

Letters Column

Dear Editor,

As one of the many elderly in the city I would like to say that I am happy to walk the streets again for the first time in years. With the rising violence amongst young people I have barely been able to make it out of my house for fear of being mugged or worse on the way to collect my pension. But with the increased security of the CCTV network now up and running I feel much more at ease with my late afternoon strolls. In fact for the first time since I turned sixty I have occasionally gone out just for the joy of it rather

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It looks like we may well see an independent force taking to the streets in the near future supported by the Gillespie family who are looking for answers as to why their loss is going unanswered.

than when I had to. It has just not been the same since Tommy passed away and I have been mostly confined to my house. The other thing that makes me feel safer to walk the streets is knowing that that Hand of God man is around. It is rare to find an interest in the church in the young these days, but it is good to see at least some are still listening to the truth and helping out their fellow man. And we can have no faith in the police any more, well not since young Cynthia's car was stolen and they never found it, so we have to turn to men who are willing to still be men and stand up for what is right. I for one am glad that there are still some people with balls out there willing to take the streets back from the thugs and punks. So God bless you the Hand of God and long live the CCTV network.

Yours truly,

Mrs Trellis

Novus Novum Castellum

Issue 9 ~ April 2007



New Leads in Search for Quayside Kidnapper

Police say they are 'closing the net' on the criminal thought to be responsible for the disappearances of five local girls while they enjoyed a night out in Newcastle's quayside bars. A photo-fit image was released and police have urged bar-goers to be vigilant.

"This man is thought to be smartly dressed in a dark suit, around average height with a slim build and with gelled-back hair. If you do go out in town, please keep an eye on your friends; make sure they know the person they're going home with."

A bartender (*name withheld*), gave his account of the events of Tina Marsden's disappearance: "I noticed him straight off, from the expensive suit he had on. [He] looked like trouble, had a real greasy look to him. His eyes, too; they were cold and dead, like fish eyes.

"Anyway, he goes up to Tina, I go to serve a customer and when next I look, couldn't have been more than two minutes later, she's walking out the door with him. It's not like Tina to just head off with a bloke until he's bought her at least a couple of drinks."

Other witnesses, who claim they saw the girls getting into a limousine with the suspect, have remarked on the speed at which the girls were coerced into accompanying the stranger. "It's like he did some kind of *Derren Brown* mind-thing on them," ventured one onlooker.

Police have advised people alert the bar security if they are suspicious for any reason and pleaded for girls to think twice before entering a limo. This reporter wonders what impact the latter advice will have on the hen-night business...

Grosvenor Ups The Ante

Only a matter of months after the opening of the new Aspers Casino in The Gate, the old Grosvenor Casino has followed suit and closed temporarily for refurbishment. It recently came under new ownership and is apparently now being brought up to speed so that it can be a genuine rival to the newer house of gambling. However, with the growing prestige attached to Aspers, this is not going to be an easy task.

Spokesman for the new owner confirmed that the whole décor and layout was being substantially modernised to suit the needs of the current clientele. As well as the extension to the existing slot machines, there will also be the introduction of private

rooms as well as higher stakes games to try and encourage the more serious players as well as those simply looking for a good time.

The opening ceremony next month is rumored to be quite a grand affair, which will be frequented by many of the local celebrities. If press releases are to be believed, rising star Arcus Masterton will be the man to cut the ribbon before joining in the festivities with the local Newcastle and Sunderland elite. However the event turns out it seems that the gambling in Newcastle is no longer a one horse race and we can look forwards to an interesting competition between these two establishments.



Public Outcry and Latest Gang Murder

Every so often something happens that is so horrific that it strikes to the very heart of a community and causes it to cry out for justice. One such event occurred on the night of April the 1st, but it was no April Fools. Whilst walking back from her mother's house, 32 year old mother of one, Sarah Gillespie was murdered by a gang of youths.

According to the best picture the police can put together the gang were mounted on a selection of motorbikes and four by four scramblers and consisted of members of the local council estate children from ages six upwards. They descended on their victim as she walked the fifteen-minute journey home, cutting her off and driving her for a terrifying five mile run. During this time she was repeatedly knocked to the floor by baseball bats that the youths were carrying. When she finally collapsed exhausted the gang stopped and abused her both physically and sexually. After this

she was tied to the back of a couple of the vehicles and dragged a further fifteen miles down the dual carriageway. It is assumed that she died somewhere on this leg of the journey before she was abandoned on the hard shoulder.

Motorist alerted police at six the following morning and the story was around the local community by mid afternoon. So far the police have been unable to do anything, as despite being fairly sure who carried out the attack they have no actual proof. In the face of this impotency the local housing committee has said that if no one is arrested within ten days, they will hire a private police force to make sure that justice is done. As well as this being a slap in the face for the local constabulary, it indicates the populace's willingness to take matters into their own hands.

So far the police have yet to move on this case and the deadline grows ever closer.

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