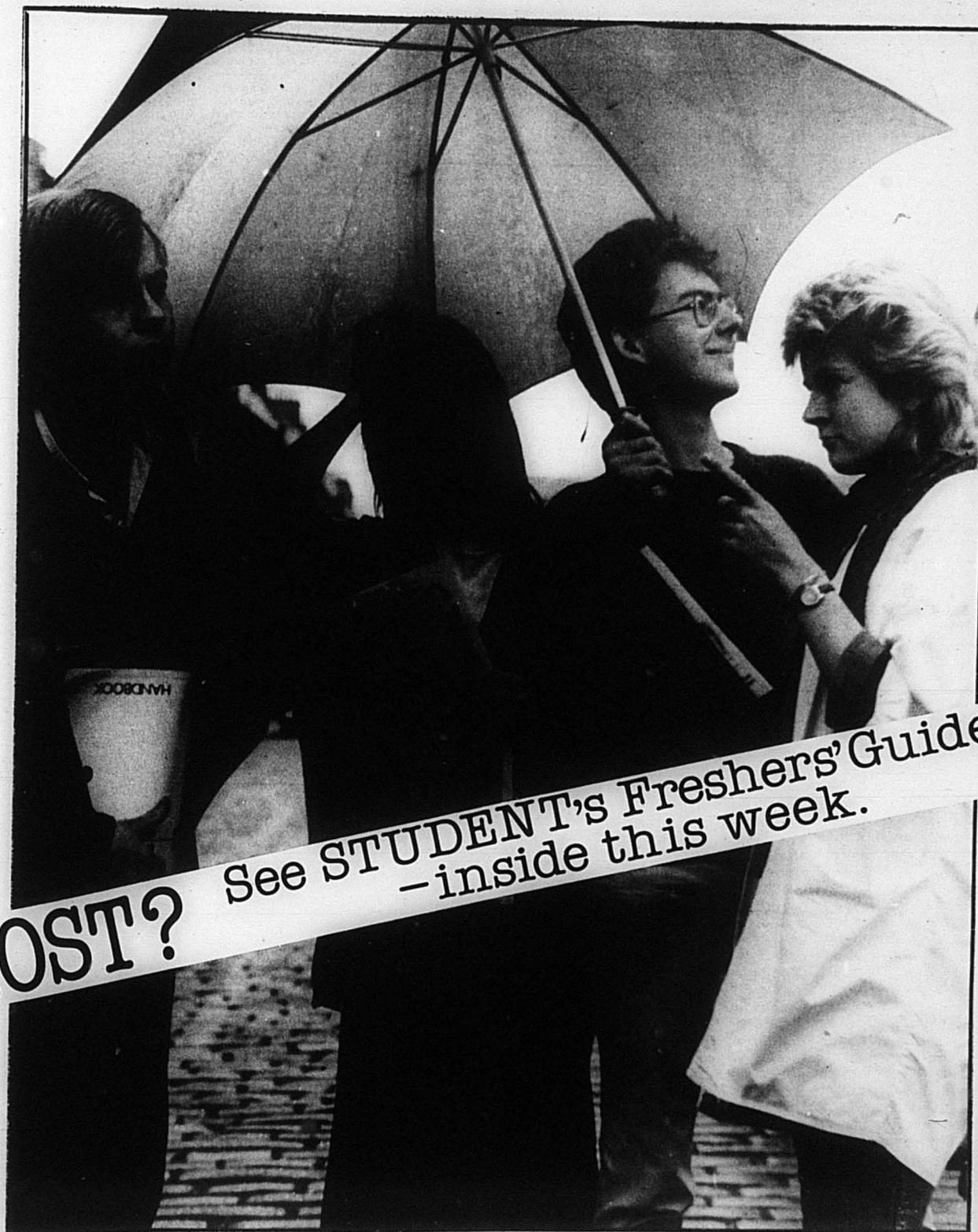


STUDENT

Edinburgh University Student Newspaper



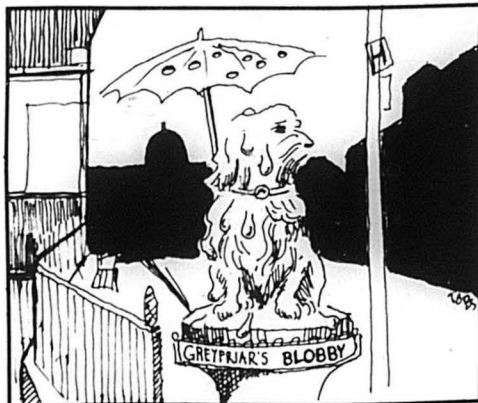
LOST? See **STUDENT's** Freshers' Guides
—inside this week.

ACID RAIN

Last week Edinburgh was the host to a major international conference on the problems acid rain presents, and the possible solutions. Organised by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, the conference was spread over three days (27th-29th) and was attended by many leading scientists and interest groups. The Acid Rain Inquiry, as the SWT preferred to describe it, was held in the George Square Theatre, and took the form of a major public debate on this increasingly politically sensitive issue.

Acid rain is the result of two major atmospheric pollutants sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x), both produced by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and petrol. High in the atmosphere these substances undergo chemical changes that result in the production of dilute sulphuric and nitric acid, which are dissolved in rain water. Hence they reach the forests, rivers, lakes and buildings where the damage is done. There is also a problem with dry particles of sulphur dioxide being deposited both in town and country environments. In cities damage is caused to buildings and stonework, in rural settings there are widespread effects on flora and fauna.

A little over a week ago, a Commons Select Committee produced a report on the problem, citing many examples of damage to national monuments in London. There was also reference to increasing evidence of the environmental damage in more remote areas, the North and the Scottish Highlands in particular. Much of the research in Scotland has been carried out by Prof. Fred Last and others from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, who were well represented at the Inquiry. Prof. Last was on a panel of four



assessors (including Prof. Aubrey Manning of Edinburgh's Dept. of Zoology) whose task was to ensure critical points of contention were debated fully in public.

The first two days were a detailed review of the available evidence, with many speakers from some of the most affected areas. Scandinavia, West Germany and Canada. It was repeatedly pointed out that many of these areas were net sulphur pollutant importers, ie that most of the acid rain falling on them was due to pollution, caused by other countries, caught and transported by high level winds.

The final day on Saturday, looked at the findings of various research programmes and set them out as clearly as possible. A selection of points of view were presented by speakers from the Nature Conservancy Council, the International Energy Agency and

the European Parliament. Towards the end of the afternoon policy statements were made by the CEEB, CBI, Council for Environmental Conservation, DoE, Friends of the Earth and the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment. This was followed by a short but heated public debate on the resolution to be put before the conference. The resolution proposed that Britain immediately commit herself to complying with EEC targets for reducing sulphur emissions by 30% by 1993 whilst continuing to put more money into research. It was passed almost unanimously.

Now with increasing pressure from various directions the ball is now in the government's court. It remains to be seen whether positive action will be taken.

Mark Percival

PS: Watch for the in-depth feature on Acid Rain in next week's STUDENT.

More funds?

The recently burgeoning flow of academic knowledge into new industries, in which Edinburgh University has been a frontrunner, is perhaps not being exploited to the full because of insufficient funding from central government, according to a recent report. The study, entitled "Profit through Partnership" was conducted by the Scottish Council for Development in Industry, and suggests that public expenditure may be necessary to maximise new developments, writes Iain Cameron.

University projects such as Edinburgh's Wolfson Micro-electronics Institute, Bioscot, and the newly established Artificial Intelligence Applications Institute, have established a new role in the development of the commercial potential of academic research. While such bodies have made great progress in obtaining funds from private industry, the new report suggests that they would benefit from the addition of a more disinterested source of income.

The government is wary of such proposals however, in keeping with its preference for private investment. In his statement on the report the Scottish Minister for Industry and Education, Mr Allan Stewart MP, forwarded the government's belief that with these development institutes "further improvement does not depend primarily on the provision of additional financial resources, rather it depends on changes in attitudes and behaviour."

The government therefore clearly has no plans to provide additional funds with which to fund such projects, belying the urgency of numerous government statements emphasising the importance of contact between industry and higher education.

The advantages of government subsidy were made clear by the Acting Director of the Artificial Intelligence Applications Institute, Dr James Howe. Reacting to the idea of central funding, he commented: "If one sets up a private company to service industry with research there's no real problem in getting capital, because there are sufficient banks and financial institutions willing to invest in such schemes. The difficulty is that by doing that one tends to remove people from the University. The structure of our operation is such that the University retains control, but it's hard to do this as there is little risk capital available within the University. So if the government were to provide a kind of 'pump-priming money' it certainly would be welcome."

As Dr Howe suggested, the value of such income would lie in added flexibility. Though the institute has attracted considerable investment, it tends to be committed to particular projects, and element of separate "petty cash" would be "very useful to expand existing expertise, and hire people against future contracts".

East-west talks

While editors and media-men the world over have tried to read between the lines of the recent exchanges between the USA and Soviet Union concerning arms reduction, Edinburgh University has continued to encourage the go-between role of academics and diplomats from East and West.

Conversations found fears of an unhelpful get-together quite unwarranted, resulting in what were described as "full and frank discussions."

The success of this year's conversations may perhaps be attributed to a worsening of international relations even since last year, when the communique resulting from the meetings spoke of an increasing need "to establish greater trust". This year's statement emphasised such a need still further, calling for moves towards the ending of all forms of the arms escalation in an effort to reduce tension. Another factor in the talks' particular urgency this year may have been the last year's spate of revelations concerning the nuclear winter. While last year's communique made only a marginal reference to these discoveries, the 1984 talks make a much more concerned plea for consideration of these possibilities, in particular concluding that the nuclear winter constitutes "an irrefutable argument against the concept of a 'first strike' nuclear strategy."

NEW TRAVEL CENTRE

Last Friday lunchtime at 196 Rose Street, David Steel, in his role as Rector of Edinburgh University and sporting dandruff on his shoulders, raised his glass of orange juice and officially declared the brand new branch of the Edinburgh Travel Centre open. This is the first travel agency to be opened by a university in the big, bad world of the public sector outwith the confines of the student campus.

The launch lunch (rumoured to have cost £1,000) proceeded with ample refreshments laid on, in the presence of representatives of the big-time travel companies, the members of the board of directors of EUSACO and staff who will work in the shop. After the reporters from the national press had been ushered out, 180 local businessmen were invited along to peruse the premises and to talk a little business. They must have talked a lot of

business because the party lasted until 1 am which is a good six hours longer than was planned.

The newly opened branch set in the illustrious commercial environs of Rose Street will hopefully attract customers from the surrounding business district as well as passing members of the general public. Julian Wiltshire, the Managing Director is confident that the ETC will flourish here (even in the highly competitive travel industry) and also at the soon-to-be-opened branch in South Clerk Street. Mr Wiltshire will not be around to see this flourish, however, as he resigned from his post on Friday.

You may well ask why the SRC has ventured into the world of competitive business. The Students' Association decided that an alternative source of income (other than the money they receive from the public purse) would have to be established in

order to maintain the services they provide. Seeing as the Association already ran a very professional and successful travel agency, it was decided that this would be the best area to expand commercially. It was decided to form a limited liability company (known as EUSACO) and obtain an Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) licence. The Edinburgh Travel Centre will compromise the Rose Street shop, the shop in Clerk Street dealing with the public and the original shop at the Student Centre reserved for students. The whole project will be overseen by the SRC Finance Committee who sit on the board of directors.

It is hoped that the Association will benefit from this project by using any profits to maintain the services provided for (and expected by) the student population. At least that's what we hope will happen.

AND BRIEFLY...

Postcode stamping of bicycles

In an effort to alleviate the increasing problem of bicycle theft on the University campus, Lothian police will be providing a FREE postcode stamping service at the following University locations on the dates indicated:

Tuesday, 16th October—
Mylna's Court, 7-8 pm.

Wednesday, 17th October—
King's Buildings, Centre
concourse (south end), 8.30 am-
2.00 pm.

Wednesday, 24th October—
Pollock Halls, 2.00-5.00 pm
(provisional).

Thursday, 25th October—
Central Area, Potterrow Garage,
8.30 am-4.30 pm.

It's cheaper by bus?

If the stories of the horrendously low student grant have persuaded you that it will be impossible to travel the world during your salad days, then Cotter's Coachline are attempting to change your minds with their 'Special Student Saver' trips to London. From now until the offer's closing date on 30th June next year. Moreover, on your £14 return trip from Edinburgh you will be feted by a hostess, and be able to watch movies, listen to music, eat, wash, sleep and indulge in all sorts of mod cons. Sounds great, doesn't it? But — yes, there's a catch — the offer does not apply to the Christmas and Easter holiday periods. Shame. Still, if you're really desperate to spend your money, you can catch the coach at 9.45 am or 10.30 pm daily, arriving in London eight hours later. You can find out the point of departure from the Student Travel Centre — Cotter's haven't seen fit to tell us.

freshers' guide

KING'S BUILDINGS

The Kings Buildings — distant, exotic, mysterious. But what is the truth about this land to the south? Join me as I start by asking the question. . . .

Where the hell is KB?

Okay so you know already that KB is the science campus. Due to a vagary of the lads in charge in the early 1920's it was placed out at the end of Mayfield Road on a 115 acre site. Which is about as socially useful as a hole in the head. But let this not dissuade you, for KB is a wondrous place (no, really). I mean, did all you prospective chemists know that the foundation of the chemistry building was laid in 1924 by George V. Fascinating, eh? Imagine, if you will, that you aren't going to be stuck in the middle of nowhere (look, if you were an Edinburgh College of Commerce student in Sighthill, you'd really have something to moan about). There, doesn't seem so bad now, does it?

Having leaped to conceptual hurdle that KB is merely a short 25p journey away on the No. 42 bus from George Square, you'll be in a good position to start to appreciate the occasional plus point offered by the place. The endless hours of fun you can have trying to find your way out of the James Clerk Maxwell Building (JCMB to trendies everywhere) for example. But what can you do when you finally make it to KB (something I've often wondered myself)?

The Adventure Begins

First thing to do kiddies is to grab a copy of the free booklet "The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to KB" (hello David) and check out the PLAIN TRUTH about the SIN, VICE and HORROR of KB!! Shouting in print is good fun, don't you think? This small publication is useful, but it doesn't tell you everything — so read on . . .

One of the first thoughts that occurs to me concerns the minibus service to KB. Find out if you can get a priority pass to travel between KB and George Square — mostly your friendly Director of Studies will tell you without provocation. If not, it's definitely worth looking into, because the process of getting on the minibus with the rest of the common students can sometimes be a wee bit hazardous with 30 people going for 16 seats. You'll see what I mean.

