

Big Brother to Watch Over Newcastle

The local government this month announced plans to drastically increase the CCTV network in and around the Newcastle city centre and water front areas. Pressure has been coming from the Liberal Democrats for this project for some time stating the number of incidents that go undetected as cause enough. Finally the council has relented and agreed to the instillation of one hundred extra cameras to make the area safer.

All hopes are that this new and improved system should be up and running by the end of next month including the instillation of state of the art custom software to run the cameras and aid the police in swift response and evidence collection. A local firm, Drenth Programming, who have completed work on the software in a remarkably short space of time, are largely responsible for this quick instillation period.

Thief Passes Out at Crime Scene

A burglar left more clues than he intended, when he fell asleep at the scene of the crime. The robber smashed a glass door to break into a house, but unable to find his way out after treating himself to some beans and booze, he passed out on the floor. The local police said that Esteban Avila Junior had allegedly entered the vacant home by smashing a sliding door at the back of the house. Police suspect that Avila spent around two hours in the

house during which he helped himself to a can of beans and had a drink from the bar. After grabbing a blanket the man, who is thought to be homeless, caught a nap on the living room. The homeowner, who had moved out a week earlier, discovered the sleeping thief when passing by the house with a neighbour worried that something was wrong. They called police who took Avila away for investigation of vandalism, burglary and unlawful entry.



**Free Jenny McRea
Interview Inside**

The Hand of God

Whilst most citizens of the UK have enjoyed a relaxing holiday there are those whom have worked diligently over the last month. Among them are doctors, fireman and of course vigilantes. The Black Coat has continued his patrol, dishing out illegal justice to those who offend his twisted code. This last month has seen a further twelve men found beaten and tied ready for the police to pick up, but so far none of

them can give a clearer description of their assailant.

To add insult to injury, this masked mad man sent a Christmas card to the local police wishing them a 'Happy Holiday'. The letter was addressed from 'The Hand of God', showing not only a certain level of ego to the man but also a religious fervour that implies these attacks will not stop in the near future.

Member of Arson Gang Caught Red Handed

It seems that whilst lightning does not strike twice, dumb criminals do. James Fuller (38) was caught red handed by security guards at the Laing art gallery attempting another arson. Believed to be linked to the fire at the Baltic last month, he is currently in police custody and bail has been denied.

Mr. Fuller was a man known to like his drink when not working as one of the Metro train drivers and was thought to be near the end of a month long bender when he was picked up splashing petrol

around the lobby of the gallery. It took two guards to over power him and it was reported that his blood alcohol at the time of arrest was ten times the legal requirement to drive.

Whilst the M.O. and target match last months vandalism, the crudeness of his methods have lead the police to conclude that he was only one of a gang involved in the successful attack. However, Mr. Fuller is not being cooperative as he claims he can remember nothing but drinking for the past five weeks.

Student Revolution is on the Cards

There has been a rising feeling that unfair treatment of foreign students in the University of Newcastle upon Tyne has reached an all time high this year. Due to anti-terrorism laws, lecturers are feeling pressured to victimise those non UK students taking their courses.

Student rights organisations have now got wind of this and are threatening action in the form of demonstrations if this kind of activity continues. As racial tension mounts the students may well find themselves clashing with the government.

The Masterton Strike

This month one man has been on the lips of every gossip columnist in the North East, and that name is Arcus Masterton. This month saw not only the launch of his new company, Masterton Entertainments Ltd, but his entrance into the political arena taking the seat for Sunderland city centre in the Christmas by-election. This new direction for the celebrity is said to have been in the planning for months now but when he swept the board it became clear this was more than a publicity stunt. He has already pushed through two local legislation bills and is set to introduce the no smoking ban to Sunderland six months earlier than the rest of the company.

As a Labour candidate the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats are said to be worried.

The launch of his business providing high class party consultation and after dinner speakers has been somewhat of a surprise as well, especially considering the wave of depression that seems to have swept through Sunderland over the Christmas season. Busy or not, he has managed to secure several high profile contracts and it looks as if his business venture will be as successful as all other aspects of his life. When asked to comment on his recent activities he replied jokingly, "I simply want to control Sundreland!"

