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The Journal

EDINBURGH'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | ISSUE XI | WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2008

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As the crown prince of UK hip hop unveils his finest album to date, he tells Simon Mundy he might be ready to call time on his turbulent career

City scheme slashes crime in nightclubs

» Unight credited with a 70% fall in nightclub incidents

» Police hail 21% fall in overall city centre crime

Nick Eardley

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A REVOLUTIONARY NEW safety scheme, set up in Edinburgh to improve communication between bars and nightclubs, has been hailed as a success by owners across the city as it approaches its first anniversary, with the decline in criminal incidents reaching as much as 70 per cent in some venues.

Established in October 2007, Unight promotes the sharing of CCTV images between members. Rules of the scheme state that troublemakers barred from one venue automatically receive a ban from all, stopping anti-social customers from moving to other city centre venues. Despite only being in place for 12 months, Unight members have handed out 140 bans – an average of almost three per week.

Lothian and Borders Police have confirmed that Cabaret Voltaire has seen a decline of 70 per cent in criminal activity, but said that overall crime at unight member venues has fallen by 21 per cent since the scheme was set up.

Speaking to *The Journal*, Sarah David, owner of Cabaret Voltaire and chairperson of Unight, said that she was delighted with the progress that has been made: "We have implemented several conditions and recommendations of conduct on our premises that have been agreed together at meetings in which every venue or bar has had representation," she said.

"Through this, and with the help of the police, we have set an industry standard as to how we would like to see Edinburgh venues operated."

She added: "Not only have we created unity and a platform for entertainment venues to voice opinions in an open forum and gain direct answers from police and licensing, but we have also worked hard to further establish Edinburgh as a safe environment for our staff and patrons to enjoy."

Mike Pickavance from Lothian and Borders Police echoed Ms David's sentiments, saying: "Unight is a very successful partnership initiative placing the safety of patrons and staff first. There is a real willingness for members to recognise the impact their business has on the local community. Members take appropriate action to reduce crime for the benefit of both residents and members of the public who come into Edinburgh to enjoy its night time economy."

The scheme has received little media attention since its foundation twelve months ago, with only the high profile barring of Hibernian footballer Derek Riordan gaining any serious news coverage. Riordan was banned from all Unight premises in August after an incident at the city's Berlin nightclub on Queensferry Lane.

Riordan's ban was extended after he refused to leave Espionage on Victoria Street, another member of the Unight scheme. The former Celtic striker also escaped a further ban this month after fellow Hibs team mates were caught trying to sneak him into Leith Walk's Mood nightclub.

However, Ms David said that there had been several success stories which have so far gone without notice: "There were certain individuals that simply moved from venue to venue committing the same crimes over and over again."

"Through Unight we have managed to drive them out of the city centre and we are led to believe that they now have to cross the border to England for a night out."

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Edinburgh named UK's greenest city

SILVIA FOTEVA

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FOR THE THIRD year running, Edinburgh has ranked first in a poll of the UK's greenest cities, providing the best quality of life for its residents and the lowest pollution levels. The capital's results score above Glasgow, who came in eleventh out of fifteen cities for quality of life and ranked only 9th in the air pollution stakes.

The annual survey by Real Estate Advisors, Cushman and Wakefield, bases its findings on 21 varying factors that help determine the most desirable city in terms of relocation and business success. Although Glasgow seems to be lacking in terms of environmental awareness, the city scored higher overall than Edinburgh, ending up in 6th place next to Edinburgh in 7th.

David Reynolds, of Cushman and Wakefield Real Estate Solutions, told *The Journal*: "Edinburgh is a very attractive place to live, it just feels green and is a pleasant place to be. 11% voted Edinburgh, putting it well ahead of the pack." London came in second as the greenest city, scoring 7% , followed closely by Bristol with 5%.

The annual poll revealed, however, that Glasgow was a more desirable city in terms of transport systems and business success: "Being green and clean and a nice place to live doesn't necessarily attract business corporations," Reynolds said.

Dr Richard Dixon, director of the World Wildlife Federation in Scotland, has praised Edinburgh for its environmental awareness, but has also emphasised the importance of maintaining the city's "green" enthusiasm in order to sustain its current high placing. He told the *Edinburgh Evening News*: "Edinburgh has made good progress but the failure to go for congestion charging means the city will have to do a lot more on transport – as well as air pollution, energy use and recycling – before it can really claim to be the greenest in the UK."

However, there are programmes in Edinburgh which are designed to maintain the city's eco-friendly reputation.

The tram system, currently being constructed throughout the city, has faced criticism for delays that road works have caused but will act as a greener transport option. Trams are the only motorised transport that can be powered by renewable energy, and are aimed at cutting car use and reducing congestion. The system itself is supported by over 75 per cent of Edinburgh's businesses, and according to the City of Edinburgh Council, aims to have full revenue service running by 2011.

The Marchmont and Sciennes Smart Shopping Project is another recent proposal funded by the council's Waste Action Grant programme in a bid to create an environment free of plastic bags. Florist Monica Higgins, Marchmont & Sciennes Business Association Chairperson, explained the reasons behind the project to the council: "For some time we have been recycling plastic bags in our shops but wanted to actively do more. We realised that between just four local shops we were generating 46,000 plastic bags a month and found it to be a shocking reality."

It is hoped that schemes such as this will promote environmental awareness throughout the city. Dr Dixon expressed a desire to pursue further environmental plans. Speaking to the *Edinburgh Evening News*, he said: "Serious action on climate emissions and decentralising energy are being considered, so Edinburgh could become a real green leader among UK cities."

The UK's top ten cities

1. London
2. Manchester
3. Birmingham
4. Leeds
5. Bristol
6. Glasgow
7. Edinburgh
8. Newcastle
9. Cardiff
10. Sheffield

"Fast- lane" proposed for Princes Street walkers

Travel by foot on Princes Street to become a speedy affair if proposals by Cllr. Jason Rust are approved

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AN EDINBURGH COUNCILLOR has proposed that a "fast- lane" be set up on Edinburgh's Princes Street in order to combat delays for those walking along the shopping thoroughfare on their route to work.

Conservative councillor Jason Rust has said that many of his constituents have been angered at hold ups suffered as result of the thousands of shoppers who grace the street at peak times.

Speaking to the BBC, Cllr. Rust said: "Now and again I am in a hurry and stuck behind people who are walking along at snail's pace, stopping every few seconds, and it is a minor irritation. This would be a practical measure to see if it works."

He added "The problem would be how to enforce it but I'm sure the majority of people would go with it, with the outer part of the street having the fast lane."

"I have had complaints about workers being held up on Princes Street as well as from pedestrians who have been bustled out of the way."

Cllr. Rust's motion comes only weeks after an investigation by makers of Nurofen Express headache tablets found that over half of the 2,000 people surveyed felt they were slowed down on their way to work by slow walkers. Similarly, the survey indicated that more than three quarters of shoppers believed that they were delayed by other people on high streets throughout the UK.

Phil Wheeler, Edinburgh City Council's convener for transport, has indicated that the proposal will be considered.

CHRISTINE MCINTOSH

Lothian policeman held on drugs charges

A further six Lothian and Borders police officers involved in investigation

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LOTHIAN AND BORDERS Police have arrested two men, aged 28 and 27, charged with alleged drugs offences following a police investigation.

The force confirmed that one of the accused has been serving as uniformed police officer. The policeman has now been suspended.

Ian Livingstone, assistant Chief constable of Lothian and Borders police said "The force will make every effort to bring to justice all those involved in the illegal use of drugs, and we are committed to tackling this problem, wherever it may arise.

"While we cannot comment on the individual circumstances of this case, public confidence in the integrity of the police service is paramount, and we will take all steps required to maintain that confidence."

After further rumours regarding the involvement of other officers surfaced, immediate action was taken by the force, with a further six officers suspended from duty. A spokesperson said: "As part of an ongoing investigation, five uniformed officers and one detective officer have been asked not to report for duty until such a time as witness statements have been noted from them. It must be stressed that none of these officers are in any way suspected of criminality," said a spokesman of the Force.

Two men have subsequently appeared at Haddington Sheriff Court.

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Oxbridge: 'We are not social security offices'

BILL TYNE

All Souls College, Oxford: Cambridge vice-principal and Oxford chancellor issue joint attack on government funding policies Bill Tyne

Laura Robertson

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THE CHANCELLOR OF Oxford University has claimed that students should be paying more despite an NUS survey revealing that the average student debt is set to rise to more than £20,000 by 2010.

Lord Chris Patten has called for the government to abolish the "intolerably" low cap which holds tuition fees at their current level, claiming that the government is treating universities as "social security offices".

The former Conservative minister, speaking at the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' annual conference in London, said: "It is surely a mad world in which parents or grandparents are prepared to shell out tens of thousands of pounds to put their children through private schools to get them into universities, and then object to them paying a tuition fee of more than £3,000 when they are there."

In response to the Patten's comments, Wes Streeting, president of the NUS, said: "It is astonishing that, in the middle of a credit crunch, Chris Patten is proposing that hard-working families pay even more towards the cost of higher education."

An NUS survey, published last week, concluded that students graduating under the current capped-fee policy would already find themselves more than £20,000 in the red on graduating from university. In addition, a recent survey conducted by NatWest bank has estimated that, including living expenses, the actual cost of obtaining a degree is more likely to break the £30,000 mark.

When asked at what level he would like to see the fees for Oxford university set, Patten stated that it was his belief that no restrictions should be enforced and that institutions should be given the freedom to set their tuition fees as they felt appropriate. However, The University and College Union (UCU) strongly oppose Lord Patten's proposal.

Sally Hunt, general secretary of the UCU, said: "Lord Patten's view that parents should embrace the removal of the university tuition fee cap is not one shared by the general public. A recent YouGov poll revealed that, as well as opposing any increase in fees, the majority of people in Britain back a university funding system that is at no cost to the student or their family."

Patten states that without additional funds, universities such as Oxford and Cambridge cannot hope to compete with the multi-million dollar American education system; tuition fees at Harvard for the current academic year are $32,557. Those opposed to the proposal to allow universities to set their own tuition fees have pointed out that, unlike Ivy League Universities, Oxford and Cambridge receive more than £350 million of taxpayers' money each year.

At Cambridge University a similar battle has played out between the vice-chancellor, Alison Richard and secretary of state for universities and skills, John Denham over equality in the university application process. Dr Richard came under fire after complaining of Whitehall "meddling" and the government pressure to "fix problems of social mobility".

The vice-chancellor said: "Elite institutions are not engines for promoting social justice. We try to reach out the best students, whatever their background. One outcome of that is that we can help to promote social mobility."

Dr Richard's comments, however, were attacked by Denham who replied that he disagreed "profoundly" with Dr Richard. Vice-chancellors at other universities added their voices to the debate, with one claiming: "The government gives me a cheque every year. I have a public duty to do what the government says."

But according to *Varsity*, Cambridge's independent student newspaper, staff and students at the university support the vice-chancellor's comments.

"We agree that we have a duty to help disvantaged students, but this is not our primary goal," said Geoff Parks, Cambridge head of admissions.

The switch from the grant-based system of funding higher education to the current loan-based scheme now means that debt is an inevitable part of life for the majority of students. The level of student debt has increased by more than 500 per cent since 1994, when a study carried out by Barclays Bank found that the average graduate left university owing just £2,212.

The increase in student debt can partly be attributed to the rising cost of living but has also been affected by the current government policies surrounding tuition fees.

Previously capped at £1125, universities in England and Northern Ireland can now charge students up to £3,000 in tuition fees. While the fees charged by universities in Scotland and Wales have also been subject to an increase, the cost to students studying in their own country has remained lower than in England due to national governing bodies subsidising higher education fees.

In 2000, the Scottish parliament made the decision not to ask students to contribute toward the payment of their fees and continues to fully subsidise fees for Scottish students alone studying in Scotland.

NUS: equality requires cap on tuition fees

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THE NATIONAL UNION of Students (NUS) launched a new campaign calling for a review of the Higher Education funding system currently in place last month.

The fifteen page report, 'Broke and Broken', reveals inherent flaws in the 2004 Higher Education Act, and demands all-out change—rather than simply an increase in the tuition fees cap—to be considered before the next general election.

NUS President Wes Streeting comments on the "severe" impact such measures would have on student life: "When so many students are compelled by circumstance to carry out paid work for so many hours, the direct impact on the quality of their learning experience will be severe.

"It is imperative that our Higher Education funding system should seek to limit this impact, not to place even greater financial pressures on students through wrongly distributed financial support and the acquisition of huge debts."

The top-up fee imposed four years ago is due to be reconsidered before the academic year 2010/11, with many government officials calling for the cap—currently set at £3,000 and subject to inflation—to be raised in order to aid the development of an "education market."

Despite initial expectations that the fees charged by British universities would vary according to the quality of education and services provided, figures show that the majority of institutions are demanding the full amount from their undergraduate students. If the cap was raised to £7,000, NUS suggests, the market would become considerably more diverse, with the average university charging around £4000 per annum.

Not only would raising student debt deter many prospective students from applying to Higher Education altogether, but a 53 per cent increase in students taking on part-time jobs since 1997 to fund their escalating living expenses suggests that it could be potentially detrimental to their studies.

'Broke and Broken' is bidding for an alternative policy to be produced – a policy Mr Streeting claims will be worked out over the next few months.

He said: "In a situation where the fee cap was raised to £7,000, a highly talented individual who enters public service or academia might never pay off their debt, consigned to a lifetime of 'top-up' payments to the exchequer.

"By contrast, any student, whether highly talented or not, who obtains a higher education and goes on to earn a huge salary in the City of London will be able to pay off their debt in a few years and go on to enjoy the high salary without making any further contribution.

"By far the most socially just alternative is to link the individual's contribution to the outcome they enjoy, with no way to escape their responsibility.

"The challenge is to create a higher education system that has the potential to be transformative for individuals and for society. This challenge cannot be met under a continuation of the present system or anything similar, and therefore a much more substantial change of direction is urgently required."

The full report can be downloaded from www.nus.org.uk.

'Radiation timebomb' at Manchester University

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MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY HAS launched an independent investigation to assess radiation levels in a research building following the deaths of five former staff members.

Occupational cancer expert, Professor David Coggon of the University of Southampton, in association with the Health Protection Agency, will carry out a programme of analysis throughout the Rutherford Building.

The investigation is centered around Room 2.62, previously occupied by Nobel laureate Ernest Rutherford, in which high levels of radiation have been detected. Dangerous levels of radioactive radon and polonium were used in many of the laboratories up to 1947.

Prolonged exposure to these elements is known to have a direct relation to the growth of cancerous tumours.

However, a spokesperson from the university said: "We believe the evidence presented to date does not support a connection between the deaths of former staff and possible exposure to radioactive contamination."

Concern over the issue arose after former colleagues of the late Dr Hugh Wagner, who also occupied room 2.62 and died of pancreatic cancer in 1997, compiled a report detailing the history of radiation in the building.

Dr Wagner's colleagues discovered that the offices they had worked in for over twenty years had been subject to numerous radiological surveys and decontamination. Indeed, a university memo from 1970 expressed the concerns of the physics department over the deaths of four of their staff.

But in spite of obvious health concerns the University deemed it fit to move the psychology department in to the building in 1972, just two years after the physics department had vacated the premises.

At the time the University employed a Radiological Protection Service to monitor the threat. However, the service was considered ineffective and no written documents remain in existence. The first documented evidence dates back to 1999 when an internal report discovered contamination in four rooms, one of which was room 2.62.

Offices on the two floors directly below Room 2.62 and a neighbouring office were also once occupied by staff who have since died of cancer.

Dr John Clark, who worked in the room directly below Wagner's between 1971 and 1987, died of a brain tumour in 1992, and Dr Arthur Reader, formerly of Room G55—two floors directly below 2.62—was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, finally succumbing to the disease last month.

In addition, computer assistant Vanessa Santos-Leitao, who worked next door to Room 2.62, died suddenly of a brain tumour aged 25 in February 2008.

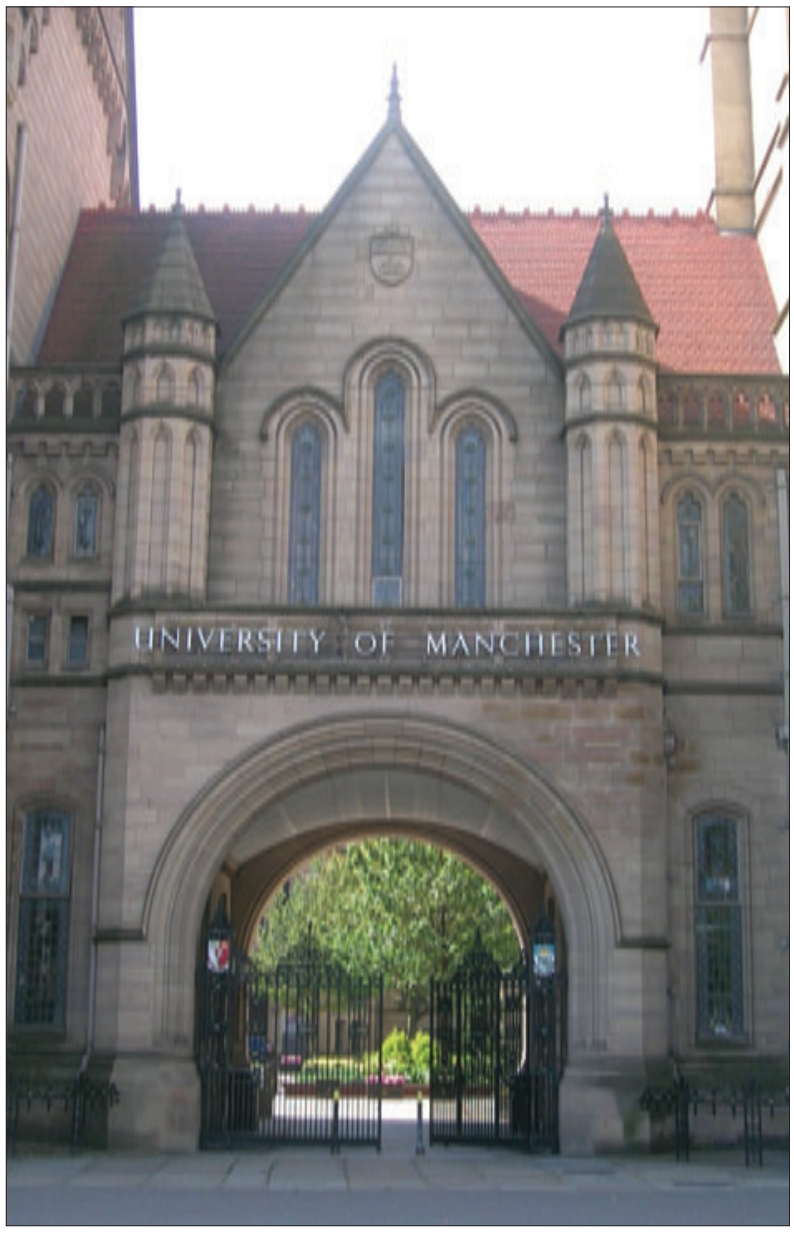
Further investigation has uncovered another potentially related death from the 1980s – that of lab assistant Moira Hayward, who died from cancer aged 48 and worked in the building as a teenager.

The university spokesperson said: "[The Rutherford Building] was surveyed by an independent specialist company as part of the refurbishment in 2006 and some minor contamination—below levels reportable to the Health and Safety Executive—were found in a limited number of locations.

"Following the release of the report the university felt it needed to address some of the recommendations forwarded. Therefore, we have engaged Professor David Coggon to lead an independent review.

"It is important to stress that we do not believe there to be any risk to current occupants of the Rutherford Building."

GENE HUNT



One in three graduates not repaying student loans

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ONE THIRD OF graduates from British universities cannot afford to pay back their student loans, claim the Liberal Democrats.

The Lib Dem's innovation, universities and skills secretary, Stephen Williams described the situation as "shocking" that nearly 400,000 graduates aren't yet earning enough to repay their student debt up to seven years after they leave university.

Williams said: "Having forked out for at least three years to get a degree, many new graduates would be expecting to be in well-paid employment.

"Aside from their student loans, many of these young people will have also stacked up large amounts of commercial debt which they will be struggling to repay on their relatively low wages."

Research undertaken by the party show that out of 1,237,300 British students who graduated since 1998, 384,300 had yet to make a single repayment towards their student debt. This means that approximately 32 per cent of all graduates still do not have an annual income greater than the £15,000 threshold.

Some ministers have claimed in the past that the loan system is failing because so many graduates have yet to pay back the money.

Graduate poverty is likely to snowball in the immediate future, affected by the economic turmoil that Britain is currently facing. The rate of inflation stands at 4.8 per cent and competition for graduate jobs is fierce as degrees become more commonplace.

These findings will worry Higher Education Minister, Bill Rammell, who claimed last year that going to university was "one of the best investments a young person can make."

Neil Munroe of credit reference agency, Equifax, has warned students not to overestimate their earning potential after they leave university.

He said: "For those banking on clearing student debt quickly once graduating, this could be an unrealistic dream for many as they are misjudging their starting salaries once they graduate by over £2000.

"New graduates were paid an average wage of £16,600, rather than the £18,600 they had expected.

"With a little careful preparation and budgeting, students can avoid getting into financial difficulty, which will help them deal with the realities of graduate wages."

Mr Munroe also urged prospective students to think about the costs of going to university before entering higher education.

He said: "Students and their parents can easily run the risk of misjudging what they can afford when it comes to funding student life.

"With recent studies revealing the average parent thinks it would cost about £12,550 for their child to complete a three-year degree course compared to the reported real cost being closer to £40,000, learning to budget from the start will be the key to students staying on top of their finances."

Graduate jobs downturn in 2009

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THE CLASS OF 2009 could be facing the bleakest job hunt for a generation now the global financial crisis has taken its toll on traditional graduate employment sectors.

Graduate recruitment has been either suspended or greatly reduced in many sectors of the economy, particularly in the corporate banking sector, leaving students with unprecedented levels of debt but few of the high-paying career options that successive governments have promised.

With graduate numbers increasing on an almost annual basis, any failure in the job market to reflect this increase will create a greater level of competition in an already crowded market. As a result, an increasing number of people are moving back in with parents after finishing university and failing to find a graduate job.

According to graduate employment website Milkround.co.uk, students' biggest fear for the future is a lack of jobs. Additionally, students are increasingly shunning careers in the financial sector owing to fears over their security.

Spokesman, Mike Bernard said: "There are clear signs graduates will need to be more savvy than ever in their hunt for work and not rely on the usual high numbers of vacancies available in previous years".

