

# STUDENT

Edinburgh University Student Newspaper

## Unions to face shorter hours

by Robin Henry

The Students' Association has decided that it can no longer afford to keep all the Union Houses open to their customary all-hours. From the beginning of this term, unions will be closed during the slackest periods of the week in order to cut costs.

The main changes, which were approved by the Union Committee of Management at the end of last term, are:

- Chambers Street House will be closed on Wednesday afternoons and stay closed for the rest of the day, and will be closed on Saturdays until 5 pm.
- The Park Room in Teviot Row House will no longer be open in the afternoons nor in the evenings from Monday to Thursday (unless it is wanted for private functions); the Teviot Restaurant will also be closed on Saturdays.
- Potterrow will be closed on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

The consolation prize is that the Association has adopted a Free Entertainments policy, so that there will no longer be an entrance charge for Teviot Row or Potterrow on Friday nights or for Chambers Street on Saturdays.

### Comment p.5

Explaining the changes, the Union President, Hilary O'Neill, said, "This is not simply a question of the Association trying to save money, but more an attempt to stop the Unions incurring such large losses." She said catering was the worst problem: if things had continued as before, union catering would have ended the year £30,000 over budget. The problem has been that although the same number of students are using the unions, they are not spending the same amount of money. She assumed that this was because students just didn't have the money, although a survey is to be conducted in the next few weeks by the Education and



Hilary O'Neill: "Not simply a question of the Association trying to save money." Photo by Dave Yarrow

Welfare Officer, Angus Erskine, to see whether people think union services need to be improved in any way.

There was not a great deal of opposition to the closures at the meeting of the Union Committee of Management, although the problem of people wanting to use the laundry in Chambers Street on Wednesday afternoons and Saturdays is to be reviewed. There are no changes involving the Pleasance as yet, but that too is to be reviewed.

Hilary said that the changes had allowed the free ents policy to be adopted, and she hoped that this

would increase the number of people using the unions on Friday and Saturday nights. She said, "Nobody wants to restrict union services, but over the last few years, those services have been expanded while the number of students has remained the same, and I think saturation point had been reached." Even with the changes, she said that the unions would still compare favourably with those in many other parts of the country, but she emphasised that it was up to students to use the services as much as possible if they wanted to see them maintained.

### University funding campaign

The University of Edinburgh Fund Campaign was launched by the Principal at the end of last term. The permanent campaign has been set up to try and attract private funds into the University. Full story p.2

### Exam registration reminder

Students are reminded that the last date of entry for all degree examinations in the Faculties of Divinity, Arts, Science, Music and Social Sciences is Monday, 4th

February.

Copies of the Programme of Examinations are available at the Registry in Old College. Dates and times not included in the programme, and any amendments to it will be given in a poster published at the beginning of the summer term.

### UGC warning on tenure

The University Grants Commission has warned Sir Keith Joseph of the dangers of his plan for ending academic tenure for new lecturers. Full story p.3

## Oxford ready to snub Thatcher

by Alan Young

A group of academics at Oxford University have launched a campaign to prevent Mrs Thatcher being awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Civil Law.

The proposal to award the doctorate, which is to be debated by the Congregation, the Oxford don's parliament, later this month, has been described as being "extremely embarrassing" for the University, since it appears to be honouring a politician who many academics see as being primarily responsible for unprecedented cuts in higher education.

However, the issue is complicated by the fact that Mrs Thatcher is an Oxford graduate, and because it has been recent Oxford University convention to honour Oxford graduates who have become prime ministers — including Conservatives such as Edward Heath.

Dr Michael Hart, a politics don at Exeter College, stated that although Oxford University has not been significantly harmed by the cuts, "there are many Universities that have been savaged by the Government's education policy, and we feel we have a duty to express our opposition to those policies."

A colleague of Dr Hart argued that Oxford should not be seen to be happily feathering its own nest at the expense of other Universities.

Supporters of the proposal to honour Mrs Thatcher argue that the honour is in accordance with the recent practice of honouring prime ministers. However, opponents claim there is no hard and fast rule, even for Oxford graduates, about awarding honorary degrees to serving politicians.

In addition to the particular objection to honour Mrs Thatcher, a number of Oxford academics have expressed a more general opposition towards honouring politicians at all, on the grounds that such actions is invariably divisive.

The proposal to honour Mrs Thatcher was defended by Lord Quinton, president of Trinity College "on grounds of normality", and he dismissed critics of the move as making "a rather feeble protest against something intended as a courtesy."

Critics of the proposal are optimistic about their chances of having it defeated. Their optimism is partly based on the precedent set in 1975, when a proposal to confer an honorary degree on the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was defeated.

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World Cup Ski-ing  
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**Simple Minds**



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### Briefly...

#### Hart to heart

United States Presidential contender Senator Gary Hart will visit Edinburgh University on Saturday (12th January) to deliver a public lecture in the George Square Theatre entitled "America and Europe living together?". Senator Hart was a serious rival to Walter Mondale for the 1984 Democratic Presidential nomination and has been widely tipped as a future President of the United States of America. The lecture will begin at 11 am.

## NEWS

# University launches fund campaign

At a press conference on the 7th December the University's Principal, Dr John Burnett, launched the University of Edinburgh Fund Campaign (EDFC).

An impressive portfolio has been made up describing the projects — ranging from scientific research, to the proposed building of an electronic music studio and visiting fellowships for mid-career professionals — which will be sent to companies, public agencies and trusts.

"The EDFC inaugurates a new trend in University fund-raising", Dr Burnett stated. "For the foreseeable future, this University will continue to rely on public funding for the large majority of its income. However, the days are now gone when the state is likely to provide for the range of initiatives necessary to maintain the full academic health of Universities."

A continuing appeal amongst graduates was launched by the General Council during the University's 400th year and has raised some £480,000 in the intervening 18 months. Both this and the complementary EDFC aim to secure the "vital margin of additional funding essential to keep the University supplied with up-to-date equipment."

Politics lecturer Dr Henry Drucker, Vice-Convenor of the EDFC, told *Student*: "It is necessary to have the best equipment and opportunities for students and staff if Edinburgh is to remain a principal University. This is the only way of getting the money required."

"The amount of money we need

sounds ambiguous, however we believe that our appeal is mutually beneficial to both the University and donors. Attitudes towards Universities have become more casual over the past century — but companies ought to feel responsibility for higher education. One only has to look at the success of Japanese and American firms who work very closely with their Universities and Colleges to realise this."

Although Sir Keith Joseph has repeated his approval of such self-help schemes, Edinburgh is the first University to launch a wide-ranging and long-term scheme.

"This is not an appeal where we are looking simply for a quick success," said Fund Raising Director, Iain More. "Our objectives are long-term for in some senses we are trying to effect a change in attitudes — internal and external — under which the motion of corporate or private giving to higher education becomes the norm rather than exceptional."

It is assumed that it will take several years to fulfil these projects which will then be replaced with others. Dr Drucker then hopes to implement more humanity based projects: "There are more science based objectives but we realised that they would be more attractive to large companies."

The University's Chancellor the Duke of Edinburgh has already associated his name with this campaign and has intimated that he is interested to do other work towards its fulfilment.

Jacqueline Brown



## Carter's resignation threat fades

Graham Carter threatened to resign his position as Vice-President Court at the end of last term, but changed his mind after only a few days.

The post of Vice-President Court is the most senior one in the SRC beneath the four sabbatical office-holders.

At a meeting of the SRC during the final week of last term, Carter apparently offered to resign, but only a few days later, he had withdrawn his offer and remains in his position. Various explanations of his behaviour have been offered, ranging from a fit of pique to a manoeuvre to further his political career, and to an unsuccessful attempt by the Executive to try and get rid of him.

This week, however, members of the Executive and Carter alike were very reluctant to say anything further about the affair. According to Carter, there had been a great deal of tension between himself and the Executive, particularly the Senior President, John Mannix, and this had come to a head with his resignation threat. He was unwilling to say anything more on the subject, he said, because since then a number of conciliation meetings had taken place between himself and the Executive to sort out their differences, with the result that relations were now very much better and no one wanted to see that state of affairs endangered again.

Robin Henry



Photo by Dave Yarrow

Well-wrapped students huddle together for warmth outside the McEwan Hall on Tuesday morning, while waiting to apply for University-controlled accommodation. Two hundred people had already begun queuing the previous evening.

## Pharmacy school reprieved

The fight to save Scotland's oldest pharmacy school at Heriot-Watt University is to continue because the University Grants Committee, which originally ordered closure, has allowed another reprieve so that the matter can be reconsidered.

The Heriot-Watt pharmacy school has been operating under the threat of closure since 1983, when the UGC in London decided that pharmacy teaching there should be discontinued.

The latest stay of execution has come about after a meeting between the UGC and a combined deputation from the University and the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

At that meeting the UGC was told that insufficient consideration had been given to the regional needs for pharmacy provision. It was also pointed out that the closure order had terminated in mid-stream plans to develop an industrial pharmacy component for the Heriot-Watt course.

These proposals, which involved the Pharmaceutical Society, had been put into operation at the request of the UGC itself, the very body which had since declared that pharmacy teaching was to be halted.

The Heriot-Watt pharmacy school, currently with 150 students, and a dozen staff, claims to be the oldest in Scotland, and when the UGC closure plan was leaked in 1983, there was an outcry within the pharmaceutical profession.

Heriot-Watt won all-party support in the House of Commons for its fight against closure, as well as backing from the industry, the pharmaceutical society, other pharmacy schools, and the Scottish Development Agency.

Of the latest reprieve, Heriot-Watt principal Dr Tom Johnston said, "We hope that our arguments have been listened to. Some of the UGC's advisers seem determined to press the charge against us of a weak research track record, but we have pointed out repeatedly that our research programme has improved and is continuing to improve."

Alan Young

## Teachers threaten exams

In their fight for an independent pay review, teachers in Scotland, England and Wales recently voted to step up strike action. They have threatened to use their "ultimate weapon" — the disruption of school examinations.

In England and Wales, the National Union of Teachers has said it would be ready to consider this move — should it prove necessary. In Scotland, members of the largest teaching union, the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), vote this week to decide whether to boycott the preparations for this year's 'O' grade and Higher examinations, and for the new 16-plus exam which is due to be introduced.

Mr John Pollock, general secretary of the union, believes the teachers are "in for a long campaign", and if this is the case, it is thought that members involved in marking the exam papers will be asked to withdraw their services. Mr Pollock says that this would not prevent pupils from sitting the exams, but it would mean the results would not be processed in time for the University selection

for the 1985/86 session.

The Scottish examination board has stated that if this happens, it will call upon University lecturers and inspectors to do the job, but the Association of University Teachers' Council has already passed a resolution which pledges its full support to the EIS' stance, and has stated that Association members will refuse to carry out any duties normally performed by the teachers.

Strike action will concentrate on 'target areas' which have been selected because they are constituencies held by Government Ministers.

The militant faction of the union, however, are not in favour of this plan. Their choice is for all-out action, and they have instructed their supporters to stay outside the proposed target area strikes.

Other unions will be taking steps similar to those of the EIS, and Mr Pollock envisages that ultimately, not only the Scottish unions, but also those south of the border, will become involved in joint action for increased pay.

Anne McNaught

## PHILOSOPHY

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# UGC warns Joseph against ending tenure

The University Grants Committee has backtracked on its original intention to tell the Government how to end tenure for University lecturers. Instead, in advice to Education Secretary Sir Keith Joseph, the UGC warns of the pitfalls involved in legislating to end tenure for new lecturers.

However, Sir Keith confirmed his intention to end tenure in a speech last Friday, and he claimed that his views regarding tenure had been "widely misrepresented."

The revised UGC advice to Sir Keith contains a strong defence of academic freedom, and explains why it is so important. The protection of academic freedom, argues the UGC, must be given as much weight as any proposal to abolish tenure.

The advice is neutral on whether Sir Keith is right to proceed with legislation to end tenure, and is vague about how the proposed statutory commissioners should

go about their task. The idea of sending statutory commissioners into universities to amend statutes regarding tenure was suggested by Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, the UGC chairman, and adopted by Sir Keith.

However, a small group of academics on the UGC has forced Sir Peter to drop his idea of giving the Government firm guidelines on the use of commissioners. Now the UGC wants the terms of reference of the commissioners to be more extensive than simply a two-line instruction to abolish tenure.

The UGC advice also warns of the legal problems the Government will face in changing lecturers' contracts, points out that some Universities have altered their statutes to try to increase flexibility, and says that there will be complications involved in lecturers with tenure not wishing to move to jobs where tenure will not be given. The UGC

does agree, however, that there should be a workable procedure for dismissing incompetent lecturers.

Meanwhile, Sir Keith Joseph told the North of England Conference at Chester last Friday that his plans to end security of tenure for University lecturers was not designed to pave the way for fresh cuts in Higher Education. He also denied that the scheme amounted to an attack on academic freedom, arguing that it would improve management and professionalism in University teaching.

Sir Keith said he sought "better value for money with improved standards in Higher Education being achieved by staff and institutions working together". He claimed that flexibility of tenure would achieve these aims by enabling University to reappraise their academic performance.

Alan Young

## Potterrow goes topless



Photo by Matthew Griffiths

Students returning from their holidays to take up permanent residence once again in the Potterrow have found the place refurbished, or should I say defurbished, since the most obvious change is the removal of the wooden partitions in the middle. This has revealed the bewildered Potterrow-goers blinking in the light with nowhere left to hide any more. There has been great debate over the years about what to do with those delightful partitions (or hideous cages depending on your taste)

and finally the plunge has been taken — perhaps EUSA needs to sell the firewood to keep the place open.

The work has been done by one of the union employees, Owen Quinn, who has also fitted out the new "Potatorow" in the salad bar, which features baked potatoes (70p) and omelettes (52p). The improvements represent an intermediate stage for Potterrow which is next in line for a full renovation.

Robin Henry

## Leith Nautical College threatened

A joint working party of officials from the Scottish Education Department, and the Convention of Local Authorities, has reviewed the provision of nautical education in Scotland making the future for Leith Nautical College now very uncertain.

A supplementary report has been issued confirming the original recommendations that there should be a "consequent progressive closure" of relevant courses at Leith Nautical College in order to concentrate nautical education at Glasgow College of Nautical Studies. The working party was reconvened at the request of COSLA's Education Committee to consider comments from Leith on the working party's original recommendation. It stated that resources should be concentrated in Glasgow, but this will seriously damage nautical courses at Aberdeen Technical

College as well as those at Leith.

The Scottish Office have stated that the arguments advanced by Leith Nautical College have been considered together with the views expressed by Glasgow College of Nautical Studies, but that the working party had no grounds to alter its recommendations.

Final decisions will be taken by Government Ministers later this year, but the recommendations — if implemented — will seriously threaten, if not close altogether, the Leith College. Protest is growing against the threatened closure of Leith, which is the United Kingdom's newest, and purpose-built nautical college. It was opened only in 1977, at a cost of £5 million, but the recommendations seem likely to be carried.

