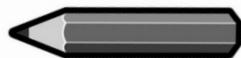


High Schools A Riot

The effectiveness of detentions as a form of punishment has long been discussed by educational psychologists. However, in a society where most other sanctions have been removed from our schools this form of temporary exclusion from normal classes is seeing increased use. The fear is that by forcing these troublesome students to socialise only with other pupils with behavioural problems you will create an underclass of conditioned thugs. Normally this is seen as something of a necessary evil and reality there is no evidence to support the idea, as most pupils in detention are already habitual miscreants.



In Morpeth High School last Wednesday, such an exclusion class reached breaking point causing three thousand pounds worth of property damage and hospitalising eight pupils. It seem that the class was high strung to start with but suddenly exploded into a violent riot rampaging through the building. The class teacher escaped by locking himself in the supply closet as the six students smashed up the classroom and then waded into the English class in the next room. Ten minutes later the fury of the group burnt out and most collapsed in sheer exhaustion. According to doctors reports they have done no lasting damage to themselves, but one pupil who lost an eye to the attackers was not so lucky.

Spring In Autumn? (Continued)

Experts from Newcastle University are baffled as to the cause of these strange occurrences and cannot even come up with a plausible theory as to why these specific plants and areas were

affected whilst the surrounding greenery was not. The council are simply chalking it up as 'just one of those things' and hoping that these were isolated incidences.

Novus Novum Castellum



Issue 16 ~ November

Remember, Remember... the 'Filth' of November?

An early Guyfawkes celebration at the Northumberland County Cricket Club has 'sparked' controversy, over claims by incensed parents that the fireworks display contained strange subliminal messages and hidden imagery, some of which, it is alleged, were obscene in nature. Commented one parent of three, "We expected a fun family evening out to celebrate Guyfawke's torture and messy execution, but it's absolutely shameful what I've seen tonight".

In a statement, the organisers insisted that it was certainly not their intention to put messages, obscene or otherwise, into their display, but promised to refund the ticket costs of anyone who felt they had been offended by the incident.

Some, though, have dismissed the claims as a case of 'smoke without fire'. Indeed, many people attend-

ing were completely unaware of anything unusual, and the ephemeral nature of a fireworks display has meant determining exactly what was seen by the crowd difficult. The police are studying amateur video of the event donated by members of the public and have described the material as 'interesting' but have yet to comment on whether charges will be brought forward.



Chav Gangs On The Rise

With the evening drawing in it seems bands of children are still wandering the darkened streets without adult supervision. With no services provided for them, and the generally socially deprived backgrounds they come from prohibiting many other activities, these children are bored and often turn to crime as a form of entertainment. Normally this is simply petty cases of vandalism and graffiti but can sometimes spiral into more serious acts. Over the course of this month several estates have found themselves victim to campaigns of such activity as gangs of youths have owned the streets.

Local Jesmond resident are up in arms as already there is talk of a drop in house prices in the area. As most buildings in this district have been purchased as investments, this news has certainly upset a lot of Newcastle residents. So far the police have been slow to respond to this crime spree and as a result have been the target of several scathing media reports. If something is not done soon this could very easily drive down Newcastle's general desirability as a place to live.



One More Yesterday

After almost a year out of the limelight it seems that Jenny McRae is set to once again burst onto the local music scene. With the release of her new album this month, tour dates announced and a guest appearance on Jules Holland this month has done a lot to raise her profile. Album sales have been good and concert tickets sold out within three days, so it seems she still has a strong fan base in the northeast.

The big event this month was the release of the first single from the album, 'One More Yesterday', which charted at number twenty-three. Jenny was reportedly pleased at the result and is confident she can climb a few more places yet.



Kung Fu Students Take Out Robber

'This is a stick up! Give me all your money, and... oh, sh-!'

It's been a bad few days for criminals. Not only did a mugger in Germany get taken down by a blind judo champion, but an armed robber in Blakelaw, Newcastle found out the hard way that a Kung Fu academy is a lousy place to try and rob.

The thief discovered the flaw in his plans when the students at the academy didn't take kindly to

being robbed, police said on Friday. The robber is now recovering in a Newcastle General hospital after the martial artists used their combat skills on him and took away his gun.

'An individual entered a martial arts school with a firearm but they managed to react, put their knowledge to use and disarmed him,' Newcastle police chief Julian Santoyo told local Metro radio.

Spring In Autumn?

Whether it is due to global warming, illegal fertiliser dumping or just random chance Newcastle City Council has seen a spate of odd horticultural call outs this month. It seems that random bushes, trees and patches of grass were affected by a period of accelerated and unexplained growth. It started with a call out to the green where one quarter of the grass had grown overnight to a full foot in height. Two days later a giant silver birch collapsed

under its own weight in Saltwell Park causing considerable damage to a piece of alternative art on display. It took four hours to shift the dead wood that under normal conditions would have taken decades to grow. The final incident was in Chapel House where a man had to be rescued from his house when a shrub overgrew his front door. After the offending bush was pruned the gentleman has his garden paved to prevent any reoccurrences.

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