Darius Norell, founder of graduate recruitment agency, Real World told *The Times* last week: "[Recruitment at] a lot of the large professional services, such as PricewaterhouseCoopers and Ernst & Young, is pretty flat, with graduate recruitment neither up nor down.

"But banks that are recruiting are taking on less people, and some banks have just stopped completely. It means the competition is that much more intense."

As the annual Scottish Graduate Fair gets under way in Glasgow this week, its organiser Barbara Graham said: "I think everyone would acknowledge that the current economic climate is bound to have an effect on graduate recruitment – anyone looking at the facts would admit that."

While banking organisations such as Northern Rock have suspended recruitment completely, reports are circulating that accountancy organisations will be creating jobs as they struggle to deal with the fall-out from the economic crisis.

Charlie Ball, deputy director of research at the Higher Education Careers Service Unit said: "It is going to be accountants who have to deal with all the financial fall outs and mergers; Lehman's effectively going under and the HBOS and Lloyds merger.

"It is accountants who are going to have to deal with the financial implications of all of that, it's accountants who are going to have to scrutinise the bottom line, accountants who are going to have to pick up all the pieces."

Carl Gilleard, chief executive of the Association of Graduate Recruiters said that while things may look bleak, graduate recruitment will not grind to a complete halt. He told BBC News 24: "Looking to 2009 there is clearly uncertainty about the state of the market but all the hard evidence suggests that while it might tighten, it will certainly not collapse."

He explained that graduate recruiters would not completely suspend recruitment, however difficult the economic landscape becomes.

"Employers have learnt from previous stop/start practices where employers who withdrew from the graduate market built up problems with their talent pipeline.

"They would also damage their brand by not maintaining contacts on campus and disbanding expert recruitment teams, leading to a corporate loss of memory and skills. To reduce numbers is significantly more favourable than suspending recruitment even for one year."

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Conservatives change tack on Iraq war

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THE FIRST ACT of a Conservative government will be to launch a full inquiry into the war in Iraq, the party's foreign affairs spokesperson has promised.

The announcement was made by shadow foreign secretary, William Hague in his speech to the Conservative Party's annual conference in Birmingham.

He called on ministers "to establish a full privy council inquiry into the origins and conduct of the war so that all can learn from its mistakes and apply the lessons as soon as possible."

He continued: "I make it clear today that if they do not establish such an inquiry, one of the first acts of a Conservative government will be to do so."

Having supported the government in going to war when the conflict began in March 2003, Mr Hague sought to justify the Conservatives' new policy on Iraq.

"We supported the decision to remove Saddam Hussein, but we all know that an occupation of Iraq that was better conceived and implemented could have spared so much of the agony and bloodshed of the last five years."

This is not the first time the Tories have called for a fresh inquiry. In March 2008, the House of Commons voted against such a motion with the foreign secretary David Milliband acknowledging the allies' mission had not yet been "accomplished."

Mr Milliband claimed that the government supported learning the lessons from the war but that it was a not the right time to launch an inquiry.

"The dispute between us does not concern substance but timing. The opposition have said the time is now. Given reports from Basra today most people would see that as a bizarre choice of priority now."

These concerns regarding the timing were strengthened and echoed by questions on relevance and the expected cost of such an investigation raised by other government officials.

Responding to Mr Hague's announcement, Labour MP Doug Henderson said: "Does he not share my worries about holding an inquiry at this stage, in that if it indicted the government on the reasons for their entry into the war and how it was conducted, it would leave our troops currently in Iraq in a very vulnerable position, both militarily and politically?"

Civilian casualties in Iraq are estimated at up to 1 million James McCauley

Two independent inquiries have already been conducted into specific elements of the case for the invasion of Iraq: the Butler Review of intelligence on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and the Hutton Inquiry on the circumstances leading to the death of Dr David Kelly.

The war in Iraq, which is almost five and a half years old, has caused 176 British military fatalities to date.

'Freudian self-harm' behind Mandelson appointment

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PRIME MINISTER, GORDON Brown instituted a cabinet reshuffle over the weekend of Friday 4 October in a effort to relaunch his government and capitalise on recent gains in popularity owing to his stewardship of the financial crisis.

The reshuffle saw many prominent changes to the government front bench with several ministers bowing out for personal reasons and others returning from the political wilderness.

Notable ministers who stood down from their posts include Ruth Kelly and Margret Hodge both of which cited personal reasons for their step down from the government. While the reshuffle also saw the return of Peter Mandelson, who has been serving as EU commissioner for trade for the last four years.

Mr Brown and Mr Mandelson have a fraught personal history, including a well-publicised rift in 1994 as Mr Mandelson aligned himself closely with the prime minister in-waiting, Tony Blair.

However, in a rather unexpected twist, psychologist Lucy Beresford suggested that Mr Mandelson's appointment constituted a "Freudian compulsion to repeat... where people subconciously repeat patterns from their past, which are usually quite painful."

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Speaking on the BBC's *Daily Politics* programme, she said: "That's almost bordering on self-mutilating behaviour."

Ms Bereford added that Mr Brown was "a deeply insecure person... with quite a great inferiority complex" which he deals with through "compulsive spending, often of money that he doesn't have."

Last week saw the unveiling of a £300 billion refinancing plan for the UK's embattled banking sector.

The Prime Minister has called the changes vital to face the current economic crisis. He noted that he needed "serious people for serious times."

Mr Brown has also played down the reported divisions between himself and his new business secretary, and criticised the media for not focusing on what he thought were more pressing issues.

"It's incredible how big decisions about the economy are reduced to a question about one or two personalities," he said.

Mr Brown went on to praise on his old rival, describing him as very experienced in trade and business issues and his appointment as being in the national interest.

The business secretary's return to mainstream British politics has not come without political criticism, too. Rumours that schools secretary Ed Balls attempted to block his appointment came as Labour backbencher Dr Ian Gibson claimed that Mandelson would be divisive within the party and that his appointment was unconstitutional as he is neither an MP or peer.

Mr Mandelson is expected to receive a life peerage so that he can take up his seat in the cabinet and will be entitled to a seat in the Lords.

First minister of the Scottish Parliament and leader of the Scottish Nationalist Party, Alex Salmond, has attacked the reshuffle and particularly the appointment of his Labour predecessor, Jack McConnell, to the special envoy to the UN on conflict resolution. The first minister highlighted the fact that Mr McConnell was due to leave his Scottish Parliamentary seat triggering a by-election he believes the Nationalists would have won.

Eddie Barnes in *Scotland on Sunday* echoed Salmond's criticism and noted that McConnell was slated to become the next British high commissioner to Malawi, a diplomatic post well-suited to Mr McConnell's conciliatory reputation. He voiced the belief that McConnell would take this intended post in 2011 after the next Scottish Parliamentary election.

Holyrood Sketch: Salmond's metamorphosis

IT'S BEEN A happy few weeks for the prime minister, as he gets his economist's hands dirty trying to deconstruct a financial crisis that a decade of Blairism helped to build. Ironic, isn't it, that Gordon Brown spent the better part of that decade waiting to lead the country, only to find that once he got the job, all the country needed was a good chancellor.

Irony abounds north of the border, too: the first minister has seen a year of triumph for the SNP evaporate just as Gordon Brown gets off the mat, with a first major defeat over banning off-sales of alcohol to under-21s coming on the heels of damning press coverage of his opportunistic interventions in the HBOS buyout. The bags are growing under Alex Salmond's eyes. There may soon be little to separate him from the parochial 'Gordon Broon' of Steve Bell's *Guardian* cartoons: "Save yer poonds! Eat up all yer food!"

A worn but energetic Alex Salmond appeared only minutes prior to his weekly grilling before the assembled Scottish Parliament. He had many questions and detractors to face down this week as in his words, "the current economic crisis begins to affect the real Scottish economy," and the controversial flagship Scottish Nationalist policy of raising the legal age to purchase alcohol in Scotland came under fire.

Rather conspicuously at the forefront of parliament's collected minds is the current banking crisis, so it was appropriate that first on the agenda were Iain Gray's questions concerning the First Minister's planned response to the downturn. His initial comments, supporting Salmond's call last week that party political capital should not be minted from the recession, were amusing as he immediately swung into a stream of fawning compliments directed towards the "decisive" actions of chancellor Alistair Darling and prime minister, Gordon Brown in re-capitalising the struggling bank Lloyds-HBOS, revealing his own blatant party loyalties.

There appeared to be general consensus that the parliament must invest more in public works, such as roads, schools and infrastructure, to boost investment in the economy and create jobs. The Labour MSP's final comments contained a chill warning to the First Minister, noting that oil prices are also affected by the economic downturn and stating that Scotland must diversify to form a more robust economy – to which Salmond retorted that the merger of Lloyds-HBOS, backed by the Labour government, had weakened one of the oldest and largest of Scotland's institutions and employers.

Salmond was fully loaded with supporting facts and figures for his proposal while opponents appeared ill prepared. Conservative calls that the age group most likely to be involved in alcohol related crime was 16-18 year olds—a group who would remain unaffected by the legislation—were unsupported and quickly shot down by Salmond's statistics from the pilot scheme. The Conservatives echoed EUSA's own Tom French, spokesperson for the Coalition Against Raising the Drinking Age in Scotland (Cardas), stating that raising the drinking age would simply criminalise normally law-abiding young people, particularly students.

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EUSA to reward top teachers

SILVIA FOTEVA

Rebecca Sibbett

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THE EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY Student Association (EUSA) will launch a scheme later this semester to recognise and reward quality teaching within the university.

The Students' Association Teaching Award Scheme, to be held annually, aims to highlight students' appreciation of good teaching.

Currently there is no rewards system in place for recognising quality lecturing and tutoring, and the university has been criticised for concentrating its efforts on research to the detriment of undergraduate teaching.

Speaking to *The Journal*, teaching and learning convener, Robert Jenkin said: "For too long now the university has given the majority of its promotions and awards to staff for research achievement rather than excellence in teaching.

"The EUSA teaching awards are about giving students the opportunity to show staff, the university and the government that they really do value good teaching and want to reward those who, despite the system working against them, strive to deliver it."

In the 2008 National Student Survey, the University of Edinburgh performed poorly with regards to assessment and feedback. EUSA is now lobbying university authorities to address student satisfaction in the area of academics.

According to EUSA, staff are under pressure from the university to perform in terms of research, with little incentive to deliver high quality teaching. The new scheme hopes to change this by giving students the opportunity to reward those who do see teaching as an important aspect of their job and do their best to maintain a high standard.

Nominated by students using an online system, lecturers and tutors will be rated on a variety of criteria.

A sliding scale will be used to assess their level of engagement with students. Criteria will include reliability as a teacher, willingness to communicate outside of lectures, and the encouragement of students to develop a keen interest in the subject through their own enthusiasm.

SRC demands rise in Uni investment

Calls for "immediate" rise in higher education funding to meet OECD average

Magnus Huntly-Grant

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FOLLOWING A MEETING of the Edinburgh University Students' Representative Council (SRC) a Scotland-wide campaign has begun to bring funding for higher education in line with other European countries.

The decision was made by the SRC to campaign for an "immediate" increase in funding. Students at all the major Scottish universities will be invited to take part in the campaign by sending postcards and video clips, writing letters and emails and speaking to local politicians.

Chairman of the SRC Adam Ramsay explained that on average countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) invest 1.2 per cent of their GDP in higher education, while the top quartile invest 1.5 per cent. However, according to Universities Scotland, Scotland falls short of the average and far short of the top quartile by investing only 1.05 per cent of its GDP in universities. The cost of reaching the average would be £122 million. Further to this the cost of reaching the top quartile would be an estimated £370 million.

Speaking to *The Journal*, Mr Ramsay said: "Initially we are concentrating on getting the issue into internal party discussions then later in the term getting students more involved. But party negotiation must come first. Of course all the parties will say further investment in education is high on their priority list, if not top, but the aim is to get them all agreeing on policy. It all depends on what there is political will for.

"Last year the government gave £150 million in tax cuts to small business owners just because they lobbied for it. This is the exact amount we are looking for to get up to the OECD average, it is not a radical figure and economically speaking it makes more sense to invest in education than five miles of motorway in Glasgow or a new Forth Road Bridge. I wouldn't invest in roads, I would invest in people."

This is not the first time figures from Universities Scotland have prompted political action. The decision to lobby echoes the challenges set to the Government by the Joint Future Thinking Taskforce report.

Universities Scotland issued three challenges to the government, the first of which was: "By 2028 Scotland must be in the top decile internationally in terms of the percentage of GDP invested in its universities and in the top quartile of OECD countries for national investment in research, development and innovation. These are not excessively ambitious targets for a country aspiring to develop an advanced knowledge-based economy."

The forthcoming student campaign calls for a far more ambitious deadline than that proposed in the taskforce report.

Carys Evans, president of Napier Students' Association, was also present at the SRC meeting. She said: "One of the good things about Scotland is the access to higher education. But as president I want my students to have the same advantages as students in England. Students in Scotland do miss out; the quality of lecturing could be better."

Bhutto wins seat in EUSA by-elections

Daughter of slain Pakistani political leader voted in to represent first-year University of Edinburgh students

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THE ELDEST DAUGHTER of Benazir Bhutto, the assassinated former prime minister of Pakistan, has been elected onto the Students' Representative Council within Edinburgh University Students' Union.

The 18 year old Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari is in her first year studying English literature. She was the second most popular candidate out of the 29 students vying for 20 seats in the first year elections and by-elections held last week at the University of Edinburgh. Despite submitting her candidacy details to the Students' Association just two days before the ballot, Bakhtawar secured 129 votes.

Also a political figure in Pakistan, Miss Bhutto Zardari entered into national politics in July when she was made head of the Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) women's wing. In a recent television interview she said that she had not ruled out a career in politics: "I definitely want to help people in Pakistan. I want to continue my mum's mission in any way I can, whether it's politics or something else. I haven't decided yet," she said.

Miss Bhutto Zardari's foray into student politics follows in the footsteps of her mother who, in 1976, became the first Asian female to be elected as the president of the Oxford University union.

Indicative of the undergraduate's close connection to Pakistani politics—and of the instability in the region—Bakhtawar's freshers' week was disrupted by US attacks on alleged extremist camps in Pakistan close to the Afghani border. Sensing a difference of opinion between Washington and Whitehall, the Pakistani government appealed to the British government. Instead of taking Bakhtawar to university as planned, her father—the president of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari—flew to London and held meetings with Gordon Brown and the foreign secretary David Milliband.

Critics have argued that the spirit of "family politics" is an unfair burden for the Bhutto children.

Bilawal, Bakhtawar's 19 year-old brother and an Oxford University undergraduate, was appointed co-chairman of the PPP shortly after their mother's death. He has been hailed as a likely successor to the Bhutto dynasty but Bakhtawar's charismatic personality and staunch belief in equal rights for women has led to speculation that she could be the next in line.

Parallels have been drawn with the previous Bhutto generation and the pressure Benazir felt to take on the leadership after her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was overthrown in the 1977 coup headed by General Zia ul-Haq. Zulfikar was later executed. Lengthy in-house squabbles for the succession followed.

Elsewhere, of the 110 seats available in the student elections 102 candidacies were received from 79 students. Only 41 seats were contested and many members returned unopposed due to the lack of nominees. On average, six per cent of the students at the University of Edinburgh voted on National Union of Students (NUS) delegates. First year nominations were the most contested on recent record, mostly owing to a campaign of door-knocking by Edinburgh University Students' Association representatives in halls of residence across the city.

The elected NUS delegate's key campaign criteria include pushing for fairer student finance and improving feedback and quality of teaching. Lobbying for 24-hour library opening, saying no to HMO quotas and the abolition of tuition fees also featured in candidates' manifestos.

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Wednesday 15 October 2008

Green Week: 'every little helps'

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MORE THAN 1,000 students took part in over thirty events during Green Week, an initiative co-ordinated by the Edinburgh University Students' Association (EUSA) to raise awareness on climate change and "effect real changes in people's lives for the future of our planet."

Mark Ballard, University of Edinburgh rector and co-convener of the Scottish Green Party, officially opened the series of events on Monday 6 October. The Energy and Sustainability Office and EUSA showcased their initiatives to cut emissions and improve energy efficiency on campus.

Other events promoted recycling, sustainable travel, and effective carbon management in an "every little helps" approach.

A EUSA spokesperson said: "In recent years, our university community has helped show Scotland and the world how we can safeguard our future. Green week helps us come together as a community to build this momentum."

Earlier this year EUSA won a gold medal at the Sound Impact Awards, designed to encourage and reward improved environmental practice amongst students' unions.

The judges said: "There is significant evidence that making choices which will result in the least negative impact on people and the environment is at the crux of their decision-making process."

Green Week also staged forums and debates on political issues such as the forthcoming Climate Change Bill. A question time session gave students the chance to grill MPs and MSPs from across political lines as well as representatives from NGOs and the energy industry.

The Scottish government has said that students responded strongly during the consultation phase of the Climate Change bill which will come before parliament by the end of the year.

The main clause of the bill aims to cut emissions by 80 per cent by 2050 and to have 50 per cent of Scotland's demand for electricity coming from renewable sources by 2020.

Westminster recently challenged Alex Salmond's bid to lead the way in fighting climate change. Recommendations put forward in last week's Committee on Climate Change matched Scotland's proposed 80 per cent reduction on emissions by 2050.

Furthermore, the recommendations included all greenhouse gases, not just carbon dioxide, as well as emissions from international aviation and shipping. Holyrood has not yet clarified what emissions are to be included in its legislation.

Dr Dave Raey, lecturer in carbon management at the University of Edinburgh's world-renowned environmental research centre, told *The Journal* that waiting for governments and businesses to take action on global warming isn't enough.

He said: "We are the voters and consumers, we are the ones who ultimately decide whether our politicians should be doing more.

"Initiatives like Green Week play a vital part in raising awareness and engendering actions on an individual scale that can then ripple right through our economy and society."

How green is your university?

According to 2008 Green League for Environmental Performance assessment of 119 universities

26th Edinburgh University

56th Napier University

67th Heriot-Watt University

93rd Queen Margaret University

Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmare... Oliver Proctor

JAMES WADDINGTON

EUSA calls for emergency boost to student loan

External convener says government aid for students failing to deal with economic climate

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THE EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY Students' Association's external affairs convener, Thomas Graham, has launched a campaign to "ensure that students receive the financial support that they need to continue their studies."

As student loan levels have fallen short of rising inflation, Mr Graham explained: "What we are asking for is not an emergency increase, but an emergency 'stay the same'.

"With the cost of student living increasing, and student inflation running even higher than government measures, it's vital that increases to loans are made to ensure that students are able to pay their rent and bills and can afford to eat."

In the wake of the recent global financial crisis, the Students' Association argued that it is vital that emergency measures are negotiated immediately.

Claire Baker MSP for Labour echoed the union's concerns: "Student support in Scotland is already far lower than students receive in the rest of the UK, with students in England receiving up to £6200 whereas the maximum in Scotland is just over £4500. Therefore, as we see rising rent, food and energy bills it is the most hard-up students in Scotland faced with fixed, low incomes who will be hit hardest in the whole of the UK.

"I believe the SNP government must come forward with plans to tackle student hardship in Scotland ensuring that the poorest students do not suffer, especially in these difficult economic times."

Mrs Baker has written to Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Education, on behalf of all struggling Scottish students in a bid to provoke swift and decisive action.

At the beginning of the current academic year, student loan rates increased between 2.4 per cent and 2.6 per cent depending on individual personal entitlement. However, new figures from an Open University study suggest that student inflation is currently at 6.6 per cent.

An estimated £18 million will be needed in order to increase all student loans in line with student inflation throughout Scotland.

Further controversy has been caused by changes to the means testing system for loans. Students who were previously entitled to more money are receiving less as step-parents' income is included in the assessment. Other students who will feel the effects of the real terms cut in loans of between £90 and £200 per annum include those working part-time jobs while studying.

In the meantime, Mr. Graham sought to advise students as to financial help offered by their university: "If students are experiencing hardship, they should contact the Advice Place, which can offer support and help you apply for discretionary funds to help you through your studies."

Students across Edinburgh should visit their relevant institutions for information on assistance with funding: Napier students can visit the student funding office at the Merchiston campus; Heriot-Watt students should ask at the Advice & Support centre at the back of the union; QMU students should head to the R.A.W. centre at the Musselburgh Campus.