Devin Scobie

## Bruntsfield appeal fails

The proposal a year ago to close Bruntsfield Hospital and to implement cuts in other Edinburgh hospitals was this week realised, despite many public appeals opposing such action.

One recent appeal to the Government came at the end of December from Councillor Alex Wood. Writing to the Minister for Health and Social Work, Mr John Mackay, MP, he stated: "I am anxious that you should have the opportunity to see for yourself the excellent work carried out in the Bruntsfield, the Elsie Inglis, the Deaconess, Leith Hospital, and in the other hospitals threatened by Lothian Health Board and imposed by your Government."

However, before Wood's letter was answered, it was officially announced that the cuts policy has gone through and that Bruntsfield Hospital will close.

Edinburgh District Council had already approached other campaign groups — including various Health Service trade unions — opposed to the cuts. It is not yet known whether they will effectively be able to complain about the recent decision.

## Housing 'disaster'

Members of Edinburgh District Council said just before Christmas the Council could be forced to demolish property in central areas of the city because of inadequate Government provision for housing maintenance and repairs continued.

According to Councillor Nigel Griffiths, convener of the housing management subcommittee, this could lead to the creation of "inner city disaster areas". He described the Government's cutbacks in the provisional capital allocations for the city next year as "terrible news" for thousands of council tenants and home owners.

Councillor Eleanor McLaughlin, the Housing chairman, said that it was a scandal that the Government should cut back the amount the city could spend on repairs and modernisation by £3.3 million when 20,000 houses needed modernisation.

## Briefly...

### Rectorial nominations

Nominations for the Rectorial Election to be held on 8th March should be lodged with the Secretary to the University by 1 pm on Friday, 15th February.

The Secretary's office will provide nomination forms and publish posters calling for nominations at the beginning of February. Details of the correct form of procedure for making nominations will be given, as a failure to conform with them will automatically invalidate the nomination.

### Print Room Vandals

The Students' Association print room in the basement of the Student Centre was broken into and vandalised at the end of last term.

In the attack, which occurred on the night of December 14th, the door was broken down, one of the printing machines was covered in printer's ink and a fire extinguisher was let off and the water ruined the electrical components; nothing was taken however. The repairs, which cost more in time rather than money, have now been completed and a stronger door is to be installed. The police are still investigating the matter.

### PNL pickets

The Polytechnic of North London has failed in its attempt to provide private lectures for National Front organiser Patrick Harrington.

The High Court rejected this proposal, and upheld a previous order which made picketing of lectures illegal. The judge said that while going into the demonstrators would be "convenient", it would amount to giving in to blackmail, and he reiterated that there would be harsh penalties for any lawbreakers at the college.

It was also stated that the court would step in if the college authorities did not ultimately take steps strong enough to bring the situation under control.

### Film Society Fiasco

The University Film Society is having to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting on Thursday, 17 January, because the Annual General Meeting held in December was not quorate; this might have been due to exams, but it also means that the existence of the Filmsoc is now endangered.

The Extraordinary General Meeting will have to elect a new Committee and President, and will include a motion raising the question of using the Classic Cinema, Nicolson Street, as a Filmsoc venue. The meeting will be held at 7 pm in Teviot Row, with the promise of a Wine Reception to lure members to it.

### Council opposes VAT on books

Edinburgh District Council has opposed any proposal by the Government to impose VAT on books.

The chairman of the Recreation Committee, Councillor Mark Lazarowicz, said: "To put 15 per cent on the price of a book is totally unjustified. We are urging all Edinburgh MPs to oppose any such measure, and we will also be holding a public meeting to publicise this threat to the Edinburgh public."

A report submitted to the committee states that VAT on books might be reclaimable by local authorities, but the tax would nevertheless increase the price of books. This could negate recent decisions by the District Council to increase the fund with which books are bought for public libraries.

### Arts need quality

Art historian Professor Sir Ernst Gombrich said this week that Universities should cut back on arts students by setting tough new entry standards. At a time when there was clearly a lack of money, he told 530 education chiefs this week at London's Warburg Institute, it was now necessary to go for quality and that arts courses needed a radical shake-up. Students should have to pass stiff qualifying tests in languages before being accepted on to main degree courses in subjects like history and politics, said Sir Ernst.

## Edinburgh's famous time-ball

How many of you realised, as you trudged down the wind-swept canyons of Princes Street, that the traditional one o'clock gun, fired from the Castle, was accompanied by a time-ball being dropped from Calton Hill's Nelson Monument? That many, eh? It's led a somewhat tangled history, too, so recently unveiled records (not the plastic ones) in the Scottish Office would have us believe.

But why does such a *sensible* contrivance exist in modern Edinburgh? It started in 1854 as a time-check for ships in Leith Docks (obviously not equipped with the mid-19th century Japanese digital watches so common at that time). The ball dropped for quite some time, 'til 1953, when somebody realised that the central government department in charge of dropping balls would be faced with a £500 bill for repair. Not to mention the

fact that the chap from Ritchie and Son, clockmakers, who would the thing up every day, was getting a bit peeved at his £18 annual fee.

Central government, in a surprising move to shove the cost onto someone else (now, would that happen today? Eh?) handed the problem to local government. Eventually, through the endless corridors of bureaucracy emerged a solution, prompted by Sir Charles Cunningham, that well-known statesman and inventor of the full stop. "The gun annoys me and is probably shortening my life," muttered Sir Charles, before going on to defend the people's right to a falling ball, claiming it to be a tourist attraction.

So now the quarterly cost is £523 (you thought your phone bill was bad) and it's paid by Edinburgh District Council. Watch out for the best balls of the year. Every day. Interesting, eh?

## NEWS

# Britain's grants most generous

Britain has, by far, the fairest grants system within the Common Market. This was the clear fact which figures published in a copy of last month's Hansard illustrated, in response to a Written Parliamentary Question by Lord Gisborough.

The Hansard figures, which were supplied by Scottish Office Minister and Edinburgh South Conservative MP Michael Ancram, show the United Kingdom and the Netherlands as the only two EEC countries with a maximum grant level which even remotely

approaches a basic minimum living income.

Lord Gisborough asked the Government last month to supply the most recent figures available in Common Market and other major industrialised countries on four points: the maximum maintenance grant for students; the average maintenance grant awarded; the proportion of students who receive grants; and the extent to which Government loans are available.

The Earl of Swinton supplied information as available for 1982-83 as follows:

Country	Maximum grant	Average grant	Proportion receiving	
			(i) grants	(ii) loans
	£	£	%	%
Belgium	1,390	480	45	Nil
Denmark	1,520	740	n/a	n/a
France	1,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
Germany	Nil	Nil	Nil	n/a
Nil above				£8,000
Greece	200	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ireland	1,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
Italy	715	n/a	20	n/a
Luxembourg	920	n/a	n/a	n/a
Netherlands	1,585	1,140	n/a	n/a
United Kingdom	1,595	1,350	97	Nil
Japan	Nil	Nil	97	14%
United States	950	n/a	50	

Devin Scoble

Blood Bank 80-06-69  
25th Dec 1984  
INTEREST Edinburgh University  
200.0 litres only Litres 2000-  
MR. GRANT CHECK  
Grant check  
\* 031-8210-968021-107

## Adam House Sale

Keen January shoppers were seen queueing early in Chambers Street on Monday morning. Some had ensured their place at the front of the queue by stretching out on the pavement in sleeping bags all Sunday night. What was on offer? Fur coats at cut prices? Crockery at rock bottom prices? No. Grant cheques. As soon as the crazed shoppers had signed for their cheques they tottered up to the bank, some visibly weak from months of undernourishment and alcohol deficiency. Luckily, from the bank, it's normally a short crawl to the nearest pub.

## Gig Guide

There is little to draw the big crowds this term. Fine Art 1 provides a gentle light show at the end of the day. The darkened lecture hall affords easy opportunity for a quiet kip before an evening in the pub, and fortunately, David Howarth possesses a soporific voice that is very easy to sleep to. The Bandaid of the Academic World is to be found performing a one-off gig on Jan 29. Yes, the great Henry Drucker, this time on the Eng Lit label, will talk then on Wordsworth's politics.

## State Pen

Over Christmas I saw Amb Rudd, who's spending her third year at the University of Pennsylvania in America. She says that it's just like Animal House without John Belushi. Dan

Ackroyd or Delta Fraternity. Wild drinking parties do go on with milk shakes being quaffed liberally until as late as 10.30 sometimes. The low rate of sterling impoverishes all Edinburgh University students, so none of them can travel around. Still, as she points out, at least it means there's some good people around to talk to.

## Video Games

If you want a bit of fun visit the new squash courts at the Pleasance Sports Centre. They are misleadingly called 'glass-backed'. In fact they are full-size video screens and the source of endless entertainment. With a cup of tea from the vending machine you can sit quite happily and watch farce, tragedy, and sheer lunacy intermingled with occasional sporting action. The best time for the lunatics is about 2 pm when people book the courts thinking that no one will be around to watch. Get there quick; it's my bet they'll soon be charging the spectators more than the players.

## Rococo Nuts

On Tuesday 15th at 10 pm, Jay Jopling and Geraldine Coates are opening their fortnightly club at Annabel's behind the Odeon. It's called Rococo and will be a hotbed of hip. I, of course, will be there with my notepad to hand, seizing on every indiscretion. Hopefully *Student* will advance me the £2 entry fee and a lavish allowance for milkshakes. See you there.

# Uproar as Council changes its mind

Edinburgh District Council's Labour administration was accused by the Conservative opposition of incompetence when they called a special committee meeting to overturn planning approval given only nine days earlier.

The planning committee meeting agreed by 13 votes to 6 to rescind a sub-committee's decision of December 19th to give planning consent to Lothian Regional Council to construct an additional junction on the Signhill junction of the city by-pass.

The Labour group said that the

committee had been misled at the original meeting; since they had not realised the roundabout would also be used as a junction for the controversial Western Relief Road, Councillor Alex Wood — the leader of the Labour group who called the meeting — told *Student* that Labour had also been opposed to this road as it would deluge the city centre with unnecessary traffic.

Their objections are currently the subject of a Parliamentary inquiry and the group has been advised that this latest planning approval could prejudice the

outcome. The Labour councillors are not opposed to the city by-pass and it was only this development that moved them to call the meeting.

The Conservative group, however, said that this Labour U-turn reflected an incredible display of incompetence and that the councillors have wasted £1,000 by calling an unnecessary meeting.

The Labour group have said they will reconsider the city by-pass when the outcome of the Parliamentary inquiry into the Western Relief Road is known.

Jacqueline Brown

# Commonwealth Games cycling events under threat

The leader of Edinburgh District Council wants cycling dropped from next year's Commonwealth Games — despite the Games organisers having significantly reduced their demands on the council for financial help.

Councillor Alex Wood, whose Labour administration won control of the city last May, has also launched a pointed attack on the country's leading cycling official, Mr Arthur Campbell.

Councillor Wood has found himself in conflict with the Games organisers on a number of occasions, and last month made a direct attack upon the value of having cycling included in the Games at all. The organisers, who are to use Pollock Halls of

Residence as the Games village as they did in 1970, have reduced their financial demands on the city. Instead of requesting more than £400,000 for refurbishment of the velodrome at Meadowbank, the organisers have recently stated that enough work could be done for between £200,000 and £250,000.

The Council leader, however, has stated that "cycling causes more problems than any other sport. It is not a popular sport, and it is not a sport whose facilities will prove popular with the public once the Games are over."

Speaking to *Student* on Monday, Councillor Wood refused to make any further comment on whether the council would be

providing any money at all to help the provision of cycling facilities, or even to state who was likely to provide the badly needed money if the council again decided not to help. He told *Student* "Cycling is an utterly minority sport, and it would overcome a lot of problems if the sport were dropped from the Games altogether." He added that he did not feel the provision of a new, or refurbished, velodrome would be a useful asset to the city.

The future of cycling as a Commonwealth Games sport is now very unclear, but Councillor Wood stated that an important District Council meeting is to be held sometime this week in the hope of resolving the deadlock.

Devin Scoble



100 YEARS OLD AND STILL BREWING.



## STUDENT

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## United we close

The decision to close union bars and buildings at selected times from this week onwards is one which must raise a few eyebrows. Regardless of the financial straits in which the Students' Association currently finds itself, the 'open all hours' union policy of recent years should surely not have been rescinded without greater consultation.

In both the Finance Committee and the Committee of Management the scheme was subjected to hardly any serious discussion, but to fulfil their responsibilities properly the office-bearers involved should surely have discussed these plans at some length.

We cannot shy away from the belt-tightening that is almost inevitable nowadays, but that these changes should follow so sharply upon the expansion of union services noted by Union President Hilary O'Neill raises some worrying questions.

The expansion that occurred was almost inevitable if students were at least to have the opportunity of getting a fair deal from lower grants. That expenditure was unavoidable. Yet in these same years we have seen the advent — albeit with the mandate of a General Meeting — of a travel company which this year diverted £26,000 from the EUSA budget. The motive of providing the Association with long term financial security was commendable. But now it appears that that particular plan has contributed to severe problems in the short term. Someone, somewhere, seems to have been shortsighted.

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## War or plain murder?

Dear Sir,

On Thursday, 6th December, the Irish Freedom Movement showed their film entitled 'Ireland — The Longest War'. The film was a warped presentation of the terrorism in Northern Ireland — I saw warped because it portrayed the IRA as the victims; the murderers as the murdered. This in itself is not surprising — it is one of the most potent of the propaganda weapons used by any terrorist group to win support among the more easily led of the 'rebels without a cause'. The chairman — a member of the Revolutionary Communist Party (another IRA support group) — was, to give him his due, a skilful presenter. He made no secret of the fact that the film was a biased presentation of the situation, to be fair — I could not have expected otherwise.

What was unfortunate about the whole thing was the obvious enjoyment, perverse though it may be, which he and his followers obtained from this glorification of death and misery. They fully

realised what the IRA are doing to the people of Northern Ireland — to them this was a romantic and self-fulfilling pastime — the support of the oppressed gunman in the face of the Unionist oppressors. If refusal to be dictated to by murderers constitutes oppression then, by such a definition, the Unionists are oppressors. Personally I would doubt the logic of such a definition. Heretically, I believe the IRA to be the guilty party so I must necessarily oppose them and their satellite advocates.

I appeal to all you who may come into contact with such groups to stop and look behind the facade. To support such a revolutionary group may, in theory, be a romantic pastime at the moment. In reality, the IRA is synonymous with death in Northern Ireland.

It is easier to tear down than to build up; easier to kill than to reform; easier to be bitter than to be charitable. If you want to take the easy way — be aware of the effects of terrorism on the population of Northern Ireland.

The aim of the IRA is to destroy Unionism through the murder of Unionists and to impose their own brand of Irishness through their political (and violent) opposition to peaceful Irish Nationalism. Be aware of the monster that is the IRA and be aware of the fact that it will not 'win'. The rhetoric of the Unionists is not empty — it is backed by an unflinching resolve. This latest IRA campaign is the longest yet, and they have succeeded in removing some of the best and bravest sons of my country. It has made those who are left prepared to persevere for as long as it takes for the IRA to destroy itself.