If you've made it to KB unscathed, the first thing you realise is that it's big. Really big. I once jogged around the perimeter. It took me days to recover. Of course the most strenuous thing I usually do is getting up on a cold Edinburgh morning. Nevertheless, it is big, so while it is worth going on a Freshers' guided tour of the place ("... and on our left we have the gothic splendour of the Union toilets . . .") which I did, you probably still won't know where anything is (I didn't). But don't worry, it'll soon become fairly obvious. That is, except for finding your way out of JCMB.

"Is The War Still On?"

JCMB is the most imposing building on site because it's so bloody big — the largest University building in Europe in fact, as I'm sure you'll be told on numerous occasions. If you're into physics, maths, meteorology or computing, you'll have to go into it sometime. You could bring a big

ball of string and leave a trail behind you as you venture into the depths. But some smart bastard would probably carry out an experiment on its conductivity, so a better idea would be to follow your nose. Having found the toilets you should instead go for the coffee lounge whose major feature is a pretty view (yuk) of the fields at the back. This is pleasant to look at as you spend 20 minutes eating one of the justly famous crusty rolls.

There are more doors in JCMB than almost anywhere in the universe, so be careful which one you choose (remember "Yellow Submarine"). It could lead to anything from a broom cupboard to a nuclear reactor to a director of studies. I think the broom cupboard's probably the best bet. Rumour has it that the chap who developed LSD in the '60s is still in one of them. You think I'm kidding? Even if you have no real reason for going to JCMB it's worth it for the high density of eccentric professors walking around trying to find their way out. When you get out, you'll probably be hungry and, more importantly, thirsty. So . . .



Steak Pies and the Meaning of Alcohol

The fact that food is marginally more expensive at KB than George Square (high transport costs, eh?) and not quite as good is more than offset by the attractively low price of alcohol in the Union bar.

There is little to choose between the grub offered by the KB Centre refectory and the Union scan. The environment and general atmosphere at the Union are considerably better, particularly after the recent renovations, and now that the Union bar's been overhauled it should be an attractive place to drink at last. You wouldn't believe how green and horrible it was when I were a lad. You lucky bastards.

The 45" TV in the coffee lounge is a great excuse for skipping classes, but stay directly in front of it, because if you're more than 30° off axis you'll find yourself wondering why all those people are watching a blank grey screen accompanied by the soundtrack of a tacky Australian soap opera. Don't suppose it would affect your appreciation much.

A last word about food. The made-to-order rolls from the KB centre grocery shop are excellent — just don't tell the guy behind the counter you're a Hearts fan.

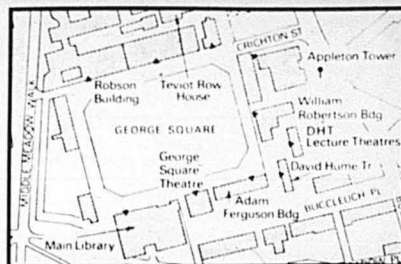
Avoiding Stress

Don't scoff. There's a lot of it about. If you actually like exercise there's a KB multi-gym for rupture freaks and the ever popular and funny pop-mobility (less crowded than the Pleasance sessions). Come and see me in my pink leotard on Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes.

Going for a leisurely stroll around the grounds is much more my line really. You can take in the more eccentric little quirks of KB-land. Like the forestry lecture theatre that looks like a tree, the mysterious Mammalian Genome Unit (took me two years to find out where my genome was), the man with the three-legged dog, postgrads of dubious taste in clothes and the large number of army surplus shoulder bags.

If you're at a loss for something to do, as I often am, usually during a lecture, it's fun wandering around other people's departments. Just look as if you know where you're going (even if you're completely lost) and nobody will hassle you.

And if you're really bored there are the libraries (I haven't been that bored yet). The KB Centre Library is usually so quiet that you can hear a couple of ladybirds having a wild party in the corner. The 4th floor JCMB library is much the same, but at least there is more of a challenge in finding it.



Abandon compasses and street maps of Edinburgh for the following article has been painstakingly compiled (?) to provide you lucky people with a comprehensive, if somewhat irreverent guide to the great, big, ugly buildings that form George Square — the place in which most first years happily spend their time in pursuits of academic and/or social nature.

To start this little tour, let me take you down to the entrance of the Main Library, where one can while away the hours by scribbling all sorts of irrelevancies on the desk tops; catching up on lost sleep from the night before in some peaceful corner of the upper floors; searching in vain for the book that is vital for that essay that ought to have been handed in last week; chatting to friends you haven't seen for "absolutely ages"; or, for the more conscientious amongst us, there is the nasty alternative of submersing yourself in lecture notes in an attempt at some serious study . . .

Anyway, to get back to the library entrance where, if this guide is to make any sense at all, you ought to be standing. Now turn to your right and walk eastwards slowly thus giving yourself a chance to look around you to appreciate in full the architectural monstrosities that surround you. (When I said ugly, I meant really ugly).

The next building on your right illustrates my remarks beautifully: it being the odd-shaped construction of George Square Theatre. And besides being an obvious venue for staging plays, you may find yourself in attendance here at lectures, or even in the company of other eager film buffs watching yet another classic being screened by the Film Society. But be warned; firstly the screen is minute and secondly there are thousands of Film Soc members, and the theatre has a seating capacity of only 530. So in order to avoid the bitter disappointment of being refused entry to see "Raiders of the Lost Ark" for the sixth time — be smart and go along early.

Let me at this juncture take a few words to warn all trendy young females of the dangers that await stiletto heels in the crevices between the cobbles that pave the way around George Square: your shoes may never be the same again . . .

However, whether or not you have adorned your feet with high heels, the tour continues. Moving in the same direction — to remind you it was to the right — you arrive at the Adam Ferguson Building. Adam Ferguson apparently introduced the method of studying humans in groups from which the origins of sociology are borne. An interesting fact, eh? — and there's lots more of them to come. And with a bit of logical thinking it would not surprise you to hear that the sociology departments are housed within this building.

Now on to something much more impressive — that tremendous erection before you (I'm talking about the building) — that stretches far up into the sky is the David Hume Tower, or the DHT to those of us who have been around for a while. David Hume

was supposedly the greatest Scottish philosopher ever. And yes, folks — you've guessed — on one of these many floors (don't ask me which one) you can find the department of philosophy! But there are lots more subjects catered for within this concrete eyesore for all you arty students. Also the lift may be slow but it's worth the wait, for otherwise it's one hell of an exhausting trip up all those stairs.

Turning the corner and still sauntering along you can see a long, low building discreetly set back from the rest — that's DHT Lecture Halls. They are very, very big and if you haven't got a large class they tend to get really, really cold in the winter months — of which Edinburgh seems to have far too many.

Whilst talking about cold things it would seem logical to mention the frozen depths of the DHT Basement. In particular, the coffee room which is never, ever warm. Also down here you can get confused by the corridors, ramps and staircases that connect some of these buildings together and are very handy to use on rainy days.

The William Robertson Building — named after some famous historian — caters for the history and commerce students amongst us. This place is full of dark, dingy corridors, lined with doors that all look alike: great for getting lost in. However, these do something else of interest to the members of the fairer sex and that is the ground floor toilets. What? Let me explain: the graffiti splattered on the toilet walls makes marvellous reading — very educational and much more fun than yet another boring old tutorial.

Lastly on the eastern quarter of George Square we have the Appleton Tower — yet another mini-skyscraper built to spoil the wondrous view one gets of the Edinburgh skyline from Arthur's Seat. And this time round it's the scientists, engineers and mathematicians who gather here daily to talk about topics of great relevance to the world in general.

Okay, folks, I've given you some general blurb about half of the all-important George Square and I'm now completely fed-up with the place and also fast running out of space. So I shall abandon you to discover the finer points of the rest of the square. The highspots being the Erskine Medical Library, the Hugh Robson Building and the Pharmacology and Psychology Departments. Exciting, eh?

Katrina Philip

PS: should it all become too much for you during the warmer days, take it easy and escape from the essay writing by sunbathing in the picturesque setting of George Square Gardens. It's where all the hip people hang out in the summer term. . . .

GEORGE SQUARE

Freshers' guide

▷ STUDENT ◁◁

So, here we are. another year, another 'Student', another set of first years. Firstly, welcome to Edinburgh University. We at 'Student' wish all of you the very best and hope that you enjoy your years at the University.

By now you will have received all the information you will ever need about how things operate around this veritable seat of learning. It would be pointless for us to attempt to compete with that enormous stack of information which came in your Fresher's mailing. Instead, what we have tried to do in this issue is give you an alternative guide to the more relevant aspects of university life. We sincerely hope that you find the Freshers' Guides useful, if only because they are all contained in the same easy-to-carry, great-to-be-seen-with, handy publication.

Enough about this week's edition. 'Student' is Edinburgh University's independent student newspaper. You will undoubtedly come across another rag produced by students called 'Midweek'. Like 'Student' this paper comes out once a week. Like 'Student' it is produced entirely by students for other students. The major difference between 'Midweek' and 'Student' is that the former is a publication produced by the Students' Association and as such it has no editorial freedom from that organisation. 'Student', on the other hand, has absolute editorial autonomy. Therefore we can say what we like when we want to say it. This means that 'Student' has an important role to play in acting as an Association watchdog. Thus we are popular with everyone but the Association, although it has to be said that only rarely do the two parties come into direct conflict. (They are usually good girls and boys up there.)

'Student's' role, however, extends far beyond this. We also report all university news, both about Edinburgh University and about anything else of national significance. In addition we include pages on music, arts and sport. Also to be found without our 16 pages each week are features pages, and one of the most comprehensive What's On guides available in the city.

"Goodness!" I hear you gasp, "who is responsible for this wonderful production?" Well, that's where the snag comes in. You are. The paper is open to, indeed depends on, every student at the University. It is your paper and it depends entirely on your support. There are several ways in which you can lend this support. The most obvious is to buy it each Thursday when it comes out. The second way is to contribute articles. A letters page is included each week and is obviously open to everyone as a forum for debate on any subject. If you want to contribute something more, then how about writing a feature on whatever it is that interests you? You could also submit news articles, music reviews or anything else that appears relevant. Remember, it's your paper, so you could even come down and demand a page to yourself if that's what you want.

Ultimately you can present yourself down here at 1 Buccleuch Place every Friday lunchtime and actually get involved in the production of the paper. We are always short of people in that department and no one will be turned away who is interested. Indeed you are assured of a warm welcome if you want to get involved in either the writing or production side of things.

Enjoy yourselves, get involved, and remember 'Student' gives you much, much more; but the paper needs you as much as you need it. Good luck.

All articles and enquiries to: Student, EUSPB, 1 Buccleuch Place.

Staff

Editor:	Michael Devlin	Music:	Alastair Dalton Roy Wilkinson
Assistant Ed:	Eleanor Zeal	Features:	Robin Henry John Petrie
News:	Katrina Philip Iain Cameron Mark Percival Alan Munro	Back Page:	Ian Macgregor
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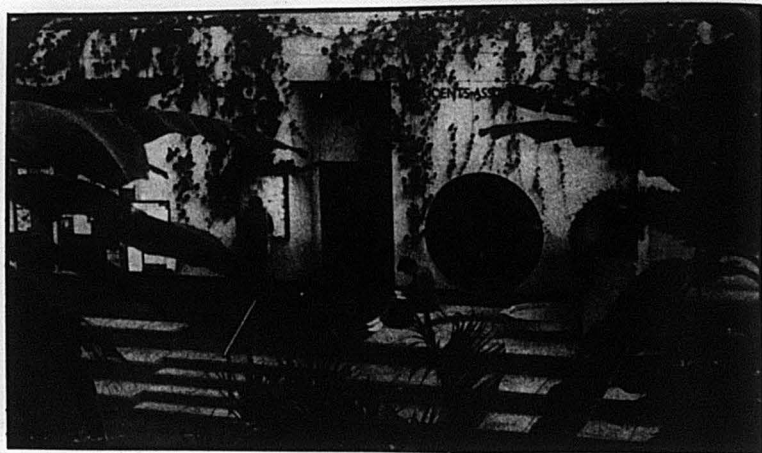
WANTED!

Got the snap to be a 'Student' photographer?

'Student' desperately needs some photographers, so if you have a camera and the ability to develop your own photographs, then why not come down and see us on Friday at 1.00 pm in 1 Buccleuch Place. We have a darkroom and all the necessary materials will be provided.

"The Association"

◇ a play in two acts ◇



A CIRCULAR concrete building with a plastic dome and assorted green vegetation beneath (banana trees, ferns, ivy etc). At one side is a round window beside two glass doors. Inside, people walk around looking burned. The rattle of typewriters and the hum of photocopyers remains constant below the babble and occasional shouts. Two figures squat on uncomfortable concrete steps by the palm trees.

ACT 1 SCENE 1

Rapunzel (hushed whisper): Helmut, I've got something to tell you. I think I'm going to have a... Helmut (interrupting): But didn't you read the EUSA handbook in your Freshers' mailing? I didn't believe you. Anyway it's too soon to tell.

Rapunzel: No, I'm sure. I want to ask this morning. I feel really sick. Mum and Dad warned me... said I wasn't responsible enough. I should've listened. God I need help now. What'll I do Helmut? Sir Keith Joseph's a bastard — he just doesn't care.

Helmut: I know, Rapunzel, but it's not too late. There're ways to avoid getting an overdraft. Here — look at this. (Points to Money Advice Centre leaflet) There's some good stuff in here about covenants and housing benefit and things. I'm glad somebody took the time to produce it. Who did produce it anyway... EUSA? What's that?

Rapunzel: I'm not sure. I think it's something to do with student politics and elections.

Helmut: Oh God! How boring. Nothing to do with us anyway... The typewriters rattle on unaffected.

Scene 2: The first day of term. 1.35 pm in the busy Potterrow. Helmut and Rapunzel have just finished lunch.

Rapunzel: I'm not too sure if I like the sound of all the work I'm going to have to do this term — all those essays! What a bore.

Helmut: I know... it's depressing. Last week was really good even if we did spend some money. It was worth it. Apparently some girl from EUSA organised the whole thing. There was so much to do.

Rapunzel (leafing through a copy of Midweek): It says here that a lot of things happen every week. The Dance at Teviot, the Green Banana Club at Potterrow, Afternoon Tea at the Pleasance. EUSA seems to provide quite a lot.

Helmut: Did you read the bit about their travel shops? It seems funny to think that we own a company with three travel shops. Someone told me that the Students' Association's got a turnover of three-and-a-half million pounds — and students control it! Apparently there's no

other University like it in the country.

John Mannix enters the building accompanied by Hilary O'Neill.

