rent. At first she has her qualms with the idea of such a smutty occupation, but when Lauren hits some road bumps with her income, the girls decide to pair up and set up their own independent sex-line.

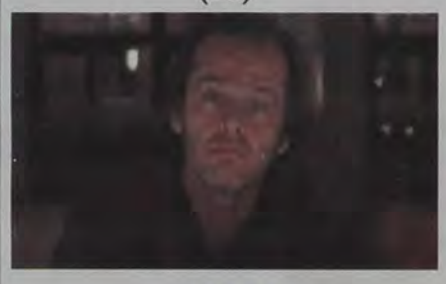
While the narrative may be simple there is an element of originality to it. The escapades that the girls stumble into may be morally taboo, but the offbeat humour and spicy chemistry play well into the modernistic story of female relationships. The cameos from Kevin Smith and Seth Rogen are delightful despite their derogatory content, but the most enjoyable aspect of this film is its developing 'hoe-mance' between its two leads which is both blunt and compelling.

VERDICT: ***For a Good Time, Call... is a brave and light-hearted romp which has an amusing concept propelling its story. If you're uptight or prudish when it comes to sex, you may want to avoid this one; however this is an honest and healthy interpretation of female empowerment and sexuality.***

EMPIRE

Luke Hearfield

Classic Viewing: The Shining (18)



☆☆☆☆☆

The Shining is Kubrick's 1980 film based on the Stephen King novel, a classic film, renowned for Jack Nicholson's performance, which has been remastered by the BFI. Although on first release the film had a mixed reception, I've never understood why, and seeing it at the cinema reinforced this confusion. The simple plot - a family take care of a hotel in the Rocky Mountains over the winter, where the father succumbs to cabin fever - is perfect for Kubrick's talent at creating suspense.

The frequent use of unwieldy tracking shots, whether of the epic landscape, or following characters around the grand hotel, particularly when they come to a terrifying stop, increase the audience's foreboding long before the characters are aware of it. Seemingly mundane scenes of Danny (the son, creepily played by Danny Lloyd) playing games, hold as much terror as genuine horror scenes. This is helped by an eerie electronic soundtrack, used intermittently to greater effect, as well as mentions of the dark past the hotel and its locality hold, in an excellent script co-written by Kubrick himself and Diane Johnson.

Jack Nicholson is terrifying as Jack Torrance, hinting at his mania long before it takes hold, and no matter how many images of the 'Here's Johnny!' moment exist, the reality of it on screen is another thing entirely. Wendy Torrance (played by Shelley Duvall), realistically shows a terrified woman doing the best she can for her son. In this digitally remastered version, the colours are brighter, the quality higher, making the direction, cinematography and performances all the more powerful.

VERDICT: ***This is a fantastic and scary film, maintaining the suspense even after several watches. Entirely deserving of its reputation as a classic, it's well worth seeing, whether on a big or small screen.***

TYNESIDE CINEMA

Alex Morgan

Rust and Bone (15)

☆☆☆☆

Marion Cotillard returns to the French arthouse scene with R*ust and Bone* after her starring role in this summer's blockbuster *The Dark Knight Rises*. Directed by Jacques Audiard, of *A Prophet* fame, this a welcome return to French-language cinema by Cotillard; as well as a strong performance by Belgian Matthias Schoenaerts to create a drama that is garnering much praise.

Rust and Bone has a powerful story concerning a fighting drifter, Ali (Schoenaerts), who leaves Belgium with his son to live with his sister in the south of France. There, he meets Stephanie (Cotillard) in a chance encounter at a nightclub, away from her day job as a killer-whale trainer at Marineland; an oceanarium. One day, Stephanie suffers a tragic accident at work which will change her life forever as well as kindle a bond with Ali; he also has his own issues with his son, work and street fighting. While the plot may not sound completely original and perhaps even clichéd, the terrific performances by Cotillard and Schoenaerts make this film a realistic, intense and emotional melodrama that is only let down by the ending. Even though love is a key theme, it is almost de-romanticised as the relationship between Ali and Stephanie takes a while to blossom and starts off awkwardly as they both come to terms with each other and the respective changes to their lives. Its setting in the South of France, but without the glitz and glamour, is a refreshing change and a brilliant and occasionally humorous script adds warmth and creates some memorable scenes.

VERDICT: ***A masterful performance by Cotillard combined with the simple story of two damaged people with their awkward but romantic bond makes this a wonderful film that will linger long after the credits roll.***

TYNESIDE CINEMA

Jacob Crompton-Schreiber

Fun Size (12A)

☆

Fun Size is billed a teen "comedy" which revolves around the main character Wren Desantis and her adventures on Halloween. Wren and her best friend April are thrilled when they are invited to "teenage" hunk Aaron Riley's Halloween party. April is desperate to go as Aaron plans to dedicate a song to Wren and she thinks this will aid them in their quest for popularity. Her plans are cut short however when her widowed mother, who is in the middle of a personal crisis, goes out partying dressed as Britney Spears with her 26 year old boyfriend "Keevin," leaving Wren to look after her strange mute brother Albert. Wren then proceeds to lose Albert and spends the whole night trying to find him with the aid of some nerds from their school.

With producer Josh Schwartz on board, famed executive producer of programmes such as *Gossip Girl* and *The O.C.*, there should be a little more humour for teenage audiences than is delivered. The film ultimately fails as comedy and is filled with Hallowe'en cheese. The strange array of characters do not gel well together and other famous faces such as Johnny Knoxville and Riki Lindhome play fleeting and uninteresting characters with little to no depth or substance. The death of Wren and Albert's father the previous year brings a darker undertone that further confuses the idea of comedy in this movie. Wren seems to be somewhat unaffected by it, however Albert stopped talking when his father died and Chelsea Handler's character turns to dating younger men in order to heal the hurt caused by her husbands death.

VERDICT: ***All in all the film is very poor. With very little real comedic value and a very predictable storyline; I wouldn't recommend this film to anyone over the age of 13.***

EMPIRE

Stephanie Brannan

Formula One finale

The Courier previews the finale of the Formula One season, with Jack MacKenzie explaining what events have resulted in this thrillingly, piston fuelled conclusion

The Formula One Season started back in March with the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne. A supreme drive from Jenson Button saw him take victory ahead of Sebastian Vettel. The race was especially memorable for a final lap, seven-car scramble to the finish for sixth place. The race also saw the first instances of events that would become regular occurrences throughout the season; Lewis Hamilton's unlucky season started in earnest as an unfortunately timed safety car cost him second place. While Roman Grosjean had the first of his nine early-lap tangles, the Frenchman collided with Pastor Maldonado on the second lap and was forced to retire from the race.

For the first time in the history of the sport, the first seven races were won by seven different men. This was a due to a number of cars being very evenly matched at the start of the year, as well as the newly introduced Pirelli tyres. The tyres were notoriously difficult to manage and the drastic drop off in performance once they were worn, described by experts as 'falling off the cliff'. This resulted in increased overtaking, particularly at the end of races. When added to the wildcard of Grosjean's 'crash-ability', it made for a breath-taking start to the season.

Despite serious concerns over Ferrari's ability to compete with the front runners before the season started, Alonso defied the critics and his team-mate Felipe Massa's performances, to lead the championship at the half-way stage, a full forty points ahead of his nearest challenger, Webber, and forty-two points clear of Vettel. His lead was down to his pure consistency, supplementing his two race wins with a further three podiums, and, significantly, he finished in the points in all eleven races, only finishing outside the top five on two occasions. His title rivals, however, were blighted by non-finishes, inconsistent form and, particularly for Hamilton, team errors.

However, the turning point was to come at the first race after the summer break at Spa in Belgium. The first corner saw a spectacular crash caused by that man Grosjean, which saw Alonso and Hamilton taken out.