Property Journal

HOW TO USE THE LISTINGS

Meadows ← Area

Buccleuch Street, 750, 2, *2D W CG Z,* 0870 062 9434 ← Agent phone number

Bedrooms
Monthly Rent
Location

Bedrooms:	**S** Single **D** Double **T** Twin **B** Box
Heating:	**G** Gas Central **W** White Meter **E** Electric
Garden:	**PG** Private **CG** Communal
Parking:	**Z** Zone **O** On-Street **P** Private
Furniture:	**UF** Unfurnished

Abbeyhill

Montrose Terrace, 795, 3, *3D G O,* 0870 062 9424
Piershill Place, 735, 2, *2D,* 0870 062 3700

Blackhall

Queensferry Road, 1000, 4, *4D G CG O,* 0870 062 9522

Bonnington

Bonnington Road, 450, 1, *1D E O,* 0870 062 3768

Broughton

Pilrig Heights, 700, 2, *2D P,* 0870 062 6450
Blandfield, 675, 2, *2D E P,* 0870 062 9558
Pilrig Heights, 675, 2, *2D G P,* 0870 062 9488
Dunedin Street, 495, 1, *1D W P,* 0870 062 9460

Bruntsfield

Maxwell Street, 1700, 5, *5D,* 0870 062 3700

Canonmills

Broughton Road, 475, 1, *1D Z,* 0870 062 9478

Carrick Knowe

Broomside Terrace, 650, 2, *2D,* 0870 062 9478
Carrick Knowe Road, 550, 2, *CG O UF,* 0870 062 6782

Central

Hopetoun Street, 990, 3, *3D G P,* 0870 062 9424
Morrison Street, 960, 3, *3D G CG,* 0870 062 9460
Lothian Road, 950, 1, *5D G Z,* 0870 062 9434
Rose Street, 540, 1, *1D G,* 0870 062 9434

Mains

Firrhill Drive, 600, 2, *2D G CG O,* 0870 062 9302

Comely Bank

Comely Bank Road, 650, 2, *1D 1B 1T G CG O,* 0870 062 2414

Corstorphine

Dovecot Road, 1000, 3, *1S 2D G CG O,* 0870 062 9456

Dalry

Caledonian Crescent, 930, 3, *3D W P,* 0870 062 9424
Springwell Place, 930, 3, *3D,* 0870 062 3700
Murieston Place, 625, 2, *2D E P,* 0870 062 9558

Davidsons Mains

Corbiehill Road, 450, 1, *1D PG,* 0870 062 9326

Duddingston

Northfield Farm Avenue, 650, 2, *1S 1D G CG,* 0870 062 9384

Easter Road

Hawkhill Close, 900, 3, *3D G P,* 0870 062 9522
Albion Road, 565, 2, *2D G,* 0870 062 9456
Bothwell Street, 500, 1, *1D G O,* 0870 062 9320
Easter Road, 500, 1, *1D G CG UF,* 0870 062 9468
Bothwell Street, 475, 1, *1D CG O,* 0870 062 9422

Edinburgh

Bingham Avenue, 560, 2, *2D G PG O,* 0870 062 9456
Broughton Place, 1330, 4, *4D,* 0870 062 3700

Ferry Road

Telford Drive, 700, 3, *3D G CG,* 0870 062 9522

Fettes

East Pilton Farm Crescent, 650, 2, *2D G P,* 0870 062 2018

Fountainbridge

Murdoch Terrace, 475, 1, *1D G CG O,* 0870 062 9320

Gilmerton

Fernieside Place, 900, 3, *PG P,* 0870 062 6450

Gorgie

Gorgie Road, 525, 2, *2D O,* 0870 062 9326
Wardlaw Place, 525, 1, *1D 1B E CG,* 0870 062 9468
Robertson Avenue, 500, 2, *1S 1D G Z UF,* 0870 062 9434
Downfield Place, 495, 1, *G,* 0870 062 9456
Stewart Terrace, 475, 1, *1D G O,* 0870 062 9326
Wardlaw Place, 475, 1, *1D E CG O,* 0870 062 9334
Gorgie Road, 400, 1, *1S 1B Z,* 0870 062 9446

Granton

Pilton Drive North, 540, 2, *2D G CG O,* 0870 062 1312
Saltire Street, 525, 1, *1D G P UF,* 0870 062 9388
Lower Granton Road, 500, 1, *1D G CG O,* 0870 062 3768

Grassmarket

Portsburgh Square, 650, 1, *1D G CG Z,* 0870 062 3782

Haymarket

Morrison Street, 630, 2, *2D 1B G UF,* 0870 062 9434

Hillside

Albert Place, 775, 3, *3D,* 0870 062 3700
Montgomery Street, 580, 1, *1D G Z,* 0870 062 9320
Brunton Terrace, 485, 1, *1D W CG Z,* 0870 062 9334

Inverleith

Inverleith Gardens, 625, 1, *1D G CG O,* 0870 062 9592

Juniper Green

Lanark Road, 525, 1, *1D W P,* 0870 062 9478

Leith

Leith Walk, 960, 3, *3D,* 0870 062 3700
Admiralty Street, 900, 3, *3D,* 0870 062 3700
Dalmeny Street, 800, 3, *2D 1B G CG O,* 0870 062 9558
Easter Road, 795, 3, *3D G O,* 0870 062 9234
Maritime Lane, 725, 2, *2D 1B G O,* 0870 062 1108
Edina Street, 700, 2, *2D,* 0870 062 3700
Constitution Place, 650, 2, *2D G O,* 0870 062 9456
Albert Street, 620, 2, *2D G CG O,* 0870 062 9236
Ferry Road, 600, 2, *1S 1D G CG O,* 0870 062 1312
Bonnington Road, 475, 1, *1D E O,* 0870 062 9578
Academy Street, 450, 1, *1D E CG O,* 0870 062 9320
Ferry Road, 450, 1, *1D CG O,* 0870 062 9334
Buchanan Street, 425, 1, *1D,* 0870 062 3700
Crighton Place, 1625, 5, *5D,* 0870 062 3700
Easter Road, 1280, 4, *4D,* 0870 062 3700
Great Junction Street, 1270, 4, *4D,* 0870 062 3700

Leith Links

Easter Road, 525, 1, *1D W O,* 0870 062 9424
Wellington Place, 1300, 5, *5D G CG O,* 0870 062 9478

Leith Walk

Dryden Street, 975, 3, *3D,* 0870 062 3700
Papermill Wynd, 670, 2, *2D G P,* 0870 062 9488
Albert Street, 495, 1, *1D 1B G O,* 0870 062 9322
Albert Street, 495, 1, *1D E CG O,* 0870 062 9312
Leith Walk, 475, 2, *2D,* 0870 062 3700

Liberton

Old Burdiehouse Road, 850, 3, *1S 2D G P UF,* 0870 062 9460
Dinmont Drive, 725, 3, *3D G PG O UF,* 0870 062 9424
Captains Drive, 680, 3, *3D G CG O,* 0870 062 9522
Old Burdiehouse Road, 650, 2, *2D G P UF,* 0870 062 9460
Gilmerton Road, 620, 2, *2D G CG P,* 0870 062 9558
Alnwickhill Road, 2000, 7, *2S 1D 1B 4T G PG P,* 0870 062 9522

Lochend

Loaning Mills, 595, 1, *G,* 0870 062 9456

Marchmont

Marchmont Crescent, 900, 3, *3D G CG Z,* 0870 062 9334
Gladstone Terrace, 875, 2, *2D G CG Z,* 0870 062 9478
Roseneath Place, 1000, 4, *E CG Z,* 0870 062 9322

Meadowbank

Meadowbank Crescent, 685, 2, *2D G CG O,* 0870 062 9468
Cambusnethan Street, 650, 2, *2D G CG O,* 0870 062 9522
Loaning Mills, 525, 1, *1D G P,* 0870 062 9488

Meadows

Livingstone Place, 630, 2, *1S 1D,* 0870 062 9324
Panmure Place, 1325, 4, *4D 1B G PG Z,* 0870 062 9468

Morningside

Craighouse Gardens, 595, 1, *1S 1D E P UF,* 0870 062 9324

Murrayfield

Western Place, 725, 3, *3D G CG O,* 0870 062 9312

New Town

Cornwallis Place, 725, 2, *2D G CG Z,* 0870 062 9578
St Stephen Street, 700, 2, *2D,* 0870 062 3700
Thistle Street, 575, 2, *1S 1D G Z,* 0870 062 9326
Dundonald Street, 550, 1, *1D E Z,* 0870 062 9320
Canon Street, 1280, 4, *4D,* 0870 062 3700
Regent Terrace, 1200, 2, *2D G,* 0870 062 9434
East Claremont Street, 1100, 4, *4D G CG Z,* 0870 062 9334

Newhaven

Western Harbour Midway, 775, 2, *2D G CG P,* 0870 062 9440

Newington

Craigmillar Park, 790, 2, *2D G CG P,* 0870 062 9558
Nicolson Sqaure, 750, 3, *G,* 0870 062 9478
Nicolson Square, 750, 3, *G,* 0870 062 9478
Nicolson Square, 750, 3, *G,* 0870 062 9478
Nicolson Square, 750, 3, *G,* 0870 062 9478
Nicolson Street, 750, 3, *G,* 0870 062 9478
Nicolson Street, 750, 3, *G,* 0870 062 9478
East Mayfield, 675, 2, *G CG Z,* 0870 062 9424
Mayfield Gardens, 665, 2, *2D G CG,* 0870 062 9456
Chapel Street, 650, 2, *2D W Z,* 0870 062 9326
The Pleasance, 600, 1, *1D,* 0870 062 3700
St. Leonards Street, 495, 1, *1D G CG Z,* 0870 062 9328
Nicolson Street, 1500, 6, *G,* 0870 062 9478
St Leonards Hill, 1400, 4, *4D,* 0870 062 3700
East Mayfield, 1360, 5, *5D,* 0870 062 3700
Nicolson Square, 1250, 5, *G,* 0870 062 9478
Nicolson Square, 1250, 5, *G,* 0870 062 9478
Nicolson Street, 1250, 5, *G,* 0870 062 9478
Nicolson Street, 1000, 4, *G,* 0870 062 9478
Nicolson Street, 1000, 4, *G,* 0870 062 9478

Old Town

Johnston Terrace, 750, 2, *2D G Z,* 0870 062 9334

Peffermill

Craigmillar Castle Avenue, 700, 3, *1S 2D G CG O,* 0870 062 1312

Pilrig

Dryden Gait, 800, 3, *3D G P,* 0870 062 9522
Pilrig Heights, 635, 2, *P UF,* 0870 062 2414

Pilton

West Pilton Drive, 650, 2, *2D 1B G,* 0870 062 9302
Pilton Drive, 625, 2, *2D G PG P,* 0870 062 9302
West Pilton Loan, 575, 2, *2D E PG P,* 0870 062 9468

Polwarth

Harrison Road, 650, 2, *2D G CG Z,* 0870 062 9328
Ritchie Place, 540, 1, *1D G CG Z,* 0870 062 3768
Bryson Road, 475, 1, *1D,* 0870 062 6782
Polwarth Gardens, 1180, 4, *4D G O,* 0870 062 8252

Prestonfield

Prestonfield Avenue, 645, 2, *2D G PG O,* 0870 062 9558
Clearburn Crescent, 640, 2, *2D G CG O,* 0870 062 9522

Restalrig

Loaning Road, 599, 2, *2D G,* 0870 062 9456

Roseburn

Roseburn Street, 495, 1, *1D 1B CG O UF,* 0870 062 9328

Sciennes

Sciennes House Place, 475, 1, *1D G CG Z,* 0870 062 9558

Shandon

Shandon Place, 650, 1, *1D G O,* 0870 062 3768
Hermand Crescent, 545, 2, *1S 1D W P UF,* 0870 062 6458

Sighthill

Sighthill Road, 865, 3, *3D G PG P UF,* 0870 062 1876
Broomhouse Walk, 600, 3, *1S 2D G PG O,* 0870 062 9434
Longstone Road, 575, 2, *2D G O,* 0870 062 9312

Slateford

Moat Drive, 625, 2, *2D G CG O,* 0870 062 7736
Appin Terrace, 495, 1, *1D G CG O,* 0870 062 9324
Ardmillan Terrace, 475, 1, *1D E O,* 0870 062 9320
Moat Street, 475, 1, *1D G CG O,* 0870 062 9326

South Gyle

South Gyle Wynd, 550, 2, *2D G CG P,* 0870 062 9326

South Queensferry

Provost Milne Grove, 800, 3, *3D G PG P,* 0870 062 9522

Stenhouse

Stenhouse Gardens, 775, 2, *2D G P,* 0870 062 7736
Stenhouse Gardens, 775, 2, *2D G CG P,* 0870 062 7736
Stenhouse Gardens North, 700, 2, *2D G O UF,* 0870 062 7736
Stenhouse Gardens, 650, 2, *2D G CG O,* 0870 062 9522

Stockbridge

Saxe Coburg Street, 1250, 2, *2D G Z UF,* 0870 062 9424
East Trinity Road, 1200, 4, *1S 3D,* 0870 062 3700

The Shore

Timber Bush, 750, 2, *2D G CG P,* 0870 062 9468
Sandport, 665, 2, *2D E CG P UF,* 0870 062 9578
Giles Street, 650, 2, , 0870 062 6450

Tollcross

Tarvit Street, 900, 3, *3D,* 0870 062 3700
Lochrin Place, 675, 2, *1S 1D W P,* 0870 062 9334
Panmure Place, 670, 2, *2D G Z,* 0870 062 9302
Leven Street, 1650, 5, *5D,* 0870 062 3700

Viewforth

Viewforth Gardens, 675, 2, *2D G,* 0870 062 6782

Warriston

Easter Warriston, 700, 3, *3D G CG P,* 0870 062 9592

Willowbrae

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Discussion&Debate
Comment

Met race row:
Policing injustice

For all the efforts made to combat racism in the police, the situation is as urgent as ever

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THE PUBLICATION OF the Stephen Lawrence Report in 1999 was a landmark in the history of the British police service. Investigating the factors behind the Crown Prosecution Service's failure to convict any of those charged with Lawrence's murder six years before, Sir William Macpherson concluded that many police forces remained "institutionally racist" – an unprecedented judgement that shook the UK criminal justice system to its core.

Optimists hoped that the report would herald a new era for race relations in the police force. Yet nearly ten years later, recent weeks have seen some of the worst racial tensions in the service's history. Mike Fuller, Britain's first black Chief Constable, warned on *Panorama* last week that non-white officers need to work twice as hard as others to compete. The country's most senior Asian officer, Tarique Ghaffur, has been left so exasperated by his "degrading and humiliating" treatment that he's resorted to suing the service to which he has dedicated his entire adult life. And as Ian Blair, head of the Metropolitan Police and Britain's most senior policeman, finds himself out of a job amid the turmoil, discontented murmurs of "political correctness gone mad" are adding further fuel to the flames.

Has any progress been made since Macpherson's damning report? Things may have got worse, according to Alfred John, chairman of the Metropolitan Black Police Association, who says it has become even harder for black and minority ethnic (BME) officers to rise through the ranks. But it would be wrong to claim that no advance has been made. At a meeting of chief constables and police authority heads in 1999, police forces agreed on recruitment targets based on the proportion of BME adults in their local area – and the majority of forces are on course to meet those targets.

The problem is in the big cities: the 16 forces that won't meet their recruitment targets include all of the larger metropolitan forces. The Metropolitan Police's target of 25.9 per cent is manifestly unrealistic. But increasing ethnic minority representation in the police service is crucial – if we're going to change the current situation, it will have to be from the inside.

Quite apart from the experience of BME officers, a racially diverse police force will be far better equipped to engage with ethnic minority communities, many of which exhibit a worrying distrust of the police. Stop and search has been a particularly sore point in the black community for many years now, and was a major factor behind the race riots of 1981. The Police and Criminal Evidence act followed three years later, intended to ensure that the police used their stop and search powers responsibly.

But even after 1991, when Section 95 of the Criminal Justice Act commanded that police officers need to keep full records of people who are stopped and searched, BME males have continued to be targeted disproportionately. Police chiefs are rarely to be seen asserting that this trend is a result of legitimate police behaviour, preferring rather to scramble around for excuses. It's an implicit admission that many officers are not acting lawfully in their use of the power.

When inappropriate action is taken against BME people within the police service, it's just as worrying. My colleague Ali Dizaei, President of the National Black Police Association (NBPA), was suspended from his position last month after an investigation was launched into alleged impropriety on his part. This is not the first time that Dizaei has been investigated by his police peers. Operation Helios, launched in 2000, pursued claims against Dizaei as outlandish as an allegation that he had been spying for Iran. The Independent Police Complaints Commission later slammed the investigation as "seriously flawed". Up to £7 million of taxpayers' money had been spent attempting to pin misdemeanours on an innocent man who was cleared of all charges at the Old Bailey. An official report concluded that Dizaei's colleagues had resorted to totally illegal intrusive surveillance techniques in their bid to tarnish his reputation.

Dizaei's experience is symptomatic of a broader trend. An independent BBC investigation into forces including Strathclyde Police, screened last week, found that BME officers are five times more likely than their white colleagues to be the subjects of internal investigation. That the police service is still institutionally racist should not be in any doubt. Yet those who draw attention to the problem are liable to be victimised, demonised, or—in the case of Tarique Ghaffur—simply told by their superiors to "shut up."

> Doesn't a Black Police Association serve as a barrier to integration? This question misunderstands our purpose. We are a support network for BME members of the police; similar networks exist for gay, female and Christian officers

Many people query the justification for the NBPA's existence – if the goal is a police service unified regardless of race, doesn't a Black Police Association serve as a barrier to integration? This question misunderstands our purpose. We are a support network for BME members of the police; similar networks exist for gay, female and Christian officers. With only 4.1 per cent of police officers coming from ethnic minority backgrounds, BME officers need to know they can easily find advice from someone who understands their situation. In an ideal world, there would be no need for the NBPA. But that world is a long way off.

This month, the Metropolitan Black Police Association (Met BPA) announced that it is to boycott official recruitment drives, and will place advertisements in the media advising young people not to join the Metropolitan Police. The Met BPA speaks only for the London area, and its boycott applies only to the Met; but I am confident that the decision of its committee was made only after careful deliberation. On a national level, we want to encourage people from all backgrounds to join the police – only through an increase in the representation of ethnic minorities can the situation improve. But we don't want to put people in a situation where they will be at risk of becoming victims of racism.

Tony Smikle is vice president of the National Black Police Association

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CORRECTIONS

The review of the National galleries' Gallery Restaurant in Food & Drink ('A gallery on the side' 1 October) was incorrectly labelled The Gallery Café. The Gallery Café is located opposite the Gallery Restaurant.

Lewis Killin did not produce the cartoon in the previous issue X (Comment, 1 October: 'Frontier foreign policy') for which he was credited. While Lewis Killin is, indeed, The Journal's chief illustrator, the cartoon was drawn by Tom Hunt. Apologies, Tom.

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City scheme slashes crime in nightclubs

Continued from page 1

Those involved in the scheme have indicated to *The Journal* that there were some early problems with the quality of CCTV pictures circulated between various venues, but this has now been rectified. Ms David said that door staff have found the communication between venues a fluid process, and that bouncers are now provided with constantly updated handbooks which contain both photographic and CCTV images. Even facebook and bebo profile pictures had been used to identify known troublemakers in certain circumstances.

The extent to which the effects of the scheme have been noticed by the clubbing population, however, seems to be limited. Most city centre clubbers interviewed said they were unaware of the scheme, and had only noticed limited decline in anti-social behaviour.

Mike Rodger, who graduated this year from the University of Edinburgh, said that he already felt safe in town. He said: "Having only ever come across a few fights in the centre of town I can't say that I've noticed any increase or reduction in incidents," adding, "I suppose it depends on the places you go."

Mr Rodgers' views were echoed by Chris Stoddart, who also enjoys occasional nights in the city centre. He said: "I wouldn't say I ever felt particularly unsafe in the first place so I wouldn't say that I feel any safer now. I think that if you stay out of people's business and avoid confrontation you can keep away from trouble."

Steven Sibbald who works at Calton Road's Studio 24 indicated that the scheme had not eradicated staff concerns over abuse, saying that there were still cases of staff being abused by rowdy punters. Speaking of city-centre violence he said: "Door staff can be selective about who they look for, watching out for the type of people that would not have been allowed in too the club before Unight came into operation. Although it is an interesting initiative, more still needs to be done to make sure that members of staff feel safe at their work."

Members of the scheme include many popular city centre regular student nights, such as The Liquid Room, WhyNot?, Shanghai and Lava&Ignite.

Met Office issues strongest warning yet on climate change

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THE UK'S LARGEST environmental services provider has issued its strongest warning yet on climate change, in the lead up to the UN climate conference in December.

Research from the Met Office's Hadley Centre warns a three per cent cut on global emissions from 2010 is the only option to avoid the disastrous impact of rising sea levels and drought.

Over 80 countries will meet in December to discuss a new climate change treaty at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNCCC) in Poland. The conference aims to develop the existing Kyoto Protocol and discuss further requirements for a new international treaty next year. However, previous risk assessments of climate change have yielded very little change in policy over the last decade, prompting some scepticism from environmentalists that this year's summit will not achieve enough.

The Global Climate Campaign has organised a march to coincide with the UNCCC summit on 6 December to raise public awareness of the conference and of climate change issues. Organiser of the 'D6' march and sustainable development consultant, Dr Keith Baker said: "We've seen a succession of talks that haven't produced much."

Dr Baker continued: "the energy consumption of the Bali talks was equivalent to the total annual energy consumption of Chad so we have to start putting these things in perspective.

"Governments can always be more effective and I think we need to work together on this, because we will only make progress when all of the political parties stand up and say we are all going to do this."

Researchers from the Hadley Centre predicted several possible scenarios based on current global warming trends. In the most optimistic scenario, where emissions were cut by three per cent per year by 2010, global temperatures would rise 1.7ºC by 2050 and 2ºC by 2100.

Current trends, however, show that global emissions are increasing annually, whilst no attempt to acheive an international agreement on curbing the production of greenhouse gases has yet yielded any significant results. Hadley Centre researchers have therefore concluded that a more realistic scenario is a rise of as much as 7ºC by the end of the century, causing irreversible damage.

Vicky Pope, head of the Met Office centre for climatic change research wrote in *The Guardian* last week: "The latest climate model projections from the Met Office Hadley Centre show clearly that such failures [in carbon reduction] could have worrying and significant consequences for the world's climate.

"Even with large and early cuts in emissions, these projections indicate that temperatures are likely to rise to around 2ºC above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. If action is delayed or is slow, then there is a significant risk of much larger increases in temperature."

In a forthcoming climate change bill, Gordon Brown has declared his intention to cut carbon emissions by 60 per cent by 2050 through changes in power generation, heating, transport and industry.

Though welcomed by environmentalists, the Global Climate Campaign has expressed fears that longsighted plans, exceeding political terms, may be adversely affected by party politics.

Dr Baker said: "There is an issue that climate change is being used as a bit of a political football. You're dealing with something that's got implications 40, 50 or 100 years in the future and an election term is four to five year, so we have to understand our limitations in government."

The D6 march is being organised in over 100 cities including New York, London, Paris, Shanghai and Glasgow.

Smokers get gory incentive to quit

In an attempt to cut tobacco addiction, smokers are to receive graphic warnings of the dangers of cigarettes on the front of packets:

Austrian far right:

A sign of things to come?

As polls show a resurgence of xenophobic sentiment across Europe, Austria's extreme right has capitalised on popular apathy to make stunning gains in the recent general election

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HARDLY 18 MONTHS after the federal elections in 2006, a grand coalition in Austria reached an end. The Social Democrats (SPOE) and the People's Party (OEVP), joined in a coalition government, could no longer settle their disputes. As a result a general election was held at the end of September. As well as having a far-reaching domestic impact, the result aroused enormous international attention. This happened because of the regained strength of two strongly right-wing parties, the Freedom Party (FPOE) and the Alliance for Austria's Future (BZOE), whose success saw Austria's far right reach its strongest level since the Second World War.

Yet overall it was not a question of right or left but an election dominated by protest. SPOE and OEVP lost many votes (about six and eight percentage points) and they both dropped below 30 per cent to make their worst result ever in history.

The main reason for this weak performance was disappointment among voters. Many of them critisised the failure of the coalition government, and wanted to show this by choosing another option. In fact, around 400,000 former supporters of the coalition parties did not participate in the election at all.

The remaining group of disappointed voters was picked up mostly by two right-wing opposition parties, FPOE and BZOE. Both managed to use the protest atmosphere for themselves, and they gained about six percentage points each, giving them a total share of 28.2 per cent.