Helmut: Hey look. There's that guy with the funny accent that looks like he wears a lot of eye shadow. He's Senior President, isn't he? I read that there's four sabbatical posts in EUSA and they each get a year off and £5,000 for running the place. He looked a bit of a dick in that blue sweatshirt though. Still for £5,000...

Rapunzel: That girl was wearing a blue sweatshirt too. Hilary somebody-or-other — she's union President.

Helmut: yes, I met her. She kept talking about the BBC and debating competitions.

Rapunzel: So who else gets £5,000 for drinking lots of beer then? Well I suppose they maybe have to do more than that sometimes... boring to do more sometimes... boring meetings and all that stuff. Still for £5,000...

Helmut: I saw them at the Opening Ceremony. One was trying a beard I think. He was dead small and had funny trousers on...

Rapunzel: Oh yes, Callum Calder. It said in the EUSA handbook that he didn't have a personality. What a shame. I thought he was cute.

Helmut: Not another one. All did you did last week was tell me how many good looking blokes you'd seen and how many propositions you got every time you went for a piss. Sorry, I didn't mean to shout. The other sabbatical's some goon called Kenny Dalgleish. No it's no Neil Dalgleish, that's it. He produces that Midweek rag. Bit of a bloody poser if you ask me...

ACT 2

The last week of term. Rapunzel and Helmut are on the point of splitting up. They haven't been getting on too well recently — Helmut has accused Rapunzel of becoming "just another faceless hack" since she got elected in the October bye-elections as a first year rep on the SRC. Rapunzel has accused Helmut of being completely apathetic and ignorant of the importance of "student political" issues, the SRC, the education system and the present government's education policy. Sitting in the library coffee room, they are caught up in the same arguments again.

Rapunzel: I think that's really unfair... and untrue. It's not everyone in the SRC and EUSA that's as you said, "a member of a self-congratulatory clique". A lot of them put a lot of time and effort into getting things done which improves the situation for all of us... including you. And you just sit

there and drink your pints of Holsten. Don't care at all about what's going on?

Helmut: Don't give me that "don't you care?" crap. I'm sick of it. You're not going to change anything. And all you say about politics — you don't know what you are talking about — it's just what your tutor told you at your last tutorial. You won't change anything. Not here, not in Britain, not anywhere.

Rapunzel: Christ, I hate your attitudes, sometimes! You're such a complete uncaring moan at times. The only reason you'd probably ever go to a General Meeting was if the Union was as going to double beer prices. You can't think of anything but your own bloody self.

Helmut: Oh that's good coming from you! I only care about myself, eh? Well where have you been 75% of the times I asked you to go out this term. "I've got such and such committee — it's just this once though." For all you worry about everyone else's welfare, you don't seem to mind leaving me sitting in on my own.

Rapunzel: Sitting in on your own! Don't make me laugh. You were out getting pissed! Look, whether you like it or not, the SRC is useful and it actually does get things done. Like No Digs! last year. You might have been in a grotty bedsit this year if that campaign hadn't been a success. You wouldn't have been so complacent then, would you?

You just don't realise what's going on. You're going to have to understand that I believe in what I'm doing and what the SRC in its various parts is doing. We can change the way the University does things. But if everyone just sits there and does nothing, saying "Oh it's nothing to do with me. I can't do anything, I'm too busy." Then what's the point? You'll take the benefits, but have you ever heard of input? I doubt it. That's what's wrong with this whole country. You don't know, you don't want to know and you don't care.

You maybe think that you're going to get through University collect a 2.1 or a 2.2 on the way out and everything will be fine. If you think that that's all University is about then you're more naive than you were at the start of Freshers' Week. Degrees don't mean jobs. In fact, to some people, a degree doesn't mean much at all. This University, and especially EUSA, offers a lot of opportunities to do something useful and valuable for you and for others. You can just get your DP's every year, do your exams and then piss off, but if you ask me that's boring, and a waste of opportunities for yourself. But I don't expect you understand. Maybe you will in four years time... by which time...



A state of the art drinking establishment.

Sooner or later, Freshers, you'll have to drag yourself away from those dreary Union bars for a taste of the real thing: the renowned Edinburgh pub. With around 500 of the damn places, there should be at least 20 which will satisfy even the most discerning customer. From the smart cocktail bars of the New Town to more homely bars in less fashionable areas; from the vast and spectacular to the tiny and snug; from live entertainment to videos and discos; from real ale to keg; from habitat to squalor — the list is endless.

OPEN ALL HOURS

Not quite, but close enough. You could start drinking at *Nuggets* at 7.00 am and go on till four the following morning at *La Sorbonne*, should you be so inclined. Pubs have individual licences but generally serve from about 11.00 am to about 12 midnight. On Thursdays (pay day locally) and Fridays, many remain open till 2.00 am but remember that nearly all close at or before midnight on Saturdays, so as not to encroach on the Sabbath.

WHAT'S MY POISON?

Beer, mainly. In large quantities. With 150 real ale emporiums, the discerning CAMRA man is spoilt for choice. Scottish beers are still referred to by the old "shilling" labels: 70/-, 80/- etc. which relate to the former price of a barrel, as a general rule the higher the "price" label, the stronger the beer. Therefore it is not advisable to imbibe large quantities of Belhaven 90/-.

McEwan's and Belhaven are the most commonly found real ales, and very fine they are too, although Englishmen may need

time to adjust to the sweeter taste of Scottish beer. Also worth risking are the splendidly named Greenmantle Ale; the evil, and elusive Traquair; Younger's No. 3; Drybrough's Pentland; Lorimer's, MacLay's, Leith Heavy and the newest and fruitiest of local ales, Auld Reekie, served only at *The Rose Street Brewery*. Avoid all keg beer, especially Tartan Special, worse than lager.

Guinness is ubiquitous, though only rarely worth the extra expense, while the main English ales come from Ind Coope, though the odd pint of Draught Bass can be found here (*The Bull and Bush*) and there (*The Liberton*).

Drinking in Edinburgh is expensive, or very expensive if you come from a place where you can still get a decent pint of mild for 56p. Less than 70p per pint is cheap, so watch that bank balance.

Right, that's the real alers out of the way. Whisky is, of course, the other main poison, and you can find a large selection of (especially) malts in most places, though Stewart's of Drummond Street is the only pub left still

An ambience for all

bottling its own malt, and it's a good deal cheaper than those in the shops. The uninitiated may like to sample Glenmorangie, Glenfiddoch or Laphroaig.

Finally, *The Malt Shovel* in Cockburn street deserves a mention for its various ports, including one ancient specimen that goes for nearly £2.50 per measure!

CENTRAL PUBS

We may as well start with the nearest and dearest, *The Pear Tree*. Situated within spitting distance from University territory, it is virtually an unofficial Union bar. In the summer, it can be worth sacrificing a tutorial or two to while away an afternoon in the garden (having waited all morning to get served) but like all student bars, you get sick of the place. For a better pint, you could nip next door to the obviously named *Partridge* which stocks a fearsome array of brews, or trot round the corner to *The Green Mantle* in Nicolson Street or perhaps *The Southsider* in West Richmond Street.

Those who have spent miserable hours toiling in the library can go to *The Doctors* for a medicinal pint of No. 3, although the place can be as lively as an operating table.

For a change of scene why not try a more old-fashioned local like *Rutherford's* or the excellent *Stewart's*, both in Drummond Street. It does you good to get away from all those students every now and again, you know.

And now, losing a few on the way to *Greyfriars Bobby* on the way, but not to the *Black Hart*, we descend to the Grassmarket. We can head for *Drones* with its extensive range of beers and prices, or we could relax over a sparkling pint of McEwan's 80/- in *The Fiddlers Arms*. Real fiddlers, however, should head for *The White Hart* on Sundays for their folk night. Probably the most popular Grassmarket pub however is *The Black Bull* which offers decent beer, decor and even throws in jazz on Tuesday nights.

Hence to the Cowgate and *Bannerman's* which is situated at

the bottom of Niddry Street, formerly one of the city's worst slums, and which provides an interesting cellar-like layout in which to relax and get set in the trend. Further along the Cowgate is the soon-to-be notorious *La Sorbonne*. Originally a cross between *Bannerman's* (without the beer) and a garish, modern cafe for jazz lovers, it now attracts all manner of dodgy types to see equally dodgy groups. Lots of piss-artists due to ridiculously late closing.

Round the corner from the Grassmarket is the *Preservation Hall*, a spacious yet crowded wateringhole which offers blues and jazz, although the beer has been changed to keg for some strange and incomprehensible reason.

Other places on the Southside which may attract people for varying reasons are *The Buccaneer*, *Madhatters* and *Deacon Brodie's Tavern*, though the story of Deacon Brodie himself is far more interesting than the pub.

To the west we find *The Bull and Bush* on Lothian Road, which is pretty much the same as its sister pub *The Black Bull*. Generally though the pubs on Lothian Road are pretty dull though further west, at Haymarket, *Ryrie's Bar* apparently offers a fine pint in restored traditional surroundings.

Pubs in the West End itself tend to be more upmarket, reflecting the area itself. Perhaps one of the more inspired is *The Engine Room*, which looks like the bowels of the QE II, and which despite being full of pipes and posers, is nevertheless worth a visit.

And so to the New Town and Rose Street crawl (yawn). Approximately 15 pubs in one street in which perhaps only the *Abbotsford* and the *Rose Street Brewery* are worth spending any great amount of time. Do grab a look at the decoration inside the *Cafe Royal*, particularly the ceiling (before it starts spinning round).

There are quite a few upmarket (cattle variety) cocktail places in the New Town. *Madogs* seems popular for people with more

money than sense and for those who prefer the more rarefied atmosphere of the wine bar, there are *Henderson's* and *The Edinburgh Wine Bar*.

STUDENT SUBURBS

Best bet in nightclub infested Tollcross is possibly *Bennett's*. It must be good, I can't remember a thing about my night there. Bruntfields can be spotted having a round at *The Golf Tavern*. Nothing much in Marchmont, really. *The Argyle* draws loyal support through default.

As for Stockbridge, well, I haven't been there I'm afraid. It is difficult getting round all these pubs, you know. Still, there seems to be a good selection to choose from, by all accounts. I'm reliably informed that *The Antiquary*, *The Baillie* and *The Raeburn* are all worth investigating and I can personally vouch for nearby Kays.

ENVIRONS

It is definitely worth a trek to the outer periphery for these places:

The Athletic Arms (Diggers) in Angle Park Terrace for simply the finest gulf of McEwan's 80/- going. Go there.

The Canny Man's (Volunteer Arms) in Morningside Road is a distinctly odd establishment. A cluster of gloomy red snugs with all manner of Victoriana adorning the walls, and pinball machines everywhere. Good beer, too.

BEER GUTS

Don't worry, Freshers, these will develop with age and practice. They need careful attention and sustenance every day — usually three to four pints plus of 80/- being sufficient. Rub in Johnson's Baby Lotion to keep in prime condition.

EDINBURGH PUB GUIDE

Is a more comprehensive guide and tell you all about things like the Scottish Calvinist drinking ethos. It's actually very good and costs £2.50 from our own Polygon Books. However, the best way of course, to find out about the pubs in Edinburgh is to see for yourself (hic!).

Love, Gutbucket.

PS: Don't vomit in Union bars, it goes in the chili con carne.

A load of Pollocks

So, what do you need to know about Pollock Halls? It seems a pretty ordinary sort of place. Just what you expected, a desk, a bed, a washbasin, lots of noise and awful food.

Well that is not all that there is to Pollock. Did you know for instance that there are two squash courts, badminton courts and snooker tables as well as a shop and the students friend — a bar. All sporting facilities are free to residents of Pollock although unfortunately I cannot say the same of the bar.

"At least it means you won't go hungry for ten weeks."

So it might sound great so far but remember that you have to pay for the "pleasure" of staying in Pollock. This is done at the start of every term in advance. Although this makes a big hole in your bank balance immediately at least it means that you won't go hungry for ten weeks. Occasionally if you plead extenuating circumstances e.g. you've got a massive overdraft and an angry bank manager, you can be relieved of paying for a

term's rent until you are in a better position to pay it off. However, you will then be termed a University debtor which means you cannot graduate until you lift this burden from your back.

Money worries such as those mentioned above could cause you distress. One of the duties of the wardens and sub-wardens is to be available to talk to you if you are not feeling on top of the world for some reason or other. There is one warden in each house, usually an academic, along with one or two sub-wardens, perhaps postgrads. They are in charge of the house and are responsible for the discipline and well-being of its inhabitants. Remember nothing annoys a warden more than excessive noise so try and keep it down; you never know the chap in the room above might have an exam tomorrow or an essay to hand in.

The social activities of the house are generally organised by the Junior Common Room (JCR) committees. If you do not know about them already you will soon learn of their video nights, skiing trips and pub crawls to name but a few of the varied programme of events they usually organise, throughout the session. They are also a good place to take any gripes or moans you may have about the house or warden.

As you can see there are many

advantages in living in halls. There is perhaps no easier way to meet people, however don't expect too much privacy. Although you

receive your meals don't expect gourmet cooking and remember that you must go back to Pollock for your tea or else you will have

paid for meals you haven't eaten — you don't receive credit vouchers at Pollock.

Frazer Dinnis



Spot the difference — Turner House and Ewing House.

freshers' guide

The Library – bookworm's rest

The Main Library is the largest University library in the country. I can tell you're excited already. It is also the largest and marginally least ugly building in George Square, so you shouldn't have too much difficulty in locating it. It is really the Arts and Social Sciences Library — you rarely see a scientist in there, not only because it does not have many science books, but also because there's no pinball.

Now, how to use the library once you have remembered to bring your Freshers' matric card so that you can get in, you will find the catalogue on the ground floor, the first floor is mainly reference and the second floor is the reading room. This is badly misnamed, if you want to read, go anywhere but the reading room, because it is actually a Common Room, where us wacky students go to find people to talk to, read the paper or try and recover from hangovers.

However, in the reading room you will also find most of the copies of those precious well-thumbed textbooks. There is just one snag (isn't there always?), you are only allowed to take them out at the weekends, and if they are from the reserve section you are not allowed to even look at them for more than half the day. No doubt this is necessary owing to the shortage of books, but it makes life very inconvenient.