Although Button would go on to win the race, Vettel's second place finish saw the gap between him and Alonso reduced to twenty-four points. A Grosjean-free Italian Grand Prix saw Hamilton take the chequered flag, reliability problems in Singapore saw him surrender what looked to be a certain win to Vettel, sparking a remarkable run of four successive victories for the German as he capitalised on Red Bull's period of supremacy to lead the championship for the first time.

Three non-finishes in five races saw Hamilton's title race falter, meaning that going into last week's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, the title race was all but a two-horse race between Vettel and Alonso.

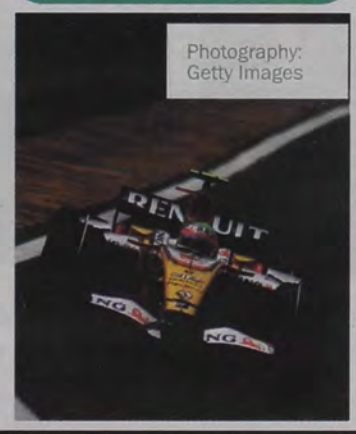
Although, the supremely consistent Kimi Raikkonen could still mathematically take the title, Vettel led Alonso by thirteen points and was firmly in the driving seat. However, at the end of qualifying, the German surprisingly failed to make it back to the pit lane, and subsequently was forced to start the race dead last, seemingly opening the door for the Spaniard. A thrilling race saw Raikkonen take advantage of yet another Hamilton retirement to secure his first win of the season ahead of Alonso.

A combination of timely safety cars, seven (mainly crash induced) retirements, and some world class driving saw Vettel join his rivals on the podium. This meant Alonso could only cut the twenty-five year old's lead to ten points with two races remaining.

The Formula One circus now heads to the United States for the inaugural Grand Prix at Austin's 'Circuit of the Americas' before the final race in Brazil, which again looks set to decide the destination of this year's title race as either Alonso or Vettel will be crowned triple world champion at Interlagos.

This comes after the thrilling conclusions to the season at the track in 2007 and 2008 where Raikonnen and Hamilton were respectively crowned champion by a single point, Hamilton winning the title on the final corner of the season. In what has been an exciting, unpredictable and crash-filled season, history tells us there are a few more twists and turns left.

USA 16th-18th November (live on Sky Sports/highlights on BBC)
Brazil 23rd-25th November (live on BBC & Sky Sports)



Photography: Getty Images

10 REASONS TO WATCH THE F1 FINALE

1. Find out which man will become the first triple world champion since Ayrton Senna in 1991
2. Flat out racing throughout the field as people try and secure seats for next year (especially daredevil Komui Kobayahsi)
3. Roman Grosjean's inevitable crashes
4. Kimi Raikkonen on the radio
5. Michael Schumacher's final bow in F1
6. Eddie Jordan and David Coulthard's send off for Jake Humphrey as he leaves the BBC
7. No stupidly early starts with student friendly viewing times – 7pm in US (also a perfect excuse to turn off The X Factor) and 2 pm in Brazil
8. Exciting new track at Austin, as F1 gets the American treatment
9. Potential for another compelling, rain-soaked finale in Brazil with slides, spins and collisions
10. Hamilton's dramatic and emotional farewell from McLaren

Back of the net

Video of the week

Kimi Räikkönen EPIC Team Radio Abu Dhabi 2012 = Just leave me alone! I Know what to do!!
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Wi2C7Niuk8&feature=plcp
On his way to his Grand Prix victory last Saturday, Kimi is not best pleased with the advice from his team.

- Not Big Sam- @TheBig_Sam

"Enjoy your last week of existence Newcastle Upon Tyne, Big Sam is coming to destroy you"

(10 Nov) Unfortunately it is from a parody account, which bizarrely Big Sam has not stopped, perhaps because it echoes his sentiments better than he can. Not Big Sam also writes a blog.

Testing times

1) In what year was the inaugural season for Formula 1?
2) What country is Force India driver Paul di Resta from?
3) Who is the famous girlfriend of Lewis Hamilton?
4) What team is the most successful with 15 Constructors Championship titles to their name?
5) How many race wins has Michael Schumacher won?

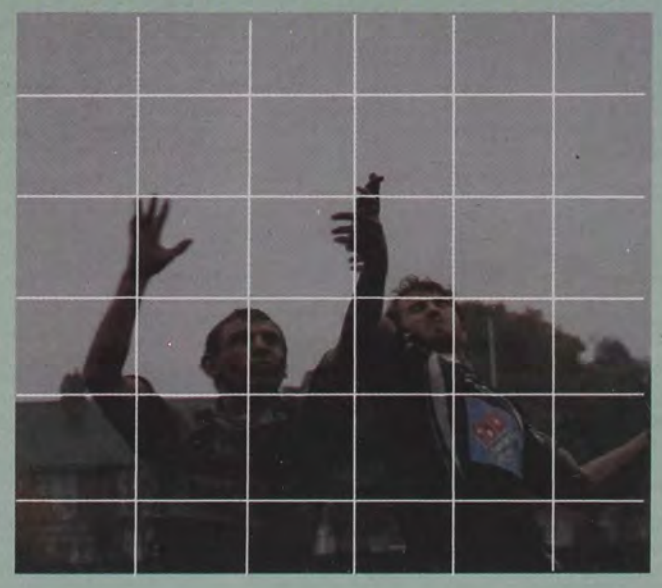
1.) 1950 ; 2.)Scotland; 3.) Nicole Scherzinger; 4.) Ferrari; 5.) 91

Tip of the week

Klaas Jan Huntelaar to be top scorer in the Bundesliga. Huntelaar's on fire for Schalke, he notched 42 goals in all competitions last year, and his a higher goal per minute average than Ruud Van Nistelrooy (Odds from Victor Chandler)

5/1

Spot the ball



And then there were two

With two races of the Formula One season to go, it has come down to a battle between two drivers. Fernando Alonso and Sebastian Vettel are neck and neck going into Austin. **James Docherty** and **Izzy Rice** argue who they think will champion the track

Whatever you may think of Fernando Alonso's demeanour; it cannot be denied that his skill behind the wheel is on a par with the true greats such as Ayrton Senna or Jim Clark.

From his beginnings in F1, driving the uncompetitive Minardi to acceptable finishes, to becoming the youngest race winner and drivers title holder (records both now surpassed by Sebastian Vettel) while at Renault, his talents were always evident.

The start of this season saw Alonso in a struggling car, with only a series of crashes at Albert Park leading to a flattering fifth place. In the next race at Sepang, heavy rain and an interruption to the race nullified the others raw pace; letting Alonso use his wet-weather skills to narrowly win an unpredictable contest.

As the season continued, Alonso's ability to wring competitive times from a difficult car became ever more evident, with strong results in Spain and Monaco and a dominant win at Valencia.

Updates from the team, especially to the troublesome front wing, improved their pace and moved the car level on performance with the dominant Red Bulls – something thought impossible at the beginning of the season.

Now the season is concluding, many think the speed of Red Bull and the skill of Vettel will easily guide them to a third consecutive Drivers and Constructors Double. However, the Ferrari engineers have worked wonders taking a car described as, "like walking a tightrope" by Alonso at the start of the season and given it such grace on the track that, in the hands of a master like him, it truly can be competitive.

The Ferrari also has one key advantage over every other car on the grid, which is straight-line speed. The next race at Austin is a Herman Tilke designed track, yet to hold any competitive events. Sections of the course will favour the Red Bull, which is quick through high-speed corners, but areas like the 1km back straight will favour not just Alonso's driving style, furthermore the speed advantage eked from the Ferrari V8.

Unless there is an accident, this will merely be the hors d'oeuvre for a thrilling culmination to the season in Brazil.