It is to those who are left whom I give my support. Will you flow with the current stream and stand against us, beside the bombers and gunmen — or will you stand with us in our opposition to violence from whatever quarter? In making your choice look beyond yourself and your world to those whom your decision will affect.

Richard Henderson

## Sandinistas not so sweet

Dear Student,

When, oh when, will people realise that there are two sides to every story.

During my gap year, spent in Central America, I stayed in Nicaragua for a few months. On a tour of the south, the guide was fresh out of Tippa Tappa, the jail with the worst reputation in Nicaragua. It stands a mere 20 kilometres from Managua. The two of us visited many churches, hospitals and relief centres from Massaya to the Costa Rican border. He turned into a mummified wreck on seeing militiamen as a result of 45 days in solitary, in the dark, sporadic meals etc, along with interrogations by the army. For no apparent reason was he arrested. My uncle, treasurer of a Dutch charity, was refused permission at this time to travel to Bluefields in the east. There, four priests belonging to the charity

and church which he represents, have been murdered during the services they were conducting. Sixteen priests in Tippa Tappa. Four missing, presumed dead. Just to set the background.

In Massaya I saw a child with malnutrition. Not a big deal, considering the pictures of Ethiopians on TV, until one considers that Nicaragua has the most fertile lands. Mangoes are not in the stores. They were meant to be sent to Cuba, but who wants mangoes in return for arms? Suffer little children. At least our NHS is better than that.

Near Petros Blancas, a friend's daughter had consumption. So, off to the hospital we went, only to be refused entry; soldiers only. So back we went away to listen to the news — Costa Rican Free Radio and the BBC. The state publications are a farce. One Time

reporter was seen writing his report, which took the leading pages of the magazine, straight from the press (La Prensa and La Barricada). Would you say that anything written in the Sun or Star is the gospel truth — what is the truth?

Nicaraguans had very little under Somoza, but he left most people to their own devices. Now, they have even less, and Big Brother watches on in the shape of 'los juvenes' — the young ones, the susceptible.

As the queues outside the hospitals grow, the blood will boil again and lo and behold another 'insurrection'.

I wholly applaud the fundraising; but beware of the hands into which the money is placed. An AK47 does very little for malnutrition.

Yours,  
Tim Hayward.

## STUDENT

would like to remind all its readers that, as ever, we welcome all contributions, be they letters or articles: we will do our utmost to print everything we receive. As usual, also, we are always happy to meet potential new staff at our meetings, which take place every Friday at 1 pm in The Basement, 1 Buccleuch Place.

If you're expecting monetary gain from your activities, Student has the job for you. More people are always required to sell Student each Thursday, for which they receive 25 per cent commission.

## Pride and prejudice

Sir,

It appears that one of the key issues behind the miners' strike has been overshadowed by political prejudice and intransigence.

What really needs to be considered are the longer-term implications underlying the current dispute. We are now observing the dynamism of the free-market economy in operation, which has meant a mammoth upheaval for manufacturing and primary-sector based industries: it is fundamentally no more than a shift in demand away from such industries and the reallocation of resources to sectors of the economy where they would be relatively more productive. While fully appreciating the undesirable effects of community destruction it seems that industrial change will have to occur in the coal industry.

It is an oversimplification to state that it is 'cheaper to keep the pits open than to pay off miners', but for how long will the taxpayer have to go on pouring money into an antiquated industrial system?

There is little doubt that had the coal mining industry not been nationalised then industrial redeployment and restructuring would have had to occur long ago — nationalisation has merely meant an unpleasant postponement of such industrial renovation.

Is it really fair that everyone in Britain should have to bear the undesirable economic consequences of an industrial dispute of what has for so long been an industry artificially sheltered from market conditions by nationalisation?

Yours,  
Andrew G. Ross.

## A vote of disapproval

Dear Student,

May I express, on behalf of the Debates Committee, disgust at your description of the Christmas Debate as 'the most bloody stupid motion yet.' To be more precise it was the words 'bloody stupid' which we objected to. 'Bloody' is not a nice word, in fact it's almost an obscenity, and we are sure that it caused great offence to many people, well, John Murray MacLeod at least. Certainly 'bloody' is better than 'fuck', 'shit' or 'bugger', but it still should not appear in print.

As for the description of the 'motion as "stupid" — if it had been

given a little thought it would have been realised that the motion (that Christ and Christmas should not mix) is a serious and important proposal: that our celebration of Christmas has nothing to do with the Christian message. Anyway, is this not the case of the pot calling the kettle black? Is there anything more stupid than 'Matrango'? Its only merit is that it rhymes with 'bingo', and with the distinct irregularity of claims for the prizes offered, it seems to be about as popular as bingo as a student pastime. Is there anything more stupid than 'Student's' sports pages? Does anybody actually care whether the University's

Lacrosse team wins or not?

We of course do not resent Student's right to comment on our debates, but we feel that it would have been wiser in this case to have omitted 'bloody stupid' and merely to have described the motion in question as 'the most motion yet'.

Yours,  
Simon McGrath  
on behalf of the  
Debates Committee

You will not doubt be glad to hear that Matrango no longer graces our pages. We hope to produce something even more ridiculous this term. Ed.

## Unionise now!

Dear Sir,

Last term our glorious leaders were carping on about the miners' strike and the 'disgraceful' act of closing down uneconomic pits.

This term we come back to discover that they are not above closing down 'uneconomic bars'. Even the coal board would presumably have transferred us to a 'super bar' in Portobello.

A case of double standards? I think we should be told.

Yours,  
in enforced sobriety,  
Mike Conway



## ARTS

## Film

## TEN OF THE BEST 1984

A Personal Choice by  
Trevor Johnston

Well, I think he got it right.

## 1. RUMBLE FISH

Coppola's best film since *Apocalypse Now*. Filled with startling monochrome images and featuring spellbinding performances by Mickey Rourke as a street-wise philosopher and Matt Dillon as another rebel without a cause, it charts the dangers of a quest for personal identity in the quagmire of modern society. Unforgettable.

## 3. PARIS, TEXAS

Wim Wenders and Sam Shepherd as director and writer between them fashion a vision of contemporary America — all wide clear landscapes, neon signs, and failing relationships — as a backdrop to another domestic drama. Harry Dean Stanton dominates the winner of the golden palm at Cannes. Moving.

## 2. UNDER FIRE

A mainstream Hollywood film that works very well both, as a conventional action picture and as a meditation on the power of media images to influence political events. First-time British director Roger Spotswood's film, attacked in the US for its criticism of American involvement in Nicaragua, is graced by another great, typical performance by Nick Nolte.



Elated to be no. 3.

## 4. BROADWAY DANNY ROSE

A Woody Allen film of wisdom and compassion, as he plays a small time theatrical agent with a variety of no-hope acts (the balloon-folders and wine glass players of this world), whose fate becomes intertwined with that of Mia Farrow's gangster's moll. Leaving behind neuroses and European influences this is one of Allen's cleanest and funniest movies.

## 5. THE BIG HILL

Wonderful ensemble playing by a cast including William Hurt and Kevin Kline in Lawrence Kasdan's 'what happened to the flower power generation?'-film. The writer-director's script juggles eight major characters with great dexterity, as well as wit and warmth. Nice to see the quality American middlebrow entertainment alive and kicking.

## 6. DANIEL

Critically buried in America because it dared to sympathise with the Rosenbergs (who passed details of THE BOMB to the Russians). Sydney Lumet here concentrates on the trauma of the trial and execution of their parents for the children. As Daniel (Timothy Hutton) tries to find out the truth about his parents, the two narratives — 1940's and 1960's — are beautifully interwoven.

## 7. SCARFACE

De Palma's massive depiction of modern American decay admirably displays his directorial gifts; editing is razor-sharp, and the narrative grips like a vice. Probably over-long, but Pacino is stunning, and the sheer bloated excess of the thing is striking.



We really should've been no. 1.

## 8. CARMEN

Never thought I would be one to praise a flamenco version of an opera, but Carlos Saura's film expertly blends backstage drama with some exhilarating dancing and achieves several moments of real power.

## 10. GHOSTBUSTERS

OK, so this is a fairly mindless and superficial piece of entertainment. But it works. It is very funny. Deadpan Bill Murray nearly succeeds in stealing the show from the Marshmallow Man. Special effects well up to par.

## 9. EL NORTE

The harrowing saga of two naive Guatemalan peasants who are forced to leave their village and trek north to find paradise in the US. Thematically simplistic and a little sentimental at times it may be, but an involving narrative full of trial and tribulation makes one forget this.

## THE ALSO-RANS

*Lianna*, *The Hit*, *Videodrome*, *La Vie Est Un Roman*, *At First Sight*, *The Dead Zone*, *The Return of Martin Guerre*, *The Right Stuff*, *Koos*, *This Is Spinal Tap*.

## THE BIG CHILL

SAPORT  
UP FOR GRABS

## DUNE

Science fiction is rarely tackled by the cinema, most so-called sf films are either hardware fantasy like the *Star Wars* trilogy or gynaeological horror like *Alien*, but this is not surprising since sf is characterised more by ideas than images. David Lynch has succeeded in turning Frank Herbert's vast novel into a real science fiction film and this is both *Dune's* triumph and its flaw.

*Dune* is a story of transcendence. Paul Atreides, potentially the next step of human evolution, is caught up in his family's feud with the ghostly mechanistic Harkonnen clan on the sand world of Arrakis. He achieves final victory over his enemies by unleashing his telepathic powers and gaining control over the planet's gigantic native sand worms.

The script, on the whole, condenses the book's 500 pages without losing fluidity, but the price that has to be paid for this is a clumsy lump of exposition that

clots the opening. It is epic in scale although the now standard special effects are fairly sparingly used, the emphasis rather being on the impressive gothic sets.

The greatest difficulty with the film is that its major theme — the evolution of the human race — more or less becomes the central character in the story, making all the actors seem relegated to supporting roles despite fine performances from Francesca Annis, Sian Phillips and Kyle MacLachlan in his debut as Paul. This peculiar feature of having a concept as a co-star is characteristic of the individual grammar that science fiction uses. If this confuses the audience it is not because you need to have read *Dune* to understand the film, but rather, that you have to have read sf to grasp its point and cope with its lopsided structure and emphasis.

The end result is a very dark, evocative and alien view of the future of humanity, but it is a view which will have a limited audience and appeal.

Andrew J. Wilson



## Gremlins

It is a bit of a sad irony that British Film Year should begin with our cinemas staffing off closure only through the presence of two big-budget American films; it's an even sadder irony, that of the American movie-makers who can make great films, some like Cimino and Coppola are on the constant verge of bankruptcy, whilst the monied, like Spielberg and Lucas are obsessed with updating Disney or completing their own space sagas. But while Lucas at least has some room for manoeuvre in the six remaining *Star Wars* films, Spielberg is casually working himself into a corner with every new project he takes on.

The mid-American small town setting which was the backbone of *Jaws*, *Close Encounters* and *ET*, should have been abandoned after the monumental blitzkrieg inflicted on it by Tobe Hooper in *Polltergeist*; unfortunately Spielberg and Joe Dante the film's director have exhumed it for *Gremlins*, and the result is a messy stalemate in which the stars of this film, the only known creatures uglier than the Larkhall branch of the *Rangers* supporters club are forced to walk the same clean streets as *ET*.

Fair enough, all that their illustrious predecessor did was to miss the last bus home, and then spend the next two hours phoning for a taxi home, whilst carrying off a passable impersonation of Jesus Christ, but it was all done so well and performed so brilliantly that it became a cultural landmark in terms of cinema, and thus consigned all of its followers to the



American youth and new depths of depravity.

role of cliché. So, why did even to illustrate the obverse of *ET* is to imitate it? Perhaps he was given a dressing-down by his Rabbi for going around telling on it by Tobe Hooper in *Polltergeist* and urged to repudiate them?

Whatever his motivation for making it, *Gremlins* is still quite a good piece of entertainment, though at times a lot of the humour is forced, and neither plot nor character have very much to say for themselves. Put simply, the story line is this: a flop inventor in Chinatown buys a small creature called a Mogwai for his son's Christmas present; this tiny, cute, kola-bear-like animal, who seems to spend most of this time at home watching all the 'right' movies on tv, or singing to his owner, comes complete with three warnings — keep him out of the light, don't let him get wet, and never feed him after midnight — all of which are immediately disregarded, and

before long Spielbergville is absolutely crawling with gremlins. The two set-pieces which follow are well done, and quite amusing, as the gremlins take over a bar to drink, breakdance or play cards, and then hop off to the local cinema to watch *Snow White*.

Which brings us back to the central problem with the film; too much time is taken up with references, either to all the clips of classic film every time a television is on (in *ET* you will remember we only had five seconds of *The Quiet Man*), or to the constant shadow of *ET*, or rowse to the ego of Mr Spielberg himself, who make a cameo appearance a la Hitchcock at an inventors convention. *Gremlins* is a decent film, and for those with short memories can be a barrel of laughs but for those of us who can remember getting *ET* its strictly second division stuff.

Stephen Sweeney

## THÉÂTRE

When I rang Ian Brown to arrange a feature on **TAG Theatre Company**, he would only agree on condition that Ian Wooldridge, his predecessor as Artistic Director, was mentioned in the first sentence. Oops!

This wasn't the result of any acrimony between the two but simply a weariness with the media's continued insistence on comparing and contrasting them even seven months after the changeover. Ian Brown took over as Artistic Director of *Theatre Around Glasgow* in May following two years at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, and a background as a drama teacher and community arts worker. He had been interested in working in Scotland for some time, believing that we possess a wealth of creative talent which hasn't really had the deserved exposure. With Ian Wooldridge and several TAG

performers moving to the Royal Lyceum in Edinburgh, the opportunity existed to open TAG up again and broaden the artistic base of the company.

TAG was formed in Glasgow in 1967 as a theatre in education project designed to introduce children and young adults to theatrical performance. Since then it has evolved slightly and now has a unique status as the only professional company playing to adult theatre audiences as well as children in schools. Recent productions have included *Hamlet*, *Beowulf*, Brecht's *Mother Courage* and an adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* which finished its tour at the Netherbow Theatre in Edinburgh last week.

The work TAG has done in introducing children to the theatre has received much high praise. In addition to the performance, Ian encourages children to take part in discussions or in workshops with the actors and actresses. This, and the use of a Scottish cast, is intended to remove some of the mystique and avoid the alienation which some theatrical performances create for both children and adults.

## PLAYING TAG

TAG is a small company with only seven performers currently attached and this creates problems when choosing works to adapt for performances. By



commissioning an increasing number of new works, Ian hopes to avoid these problems and also to support some of the creative talent which he said had attracted him to Scotland.

In addition to his artistic ambition with TAG, Ian recognises

the financial pressures which exist and is determined to strengthen the financial foundations of the company. The Glasgow Citizens Theatre offer a hidden subsidy by providing office space "and generally sheltering us from the cold" and financial support comes from Strathclyde Regional Council. The majority of the funding, though, comes from the Scottish Arts Council, and Ian met officials last week to try and negotiate an increase in their contribution to TAG.