I was also going to tell you what a pain it is having to fill in a form every time you want to look at a reserve book, but I came back to find normally staid assistants giggling over some new computer toys which (if only in the reading room at the moment) have

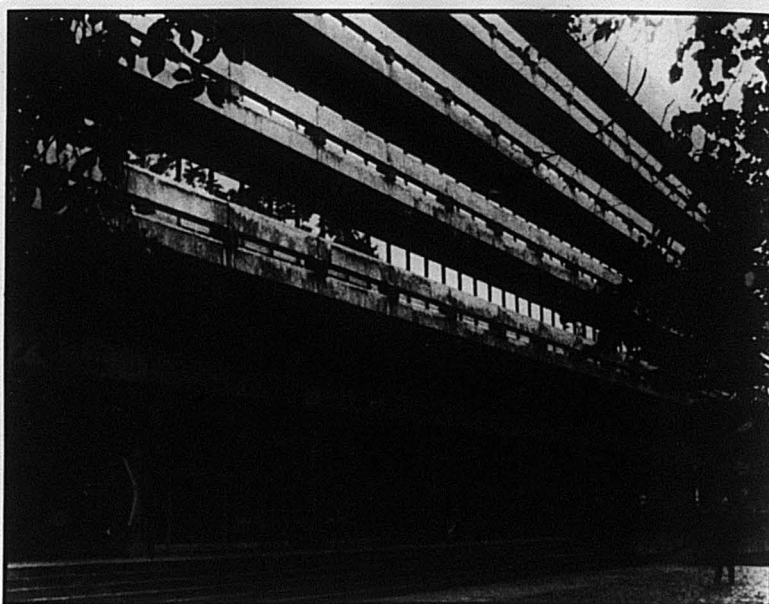
replaced form-filling drudgery with your very own non-stick computer cards, thus restoring my faith in human progress.

One ceremony worth seeing at least once in your life is the 9 am scrum on Saturdays in which people fight to take books out for the weekend — to picture the scene, try and imagine French tourists scrambling to get the best

"If you want to read, go anywhere but the reading room..."

bargains in Harrod's January sale; the sight of a student having failed to get the one textbook that will get their essay written for them by Monday morning can be a very moving sight.

You can take books from the other floors out of the library, but the snag with that is that after the first two weeks of the year all the good ones have gone. You should not then, as I have always done, give up and go to the canteen, but since this is *Keen* guide to the



One of the least ugly buildings in George Square?

library, you should fill in a recall card (yellow, I think) and give some book-hoarder a nasty surprise.

Other attractions include the basement canteen, runner-up to the David Hume Tower Basement in the most hideous and soulless canteen of the year award, the view from the fifth floor which is

some consolation, and the various graffiti on the tables — usually the standard is very low, but occasionally you find gems such as "even if you gave the Scots independence, they'd probably try and drink it."

There are also ugly rumours that the whole building is sinking — the architects not having taken

account of the weight of the books — so make use of it while it's still there!

Some people seem to be able to avoid the library for years at a time. I seem to have spent half my life in it, but then I'm the sort of person who volunteers to write a Freshers' guide to the library.

Robin Henry

The Societies Centre

THE PLEASANCE

The Societies' Centre is not a Union House. Not that you thought it was in the first place, but just to get the record straight for a start

So what is it?

If you've any inclination at all towards sports, you'll know where to find The Pleasance. And if you're keen on a little something afterwards, you'll have been to the Pleasance Bar more than occasionally — just up the road and under the red-roofed archway. Are you with me? Then

we're both in the heart of the Societies' Centre: 60 The Pleasance, OR

The Bar just Up The Hill From The Sports Union. But don't be put off if you haven't been in a gym since compulsory PE lessons: there isn't so much as a little green mat in the buildings.

Alright, I'll come to the point: I'm under orders, after all, to write 1000 honest and objective words on "The Pro's & Con's of My Favourite Place", as if I were approaching my Highers (and I'm not, despite appearances). To be honest, the Pleasance is

wonderful: the rooms are commodious, comfortable and clean; the equipment for here is various and cheap; the theatre is quaint, homely and the only one in the city like it in the city, and there is surely no need to point out that the Little Theatre Bar is the best in the Association. Then again, objectively speaking, those who are dedicated to the eradication of alcohol will obviously not take to The Pleasance, nor will those whose only thought is to dance until dawn in a sweltering crowd nightly. And I must admit the place has a major failing: you cannot see even the famous red roof or yellow banner without crossing Nicolson Street (unless you walk straight down Dalkeith Road from Pollock).

Surely the best possible "pro" is that the Centre provides a service lots of people need. Who are they, these mysterious and elusive figures for whom I spend my hours striving to keep the Centre serviceable?

Apart from the sporty types there are all those whose extramural activities are not confined to eating, sleeping and making a beeline for the Library. I shall refrain from listing yet again what kind of things students do in their spare time — I have faith in the vividness of your imagination! Many of these things, however, are done in organised groups (I), and those groups tend to meet here at the most inconvenient times of day and night, to discuss their nefarious plans. The best-used service at the Centre is rooms of various sizes, where Societies can meet, free (other people pay a little).

In previous years the associated "con" was that having looked your room and told everyone to meet

there, you got hopelessly lost and spent hours wandering forlornly along a warren of passages and ended up in the Psychology Dept., next door. Despair no longer! I've dynamically spent a few tedious hours and produced plans for the Foyer and signs for the rooms, so in future a preliminary scan and a little following of your nose should get you to your destination.

Next, The Theatre, which has its own problems. The good points are charm, cheapness and being a convenient size, for very few student activities need more than 260 seats, and small audiences get swamped in the empty vastness of the George Square Theatre. The Pleasance Theatre is a favourite Festival Fringe venue, and also one of Film Soc's regular halls, as film lovers will know. Against this glowing picture I must confess to the problem I've been complaining about all summer: there are no permanent lighting bars or curtain, and the sound equipment is on its last legs. What is more, absolutely nothing can be done about it (by the decree of the almighty Finance Committee) until the summer of 1986. In my opinion, if I may drop the pose of objectivity for a moment, the place is still better value than GST because its incomparably nicer.

Lastly I must come to My Favourite Theme, the Little Theatre Bar (to give it the ancient and honourable name). Fear not, I have some scraps of comparison left and shall spare you further eulogies and ramblings. I can only say I have spent many a pleasant evening there, sitting in front of the fire with a book, waiting for the band to arrive or for the party in the Pentland Bar across the courtyard to finish so I could go home. I should include (as we are patently

good "Pros") the committee, the Societies' Council Executive, which is responsible among other things for the running of the Societies' Centre. I myself am a specialist in quiet spots and am really good at ignoring my surroundings — the one to complain to (or even praise) is the one who apparently has nothing to do with the goings on around her and definitely wouldn't know how to deal with the rowdies in the corner. If I'm not there, but off at the SRC doing my "Voice of the People" bit, just complain loudly till one of the others comes to throw you out. We're the least obtrusive committee out, and generally easier to find during the day, in the Admin. Office where you come to do your poster-stamping, photocopying or duplicating (also room-booking, equipment hiring etc). This should point out further that The Pleasance is not a union house: the committee is as much concerned with recognition of societies and their grant applications as with the running of the Societies' Centre. I would say, our pre-occupations are more diverse than a union and therefore more interesting, but no doubt the House Committee would disagree.

I hope I haven't over-run the dreaded 1000 words, in my enthusiasm, for I'm sure nobody'll have read this far if I have. I must just add that the question was stupid in the first place, that anyone who overcame the minimal problem of geographical isolation couldn't fail to see what a useful place The Pleasance is, and that for those interested, I really did pass 'O' level English, once upon a time.

Lorna, the invisible Societies' President

SWEET BASIL

47 LOTHIAN STREET (226 3650)

Not the Original Vegetarian Restaurant, but certainly the best and perhaps the least expensive!!!

THE BRISTO

41 LOTHIAN STREET

Edinburgh's Most Stylish Real Ale Bar

- Belhaven 80/-
- Old Peculiar
- McEwan's 80/-

Selection of Wines and Bottled Beers

STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Freshers Bye-Elections

Thursday, 25th October
1984

Nominations are now open for Freshers' Seats on the Students' Representative Council for the 1984/85 session, in the following Faculties:

Arts—3 Seats Medicine—1 seat
Law—1 seat Science—3 seats
Social Science—2 Seats

In addition, there are 2 seats for 1st year Post-graduates from any Faculty.

Nomination forms are available from the Students' Association Offices, Union Shops and all Union Houses. Nomination forms must be returned by the candidate **in person** to Reception in the Students' Association Office, not later than 1.00 p.m., Thursday, 18th October 1984.

Dr C. W. FISHBURNE
Returning Officer



CATERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT



AT KING'S BUILDINGS

K.B. CENTRE

REFECTORY
COFFEE BAR
CARRY-OUT

K.B. UNION

DINING ROOM
(for Lunches and Teas)
SNACK BAR IN TV LOUNGE

J.C.M.B. & COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS

SNACK BARS

**PLUS
!NEW!**

**HOT AND COLD DRINKS AND
SNACK VENDING MACHINES**

FILMHOUSE

PATRON: BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY

88 LOTHIAN ROAD

Cinema 1

Wed 3-Sat 6 6.15/8.30 (also 3.00 Wed 3 and 4.00 Sat 6)
Bertrand Tavernier's award winning

SUNDAY IN THE COUNTRY (PG)

In 1912, a family meet for one hot summer day at their father's country house.

Cinema 2

Thurs 4-Sat 6 7.00 (also Sat 6)

The original, reconstructed version of George Cukor's classic

A STAR IS BORN (PG)

starring James Mason and Judy Garland

Cinema 1

Sun 7-Sat 13 6.00 (not Sun)/8.30 (also 3.00 Wed 10)

Comedy, romance, opera and murder!

DIVA (15) Back again by public demand.

Cinema 2

Sun 7-Tues 9 6.45

Henry Winkler and Shelley Long in

NIGHT SHIFT (15) Two night morgue workers extend into pimping!

Woody Allen's

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S SEX COMEDY (15)

Cinema 2

Wed 10 6.15/8.15

The first of four programmes of CZECH ANIMATION films (U)

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION 228-2688
CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE FOR FULL TIME STUDENTS
(REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR STUDENT CARD)

A **STUDENT MANAGER** is needed to look after financial aspects of STUDENT newspaper, attract advertising revenue, organise selling and think up new money-spinning ideas.

PUBLICATIONS BOARD needs an enthusiastic new Promotions Director to publicise activities within the University and outside.

Apply in writing to: Chairperson, EUSPB,
1 Buccleuch Place not later than 15
October.

Film

Odeon

(667 3805)

Romancing the Stone
14.15, 17.10, 20.00

Adventure yarn from Spielberg protege Zemeckis. Warmly recommended to fans of the genre.

Company of Wolves

14.30, 17.40, 20.20

Neil (Angel) Jordan's second feature is a visually stunning re-working of the Red Riding Hood legend. As a film about sexuality it's a little confused but a welcome rejection of the realist orthodoxy in British cinema all the same.

Reuben Reuben

14.00, 17.15, 20.10

Tom Conti stars as a drunken Scots poet shambling his way through middle America before his relationship with a young woman offers a chance of redemption. Despite some moments of biting satire, essentially a masturbatory movie with much less to it than meets the eye.

Filmhouse

(228 2688)

Hiroshima Mon Amour

Wed 3rd Oct 6.40, 8.40 pm

First film in a very welcome series of Alain Resnais features on show at the Filmhouse.

Sunday in the Country

30 Sept-5 Oct 6.15, 8.30 pm

Tavernier has become one of France's most gifted film directors, enjoying a reputation for intelligent films which 'Sunday in the country' fully justifies. Beautiful period piece which delves sensitively yet tellingly into the problems of ageing and the transience of life and love but which remains a warm affirmation of the beauty of human life.

Diva

7-13 Oct 6, 8.30 pm

cult debut from French director Jean-Jacques Bènéix. Heavy on style but light in content. A film to be seen at rather seen (darling!)

A Star is Born

4, 5, 6 Oct 7 pm

Much heralded reconstructed version of the original 'star is born' featuring James Mason and the wonderful Judy Garland.

Night Shift and A Midsummer**Night's Sex Comedy**

7, 8, 9 Oct 6.45 pm

Woody Allen's 'clever' comedy accompanied by Ron 'Happy Days' Howard's second directorial feature which sank without trace first time round.

Czech Animation

Wed 10th Oct 6.15, 8.15 pm

Interesting-looking review of post-war animated films from Czechoslovakia.

Dominion

(447 2660)

The Hit

14.15, 17.15, 20.15

Always absorbing and often witty Stephen Frears' thriller is one of the most intelligent of British features of the year. Beautifully shot on location in Spain and featuring fine performances from John Hurt, Terence Stamp and Tim Roth. Definitely pick of the week.

Film Society

Outland 1981

Sun 7th Oct Playhouse 7.00

Step down Gary Cooper, Sean Connery takes over in a space age version of High Noon. It may have no plot, but it's a graphic designer's orgy.

Never Say Never Again

Sun 7th Oct Playhouse 9.00

The plot is indistinguishable from any other James Bond plot, but if you feel in need of a mindless couple of hours in front of the screen, you'll enjoy yourself. With Sean Connery, Irvin Kershner.

Georgia's Friends

Wed 10th Oct GST 6.45

Never seen it, but I'm sure it's worth going out of curiosity. See ya there!

48 Hours

Wed 10th Oct GST 8.45

A tacky thriller, starring Walter Hill and Nick Nolte.

The Hit, Dominion**Indiana Jones**

14.30, 17.05, 20.05

Harrison Ford (and a woman friend) take on half the world and, after an orgy of special effects, win.

The Ostermann Weekend

14.00, 17.00, 20.00

Sam Peckinpah's return to the big screen is a rather flabby version of a Robert Ludlum thriller.

Students with matric card £1.20 for all performances (except 20.00 showing of 'Ostermann Weekend')

The Caley

(229 7670)

Legend of Tarzan

Please check times.

'Definitive' film version of Rice Burroughs' classic tale in which the brilliant animal costumes are considerably more interesting than the action.

Shopping

For those who deplore the lack of a Sainsbury's in Edinburgh, an event to hit your hearts! ... a massive superstore at Cameron Toll is to be opened on Oct. 3rd by Hannah Gordon. It's affiliated to Sainsbury's British Home Stores. Sainsbury's and 36 other individual shops. It's at the bottom of Craigmillar Park Road, near KB Union, and well worth a visit if only to see what Scotland's Crystal Palace looks like!

ABC

(228 1638)

Comfort and Joy

14.25, 17.00, 19.50

In retrospect Forsyth's decision to set his new film against the background of Glasgow's ice-cream wars was a mistake and the result is something of a disappointment. Yet his tale of a DJ's efforts to face a midlife crisis is filled with the kind of shrewd observation and gentle humour which is the basis of Forsyth's appeal.

Streets of Fire

Please check times.

Walter Hill's rock and roll fable is a self-conscious (and exploitative) mess of cinematic clichés. Aggressively directed and edited, very noisy, very macho but very, very dull.

Blame It On Rio

14.25, 17.00, 19.50

Blame it on the screenplay Michael! Smutty vehicle for Michael Caine who stars as a man who seduces the young daughter of a colleague. (Nudge, nudge.)