As the major gains were made by so called right wing parties, can the overall outcome of the election be described as a popular shift to the right in Austria? Hardly. As pointed out above, the motivation for the voters to change party preferences was not so much for ideological reasons but mainly to protest against the government. In an exit poll, almost two thirds of the voters of the FPOE and half of the voters of the BZOE named this motive as an important decision factor. Reasons for protest were inflation and unemployment but also a sceptical view of the European Union, as well as increasing xenophobia.

The protest motivation is further underlined by the fact that voting for those parties did not mean voting for their participation in government. Only 27 per cent of Freedom Party voters said that they wanted the party leader to become chancellor. This number was even lower among new FPOE-voters.

Although the election did not indicate a substantial turn to the right in Austria, it would be wrong to simply carry on. Despite the fact that the voter turnout rose slightly to 78.8 percent in 2008 (a very high number compared to other European countries) the motives of non-voters are a bit troubling. Data from polls suggest that their decision to pass on participating in the election has not so much to do with personal reasons or a lack of information. They stay out of the voting booth because they find none of the parties or politicians appealing at all. That means most of the non-voters have turned away from the political system itself – and they are not likely to return soon.

Last Saturday saw a dramatic twist in this tale, with the death in a car accident of BZOE leader and former FPOE chief, Joerg Haider. Perversely, this could be seen as a new boost for the far right. Conflicts between FPOE and BZOE were more to do with personal differences linked to Haider than with different political positions. Now the parties will be better placed to work together without any loss of face. An alliance between the two would make them the single biggest body in Austria's parliament. As these far-right parties capitalise on the weakness of moderate politicians, and look to put their ideologies into practice, citizens throughout Europe should take heed.

One of Austria's leading political commentators, Peter Filzmaier is head of the Department for Political Communication at Danube University, Krems. Flooh Perlot also contributed to this article

Sectarianism:

Stoking the fire

Former first minister, Jack McConnell is blowing religious tensions out of all proportion

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JACK MCCONNELL RECENTLY attacked Alex Salmond for allowing the "cancer" of sectarianism to creep back into Scottish life. His successor's decision to discontinue McConnell's "sectarianism summits," the former first minister argued, marked him out as a political coward who was weak and complacent on the issue. In the coverage of the spat, sectarianism was taken as a given without sustained investigation. Unlike other social ills—poverty, drug abuse, homelessness—few resources have been committed to researching and understanding the phenomenon.

The key to understanding sectarianism lies in appreciating the difference between prejudice and discrimination. While prejudice denotes hostility towards a particular group, discrimination is acting upon that hostility so as to disadvantage the target of prejudice. Prejudice, in other words, is thinking, feeling, or saying, Discrimination is actively doing. Much debate on sectarianism confuses and conflates these so that noticeable incidents of prejudice (not least the "special atmosphere" of Old Firm rivalry) are assumed to indicate wider problems.

But is prejudice necessarily indicative of widespread discrimination? Do religious groups (in particular Protestants and Catholics) fare differently in securing jobs, getting into education, having access to housing? Are particular groups excluded from political office, the professions, or business? There is plenty of anecdotal evidence that suggests that religion matters in such areas. But robust empirical evidence suggests just the opposite. Protestant-Catholic differences (even in the west of Scotland) across socio-economic position, employment sectors, housing, education and the like are very small. There is simply no evidence that life chances in Scotland are significantly influenced by religious background, and no evidence of widespread sectarian discrimination.

That, of course, is cold comfort to anyone attacked because of the Old Firm team they follow, or who fears their employer is unfairly refusing them a promotion. Such incidents are to be deplored and state agencies need to support sectarianism's victims – as indeed they do. A key legacy of Labour policy throughout Britain has been legislation to protect people from religious discrimination, and the introduction of an "aggravating" offence of religious prejudice. These are welcome innovations. But monitoring of such measures clearly indicates that the incidences of religious violence and religious discrimination are relatively—and note the adverb—rare in Scotland.

For example, criminal offences with religion as an aggravating factor are outnumbered by about four to one by offences with a racial aggravation – despite the fact that ethnic minorities make up a tiny proportion of Scotland's population. And both these types of offences are dwarfed by criminal prosecutions relating to domestic abuse; for every prosecution where the police report religion as an aggravating factor there are about 30 prosecutions involving domestic violence.

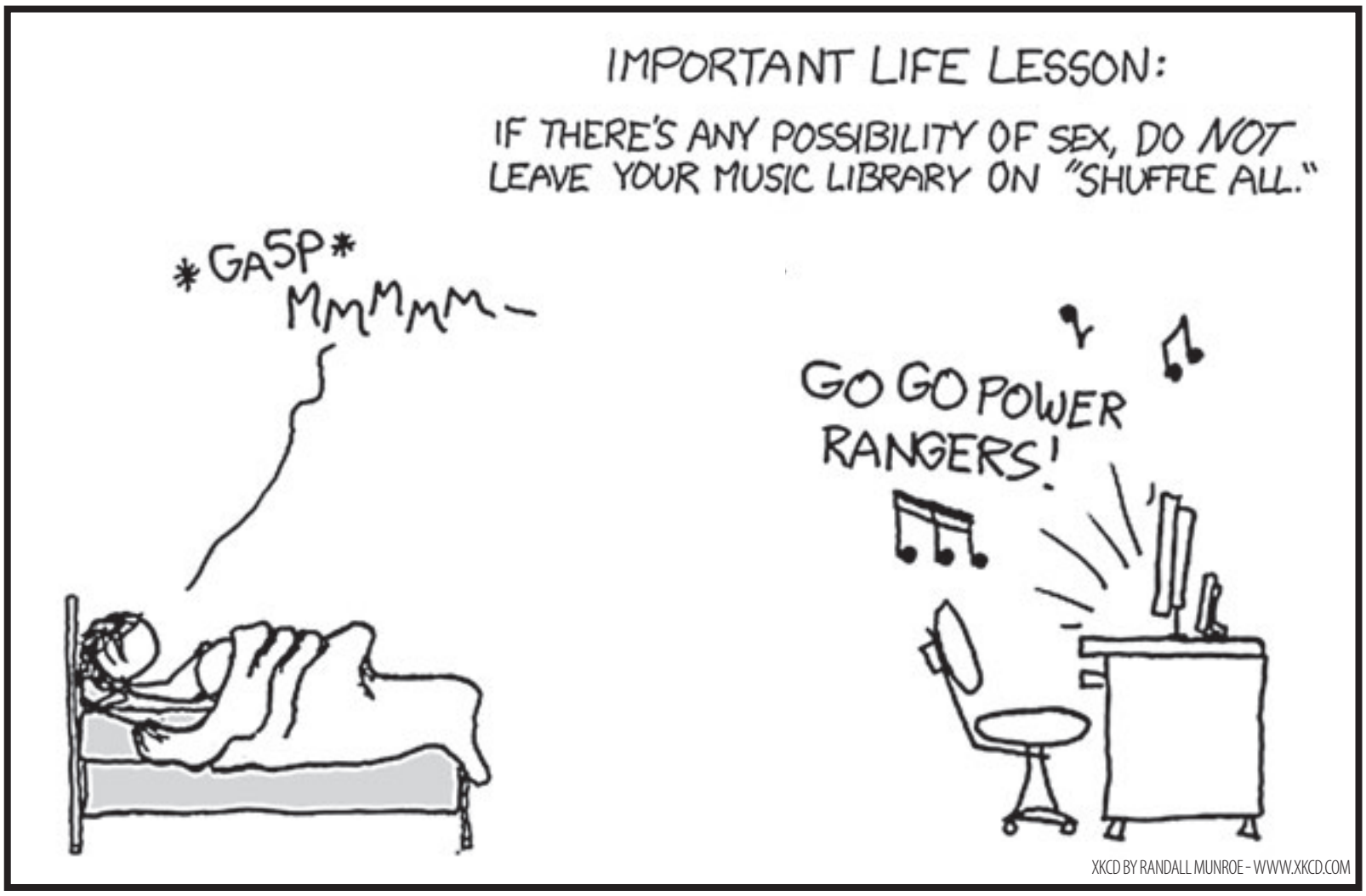
This raises the question as to why sectarianism garners so many headlines. One reason is that perceptions of sectarianism far outrun experience of it. As anyone familiar with the "fear of crime" debate will know, the relationship between measurable levels of crime and people's beliefs about them have a complex, often inverse relationship. Although crime rates have consistently fallen over the past several years, public fears over crime have steadily risen. Similarly, surveys illuminate a rather striking difference between experiences and perceptions of sectarianism in Scotland.

One survey, conducted by Glasgow City council, asked Glaswegians whether they thought certain kinds of sectarianism were common, and whether they had suffered from it. Two thirds thought sectarian violence and sectarian vandalism were "very" or "quite common"; just over half thought that sectarian intimidation and sectarian threats were common and about one quarter thought employment discrimination and differential treatment by the police were common.

But when these same people were asked whether they themselves had experienced these things the picture is radically different. The kind of sectarianism most frequently experienced was perceived discrimination in employment – but this was reported by just one per cent of respondents. In other words, fear of sectarianism far outstrips experience of it.

McConnell was thus playing to a gallery already deeply concerned about issues of sectarianism. Sensational headlines fuel public fears. But maybe that is the point. As Labour's fortunes sink steadily in the polls and the party proves unable to win a by-election in Glasgow East—where a substantial proportion of the local electorate were hitherto loyal, Labour-supporting Catholics—McConnell might be justly accused of playing the sectarianism card.

Michael Rosie is the author of The Sectarian Myth: Of Bitter Memory and Bigotry *(Palgrave Macmillan, 2004)*



Animal testing:

No time for hysteria

Those who truly care about animal rights would do best to adopt a rational approach to experiments on animals

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LAST WEEK, FIVE leading members of the activist group, Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (Shac) faced trial on suspicion of threatening scientists working at the besieged laboratory. The accused were alleged to have launched a campaign of terror which included leaving hoax bombs at one scientist's house, posting soiled sanitary towels through his letterbox (which were claimed to be "infected with the Aids virus [sic]") and spreading rumours that he was a paedophile.

This is not the first time that such action has made the news: three years ago Darley Oaks farm in Staffordshire, which bred guinea pigs for use in experiments, was forced to close following a similar intimidation campaign. In this particular case the owner capitulated following the theft of the remains of his dead mother-in-law.

Although most people would condemn these actions, they might seem to gather some legitimacy from the general confusion and emotional hysteria surrounding animal testing in general. It seems that every other week there are stalls on Princes Street pasted with photos of bloodied dogs and sensationalist captions such as "Puppy Killers!"

Taking time to talk to one of these generally compassionate activists (as opposed to the militants mentioned above), you will generally hear a series of "facts" that expose animal testing as a sham. The main arguments are that animal biochemical systems differ so much from a human's that it renders any experiments invalid, and that any tests for medicines need to be repeated on humans anyway before they can be cleared.

A brief inspection into the history of medicine and science shows that this is untrue. The efficacy of penicillin, blood transfusions, vaccines or insulin, to name a few, was demonstrated via animal experiments. In the case of penicillin, mice were injected with a lethal dose of streptococci bacteria; half of them were further injected with penicillin. These were the only mice that survived. Penicillin has subsequently saved millions of lives worldwide.

After that, you may be asked "What about false positives?" Unfortunately these have occurred. The most famous case involved the drug thalidomide, which was given to pregnant women during the sixties as a treatment for morning sickness. It was initially tested on animals and was shown to be non-lethal. Tragically, the drug was later linked to birth deformities in children whose mothers took it. This side-effect was not detected, as the effect on unborn babies was not tested before its sale. Science does not get everything right first time, and in the cases when it is wrong the consequences can be awful. Yet that is just one case; as mentioned before, there have been countless true positives discovered through animal tests, which save many more lives then false positives cost.

After mentioning this to your considerate campaigner, they may admit that's true, but then state that animal tests are obsolete anyway, since necessary experiments can be performed on cells in vitro, or via theoretical simulations. This is a relatively new argument against animal tests – but again it quickly falls flat. Penicillin was tested in mice as the human dose required is 3,000 times the amount needed in rodents, so it was essential to test for toxicity in animals first. Vaccines cannot be tested on isolated tissue cultures as the effects of disease on the entire host need to be monitored.

It's not the case that researchers will automatically experiment on animals if a drug or chemical needs to be tested. UK law forbids the use of animals in tests unless there are no alternatives. If animal tests need to be performed, then the Scientific Procedures Act 1986 requires that the institution, head researcher and each individual researcher own a licence before experiments commence. And research councils are always looking for methods that will reduce the need for animal tests. All these restrictions have come about due to legitimate concerns about the use of animals in experiments and how to ensure they are well treated.

Therein lies the crux. Scientists engage in legitimate, mature discussion all the time about the ethics of animal experimentation, with courses on this forming an integral part of any university science degree. Some are completely against it, but most agree that it is a necessary evil, which can enhance the wellbeing of society if performed correctly. Such debate is what is needed, rather then the hysterical appeals to emotional authority put across by animal welfare activists. To bypass them, and ensure that this subject is treated openly and rationally, will show up the brutal activists for the charlatans they really are.

Matthew Hartfield is a PhD candidate in Biology at the University of Edinburgh

DEBATE WITH THE EXPERTS ON THE JOURNAL'S WEB FORUMS

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Scottish prisons:

Bursting point

Helen O'Shea
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ANOTHER WEEK, ANOTHER exercise in the politics of fear. Scottish Tory leader Annabel Goldie claimed last week that there was a "current crisis and a threatening disaster" in jails, as she challenged first minister, Alex Salmond on what would happen if an emergency led to a loss of prison accommodation. She raised the issue after Scottish Prison Service chief executive, Mike Ewart revealed there were no contingency plans to deal with an accident, such as fire in a jail. He had told a committee of MSPs earlier last week that if that happened the only option would be an emergency release of prisoners. Speaking at First Minister's Questions in the Scottish Parliament, Goldie said: "We have to deal with the crisis in our prisons which is here, now, right in front of us."

In issuing this line of criticism, Goldie has placed herself open to potential censure – and on several levels. That there is a crisis in the prison system is patently evident. The most recent figures released by the Scottish Executive reveal that in 2007/08, the average prison population increased to 7,376, the highest figure ever recorded. Looking back over the past ten years, the average daily prison population has increased by 22 per cent. Chillingly, in the same ten year period, the female prison population has increased by 87 per cent; over four times the figure for males. With the Scottish prison population rising and overcrowding at a critical mass, there is no spare capacity left in the system to absorb any loss of accommodation in an emergency.

Tory talk about prisons is a distraction from tackling the far more uncomfortable reality that needs to be addressed. If the pressure on Scottish prisons is to ease, the social causes of crime need to be reduced. Low income, inadequate housing, limited school attainment and community disorganisation are all contributing factors.

Frank Bechhofer, David McCrone, and Lindsay Patterson, three of Scotland's foremost sociologists, draw some painful conclusions in their report, *Living in Scotland: Social and Economic Change Since 1980*. 20 per cent of Scots still live in poverty. For the most disadvantaged, they argue, the sense of exclusion may have worsened since 1980, as the share of the poorest 50 per cent of the population in Scotland's wealth has shrunk to just six per cent. While by most measures Scotland has become a wealthier and more successful country in recent years, the disparity between the living standards of its richest and poorest inhabitants has only become starker – and social inequality causes crime.

The ephemeral policy interests of an opposition party won't fix this, nor will they induce trust in an increasingly cynical electorate. The Scottish Conservative Party has to prove that its oppositionary rhetoric would be translated into sustained, committed action, if given a chance. Until then, Goldie's remarks may sound to some like an opportunistic doomsday diatribe, arguably more damaging than Salmond's shallow platitude that contingency plans were in place, without giving any outline of what these were. Is an emergency release of prisoners possible? Yes. Probable? No. But it is one more item in an ever-increasing list of things we should now be afraid of which may never happen – but could.

Helen O'Shea is the comment editor of The Journal

The Journal
EDINBURGH'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | ISSUE XI

Cigarette packets:
Kicking up a stink

IT IS THE UK's biggest killer, accounting for the deaths of six million Britons over the last 50 years. An estimated 35 people die from it every day in Scotland alone. The average addict reduces his or her life expectancy by a full ten years, and 68 per cent now want to give up altogether. A responsible government, one might imagine, would have no choice but to discourage the use of tobacco wherever possible.

How dully unproductive, then, was the furore over this month's introduction of images on cigarette packs to illustrate the effects of smoking, a tactic which has been used with some success in countries including Canada, Brazil and Australia. The photographs are graphic enough to send a shiver up the spine of the most clean-living citizen, with images including rotten teeth, blackened lungs, and a reddened, bizarrely distended throat that defies explanation.

Simon Clark, director of pro-smoking lobby group Forest, led the protests against the move. The pictures, he complained, "are unnecessarily intrusive, gratuitously offensive, and yet another example of smokers being singled out for special attention. The government seems determined to humiliate smokers until they behave in a state-approved way. Far from giving up, most smokers are likely to say enough is enough and reach for their fags in defiance."

Mr Clark's ostensibly noble stance is undermined, of course, by his implicit admission of the childishness of his cause. If the militant smokers of Forest genuinely have no better reason for their bellyaching than a petulant wish to defy the state, their energies would surely be better invested elsewhere. For in truth, their central premise—that smokers should not be singled out for special attention—is false.

All government policy should be closely scrutinised to ensure that—except in the most exceptional circumstances—the essential liberties of citizens are not compromised. The rights to education, good health, personal safety and freedom from discrimination fall within this bracket, as they have a profound positive impact on quality of life. By any standards, tobacco use—with its disastrous effect on the health of consumers and their families and friends alike—cannot be ranked alongside these basic entitlements as a fundamental human right.

Forest, with an extensive income from multinational tobacco firms, has no right to speak for Britain's 13 million smokers. This is not a question of a minority being victimised into giving up something they love – after all, more than two thirds of smokers long to be able to quit, and many more are fully in favour of the steps taken to discourage youngsters from taking up the habit.

Smoking has been firmly ingrained into our culture, and a significant shift away from tobacco will prove painful to many. But the government clearly has the right idea: there is simply no justification for failing to take action against a phenomenon that has such damaging effects across every section of society.

After the deaths of thousands from passive smoking, the move to ban smoking in enclosed public spaces was eminently sensible. Yet a glamour still clings to the habit, particularly among the young. To confront smokers so candidly with such grossly unpleasant reminders of what lies in store for them can only serve to blunt this enticingly sexy image. The Department of Health has acted responsibly and in the long-term interests of the country as a whole. Forest, the entirely self-appointed "voice and friend of the smoker", should grow up and do the same.

Nazi initiation:
No one is laughing

ADMITTEDLY, THE SECOND World War is fertile ground for comedy and entertainment. The list of uplifting works based on one of the darkest chapters of human history is extensive: *Dad's Army*, Mel Brooks' *The Producers* and Art Spiegelman's graphic novel *Maus*, to name but a few of those produced since the end of the conflict. But who can forget that perhaps the greatest satire of the Third Reich was filmed before its most appalling atrocities even began?

In 1940, Charlie Chaplin's *The Great Dictator* opened to cinema audiences at the most perilous moment for European democracy in modern times. France had capitulated under the onslaught of Blitzkrieg, and a wary American public kept a watchful eye on events in Europe, but refused to become involved. For a long, dark year just two countries stood in defiance of Nazi tyranny: little Greece, and the United Kingdom, now cut off from her empire.

Mr Chaplin's film—his first "talkie," and his greatest commercial success—drew heavily on the slapstick comedy that had brought him fame and popularity. However, at a time of apathy and denial in Hollywood, where the depiction of the plight of Jews in Europe was an unbroken taboo, it was excoriating in its condemnation of fascism and antisemitism. "Halfway through making *The Great Dictator* I began receiving alarming messages from United Artists ... but I was determined to go ahead, for Hitler must be laughed at," Mr Chaplin is reported as having said.

An associate of Mr Chaplin later claimed in a 1983 interview that US president, Franklin D. Roosevelt a sent personal envoy to encourage the comic to complete his project – suggesting that President Roosevelt predicted the effect the film would have on an apathetic American public. *The Great Dictator* cast in accessible terms the evil which was spreading across Europe and, when the attack on Pearl Harbour made US entry into WWII a political possibility, the public was ready to shoulder its share of the burden of defeating fascism.

There can be no question that rendering ridiculous that which is worst in our society is a laudable, even useful goal. However, there can equally be no mistaking the crass mimicry of the imagery of hate for that more noble purpose – a mistake made by some students at the University of Gloucestershire whose "initiation ceremony" involved being lead around by a costumed SS officer. Nothing is gained by wearing a Nazi uniform as a figure of fun – not in the name of free speech, nor as blow against so-called "political correctness."

As much as the trappings of fascism should be ridiculed, they should equally be considered with utter sobreity and seriousness. In the words of Craig Gottlieb, an expert trader and collected of antique Nazi militaria, "artifacts from Hitler's Germany must be steadfastly preserved in order to bear witness to the evils that transpired during his regime's twelve year incursion onto the world stage."

Mr Gottlieb speaks with commendable accuracy. Bearing witness is the one activity which the symbolism of hateful regimes such as Adolf Hiter's should be deployed for. This might be in the satirical style of Mr Chaplin or Mr Brooks, a heavyweight investigation along the lines of Costa Gavras' *Amen*, or in survivors' testimonials such as those of Primo Levi or Elie Wiesel. Such testimonials have done so much to educate and enlighten the world regarding the depths of human depravity that we have been capable of.

The behaviour of students at the University of Gloucestershire was neither clever nor useful; it was not, as described by Leslie Bunder of SomethingJewish, a harmless prank; it made light of bestial disregard for human life and dignity in a pathetic plea for attention. The students involved might want to reflect on being outdone by the 70 year-old, black-and-white masterpiece of mime. Back then, Charlie Chaplin got it right. This time, no one was laughing.

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Letters
letters@journal-online.co.uk

Sir,

It is admirable that *The Journal* has turned its attention to the current financial crisis, but several of the statements MR Biraj Parmar made in his article (Banking Chaos: Escape from the City, 1 October) are somewhat misleading and some are completely unrealistic.

To begin with, it is true that the entire mainstream media has at some point decided to liken the current crisis to the one which occurred in the beginning of the last century, however such a comparison is completely pointless. During the 1930s the US government had no regulatory framework, fiscal or monetary cushion, or even economic know-how to allow it to adequately tackle the crisis.

