

## Swarm to the City

Of all the things you can find in your house that will make you scream the worst has to undoubtedly be finding a rat. But this is what has happened to countless residents of Newcastle over the last month. It seems the start of the warmer weather has brought a literal swarm of vermin from the surrounding countryside into the city leaving numerous housewives stranded on stools screaming.

Ecologists are blaming

global warming for both the early return of the usually rural pests and the increased numbers as the warmer summer gives more time for the vermin to multiply. Others simply point to the rise in general filth in the city as the only reason that this plague is upon us. Either way it is an undeniable fact that there is an abnormally high number of the creatures in the city and the only people who are happy about it are the pest control industry.



## Scapegoat Sentenced

This month saw the long awaited trial of Mr. Paul Goat, former associate of Mr. Samuel Cleveland, up on charges of kidnapping, smuggling and slavery. Given the press coverage of the event and the constant campaigning by the Liberal Democrats to see him harshly sentenced, it was obvious Mr. Goat was never going to receive a fair trial.

Emerging after six months in police custody, Mr. Goat looked ill and unkempt. It seems his time in incarceration has not been easy on him and the bruises on him were testimony to several beatings by either fellow prisoners or the guards. He took the stand as in total eight witnesses were called to give evidence, each one more

damning than the last. Finally it took the jury only ten minutes to find him unanimously guilty on all charges. Sentencing took a little longer, but after two hours it was announced that he should spend two consecutive life sentences in custody and pay compensation of ten thousand pounds to each of the surviving girls smuggled to Amsterdam.

Paul Goat looked crushed as he received the verdict and was quickly removed from court to be taken to a local prison where he will serve his sentence. There were no friends or family present to see his case and several things were thrown at him as he left the court. And so ended the mock trial of Mr. Paul Goat.

## Red Sky At Night

Gazing at the night sky for inspiration and guidance is nothing new and astrologers have been using these signs to write horoscopes for centuries. The lunar eclipse on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March has proved interesting to many of these people as it deviated from the normal pattern in two significant ways. The angle of the shadows crossing was three degrees clockwise off the normal, which surprised scientists as well but has been put down to natural variation in the orbitals of the planets and star involved. The red after glow of the eclipse was also a much darker shade of red that is normally observed. Whilst most scholars simply note this as a stronger influence by Mars in the coming cycle some have a darker interpretation.

The local Wiccan community are declaring the eclipse a 'blood moon' signifying a dark event about to occur. The local priestess has gone on record stating that the recent lull in supernatural activity in the area has simply been the calm before the storm. Certainly within the next lunar cycle it can be expected that a great storm of magical energy will be released as ancient powers clash. The best advice that can be offered is simply to not be there when such an event goes down.

Of course, those of us with a more accepted outlook on life know that these events are simply natural and provided one of the best astronomical displays in years.



## Local Investment Fraud Uncovered

Local businessman Mr Thomas Weisz, senior partner of investment firm Morecambe-Weisz Holdings Inc, has recently been brought into police custody after evidence emerged that he had embezzled over £8000000 of clients' money. The payments, it seems, have been steadily disappearing from the accounts of Morecambe-Weisz Holdings over the past 6 months, with some apparent effort on behalf of the company to cover this growing black hole in their finances.

Mr Weisz was arrested in the

early hours of February 27<sup>th</sup>, and remains in police custody awaiting trial. Few further details are known at this time, but it is believed that Mr Weisz has denied any involvement in these shady dealings, and there has been talk of him making accusations of being framed. Morecambe-Weisz' parent company, Meridian International, has remained silent on the matter, and it looks as though there shall be little consolation for those whose investments have disappeared without trace.

## Lecturer of the Year

Each year the University of Newcastle announces the lecturer that the most students have voted for in areas of clarity and helpfulness. It is a great honour to be announced as such a beloved

icon of the student body and this day is awaited with great expectation by much of the staff. This year the honour has fallen to Dr. Willamina Lawson for her duties both in and out of the lecture theatre.