Interlagos is a hilly, technical track known to place wear on cars and drivers. The mix of short straights and fast corners will neutralise both cars individual advantages, reducing this to a test of driver skill.

Both Alonso and Vettel have shown their abilities in scything through traffic, and driving in changeable conditions – a major factor in Brazil. Therefore, the result will not just be down to their proficiency, but also the ability of their team mates to provide assistance.

On paper, this year, this is no contest: Mark Webber (Vettel's Team Mate) has outperformed Felipe Massa at nearly every race and is comfortable in the smooth handling Red Bull. However, since agreeing a one-year contract extension with Ferrari, Massa's results have improved greatly, outscoring Webber over the last six races. Massa has also won here twice before and draws a considerable amount of performance from his home fans, meaning he can provide a strong rear-guard to Alonso and possibly keep Vettel behind to maximise the points difference, giving Alonso the title.

All of this combines to make the conclusion of the 2012 season a true sporting occasion. Two great drivers, two outstanding cars, two tricky circuits and one title for the taking.

Even if Formula One has never appealed to you, grab some pizza, huddle with your friends and spend the next two Sunday evenings watching a great event – cheering Alonso, who's once again made a stumbling donkey a true prancing horse.

Alonso and Vettel on the podium: Is this how it will finish in two weeks time?
Photography: Getty Images

With the end of the 2012 F1 season looming, the time has come for the final face-off between this year's two eminent front-runners. Fernando Alonso and Sebastian Vettel now stand at the top of the leader board with 245 and 255 points respectively, another 50 points still up for grabs going into the final two races.

Of these two drivers however, both of whom are competing for the honour of becoming the youngest triple world champion in Formula 1 history, it appears to be Vettel who is landing the damaging psychological punches.

After being sent to the back of the grid in Abu Dhabi last weekend for failing to comply with fuel regulations in qualifying, Vettel admirably demonstrated his ability to fight back under intense pressure, delivering a nail-biting podium finish after starting the floodlit race from the pit lane. Despite Alonso's finishing above Vettel for the first time in six races, an outstanding drive from the German meant that Ferrari will see the race as a missed opportunity to capitalise.

This season has presented the 2010 and 2011 World Champion with a number of challenges. Vettel notoriously struggles when the car is not to his liking, and the start of this season saw an uncomfortable adjustment period for the young German, as he had to become accustomed to the fact that his was no longer the fastest car on the grid. Despite a promising second place finish in Australia at the start of the season, it was not until race number four in Bahrain that Vettel was able to pick up a GP win. In comparison to his roaring 2011 season, Vettel seemed slightly off colour. He seemed unable to continue dominating teammate Mark Webber as he had in the 2011 season, and though qualifying in the top half of the grid in nine consecutive races, the German only saw two podium finishes across that period.

"Of the two drivers, it appears to be Vettel who is landing the damaging psychologial punches"

However, as proved by Keke Rosberg, who became World Champion in 1982 after securing first place in only one race, winning isn't everything. Vettel's consistency meant that he rarely failed to get significant points on the board even throughout this mid-season lull, and he successfully remained a towering presence at the top of the Championship.

As the season moved out of Europe and into Asia, Vettel began to exemplify his fighting spirit, and along with some technical upgrades to the car after the Singapore GP, this new lease of life saw him finish in pole position at four consecutive races.

At the close of the Indian GP, Vettel had led every single lap of the previous three races. With one hundred points from four races and an additional fifteen from his against all odds third place finish in Abu Dhabi, The Drivers' Championship could well belong to the twenty-five year old after this coming weekend in Austin, Texas.

While Alonso could clinch the title from back-to-back wins in the U.S and Brazil, on current form it is difficult to see how the Spaniard has any realistic chance of closing the gap between himself and Vettel, or of preventing Red Bull Racing from making it three Constructors' Championships in a row.

"To anyone that doubted he's a racer, I think he showed world class," said RBR team Principal Christian Horner to the BBC when describing Vettel's pit lane to podium performance in Abu Dhabi. "He drove a phenomenal race - you can see the number of cars he passed, it was one of the best of his career. He really went for it."

Liege crash out against Ecowarriors

Wednesday Cup Football

Ecosoccer	5
Sub-Standard Liege	2

By **Rob Stacey**
at Cochrane Park

In a weekend where lower league supporters turned out to watch their local teams in the FA Cup first round, the same level of support was evident when Ecosoccer and Sub-Standard Liege battled it out at Cochrane park in the first round proper of the Intra Mural Wednesday Cup. With both teams flying high in Division 2 and Division 4 respectively, the television cameras had turned up in hope of a famous cup upset, but were left disappointed by a brace from Will Finelli and a hatrick for Ecowarrior Zack Goddard, as Ecosoccer progressed into the second round as 5-2 winners.

When the prolific Stacey had an early goal ruled out, and Sub-Standard went one up early on, it could well have turned out to be "one of them days" for the navy blues and the broadcasters dream. A cross-field pass by the Liege left winger found Billy Horner lurking at the back stick, however, much like "beachball gate" at the Stadium of Light, this was "leaf gate". As autumn had caught up with the Eco defence with a couple of slips on the leaves and Horner finished to put Liege 1-0 up.

"Both teams came out battling in the second half in the hope of setting up a mouth-watering tie against Henderson Hall, with the reward of increasing club finances from gate receipts"

However, Will Finelli's equaliser settled the nerves and avoided the potential of a banana skin. Picking the ball up on the left, he side stepped a couple of challenges before curling a peach into the top corner before celebrating in typical Drogba fashion. At this stage, Ecosoccer started playing and where 3 months earlier the likes of Hulk, Oscar and Messi had graced Cochrane park, you would have been excused for thinking they were still prowling the North-East.

Eco peppered Standard's goal with several efforts and their keeper did well to keep them out. This resulted in several corners for the blues and Standard were almost undone by the aerial threat of Eco's very own Dani Alves, Jon Dennis. The ever reliable right back timed his jump perfectly, but was unlucky when his effort clipped the bar.

This should have been a warning though. Goddard whipped in a finely tuned corner from the right, and it evaded Liege's defence, nestling in the net to turn it around and put Eco 2-1 up. Liege applied some pressure late in the first half, and Christopher Jones had to be smart to keep them out a couple of occasions leaving the teams entering the dressing rooms with the score at 2-1.