Furthermore, the current situation is not only not exclusive to the US but it is also of quite a different nature, not least because of the multitude of factors ranging from the very aggressive and timely actions of governments and central banks to integration of the emerging markets, extent of de-coupling, data transfer rate, and the existence of international organisations (such as the European Union and the G10). While it is true that some sectors of the economy will suffer greatly, the notion that the current financial system needs to be completely changed is also unrealistic and has strongly been argued against by both *The Economist* and *The Financial Times*.

Kind Regards,
P.J. Balchev
Head of Sectors and Research
Edinburgh University Trading & Investment Club

Re: 'Pakistan: the nightmare continues.'

I remember seeing Imran Khan at my uncle's wedding, back in 1990; I was a kid back then and thought very highly of him as a cricket player. I still do. He is probably the only man with some integrity, intelligence and common sense in the disgusting world of Pakistani world.

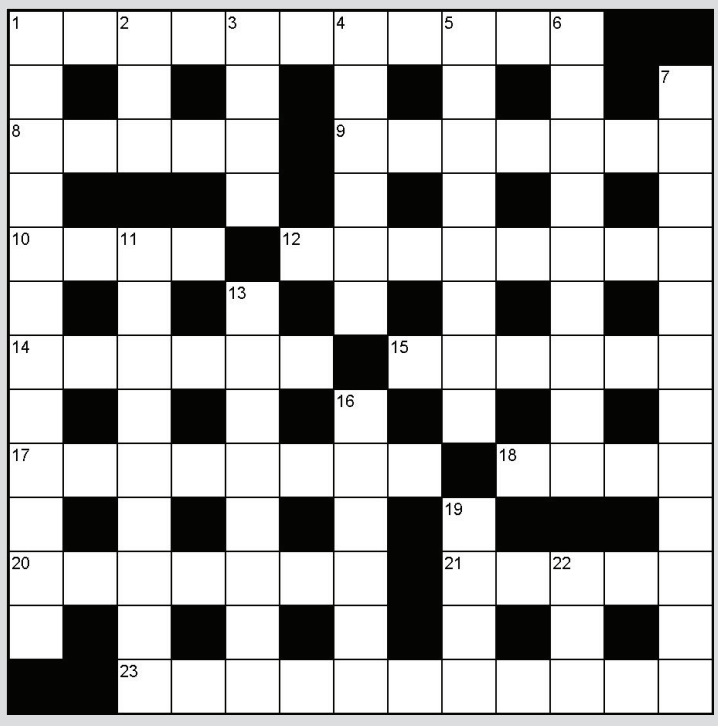
The height of shamelessness and dishonesty in Pakistani politics is truly unbelievable. It is such a sorry state of affairs, that no one words can describe it. I remember thinking a few months back that no matter what, Musharraf must go. And people will ask me, "who do you want to replace him with?" And I would think, "surely, there is someone better than that asshole in that nation."

I have been proved wrong. It is unbelievable that to replace one thug, we got stuck with an even bigger one. What exactly is [Asif Ali] Zardari's qualification other than his relationship with Benazir [Bhutto]. And just because she is dead, does not mean she is any better? She wanted power, just as badly as any those before her.

I am also disappointed in Imran Khan. He should not have boycotted the election – no matter how disgusting the conditions under which the elections were being held were. He owed it to us. However, what Imran is saying here makes a lot of sense. At least to those who have one shred of concern for Pakistan.

Muhammad Sheikh
via www.journal-online.co.uk

Crossword
#3 - City of Edinburgh



ACROSS

1 Edinburgh district, former execution ground (11)
8 Musical drama (5)
9 Expert (7)
10 See 21
12 Majesty (8)
14 Cold meat (6)
15 On land (6)
17 Indifferent (8)
18 Dread (4)
20 Egg-layer (7)
21, 10 Edinburgh street, political centre (8)
23 Northern Edinburgh district, home of Scottish cricket team (11)

DOWN

1 Edinburgh district, childhood home of Walter Scott at No.25 (6,6)
2 Era (3)
3 Constituency (Arthur's?) (4)
4 Revere (6)
5 Enthusiasm (8)
6 Jamie Bell in Hallam Foe, for example (5,4)
7 European bike race held annually since 1903 (4,2,6)
11 Southern Edinburgh district, former site of Lochrin distillery (9)
13 Almond liqueur (8)
16 Geek – garment (6)
19 Old wound (4)
22 Acknowledgement – approval (3)

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Room for Manuva

Eccentric rapper Roots Manuva has carried British hip-hop for a generation. But it might soon be time to call it a day, he tells **Simon Mundy**

Lewis Killin

Simon Mundy

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IF A DECADE as the only hope for UK hip-hop has got to Roots Manuva, he's certainly not letting on. "I'm just like a kid in a sweet shop," he grins, reclining backstage at the Liquid Room with an adoring red-head and a mountain of Guinness. But nine years after his debut *Brand New Second Hand* saw him hailed as "the voice of urban Britain", it's hard not to feel that Roots Manuva's international success has done little to establish British hip-hop as a commercial rival to the American scene.

"British rap has had to reinvent itself," concedes the rapper, real name Rodney Smith, whose 'Witness (1 Hope)' remains the only British hip-hop track to have achieved mainstream success. Yet he insists that things are not as bleak as they might seem. "You've got things like grime now, jungle, 2-step. I've always felt that that is British hip-hop. I was on the telly the other day with Elbow. I was listening to their beats, thinking: 'That's not no normal indie boney guitar music; this is fucking hip-hop!'"

Smith's disdain for musical pigeon-holes is evident in his latest offering, *Slime and Reason*, widely acclaimed as his best album yet. It's certainly his most eclectic, encompassing everything from old-style Jamaican dancehall to cutting-edge electro beats. He frowns at the suggestion that this variety is a conscious aim. "Definitely not. I've always been a bit of a freak, always been in a weird place. I've never learned music properly. But when I talk to classically trained musicians, they tell me my mind is on another level. I just hear things in such a strange way."

There's nothing Smith likes to talk about more than the chaos inside his head. It's hard to blame him – his uniquely introspective lyrics have played a key role in his critical and commercial success. But when fourth album *Awfully Deep* appeared, with constant references to mental institutions and satanic visitations, rumours of a nervous breakdown abounded. "The creativity has been a magnifying glass," he openly admits. "It's magnified any kind of underlying turmoil and stresses." He switches sporadically between sleepy murmur and wide-eyed posturing as he struggles to explain the workings of his personality, as though still figuring it out for himself. "My idols are Ozzy Osbourne, James Brown, Paul Gascoigne," he says. "I like these people. I come from a really good, stable, Christian background, and I think that's made me intrigued by the wild side."

The son of a Jamaican lay preacher, Smith's childhood was profoundly shaped by his strict Pentecostal upbringing in Stockwell, south London. It's been a recurrent theme in his lyrics, notably in 2001's 'Sinny Sin Sins', where an authoritarian father is quoted as telling the future Roots Manuva: "Son, as long as you're living under my roof, you're gonna eat my interpretation of the truth." The track is a subtle, deeply affecting portrayal of the challenges of a religious upbringing. It's a surprise, then, to see him seemingly discomfited by the subject of religion in conversation. "It's always been a consideration, something to talk about," he says tentatively. "I try to twist the gospel. I play the part of an orthodox priest on a lyrical level." Not for the first time, his words are chosen with a view to rhythm rather than content. Yet it seems silly to hold this against a man whose genius for nonsense verse has had entire crowds singing along rapturously to lines like "Taskmaster burst the bionic zit splitter."

> "I think I've had it with the travelling, the touring," he reveals. "I'm old now, I'm 36. I want to put a suit on and start properly organising my Banana Klan label. And I want to do my autobiography – put the words to paper and pass some kind of reasoning on."

For all his love of experimentation, there's one form of hip-hop that Smith has never been tempted to try. Since the arrival of Public Enemy and NWA in the late 1980s, gangsta rap has risen to a position of dominance, with its insidious gospel of guns, bling and braggadocio. "That in itself is a new religion," Smith says. "Violence, money. It doesn't bother me because of my education, my outlook. I listen to it and I think it's great, y'know. I can view it just like a gangster film." But when he reads of 18-year-old Freddy Moody, murdered a stone's throw from Smith's childhood home; when he sees violent videos of south London gangs posturing to gangsta rap, does he not feel that the music has contributed to a culture of violence?

"The influence that it has is not to be blamed on the music," insists Smith. "If I watch *Scarface* it doesn't mean I'm going to go out and kill people. It's to be blamed on the breakdown of communal society. There's a massive lack of community in London." It's hard to argue – in any society where music can incite youths to violence, there are surely deeper problems to be addressed.

As politicians wrangle over who's to blame for "Broken Britain", no-one's pointing the finger at Roots Manuva. With his loyal affection for all things English, the biggest star ever to rap about cheese on toast may be seen in the video for his latest single, 'Again and Again', enjoying nothing more violent than a game of village cricket. Speaking to him, one gets the impression that any youthful aggression has given way to placid contentment, as middle age draws near.

Fans would do well to catch him while they can. "I think I've had it with the travelling, the touring," he reveals. "I'm old now, I'm 36. I want to put a suit on and start properly organising my Banana Klan label. And I want to do my autobiography – put the words to paper and pass some kind of reasoning on."

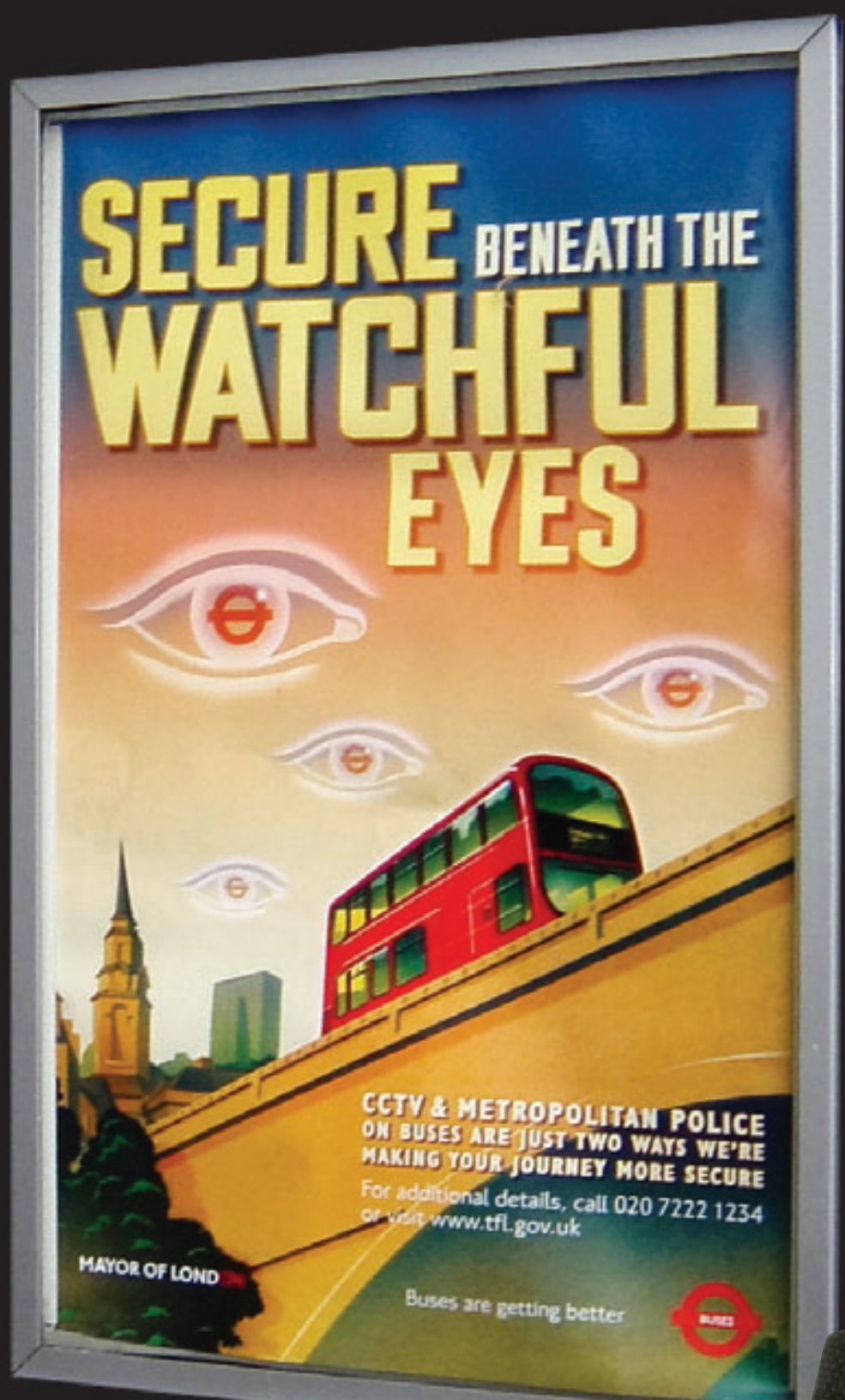
Literary ambitions will have to wait, for now. On stage two hours later, Smith will prove as energetic a performer as ever, his audience hanging on every joyously eccentric word he utters. "I'm an emotional wreck," he tells me with a wry smile. "I don't know what the fuck I'm doing." For the moment, there's no need to enquire too far.

Slime and Reason *is out now on Big Dada*

The Journal
Wednesday 15 October 2008

Securing the future

From international terrorism to ASBOs and wildlife protection, the culture of security has come to dominate political discussion



"Buses are getting better:" Transport for London use the language of security in their advertising campaigns Kenneth Lu

Mark Neocleous

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WE LIVE IN security-conscious days. Our political language and culture have become saturated by "security" and the related idea that we are living in an increasingly insecure world. This has generated more than its fair share of absurdities. Take the following two stories.

On 4 August, 1999, a flight from Atlanta to Turkey was prevented from taking off by the FBI. A huge security operation then ensued. All 241 passengers were forced to leave the plane and questioned; luggage was unloaded and matched to passengers; the plane was searched by humans and dogs; one man was detained, thought to be "a potential threat to national security". And the reason he was though to be a potential threat? He had paid for his ticket with cash.

The second story is from a few years later in the context of yet more stringent security measures as part of the global "war on terror". It concerns a woman arrested under the UK Prevention of Terrorism Act for walking on a public cycle path in the harbour area of Dundee. The official reason given for the arrest was that "the woman was in a secure area which forbids people walking". As such, she was "seen as a security risk". The authorities conceded that, had she been on a bike, then security would not have been threatened – it was a bike lane, after all.

Such stories are familiar enough, by now. They are indicative of the extent to which the world of security politics has reached absurd proportions: where once upon a time using a lot of cash in one transaction might have just seemed unusual, and walking on a cycle lane nothing other than a bit of a nuisance, these actions are now treated as "security threats". Reading all sorts of issues, problems, or concerns in terms of "security" has become the common way in which politics is performed. A group of farmers aiming to halt what it sees as a perceived decline in UK food production thinks nothing of calling itself Food Security Ltd, for example. Or the potential extinction of tigers sees the Wildlife Conservation Society, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Smithsonian National Zoological Park demand that "now more than ever, tigers need homeland security". The paradigm of security has come to shape our imaginations and social being. "Security consciousness" is the new dominant ideology; every day is Security Awareness Day.

It is easy to think that this excessive interest in security is being driven by the state in the war on terror, and in one sense it is. But it actually has a variety of strands and sources which stretch back well beyond September 2001. In a speech at the United Nations (UN) in 1993, for example, then US president Bill Clinton called for "a new understanding of the meaning and nature of national security", a call that was repeated by Russian president Boris Yeltsin at the time. International organizations developed the same line. The 1994 UN Human Development report encouraged "a new concept of human security" much broader than the older and narrower definition focused on military and territorial issues. The report invites us to move "from nuclear security to human security", with the latter incorporating "universal" concerns such as economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security.

Similar arguments have dominated debates within the European Union during the same period. Domestically, Tony Blair and his apparatchiks justified much of their reformist zeal on the grounds that the Labour Party's core constituency is insecure and must be made to feel secure again. This language appeared in Blair's speeches and essays prior to winning power and framed Labour policy thereafter. At the Labour Party Conference in September 2005, for example, the large backdrop to the speakers on the main stage stated: "Securing Britain's Future". This was a continuation of the program for the 2005 election, which Labour leaders had decided would be fought on the terrain of security. From an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour Orders to the defeat of al-Qaeda, from the introduction of ID cards to a growth in the number of surveillance cameras, security was to be the dominant theme of Labour politics.

Academics and intellectuals have in part fed this set of debates around security, and have in part been driven by them. Sociology's current grand thinkers have come to highlight the issue of insecurity in their accounts of what is variously described as "risk society", "reflexive modernity", and "postmodernity". They have discerned a number of practical and philosophical ways in which security—or a perceived lack of it—may be studied: for Anthony Giddens, existential anxiety is generated by the collapse of ontological security in the late modern age, while Zygmunt Bauman suggests that security is being sacrificed on the altar of ever-expanding individual freedom and liberty. Similarly, Ulrich Beck's influential thesis about "risk society" depends heavily on the intrinsic connection drawn between risk and security – both the new global market and the planned and bureaucratically ordered society bring about insecurity on a wide scale, from job insecurity to global warming.

But the real thrust of the debate within academia has come from those working in the fields of international relations and political science. In particular, these disciplines have seen countless attempts to expand or broaden the concept of "security" along the lines suggested by the superpowers and international organizations.

Barry Buzan, Ole Wæver and Jaap de Wilde's widely influential *Security: A New Framework for Analysis* (1998), for example, attempts to widen the security agenda by claiming security status for issues in the economic, environmental and societal sectors, as well as the more traditional military-political ones. Indeed, the question of how the concept of security can be expanded and the security agenda broadened has been the central debate within international relations and political science in the 1990s, with academics falling over themselves in their eagerness to announce how security might be defined and redefined, re-visioned and remapped, gendered and democratized.

Condoleezza Rice: "Foreign policy is ultimately about security – about defending our people"

Some have asked whether there is perhaps too much security, some have sought its civilization, and not a day goes by without yet another declaration on how to balance it with liberty.

Now, there is no doubt that most of these thinkers consider that something important might be gained politically from rethinking security in these ways. For them, security must be the ground of politics. Yet it might just be that such demands and assumptions are in fact politically debilitating. Debilitating, that is, for any genuinely radical attempts to rethink politics and challenge power in the contemporary world.

Take "human security". It sounds much nicer than "national security", which reminds us too much of the violence embodied in the armed forces or the secrecy surrounding the security services. And it's much more interesting than "social security", which reminds us of the seemingly mundane world of national insurance contributions and benefits. But what does it mean? The United Nations tells us that human security has two aspects: "first, safety from chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression" and, second, "protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life – whether in homes, in jobs or in communities".

It is not hard to get people to agree with the first aspect: that the world would be a better place if people were "secure" from hunger, disease and repression. But to move from there to securing people from hurtful disruptions in daily life is a huge leap. Aren't hurtful disruptions precisely a part of what constitutes a life? What would a life be without disruptions? What counts as disruption anyway? Leaps such as the one in question turn all social interaction into a question of security – life itself becomes "securitized". And, as we know, when things become securitized the state always steps in – after all, the state exists as the fundamental guardian of security.

But even the first point made by the United Nations is hardly unproblematic. The argument against hunger, for example, can be easily made without recourse to the concept of security. We can agree that unsatisfied hunger is a bad thing without framing it in terms of security. So, even the first dimension of human security securitizes something that does not need securitizing.

I make this point not to suggest that we need and incessant debate around what counts as a security issue. But nor is it to suggest that we take the path laid down by critical security studies (CSS). This school of thought argues that security has to be oriented around the notion of emancipation. Since security is the absence of threats, and emancipation is the freeing of people from human and physical constraints, CSS believes that security and emancipation are two sides of the same coin. As Ken Booth, one of the key thinkers in CSS, puts it, "emancipation, not power or order, produces true security...Emancipation, theoretically, is security," he says, adding that this equation can be sustained empirically: "emancipation, empirically, is security." This seems to me to be as about as mistaken as one can possibly be about security. For a start, it is far closer to classical liberalism than it is to critical theory. But worse, in placing security at the heart of the idea of emancipation, it encourages the view that emancipatory politics and critical theory should be organized around the notion of security.

Rather than CSS and yet another vision of security, what is really needed is a critique of security. The starting point of such a critique is to recognize that all this talk about security simply manages to strip politics—real politics—out of human affairs. The more and more security becomes all-encompassing, the more and more everything else gets marginalised in the name of security. In particular, what get marginalised are the constructive conflicts, debates and discussions that animate political life. The constant prioritising of a mythical security as a political end—as *the* political end—constitutes a rejection of politics in any meaningful sense of the term. Politics as a mode of action in which differences can be articulated, in which the conflicts and struggles that arise from such differences can be fought for and negotiated, and, most importantly, in which people might come to believe that they might transform the world and in turn be transformed. Security politics simply removes this.

> The question of how the concept of security can be expanded and the security agenda broadened has been the central debate within international relations and political science in the 1990s, with academics falling over themselves in their eagerness to announce how security might be defined and redefined

Worse still, it removes politics while purportedly addressing it. In so doing it suppresses all issues of power and turns political questions into debates about the most efficient way to achieve security, despite the fact it seems impossible to define what might count as having achieved it. Security politics is in this sense an anti-politics, dominating political discourse in much the same manner as the security state tries to dominate human being.

I suggest that we need to get beyond security politics, not add yet more sectors to it in a way that simply expands the scope of the state and legitimizes state intervention into yet more and more areas of our lives. To keep harping on about insecurity and to keep demanding more security—while hoping that this increased security doesn't damage our liberty—is to blind ourselves to the possibility of building real alternatives to the authoritarian tendencies in contemporary politics, virtually all of which are now founded on the idea of security.

This would allow us to circumvent the debilitating effect of the constant securitising of social and political issues, debilitating in the sense that it helps consolidate the power of the existing forms of social domination and justifies the short-circuiting of even the most democratic forms. We need a new way of thinking and talking about social being and politics that moves us beyond security. This would perhaps be emancipatory in the true sense of the word, not least in liberating us from the fetish of security.

What this might mean, precisely, must be open to debate. But it certainly requires recognizing that security is an illusion that has forgotten it is an illusion; it requires recognising that security is not the same as solidarity; it requires accepting that insecurity is part of the human condition, and thus giving up the search for the certainty of security and instead learning to tolerate the uncertainties, ambiguities and insecurities that come with being human; it requires accepting that "securitizing" an issue does not mean dealing with it politically, but bracketing it out and handing it to the state. Security is often said to be the gift of the state; perhaps we ought to return the gift.