Exhibitions

Printmakers Workshop

8 Sept-6 Oct

Grafiska Sällskapet

Prints from the society of Swedish printmakers.

Torrance Gallery

24 Sept-6 Oct

"My eyes are my ears"

Exhibition by blind artist Carolyn James.

Stills

22 Sept-20 Oct

"Portraits from the golden age of cinema"

A Cornel Lucas retrospective.

Scottish National Portrait Gallery

Scotland's Story

A display from the permanent collection.

Mercury Gallery

13 Sept-13 Oct

The new generation in Scotland

National Gallery of Modern Art

Until 14 Oct

'Creation'—Modern Art and Nature

Inaugural exhibition of the gallery with 70 major 20th century artists represented.



Theatre

Bedlam Theatre

(225 9893)

Another Real Scream

Wed Oct 3rd 12.00 midnight

Late-night horror play.

Revenge

Oct 3rd-5th 7.00

Will Adam Hepple find the Commissioner's blood?

Tissue

Oct 3rd-5th 1.00

Black comedy on cancer by Louise Page.

The Show

Sun Oct 7th 5.00

The mega-production of the eighties!

Royal Lyceum

(229 9797)

Twelfth Night

Oct 3-27 7.45 pm

There is magic in the air and wonderful things are happening in the funniest of Shakespeare's comedies.

King's Theatre

(229 1201)

Commedia

Oct 9-10 7.30 pm

Comedy explores the life of a Glasgow Italian family. A moving drama which examines the male ego, the joys of widowhood and family and career responsibilities.

Cinderella

Oct 2-6 7.30 pm

Performed by the Scottish Ballet with music by Rossini.

Henderson's

The Original Vegetarian

Wholefood Self-Service

Restaurant and

Wine Bar.

Inexpensive, nutritious hot and cold meals or snacks are available throughout the day and evening.

Choose from over 15 inventive salads and sample delicious home-baking from our wholesome bakery.

Listen to live music nightly in our Wine Bar—the ideal eating and meeting place.

One of the most popular Festival venues.

HANOVER STREET
EDINBURGH

Music

VENUES

- Playhouse Theatre, Greenside Place, Leith Walk
- Caley Palais, Lothian Road
- Hoochie Coochie Club, above Coasters, West Tollcross
- La Sorbonne, 69 Cowgate, Under George IV Bridge
- The Place, Victoria Street (top end)
- Inglis, Royal Highland Exhibition Hall, EG28
- Napier College, Colinton Road, EH10
- Moray House, College of Further Education, Students' Union, Holyrood Road, EH8
- Queen Margaret College, Students' Union, 36 Clerwood Terrace, Corstorphine, EH12
- Usher Hall, Lothian Road
- Queen's Hall, Clerk Street
- St. Cecilia's Hall, Niddry Street (off Cowgate)
- Reid Concert Hall, Bristo Square

Usher Hall

(228 1155)

Elkie Brooks

Oct 4 7.30 pm

Friday 5th Oct. 7.30

Mozart: Symphony No. 36

Beethoven: Symphony No. 9

Soprano: Sheila Armstrong

Contralto: Linda Strachan

Tenor: Robin Leggate

Bass: Michael Rippon

and the SNO Chorus

Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Oct 6 7.45 pm

Beethoven: Prometheus Overture

Beethoven: Piano Concerto no 1 in C major

Beethoven: Symphony no 2 in D major.

Queen's Hall

(668 2117)

Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Oct 10 7.45 pm

Haydn: Symphony no 90 in C major

Beethoven: Piano concerto no 2

Beethoven: Symphony no 1 in C major.

Playhouse

(557 2590)

Sister Sledge

Wed Oct 3rd

Kias

Sat Oct 6th

Big Country

Mon Oct 8th

James Last

Thurs Oct 11th

BIG SCREEN ENTERTAINMENT

In the tiny town in which I live 'Indiana Jones' has been occupying the single cinema screen for months; it'll probably be back at Christmas. I don't like it but I do like films. I used to watch some good ones on TV but there weren't many then, now there seems to be even fewer. I don't like my home town. Back in Edinburgh, however, things don't seem so bad for, even if it's not quite London (darling), there are plenty of facilities to please both

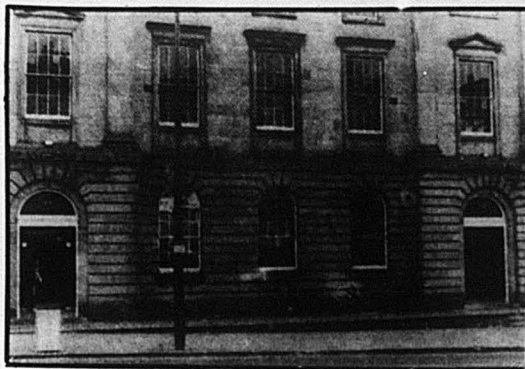
hardened cineasts and Saturday cinema-goers.

If the division between mainstream and art-house cinema is not as marked or as important as some would like to believe it does have its uses. Mainstream cinema is largely less 'clever' than art-house cinema: what you watch at weekends over a raspberry mivvie, if you like. If you do like, Edinburgh has three 3-screen complexes which usually have a fairly good selection from which to choose.

On the Lothian Road you'll find the **ABC** (tel. 228 1638) which is much the same as ABCs the world over. The **Odeon**, South Clerk Street (tel. 667 3805) also offers a programme of big releases but manages to be rather more adventurous in its selections, whilst the **Dominion**, Churchill (tel. 447 2660) is perhaps more daring still. One of the few privately owned cinemas in operation, the Dominion is a lovely place which boasts cheap rates for students (£1.20 with matric card) and (on the whole) very interesting programmes.

Elsewhere the **Caley** (Lothian Road, tel. 229 7670) used to be a beautiful old cinema, but the new management has turned it into a 'night spot', limiting cinema operations to repeats of proven winners. Very similar is the **Playhouse** (Greenside Place, tel. 556 2590) which specialises in late-night weekend shows.

Those who like their cinema 'deeper' should also be happy in Edinburgh. The **Filmhouse**, Lothian Road (tel. 228 2688), combines low prices (£1.50 with matric card) with consistently good programming, featuring current art-house releases, much-deserved repeats and more obscure features. Closer to home, the University's own Film Society offers over 100 films (deep and not-so-deep) for just £9



Filmhouse, Lothian Road

Incredible value. If you'd prefer to do your viewing in more exclusive company you might like to enrol in the Edinburgh Film Guild (details). Think twice before you do, however, for if the Guild offers some interesting evening courses this term's are booked up whilst its Sunday screening programme is dull in the extreme.

Rather more importantly a quiet revolution is under way in the British film world in the form of rise of the independents and work-shops movement. The movement is diverse but certain common tenets may be seen to inform most of its work. Chiefly, these consist of a rejection of normal film practice with its one-way process, i.e. the passive consumption of apparently 'closed' texts (mainstream and art-house) produced by an inaccessible industry. In its place is found a commitment to 'integrated practice' which (via education) seeks to involve everybody in the production of films and, by discussion, in the construction of their meaning and assessment of

their value.

The language may seem a little obtuse, the importance of the movement (in encouraging a radically different view of cinema in the context of a general commitment to ending the cultural privileges of limited groups) cannot be overestimated. Sadly Channel 4's limited screenings offer the only way in which most people can acquaint themselves with developments. In Edinburgh we are rather more fortunate.

'Third Cinema' based at Theatre Workshop is a group committed to the expansion of the movement offering a regular programme of screenings of independent production all of which are accompanied by group discussions (often with the filmmakers themselves). In addition tentative steps are being made to develop group production facilities and a film project is under discussion. Anybody at all interested in learning more about 3-C and its activities would be very welcome at the next meeting to be held on 10 October at 7.30 pm.

Written by Bill Williamson



CATERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT



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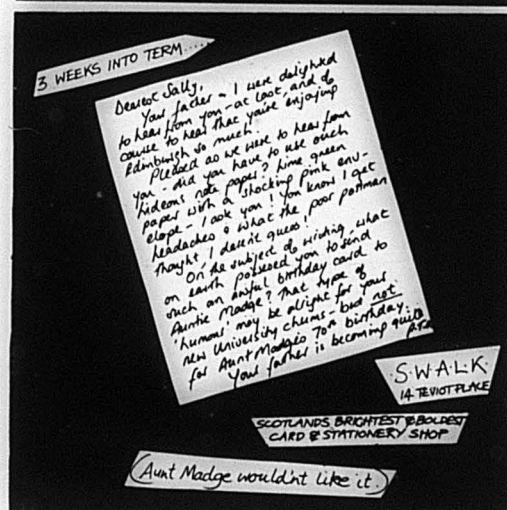
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FILM

Comfort and Joy

latest episode of the "Forsyth Saga".



Claire Grogan proving dead pop stars can still win leading roles in as ice cream sellers.

If you want to see a subtle, thoughtful, and humorous film about human potential for stupidity and for happiness, go and see *Comfort and Joy*. But if you want Bill Forsyth to spend the rest of his days repeating the hilarity of *Gregory's Girl*, you're going to be disappointed.

Bill Forsyth would seem still to be very much a developing director, lionised though he is by the British filmgoing public. As yet, one suspects, he does not feel he has found his true métier, and with *Comfort and Joy* he has taken a further step away from the sharp one-liners and detail of his early features.

Let us not deceive ourselves, Bill Forsyth has flaws, and in *Comfort*

and *Joy* his typically weak plot-structure and sentimentalism are in evidence once again. But as his saving grace, without ever becoming "intellectual" Forsyth makes this movie carry two intelligent and simple messages: most violence is silly, and one should respect and enjoy one's talents.

Glasgow DJ Alan "Dickie" Bird, played with suitable understatement by Bill Paterson, is deserted by his girlfriend and dissatisfied with his role on the "Early Worm" show. In his limbo state he becomes entangled in a family vendetta over Glasgow's ice-cream trade (alas, no fantasy it seems). Seeking to take his life and career in a new direction, he attempts to make a documentary programme concerning the feud, but in the end becomes a mocking peacemaker as he usurps their position as business experts. Forsyth gives the whole episode more point with a persistent background of news reports concerning various wars around the world. More subtly, perhaps, Alan Bird's personal crisis is resolved as he realises just how good he is at making people happy — he is constantly confronted with people urging record requests upon him.

If Bill Paterson deserves his star billing here, he is not the only contributor to the film worthy of commendation. Patrick Malahide, as Bird's surgeon friend Colin, also catches the tone perfectly — one wishes the same could be said of C. P. Grogan (Claire to her friends, when Equity aren't looking), who is plain out of her depth on this showing. Photographer Chris Menges, meanwhile, is erratic but can be rightly proud of those moments when he captures the peculiar Scots twilit to perfection.

U Let the critics say what they want — Bill Forsyth is still on form, even if in a different vein from that expected of him, and if you want proof look no further than the magnificent *Godfather* pastiche at the heart of this film: watching that scene, one sees a master at work.

Iain Cameron

The Company of Wolves

Terror In The Dolls' House



"Granny what big eyes you've got!"

The dream, that amalgam of reality, fantasy and sexuality, is a subject often glorified on the big screen nowadays. However, in Neil Jordan's latest film, "The Company of Wolves", this theme is dealt with in its simplest form; a child's stroll into wonderland. However, unlike Alice, Rosaleen's (Sarah Patterson) nocturnal voyages stem more from an exploration of her adolescent sexuality than plain childlike curiosity.

At the start of the film Rosaleen drifts into a bygone age. Here the stoical villagers live in constant fear of the wolves.

From there on in Rosaleen's grandmother (Angela Lansbury) unravels the mysteries of the wood. Granny adds further warning that the most dangerous men are those who are hairy on the chest.

These prickly creatures are in fact, or fiction, werewolves. The cloudy dream then bursts into a deluge of horror. The special effects of the metamorphosis are not quite as convincing as those of "An American Werewolf in London" but are, however, much

more terrifying. One scene in particular crams more gore into a few minutes than that of a hundred video nasties. Ultimately, the narrative ends with a poignant sting in its fairy tale.

However, the narrative is by no means the central aspect of TCOW. It is far too nebulous and fragmented for this purpose. Instead it serves to web together the various threads of the film while never imposing itself on the overall work.

Running throughout the film is the raging dichotomy between beauty and the beast. The virginal innocence of Rosaleen is, however, tinged with a smouldering unsettlement in her breast. Moreover she may be unflowered but she is well aware of the proverbial birds and bees; or *canes lupi* and *canes lupae* as the case may be. In fact, whether the wolves actually represent male sexuality is never made clear. Conflict and doubt are the very stuff of this film.

In the role of Rosaleen Sarah Patterson gives an enchanting performance which quite belies her tender years. Miss Patterson

drifts through the film apparently aloof from all that is going on around her while remaining inexorably linked to the chain of events.

As the grandmother Angela Lansbury revels in the role of the wily old widow knitting superstition with fable while all the time rocking away on her throne of self-contentment.

Neil Jordan of "Angel" fame has produced a masterpiece of cinematography. Superb period costumes blend with breathtaking sets to create a surreal peace of frosted imagery. Had Romulus and Remus ever bumped into this "Little Red Riding Hood" the results would have been quite startling.

"Jazzin' For Blue Jean"

Along with the release of "Tonight", Bowie's latest collaboration with his old buddy Iggy Pop, comes the single "Jazzin' for Blue Jean" and its accompanying video. However, in his most recent interview in this country, Bowie was quoted as saying, "Video's out the window." So why make one?

Quite simply in his latest tape, the music is largely in the background. Instead the focus switches to a young "wally" called Ernie and his attempts to woo a pouting blonde named Dream. In order to do so he promises to introduce her to the superstar "Screaming Lord Byron". Bowie plays both "Screaming" and Ernie; a few years ago he probably would have played all three. Watch out also for a brief appearance of Chris "a la Turk" Sullivan.

Filed by Julian Temple, who worked on "The Great Rock 'n' Roll Swindle", the video is a spoof of those old 50s' shorts. This is the area which Bowie believes holds the future for love. Whether or not this is the case will become more evident when Temple's latest project comes to light; namely a cinematic version of Colin McInnes' "Absolute Beginners".

Paul Quinn

THEATRE

Parisienne Belly-flop

Citizens Theatre,
Glasgow

'French Knickers'

The theme of the cunning, sly, artful servants outwitting their slow, dull-witted masters is as old as the hills. Yet the Citizens Theatre production of "French Knickers" seemed considerably older. Based on Offenbach's "La Vie Parisienne", but very far removed from the original in spirit, as there was an undeniable lack of verve, vivaciousness and joie de vivre. The play hobbled along little aided by the majority of the uninspired actors. The cast, despite being given little encouragement, injected no life into the stilted jaded characters, while their purposely artificial French accents and sad singing rapidly stunned the ear into indifference. Similarly there was little to attract the eye. The set,

initially effective, restricted the development of any atmosphere. Again the costumes demonstrated a singular lack of imagination, making the prostitutes as appealing as cold congealed cheese on toast.