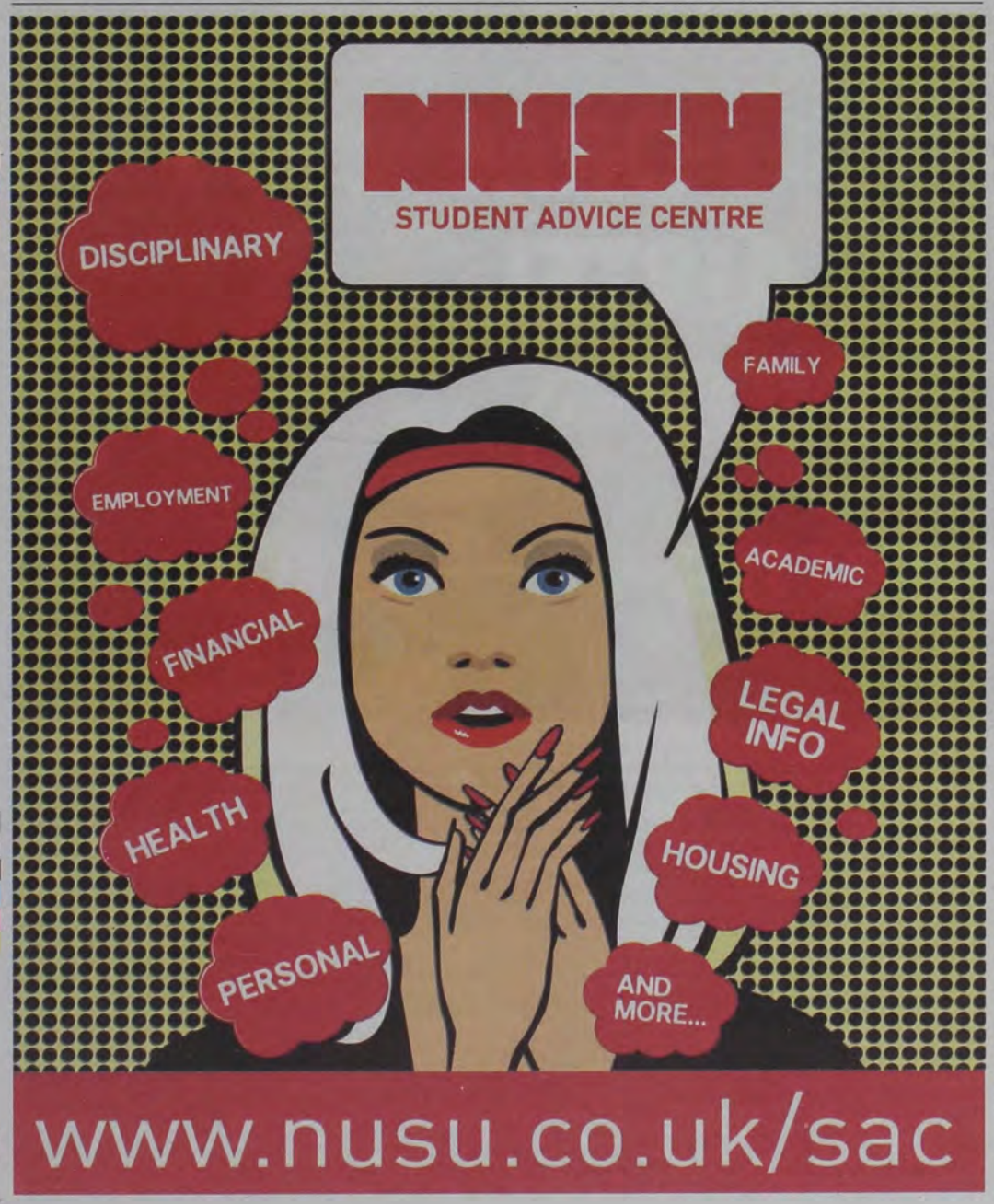
Both teams came out battling for the second half in the hope of setting up a mouth-watering tie against Henderson Hall, with the reward of increasing the clubs finances from gate-receipts.

Shooting towards the fence end, Eco threated to increase the lead with a series of chances, including efforts from Tom Warren, who found himself in goal scoring opportunities repeatedly, but failed to deliver the finishing touches. However, the breakthrough eventually came for the boys in blue. A Bob Hunt throw in from the left found its way into the heart of the box, and Stacey nodded down for his strike partner Goddard, who spun his marker and struck a thumping shot past the keeper. Fresh legs from Jake Dolby and Dan Jacobs again encouraged Eco to knock the ball around and control possession before making it four.

Stacey threaded through Goddard, and he did not hesitate again in unleashing a venomous effort past the keeper. Then a Beckhamesque sweeping pass from Dolby picked out Finelli, and he shifted onto his right foot to clinch a five star performance from the Navy Blues with a finessed shot into the corner. Liege picked up a late consolation goal when prolific striker Jake Wimhurst controlled a long pass and rounded the keeper. Despite this, James Homer put in a convincing display at centre back to give Tom Warren the best type of headache when the notorious James Wheeler returns from injury.

Ecosoccer will now meet Henderson Hall in the next round, in a repeat of last years cup clash. Meanwhile the old cliché of "concentrate on the league" is true for Sub Standard, who can now focus on gaining promotion into the 3rd tier. After the game, Jordan Mundy-Gill, captain of Liege, said "we felt we gave a good account of ourselves against the team running away with Division 2, and were competitive for the majority of the game."

Man of the Match: Zack Goddard



Revived Seniors

Wednesday Cup Football

Crayola	3
Boca Seniors	3

Boca won 5-4 on penalties

By **Jack Gelsthorpe**
Online Sports Editor

Both teams offered up a heated and truly engaging match which provided the perfect antithesis for the freezing cold temperatures this absorbing cup tie was played in. On a clear, sunny, yet cold afternoon, Boca Seniors, a team without a win in the Wednesday 2nd Division, faced off against Crayola, a division above them, who had the previous week pulled off a truly momentous victory against the in-form team Henderson Hall.

"As soon as the match started, it was clear to see from the way Boca approached the game that this would not be a procession for Crayola"

On paper, Crayola were the clear favourites for this game, however, this was a cup match and divisions and gulfs in class are quickly forgotten as romantics become misty-eyed and besotted with the concept of 'giant killing.'

As soon as the match started, it was clear to see from the way Boca approached the game that this would not be a procession for Crayola.

In the first ten minutes, Boca enjoyed the majority of possession and had some joy down both flanks against a Crayola team put onto the back foot by the intensity of the Seniors.

The efforts of the underdogs almost came to fruition within minutes when Boca broke and brought the ball into the opposing penalty area, only for Green, the Crayola keeper, to smother the ball and expertly snuff out a well-thought-out attack. However, Crayola showed their skill and why they are a top division team when lively striker, Alex Hinds, scored with a calm and cultured finish to the Boca keepers' right; it was the finish of a striker full of confidence and his confidence was further added to three minutes later when Crayola went two goals up.

Hinds was played in and found space on the edge of the area and with the keeper, Alex Halls, running straight for him, he delicately chipped the ball over the onrushing goalie to score, undoubt-

Tom Wormersley puts his penalty away in the tense shoot-out
Photography: Jack Gelsthorpe

Hend-Almighty

Wednesday Cup Football

Henderson Hall	4
Multiple Scorgasms	1

By **Joey Barton**
at Longbenton

Henderson Hall's superb start to the season continued with a convincing 4-1 victory in the cup competition over Multiple Scorgasms. With Hendo sitting second in division one and Scoregasms pointless in division three, this game had a definite FA Cup feel to it. In real footballing terms, the tie was rather like Chelsea and Bury going head to head, but on this occasion there was to be no giant killing.

The tone for the game was set in the opening minute. Hendo pegged their opponents back well inside their own half with lone striker Hugh Grosvenor sitting constantly behind the ball. After 5 minutes the deadlock was broken, when Armani Zafar did well to get to the byline before pulling back for Liam McAllister to coolly slot home his first of the game.

Having conceded so early on, Scorgasms did actually start to come out of their shell and Grosvenor proved a handful for the Hendo defence, yet the frontman lacked the support necessary to fashion any real chances.

The Hendo defenders showed themselves to be very accomplished on the ball throughout the game with Adam Kaznowski, Jimmy Taylor and Connor Wilson all embarking on mazy runs from the back which the Scorgasms midfielders failed to halt. It was in fact a run and long-range piledriver from Wilson that almost brought Hendo a second goal, as goalkeeper Ben Lamont did well to cling on at the second attempt. Though, the busy Lamont was picking the ball out of his net again shortly before half time when Hendo added a fabulous second goal. McAllister this time turned provider, and sent in one of the crosses of the season for unmarked Jack 'Crouchy' Mellor to nod home from close range.

The game became more even in the second half with Scorgasms' skipper Declan Ferry particularly leading by example as he worked industriously down the right hand side.

Despite their improvement in keeping possession, the division three side still failed to unlock the Hendo defence, as their well-drilled backline kept a high line, catching Grosvenor offside on numerous occasions.

Henderson Hall's passage to the next round was secured with 20 minutes to spare after a dreadful defensive error gifted McAllister a chance from point blank range. The in-form striker made no mistake as he emphatically blasted the ball past Lamont.