Mark Neocleous is Professor of the Critique of Political Economy at Brunel University, and an editor of the journal Radical Philosophy. His latest book, Critique of Security is published by Edinburgh University Press (2008, £19.99)

Music

Ladyhawke

★★★

The New Zealand-born 80s revivalist leaves it late to win over a particularly easy Cab Vol crowd

CABARET VOLTAIRE

3 OCT

Ben Judge
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Lewis Chaplin

IN THE CRUSHINGLY mediocre 2006 romantic comedy, *Just Friends*, actress Anna Faris (a graduate of the *Scary Movie* School of Drama) plays a Britney Spears-inspired, up-and-coming pop princess with misguided pretensions of her own artistic importance. Longing to be taken seriously, she gets something of a rude awakening when invited to perform in front of rowdy head-bangers in small-town New Jersey.

Looking almost her spitting image, Ladyhawke (neé Phillipa Brown) is the living incarnation of Faris's fictional endeavour to be taken seriously: a pop star who demonstrates her artistic merit through a perfectly stylised combination of heavy eye-shadow, baggy black T-shirt and skinny jeans. If this look doesn't scream integrity, nothing does. 80s-revivalism appears to have finally found its Avril Lavigne.

As it happens, Cabaret Voltaire offers a far more receptive audience than met Faris in New Jersey. However, Brown herself is a nervous, reclusive on-stage presence and doesn't raise her game to match the enthusiasm in front of her. By the set's mid-point, any dancing is restricted to the very front row.

What saves this performance is a modest handful of quite excellent pop tunes that are given a much rockier edge live than the clinical, synthetic sound to be found on Ladyhawke's self-titled album. 'Magic' is the song that, with appropriate mysticism, reinvigorates the set; its catchy hook and the dichotomy between driving electro riffs and a melancholic vocal melody is close to realising the "happy sad" feeling of 80s pop that Brown celebrates. Although set against a little too much filler material, it is the perfect lead-in for latest single, 'Paris is Burning,' and from there Edinburgh is won over. As cries of *encore* follow her off into the night, we can only speculate that it is her visible shyness that prevents her returning.

Theatre

Sunset Song

★★★★

Stylish stage adaptation of the classic Scottish tale

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL THEATRE

RUN ENDED

Eoin McGreevy
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FOLLOWING THE LIFE of a girl growing up in the harsh landscape of a small farm in the Howe of the Mearns, *Sunset Song* is the gem in Lewis Grassic Gibbon's trilogy, *A Scot's Quair*. Adapted for the stage by Alastair Cording and brought to the King's Theatre by director Kenny Ireland, this production successfully fuses the more traditional aspects of Grassic Gibbon's much loved novel with modern touches provided by set designer Hayden Griffin and movement director Andrew Panton.

Most of the script is delivered in the colloquial Scots speech of the Mearns peasants, and initially baffles some non-native audience members. After a few fast paced exchanges to conjure up an impression of this close-knit rural community, the play settles on Chris Guthrie (Hannah Donaldson) who, with feeling and conviction, guides the audience through her troubled life from her mother's suicide to her own child's birth just before the outbreak of the First World War.

A cast of just ten actors play multiple roles throughout the production; the precisely coordinated interplay between them ensuring that none of the central characters' personas are blurred or fractured. Joyce Falconer in particular beautifully conveys, in one moment, the tragic figure of Chris's long-suffering mother, before morphing in the next into a gossiping neighbour exchanging scandal with the other women of the neighbourhood.

Griffin's minimal set transforms seamlessly and subtly from a ploughed field to a woodland area and back to the standing stones where the story begins and ends. The image of a rural landscape is digitally projected on the back wall, altering with the seasons in the play. Movement and music are integral to the storytelling aspect of this piece, and Scottish fiddle virtuoso Paul Anderson provides an exceptional, traditional score to accompany Panton's contemporary choreography.

Grassic Gibbon's compelling evocation of the sights, sounds and language of early twentieth century Scotland in *Sunset Song* has been stylishly revived in this new stage production by Ireland. Fans of the "best Scottish book of all time" will certainly be impressed.

Music

Roots Manuva

★★★★

Introspective wordsmith goes all out

THE LIQUID ROOM

8 OCT

Dan Moss
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RODNEY SMITH HAD an inkling of the reception that awaited him on the bursting Liquid Room dancefloor when he took to the stage, cheerfully intoning, "I'm home, Edinburgh". Roots Manuva and his collective, led by Smith, appropriately open with 'Again and Again', the stand out track from his excellent new album, *Slime and Reason*.

A long-standing totem for UK hip-hop's intelligentsia, Manuva's dub-laden set was rich with gems plucked from across his five albums. His biggest selling record to date, 'Witness the (1 Hope)', sent the expectant Edinburgh crowd into a frenzy, and was shortly followed by the performance of the night, a rendition of 'Dreamy Days' from his breakthrough LP, *Run Come Save Me*.

Just as irresistible as the full, resonant bass that underpinned each song was the South Londoner's effortless charm offensive. In between songs, Smith and his merry band shared invaluable insights that ranged from endearing – "Edinburgh is so clean, it's like a dreamland" – to the delightfully inane, "Everybody here is a ninja!"

In recent years, Roots Manuva has carefully etched a public persona as an introspective, self-styled poet. With convincing new additions from his latest release, the reluctant prince of the UK urban scene can be confident of a live arsenal of infectious crowd pleasers that deviate from the anxieties of his album work. On stage, he cuts a far more confident figure and, tellingly, mid-set he requests of his eclectic five-piece entourage, "Stop me if I'm getting too sentimental". Awfully deep, Manuva.

Theatre

Carousel

★★★

Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic is more than just a musical

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL THEATRE

RUN ENDED

Claire L. Jarvis
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CAROUSEL, THE SECOND of the acclaimed musical collaborations between Rodgers and Hammerstein, tells of the turbulent relationship between day-dreaming Julie Jordan (Alexandra Silber) and Billy Bigelow (Jeremiah James), a brooding carousel worker. After meeting at the carousel and hastily marrying, their relationship – through a combination of unemployment, class divisions and an inability to express emotions – is put under immense strain. Eventually Billy makes the unwise decision to assist his friend, Jigger Craigin (Graham MacDuff) in a violent theft, with tragic consequences. Fortunately, he is given one last chance of redemption.

Set in 1870s New England, the musical doesn't hesitate to confront themes more grim than are usually encountered in the genre, including domestic violence. Yet it does so in unorthodox style, with catchy songs, exuberant dancing and a riot of colours. Use of the projection screen for background images, the carousel ride and ascent to heaven are just examples of the aspects of this production that are particularly clever and imaginative. The dance and singing sequences are solidly performed, very entertaining to watch and manage to convey a large range of emotion and important aspects of the plot.

The strongest performance is from Silber as Julie Jordan, the show's heroine. Her lasting loyalty and love towards her distant and occasionally brutal husband is perfectly captured and her grief during the latter half of the show is strongly affecting. Despite being hit by her husband and accepting the fact, she never comes across as victimised or delusional—something hard to achieve in today's social climate. It is much harder, however, to feel empathy with Billy, whose character appears less emotionally developed and whose whimsical slide into crime fails to feel either fully justified or understandably logical.

Carousel is more than just a musical and should not be dismissed as such; this production should help it achieve recognition as a mature and timeless piece of theatre.

Feature

Faking it

Let's give name-dropping a rest, says **Jacqui Kavanagh**

Jacqui Kavanagh
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IT IS ONE of many unspoken assumptions made by our self-conscious, appearance-obsessed generation that the bigger the earphones, the broader the musical knowledge contained between them. Sizing up the bloke at the bus stop with the holy grail of aural amplification, we covetously speculate that he must have such an alternative/underground/1974 B-side limited edition collection of musical magnificence that standard earphones would just not do. Melodrama aside, an unsettling question remains: just how far do we rely on cultural artifice to cultivate our outward persona?

Pierre Bayard's latest offering to the already overflowing "novelty literature" landfill suggests something slightly uncomfortable. *How To Talk About Books You Haven't Read*, which was released to positive reviews from *The Times* and *The Guardian*, does exactly what it promises. The text offers itself as the cheat's resource for the insecure multitude who hope to speak with some level of convincing authority about the intellectually important novels that they have no intention of opening.

Apart from blowing the cover of every English Literature student in the country, Bayard's proposal poses a giant question about the legitimacy of the cultural components that we use to define our personalities. While Bayard has publicly exposed the scholarly charlatan, he has left the whole question of the music fraud ripe for investigation.

If the "non-reading" of books is as widespread as Bayard claims, then surely the very similar act of "non-listening" is being applied to a wealth of assumed-to-be "important" music. So it is reasonable to suggest that in amongst this cluster of passionate non-readers there must exist a significant number who bluff an extensive musical knowledge as their own version of the cultural beard.

Somehow, it has become the norm for us to bulk up our outward persona by any means possible, even if it means skimming the surface of a novel or feigning an interest in a German DJ whose music gives you a headache and whose name you simply can't pronounce. We will soon have to hide the embarrassing fact that all we really know is very little about very many things. Yes, we have heard of that obscure 1990's post-punk underground band but God help us if anyone asks us to name a single song.

Following in the footsteps of the novel, music has become a measure for one's cultural validity. It is glaringly apparent in the most routine areas of public social exhibition. Facebook's "favourite music" section has become an excuse to dazzle friends with a pretentious list of our absolute "favourite" artists. More and more, instead of just listening to the music we like, we prefer to wear it and to name-droppingly talk about it. Music, with all of its hip associations, has become another way for us to publicise how we wish the world to perceive us.

Back at the bus stop, the bloke with the enormous "I know more about music than you do" earphones strapped to his head is secretly hoping that the next song on his play list will be Avril Lavigne's 'Sk8er Boi.' Let's stop the precariously one-dimensional chat and surface-skimming. If you haven't read Tolstoy and you secretly think that Radiohead are over-rated just say it. You would be surprised how many people might agree with you.

Comedy

Russell Howard

★★★★

The unassuming, madcap, but piercingly satirical stand-up brings his show back to Edinburgh

KING'S THEATRE

5 OCT

Richard Dennis
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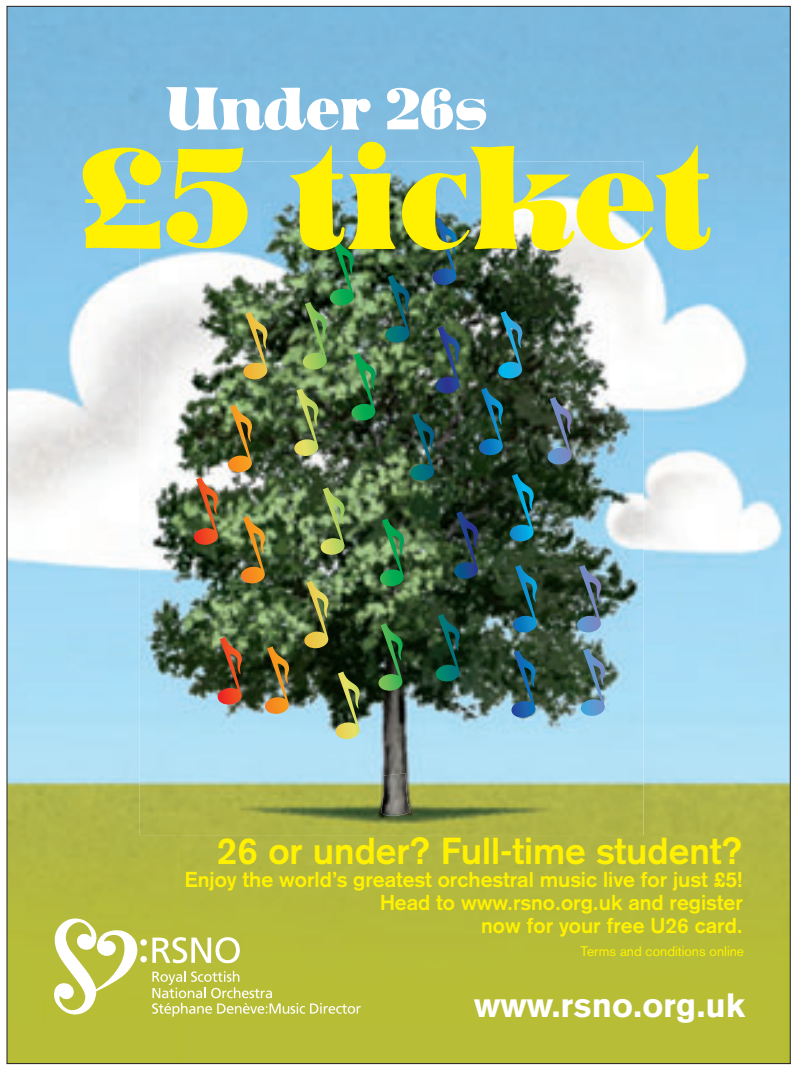
WITH HIS GORMLESS grin and boyish looks, Russell Howard may look like a harmless joker of a comedian but it's only a façade, a ploy to make his caustic material seem somehow less shocking and venomous than it actually is. It's a ploy that works. Howard's angry rants at *Daily Mail* readers and the absurdities of modern life would be unsettling from a bitter-faced old comedian, but this comic's cheeky grin and playful nature make it all more palatable and hilarious.

Howard appears to have a non-stop supply of energy as he constantly paces around the giant stage at King's Theatre, making as much use of the space as he can and firing out a convincing array of voices and accents. The constant flow, ability to improvise round his material and gauge the audience marks him out as a highly competent stand-up.

The majority of Howard's material comes from his own personal adventures – and there have been plenty. In fact, there are so many that by the end it's hard to remember exactly what they were. A few, such as the tale of he and a friend dressing up as wrestlers in a mother's swimming costumes, stand out as brilliant anecdotes, while others simply get lost. It's an interesting mix – on the one hand Howard's talent enables him to inject comedy into stories and observations that would be nothing more than vaguely amusing tales if delivered by someone else, but on the other it is hard for him to maintain consistency. Sometimes a personal observation is simply that: difficult for others to penetrate in order to see the humour behind it.

The highlight of the show comes unexpectedly right at the end, when Howard returns for an encore and invites the audience to ask questions. A few eclectic Edinburgh queries later and the show's rounded off with Howard's support act Steve Hall licking chocolate yoghurt off a girl's face. It's weird, funny and spontaneous, and a fitting sign-off for a comedian who promises much for the future.



Art

Peter Pretsell: the beautiful the absurd the outlandish the contradictory

★★★★

A fascinating retrospective of an Edinburgh alumnus

EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF ART

UNTIL 25 OCT

Colleen Patterson
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THE EDINBURGH COLLEGE of Art's latest exhibition is not a student show, but a celebration of the works of one of its alumni, Peter Pretsell, a painter/printmaker who attended ECA in the early 1960s and also taught there for over fifteen years before his death in 2004. *Peter Pretsell: the beautiful the absurd the outlandish the contradictory* is a small exhibition, but an excellent one, and well worth going to see.

Included are works from several different stages in his life—not just Pretsell's famed printmaking work but also a series of expressive ink and acrylic drawings and mixed-media collages. Also on display are Pretsell's sketchbooks, which are fascinating to view and contain not only drawings but colourful miniature paintings, notes, images cut and pasted from media such as magazines, and other found objects.

Pretsell's characteristic wit and humour pervades most of the works in the exhibition, and is prominently on display in his series of collages on "ideal homes:" Pop Art explorations of consumerism laced with a good-natured sense of the ironic. We cannot help but be aware of his fascination with the people around him, and he has channelled that energy and passion into every work shown at ECA.

The ECA exhibition is only one half of the Pretsell retrospective, and a companion show is being held at the Edinburgh Printmakers, Union Street. It's well worth seeing both to get the full picture of this prolific and talented artist.

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Art

Martha Rosler Library

As it ends its European tour in Edinburgh, this travelling library is well worth a look

EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF ART

UNTIL 25 OCT

Kate Wieteska
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ONE OF THE best things about Edinburgh is its diversity of public resources, an asset that has been further strengthened by Stills Gallery on Cockburn Street, which currently hosts an installation of the famous Martha Rosler library.

This travelling open access library originated three years ago in New York, a reaction to the consumerist nature that is rife in the city. An important artist, writer and political agitator, Rosler donated her personal collection of books and magazines which she could no longer realistically fit in her own home. After an extensive trip throughout Europe, its arrival in Edinburgh marks the end of the gallery's tour. With a collection of over 7,700 books, magazines, maps and newspaper clippings, the public are invited to come and go as they please to use the catalogue, with no money exchanging hands.

The collection is not only fascinating, with rare editions and out of print copies, but the experience of being in a gallery space, faced with what seems to be an art installation carries with it an amazing psychology. However much we are aware that we can take books from the shelves, it is difficult initially to feel that it is acceptable.

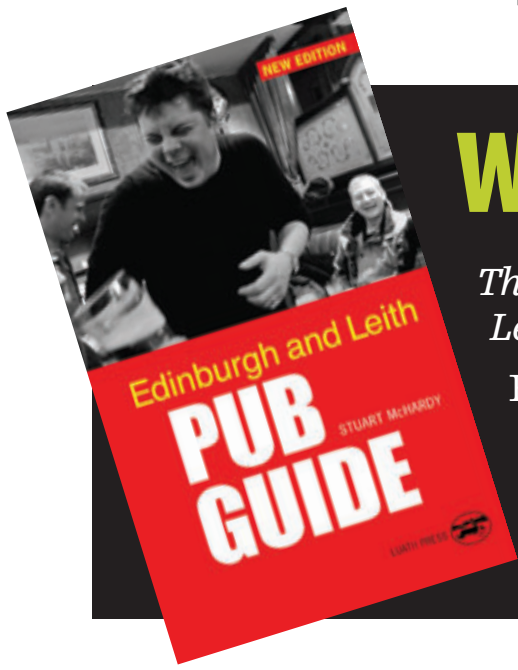
The ethic behind this well travelled installation is hugely refreshing, and it's easy to relax in such a welcoming environment. The catalogue of books is extensive and visitors can use the photocopier in the gallery to preserve a piece of what is only around for a short amount of time. Whatever your interest, be it art theory, philosophy, photography, film, politics or Vikings (to name but a few of the many topics covered), the library is openly available, seven days a week until the 9 November.

MORE REVIEWS ONLINE
WWW.JOURNAL-ONLINE.CO.UK

A pint-sized pub guide

IT'S NO SMALL task to separate Edinburgh and the consumption of alcohol – Scotland's oldest pub, the Sheep Heid, just happens to be situated in the city. Named after a snuff box carved in the shape of a ram's head and presented to the landlord by King James VI in 1580, the pub has been around since 1360 and, as such, has been privy to the events which have shaped the history of Scotland. Bonnie Prince Charlie, for instance, often popped in for a drink during the Jacobite campaign of 1745, and an oil painting of the battle of Prestonpans—which saw the Jacobites rout George II's Hanoverian army—hangs proudly in the main lounge.

Stuart McHardy—author of *The Edinburgh and Leith Pub Guide*—has a long and distinguished career as a denizen of the capital's drinking dens and, as such, is more than sufficiently qualified to pass judgement upon the capital's watering holes. Edinburgh is home to literally hundreds of pubs – most of which Stuart has assessed: taken from the *Guide*, here are four of his appraisals.



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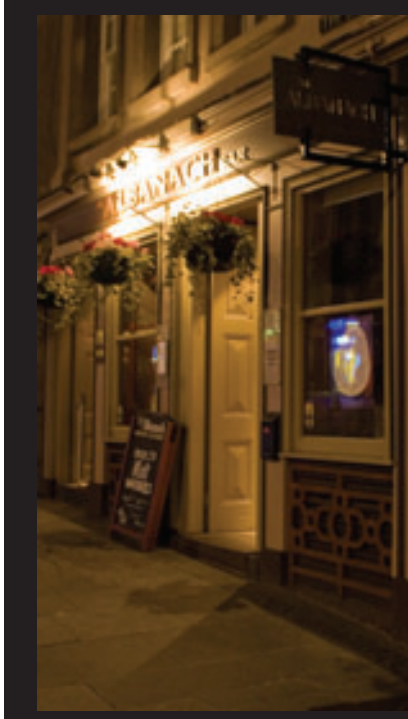
GIULIA FRONTINI

The Guilford Arms

West Register Street, off Rose Street

This magnificent Victorian boozer lies just off the east end of Princes Street on the north side beside Register House. Originally built as a store in 1841, it was eventually converted to its current magnificence in the 1890s. The ornate cornices on the soaring ceiling, the magnificent canopy, the windows and the gantry are all first class. Through the back by the food counter there is a sunken table, which can lead to the odd problem after sampling some of the pub's sterling range of real beers. For many years now the Guilford has been supplying an ever-changing and thoughtful range of delights for the real beer drinking fraternity. It has 10 real ales, constantly picking from the best on offer. The food is from the restaurant upstairs and served noon 'till three. Despite its city centre location, its drink prices are acceptable, too. Beware, though – many an unwary crew has gathered to start off in the Guilford and head off elsewhere only to find the last bell ringing. The staff are pleasant and the pub always well-kept. If you like busy, noisy pubs—with no canned music—or are a fan of the mind-shifting effects of cask conditioned ale, you can hardly do better.



The Albanach

The Royal Mile

With three cask ales, the Albanach has a fair range of bottled beers and premium lagers on draught, but its claim to fame is the 170 malt whiskies on offer. Add to this cocktails, pitchers and shooters and a substantial wine list, and the up-market intent is obvious. Coffee and food are available throughout the day; mainly Scottish derived high-class pub-grub from their resident chef. The décor is bright, light and modern with an unusual steel bar and wrought ironwork on the chairs. The clientele consists of tourists and law types during the day and a bit of a mix in the evenings. Albanach caters for a younger crowd at the weekends. Sitooterie on the Royal Mile excellent for people watching.

GIULIA FRONTINI

St Vincent Bar

St Vincent Street, Stockbridge

Having recently been taken over by new management, things here may change but the Vincent—refurbished a few years back, in a classic Victorian style that sympathetically reflects the original gantry and bar—has a lovely traditional feel. There are some fine prints and mirrors on the wall which complement the ambience. Having started life as a pub after the First World War, this pub has long had a commitment to real ale, of which currently IPA and four guests are available. The magnificent original gantry contains a fine selection of malts numbering around 150. No food is served other than snacks. There is a pool table at the back of this fine, wee bar, but they have no live music nor, thankfully, a jukebox. The clientele is always mixed with students, workers, locals and suits all mingling freely.