Instead of a chic sophisticated comedy about Paris low-life, the Citizens presented a sadly demoralised effort which relied on hackneyed humour and operatic satire instead of a pacy, fast-moving farce — as billed.

"French Knickers" was made doubly disappointing because it was produced by the Citizens Theatre, in general a source of excellent drama — both experimental and conventional. Their plays are more than usually worth the effort of travelling to Glasgow — here's hoping that their next production is infinitely better.

F. Alexander

Lyceum Theatre

Confessions of a
Justified Sinner
by Stuart Paterson

Adapted from Hogg's classic novel, the play is a revelation of religious obsessions of 18th century Scotland, realised in the inner turmoil of Robert Wringhim who is tempted to murder and adultery by the aristocratic Gil Martin.

The cast coped bravely with an occasionally long-winded script, and there were several fine

performances. Steve Owen was suitably off-putting in the lead role, but just managed to cling to the audience's sympathy at the crucial moments. Bill McElhane, Don Crerar and Irene MacDougall were outstanding in a strong supporting cast; especially effective was the way the characters made the nicely judged change from human to devil.

However, I felt the production lacked coherence and at times the cast seemed as overawed and isolated by the script as they were by the austere and impressive set.

Julia Morrice

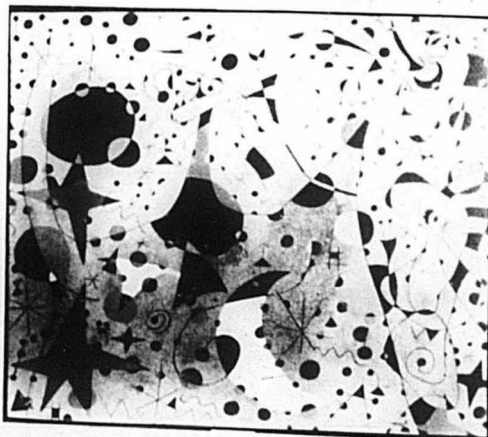
In the beginning, Man created...

'Creation—Modern Art and Nature'
Inaugural Exhibition of the New
Gallery of Modern Art
15 Aug-14th Oct 1984
Admission £1.50 (60p with
matriculation card)

This exhibition at the New Gallery of Modern Art in Belford Road is the largest the National Galleries of Scotland has ever staged. It includes 170 works by 100 artists and which come from 70 places mainly in Europe and America. The idea behind the theme of Creation is one that has

taken great pains to try to erode the misconception that modern art is totally incomprehensible. By dividing the exhibition into the sequence of the seven days of Creation, works inspired by each section of the modern world are in turn grouped together. Each section is clearly explained and many individual works are further

ART



Miro's Nightingale

been in keeper Douglas Hall's mind for several years, but it was not possible until the gallery moved to larger premises.

The organisation and presentation of the works on display is remarkable. The organisers have

commented upon to try to show the message that the artist wished to convey. By showing them in this new context the organisers have thrown new light on many modern works reputed to be difficult to understand.

The first section of the

exhibition is "The Beginning". Perhaps the most important work in this section is American Barnett Newman's "Onement V" (1952) — meaning total wholeness. This is one of a series of works in which Newman was searching for the creation of a new way of painting which could in some way mirror the creation of the world. Most striking is the way in which he has expressed such a vast concept by such minimal content. The first act of creation was the separation of light from darkness and of the water from the firmament. Thus in "Onement" the dark blue symbolises the presence of God, and the light blue is the shaft of light or energy that brings life.

The next section, "The Heavens", shows how the sky, being as it is without form, has lent itself easily to abstraction and has been a particular source of inspiration to modern artists. This is the case with Nicolas de Stael's "Sky at Montfleury" (1952). In this painting de Stael invites us to read it as a study of sky and sea, but the broad horizontal bands can also be read as abstract blocks of colour.

All in all, this is an exhibition well worth visiting. It finishes on 14th October, so make sure you don't miss it.

It has been said that the real test of this modern art gallery's success will be when this exhibition closes down and they have to rely solely on their own collections. However, if they manage it with the same skill that has gone into "Creation", its success should be assured. The building itself has been especially sensitively converted — go and see for yourself.

Elaine Proctor



The Royal Lyceum Theatre Company

Grindlay Street, just off Lothian Road at the West End of Princes
Box Office 229 9697

The Lyceum is a residential repertory company and Edinburgh's "first theatre". Having stagnated for years with endless Broadway material, it now presents a livelier image with Ian Wooldridge as the new director.



Their policy is to approach a classical repertoire in an original and challenging way. Hitherto the Lyceum's audience was largely middle aged if not geriatric; very easy-going, very hum/mutter along and nod off halfway through. It is hoped that henceforward it will be that artistic director's dream, A Theatre For All. Certainly, if their production of Woyzeck in the Festival is anything to go by, we have something to look forward to.

The Lyceum probably has the

most comfortable upholstery of all the theatres and its restaurant and bars are open from 5.30 pm on performance nights.

Autumn season: Twelfth Night, Oct 3-27; Shaw's 'Arms and the Man', Oct 31-Nov 24.

Tickets: £2.40-£4.80 with £1 student concession.

The Traverse Theatre

112 West Bow, Grassmarket
Box Office 226 2633

Having won an award for its programme in the Fringe Festival, the Traverse is now entering its 21st year and continuing with its aim to introduce new plays and nurture innovative drama. In addition to this, various slightly alternative plays are put on.



The Traverse has two performing spaces, one upstairs (not large) and one downstairs (minute). The former has infinitely flexible seating in the form of giant, padded building blocks. Intimacy is undoubtedly of the essence but it makes leaving mid-play absolutely impossible (though fortunately this is rarely desirable).

Membership (£3 min.) is worth while for the committed theatre-goer. This not only makes tickets cheaper but also gives access to the restaurant and bar with its late licence and live entertainment.

Autumn season includes: 'Bread and Butter' by C. P. Taylor, Nov 3-11; 'When the Wind Blows' by Raymond Briggs, Oct 2-21.

Tickets: £2-£3.75, while on Sundays it's Pay-As-You-Please.

EDINBURGH'S THEATRES



The King's Theatre

2 Leven Street, Bruntsfield
Box Office 229 1201

The King's Theatre provides an ample and comfortable receptacle for its own productions as well as enabling Edinburgh to host a wide variety of larger professional shows. The programme ranges from classical ballet to social satire. The shows have usually been very successful elsewhere so material-wise there's nothing too risqué, nothing that would predictably constitute a box-office loss, although even within this the standard of productions does vary considerably.



The autumn season includes: The Scottish Ballet's 'Cinderella', Oct 2-6; 'Commedia' by Marcella Evaristi, Oct 9-13; David Pownall's 'Master Class', Oct 22-27; 'No No Nanette', Oct 29-Nov 3.

Ticket prices vary with the show.

Theatre Workshop

34 Hamilton Place

(Left at the bottom of Dundas Street and along the same road as the Alba D'Oro, Edinburgh's finest chip shop — perfect for that apres-theatre snack.)

Box Office 225 7942

This is very much the place for the concerned student. Theatre Workshop is Edinburgh's most alternative venue, and in the words of their own publicity blurb, "a thriving theatre and community arts resources centre." It is, too. A vital, creative spot you shouldn't overlook. It also has a reputation for hosting excellent international and national companies.

The seats may be among the most uncomfortable ever sat upon, but the shows that go on here are definitely worth seeing.

On Wednesday nights the Theatre Workshop Cafe becomes a platform for live music, cabaret, etc.

THEATRE WORKSHOP

Autumn season: Wildcat with 'Dead Liberty', Oct 11-12; 'Suspense' by Patrick MacGill, Oct 13; 'Waiting for Godot', Oct 16-20; and the Guatemalan group, Teatro Vivo, Nov 16-17.

Tickets vary but usually about £2.

Bedlam Theatre

Forrest Road (across the road from the Student Centre)
Phone 225 9873

The church that's become the Bedlam Theatre was indeed built on the site of an original Bedlam, and some might say we've come full circle, this now being the home of Edinburgh University Theatre Company. It's a lively place organised by a delightful assortment of egos. The company performs several plays a year as well as a short lunchtime show every Wednesday, and sometimes brave professional companies visit.

If you have an active or passive interest in theatre you can become a member for £1.50, and do what you like really, whether your interest is in technical things, costumes, sets, or just being in the spotlight.

Bedlam is open all day during Freshers' Week so go along and sample the chaos.

Being staged in Freshers' Week are: 'The Public Ear', Howard Brenton's 'Revenge' (7 pm) and 'Another Real Scream' (an horrific spoof at midnight).

Autumn season includes: 'Working', a musical by Stephen Schwartz, and the Medieval Players with the 'Second Shepherd's Play' and the 'Nun's Priest's Tale'.

Tickets: £1 upwards. Auditions for various shows are taking place in Freshers' Week and the first weeks of term.

E. Zeal





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START HERE!

This term sees a massive line up of gigs in Edinburgh throughout the autumn, with a full programme of major bands at the **Playhouse** and a very lively schedule at the **Caley**, mainly due to the efforts of Promoters, Regular Music. This has been further enhanced by the opening of a new club on Fridays at the Caley, **The Front**. Its aim is as a showcase for local bands, such as its *Home Front* Night on 26 October, but will feature big names too see gig guide for details. It will be open from 10 pm-3 am every Friday, and amongst its

forthcoming (November) line-up will be **march Violets**, **REM** and **The Redskins**.

Meanwhile, at the **Hoochie Coochie Club** in Tollcross, live music takes place regularly on Sunday nights, as well as on some other dates. The Club is open from 10.30 pm to 3 am, so expect the bands to be on around Midnight.

Finally, a reminder that **The Tube** returns to Channel 4 this Friday, and features Big Country, Lloyd Cole & the Commotions and Afrika Bambaataa, all of whom are playing in Scotland this autumn.

Alastair Dalton



The Daintees

Operating from Newcastle for the last two years or so, **Kitchenware Records** have so far brought to light three major concerns. **The Kane Gang**, whose whiteboy soul seems to have become more anaemic as it has become more marketable. **Prefab Sprout** who, saving perhaps *Lion In My Own Garden*, never really matched the hype that surrounded their launch, and **The Daintees** who provide something more substantial, successfully combining a familiar basis of Postcard mangle-jangle with rather meatier Americanist rock licks.

Their latest single, *Trouble Town*, skips lightly around from near bossa-nova to chunky country and western, and back to cooing soul without offending the sensibilities, not a barnstormer, perhaps, but it has a surprisingly infectious chorus, and is currently receiving enthusiastic evening play on Radio One.

This is reason enough to go and see **The Daintees** at the **Hoochie-Coochie Club** on Sunday, 7th October, doors open at 10.30, band on at midnight — so you'll probably manage to get served at the bar before the action starts.

J. D. McKay

Aswad.
Oct 11th

Aswad are undoubtedly the best reggae band in Britain. The best in the world? Certainly commercial success of some form is deserved. But then reggae, other than the obvious UB40, has somehow escaped the mainstream pop.

Brindley Ford is lead singer, and known to some of you as the token black in *The Double Deckers* in the early seventies, and as the star of *Babylon* Franco Rosso's bitter account of black life in Britain. Aswad are less bitter now. But their Rastafarian idealism hasn't lessened at all. Rasta and reggae are, some would say, too closely linked. But that's something to do with blacks being unable to face the reality of their own situation and seeking some alternative — in this case a religion — for hope. Whites are less pessimistic. They don't need religion, or Rasta, so they don't need reggae.

All this is irrelevant. Aswad's rise coincided with the release of the film of *Babylon* and its soundtrack. *Warrior Charge* was the first Aswad track I ever heard. It is still one of the best. But all their songs are packed with very strongly worded lyrics.

"Some say we should be grateful
How can they let this life go on,
if they're not satisfied with the life
they're living?"

"Pay you just enough on Friday
to getting you back there on Monday."

Angus "Drumme Zeb" Gaye remembers playing football against Daley Thompson at school. "Never get the ball off



him." His drumming, and the bass playing of Tony "Gad" Robinson were what was remarkable about the album *New Chapter* (1981). This LP is perhaps the cause of Aswad's prominence. *Not Satisfied* was a disappointment after this. But it widened their audience. Of course, that excuse could justify anything from doing a reggae version of *Black Christmas* to appearing on *Seaside Special*. However, Aswad clung to their roots, in music, and in Ladbroke Grove. (They are celebrities in their own part of London.) So they have managed to escape being slagged as sell-outs.

There's a reform school in Jamaica called Alpha Academy. Two of Aswad's horn section were supplied from there. Vin Gordon has played with Bob Marley and with Culture, at Studio One, Trenchtown's famous mixing mansion. Aswad have recorded their new studio album at Channel One, also in Jamaica. This may be a further attempt to keep contact with their reggae roots, or it might be just Vin wanting to visit his Ma and Pa. But Aswad have a strong reputation on the Sunny Isle.

Reggae may be crushed in a pop culture obsessed by image, videos and pop, but Aswad won't disappear, because their music has its own identity, like fish 'n' chips, or *Sergeant Bilko*. Its peculiarly gritty, and peculiarly British. If

success does come, with the tour, and the new LP (their live album *Live and Direct* reached the top 50 in January) they would become perhaps the Jimmy Greaveses of pop. Says Brindley Ford: "The music business is very competitive; it's how to win the rat-race without becoming a rat."

Toby Porter

Mercyful



Release

Burning black candles on stage and attracting such labels as 'gothic', 'satanic', the lead singer, Andy Eldritch, prowls about like a wild animal, immaculate. **Sisters of Mercy**, originally from Leeds, are worth seeing live. The much-evidence hypnotic drum machine is called Doktor Avalanche. Lots of hair and leather. Visual effects are crucial.

Still out on their own independent label, *Merciful Release*, Sisters of Mercy have produced 15 records since its inception in 1981. They've toured the US and Europe, and made it with John Peel. 1983 singles included *Temple of Love*, *anacoda*, and most recently *Body and Soul*. These all mixed with corny cover versions of Dolly Parton, Abba, Iggy Pop etc. What a joke. Highly recommended all the same.

NB: Their support group is **Skeletal Family** — sadistic, hypocritical according to NME. Formed in 1982, they're most famous for *She Cries*, out on Rhino. See both bands live at the **Caley** on October 4th.

