

Music to Educational Ears

This month has seen the launch of a new initiative to get young people involved in music off the dance floor as well as on it. In an attempt to promote the music business as a genuine career option, several notable local musicians, producers and venue managers have got together and started the Music Industry in Schools Initiative. The aim of this initiative is two fold. The first is to get people from the music industry into school with musicians going into music classes whilst Producers make guest appearances in business studies lessons.

This will hopefully peak the curiosity of the young minds and prepare them for phase two. The hope is to get the students out of the classrooms and into the associated businesses of the music trade. It is hoped some will record demos whilst others operate the necessary equipment. Several of the local underage discos have already signed up to take guest DJs and performance dancers. If this initiative lives up to the noise it has been making so far we can expect to see Newcastle producing some of the finest musicians of the next generation.



Novus Novum Castellum

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Getting Blood Out of a Stone

The local branch of the National Blood Donor Service has always been able to rely on the students of Newcastle University as a good and steady supply. In a dramatic turn around this month it seems practically all the donors have dried up. On the first of the monthly two day drive there was simply a lack of people willing to give blood, with only three pints being collected. More shocking were the picket lines that formed at the start of the second day acting as a deterrent for anyone wishing to donate. Mark Stone, the leader of the protest claimed the continual lack of respect for donors as a reason for the actions. He claimed that giving would return to normal but hoped that this would give the service a ve-

lar indication that treatment of donors needed to improve to secure the supply of blood for the future.

Some mutter to a darker purpose and point towards the recent debates over whether men who have had homosexual experiences should be allowed to give blood. The cause has had champions on both sides and there seems to be strong feeling amongst the student body that these regulations were put there for a reason and should remain. It is not yet known if the changes will go ahead or indeed whether the protests were in fact linked. But something will need to be done to keep the Hospitals of Newcastle supplied with fresh blood.

Hand of God Turns Nasty

Over the last year Newcastle has come to accept, if not altogether love, the presence of its very own Batman. The Hand of God has been responsible for the capture of several criminals as well as providing information that has led to countless arrests. Throughout all of this his identity has remained hidden and the innocent have slept a little safer in their beds. But it seems this may be all about to change, as a darker side of our beloved hero was unveiled this month.

The family of Jonathan

Derry woke two days after his disappearance to find a note from the Hand of God posted through their letter-box; it simply read 'Justice will find the guilty'. If our masked crusader has turned from non-lethal force to a self imposed executioner it bodes ill for the city of Newcastle. The police are yet to issue a statement on the matter but already the public are starting to turn and bay for his blood. Could this be a sad end to a crime fighting career or an elaborate hoax? So far no one seems sure of the details.

Minerva Worship Confirmed on the Wall

Preliminary reports from an archaeology team from Sunderland University suggest the existence of a Temple to Minerva located on Hadrian's Wall not far from Twice-Brewed. If this turns out to be the case it will set-

tle once and for all the old argument about whether this goddess was worshiped by soldiers stationed on the wall or not. The excavation begins in earnest next month, so hopefully we should soon have some answers.

Odd Place to Lie Down

It was purely by chance that Steven Fellows, a local reveler on a night out on our busy Quayside saw an individual bundle a large heavy item into the boot of a parked car. Having taken a wrong turn in looking for a taxi rank, Mr Fellows, 32 of Gosforth witnessed what he described as "someone having a hard time getting what looked like another body into the boot of a car". A little disturbed by this, Mr Fellows walked towards the car to make sure all was ok, but was quite relieved to see the person who was just put in the boot get back out on their own, and walking off with the man with dressed in black. At that moment, thankfully for Steven, a taxi appeared and he made it home safely, much like the man who was seemingly unconscious and then woke up again in the boot of a car.

Sleep Tight, Don't Let the Rats Bite

Normally it is the cold, lack of food or violence that ends the lives of the many homeless on the streets of Newcastle. But last night it seems one down and out was eaten alive by rats whilst he slept. It seems he had consumed a fair amount of alcohol so did not wake as the vermin feasted on his internal organs and he bled to death shortly after two am. The local influx of rats is being blamed, as normal food supplies are no longer enough to sustain the population. In this case John Falshaw, a research scientist who became homeless when his wife left him, paid the ultimate price.