The game did not just peter out, and, Hendo added a fourth as Phil Mulhall scored what appeared to be intended as a tackle. The method of scoring was certainly not one which will be prominent in the FA textbook, and was reminiscent of a goal Mark Davies scored for Bolton against Blackburn Rovers last season!

With eight minutes remaining, Scorgasms were rewarded for their industrious performance with a consolation goal. A long innocuous ball was pumped forward only for Grosvenor to finally evade the clutches of Taylor and Kaznowski, who were perhaps already thinking about their celebratory pint, and finish well past Chris Pudner, who had been a spectator for much of the game.

Following no more lapses in concentration, Hendo returned to winning ways after this 4-1 triumph, having lost their unbeaten record the previous week in a drubbing at the hands of Crayola.

Man of the Match: Liam McAllister

give Crayola heart attack

edly, the goal of the match.

This goal completely rattled Boca and all their industrious play went to pieces, as Crayola had hit them twice within the space of three minutes, presenting them with a serious mountain to climb.

Crayola were spurred on by these two goals and their tails were up for the rest of the first half with constant pressure and attacks by the boys in white complimented by panic and poor ball retention in the Boca ranks.

The few times Boca threatened and managed to swing some crosses in, no-one was in the box to threaten the Crayola goal. The misery was further compounded by an unfortunate own goal by Jack Keogh as the result of a well-placed corner by Hinds.

Crayola could have been 4-0 up by the end of the first half after Hinds latched onto a stunning through ball from Wormesley, only for the keeper to smother the ball.

Boca looked a beaten team at half time and Crayola could have been forgiven for thinking about their next match, yet no team is comfortable at 3-0 up, as Boca threw caution to the wind in the second half.

Boca were a completely different team after the break and their maturity and assuredness on the ball was so dichotomous to the utterly useless and timid performance they offered in the first 45 minutes.

Within two minutes of the restart, Boca were denied a clear penalty as one of the Boca strikers was pushed over in the box, only for the referee to wave play on to the incredulity of everyone on the pitch.

"In the end, the underdog won and the scenes at the end were of sheer joy; the Boca players relished the success against the big boys and despair as Crayola look towards the league"

However, this did not stop Boca from playing a more expansive and adventurous style of football, and five minutes later, Sam Turnock broke free with a header into space, regained control of the ball, shimmied past the stunned Crayola defence, and finished with ease past Green in the Crayola goal. The momentum had swung so firmly in favour of Boca as Crayola started to look like the beaten team, and they almost scored another if not for a fabulous point-blank save from Green.

With 20 minutes to go, Turnock scored again inciting apprehension on the Crayola touchline and steely determination in the Boca boys.

The Crayola goal for the next twenty minutes was under siege as Boca were looking to take the match to penalties, if not get the scalp before full time.

With 7 minutes to go, this incredible match was drawn level again as a great ball from Charlie Rowley, after fantastic control to bring the ball down and a beautifully weighted pass, led to Turnock scoring with a low finish to the keepers' left completing his well deserved hat-trick.

The jubilation of the Boca players was dampened minutes later with the realisation that the match was going to penalties.

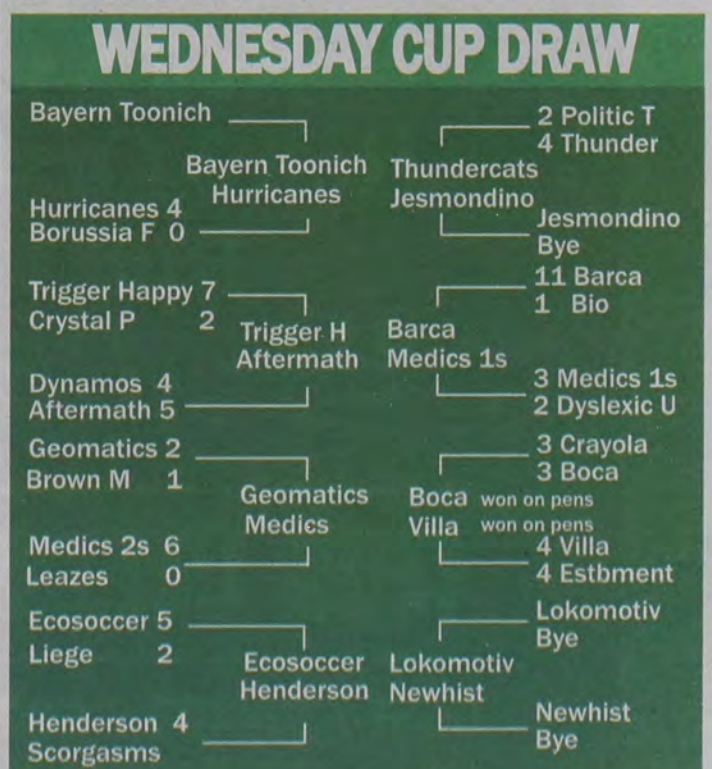
From Intra Mural, to professional, to national level, penalty shoot-outs create a truly tense and unpleasant atmosphere.

The anxiety on the faces of both sets of players, with Crayola rueing their ability to close out the match and the situation they found themselves in, and the Seniors who realised that all their hard work in the second half could have been for nothing, effectively portrayed this. Ultimately, Boca Seniors ran out winners with five very well-taken penalties, the only player to miss being Alex Hinds of Crayola.

In the end, the underdog won and the scenes at the end were of sheer joy; the Boca players relished the success against the big boys and despair as Crayola looked towards putting all of their efforts into their next couple of league games.

Man of the Match: Sam Turnock

WEDNESDAY CUP DRAW



The Courier would like to apologise to Will Robinson, captain of Newhist FC, and his team for errors in the article 'Newhist edge past Thistle to remain unbeaten', in the issue dated 5/11/12. It mistakenly referred to Robinson as 'Gill Robinson', and called James Thornton captain instead of Robinson.

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Doctors edge Dyslexic in thriller

Wednesday Cup Football

Dyslexic Untied	2
Medics 1st team	3

By **Leela Prasad**
at Longbenton

In the opening seconds of this crucial first round cup game, Newcastle Medics 1sts captain, Matty Anderson, was denied by the bar after he pulled the trigger from outside the box, with his shot beating Dyslexic Untied goalkeeper Fletcher. Immediately on the counter, an ambitious shot from one of the Dyslexic players clipped the bar.

One could not have asked for a better start to this Wednesday cup match between Newcastle Medics 1sts and Dyslexic Untied. Within the space of two minutes, Dyslexic opened the scoring and the Medics equalised.

A corner kick by Dyslexic winger Jules Perkins found right-back Milton in the box, who headed it into the net, despite pressure from the Medics defence. After the restart, the Medics attacked swiftly and their efforts were soon rewarded after an attempted goal-line clearance resulted in an own goal with the ball coming off one of the Dyslexic players.

The Medics 1sts are on top of the Wednesday League division table, and have the highest goal difference of 13. Their last two games on grass pitches were high scoring and one-sided games. They pumped in eight goals in their first match and scored five in their last, conceding just one goal in both the matches.

This cup tie, however, was different and Dyslexic were not going to go down without a fight. They attacked relentlessly from the left with winger Jamie Hudson linking up well with forward Dom Robson. The Dyslexic midfield spent most of the time tracking back to provide cover for their defence, and the forwards received no service from the centre midfielders. Michael Slattery did his best to move the ball forward quickly and Dyslexic wingers Perkins and Hudson stretched the play. The teams were level at half-time.

In the second half, the Medics pressed Dyslexic for the ball, and they broke quickly from their own half channelling the ball through the centre. Davson dribbled past the Dyslexic midfield and his shot was saved by the diving keeper. The attack continued with a shot from Watson going over the bar.