BEN JUDGE

The Blue Blazer

Spittal Street, Tollcross

Yet another traditional ale house, the Blazer has half a dozen well-kept cask ales, five dozen malts, half a dozen wines and all the usual suspects. Known as a real beer pub, they do a pretty decent line in pies for most of the time. The designers have gone for an authentic bar feel with the wooden floor, pews and old Edinburgh prints on the walls. Some original features like the rood and a fireplace have been retained. A two-roomed bar, the Blazer has a mixed bag of customers – a considerable number of local regulars, a steady passing trade and a few theatrical types, too; the Lyceum Theatre is just round the corner. A comfortable and welcoming spot for good beer.

Dressed to kill

As a student initiation draws condemnation of binge drinking, but silence over its fascist overtones, *The Journal* finds out how easy it is to acquire a Nazi unform

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BOTH THE NEWS coverage of recent events at the University of Gloucestershire and the press statement released by the college in response ignored the presence of an elephant in their midst. The former only noted in passing the Nazi overtones of the initiation ceremony; the latter, reflecting the considerable embarrasment already being felt, didn't mention it at all.

Public fatigue may be to blame. In 2005, when Prince Harry was pictured on the front page of *The Sun* wearing a Nazi uniform, it generated considerable column inches and an official apology, but no police caution. In 2007, Formula 1 boss, Max Mosley was filmed enjoying a military-themed orgy, but allegations of Nazi overtones made in the *News of the World* have since been proved libelous.

If there is diminished sensitivity about Nazi imagery used as a subject of fun, it hasn't yet reached the Edinburgh fancy dress market. Only one of the Edinburgh costume shops listed in the online yellow pages stocks Nazi uniforms, and when told that it was going to be worn on a stag-do pub crawl, was unwilling to rent it out.

"We have a couple of Nazi outfits, for when we do *The Sound of Music*, but I'd be wary of letting you have it to go out in.

"It's just that when we rent to people who wear it to go to the pub, they sometimes get attacked," the lady from Macmillan Stage told me, adding that two clients who had gone for a Third Reich-themed piss-up had suffered just that fate.

"People can get quite offended by it – and anyway, we don't have any Nazis in your size," she said, obliquely confirming the stereotype about short men being aggressively addicted to symbols of power. The awkwardness with which many of the store attendants reacted to the request seems to suggest a significant level of discomfort with the matter.

"Yeah, we don't have anything like that," sighs the girl behind the counter at Armstrongs, Edinburgh's best known vintage clothing emporium. "A lot of people come in asking for that sort of thing, and I tell them what I'm telling you – no." She's dripping in studs, chains and dark eye makeup—to say nothing of disdain—and one can't help but wonder what a hardened Goth like her could find wrong in the innocent request for an SS uniform to wear to a birthday party.

Contrary to the notion that Nazi imagery inhabits a moral grey area, the line between what's acceptable and what isn't is at times unmistakably clear. "We've got a black German WWII uniform, an SS-style kind of thing," says the man at Monkey Business over the phone. For £30 it could be mine – but am I getting my money's worth?

"Of course it doesn't have any swastikas; that would be offensive."

Then again, sometimes that line is nonexistant. The store clerk at Fairy Funny, a fancy-dress store in Glasgow, has to check whether their only Nazi uniform is available on the date of my ficitonal pub crawl; whether this is standard policy or a reflection of west coast taste in party wear remains unclear. What is certain is that, with a price tag of £35, the search is over: "It comes with trousers, shirt, tie, hat and jacket, with a red swastika armband on it – you could do yourself a little moustache with a marker pen, as well!"

There is, of course, legitimate historical interest in German World War Two memorabilia. "There is a very large market for Third Reich antiques," Craig Gottlieb, a Florida-based collector and trader of Nazi militaria, told *The Journal*.

"I only sell original antiques. There is a great demand for reproductions, but I find that to sell them without historical context reduces the business to a purely economic pursuit. I see myself as a preserver of history, and for me, modern products seem to glorify the subject matter, which I do not wish to do."

Mr Gottlieb, who sources his items mainly from families of Allied soldiers who returned with them as trophies, is steadfast in the defence of his trade and its social value. "In my view, this holocaust is too often presented out of context... by studying the trappings of military regalia, we can more effectively answer the question we always ask: 'How could the Holocaust happen in a civilized society?'

"For me, military antiques illustrate exactly how Hitler and his lieutenants assembled a team of civilized Germans to commit what is now known as genocide, in so short a period of time. Within the SS, Himmler capitalized on a universal need for human beings to feel part of a group, to be a member of an inner-circle of elites. This universal human need explains what makes otherwise normal men do very bad things."

Mr Gottlieb's sentiments are echoed by "Alex", who helps run Panzergrenadier, an Axis historical re-enactment online community. "My re-enactment group do infantrymen of the 272nd Division," he told *The Journal*. "They didn't have cuff-titles and the ear of Hitler. They were school-teachers, draftsmen. They were bricklayers and factory workers. They were called up in 1944 to fight a rich man's war on a global political stage not of their making or choice.

"Our stand-first is that an ordinary German soldier had much more in common with an ordinary British soldier than he had with a German officer."

Though the benefits of keeping a place for Nazi imagery in society are clear, it is - as in the Gloucestershire case - open to abuse. "The simple wearing of a swastika isn't enough to be considered a hate crime," explains inspector Tom Galbraith of the Safer Communities Department of the Lothian and Borders Police. "The reported event has to be taken into context, and often there isn't enough evidence to bring a prosecution.

"In the event of someone wearing a Nazi emblem for entertainment, the most likely police reaction would be to charge them with breach of the peace, if applicable. But the way the law is framed requires a complaint for any action to be taken."

That no complaint was made in Gloucestershire invites the question: rightly or wrongly, have we become desensitized to Nazi imagery?

Leslie Bunder, editor of the online Jewish community forum SomethingJewish, clearly believes so. "I'm not offended – are you?

"Maybe if they were neo-Nazis at some sort of gathering, that would be offensive; but if it's done for comedy, or humour, then there isn't really any problem," he said. "If it's done as some sort of prank, then some might find it funny, some might not. There isn't any reason why it should be inherently offensive. Are you offended by Mel Brooks' *The Producers*, or *'Allo 'Allo*?

"If you're looking for some Jew to say, 'Oh, I'm so offended, that's appalling,' then you're going to be disappointed. Why not ask a homosexual, or a disabled person? Hitler killed millions of disabled people; why don't you ask one of them?"

Insisting that "there isn't a story here" and that to ask for a Jewish perspective on the potential offense of wearing Nazi emblems in jest was "lazy," Mr Bunder concluded: "Things have changed since World War Two. People don't get worked up about this anymore."

Inspector Galbraith disagrees: "I've worked with the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation on Salisbury Street in relation to racist incidents, and there are clearly historical issues at work here which aren't going away.

"If by wearing Nazi imagery someone were glorifying that part of the past, then that would likely be considered offensive in law."

Memorabilia like Hitler's D.A.P. membership card should be "preserved"

Nazi-style initiation rituals at the University of Gloucestershire

IN BRIEF

STUDENT INITIATIONS

Student initiations are the subject of renewed debate after a group of students at the University of Gloucestershire were filmed performing a drinking "ceremony" with Nazi overtones.

Chivvied along by a student in Nazi uniform, the group were marched along a residential street with plastic carrier bags over their heads and forced to drink, stopping occasionally to be sick.

The video was taken in secret by another student during freshers' week in 2007, and sent in to the BBC on 2 October.

An investigation has been launched by the universities, where initiation rites featuring "bullying and intimidation" are banned.

In a statement, Paul Drake, director of communications for the University of Gloucestershire, said: "The university takes the issue of intimidation and bullying extremely seriously.

"Disciplinary action may be brought against those who are found to be leading initiation ceremonies and who continue to perpetuate unacceptable intimidatory and coercive practices, in line with the university's student charter.

"This particular incident illustrates that we have more to do to eliminate poor student behaviour. It should be remembered however that this represents a small minority."

Students' union president, James Durant added: "We go to great lengths to ensure our sports captains understand that initiation events that include intimidating or bullying behaviour will not be tolerated."

His sentiments were echoed by NUS president, Wes Streeting who told BBC News: "We are totally opposed to student initiations. They put students at serious risk and exclude students who don't want to take part in that binge-drinking culture."

At the beginning of the 2007-08 academic year, Edinburgh University RFC managed to close a significant part of the Three Sisters, one of Scotland's largest pubs, after their fancy-dress induction for new recruits resulted in two toilets, the dancefloor and one of the pub's three bars being sprayed with vomit, owing largely to the practice of "salting" each other's pints.

University sets sail in 35th Cameron Trophy

Sophie Furse

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THE UNIVERSITY OF Edinburgh sailing club had to battle strong tides and 25-knot winds in last weekend's Cameron Trophy – the 35th annual two-day sailing event.

At the Royal Forth Yacht Club outside Granton Harbour Club, members sailed over 20 dingies throughout the weekend, battling strong tides and 25-knot winds in an exciting competition. The main event, The Cameron Trophy, was fought out between currently-enrolled University Sailing Club members, while the Cruickshank Trophy which ran alongside it involved freshers and university alumni.

In the course of the event's four races, winds ripped shrouds their hulls, many a boat capsized, and a mast was even pulled from its step.

The annual event allowed competitors to sail against one another using the boat of their choice, with the accumulated fleet containing RS600, RS400, and RS300 sailboats, as well as Laser, Europe, Toppers and Firefly models.

A clear gulf in talent presented itself before too long, as Edinburgh University's leading sailors cruised confidently toward the finish line, while the less experienced competitors capsized around them.

Last year's A-team captain and current team selector, John Murray, pulled ahead of present captain, Rob Friend after an excellent starboard start to the windward mark.

The race also started well for A-team alumnus, John Wilson, who took a convincing early lead in his single-handed RS300. However, Wilson missed the start-gate on lap two, finishing the race only after having been disqualified.

SOPHIE FURSE

Despite Saturday's adverse conditions, resulting in many a boat being damaged and two races cancelled, the team returned the following morning eager to begin day two of the competition.

Sunday brought with it milder weather, much to the delight of the participants, with 15 knots of wind presenting the chance for a more tactical manner of sailing.

A tight race was seen between the University Fireflies, with Mr Friend in close pursuit of Mr Murray in 'Cougar', while 'Maverick' and 'Goose', helmed by Niels Chulkpa and Iain Law respectively, trailed closely behind.

Murray and crewmate, Leanne Hibberd were first to cross the finish line claiming Cameron Trophy in the process. Friend, with crewmate George Clark, finished in third place – the pair lost second slot on the basis of handicap to the Laser sailed by Nicholas Hees.

In the Cruickshank Trophy, Stuart Robertson and a fresher, Hannah Robertson took first place in an RS400. Gareth Williams sailed a Europe into second place and Richard Bolton took third position in a Solo.

Edinburgh cruise into semi-finals

Football

University of Edinburgh	1
Kilmarnock	2

Tom Bristow

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EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY CONTINUED their promising run as they fought their way into the semi-finals of the Image Printers' Cup with an emphatic 5-1 victory over Craigroyston.

From the outset, Edinburgh looked the stronger side; committed in defence and with real class up front, in the shape of Michael Hazeldine.

The game's opening 15 minutes were quiet, with little excitement from the stands, but a flurry of goals soon ignited the excitement of the crowd. Captain Steve Maxwell showed both bravery and skill as he broke through the Craigroyston defence and played a one-two with Hazeldine before setting up Stewart Hogg, who fired home at the near post to put the home team in the driving seat.

However, Edinburgh's lead was short-lived: two minutes later, Ruaraigh Scott attempted to halt a Craigroyston attack with a late and dangerous challenge inside the penalty area. The referee was left with little choice but to award a spot-kick to the away side, which was duly converted.

Nevertheless, Edinburgh were soon back on top. The Craigroyston defence failed to clear their lines from a corner-kick in the 20th minute and were fittingly punished by a redeeming Scott, whose shot found the roof of the visiting team's net.

The reminder of the half was characterized by erratic and sporadic attacks from both teams. Despite the commands of their ever energetic manager, Dougie Samuel, to "kill the game", Edinburgh failed to build on their slender advantage.

Both teams appeared rejuvenated at the start of the second half, and Craigroyston showed a marked increased in commitment. However, this only resulted in two-footed lunges abounding, gaining the visitors two bookings, as they found few chinks in the Edinburgh defence's armour.

Edinburgh found real rhythm on the hour mark, with Scott seeing his effort rebound off the upright after some neat build-up play, and Hazeldine began to show his class.

In the 65th minute, Jamie Redman whipped in a fine ball from the right-hand side and Hazeldine managed to get enough power and accuracy behind his header, from a difficult position, to make it 3-1 to Edinburgh.

Craigroyston tried to increase their attacking options with two substitutions in the 70th minute, but to no avail, as the Edinburgh midfield, held together by Steve Irvine and Stewart Hogg, remained in control.

The 82nd minute saw the match's finest example of individual quality. Despite being held back in the box, Hazeldine managed to break through the challenges and shirt-tugs of three defenders to chip the ball over the keeper and into the top left-hand corner. Craigroyston's last flames of hope had been extinguished; nonetheless, they kept fighting to the last.

Five minutes later, Hogg charged down the right wing and played a low cross into the Craigroyston penalty area. The ball was met with an impressive diving header by Hazeldine to beat the keeper for the third time in 20 minutes.

Edinburgh will be delighted with this performance, which takes them into the semi-finals on the back of a goal-rich winning streak. Post-match, however, Dougie Samuel was keen to stress that it was the clean sheet in the second-half rather than the five goals which pleased him the most.

Hearts suffer first home defeat of the season

Football

Hearts	1
Kilmarnock	2

Elvira Kemp

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CRAIG BRYSON'S IMPRESSIVE effort eight minutes from time secured a worthy win for a disciplined and hungry Kilmarnock side. Hearts failed to capitalise on chances in the final third and poor clearances gifted the away side space down the wings to capture all three points.

Kilmarnock manager and ex Hearts player, Jim Jefferies, marked a fine return to Tynecastle, where last season his team were unbeaten against the Edinburgh outfit. Kilmarnock's drive could not be faulted during the first half as an attacking line-up and formation enjoyed a confident spell of possession. However, spates of fouls from both sides suggested that strength in depth would determine the result.

Manuel Pascali captained Kilmarnock and instilled a sense of belief into his side, which lead to Craig Bryson being tripped just outside the box by Jamie Mole, who saw yellow for the foul. Mehdi Taouil struck a swerving free kick over the Hearts wall and into the back of the net, with 'keeper Kello left with little option but to watch the ball sail past him.

Despite Kilmarnock's domination, a break and burst of pace saw Hearts draw level inside 33 minutes when the away side failed to clear a standard loose ball. Larry Kingston found himself eleven yards out and coolly side-footed in the equaliser, to the delight of a half-packed Tynecastle stadium.

The goal ignited both sets of fans, as the teams battled for a deciding goal. Sweeping attacks from both sides on a drenched pitch lead to six yellow cards and eighteen fouls committed by the away team. A moment of magic then appeared on the stroke of half time when Killie's Danny Invincible raced up the right wing, comfortably beating two defenders, and slickly cutting the ball back to Pascali, who shot narrowly wide. Gasps of relief from the home supporters echoed around Tynecastle as the first half war brought to an end.

It was the away fans who were in full voice at the start of the second half, and Kilmarnock took the lead again on 81 minutes, when Craig Bryson latched onto a short flick from substitute Donovan Simmonds, burst between two defenders, and finished with a low shot drilled past Kello and into the back of the net. This looked to be the winning goal until Donovan Skelton, who replaced a tired Taouil, came frustratingly close to scoring with his first touch, however Kello reacted superbly with a sharp dive, saving the attempt.

With Hearts' next fixture away to Edinburgh rivals Hibernian, this performance had pockets of potential but lacked the cutting edge which will be craved by the fans as they travel to Easter Road on what is sure to be a roaring display of pride and passion.

HACKER: A MALIGN LOOK AT THE WORLD OF SPORT

Foxtrot Uniform Charlie Kinnear

Welcome back to football, Joe. So tell us, how do you feel?

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WHO WOULD HAVE thought that some 400 years after Shakespeare's Richard III uttered the lines "Now is the winter of our discontent," the quotation would serve to aptly reflect the feelings of the Newcastle United faithful in 2008?

Okay, so it's still technically autumn, but if things carry on the way they are going, a lack of attendance fuelled by the resentment of many an unforgiving Geordie regular could make for a chilly October at St James' Park.

However, perhaps it is inappropriate to be quoting the Bard at a time when one would be hard-pressed to extract a poetic tone from anyone on Tyneside, not least their potty-mouthed, back-from-the-dead interim manager, Joe "He's fat, he's round, he swears like Chubby Brown" Kinnear.

The underlying tension between the top flight's ultra-scrutinised managers and the ruthless mass-media has never been much of a secret in the footballing world. Over the years, we have seen the likes of Clough, Fergusson and Mourinho bite back at the relentless tabloid press in moments of frustration and anguish. However, last week, the Magpies' boss took the battle to a whole new level.

In what was meant to be an off-the-record conference held at his newly-acquired training ground, Kinnear launched what, to my mind, is the only exchange between a manager and the assembled press worthy of an "R" rating. The tirade, sparked by alleged suggestions by journalist Simon Bird that Newcastle players choose not to turn up to training following the news of Kinnear's appointment, lasted a full five minutes, during which the manager swore over 50 times.

For anyone who has not yet read or YouTubed the astonishing rant, here is an extract for your education and amusement:

SB: "So if I get a new job next week would I take the first day off? No I wouldn't."

JK: "It is none of your fucking business. What the fuck are you going to do? You ain't got the balls to be a fucking manager. Fucking day off? Do I want your opinion? Do I have to listen to you?"

Now, I think we would all agree that there's a right way and a wrong way to go about expressing one's opinion, and that this probably isn't the former. However, before we judge the much-taunted Irishman too hastily, let us look at the factors that may have led to this Mount Etna-like eruption of profanities spewed out by the manager just four days into his new job. Mr Kinnear, please, hop on the couch and make yourself comfy.

Firstly, it's fair to say that the level of pressure one is placed under upon taking the reigns at one of the world's most passionately-supported clubs in the midst of a severe crisis of confidence must be high to say the very least. In fact, with the unofficial banishment of Tyneside hate-figures Mike Ashley and Dennis Wise, the wrath of the Geordie faithful is now, through no fault of his own, channelled almost exclusively in Kinnear's direction. With this in mind, you might say that it is no real surprise that a man in his position can get a little twitchy when his credibility as a professional is brought into question.

On top of this, there must exist somewhere at the back of JK's mind the knowledge that, with all due respect to the man, he is truly one of the saddest individuals in the history of English football. It's one thing knowing that you were not the first, second or even third choice to land a job that no well-respected manager would ever agree to. But when, on top of that, you haven't managed a club in four years and are not even allowed to sit in the dug-out for the first four matches of your new career, the words "insult to injury" must surely spring to mind.

Moreover, this is a man who admits to regularly tagging along to Arsenal training sessions to swoon over Arsène Wenger's coaching techniques, hoping in vain that he may some day emulate them. I really don't mean to be nasty, but it's no real surprise that Kinnear has come to be recognised as the modern day sad sack of English football. Perhaps he feels some innate Freudian need to assert himself as a dominant male upon a mass media that regards him as more of a "runt of the litter."

Then, of course, there is the monumental issue of the shoes that Kinnear has to fill, and we're not talking about any old shoes here; we're talking about the signature bright-white Adidas lace-ups of Magpies' hero "King" Kevin Keegan. Having left the club under frustrating circumstances, but with his head held high, Keegan's departure and the subsequent appointment of Kinnear conjures up the image of a Herculean figure removing the weight of the world from his shoulders and passing the burden to a guy who, in all honesty, is taken about as seriously as Ed the Duck.

Moreover, given Tyneside's ecstatic reaction to speculation linking Keegan with a return to St James', Kinnear must be feeling more than a bit miffed. After all, when all an entire city wants to see is your predecessor back at the helm you cannot, I would imagine, help but realise that they are essentially willing on your departure – something which you probably don't want to be thinking about less than a week into your new job.

But despite the fact that this farcical episode has cemented the widely-held opinion that Kinnear is more of a sad, angry caricature than a professional football manager, you have got to admire his belief in speaking his mind. Perhaps, rather than viewing the temporary Toon coach as a foul-mouthed nobody in a world of superstars and millionaires, we could see him as a man, like any other, trying to do his job and stand up for what he believes in; a bastion of moral triumph in the face of adversity, if you will.

Either way, with Newcastle seemingly on the verge of a take-over, and factions of foreigners in designer suits promising to bring more than just their millions to the club if they are able to acquire it, it looks as though, come the end of October, we'll be waving goodbye to Joe Kinnear. I just wonder what gesture he'll be waving back at us.

"It is none of your fucking business. What the fuck are you going to do? You ain't got the balls to be a fucking manager. Fucking day off? Do I want your opinion? Do I have to listen to you?"

SPORT SHORTS

SNIPPETS OF SPORTS NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE LAST FORTNIGHT

ARTHUR TO FIGHT ON IN LIGHTWEIGHT DIVISION

Edinburgh's former WHO superfeatherweight champion, Alex Arthur, announced that he will be continuing his boxing career as a Lightweight competitor. Arthur explained: "I had a chat with my manager, Frank Warren, earlier this week and we both agreed that I am better now fighting in the lightweight division [nine stone six pounds] so my days as a superfeatherweight are now over."

Arthur's decision all but rules out the possibility of a rematch with Ricky "The Irish Mexican" Gomez.

Speaking at a press conference in Motherwell following his victory over Coventry's Baz Carey, Gomez announced his indifference to Arthur's decision: "I'm the one who would be granting Arthur a favour by fighting him at lightweight so why should I? I can fight Ricky Burns for his Commonwealth title instead so I don't need Arthur.''

FOULS AND FOUL LANGUAGE AS SPARTANS BEAT HIBS IN LADIES' SEMI-FINAL

Saturday saw a gruelling stand-off between Spartans and Hibs Ladies at Heriot-Watt's Ricarton ground on Saturday.

The Women's Premier League semi-final clash, which ended 5-3 to the Spartans, was a high-tempo encounter, during which a referee's assistant had to warn players on a number of occasions not to swear at him.

Spartans star Diana Berry stole the show, scoring four of her side's five goals, two of which were penalties resulting from her being brought down in the area by the Hibs defence.

The tough-tackling Hibs side were certainly a force to be reckoned with coming from 2-0 down to level the game at 2-2 just after the re-start, but it was Spartans who proved to be the greater threat in front of goal, netting three times in the second half.

Spartans will now play Glasgow City in the final at Stirling's Forthbank ground on Saturday, 8 November.