In a recent document, *The Next Five Years*, the Scottish Arts Council promised to "encourage clients to develop a more considered approach to the presentation of the arts for children and young adults, and earmark funds accordingly". This, together with the fact that TAG is Scotland's least financially supported touring company, leads Ian Brown to hope that an increase in funding will be forthcoming and at last week's meeting they seemed to be making "encourag-

ing noises".

The next TAG project is a production of Dario Fo's *Can't Pay? Won't Pay!* and it will tour Scotland in February. During **Mayfest** they hope to present a primary school show and Ian is also working on a community project, as yet untitled, which may visit Edinburgh during next year's Festival (Fringe Director Michael Dale was in the audience last week at the Netherbow). This has the intriguing theme of women and bingo and although TAG's educational brief limits their political involvement, Ian predicts this will mark the beginning of "a streak of socially conscious work".

The real strength of the company undoubtedly lies in its contribution to theatre in education. With strong visual images and a clarity of interpretation, TAG open theatre up to a young audience and ensure they can relate and respond to it. Only through such education of children can theatre hope to develop an appreciative adult audience.

Stephen Jardine

## Exhibs

## Revealing Hidden Depths

More On Show Than Ever Before  
The Gallery of Modern Art  
Belford Road

Since the opening exhibition, *Creation*, the organisers at the Gallery of Modern Art have concentrated on effectively arranging the gallery's own works. The result is that more of the collection that ever before is now displayed — more than 200 paintings and sculptures; and over 100 prints and drawings.

The gallery made quite a considerable number of important acquisitions in 1984, which serve to fill some of the gaps in this collection of 20th century art. A work of particular importance is Pablo Picasso's *Corrida* which has never been shown to the public before. The collection of prints and etchings on display is

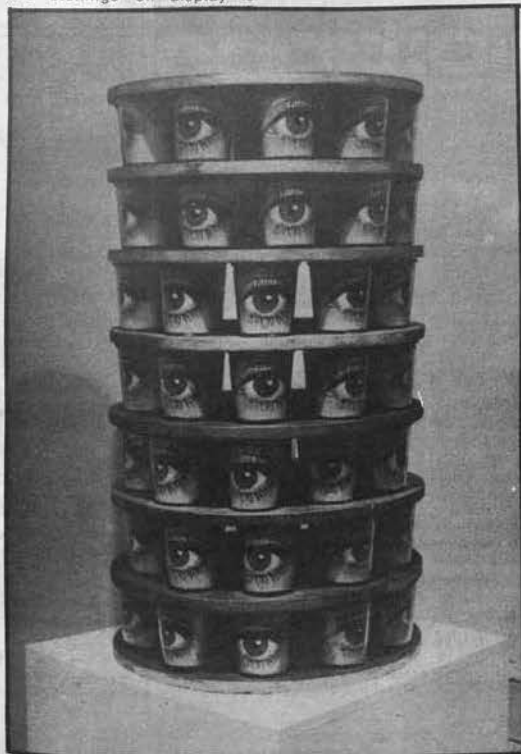
especially impressive, including as it does many important works by Klinger, Munch, Ernst and Beckmann.

George Rickey's sculpture *Two Lines Up Eccentric VI* (1977), also purchased in 1984, is now situated outside on the front lawn. It consists of two metallic arms which move in the wind but never touch each other. A particularly popular acquisition is *La Jalousie* (version 2, 1961) by French artist Jean Tinguely. The artist has played on the French word "jalousie", which means both a slatted blind and jealousy. If the viewer switches on the mechanism beside the blind, it begins to shake and rattle, signifying the unsettling emotion of jealousy.

Other works of interest include art critic Roland Penrose's collage entitled *Ocean Temple*. This work was executed in 1983, the year before Penrose's death.

Scottish artist Steven Campbell's work *Ding Dong* (1982), which was lent anonymously in 1984, is also on display now. This depicts a justice-type figure holding scales, but the lurid colour and the stunted shape of the figures give it an especially unnerving quality. Another disturbing work is Marcel Brodthaer's *La Tour Visuelle* (1966), where numerous eyes stare unflinchingly from the tiers of the "tower".

E Proctor



## Hickory-Dickory

The Craft Fellows Works  
City Art Centre  
3-26 January



Alan Hansmere is a repairer of clocks who was given a year off teaching in order to research the work of three dedicated Scottish clock designers of the late 18th-early 19th century. In that very short space of time he set himself the task of constructing three facsimiles of clocks of that era.

The result is an interesting display of designs and plans which give at least some concept of the calculation and need for precision that the work involves, and three clocks. As he himself admits, the clocks are by no means perfect; the craftsmen he imitated devoted up to 20 years of thought and planning to each one. The artwork, especially, betrays the haste with which the clocks were made, with rather watery paint and ill-defined script, which is rather a disappointment.

Most interesting of all, Mr Hansmere did not try to duplicate Victorian methods of craftsmanship, but used modern techniques; it is interesting to see the degree of success he has achieved, especially in the metalwork, and in the decoration of his Japanese lay-case clock. He is to be congratulated in proving that the skills of the Victorian era are not confined to that period, though one regrets the fact that, nowadays no one seems to have the time or dedication to devote to one piece of machinery, regardless of the financial incentive. Mr Hansmere was quick to praise craftsmen for their dedication and love of their art; he was also quick to make sure his three clocks are priced at up to £5,000.

In the same room as the clocks of Alan Hansmere hang several pieces of patchwork, executed by a Ms Veronica Tognerini. She has used silk material to produce various geometric patterns. At first sight her exhibits were not too pleasing; on second thoughts,

they were irritating. Although Ms Tognerini has a certain awareness of colour, I see little point in putting her creations up on the wall of an exhibition hall and passing them off as art. Her work is of a sort done for pleasure and with as much skill by others. For her to seek to justify their existence as piece of art with quotes from Matisse and with obscure titles seems to be an achievement of either deception

or self-deception. A patchwork of green, white, brown and blue triangles was titled "Meadow"; another exhibit had the distinguishing feature of the slogan *La-Bas, La-Bas, Cook, Bananas and Cream* on it — presumably an evocation of the tropics! As one visitor commented: "Lovely colours — but I don't think it really means much — do you?"

Helen Bell

## Böök

THE LINTON PORCUPINE  
BY ROSS LAIDLAW

*Nowe that I Nicholas Wainwright am safe returned from oute of Scottlaunde I have deternmynd for myne owne contente to sette forth these myne adventures in greater compasse, touchynge upon the brave men knaves foolles and cunnyng roges I did sojourn with in that cuntries with the deedes performed perils encountered and hardshippes endured all sette down together with sundrie dyvers matters pertaining thereunto...*

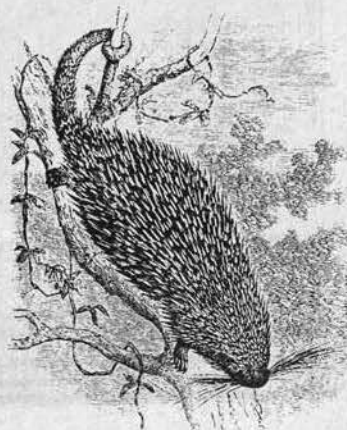
So begins the narrative of *The Linton Porcupine*, just published by Canongate at £8.95. This purports to be a transcription (and, after the opening few pages, a translation) of the newly discovered memoirs of one Nicholas Wainwright, a harmless and gormless young man tricked into operating as an English undercover agent amongst the warring Borderers of the 1540s. His most important mission, which forms the main part of the book, is to locate and capture a horrendous new Scottish invention: a primitive machine-

gun like weapon, the "Linton Porcupine" of the title.

Whether the story contained within the beautifully designed covers really is a unique record of 16th century intrigue and treachery, or whether it is an elaborate and brilliant hoax on the part of the "transcriber", Ross Laidlaw, is unclear. But it is also unimportant: what is important is that *The Linton Porcupine* is a veritable ripping yarn, narrated with great gusto in a racy and colourful style. It does not seem at first glance to be a major contribution to Scottish Literature, but still it would be wrong to view it as part of the "historically based", "mists over Loch Leven", tradition of romantic fiction; it is just that the essential seriousness of the book's motives — shedding light on a murky area of Scottish history, or whatever — is never allowed to get in the way of its main (and none too secret) mission to entertain.

Heartily recommended for the Yuletide fireside.

Duncan McLean





## film



James Wood and Robert De Niro in 'Once Upon a Time in America'.

## Odeon

(667 7331)

## Ghostbusters

2.00, 5.00, 6.00

A surprisingly entertaining film with Dan Akroyd, Bill Murray and Harold Ramis finding themselves faced with more than they had bargained for when they go into business dealing with spooks.

## 101 Dalmatians

2.15, 6.00, 8.30

Popular cartoon classic returns to the screen.

## Electric Dream

2.30, 5.45, 8.15

Mildly entertaining film about a computer which composes a song to please its owner's girlfriend, but proceeds to cause embarrassment by unsolicited interventions in private life. (Student tickets £1.30 except Fri and Sat evenings in Odeon 2 and 3.)

## ABC

(229 3030)

## Gremlins

(Tickets £2.70 and £2.30)

2.30, 5.30, 8.30

Much acclaimed (though why I can't imagine!) Spielberg yarn about a bunch of horrible little creatures which run amok in the town of Kingston Falls.

## Dune (tickets £2.30)

3.05, 8.00

Confusing and, considering the vast sum of money spent on making it, not as good as one might have expected, film version of the celebrated Frank Herbert novel.

## Once Upon A Time In America

(Tickets £2.20)

6.30 to 10.30 every evening (with an interval)

Sergio Leone's superbly mounted and orchestrated epic tale of American corruptibility.

## Dominion

(447 2660)

## Ghostbusters

2.20, 5.20, 8.20

A surprisingly entertaining film with Dan Akroyd, Bill Murray and Harold Ramis finding themselves faced with more than they had bargained for when they go into business dealing with spooks.

## Gremlins

2.15, 5.15, 8.15

Much acclaimed (though why I can't imagine!) Spielberg yarn about a bunch of horrible little creatures which run amok in the town of Kingston Falls.

## Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom

2.00, 5.00, 8.00

Still hanging on in there, Indiana Jones battles his way through more adventure. The only doom about this film is that it may never end!

Tickets £2.20 (£1.20 for students to Cinemas 1 and 2 and first two performances in Cinema 3).

## Filmhouse

(228 2688)

## The Bostonians

Thurs 10th-Sat 12th, 6.00, 8.30

James Ivory's rather slow but well-acted and satisfying version of the Henry James novel. With Vanessa Redgrave and Christopher Reeve.

## Heart Like a Wheel

Thurs 10th, 6.45

Surprisingly successful biopic of Shirley Muldowney, the first professional female race car driver. Bonnie Bedelia good as Ms Muldowney.

## PLUS

## Over the Edge

Bunch of frustrated youngsters left to find entertainment in drugs, drink and sex as an escape from their typically neat new town for middle-class families.



## The Postman Always Rings Twice

Fr 11th and Sat 12th, 6.30

Sixth version of the once banned James M. Cain novel Jack Nicholson and Jessica Lange play the lustful, fate-ridden couple.

## The Brother From Another Planet

Sun 13th-Sat 19th, 6.15, 8.30

Enjoyable film centring around a mute extraterrestrial trying to survive in Harlem.

## Andrei Rublev

Sun 13th-Sat 19th,

7.15 (2.15, 7.15 Sat)

Eight imaginary episodes from the life of 15th century minor icon painter Andrei Rublev, seen here as a troubled visionary reduced to years of silence by the horrors that he witnesses. (Subtitled) Student tickets £1.50.

## Film Society

Late Night, Fri 11th

Odeon

11.15 Risky Business

The story of Jack Goodson, who divides his time between studying and sexual fantasy. A film with a scattering of smart lines.

12.50 Trading Places

John Landis and Dan 'Ghostbuster' Akroyd in succinct comedy effected with wit and nimbleness that looks back to the classic Hollywood comedies.

Sunday 13th, GST

6.45 Devi

A strange story of a farmer who, while his son is away at university, persuades his daughter-in-law that she is a goddess.

8.25 Heat and Dust

The integration of two stories of Anglo-Indian romance, one set in the 1920s and the other in the 1980s.

Wed 16th, GST

6.45 Hue and Cry

The first of the classic Ealing comedies in which East End boys discover that their favourite boys' paper is being used by crooks to pass information.

8.15 Raiders of the Lost Ark

An outsize, Bogartian hero fights the Nazis in this first 'Indiana Jones' film (and there will no doubt be many more!). Thoroughly enjoyable stuff.

# FILMHOUSE

PATRON: BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY 88 LOTHIAN ROAD

## Cinema 1

Until Sat 12 6.00/8.30

Christopher Reeve and Vanessa Redgrave in the Merchant-Ivory film

## THE BOSTONIANS (PG)

from the novel by Henry James

## Cinema 1

From Sun 13 6.15/8.30 (8.30 only Sun 13)

John Sayles'

## THE BROTHER FROM ANOTHER PLANET (15)

Three-toed black alien arrives in Harlem.

## Cinema 2

Fri 11 &amp; Sat 12 6.30 (also 2.15 Sat 12)

Jack Nicholson Double Bill

## THE POSTMAN ALWAYS RINGS TWICE (18)

+ GOING SOUTH (PG)

**BOX OFFICE INFORMATION 228-2688**  
CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE FOR FULL TIME STUDENTS  
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# exhibitions

## Castle Street Fine Art

## Mainly Watercolours

By 19th and 20th century contemporary artists.

10a Castle Street

Mon-Fri, 10.00-5.00

Sat 10.00-1.00

## Central Library

## Child Poverty Action Group

## Exhibition

George IV Bridge

Mon-Fri 9.00-9.00

Sat 9.00-1.00

## City Art Centre

## Mine Own Romantic Town

Edinburgh through the eyes of the artist.

## Treasures of Edinburgh

Works from Edinburgh's Libraries and Museums.

Market Street

Mon-Sat 10.00-6.00

## Old Edinburgh Revisited

Selection of works from the collection.

## Fruitmarket Gallery

Paintings by Steven Campbell

29 Market Street

Mon-Sat 10.00-6.00

Sun 2.00-5.00

## National Gallery of Scotland

## Turner Watercolours

The Vaughan Bequest

The Mound

Mon-Sat 10.00-5.00

Sun 2.00-5.00

## National Library of Scotland

## Poet and Painter

Allan Ramsay, father and son.

1684-1784.

George IV Bridge

Mon-Fri 9.30-5.00

# This Week What's On GU

Woods and Noodles together



IF I LOOK  
REVOLUTINARILY  
CUTE FOR LONG  
ENOUGH,  
SOMEONE WILL  
EXPLAIN  
DUNE TO ME.

# THE SPECIAL THE DAMNEDLY OF



# THE HERO

—FOR FUTURE



# Week's s On DE

40 years.