Medics' good work on the field was punctuated with errors in both the halves by their keeper Anderson. A poorly taken goal kick almost saw them concede a second, but a weak shot by Dom Robson saw the ball go out of play.

Later on, a Dyslexic corner kick was fumbled by the keeper, but the danger passed after Edwards cleared the ball. Just when we thought Dyslexic were standing toe to toe with the Medics 1sts, the league leaders scored against the run of play with Davson providing the assist for McDonald. The keeper had no chance and the Medics were in the lead.

Dyslexic made some quick substitutions with midfielder Josh Beverley coming off for Titus English and left-back Michael Diss made way for Yannis Bouaraba. The Medics increased their attack on goal, and looked to put the game to bed without risking a comeback from Dyslexic. Medics scored their third after some excellent dribbling by forward McDonald found Fretwell, who in turn calmly provided the finish. McDonald had a good game with a goal and an assist, and he did not rest easy til the final whistle. He had the most shots in the game and he continued to trouble the Dyslexic defence with his runs. Medics 1sts leading goalscorer Nathan Campbell held the ball well to launch attacks in the final third.

Dyslexic winger Perkins was the best player on the field, as he did not allow the Medics full-backs to catch their breaths. He started the match on the left wing and was moved to the right in the second half swapping sides with Jamie. Jules scored from a well-taken free-kick 30 yards from goal when the ball curled past the hapless keeper. Dyslexic were back in the game with the score 3-2 in favour of the Medics 1sts.Dyslexic pressed hard for the equaliser that never came. Michael Slattery's shot slipped through the Medics keeper's legs, but it was saved before it could roll over the goal-line. Dyslexic forward Ben was wasteful in front of goal for the entire game, but he gave his best to try and level the scores. His shot from the right was saved by Anderson after he stuck his foot out to stop the oncoming ball.

There was drama towards the end when Medics player Campbell was one on one with the keeper and his square ball to Fretwell was slotted into the back of the net, but before the Medics could celebrate, the linesman had his flag up for offside.

The scoreline does not reflect the game which the Medics 1sts dominated from the start to finish. The two teams face each other once again next Wednesday in a league game. Dyslexic player-manager Jamie Hudson said it was hard to answer the question about how his side were to stop an on-form team that had scored 17 goals in just four games:

"It's a tough question isn't it? we will probably use a good holding midfielder in the next game…"

Newcastle Medics 1sts opponents in the second round of the cup are yet to be decided.

Man of the Match: Niall Durkan

Dyslexic's Wheelhouse runs at Medics Captain Matty Anderson
Photography: Ralph Blackburn

Cheating allegations stun Intra Mural football

Continued from page 48

squad containing five unregistered players. Early season contenders Henderson Hall and Crayola having four and three unregistered squad members respectively. Several Saturday League teams, such as Queens of Everything, NUSSC and the Panthers, had as many as eight to thirteen unregistered players on the 29th of October.

Murphy has pointed out that "over 50%" of teams have now properly registered players. Geomatics FC captain Christopher Holland explained, "we had several players unregistered but we were not aware of this until we received an e-mail off the Sports Centre. The reasons were mistakes such as a player's name spelt wrong, this was quickly sorted out and we have no further problems.

After the e-mail it is the teams responsibility to get it sorted, a 3 point deduction seems fair enough as a first warning."

Given the vast amount of teams that have possibly broken this rule, thirty two of the forty three sides, it remains to see how the fines and possible points deduction will be enforced.

The Courier spoke to an Intra Mural footballer, who wished not to be named, why students were not registering? "I think it's fifty fifty between wanting to save money, and forgetting.

In Freshers, a lot of people don't think they'll need the Silver Membership, and then it slips their mind when they join an Intra Mural team. It's very hard to for Denis [Murphy] to keep track of. In three years of playing Intra Mural, only once have our student cards been checked." Asked whether the captains were aware of it, he said yes, "Denis e-mails the captains each week, so they know whether their players are unregistered."

The player stated he had played with a Northumbria student in the past, "I did two years ago, it was a one off, I don't think it happens regularly, sometimes if you're short you just need to find someone who can play and that's what happened on this occasion, better that than ruining the game by playing with ten men."

This is different to the Crayola case, where the Northumbria player is a regular member of the side.

It seems clear that the current system is not working in keeping track of unregistered players, the player explained that a better system would possibly be paying a set fee per player at the start of the system, "that would be easier to register players, if say they'd forgotten about Silver Membership, however it is an issue that's very difficult to solve."

Asked whether the referees could check players' student cards prior to the game, the player was dismissive, "that wouldn't work, they don't know what they're doing, they're all out of touch."

Finally, the Courier, asked the player if he thought the punishment was fair?"Yes, it's basically a six point swing, given how close the leagues are, if you're up against a title rival, it can make a huge difference."

Secret Intra Mural Footballer: #4 Ringer

Ahh, the 'ringer.' We've all played alongside one, we've all played against one. Nothing, however, could have prepared us for this week's revelation that Crayola have repeatedly fielded Northumbria students, bringing Intra Mural football into disrepute. The future of our game now hangs in the balance.

Ensuring the correct registration of my fellow pros has long been an issue for Denis Murphy and the Sports Centre during the season's opening months. Indeed, my own registration was formalised only moments before the league's deadline, after I fell asleep at the airport waiting to transfer to the Sports Centre. Given that the Sports Centre is based so far away from Campus, would it really be that hard to introduce an online registration system?

Many others have failed to take on Murphy's insistence that players unregistered with the Sports Centre should not turn out for their respective clubs seriously. This is hardly surprising.

Since transferring to Newcastle, I have failed to witness a smart card check ever taking place. This is a simple measure which would have prevented incidents like these from ever happening and questions must be asked about this damning lack of action. Evidence uncovered by *The Courier* proves that suspicions were first raised with Denis last year. The issued response – e-mailing the accused team's captain to warn them of the rules – is simply inadequate.

As you may have gathered, the 'ringer' has become a permanent fixture in the intra-mural game. Seen once and never again - the vast majority have been roped in last minute simply to make up numbers. Most are useless. Others less so. I actually take little issue with the odd irregularity; indeed, I believe most would agree to their presence if it meant avoiding the cancellation of a fixture.On the other hand, repeated and blatant infringement of the game's laws can alter the course of a season and needs to be looked at by the game's authorities.

More than anything, I feel that the Crayola boardroom has let all football people down. Given the popularity and esteem with which Intra Mural football is usually held in, around 50 lads turned up for my own team's preseason trials this year. Inevitably, this meant turning dozens of lads away; a very difficult bit of news to break to these boys. Some of these lads will fail to find another team and drop out of the game altogether – a difficult notion to comprehend, made harder by revelations such as these.

I don't think anyone would wish to see teams that fail to comply with the rules kicked out altogether, particularly as Intra-Mural-gate could have been avoided at the behest of our game's authorities. Yet, seeing as forward-thinking action has not been the Sports Centre's speciality, it is clear that retrospective action is needed. In general, Denis Murphy and his team do a great job considering their limited resources (the union seemingly only cares about funding BUCS, ignoring the majority of its students needs), but how hard is it to check a smartcard once in a while?

Sensei-tional Karate kids impress in Sunderland

Shokotan Karate

By **Sandy Tse**
in Sunderland

Last week Newcastle University Shotokan Karate Club returned from their first competition of the academic year - Karate Union of Great Britain Northern Regional Championships 2012, in Sunderland. Four competitors represented the club, Sandy Tse (President), Alex Tranter (Vice President), Hannah Johnston and Owain Roberts, who were backed up in the stands and on ringside by some enthusiastic and invaluable support, Sensei Thompson and Sensei Goodbarn. They were joined by PhD student Michael Evans who became unofficial camera man for the day. Alongside Michael was the recent graduate and would-be competitor Gregg Peers who couldn't compete as scheduled after picking up 8 stitches along the way to finishing a very impressive 2nd place in the FSK Nationals the weekend before in Nottingham.