Christina Moller

GIG • GUIDE

Compiled by Alastair Dalton

• OCTOBER

3. Sophisticated Boom Boom (Teviot)
Wee Yellow Rip (Potterrow)
Sister Sledge (Playhouse)
Sato ri (La Sorbonne)
Green Telescope/Lost Weekend (Caley)
Joolz (Moray House)
4. Sisters of Mercy/Skeletal Family (Caley)
Occapella (Potterrow)
Styngites (La Sorbonne)
Autumn 1904/Kitsch & the Nightset (Kings Buildings Union)
5. Goodbye Mr Mackenzie/Kitsch & the Nightset (Potterrow)
Afrika Bambaataa/Pop Wallpaper/Wild Indians (Caley)
Blues 'n' Trouble (The Place)
White China (Moray House)
Lyn Rampant (La Sorbonne)
6. Autumn 1904/Annie Nightingale (Chambers St.)
Kiss (Playhouse)
Troy Tate (Hoochie Coochie)
Run Rig (Queen Margaret College)
Black Out (La Sorbonne)
7. Aztec Camera/The Go-Betweens (Caley)
The Daintees (Hoochie Coochie)



8. Big Country (Playhouse) **SOLD OUT**
Nazareth (Coasters)
Rana Canteen (La Sorbonne)
9. Tip Canaries (La Sorbonne)
10. Kissing Bandits (Caley)
H2O (Napier College)
Kitsch & the Nightset (La Sorbonne)
11. Aswad (Caley)
Party Susan (Hoochie Coochie)
Mark Miwirdz/Seething Wells (Moray House)
Lion Heart (La Sorbonne)

TICKETS

Available from venue, and many (rock) from
Ripping Records, 91 South Bridge.

12. Echo & the Bunnymen (Playhouse) **SOLD OUT**
Shriekback/A Popular History of Signs (Caley)
Hard Corps (Hoochie Coochie)
Crown of Thorns (Queen Margaret College)
The Lotus Eaters (Moray House)
The Haemorrhoids (La Sorbonne)
13. Bob Hope (Playhouse)
Performing Dogs (La Sorbonne)
14. The Style Council (Playhouse)
Lindisfarne (Caley)
15. Rip Strip & the Camscrams (La Sorbonne)
16. Van Morrison (Playhouse)
17. Rubber Dollinarium (Caley)
Coconut Dog (La Sorbonne)
18. Depeche Mode (Playhouse)
Hanoi Rocks/Johnny Thunders & the Heartbreakers (Caley)
Leaps and Bounds (La Sorbonne)
Lloyd Cole & the Commotions (Glasgow Pavilion)
19. Getting the Fear (Caley)
Avallon (Queen Margaret College)
Not For Sale (La Sorbonne)
20. New Model Army (Moray House)
21. Billy Bragg/Hank Wangford Band/Frank Chickens (Caley)
The Gun Club (Hoochie Coochie)
The Drifters (Playhouse)
22. Clannad (Queen's Hall)
Spear of Destiny (Caley)
Swingin' Miseries (La Sorbonne)
23. Paris Line (La Sorbonne)



24. Sade (Playhouse)
Acoustic Youth (La Sorbonne)
25. The Fall (Caley)
So You Think You're A Cowboy (Moray House)
26. Elvis Costello & The Attractions/The Pogues (Playhouse)
Home Front Night (Caley)
Fini Tribe/22 Beaches/Crazy Maybe
27. Fast Breeder (La Sorbonne)
28. -9. Everly Brothers (Playhouse)
30. Goodbye Mr Mackenzie (La Sorbonne)

• NOVEMBER

2. SPK (Caley)
Motorhead (Playhouse)
Level 42 (Glasgow Barrowlands)
Blues 'n' Trouble
(Queen Margaret College)
4. The Alarm (Caley)
Alison Moyet (Playhouse)
5. U2 (Playhouse) **SOLD OUT**
8. Talking Drums (Moray House)
10. Elvis Costello solo (Playhouse)
13. Meatloaf (Playhouse)
14. The Nolans (Playhouse)
15. The Kane Gang (Caley)
30. Paul Young (Playhouse)

• DECEMBER

- 3-4 Kool & the Gang (Playhouse)
7. UB40 (Playhouse)
9. Culture Club (Ingliston)
13. Nick Kershaw (Playhouse)
14. Tony Bennett (Playhouse)
15. Wham! (Ingliston)
18. Spandau Ballet (Ingliston)
19. Marillion (Glasgow Barrowlands)
20. Howard Jones (Glasgow Apollo)
24. Big Country (Playhouse)

SOLD OUT



VENUES • CLUBS

Roy Wilkinson tells you all you need to know about live venues, while Toby Porter checks out some of Edinburgh's top nitespots.

Edinburgh is a city of really quite imposing beauty if you stop to think about it. From the pleasing ostentation of Princes Street to the lunar expanse of Salisbury crags, with everything in between.

This is all very well, but today as for time immemorial, the fun-loving teenager demands something more. This elusive "je ne sais vivre" is entirely encapsulated in the words *Rock 'n' Roll*. This info spot tells you where to get.

Biggest but definitely not best is the Playhouse (Greenside Place). Grand, beautiful, stately it may be, the Playhouse is probably the least atmospheric venue I've ever been to. It always leaves me feeling far too removed and critical. I

wouldn't recommend going to see anyone but your real faves here. However it does capture of the of the major tours, which I suppose is something to be grateful for.

A welcome addition last year was the opening of the **Caley Palais** (Lothian Road). Created by tearing the seats from the old cinema and emphasising the already kitschy Art Deco interior, the Palais is the medium sized venue that Edinburgh so badly needed.

Now we come to the Unions. The University has no suitable building for large concerts. However we do have the stalwart **Teviot Row, Chambers St and Potterrow**.

Teviot Row is a nice venue, with a reasonable capacity. There were structural problems last year resulting in the Debating Hall being closed to concerts for safety reasons. Hopefully this problem

will be overcome.

Chambers St, despite all the money it had spent on it, is still an uninspiring venue. It's cheap; what more can I say?

Potterrow is a useful venue for local bands. Usually vastly underpopulated, why not change this and pop along — it's practically free.

Other venues available include **Coasters** (West Tollcross). It saw some interesting bands last year. However it functions as a roller-skating rink for most of the year, and the rapid transformation to musical venue does not work perfectly. Above **Coasters** however, the **Hoochie Coochie Club** is a regular venue for newer and more exciting bands. Maybe the trendiest club in Edinburgh.

Good luck. *Rock 'n' Roll* will never die! Well not with all these cynics it won't.

Nightclubs

• **Annabels** 229 8522/7733
Semple St (near the ABC)
22.00-03.00
Sun-Thur £2 Fri, Sat £3

The "suite" they use for parties is well laid out and could probably squeeze in half the University. It does, however, provide a graphic illustration of how *not* to decorate your living room. Those with a sensitive eye should approach with caution, or with sun glasses (on second thoughts, you'll keep bumping into everyone and treading on toes if you do that).

• **Buster Brown's**
Market St (next to Waverley)
226 4224
Mon-Sun 21.30-3.30 £1.50-£3

The space taken up by the vast DJ's "globe" would have been better employed on seating, since the posterior room available does seem carelessly cramped. The dance floor is especially posey (it doesn't fill up till about 1 am) which may suit some. They've got these roley-poley seats which really puzzle me. I keep falling off.

• **Cinderella Rockerfellas** 556 0266
St Stephen St.
Tues-Thurs 21.00-02.00 £2
Fri, Sat 21.00-03.00 £3

The size of an aircraft hanger, I once put a single foot inside the door of this place, to be repulsed by a well dressed picket (I think he found me quite repulsive too). Forbidding to the small time student, it says it only admits 20-plusers. I'm not saying they let them in young, but I've seen kids going in who were knee high to a can of coke. (I must confess, I think they have a special teens night).

• **Coasters Roller Disco** 228 3252
Tues-Sun 18.30-21.30 Sat, Sun 13.00-16.00 £1 Sat £1.50 Skates 50p

Another trendy spot. They've got a video and lots of lights and... and lasers 'n' that. And one of those big balls with mirrors on! There's a big shiny floor for break-dancing, too!

• **Goombay Beat**
Bermuda Triangle, West Tollcross
Thurs-Sun 23.00-03.00 £2.50
Reggae & Soul Club Fri, Sat £1.50
Edinburgh's durable and constantly moving, reggae club. Where to find members of the caces conforming to stereotype. Pity, really because Papa S'w' Hifi has taste.

• **Bobby McGees** 226 6458
Rose Street
Mon-Sun 20.00-03.00

Those keen on efficacious bouncers with a pronounced tendency to violence will flock here. The rest of us will miss out on an adequately sized, and well laid out dance floor and seating area, and the DJs. These play a damnably awful selection of Stevens records, also they relish doing Shakin' impersonations on the dance floor, to the point of testing the safety of anyone in the vicinity. Ironically, the fascists have started reggae disco.

• **Madhatters** 225 4343
High St.

Sticky and slick. I always seem to encounter rugby-types here. But that may be just me. Limited seating, it takes an hour to walk ten yards through the crowded punters.

• **Oscars** 229 3402/3
Sandwick Pl.
21.00-01.00 Thurs-Sat till 02.00
Fri & Sat £2 Sun-Mon free till 22.00, then £1

Small floor, (relatively) cheap drink, usually busy, and cosy. Where to go if you want to escape the standard Potterrow punters, but would rather not trouble your bank account. And if you ask for a record, they might actually play it!

• **Outer Limits** (see Coasters)
West Tollcross
Sun, Fri £1.50 Sat £3
• **Pipers** 229 8291
Lothian Rd
7 nights

Similar staff to the wonderful Bobby McGees. This has the advantage of being almost as big as a football pitch, and having a dance floor that's as extensive as a couple of LRT buses layed side by side (sounds painful). If you want to really show off by filling someone's big to your birthday party, hire this place.

• **Top O** 229 6697/4487
Grindlay St (by Usher Hall)

serves the purpose, especially for the less ambitious party throwers amongst you, the kind of place you'd want to go if you only wanted to slightly offend your mother.

• **Studio 84** 557 2590
The Playhouse, Greenside Pl.
Thurs-Sun 21.30-03.00
Thurs, Sun £2 Fri, Sat £3.50

To charge these kinds of prices, you'd have to have something pretty special lined up. The only time I've found myself in the inner recesses of the Playhouse when I wasn't going to a concert, there were bodies all over the wooden floor and the place stank of bo and musty dope. Cheap at the price, you might say. Personally, I'd rather spend it on a record



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November 10th
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£5

October 13th
Bob Hope
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November 4th
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All over the shop



A quiet little side-street in the New Town.

Photo by Ian Harvey

For those first years new to Edinburgh with that heady feeling of holding "the first grant cheque" I've attempted to jot down here a selection of my favourite shops around the city as a rough guide for where to start that first spending spree.

Princes Street as far as this spender is concerned is a dead loss. Apart from Marks & Spencers (where as well as all the necessities can be found) it's just packed full of chain stores, and kilt shops for American and Japanese tourists. The better shops are to be found elsewhere. As a general rule the areas can be

divided up as follows. In the New Town and Stockbridge a variety of small shops can be found although they are usually fairly trendy and more than fairly expensive. However, St Stephen's Street in Stockbridge is great for antique/junk/secondhand clothes shops.

The Grassmarket too has its share of good secondhand shops and the two roads leading down into it, Candlemaker Row and Victoria Street are full of shops good for browsing. (By the way, for those jokers amongst you there's a great joke-shop by West Bow at the bottom of Victoria Street.)

The Southside appears to be an "up-and-coming" district and at the moment is a strange mixture of Asian corner-shops, take-aways

and newer shops such as *The Leather Shop* (Nicolson St.) where all manner of leather goods can be bought there and then, or made up to special requirements at no extra cost.

Marchmont and Bruntsfield are both good shopping areas but have no particular character to them. Finally, there is Morningside Road, which is full of expensive and not particularly nice shops. It's one redeeming factor is a large and well-stocked *Safeways* for food shopping.

Now to the specifics. This cannot in any way at all attempt to be a truly comprehensive guide as to where to spend your hard-earned cash (well you are going to work now you've got that cheque aren't you?) but just a few ideas to get you going.

Jazzin' Blue Jeans

First, to dress you. For jeans-freaks — Rose street and Cockburn Street will be positive delights, in unapologetically named shops such as *Sunset Boulevard* and *Fly* it's possible to buy almost any make, design or colour of jeans and shirts desired. For those wanting something much trendier and having the money to pay for it *By Appointment Only* and *Cruise* (both on High Street) may be worth looking into. For the cheaper trendy look try *Cento* and the *Ivy League* both down West Nicolson Street and both run by a young Edinburgh design team. Also, *Michous* just around the corner in Buccleuch Road. More practical dressers (female only I'm afraid) should try *Cottonfields* which sells a food range of cotton-clothing at reasonable prices and

also gives student discounts. Favourite secondhand clothes shops are *Herman Browns* (Bread Street) which is good for mens clothing and *Echo* (St Mary's Street). Needless to say, Oxfams abound.

Now that you're clothed you may want to increase your record collection. Unfortunately, a couple of good small record shops have recently closed down but *HMV* and *Virgin* can both be found in the town-centre. *The Other Record Shop* on High Street sells a good selection of alternative records plus (I have been reliably informed) a good jazz record selection. *Ripping Records* on South Bridge is not particularly cheap but it is a main supplier of concert tickets. For secondhand records and general browsing try the *Record Shack* on South Clerk Street and for classical music *Baurmeisters* on George IV Bridge is good.

For fancy-food fetishists Edinburgh has much to offer. *Real Foods* (Broughton Street) and *Nature's Gate* (South Clerk Street) both sell good selections of health and wholefoods although the prices charged in Nature's Gate are not quite so healthy or wholesome. *Choosa Cheese* (South Clerk Street) has a good variety of — surprise, surprise — cheeses and it also sells pates, cold meats, good teas, crackers, pickles etc. *Herby's Deli* (Raeburn Place) and *Victor Hugo* (Melville Terrace) are both fairly good delicatessens, for delicious breads and cakes there is nothing to beat the chain of *Breadwinner* shops around the city and *Charlie McNair's* on Forrest Road sells the

best rolls and sandwiches. For pricey treats go to the food department of *Jenners* on Princes Street.

Book binds

If you have any money left by now some of you may wish to buy some books. For set-books, *Thins* (opposite Old College, or on Buccleuch Street) and *Baurmeisters* (George IV Bridge) should stock all that is necessary. *The Stockbridge Bookshop* and *Better Books* (Forrest Road) are also well-supplied with reading matter although not of the study variety. *The First of May Bookshop* (Candlemaker Row) is packed with left-wing literature and those with an ecological or anti-nuclear slant will find the *Smiling Sun* (Forth Street) bulging with goodies. A new bookshop called *Woman Zone* has just opened on Buccleuch Street which, I assume, sells purely feminist literature and books on women although I haven't yet, and know nobody who has, dared to venture in.