EDITION  
ATING EXPLOTS  
LESS



BACK!  
PRESENTATION—

## theatre

### Kings Theatre

229 4840

#### Sinbad the Sailor

Until 2nd Feb 2.15 and 7 pm

Pantomime larks as Una McLean, Johnny Beattie and Christian are outacted by a carpet! This is the last show at the Kings before it closes for restoration.

• Tickets £2.50-£5.50 from box office. Concessions available.

### Brunton Theatre

Musselburgh

(665 2240)

#### Dick Whittington and Cat

Until 12th Jan. 2.30 and 7.30 pm

Last chance to see this pantomime. Lots of fun and jolly japes with Dick, pussy and a pair of bells.

• Tickets available from the box office.

### Bedlam Theatre

225 9893/9873

14th-20th January 7.20 pm

#### Hamlet

Excerpt from ad: the tale of a man wanting revenge for his father's murder by his father's brother who married his father's wife, his mother, who stole his throne, who sent him away from home, kills him in the end. He kills his would-be wife's father etc, etc and we all know the end.

### Royal Lyceum Theatre

229 9697

#### The Miser

16th Jan-9th Feb 7.45 pm

Starting with a free preview on Wednesday comes the Lyceum's new production of Moliere's classic, in a translation by Alan Drury.

• Tickets £2-£4.80 from the box office.

## music

### Waterloo Bar

Waterloo Place  
(556 2839)

Thursday 10th January  
Tora

Wednesday 16th January  
Amateur Hour

### Preservation Hall

Victoria Street

Thursday 10th January  
Bobbin' John

Saturday 12th January 2-4 pm  
George Roy Jazzmen

Sunday 13th January  
Tam White Dexters

Monday 14th January  
Fast Breeder

Tuesday 15th January  
Still Thinking

Wednesday 16th January  
Charlie McNair

### Coasters

West Tollcross  
(228 3252)

Wednesday 16th January  
Bouncy Inflatable Disco  
Talent Contest — champagne  
£1 advance (from Napier College)  
£1.50 at door.

### Hoochie Coochie

West Tollcross  
(225 1938)

Sunday 13th January, 11 pm  
Sid Presley Experience

### La Sorbonne

69 Cowgate  
(226 5641)

Thursday 10th January  
Gobi Dexter Yacht Club

Friday 11th January  
Dance Cage

Saturday 12th January  
News From Nowhere

Monday 14th January 2  
Paris Line

Tuesday 15th January  
Maximum Reality

Wednesday 16th January  
Rhythm System

### Usher Hall

228 1155/6

Friday 11th January 7.30 pm  
conductor — Vernon Handley  
cello — Paul Tortelier  
Berlioz: Overture, The Roman Carnival  
Bizet: L'Arlesienne, Suite  
Saint Saens: Cello Concerto No. 1  
Rachmaninov: Vocalise  
Rachmaninov: Symphonic Dances Op. 45  
• Tickets £1.80 student standby.

## univents

Due to lack of publicity from the various Unions, there are no details of Union events. Please check Teviot Row, Potterrow and Chambers Street for details of happy hours, discos etc.

### Thursday 10th January

#### Jazz at the Pleasance

9 pm-12 am. Happy Hour 9-10.  
Charlie McNair. Entrance £1 (50p members).

### Friday 11th January

#### EU Buddhist Society

Venerable Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtsa Rinpoche talks on "The Path Of The Yogi", Lecture Hall A, DHT, 7.30 pm. No charge.

Teviot Row Toga Party  
8 pm-2 am. Happy Hour. Entry Free.

### Tuesday 15th January

EU Debates Committee presents "This house would nationalise prostitution". Student speaker. Teviot Debating Hall. 7.30 pm.

EU Debates Committee presents "This House believes that the Arts in Britain are 'elitist'". Guest speakers — Alistair Hicks, The Scotsman Arts correspondent, Michael Dale, Fringe Administrator, Cllr. Al Trevor Clark, Edinburgh Council Tory Group spokesman for the Arts. Teviot Debating Hall, Thursday 17th January at 7.30 pm. All Welcome.



at The **SATELLITE**  
(WEST TOLL CROSS)  
**EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY**  
**REGGAE & Soul**  
(CHIEF SEKI AT THE CONTROLS)

(FROM 9.30pm to 3.00am) **LATE BAR.**  
**OPEN TO ALL • DOORS CLOSE 2.15am.**  
**It is FUN • It is GROOVY • Check it out SOON!**

### University Music Reid Concert Hall

Tuesday 15th January 1.10 pm

cello — William Conway  
J. S. Bach: Suite No. 1 in a major for cello.  
Britten: Suite No. 3 for cello  
• Admission free.

### Queen's Hall

(Tickets at Usher Hall Box Office or at the door)

Saturday 12th January 7.45 pm

conductor: Yan Pascal Tortelier  
violin: Oscar Shumsky

viola: Eric Shumsky  
Mozart: Violin Concerto No. 1  
Mozart: Violin Concerto No. 2  
Mozart: Violin Concerto No. 3  
Mozart: Sinfonia concertante  
• Tickets £1.80 student standby

Wednesday 16th January

Chic show — Ping  
Piano Recital

Thursday 17th January 7.45 pm

Edinburgh Quartet  
J. B. McEwen: Quartet Melody  
Tippett: Quartet No. 1  
Smetana: Quartet in E. minor  
• Tickets £4.50 and £2.75

Friday 18th January 10.00

Jazz 29th Street Saxophone  
Quartet featuring Bobby Watson.

### Reid Concert hall

Thursday 17th January 7.30 pm

#### Schola Cantorum

Britten: Choral Dances from Gloria  
Leighton: Mass  
Slegedal: Motets  
List: Via Crisic  
£2.50

### St. Cecilia's Hall

(Tickets at Usher Hall Box Office or at the door)

Saturday 12th January 7.45 pm

The Georgian Concert Society  
baroque violin: Daphne Godson  
harpsichord: Michael Chibbett  
Bach tercentenary celebrations  
open with a selection of sonatas for violin and harpsichord and an unaccompanied partita for solo violin.  
• Tickets £2 student standby

### McEwan Hall

Friday 18th January 1.10 pm  
organ: Herrick Bunney  
Hubert Howells: Sonata  
J. S. Bach: Prelude and Fugue in F. minor  
• Admission free.

Bobby Watson





## MUSIC

## SUGAR AND SPICE



COCTEAU TWINS

Usher Hall

Photo: John Lindsay

If the Cocteau Twins' Usher Hall performance of December 10th proved anything it was that innocence and beauty can still survive in a music climate more reminiscent of the mid-70's rather than the mid-80's. For those of you who find the pop pill of Messrs. Jones, Kershaw and Co. just a bit too sickly to swallow, the Cocteau Twins offer an antidote with more than just a hint of mystery.

After all, where's the mystery in *Wake Me Up Before You Go Go*? Increasingly these days music has been reduced to "see us on the video and see the photo in *Smash Hits*" — nothing is left to the imagination. Rather, the product is hurled at us in one big glossy package with all the subtlety of a twelve inch remix (with free poster, natch). Today's chart scene, for

the most part, is the musical equivalent of a fast food restaurant: quickly digested and leaving very little impression once finished.

Yet the Cocteau Twins have been delighting, infuriating and puzzling anyone willing to listen since the release of their debut LP *Garlands* in 1982. The brittle, metallic screams of that first record led to the dizzily joyous *Head Over Heels*; this in turn has paved the way for the current LP *Treasure* which is just that, offering a rare delicacy and fragility of spirit.

But who are these people anyway? No photographs appear on record sleeves, whilst their contact with the music press is minimal and usually finds an exasperated journalist losing patience with the trio's intimacy and reluctance to talk about anything in particular.

Indeed it was this intimacy which was apparent above all else at the Usher Hall. Robin Guthrie and Elizabeth Fraser the lovers, and close friend Simon Raymonde were clearly in a little world of their own up on stage —

all quiet smiles, nods and winks. We the audience felt almost privileged to join them for the evening.

The mystery persists when the Cocteau Twins play. Robin and Simon stand silently at either side with their guitars and tapes, in front of an ever-changing backdrop of slides any one of which could be a Cocteau Twins record sleeve. At the centre of it all stands Elizabeth: dressed in white silk, she is a beautiful sylph-like figure. When not singing she performs a faintly disturbing "hand-ballet", pulling her fingers and violently beating her chest; when she sings it is like nothing on earth, swooping from an angry shriek to a mournful sob. God knows what it's all about, mind you, since practically every utterance is indecipherable and titles such as *Millimillenary* and *Lorelei* don't exactly help. Yet the overall effect is spellbinding.

And they're human too! Elizabeth blushes shyly at the huge roar that greets *Sugar Hiccup*; when *The Spangle Maker* receives an extra-special ovation she laughs in surprise and embarrassment. The whole occasion is as warm and engaging as any concert I've seen with our three cuddly Cocteaus clearly enjoying every minute as they play a set comprising material largely from the *Head Over Heels* period onwards. Only the very last song *All But An Ark Lark* dates back to their early days and here Robin permits himself a little skip or two, just for old times sake.

The Cocteau Twins anonymity does not equate with humourless disdain for their audience. Some brand them as wilfully obscure but I see only a refreshing desire to retain a sense of the unknown; to show tantalising glimpses as opposed to revealing all, a la Frankie — let's treasure them

Keith Cameron

## Young King Cole

### and his merry old souls



LLOYD COLE AND THE COMMOTIONS

Caley Palais

*Forest Fire* was probably the best Lou Reed record of 1984, a year in which the man himself produced a great album. A year in which very few new bands made it; The Smiths, the Finkie Says Relapse chaps and then there was Lloyd Cole and the Commotions...

These boys sounded like a Glasgow band as soon as they hit the airwaves with *Perfect Skin* — the jangling guitars, tortured vocals and fresh-faced image. The old Postcard spirit was in there, along with an injection of 60's cult band feel and a sparkling production. Of the three bands mentioned above, perhaps Lloyd and the boys are best equipped to play live, neither a guitar nor a balding producer short. This in mind, I hopefully surveyed the Caley Palais' strange brew of straights and trendies, old and young, and an almost empty stage.

The crowd generously donated a subdued cheer as five

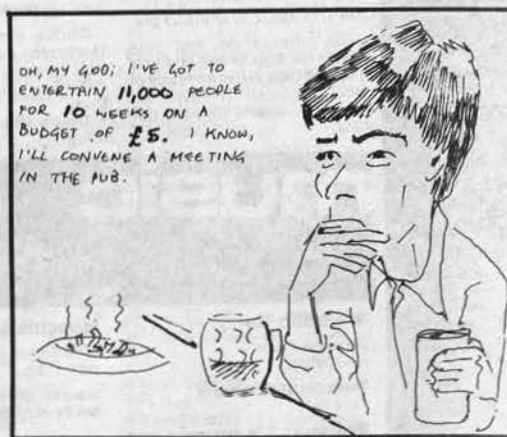
unassuming figures wandered onto the stage. Maybe these lads were the roadies? But no. Fringes flicked onstage and off, and the songs began jangling through a modest PA. A dedicated few down the front were dancing but most of the rest of the wild Edinburgh crowd moved only when they'd finished their drinks. The momentum built towards the end of the short but strong set with not a duff song in sight, the beat tugging the feet and the tunes hitting the hear.

Lloyd Cole kicked the sand back tonight — make sure you're not wearing that Duran T-shirt in '85.

Mark Percival

In the first of a series of features on the music scene in Edinburgh, Sally Greig talks to Simon Nicholls about his recent appointment as Entertainments Convener.

## SIMON SAYS ...



Graphic: Toby Porter

Cast your minds back to the beginning of term. Any fault within the Entertainments Programme could be easily excused by the fact that we had no Entertainments Convener.

Soon after the advent of *The Presidents' Ball*, this was solved by the appointment of Simon Nicholls to the post, largely due to the hard work he put in that evening. Feeling that it was about time that his plans for the year were revealed, we lured the said Ents. Convener to a local hostelry, the offer of a liquid lunch brightening his face, while the complaints of band-starved students rang in our ears.

After two years of Students' Association work, ranging from Science Rep to Teviot Publicity Convener, Simon found himself initially as a "Hack without portfolio" this year. Having helped with Entertainments last year, Simon finds that the post of Ents. Convener brings very little power and a great deal of criticism. The major complaint this year seems to be the lack of big bands in Union Houses. "The major problems is a question of priorities," he claims. "The committee of management felt that the loss incurred by Ents over the last few years has been far too much for the current financial climate — at the moment renovation is the priority. A policy has been adopted that no big bands will be booked and no large amounts of money are to be spent, except for John Peel and various end of term events". Thus the Ents Convener's job this year consists of nothing more than checking everyone else, on either music or discos and taking the blame if it all goes wrong.

Another complaint is that students see Moray House conducting a successful campaign with seemingly less facilities and money. Simon explained their advantages. "Teviot and all our venues are very large buildings with very small halls. It is very expensive to open and fill the whole building and then almost impossible to expect everyone to see the band. Moray House have only one small area to open and fill, I have to justify the maintenance of the bars and

building for the night and set charges with no guarantee that enough people will turn up. Also as we can only let in students and their guests, our numbers are cut already. Any increase in entrance charges means that due to the structure of the SRC, a lot of people have to be convinced and in Ents, there is no way you can guarantee success."

So obviously, the hands of the Ents Convener are well and truly shackled. Ideally, what would he like to see done? "Theoretically, Ents Conveners still have to pass exams, as well as organisation, let alone the time to drink and gamble." Yes, Simon. "If it was a sabbatical post a lot more time could be spent and more power given. Obviously, the construction of a purpose built venue with a public license could raise our income and improve Entertainments in the long run but the money involved in the short term makes it impossible to implement."

On the positive side, the policy which has been adopted should therefore make it easier for Simon to book and encourage local bands. "Unfortunately very few local bands do phone or make any kind of advance. Those that do are generally referred to Martin Mulholland at Student Centre House. The decisions on most bands are taken by the separate House committees, again cost being the greatest factor."

"This shows another problem with the position of Ents Convener — every Union House has their own Ents Committee which leaves me in a supervisory position, probably due to a basic mistrust of Ents Conveners."

The common complaints levels at Ents are easily answered. Money is scarce in the Students' Association on the whole and obviously if the money is needed elsewhere, then Ents will suffer, and bands will suffer before discos etc. However if you don't agree why not go and see a House Committee or better still, go and pester Simon in the EUSA offices. Hopefully now, you have a better idea of the limitations involved any viable suggestions or even indications of to what people will respond would make the whole job a lot easier. And besides if you're very lucky Simon might even buy you a drink.



## MUSIC

## LATEST!

## • Gig Guide

PH: Preservation Hall, Victoria Street  
 LS: La Sorbonne, Cowgate  
 WB: Waterloo Bar, Waterloo Place  
 HC: Hoochie Coochie Club, West Tolcross.

10-16 January: see What's On.