The first representative for NUSKC on the day was Sandy Tse competing in Women's Black Belt Kata (organised sequence of blocks and attacks done in a variety of different stances). This was a toughly contested category and in the first bout of bad luck for Sandy she was drawn against the favourite and would-be champion from Manchester University. In addition, for Women's Black Belt Kumite (sparring) she was pitted against a competitor from Halewood, near Liverpool, with roughly 20 years international fighting experience who went onto winning 2nd place in the category. Funnily enough, Sandy received multiple punches to the head but impressively managed to keep going even with double vision for a over half the fight.

Meanwhile, Hannah Johnston (AMA National Karate Squad) battled through round after round to make the finals of Women's Black Belt Kata. Although she narrowly missed out on Gold to Manchester University, Hannah took home Silver after a terrific performance of the most technically difficult kata seen in these finals. An excellent result to add to her recent successes in the WUKF World Championships in Serbia where she casually picked up both a Gold and Bronze medal!

Over in the Men's Black Belt Kata category, Alex Tranter delivered a very good performance but this was sadly not enough to secure him a podium finish. This great effort reflects Alex's improvements since his first competition at the BUCS Karate Championships 2012 back in March. It won't be long before he too is challenging for medals!

More success was to come in the Men's 7th – 1st Kyu Kumite. This time it was 6 foot-odd man mountain Owain Roberts who, in his best fighting to date, fought his way past some tough competitors to win Bronze. It could have been so easily Silver or even Gold but the fight narrowly slipped through his fingers – a very impressive achievement nevertheless. The progress made in Owain's fighting is down to constant hard-work and training, making him one of NUSKC's best male fighters.

These Silver and Bronze medals mark an excellent start of the year for NUSKC, giving the club confidence that they could even beat their record of over 10 medals won last year. All eyes are now focused towards the KUGB Student Championships that will take place on the 17th November in Chesterfield. This will be a chance for NUSKC to bring home even more medals and field a stronger squad with Club Captain Abi Chapman hoping to wipe the floor clean with the opposition.

The competition gets underway
Photography: Michael Evans

Two of Newcastle's 'Bad-men' in action
Photography: Freddie Caldwell

Royals smash awful St John's for six

Womens' Football

Newcastle 1sts	6
York St John's 1sts	0

By **Helen Palfrey**
in Newcastle

Last Wedneday, a 6-0 hammering of York St. John's saw the Newcastle Women's 1st team pick up their first win of the season.

Newcastle founds themselves two up within 10 minutes from goals from Victoria Scott and star striker Lizzy Campbell. York tried to offer a response to the sucessive waves of Uni pressure, but a solid defensive display from standout performer Helen Knott along with the rest of the back four succeeded in reducing their attacking opportunities.

The Royals were producing football of excellent quality, utilizing quick balls into the channels that exposed gaps in the opposition's backline.

Taking advantage of this, right-winger Lucy Crann produced a number of crosses into the box that unfortunately the forwards were unable to get on the end of.

St John's keeper was outstanding, keeping them in the game with a string of impressive saves. As a result, the Royals ended the first half slightly despondent that they had not managed to extend their lead.

The second period began with Newcastle struggling to regain their composure. As a result, a period of erratic play and panicking on the ball followed the half-time break.

However the wonderfully named Autumn Colledge gave the Royals the boost they needed by expertly finishing a through ball from Victoria Scot to make it 3-0.

The goal marked the opening of the floodgates for Newcastle who continued to dominate the second half with relentless pressure on the York goal.

Campbell added a fourth soon after, ripping apart the St John's defence with a superb solo effort.

She proceeded to complete her hattrick from the penalty spot minutes later.

Campbell would then grab her fourth and the Royals' sixth late on. Following a neat bit of linkup play between Crann and right-back Kate Fisher, the tirless forward combined with the pair to slide the ball past the hapless goalkeeper to complete the rout.

Bad-Men triumph in varsity contest

Mens' Badminton

By **James Dunlop**
in Newcastle

Newcastle University Mens' badminton teams sent out a stern message to Northumbria University by way of demolishing their arch-rivals in a week of fixtures that mirror the Stan Calvert Cup.

The first team showed home advantage is no match for class with a comprehensive 7-1 win on Northumbria's turf.

Meanwhile back across town, the second team made up for last year's narrow Stan Calvert defeat, coasting to an 8-0 victory.

Captain Ben Lambden took his team across the city to Sports Central confident of a win having two convincing victories already under his belt this year. The match started well with two comfortable singles wins each for youngster Tim Morris and Lambden. Experienced pair Adam Attaheri and Adam Lodge then won both their games with relative ease whilst Dan Puttick and fresher Desmond Lau made an encouraging start to their new partnership winning one and losing one. This result puts them in second place in the table.

The second team began in similar fashion with routine singles wins for Dan Lai and Jamie Logue.

Logue also breezed through his first game, looking on top throughout his 21-14, 21-8 win. As they swapped opponents for the second round, the results were inevitable with the two looking in control throughout.

The doubles pairings also showed they were a class above their opponents with comfortable victories for partners Yap Chee Seong and Alvin Teo Wei Jun as well as Steve Storey and Victor Chow with their rivals struggling to challenge them. The bragging rights remain in the blue half of the city, and it looks like it will take a miracle, for Northumbria to win the Stan Calvert fixture come next May

Royals edged out by Gryphons to remain winless

Mens' Football

Newcastle 1sts	0
Leeds 1sts	1

By **Nick Gabriel**
Sports Editor

Newcastle Mens' Football 1st team continued their poor start to the season last Wednesday, slipping to a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Leeds Uni on the Longbenton 3G. A first-half strike from Owen Davies was enough to seal all three points for the away side, as the Royals were left to rue a missed penalty from centre-back Arthur Okonkwo that would have seen them take a share of the spoils.

The defeat means Newcastle remain rooted to the bottom of the BUCS Division 1A, having taken only one point from their opening three games.

In spite of putting in an admirable first-half performance, home coach Mark Woodhall will undoubtedly be disappointed by the lack of fight shown by his side after the interval. The Royals struggled to create much of an opening in the game's second period, ultimately being beaten with an uncharacteristic whimper.

It was the home side that had much the better of the opening exchanges, visibly keen to get the ball down and play. Leeds on the other hand, employing an à la mode' 4-2-3-1 setup, appeared happy to sit deep and absorb pressure before trying to catch the Royals out on the break.

The home outfit fashioned the game's first opening, as winger Alex Ames saw his original effort well blocked by advancing Leeds goalkeeper Charlie Tizard. The rebound fell at the feet of forward Tom Stapleton, who was then unfortunate to see his goal bound effort cruelly blocked on the goal line by a retreating defender.

Newcastle's early dominance did not end there. Once more it was Ames who took up a good position in the opposition box, only to fire his effort over the bar after a neat cutback from the impressive Jake Salisbury.

The home attackers were then caught flat on their heels, as no one reacted to a ball across goal that came at the end of a surging run by Okonkwo from the centre-half position.

However the Royals were made to pay for not making their early pressure pay when they fell behind with almost half an hour gone. The home defence will undoubtedly be disappointed with the nature of the goal. Leeds' Davies was awarded far too much time and space as he advanced towards goal. As a result, the midfielder was able to set himself before bending the ball superbly in off the post past the hapless Nick Irvine from 20 yards.

The Royals were quick to respond, and were handed a great opportunity to equalize two minutes later. A neat bit of link up play down the right between Henry Scutt and Kurran Dhugga resulted in the ball being rolled into the feet of Salisbury. The referee then adjudged the forward to have been impeded as he tried to roll the Leeds defender just inside the penalty area, awarding a spot-kick much to the dismay of the Gryphons' defence.