Well, that just leaves a few odds and bobs to be covered. Good haircuts may be found at *Hairizon*, *Cheyne* and *Hairworshop*. Snazzy jewellery bought at *Stolen* or *Sapphire and Steele*. Candles at the *Candle Shop* (where else but Candlemaker Row), any manner of weird and wonderful stationary, posters and cards at *SWALK* and lovely plants at *Potty on Plants*.

Enjoy yourself looking around and don't forget the Union shops. Oh — and by the way — I take no responsibility for irate bank managers come the tenth week of term!

Naomi Marks



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WELFARE



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Vera Penman is a witty and forthright professional self-defence instructor who also runs advanced classes in the second term. She instils a new air of confidence in her pupils — this in itself will greatly reduce your chances of being attacked.

This SRC-run course is inexpensive and will be advertised this week. There will be an introductory demonstration on Saturday, 6th October at 3 pm in the Chaplaincy Centre.

For more details on how to join get in touch with the Welfare Convener or Graeme Carter, VP (Court) at the Students' Association Offices.

Introduction

The Students' Association has, over many years, built up its expertise on many student-related welfare issues. As the largest Students' Association in the country, it should, and does, have a clearly defined purpose in the welfare field. Students face many quite unique pressures and difficulties within the world of academia, and so we have developed expertise to cope with these problems. This expertise comes in the form of full-time staff employed by the Association, and by student volunteers engaged in the on-going welfare work of various committees set up for this purpose.

The welfare set-up here is useful for you to know — and is as follows:

Graeme Carter as Vice-President (Court) co-ordinates the work of six "Welfare" committees and conveners:
Accommodate—Fraser Dinnis
Welfare—Position to be filled
Environment—Kris McGourty
National Affairs—David McLean
External Affairs—Peter Wother-
spoon
Community Affairs—Rebecca Norman.

These committees handle the day-to-day problems of our students; everything from landlord problems to grant rises (or rather the lack of them); from unemployed graduates to money advice; from overseas students to action to help the community.

These committees are there to help you — search the people out — chances are they can be of assistance.

The Association also has a full-time **Education and Welfare Adviser — Angus Erskine** who is employed for his specialist knowledge in areas such as tenants' rights, housing benefit regulations and general welfare rights. Again he can be found in the Association offices. He can only help you if you are willing to come and see him!

The welfare services we provide as an Association are ever changing and expanding, but the following are a fairly representative cross-section — in no particular order:

Money Advice Centre—MAC

The Centre was set up during the last academic year to act as an advice and information giving body — to be run by student volunteers. As financial problems for students have increased in scale — and intensity in recent years, the need for such a Centre to provide information on Grants, State Benefits, Fees, Deeds of Covenants — and alternative sources of finance become self-evident.

The Centre runs training weekends for new student volunteers each term; and can be seen at various points around the University in term-time.

Wednesday 12 noon to 2 pm is the time to come and see **MAC** in action under the dome of Student Centre.

Now that a group of trained volunteers exist, we can do more than ever before as an Association to lead students through an area which all of us at some time have worries about — even nightmares about.

This week MAC has a stall under the dome of Student Centre from 1 pm to 4 pm each day, come and see it in action.

For more information on training and recruitment to MAC — contact Graeme Carter, VP (Court) at the students' Association offices.

Nightline

A phone line run by students — for students. Student volunteers run Nightline, and are "on air" — 6 pm to 8 am every night of term — and can be contacted on 557 4444.

The service is confidential — any problems or worries you may have related to study, relationships, accommodation, friendships, or if you just want someone to listen to you — then Nightline and its hardy volunteers are there to offer advice and help.

SCAG—Student Community Action Group

This is the body which works with community organisations and projects outside the University environment. Projects are run each year under the auspices of the Community Affairs Officer. The areas of work include: — work with the mentally handicapped — prison visiting

Charities Week

— visiting long-term patients in the Royal Infirmary
— unemployed graduates.

The group is always on the lookout for enthusiastic new people. Interested? Then contact:

Rebecca Norman at EUSA's Offices in Bristo Square — and keep in touch with the real world around you.

Accommodation

One of the biggest areas of concern for us as a Students' Association and as students. Our Accommodation Committee under its convener — Fraser Dinnis — are there to press home your accommodation worries or grievances to the Student Accommodation Service, the University at committee level and to outside bodies. Accommodation problems vary from those in halls of residence, to student houses, flats and digs. We have close links with the Student Accommodation Service which have in the past, and continue to help many students out of difficulty. The committee will have a desk under the dome of Student Centre every day this week from 10 am to 1 pm — so if you have damp, can't pay your rent, or hate the food in Pollock!!! then pay the stall a visit.

Women's Self-Defence Classes

These classes have been run by the Association now for several years. They begin in autumn term and meet once a week in Chambers Street Ballroom — every Monday night.

With attacks on women forever in our newspapers these classes

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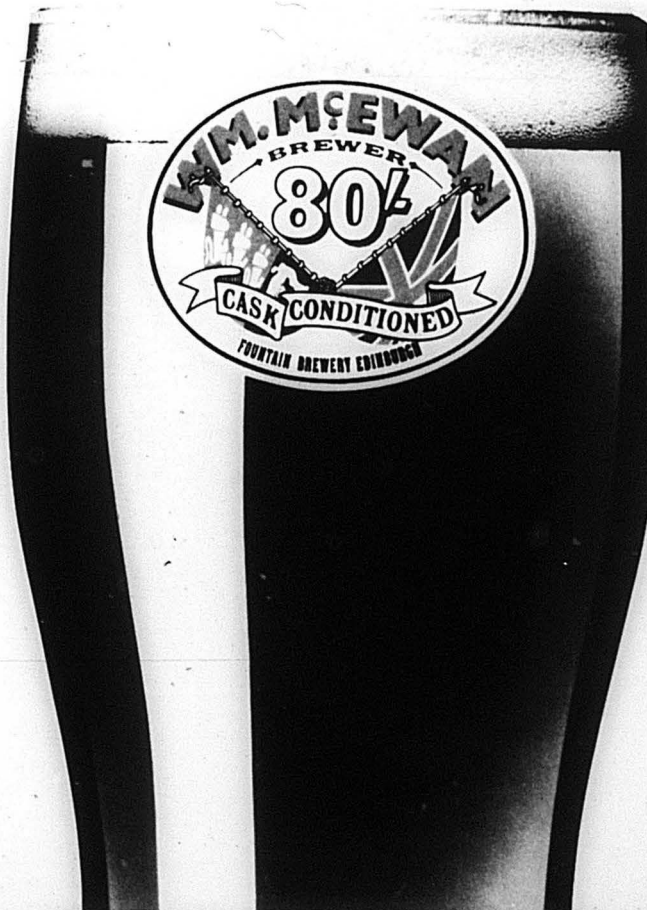
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freshers' guide

RESTAURANTS

You won't be the only one to find the Pollock tea rather unappetising, especially if it's you who ends up getting the last half portion of slimy chips and a particularly unwholesome looking meat pie, so why not get out and blow your grant in one of the many fine eating houses throughout the city?

If mummy and daddy are up for a few days before you embark on your academic career why not suggest the **Chamberlin** restaurant, the **George Hotel**

do have to ignore the rather droopy waiter who shows his face from time to time however. **Skippers** (Duke St., Leith) is highly recommended by people who know what they're talking about, but if you haven't got time to go that far then pop into **Brattisanni's** (Newington Rd.) which will fill you up if nothing else. That brings us to the other end of the market — fast foods, cheap foods and places open when you're pissed late at night. The baked potato shops are

is another burger house said to be worth a visit. If it's just a cup of tea or a light snack you're after then why not pop into **Lilligs** (Victoria St.) which manages to attract student and businessman alike with its German wines, beers, music and tasty grub. It is a little over-priced however. **Maxies** (West Nicholson St.) is equally cosmopolitan but better value for money with a wide selection of lunches for little over a pound. The evening meals are more expensive but definitely worth it; the duck is

have become a favourite haunt for Bedlamites and 'Student' people and you can't get a much better recommendation than that (can you?). Other Chinese restaurants with a good reputation are **Loon Fung** (Warriston Pl.) and **Lee On** (Bruntsfield Pl.).

The Danish restaurants have found recent popularity in Edinburgh, and after visiting **Es Dames** (Thistle St.) I can see why; a small, intimate restaurant pleasantly decorated and serving an interesting selection of open

zagaglione. Just round the corner in Lothian Rd. there are number of pizzerias including **Bar Italia** and **Dario's** which get really popular late at night when the pubs close.

After sampling what the Italians have on offer why not go to a French restaurant. My favourite is **La Fayette** (Broughton Pl.), unpretentious, friendly place, and the steak is brandy sauce is quite exquisite. The lunches are particularly good value for money at around £3, and don't miss the crepes stuffed with prawns.



(George St.) for an elegant and pleasurable evening which I'm sure will be the case judging by the nicely mounted menu outside. The **Oyster Bar**, the **Cafe Royal** (West Register St.), is another classy little joint which is great fun if you like seafood and you are not paying. The shrimps are worth a try, and if you can work out how to get the meat out of the shell then go for the crab. **Cousteaus** (Hanover St.) is another seafood restaurant which isn't so expensive but provides a good assortment of quality dishes. You

quite easy to find and are often open until the early hours. The best is **Templing Tatties** (Jeffrey St.) where you can get good quality fillings in plentiful portions and that suits me just fine. If you're one of those burger fanatics, try to avoid the temptation of **wimpy's** (Princes St.) despite the view from upstairs, and pay a trip to the **King Hero Diner** (Thistle St.) instead. This place is great; home-made burgers, the best chips in town and much, much more... (Maybe they'll give me an advertising job?) **Bell's Diner** (St Stephens St.)

superb.

If you are a duck fanatic then why not try it Cantonese style in one of the best Chinese restaurants in town, **Loon Town** (William St.), which serves a wide variety of specialities at reasonable prices. Always go for **A La Carte**, be adventurous and don't just plump for a fixed price menu. They are only fun if you're in a big party and you're in the mood to stuff yourself silly on a dozen different courses. Talking of group outings, **Chinese Home Cooking** (Argyle St.) seems to

sandwiches including crab and caviare. Be warned, however, they are not the most substantial meals in the world.

If you're looking for pasta 'n' cheese, there is a great choice of Italian restaurants, by far the best being **La Costiera** (Gillespie Pl.) Small and friendly it's perfect for romantic rendezvous and party alike, and the food is as good as anything you'll find in Italy. If you want a recommendation choose the salmon in prawn sauce, then the veal in cream and mushrooms, and round that off with the rich

L'Auberge (St. Mary's St.) and **Duncan's Land** (Gloucester St.) are two more popular French restaurants worth trying.

Presuming that you've still got a little cash left after all that, then don't forget the Indian Restaurants which are liberally scattered throughout the city. **Khushi** (Broughton St.) is always packed, and deservedly so for it's large selection of excellent curries, but do steer clear of the vindaloo unless you are an experienced campaigner.

Ian MacGregor

Open Space

—the place to exhibit your wit and style each week where thousands of students throughout Edinburgh can see your name. Don't be shy, get scribbling anything which appeals to you and which you think will interest others. Many a leading columnist first made his claim to fame on this page. Don't miss your opportunity for fame and fortune; contributions to be in by Monday lunchtime each week. This week there is an original satire on student life as we don't know it. If you can do better write in...

Reality as It is Lived

by John Hodge

(We are now in a Student Accommodation Service flat in Lesser South East Nicholson Street. It has six double rooms and a kitchen and a corridor wide enough for one very thin person to walk along almost without touching the walls. All the bedrooms are an identical 10 feet by 10 feet, right down to the last U2 poster and cigarette burn on the plastic, zero-pile, hessian-effect carpet, and it is a common event for perfectly sober tenants to forget which room is their's and so to sleep in the first one in which they find a vacancy. The beds can be said to be soft and yielding. The dry green paint flakes off at the touch of a fingertip. On the ceiling throughout the flat are smoke detectors: these detectors are specially programmed to respond only to cigarette smoke and

burning toast and to ignore the smoke from burning furniture or the vapours from melting plastic and roasting flesh. The smoke detectors will also monitor damage done to the Taiwanese furniture and fittings by careless tenants, and will report the damage to a computer in Buccleuch Place which in this way builds up a psychological profile of each student. Those who deviate from a profile within certain SAS defined parameters join the ranks of the "disappeared ones". The bathroom is the size of a telephone box: the light does not work, the sink is blocked up with empty tubes of toothpaste, the handle on the toilet falls off every time that someone touches it on to the floor which once was orange and now is black, the shower drips tepid water day and night and the flow cannot be altered by use of the taps, and the walls are spotted with red polka dots which came from someone's nose following a fracas at a drinking session in one of the bedrooms — "look, both nostrils" — declared the human fountain before rushing off to decorate the toilet. Now to the kitchen: the kitchen is big as cupboards go. Talking of cupboards, they are all full of half empty tins of Buttoni Ravioli because no one is fool enough to put anything in the fridge, a mysterious, foul smelling, white box thought to be occupied by a family of slugs who probably pay as much rent as anyone else.

Robert has just switched off the television because he is afraid of the BBC's new fleet of high powered detector vans).

Robert — But it's at least a thousand years in jail for all of us if we get caught. God, my

dad would kill me, absolutely kill me. All these new detector vans they've got, we're living on a tightrope.

Cut to a halt at Broadcasting House where the Director General of the Corporation has just finished filling up the entire Christmas schedule with quiz games and American imports and is now addressing an assembly of heavies in blue uniform.

DG — OK, so from today we come down heavy on students. I want you to get out there and nab some of these licence dodging bastards.

(Cut back to the flat. Things are not going as well as they might).

Robert — Don't look now but there's one of these vans parked right outside the building.

Sophie — Listen Anthony, I'm pregnant!

Anthony — (coughs blood into a handkerchief) — Oh damn it. Tuberculosis.

(Anthony's cigarette falls against a cheap OVC tile, smoulders, and then ignites the tile. Within minutes the flat is burning uncontrollably. The only fire extinguisher has melted. The tenants kick their way out to safety through the paper-thin walls in search of a happy ending while the smoke detectors and fire alarms remain resolutely mute. Outside, the man from the Corporation, stands weeping as his evidence goes up in flames. Screaming sirens herald the arrival of the men from the Student Accommodation Service who herd the hapless students into unmarked vans and take them to the cellars under George Square. There the rubber truncheons come out. This is 1984).

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