17. Jan. Practical Dreamers (WB)
- Bobbin' John (LS)
- After Eight Mince (PH)
18. Kalima (HC)
- The Lionhearts (LS)
19. Hits of the 60s (Playhouse)
- featuring Gerry & the Pacemakers
- George Roy Jazzmen (PH)
- Festival of Jazz (LS)
20. Meatloaf (Playhouse)
- Tam Wjite Dexters (PH)
21. Her First Talkie (LS)
- Great Shakes (PH)
22. Chaka Khan (Playhouse)
- 24 Hours (LS)
- After Eight Mince (PH)
23. The Daintees, Hurrah, Micro-Disney (Coasters)
- D.O.A. (LS)
- Charlie McNair (PH)
24. Everything But The Girl (Caley)
- Green Telescope (WR)



25. Napalm Stars (LS)
26. The Real Secrets (LS)
- George Roy Jazzman (PH)
27. Heyday: Occapella (HC)
- Tam White Dexters (PH)
28. The Story So Far (LS)
- Engine No. 9 (PH)
29. (Shalamar) (Playhouse)
- Minor Change (LS)
- Stresa Front (PH)
30. Why A Duck (LS)
- Charlie McNair (PH)
31. Rubber Dolfinarium (WB)
- SCO Berlin (LS)
- Blues 'N' Trouble (PH)
3. Feb 3 Johns (HC)
8. Commodores (Playhouse)
10. The Exploited (LS)
- Blow Monkeys (HC)
13. St. Valentine's Ball:
- Pete Shelly (Coasters)
17. Strangers (Playhouse)
20. Joan Armatrading (Playhouse)
21. Killing Joke (Caley)
- unconfirmed.
23. Wham! (Ingliston) re-scheduled date.
27. Eric Clapton (Playhouse)
- 20 March Tina Turner (Playhouse) shows at 6.30 & 9.15 pm
23. Mike Harding
28. Shakin' Stevens
- Coming Soon: The Clash, Spear of Destiny, The Alarm (again). Dates released soon.

Latest: First with the news.

## Television Latest

The Tube continues tomorrow (Channel 4, 5.30) with live music from the Sid Presley Experience and Winston Reedy (see the former this Sunday at the Hoochie Coochie Club).

On Saturday, The Other Side Of The Tracks is back for a 12 week run, in the first programme (Ch. 4, 6.00), Paul Gambaccini talks to Frankie Goes To Hollywood in LA, and also to Ric Ocasek and Ben Orr of The Cars.

Whistle Test next Tuesday (BBC2, 7.30) has an excellent line-up: a rare chance to see The Cockett Twins on television, in addition to a feature on the John Peel radio programme, and an interview with new Sheffield band Floy Joy, one of last year's brightest newcomers.

Compiled by Alastair Dalton

## CROWN DUELS

Robbie Coates reports on an uncertain future for the University Folk Club.

The EUFSS, popularly known as *The Crown* is one of the increasingly rare finds at Edinburgh University. Not only is it a well established and popular society, it also retains a strong link with that peculiar institution called the City of Edinburgh. As Scotland's oldest folk club, *The Crown* has maintained the aim of integrating its student membership with 'real people', and of presenting Scottish, Irish and even (!) English folk music and culture to an expanding audience. In addition to supporting home grown bands like Seannachie and the Spootiskerry Cellidh Band, *The Crown* has often played host to such mega-stars of folk renown as Dick Daughan and the Battlefield Band. Yet due to the administrative whims of the Students' Association, *The Crown* (like other more celebrated bodies, ie *Student*) is having to move out of its present home, in Lady Glenorchy's Hall, thus effectively curtailing 26 years of activity. *Student* spoke about the activities of *The Crown* to Hamish Henderson, a founder member of the club and leading promoter of Scottish culture at the School of Scottish Studies.

Robbie Coates: Hamish, could you give me a short potted history of *The Crown*?

Hamish Henderson: *The Crown* started geographically in Sandy Bells bar. Sandy Bells was always the annex of the School of Scottish Studies, although some people believed that the S of SS was an annex of Sandy Bells'. Stuart MacGregor was the founder member of *The Crown*. Stuart was a fourth year medic in 1958 and

*The Crown* has had strong links with the School of Scottish Studies in the past. Do you think that this movement will lessen the appreciation of Scottish culture at the University?

Any move will certainly not lessen our interest in *The Crown*. The School has had this link with students who have been interested in Folk Song. In the past I have entertained hundreds of them where you are sitting now and

the University should concern itself more with its own affairs, perhaps at the expense of the community?

Well personally I would say that both things are important. I doubt if you can really differentiate between them. The University and the student body must look after themselves. It is an absolute necessity that they should defend themselves on all fronts. The whole question of the cuts must be faced up to. But this doesn't mean that its relations with the community should in any way diminish. I would say that the two priorities dove-tail into each other and I would hesitate to see any

Could you tell me of a few of the achievements and high points of *The Crown*?

Of the ones I remember best are the times when people like Jeannie made an impact on the student membership, like Jeannie Robertson, Jeannie McBeth, Willie Scott and other source singers from the schools in Glasgow, which instigated a mini cultural explosion you could almost see on the spot.

Do you believe that the moving of *The Crown* out of Lady Glenorchy's Hall will in any way curtail its activities?

Well I certainly hope not. *The Crown* is now an integral part of



Beauties and the Bass! Sprangeon, still at Edinburgh University.

lessening of community involvement.

Perhaps I could suggest that any interaction between the community and the University would strengthen the position of both?

Well it should. After all, if I may drag 'politics' into it, we have a Labour council now and the University has everything to gain by associating itself with the Town.

So do you think that, even at this early stage *The Crown* has been active not only in the University but also in the City as well?

Oh absolutely, it never put a portcullis between the University and everyone else. In that it was in the great tradition of Edinburgh University. The University has always been the 'Toon's College', you know! It's been based on the Town and if anyone comes from the outside and thinks anything else they begin to realise that there is an organic relationship between the University and the Town. And so some of the most valuable members of *The Crown* have come from outside the University.

the folk life of Edinburgh. It can't be allowed to curtail its activities. If it tries to do so, I'll have to do something about it! It's just not to be considered, this is a genuine problem. *The Crown* has become so entrenched in Lady Glenorchy's Hall that moving it would be like the Guinness brewery out of Dublin.

To finish with, what has *The Crown* meant to you over the past years?

Well it's been a good part of the joy of my life. I have had a lot of fun out of it and at times even tried to contribute to its activities. So I can regard myself, in a sense as a child of *The Crown*. There is this feeling of community and pleasure in what is one of the cultural centres of Scotland. Folk song is one of Scotland's chief glories, I don't use the term lightly.

EUFSS, situated on Drummond Street, between Old College and The Pleasance, is open to any member of the public, whether student, resident or visitor, interested in any aspect of folk music.



Jimmy Greaves finds a wig and a new career as Dick Daughan.

*The Crown* had enjoyed a de-facto existence in Sandy Bells' before this but Stuart got it together and registered as an University Society. The first meeting was in April 1958 in the SRC hall in the Old College.

have passed on songs.

On a more topical subject. It seems that what with government cuts and cash and career problems, the student body seems to be becoming more wrapped up in its own activities. Do you think that

## Smoke on the Waterfront

## SIMPLE MINDS

Glasgow Barrowlands

Last Friday saw the second night of a 3-date appearance at the Barrowlands Ballroom by Glasgow's Simple Minds.

The evening began with a brilliant set from the support band the Armory Show whose members read like a who's who or who was who of the rock scene. Fronted by the charismatic Richard Jobson, ex-lead singer with the Skids, their performance easily merited the rapturous applause they received from the crowd. Mr Jobson ended by telling us that in one year they will be back; this time headlining. From what we were treated to, this statement seems rooted in fact

rather than fantasy.

Next came the main event of the evening, the quiet but, rather unspectacular entrance on stage of Simple Minds. As the spotlights came on the unmistakable form of Jim Kerr, clad in a ridiculously outsize suit, brought an immediate cheer from the audience.

The concert that followed was slick and professional with Jim Kerr's smooth antics proving as hypnotic as the music. Songs such as *Promised You a Miracle*, *Waterfront* and *Up on the Catwalk* couldn't have been better reproduced had you sat there playing the records, with The American proving a popular number in which the Glasgow punters could exercise their vocal chords.

Throughout the evening the heaving mass of sweaty bodies at the front provided a brisk business for the medical staff with limp bodies being forever passed over



Jim Kerr: "Women and children first!"

the heads of the crowd and pulled unceremoniously onto the stage before being helped away.

In total they gave 3 encores. One heralding the unexpected appearance on stage of U2's Bono to duet with Mr Kerr which delighted all present, not least of all the odd looking people wearing yellow helmets who seemed to be milling around near the end. On exiting from the building to go home their purpose was explained

by the sight of three Fire Engines parked outside and smoke coming from the roof. Thus it seems as Simple Minds played, the Barrowlands burned, though the decision not to empty the venue was probably very sensible due to the possible effect of panic in a building where ease of exit at the end is ridiculously cramped and potentially very dangerous.

John Lindsay

## FEATURES

# Faith, hope and Charities



Remember an article in one of last year's *Students*, in which a stinging attack was launched both upon ESCA (Edinburgh Student Charities Appeal) and also upon the perennial favourite, the apathy of ye olde student public? The comments didn't go entirely unnoticed. *Jenny Dunn* finds that things have changed in the tiny office at 42 Pleasance.

ESCA's annual general meeting last May didn't get all the advance publicity it should have had, but those who turned up were well entertained. The meeting produced scenes rivaling the war councils of Monty Python's *Judean People's Front* (or do I mean the *People's Front of Judea*?). It dragged on for a very long time, punctuated by cries of "Let's have a vote on that" (and just occasionally) "Get a bloody move on", and then everyone carried on the meeting, unofficially, in the bar.

In many ways it was a relief from the usual AGM where business goes through like Casey Jones determined to get the train to its destination as soon as possible. Most importantly (although at the time it proved more frustrating) it illustrated the variations in opinions and ideas within the group. It is precisely these variations which ought to make ESCA dynamic and exciting as an organisation, but which are most evident when driving executive, conveners and the lowly house and society reps to quit.

Reasons for the widespread chaos varied, but a hard-pressed executive and a hard core of wellwishers at last managed to narrow it down to one word — publicity. People were just not being informed of what was going on, where it was going on, and who was to be in charge of it. Those intrepid souls who went in search of the ESCA office in order to find

out and (if they were lucky) caught someone in, would all too often find that person as much in the dark as they were — and that's certainly not encouraging.

You see, not only were ESCA's publicity problems the failure to put up enough posters; they also involved frequent breakdowns of

couldn't be bothered.

So, the Charities became uninspiring and uninspired. There was a lot of talk before the AGM, a lot during it, and even some afterwards. Whatever happened to sweet charity last year? I can distinctly remember collecting money while three raving loonies

Napier, Moray House, Dunfermline College... The amount of money raised divided by students supposedly participating just doesn't bear thinking about. At the end of last year Heriot-Watt decided to disaffiliate from ESCA because they felt they could do better on their own.

12th. The event is designated "Snobs and Slobbs", so you can dress up if you have to. There's a late licence until 3 am, and the evening will be enlivened by *Avalon* and the *Spootis Kerry* ceilidh band. For all this, they charge you the ruinous amount of £2 per head.

You will, of course, have seen the posters. ESCA is setting out to deal as purposefully as possible with the problem of communication — getting across to 20,000-odd students that it's possible to have good clean fun and do someone a good turn. Then, of course, they have to persuade Joe Public that ESCA is worth donating increasingly precious pennies to.

In order to do this, ESCA have enlisted the aid of a young lady whose picture appeared in *Midweek* at the end of last term. She is, of course, *Philippa Pouch*, a wallaby in Edinburgh Zoo, adopted by the Charities. In a major publicity triumph for her sponsors, the cheque for her adoption was handed over to the zoo by four members of the Australian touring rugby team. And if there was a hint of the old, chaotic ESCA, with two of the three-person reception committee arriving just as the celebrities left, then that didn't matter. What was important was that the national press were there, and Philippa made the back page of *The Scotsman*.

A lot more is now known by a lot more people about exactly what goes on. There are fixed office hours, when you'll find someone waiting to tell you all ESCA's secrets. Too many good ideas have, in the past, been scribbled on the back of envelopes and never seen again. Now there are regular general meetings and an information column in *Midweek*. ESCA's problem in the past was that they were too aware of the problems they face and not willing enough to confront the big problem of realising their potential. In a university filled with some of the finest brains in the country, you wouldn't have thought it was difficult to find a few brilliant ideas for money-making... would you?



The rush to the ESCA offices gets underway.

internal communications. It wasn't that people in the office weren't bothered; it was that they didn't know. And the reason they didn't know was that those people who did had spent so long trying to educate and inform people who weren't bothered, that long before they got around to informing certain non-apatheatics who might have got off their backsides and done something they were driven into the arms of the demon drink, and could be found under tables, babbling of green fields. And if you think that's confusing to read, you should try doing it. Within ESCA developed a perfectly understandable tendency to let the mountain come to Mohammed and, in most cases (also perfectly understandably) the mountain

crawled up the Royal Mile; I can remember collecting on Princes Street in my pyjamas. I can remember missing carol singing, the 24-hour dance marathon, the floats procession and everything else ESCA apparently failed to publicise. That almost includes Charities Week, nothing more than a pimple among an acne of summer term events, as dull and worthy as it sounds.

However, following that enlightening meeting last May, things have had to change. Last year the total amount of money raised for local charities was £18,000, qualling just over a pound for each student at this university... except that ESCA includes just about every haven of tertiary education within the city

And so, things are changing. ESCA is, for example, decentralising, trying to improve communications between the colleges. Every now and then the ESCA roadshow pops up in that great void of outer Edinburgh. Every now and again the colleges hold their own ESCA events. At the end of last term, carol singing on Princes Street raised a handsome £350, despite competition from the coal-not-dole brigade. Charities Week has gone, for ever we hope, to be replaced by Rag Week '85. The dance marathon, the fete, the floats procession are still going as strongly as they were in the good old days. There are new events, too; the outstanding among them is the Charities Ball, to be held in Teviot Row on Saturday, January

## Peru - the golden land

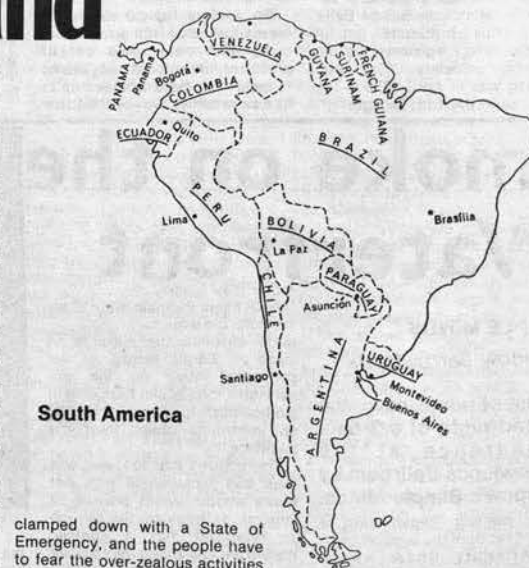
For the casual visitor to Peru, exposed to the dazzling blaze of colour and the bustle of the Sunday market place, and to the mystique of an ancient Inca civilisation worshipping the sun and crafting in gold as its most perfect reflection on earth, appearances can be deceptive. Past and present seem to merge in a curious world apart from the mainstream of twentieth century life. The miraculous stone constructions of old situated high in the Sierras were dedicated to rituals of sun worship which still persist through the trappings of a colonial imposed Catholicism; traditional standards of hard work, fair exchange and hospitality still operate amongst those who work the land in the more remote Andean villages.