However the chance was wasted as, in true Roberto Baggio USA 1994 style, Okonkwo blazed his effort well over the crossbar.

In spite of the double setback, Newcastle continued to have the better of proceedings. On the stroke of the interval, they came close once again. This time the Leeds 'keeper did well to parry a long-range effort from Scutt, cutting in from the left-hand side.

The second half began frantically, with very little pattern to the play and genuine goal scoring chances extremely scarce.

The away side should really have doubled their advantage midway through the second period. A whipped ball in from Sean Southall was met by the head of Sam Smedley, but he could only glance his header wide.

Soon after it was the Royals' turn to try and find a way back into the game. An inswinging corner from the right was only half cleared by the Leeds defence. The ball back into the box from Dhugga was controlled and steered home by Okonkwo. However the centre-half's joy at potential retribution was short lived, as the goal was quickly chalked off on the basis of a questionable offside decision.

Newcastle sub Adam Ball gets stuck into a 50/50
Photography: Ralph Blackburn

That was the closest the home side came to drawing level in the second half as, despite long periods of possession, they failed to fashion much more than the occasional half-chance.

As the Royals threw more and more bodies forward in search of an elusive equaliser, it was the away side that began to look increasingly threatening in the games closing stages. Indeed they spurned a superb opportunity to wrap up the points with five minutes to play, as another inviting cross from Southall was met by the head of lone forward Liam Turner, however he was only able to divert his header wide under good pressure from Alex Auld.

Ultimately though it proved that one goal was enough for the Gryphons as the referee called time on the encounter moments later. The Royals now go into next week's Northeast derby against Durham still searching for their first win of the season.

Man of the Match: Jake Salisbury

Pick of the BUCS

14/11/12

Basketball Mens' 1sts vs. Manchester Met. (H)

Football Mens' 1sts vs. Durham (H)

Hockey Womens' 1sts vs. Northumria (H)

Netball 1sts vs. Loughborough (A)

Rugby Mens' 1sts vs. Durham (A)

Eleven-heaven: Newcastle thrash Leeds

Mens' Lacrosse

Leeds 1sts	5
Newcastle 1sts	11

By **Nathan Simmonds-Buckley**
in Leeds

After a long wait for a referee who never showed up, a replacement was found and the game got underway.

The man mountain number 10 of Leeds opened the scoring, despite the best efforts of James 'Dragon' Fletcher. The Newcastle team however responded quickly, with a great run by Eddie Dale finding Ben Beattie, to even the game up. After a long period of Newcastle possession Nicky Weeks found Jordan Saffer on the goal line, for him to score his first goal in the Newcastle royal blue. Newcastle struck again with Andy Donnelly, also scoring his first goal straight from the face off, and Ben Beattie making it 4-1 with a goal just before quarter time.

Newcastle lost talented midfielder Noah Kennedy to a painful challenge midway through the 2nd quarter followed swiftly by a Leeds goal. New boy Tom Elleker however took things into his own hands, and completed a sublime solo run with a semi-diving shot into the net to make the score 5-2. After an awesome piece of defending by Toby Hoskins, Beattie scored his 3rd to make it 6-2 after some beautiful work by Elleker.

Leeds attempted to get back into the game but a string of saves by Matt 'The Jollyman' Jolley involving a shot to the testicles and a quick rebound save, which was swiftly diverted round the post, was simply brilliant! Beattie then took things into his own hands to find the net in the dying seconds of the 3rd quarter to make the score 7-2.

Andy Donnelly opened the scoring of the last quarter with a fantastic dodge to claim his second goal of the game, Sam 'Licker' Cuncliffe then stepped up with a run up the pitch dodging several Leeds players to find Beattie who made the score 9-2 (Sam however had already claimed to bystanders that he would add to the goal tally…he was very wrong).

Elleker took his tally to two with a misplaced pass, which the goalie misread to the embarrassment of both players. Leeds then put on the pressure but to no avail, with Jolleyman pulling off a spectacular one on one save to maintain the score. Beattie not happy with five goals, got on the end of Saffer's pass to conclude Newcastle's scoring at a season's best of 11 goals to the good.

Despite efforts by the strong defence of James, Toby and Brendan, the Leeds attack managed a late flurry of 3 goals past the fantastic Jolley. As the final whistle blew Newcastle celebrated a 3rd victory on the trot after promotion in the new season.

Man of the Match: Ben Beattie

The Mens Lax 1sts' next game is this Wednesday, at Redheugh at 2.00PM. They're in a top of the table clash against Leeds Met, and need your support to get the win to take them top.

Sport

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BOCA SHOCK CRAYOLA ON PENALTIES

MORE CUP ACTION P42-45

Crayola vs Boca Seniors last Wednesday Photography: Jack Gelsthorpe

Ringer allegations rock Intra Mural

By **Ralph Blackburn**
Sports Editor

Strong allegations have been made against an Intra Mural Divison 1 side, of fielding Northumbria players under false aliases. Two members of Division 1 side Crayola mentioned on Newcastle Student Radio, that they had a Northumbria student playing for them.

There are allegations that they fielded him during Crayola's shock Division 1 victory over Henderson Hall on the 31st of October, and in the Cup match last Wednesday versus Boca Seniors.

Regarding this issue, Denis Murphy, Participation & Events Manager of Newcastle University Sport, stated that it "is a small problem I try to stop from happening every year. All team captains are well aware of the repercussions."

Murphy explained, "If it comes to my attention that a team has played non-Newcastle University students and/or a non-Sports Centre Member, that team will be fined £25, docked 3 points and possibly expelled from the league."

In e-mails received by *The Courier*, teams made complaints against Crayola or Larrikins (their Saturday League name) last season regarding consistently playing ringers.

Despite asking for student cards to be checked prior to a game, they were informed by Murphy that it would be impossible and that an e-mail to the captain reminding him of the rules would suffice.

> **"This is outrageous, Newcastle University Intra Mural football should be for Newcastle students only"**

When asked by *The Courier* about checks, Murphy stated that he would start membership checks at the grounds over the next few weeks, "it will probably never get to 100% [registered members], as if a team want to beat the system, they will, but I will be checking players up until the last fixture of the season."

Northumbria University only has two 11-a-side Intra Mural leagues, on a Wednesday and a Saturday, totalling 16 teams in total.

> **"If you want to fill your squad with people who are good from foreign waters then why not?"**

With a total population of 29,850 students, this is a remarkably small number of Intra Mural options for students, especially compared to the number of leagues Newcastle University has.

An Intra Mural footballer, who wished not to be named, said, "this is outrageous, Newcastle University Intra Mural football, should be for Newcastle Students only. We should not be letting players from foreign waters sneak in. There are plenty of lads at Newcastle who want to play but can't get in teams."

Boca Seniors captain Charlie Rowley did not see too much wrong with playing Northumbria players, "to be honest I don't see the fuss of the whole thing, if you're denying people from Newcastle University the chance to play then that's a problem, but if you want to fill your squad with people who are good from foreign waters then why not?"

Further to this, in a document leaked to The Courier, out of the forty three Wednesday and Saturday 11-a-side Intra Mural teams, as of the 29th of October, only eleven sides had all of their squad registered Sports Centre members.

In the document, the vast majority of teams have non registered players in their squad, with a large number of them playing during the opening month of the season. Current Division One table toppers, Medics 1sts, have fielded four ineligible players so far, and last years winners Barca-Law-Na's

continued on page 45

ALONSO VS VETTEL

P41

Photography: Getty Images

READ WHAT THE SECRET INTRA MURAL FOOTBALLER HAS TO SAY ABOUT RINGERS P45