This picturesque front masks the sad realities of an ailing economy, serious domestic conflict and the resultant 'concern' of foreign powers. South America has long been a chequer board of East/West conflict, of jostling for economic and political footholds, the attempt of each major power to make itself in some way indispensable to the ruling body; and Peru is not faring well as a pawn in this struggle. Until recently a certain loyalty to the United States was guaranteed as they provided a market for Peru's major copper and textile industries. The States, troubled with domestic unemployment and eager to soak up the excesses by developing their own industrial potential, have recently withdrawn this market and thus severed an important tie. Communist propaganda — concentrating its attack on the US military build-up in Central and South America — is rife even in some of the most remote Peruvian villages. The people are finding it increasingly hard to scrape a living off the land and Lima is seriously over-saturated with immigrants from the countryside; in such conditions anything which offers the prospect of improvement is likely to be grasped eagerly with both hands.

In the old days Peru was the sole property of about five major landowners, before a munificent

government decided to enact a 'bloodless revolution' and bestow it all on the previously exploited peasantry. It was empty rhetoric, what they actually did was to leave a poorly educated peasantry, with no technical know-how or understanding of management, to produce what they could out of a mountainous terrain and problematic climate. The effects were predictable: agriculture regressed to more or less subsistence level and there developed a surplus of those crops most easily grown, and a shortage of those requiring more investment and expertise (for instance sugar cane). Many in less fertile regions found it hard even to subsist from the land, and a resultant migration to the city took place. Here cramped conditions, the growth of shanty towns, and the immediate contrast of wealth and poverty causes impotence and frustration to find an outlet in crime.

The most violent and disturbing manifestation of Peru's confusion is to be found in the directionless activities of the Shining Path terrorist group. They maintain that they are acting on behalf of the peasantry (the aim is to initiate some kind of 'People's Revolution' through anarchic tactics) but kill indiscriminately and brutally those they claim to represent. In response the government has



clamped down with a State of Emergency, and the people have to fear the over-zealous activities of a military which claims to be protecting them from a terrorist group which claims to represent them. All of which has the effect of welcoming with open arms whoever may wish to step in from outside.

Peru seems destined to be one of history's examples. A highly sophisticated and productive Inca civilisation falls to a handful of

self-seeking Spanish adventurers. Now again they find themselves mere pawns in someone else's game. The land of gold has the potential to be great again through its own resources; the regeneration must however come from within.

Katherine Need





# Seeing stars



Astrology is more than titillating nonsense for the masses in the nether regions of the Daily Mail argues Student's Sheila Hardie. This week she introduces her series of astrological excursions into the unknown on the Back Page.



Yes, I know that the very sight of the word "ASTROLOGY" will make many of you: (delete as appropriate) scream/throw up/indifferent/think of 101 other things to do with 'Student' other than reading it etc. etc. But, just a minute, before you go, don't you

think you might be missing something vitally important which could change your life and tell you all those things about yourself and others you'd always wanted to know but never dared ask!

Yes, astrology is as interesting

as all that, and more. Well, you'll be wondering what I'm going to tell you next (so am I), so I'd better explain myself a little better.

First of all let's start with a bit of history. For all of you who don't know, astrology does not simply mean the bit of the 'Daily Mail' to the left of Fred Basset where you find out thrilling things like:

"You will receive some news today!" There is a bit more to it than that. It has been around for a very long time. The exact origins are unknown but the earliest records of astrological knowledge come from the races which inhabited the valleys of the Tigris and the Euphrates 5,000 years ago. An astrologer in these early days was someone who tried to find out the facts we now call astronomy. The early history of astrology must therefore also be the early history of astronomy as we know it now.

At this time astrology, religion and medicine were all linked and astrological calculations were used by agriculture, the king and the state and not for individual character analysis as they are today. In fact astrology was the first systemised scheme of psychological assessment to be developed. It is in many ways closely linked to psychology and one of the most famous

psychologists of this century Carl Gustav Jung, believing in astrology himself, realised its importance in helping with analytical treatment.

There is much more I would like to say about all that, but since I can't take over all of the Features pages I'd better be brief!

Next I'd like to explain a little about the astrological birth chart itself which is the basis of all further analysis. To draw this up you need to know the person's exact time, date and place of birth. You then use a book called an Ephemeris which gives the positions of the planets at any given moment. You also calculate the ascendant (or the sign rising on the eastern horizon at the moment of birth) and the different 'Houses' (or areas of the sky the chart is divided up into) and draw them in before finally placing the planets in their positions on the chart. After this you draw in the different aspects formed between the planets on the chart, which can be harmonious or disharmonious depending on the number of degrees separating them. Only after all this has been done (as accurately as possible) can any interpretation be attempted.

You may wonder why it is if you are a sun sign Leo, and have a Leo friend, why he's so different from you. Well, no one is

a pure Leo or a pure Virgo or any other sign for that matter. Each person has their own individual chart with a unique combination of planets and aspects which influence their own particular character. Therefore a sun sign Leo with a moon in Pisces and an ascendant Cancer will be different from a Leo with an ascendant Libra and a moon in Sagittarius.

No, I know astrology is not a science, it is a unique system of interpretation of the correlation of planetary action in human experience. It is a conditioning among others and, to properly interpret a chart you must make a synthesis of many different factors before coming to any conclusions.

Sheila Hardie

Now turn to the back page for your guide to the stars.



## Hepatitis breakthrough

Last month an agreement was signed between the international research organisation, Biogen, and The Wellcome Foundation, the pharmaceutical company, to manufacture a new vaccine for Hepatitis B. This vaccine has been developed by a team led by Professor Ken Murray of Edinburgh University's Department of Molecular Biology with the help of funding from Biogen.

Robin Henry took this opportunity to "get down" to King's Buildings to interview Professor Murray and find out about the work being done to combat Hepatitis B.

### What is Hepatitis?

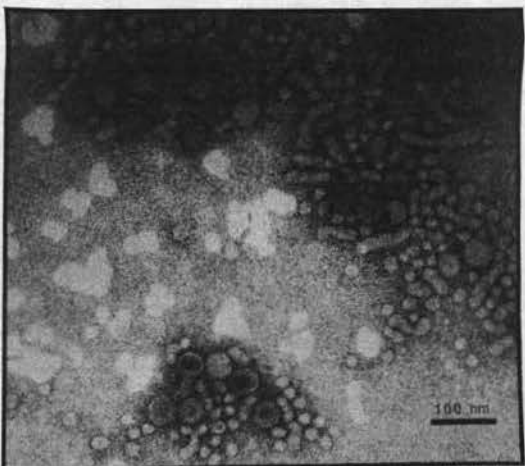
Hepatitis is a viral disease of the liver. Hepatitis B can be fatal — unlike the similar virus Hepatitis A, commonly known as jaundice, which is not. Hepatitis B is relatively uncommon in this country, resulting in about a hundred deaths per annum with about 0.1% of population likely to contract it during their lifetimes.

However, in Mediterranean areas, the incidence is about 2% of the population and in some areas of Africa, India and South East Asia it can be as high as 10%. The reasons for this geographical distribution are not very well understood by scientists. A minority of those who have had the disease become permanent carriers and it is estimated that there are up to two hundred million carriers around the world.

### The Problems of Vaccination

Viral cells contain nucleic acid (containing the genes to reproduce the virus), surrounded by an inner and outer proteins (or antigens). Around the cells there are free forming antigens of the outer, or surface type. These antigens can be used as a vaccine, because, while they are not contagious in themselves, the body's immune system will react as if it were the whole virus and produce antibodies against them.

However, since no one knows how to grow the virus in culture, the only way to produce the vaccine has been to isolate and extract the antigen from infected animal tissue — but this is a long and hazardous process, with a high risk of infection for those who work on it. It is also very expensive and has the added disadvantage that in many parts of the world there is a taboo against working with human blood.



Hepatitis B virus.

To add to these problems, in the last eighteen months, many people have been afraid to have the vaccination because of the appearance of AIDS and the danger that it could be passed on by infected blood (the incidence of hepatitis among male homosexuals is far higher than in other sections of the population.)

### Manufacture

This research has been financed by Biogen on whose scientific board, Professor Murray has been since it was founded in 1978. If the vaccine proves profitable, the share of the profits will be given to the department. On October 10th, Biogen agreed to licence the manufacture of the vaccine to the Wellcome Foundation. Trials in the Netherlands in which chimpanzees were given the vaccine have been successful and trials with human volunteers should take place next year.

The importance of the work that Professor Murray has been pioneering is that he has developed a way of making the vaccine that does not need to use infected tissue, but uses techniques of genetic engineering. Once the virus is isolated, one protein in the nucleic acid which makes the surface antigen is separated, and then cultured in yeast.

The advantages of this method are great: it is cheaper and safer and the vaccine can be made in never-ending amounts. Also, there is no risk that the vaccine will be infectious because only one of the proteins is used — without the others the virus cannot reproduce itself.

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# Fireside reading

Edinburgh Review No. 67/8

166 pp, £2.95

Hot off the presses comes this new double issue of the revamped, and retitled after its forebear, *New Edinburgh Review*. After a couple of years in the wilderness the long-standing Scottish cultural quarterly has appointed a new editor, Peter Kravitz, and the result is not so much a breath of fresh air as a highly successful howling gale.

Following the example of the extremely popular Cambridge publication *Granta*, which is now distributed by Penguin, *Edinburgh Review* is now resplendent in a glossy paperback format which will hopefully have more impact than its predecessor. But the changes have not stopped there. Glorifying in the new motto 'to gather all the rays of culture into

O'Donnell widen the range to encompass both America and Ireland. Indeed it is Ms Brandt who almost steals the show with her story *Two Minute Hero*, a breathless race through the urban ghetto of America which also takes an acid swipe at the media priorities of that much benighted nation.

Nevertheless, the home team is stirring led by Jim Kelman, whose *In with the doctor* manages to wed realistic grit to a Kafkaesque sense of mystery. Indeed the name of Kafka is more than once invoked as, in the space of eleven pages, Kelman manages to discuss ethics, class and philosophy through the medium of a doctor who prefers to discuss his life with a patient rather than treat his sore back. And as ever with punches either in her praise of Jayne Anne Phillips' *Machine*

with much of the writing here, it is thankfully released from the shackles of intellectual claptrap to become direct, informative, and valuable in its ability to make people comprehend and think.

Similarly, Murdo MacDonald, in his look at the influence of mythic themes on the recent Scottish Young Contemporaries exhibition, makes a specific point about the way in which western society has attempted to downplay these elements of its culture, and in discussing the artists' work he makes the effort to explain the significance of the myths involved, transcending the usual assumptions made in artistic circles which all too often shut out the newcomer.

Jenny Turner, in her review of recent American fiction, pulls no Kelman, the style persistently confronts the reader with the cliché novels of the New York publishing world. Better still, she succeeds in placing the novels (and the short stories of Thomas Pynchon) in context, analysing the attitudes of the outsider to America and its literature.

If there is one potential flat in this polished collection, it is the spectre of the group of Glasgow writers who, while they have revitalised Scottish literature in recent years, threaten to dominate it rather too much. In one form or another Alasdair Gray, Jim Kelman, Agnes Owens and Tom Leonard all make their presence felt in this edition. While this use of Scotland's current literary stars makes plain the serious intent of the new-style *ER*, one can only hope that they are used as a platform for more daring content in the future.

Iain Cameron



one, *ER* now seems set to pursue a much more lively and eclectic approach in an attempt to take once again the lead in Scottish letters.

The new tack is evident from the start with a strong fiction section featuring work from Agnes Owens and Jim Kelman, but the six short stories included are in no way parochial, as other contributors such as Pamela Brandt and John

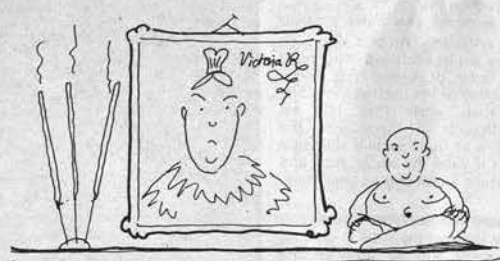
Dreams, or in her condemnation of reality of the setting.

This double number also makes much greater play of the discussion of ideas than was seen in *New Edinburgh Review* of late. Peter Burke contributes an intriguing look at the seventeenth century Italian who might be described as the father of social science Giambattista Vico, and as

## Shame by Salman Rushdie (Picador £2.95)

It was perhaps inevitable that Salman Rushdie would find success in Britain; after all, the British have always had a soft spot for India. In the days when colonialism was in fashion, she was the crowning glory of the empire. Now that we profess enlightenment, we look back on those Jewel in the Gandhi salad days with a prejudiced mixture of pride and penitence, smug in the belief that we left India a democracy.

What democracy? While politicians all over the world cried crocodile tears for Mrs Gandhi, I could only hear the howl of anger which is at the heart of Rushdie's last novel, *Midnight Children*, for the way she had abused her powers in the Emergency of 1975. Rushdie's condemnation was outspoken and absolute — he had already faced libel charges in the British courts because of it. The novel itself, whilst centring on the betrayal of India by her leaders, is far more than a political tract: it is a work of enormous imagination



and constant inventiveness, a kaleidoscopic whirl of character and culture, tied together with the art of a master storyteller. In its scope and in its achievement, it is a truly epic novel, and as such, justly deserves to be seen as the major novel of this generation.

It was perhaps a surprise when Rushdie's next novel, *Shame*, turned out to be so good. While it could never match the shocking power of its predecessor, it more than made up for it in terms of style and originality. The novel is set in a country which is not quite Pakistan, and follows the development of six unlikely

characters through the two themes of shame and shamelessness. The strength of this novel is found in its improbability, an idea which locates itself round the non-hero Omar Khayyam, no Rubaiyat, but three mothers — "dizzy, peripheral, inverted, infatuated, insomniac, stargazing, fat: what manner of hero is this?"

If it was *Midnight's Children* which made Rushdie's reputation, then one can say that *Shame* has certainly confirmed it — and more. This is the best new novel of 1984 — buy it either for yourself or your literate auntie!

Stephen Sweeney

## On The Backside

The wind bellowed through the empty car crushing plant:  
I screamed with ambivalence — Wow.

And our wind carried with it a mating laugh  
But there was nothing left to lust.  
All the trees were dead that night in Chicago —  
The arsehole of humanity.

Battery razors, food-mixers, lawn-mowers,  
Lightbulbs, cookers, televisions, radios — m-m-motorhalt  
An electric second of pure destruction — man's machine's suicide,  
Leaving behind only a smouldering pile of halt.

So I thought to ourselves; Oh dear,  
This means the End is near.

(godsuck)

By

Gratily Xero

If you think you can do better, or have any contributions at all, then send them into the Back Page.

# Poetry Corner

# STUDENT

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## VAT on books

Gary Hart

Sergio Leone review

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## DEPARTMENT OF P.E. Spring Term Programme

### FITNESS CLASSES

take place during Weeks 1-10 as follows:  
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<u>CIRCUIT TRAINING</u>	MONDAY	12.00 - 14.00
	THURSDAY	12.00 - 14.00
<u>KEEP FIT</u>	TUESDAY	12.15 - 13.00
	WEDNESDAY	12.15 - 13.00
<u>MULTI GYM</u>	MONDAY	12.00 - 14.00
	WEDNESDAY	13.00 - 14.00 (Ladies only)
<u>POPMOBILITY</u>	THURSDAY	12.00 - 14.00
	MONDAY	13.00 - 14.00
	TUESDAY	17.30 - 18.30
	THURSDAY	13.00 - 14.00 (K.B.)
	FRIDAY	17.30 - 18.30
<u>PRE SKI FITNESS</u>	THURSDAY	13.00 - 14.00 (K.B)
<u>FLEXIBILITY</u>	TUESDAY	18.00 - 19.30
	TUESDAY	13.00 - 14.00 (Weeks 2,3,4)
	THURSDAY	12.00 - 13.00 (Weeks 6,7,8)
<u>MODERN DANCE</u>	TUESDAY	17.00 - 19.00
<u>SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE</u>	TUESDAY	20.00 - 21.30
<u>LIFE SAVING</u>	WEDNESDAY	14.00 - 16.00
<u>FITNESS TESTING</u>	MONDAY	12.00 - 14.00
	WEDNESDAY	14.00 - 16.00
	THURSDAY	10.00 - 12.00
	THURSDAY	11.00 - 13.00
	THURSDAY	15.00 - 17.00

Fitness Tests last 30 minutes. Tests commence on the hour and the half hour. By appointment only

Instructional Courses take place during Weeks 2-9 in Badminton, Squash, Tennis, Golf. Enrolment for these courses at the Department Sports Office.



# IN SEARCH OF EXCELLENCE... AND SNOW

They say that a week in politics is a long time and so also is a week in the travelling circus of athletes and press that is the world skiing championships. Alteration follows minor adjustment, cancellation follows postponement and the organisation is hampered by frequent rumours of yet more adjustment and cancellation. The circus goes on, but the next day is never taken for granted.

Searching for the early season snow the pacesetters camped down in the Italian Dolomites, much to the bemusement of the local Italians, who were far more concerned with what Mark Hateley had for breakfast than how their national ski team had fared in training.

The Dolomites are a complex mixture of unspoilt beauty and pretentious fashion: the latter being highlighted by the exclusive resort of Madonna di Campiglio, where the cars are washed in perrier water and fur is worn in gay abandon. The men's events in Madonna emphasised the decline of the increasingly dour Stenmark and the emergence of three men likely to fill his place. There is Bojan Kizaj, who has been in the top ten in the world cup for the last five years and showed what potential he has in comfortably winning the slalom event. And the easy-going Swiss, Pirmin Zubriggen, last year's overall world cup winner and the best all-round skier in the world, will surely be a constant threat. But most significantly 1985 will perhaps be the year of 21-year-old Marc Girardelli, the nice guy from Luxembourg, whose skiing is respected throughout the circuit.

series. Despite doing no pre-season training, this might well be realised, with the likeliest opposition coming from the unsung Austrian Helmut Hoflehner, winner at Val Gardena already and slightly more consistent than Klammer.

At Madonna there was also a chance to meet Britain's ambassadors on the circuit: the Edinburgh-born brothers Martin and Graham Bell. They are both refreshingly down to earth, and Martin in particular has great potential. His 26th place at Val Gardena should not be sneered at when one considers that the 25 ahead of him were all born and bred on the mountainside rather than the plains of Tollcross.

And so on to Bormio, scene of the £10m World Championship in three weeks time. The preparations began weeks ago, with the stadium at the finish to the men's downhill bearing a remarkable resemblance to the 18th green at St Andrews last July. The antiquarian town is in chaos, with every hotel room booked twice over by Christmas. The press, however, will be well catered for: 600 meals will be available every day and there are 14 darkrooms for the photographers.

Sadly, however, in December the fields were still green and the men's downhill was cancelled, thus diverting the attention up the road to Santa Caterina for the women's downhill. British interest was missing with Clare Booth and Lesley Beck being sent home for financial reasons. Television gives no impression of the breathtaking speed the girls travel at and such is the power and dynamism orchestrated by the space-age suits and helmets that it is a bit of a surprise to see something as sexy as Maria Walliser break out from the cocoon.

The women's circuit will be dominated by the usual twosome of Hess and Epple and the retirement of Hanni Wenzel might well be compensated by the emergence of 18-year-old Michela



Photos by Dave Yarrow.

Michaela Figini



Kenny Dalglish, who received an OBE in the New Year Honours List.

Dave Yarrow

## Congratulations

Last term Edinburgh University had its fair share of success in all sports and congratulations are due to all concerned, especially to the 1st SV who sit proudly at the top of Division IV and are unbeaten in all their games, including those in the University Championship. In the holidays there were also notable honours for sportsmen outside the University, with the Scottish rugby team being named as *Team of the Year* in *Scottish Sports Review* last Friday. This is richly deserved for their great achievement of winning the grand slam for the first time since 1928 and congratulations are due to the team and especially the captain, Jim Aitken, and the coach, Jim Telfer. Also, various sportsmen were awarded honours in the New Year. Honours list for services to their respective and congratulations are due to them, especially Alex Ferguson, the Aberdeen Manager, for making his team the best in Scotland with only limited resources and Kenny Dalglish for his many loyal years devoted to the game of soccer, whether playing for Celtic, Liverpool or Scotland.

The sports editorial staff would like to thank everyone who sent in articles throughout last term. We apologise if, at times, we were not able to print everything, but due to lack of space we could not always fit in every article. We would be grateful if this enthusiasm continued throughout this term, because there is a great deal of interest in all types of sport at the moment. Therefore, if anybody wishes to send in articles, photos or previews on University and Intra-Mural sport or sport outside the University, these would be greatly appreciated, but I am afraid we cannot guarantee to print everything that is submitted to us. Any articles, photos or previews should be submitted to The Student Offices, 1 Buccleuch Place on Mondays or at the latest Tuesday morning.

RM

## Editor's Note

I am sorry for the lack of articles this week but after the Christmas break there has been a lack of recent sport and even Sir Lester is missing this week owing to the absence of one member of the editorial staff.

RM



Paul Frommelt

Madonna also presented the downhillers with a chance to get some much-needed practice before January. Bill Johnson, who is to modestly what Bathgate is to opera singing, fresh from a scuffle with the Austrian assistant team coach (I doubt that UEFA will order a replay) once again spoke of his intention to win the downhill

Figini, the Swiss girl with the looks to grace any Terry Wogan show.

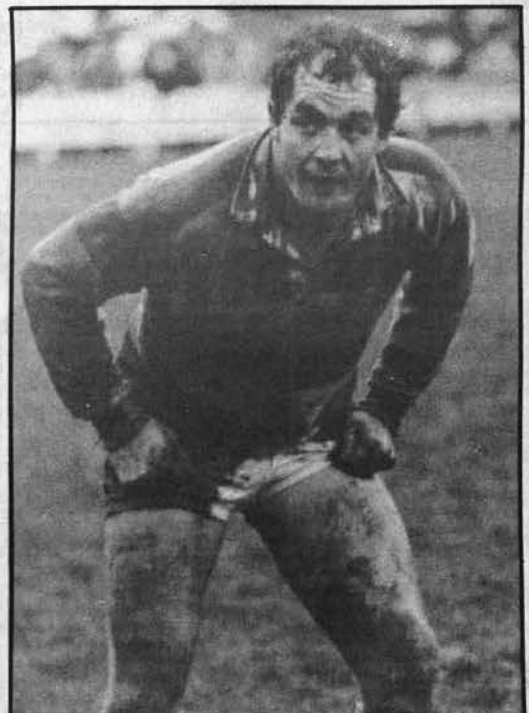
After Santa Caterina, the circus packed up for Christmas. Bill Johnson couldn't stick the jet lag so had his turkey in the Alps, but for the rest, it was a chance to get away from it all and rekindle the fire and enthusiasm before the fields of Bormio become alive with the sound of cowbells.

Dave Yarrow

## UP FOR GRABS

In the near future the Home International Championship starts, with all the home countries hoping to regain some pride after their respective defeats by the visiting Australians. Scotland will be trying to defend their Grand Slam title and with their injured players recovering since the Australia international they should have a good chance of doing this, because no side appears to be outstanding this year. However, Scotland do not open their account until February 2nd at Murrayfield against Ireland and so they will be able to have a look at the opposition when England, encouraged by their 22-15 victory over Romania on Saturday, and Ireland meet on Jan. 19 in Dublin while the unpredictable French take on the Welsh, with Terry Holmes back after injury and the newly-rejuvenated Gareth Davies probably in their ranks on the same day in Paris. It should be an interesting few weeks. More news later!

RM



Colin Deans, a member of the triumphant Scottish rugby team, seen here in action for the South v. Australia last month.

Photo by Dave Yarrow.

# Back Page

## AstroStudent

Sheila Hardie presents the first in a series of long-awaited astro-guides.

### HOW TO RECOGNISE AN ARIES

- 1 Normally has a red face.
- 2 Walks permanently bent forward.
- 3 Is always in a hurry.
- 4 Looks a bit like a ram (without horns normally).
- 5 Head is covered in scars (from too much head banging).
- 6 Often has fair hair and fiery coloured eyes.
- 7 Likes the colour red.
- 8 Is often found arguing.
- 9 Looks a bit naive.
- 10 Has funny looking teeth.



#### Good Points

- 1 Enthusiasm for all ideas (for a few minutes at least).
- 2 Blind courage.
- 3 Optimistic.
- 4 Passionate.
- 5 Very generous (often to extremes).

#### Bad Points

- 1 Bossy.
- 2 Fiery tempered.
- 3 Impulsive.
- 4 Easily bored.
- 5 Impatient.

#### Signs Aries normally gets on with

- 1 Leo
- 2 Sagittarius
- 3 Gemini
- 4 Libra
- 5 Aquarius

#### Famous Aries People

- 1 Lenin.
- 2 Charlie Chaplin.
- 3 Van Gogh.
- 4 Bette Davis.
- 5 Marlon Brando.

## An Anglo's View of Hogmanay

When I decided for some reason, not much better I suspect than most people's reasons for choosing a university, to come to Edinburgh, various relatives — wishing to appear interested and finding me non-committal on the subject — suggested reasons for my choice. One suggestion which recurred frequently — and was invariably accompanied by a nervous blinking and twitching around one eye — was HOGMONAY! I was, frankly, perplexed. Had these hitherto uncaring aunts and uncles suddenly been rendered so distraught at the prospect of their dear niece living at so great a distance from themselves that they had developed nervous twitchings? I decided that this strange institution referred to as 'HOGMONAY' which produced such disturbing facial paroxysms in my nearest and dearest, needed investigation.

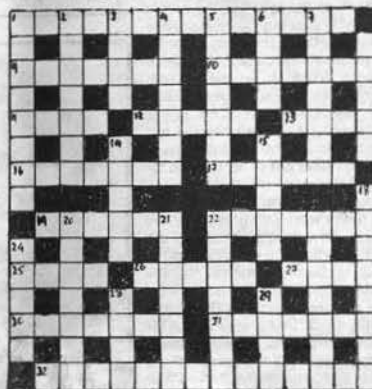
Having been reliably informed

(by an expert on Druidical-type ceremonies) that Hogmanay's particular equinox occurred on New Year's Eve, I duly presented myself at a Scottish party. After a 'wee dram' (I believe they call it) I set about my investigations by taking up one (of the many) peculiar, religious object which seemed to be connected with the ritual. Suddenly, there was a massive explosion followed by bursts of fire (these in fact proved to be coloured paper). I picked myself up off the floor (not metaphorically speaking) to discover several rabid Scots (definitely the worse for alcohol) engaged in some weird Pictish dance and muttering incantations to one another. These proved to be 'Happy New Year'. However, one Scot, seemingly less drunk than the rest, caused a stir by saying (and this is a translation), "It seemeth to me that the many chimies of Big Ben have yet to ring forth!"

Another Scot, conjuring up an idea from some part of his anatomy (not, I suspect, his brain), looked at his watch and cried, outraged: "It's only 11.45!" A horrified silence pervaded the room. What heathen, accursed beyond Sodom and Gomorrah, had desecrated the sacred Hogmanay? A witchhunt, which made those of the McCarthy ilk look like a vicar's tea-party, ensued. Each incensed individual turned to his neighbour demanding "Who dunnit?". After I had participated in this strange rite a few times, alas! some astute bystander took note of the streamers draped around my person. I was promptly sent into the corner with dreadful threats and curses ringing in my ears. Once there, like a true Englishman, I fell asleep, hence missing ringing in the New Year.

Obtobin England  
(Now that New Year's here!)

### The Back Page presents the fourth stimulating Student crossword.



#### Last week's solution



#### Across

1. The Royal Edinburgh Home for Students of Science? (5,9)
9. Three feet a limb. It's something the riggers needs. (7)
10. The average Russian back for a ramble. (7)
11. A drop of woe, this rent. (4)
12. Elements of tin back in America. (5)
13. Joint where the coal comes from. (4)
16. This sign's exclusive, by the way. (2,5)
17. Stop Ted running around little sister. (6)
19. Step in to play a keyboards instrument. (6)
22. He can put the beams up, and tie them tight too! (7)
25. Small company in surrounding image. (4)
26. Salvation Army boy provides

fresh greens. (5)

27. You'll find a girl if there's one in the end. (4)
30. Unusual arrangement of garnets. (7)
31. Mathematics Rule! (7)
32. Does it refer to the past mistakenly? (9,5)

#### Down

1. Arch-supporter of Hollywood cops. (8)
2. A ranter turns to tell the tale. (7)
3. Practice fighting with a Pole? (4)
4. Effeminate way that's not like a chap at all. (7)
5. Restricted by a tiny creature in cover. (7)
6. Rain fall in the Middle East. (4)
7. Old segs changed in the State of Atheism. (7)

8. Keep on walking like this vagrant does. (5)
14. Make amends. Musically by the sound of it. (5)
15. Tissue with head removed. That's the point. (5)
18. Mark the scale of a successful student. (8)
20. Publicity man with a little weight behind him controls the computer. (7)
21. Robber in London could make the afternoon refreshment. (3,4)
22. Illicitly sell a lot of cars. (7)
23. Rash effect of over-exposure. (7)
24. Right in the middle of tight hand, originally. (5)
28. No return to Church of England in former times. (4)
29. Worry where the lutanist might stop. (4)

Smith & Wilson

Episode One.

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