NEW EASTER ROAD STAND HANGS IN THE BALANCE

Despite the current global financial crisis, Hibs are determined to continue with plans to build a new East Stand which will increase capacity at Easter Road to around 22,000.

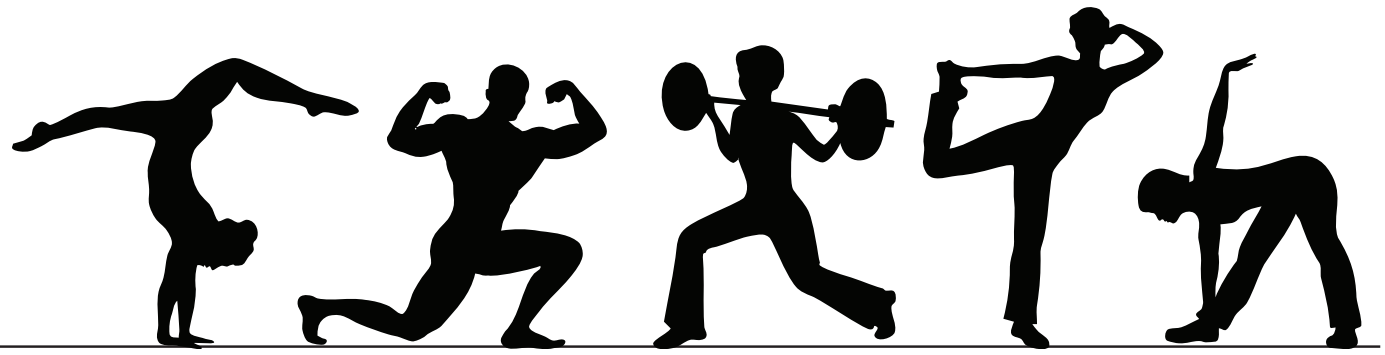
Initial plans for the new stand were unveiled last year, however, since then, the price of steel has increased by a staggering 77 per cent. Moreover, according to club chief executive, Scott Lindsay, the current economic situation does not favour the Leith club.

Lindsay commented: "Unfortunately, since [plans to develop the stadium were made] another consistent factor has been the volatility of both financial and commodity markets."

Although Hibs currently have cash balances of around £4 million, the planning permission for the new stand expires in February, and there is no certainty that it will be successfully renewed.

According to club chairman, Rod Petrie: "What [the Hibs board has] to do is assess what is in the best interests of the football club both in the short and long term."

Sport



Weak Edinburgh defence gifts Leinster win at Murrayfield

Tough-tackling Leinster defend their try line against the Edinburgh attack Scottish Rugby Union

Rugby
Edinburgh 16
Leinster 27

Lewis Mallen

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LEINSTER OPENED THEIR Heineken Cup campaign with a bonus point win over a lacklustre Edinburgh side at Murrayfield.

Man of the match, Rocky Elsom as well as Brian O'Driscoll, Felipe Conteponi and Shane Horgan all touched down in the first half leaving the hosts trailing 24-6 at halftime. Despite an improved second half performance, Edinburgh was not able to overturn the deficit and the game finished 16-27.

Ahead of the match, the home side was well aware that anything other than a win would seriously jeopardize their chances of progressing to the latter stages of the tournament.

Edinburgh started the game well by securing territorial advantage as well as the majority of possession, and deservedly scored the first points courtesy of Phil Godman's boot from just inside the Leinster half. However, the slender lead lasted only three minutes as Edinburgh winger Mark Robertson was turned over on his own 10 meter line, allowing Elsom to score under the posts after breaking several weak first-time tackles.

Referee Rob Debney missed a blatant Leinster forward pass which allowed O'Driscoll the space to attack, sprinting in under the posts with the Edinburgh defensive line split wide open. Leinster now had the momentum at 14-3 and O'Driscoll turned provider for Leinster's third try, sidestepping the flat-footed Edinburgh defence and setting up Conteponi to touch down for an easy score. Conteponi failed to add to his previous two successful conversion attempts leaving the score at 19-3.

Edinburgh's woeful tackling continued from the resulting kick-off, with Jamie Heaslip and Girvan Dempsey combining well down the wing to send Shane Horgan over the line for another five points, however, Conteponi failed to convert from a tight angle. The first half scoring finished when Paterson atoned for an uncharacteristic penalty miss earlier in the match with a simple kick to end the half with the score at 24-6.

Edinburgh were on the offensive at the beginning of the second half, with Matt Mustchin making a charging run to within five meters of the Leinster try line. The home side secured quick ball from the breakdown, before Conteponi intentionally interrupted play from an offside position earning him a yellow card. Edinburgh was awarded a penalty try that Paterson converted to bring them to within eleven points of the visitors.

However, the Murrayfield outfit were unable to make use of the one-man advantage and failed to score any points during Conteponi's absence. Paterson's successful penalty kick on 66 minutes was quickly cancelled out by a Conteponi penalty – the result of a high tackle by Matt Mustchin. The Edinburgh forward's indiscretion resulted in his spending the last ten minutes of the match in the sin-bin, effectively killing off the home supporters' hopes of a comeback.

Edinburgh head coach, Andy Robinson, was disappointed with the loss in a game that he had marked as a must-win. "I set this up as a cup-final," commented the dispirited coach after the match.

Robinson and his team now face the massive challenge of qualifying from a group that includes the reigning English premiership champions and Heineken Cup 2007 winners, London Wasps as well as French side, Castres. The Scotland manager was realistic about his side's chances of progressing past the group stage, and believed that his side have only themselves to blame for a bad start to the campaign.

"Effectively, for us to qualify will be very difficult," he said, adding: "I think we have let down the Edinburgh supporters and I take responsibility for this. Again this is a missed opportunity".

Edinburgh seal well-won victory over Granite City

Men's Hockey
University of Edinburgh 16
Granite City Wanderers 27

Amadeus Finlay

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EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY PLAYED host to a strong Granite City Wanderers side at Peffermill on Saturday in their fourth game of the National League Two season.

It was, as team captain, Simon Samson told *The Journal*, a "must win" match, with Edinburgh hoping to gain early promotion to league one before the Christmas break. Every match is crucial this season and we are working hard at our game."

The opening minutes saw an aggressive, attacking display from the home side. Callum Duke opened the scoring for Edinburgh early in the first half, looping a well-aimed shot from a short corner into the back of the Granite City net.

However, the Aberdeen side came back strongly, and soon equalised with an impressive strike.

Just before the break, in-form centre forward, Dan Sims stole back the lead for Edinburgh. Kylan Pathmanathan fed Sims a neat pass from the left side, before the Edinburgh hit-man turned the keeper and fired home, slotting the ball into the bottom right-hand corner – his fifth goal in as many matches.

Further Edinburgh attacks were held off by a determined Wanderers defence, keeping the score at 2-1 as the first half came to an end.

Both sides continued to pressurise the opposition's defence after the re-start, resulting in the away side bringing themselves back onto equal terms with an impressive spell of creative and intelligent hockey midway through the second half.

Both sides continued to fight for a winning goal following the equaliser, but it was Edinburgh who took control of the game in the last 15 minutes, pressurising the Aberdeen side's defence with a series of attacking plays.

In the last minute, the home team sealed victory with a strike from Paul Heron, who latched onto a Paddy Thorburn pass and fired a reverse-stick shot past the Wanderers 'keeper.

After the final whistle, Samson explained that, "the equaliser from Aberdeen got us going and that was when we pushed for the victory."

The Edinburgh captain added: "It was a great game, we played well and I truly believe we deserved to win."

46% of Ulster students blame women for rape

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SCOTT SANDARS

A NEW POLL has found that nearly half of Northern Ireland's students believe that a woman is wholly or partially responsible for rape if she flirts.

The Amnesty International commissioned poll, published on 29 September, entitled *Violence Against Women: The Perspective of Students in Northern Ireland*, explores the "blame culture" found in attitudes towards women and sexual violence.

The research revealed that, of the 715 students surveyed at Ulster University, 46 per cent felt that a woman's flirting would leave her bearing some of the blame in the case of rape.

30 per cent believed that women were partially or totally responsible for rape if she wears sexy or revealing clothing and one in ten reasoned that violence was acceptable against a girlfriend who nags, flirts with other men, or refuses to have sex.

Amnesty International Northern Ireland programme director Patrick Corrigan said: "This survey shows that there are some extremely disturbing attitudes swirling around our campuses.

"It's shocking that so many students lay the blame for being raped or assaulted at the feet of women themselves. If we are going to break a cycle of violence against women in Northern Ireland, we need to start by challenging attitudes amongst students and the population at large."

Mr Corrigan continued: "As part of an integrated strategy to end all forms of violence against women, the Northern Ireland Executive should consider a comprehensive campaign aimed at preventing violence and challenging prejudicial attitudes."

The figures were found to be considerably higher than similar surveys performed elsewhere in the UK by ICM for Amnesty International and End Violence Against Women Campaign.

The poll also revealed a high level of domestic violence against women in Northern Ireland. 59 per cent of participants knew of at least one woman or girl had been assaulted by a boyfriend or partner and 40 per cent were aware of at least one female student who had been assaulted.

Furthermore, 41 per cent of students knew of women that had been coerced or pressurised into having sex with another person.

Katie Morgan, President of National Union of Students/Union of Students in Ireland (NUS/USI) said: "Sadly, these results chime with what I have seen with my own eyes on campus. We've long been calling for better services for students who have suffered violence, and these results confirm not only that domestic abuse amongst students occurs far too often, but that students don't know where to turn when it happens.

"The universities and colleges need to think again about the welfare of their students and in tackling the suggestion that a woman can be responsible for being raped."

The poll exposed that 77 per cent of students felt there was not enough information and support to tackle the problem and 82 per cent were unaware of the availability of support on campus.

Amnesty International, in conjunction with local student unions will roll out a campaign in the impending weeks at Ulster University and Queens University, Belfast to combat violence against female students.

Amnesty International has also written to the Northern Ireland Executive and College Heads to encourage action in changing attitudes toward women.

According to latest Northern Ireland crime figures released in May 2008, sexual offences increased by 1.1 per cent last year. However, figures also show an 11.4 per cent drop in reported rapes.

Scotland offers to host Euro 2012

SFA would step in if FIFA strips Poland of football championship

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THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL Association (SFA) is braced to step-in should current plans for Euro 2012 fall through.

The European competition is facing difficulties after the host nations, Poland and Ukraine, were again criticised by the governing body of European football, UEFA.

Both UEFA and FIFA have refused to recognise the newly appointed administrator of the Polish Football Federation, Robert Zawlocki. The organisations believe the previous Federation to have been illegitimately disbanded by the Polish government.

UEFA viewed the Polish government's actions as "playing with fire" and has called for the reinstatement of the nation's federation, which was broken-up by Poland's Olympic Committee after failing to tackle corruption within the organisation.

As it was the football federations that were awarded the competition in 2007, not the Polish and Ukrainian governments, this has raised concerns over Poland's ability to host Euro 2012.

William Gaillard, UEFA Communications Director and Special Adviser to president Michel Platini, told PA Sport that he is still confident current issues can be addressed: "We are hoping we will be solving the problems before the end of October so it will not affect 2012.

"But if the problem is not solved and the Polish FA do not have the ability to operate then it's a different ball game, and that opens all kinds of question marks around Euro 2012.

"The European Championships are administrated through the Polish and Ukrainian FAs, not their governments.

"If there is no legitimate Polish FA then we will not have a Euro in Poland," Mr Gaillard concluded.

The blow came after a warning from Platini in January 2008 to significantly improve the projects or risk losing the job of hosting the competition.

Lack of progress in the development of infrastructure, insufficient stadia and problems tied to traffic control were all highlighted as concerns that must be resolved before hosting the competition.

Should UEFA choose to revoke the hosting rights from Poland and Ukraine, the SFA have signaled their interest in the 2012 competition.

Gordon Smith, SFA Chief Executive, has discussed the situation with Platini and is currently monitoring the situation.

Speaking to *The Scotsman*, Mr Smith said: "Our position is straightforward. If, in the event of it being taken away from Poland and Ukraine, and it was opened to bids, then we would seek to establish if a bid from us would be considered.

"If the response was positive then we would undertake a feasibility study along with the Scottish government to decide if we would bid."

Support from the government may, however, be limited due to the financial strain of the Olympic Games set to be held in London over the summer of 2012.

Both FIFA and UEFA have now entered a period of joint consultation to address the issue, before revealing their findings at FIFA's executive committee on 23 and 24 October.

Speaking ahead of the committee's finding, FIFA president Sepp Blatter has attempted to calm concerns over Poland being stripped of Euro 2012, saying: "We have received letters and documents that there has been an agreement between the FA and the Polish government."

Virgin Mary offers relief for Catholics

Research at Oxford University suggests religious iconography can reduce pain for Catholics

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DEVOUT CATHOLICS CAN use their faith to feel less pain, according to new research from Oxford University.

As part of an experiment by scientists at the university, 12 believers and 12 non believers were given electric shocks while looking at an image of the Virgin Mary. The results concluded that Catholics felt 12 per cent less pain than non believers.

Pleased with the findings, the Anglican Bishop of Durham, Rt. Rev. Tom Wright said: "The practise of faith should and in many cases does alter the person you are. It can affect patterns of brains and emotions."

The research was conducted by scientists from The Oxford Centre For Science Of The Mind, whose results will be published in the scientific journal, *PAIN*.

During the experiment, all participants spent half an hour inside an MRI scanner. In four separate sessions, they received a series of 20 electric shocks while being shown either a religious or secular image.

'The Virgin Mary', by seventeenth century Italian painter, Sassoferrato was used as the religious image, while the secular image was Leonardo Da Vinci's fifteenth century painting, 'Lady with an Ermine' – chosen because it looks similar to Sassoferrato's image and so should produce a calming effect.

When the participants saw the religious painting, an area of the brain associated with suppressing reactions to threatening situations lit up in the devout Catholics, while no change was noted in the non-believers.

Pain perception levels were similar when all participants saw the secular image.

Dr Katya Wiech, a neurologist and leader of this research explained the effect of engaging this area of the brain – the ventrolateral prefrontal cortex.

"It helps people to reinterpret pain and make it less threatening. These people felt safe looking at the Virgin Mary—felt looked after—so the whole context of the test changed for them."

The observations support the hypothesis that pain threshold is linked to religious belief, as the atheists preferred the secular painting, but this was not reflected in the scientific results of the experiment.

Dr Wiech does not, however, believe that this has proved the existence of medical miracles: "there's no suggestion that this effect is specific to religion and we've not found the God blob in the brain. This is about the state of mind you can achieve."

Psychologist Dr Miguel Farias, who also was worked on this research, suggested that the experiment could be as successful with non believers: "we would need to find a picture of someone they feel very positive towards, such as a mother or father," she suggested.

'Culture of disbelief' at immigrant detention center

While the tabloids cry foul over immigrant escapees, asylum seekers are also running from abuse within the UK's borders

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ON 11 NOVEMBER 2007, at Dungravel Immigration Reception Centre (IRC), Mr BM was taken from his bed, pinned to the floor face up, kicked over his whole body, and his head was smashed against a coffee table. Mr BM alleges that he was assaulted by seven detention custody officers in the presence of the IRC Manager. Mr BM was examined two days later by Dr Charmian Goldwyn, who said: "the injuries that Mr BM sustained are highly consistent with the assault as he describes."

This is just one of almost 300 cases of assault allegedly perpetrated by staff employed by the Home Office or by private companies contracted by the Home Office to run detention centres and to escort detainees when being moved between centres or deported. These cases have been documented in a report, published in July 2008, entitled *Outsourcing Abuse: The use and misuse of state sanctioned force during the detention and removal of asylum seekers*. The authors of the dossier, Harriet Wistrich, Dr Frank Arnold and Emma Ginn claim this is only "the tip of the iceberg" of a "seemingly systematic abuse of one of the most vulnerable communities of people in our society." They allege that the abuse they uncovered "may amount to state-sanctioned violence", as the Home Office is aware of an unacceptable level of alleged abuse through its complaints procedure. The actions described in the report, if substantiated, are in breach of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

There are ten IRCs in the UK, and immigration detainees are also held in prisons, police cells and short term holding facilities (STHF). Detainees include asylum seekers with claims pending, rejected asylum seekers, "overstayers", undocumented migrants and ex-foreign national prisoners. There is no legal time limit for the detention of immigrants, and they receive no automatic judicial oversight. This raises concerns that detainees, who in the majority of cases are innocent of any crime, are treated more like "hostages" than prisoners.

A spokesperson for the Refugee Council, the largest organisation in the UK working with asylum seekers, told *The Journal*: "No one should be detained in a detention centre, unless absolutely necessary. Detention is essentially a punishment for a criminal offence and the majority of these immigrants are innocent and are genuinely seeking refuge, having been traumatised by experiences in their country of origin. Detention is over-used, extremely distressing and, in the majority of cases, totally unnecessary; the government need to address these issues."

Many refugees come to the UK to seek genuine asylum and escape persecution in their home countries. But time spent in an IRC can cause further trauma for the detainee, leading to increased mental health problems. The National Coalition of Anti Deportation Campaigns (NCADC) released figures in 2007, confirming that 1,517 immigration detainees were on suicide watch. Aside from the reported abuse going on in these centres, facilities and conditions in IRCs and STHFs can be shocking.

In a 2004 HM Chief Inspector of Prisons report on the unannounced inspection of four STHFs, it was documented that: "A young woman was held in the holding room who had miscarried a few days previously. She was subject to a live F2052SH self harm monitoring form because she kept asking for her baby and said she wanted to die. Having been delivered to the holding room in the morning, she was not due to be collected by another vehicle until more than six hours later. Apart from staff who had received aid training, there was no on-site healthcare."

Furthermore, the complaint procedure for asylum seekers is complex and often is not perceived as independent. Authors of *Outsourcing Abuse* claim there is evidence to suggest "asylum seekers lodging complaints are subject to harassment and further abuse." They argue that the authorities are reluctant and inadequate in investigating incidents and consequently the devices to protect immigrants are failing. The Complaints Audit Committee (CAC), set up by the Home Office to investigate complaints made about the conduct of staff, has found an appalling record in the handling of complaints: for example, only in 11 per cent of cases were positive evidence gathering steps (such as interviewing) taken.

The dossier is the most recent in a long succession that details the struggles detained immigrants face. Amanda Shah, assistant Director of Bail for Immigrant Detainees (BID), commenting on *Outsourcing Abuse*, told *The Journal*: "These are clearly not isolated cases, and demonstrate a fundamental problem within immigration detention centres. In recent years, official watchdogs, including the prisons inspector Anne Owers, have repeatedly sounded the alarm about inadequate safeguards in detention centres. It is high time that detainees' complaints of assault were properly investigated. We also hope that this scrutiny will lead to serious questions being asked about the system."

As many public figures and NGOs have argued, it could be claimed that it is totally unjustifiable that, in the majority of cases, immigrants should be detained in such appalling conditions or subjected to abuse. Yet an opposing argument contends that the general public needs to be protected from the "foreign prisoners" that are detained in IRCs.

As is the case of the recent Vietnamese escapees who broke out on September 25 and 26 from Oakington IRC in Cambridgeshire, some detainees serve sentences in IRCs and are then expelled for minor offences – offences that British nationals would not normally be imprisoned for. The 352 capacity Oakington centre, was originally designed to hold asylum seekers, but has in recent years held a number of foreign prisoners awaiting deportation.

Louise Pirouet of Cambridge Oakington Concern (CAMOAK), an organisation which campaigns for the safeguards of detainees and raises questions about the use of the former RAF barracks as a detention centre, told *The Journal*: "There is a mixture of people at Oakington being detained for different reasons; some immigrants are on the way out after having served a sentence. However, problems arise as some of these men are married to British citizens and are being expelled for minor crimes, for example, motoring or minor drug offences, leaving behind an unsupported family who might be forced to rely on social security. There are no serious criminals at Oakington."

Following a visit to Oakington earlier this year, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, added his name to the list of those who have criticised the way immigrants are treated in detention and separated from their families.

So why are detention centres increasingly being used, if as claimed, there is systematic abuse and poor conditions, the majority of detainees are not dangerous to the general public? Indeed, 40 per cent of detainees are eventually re-released back into the community. Not only, amidst a credit crunch, does it put a drain on the government's financial resources—it was estimated by the Immigration Minister in 2006 that the average detention and escorting costs were £1,230 per detainee per week—but it raises serious humanitarian issues.

This can perhaps be explained by the government's target driven plan to deal with 450,000 unresolved asylum cases within the next five years. Although asylum applications are at a 14-year low, the proportional use of detention has increased seven fold; in March 2008 the Home Office announced a 60 per cent increase in the number of places in detention centres. The risk to detainees could be unprecedented.

Responding to *Outsourcing Abuse*, on 30 September home secretary Jacqui Smith appointed Dame Nuala O'Loan to independently review the alleged assaults and concerns raised for the first time in the UK. Earlier this year, the Independent Asylum Commission deemed the attitude adopted by officials towards issues concerning asylum and immigration as a "culture of disbelief". Campaigners increasingly believe that it is time this culture came to an end.

Unless stated otherwise, data are taken from Home Office Asylum Statistics, 2006: Quarter Two

Some media described "dangerous illegals" breaking out of holding centres, without noting the patterns of abuse inside the fences. In fact, most detainees at the facility are not held under criminal charges. There are no serious criminals at Oakington.

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Edinburgh's homeless left out in the cold

MICKAEL BINON

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ACCORDING TO RECENT figures, the number of homeless people in Edinburgh is on the increase, with the problem being exacerbated by a shortage in affordable family accommodation.

As a result, increasing pressure is being put on the city's homeless accommodation with many being forced into temporary accommodation.

Commenting on a report published on 29 September by the Scottish Government, Jamie McGrigor MSP, Shadow Minister for Communities, said: "The number of households in temporary accommodation has increased by 11 per cent over the past year and 42 per cent of those households include children. If this trend continues, then next year we will be on the verge of hitting 50 per cent. In these pressing and difficult economic times, it will surely only get worse."

Mr McGrigor heaped further criticism on the way in which the Scottish Government has addressed the issue of homelessness and its root causes, stating: "The number of households in temporary accommodation has more than doubled since 1999. For many vulnerable people, particularly those suffering from drug or alcohol problems, it is vital that a support system of care is in place for their entry into accommodation, especially to ensure that any children they have are protected.

"We know that Labour and the Lib Dems failed those they claim to care about the most. The SNP's first year in government has shown no sign of righting that wrong."

This view was echoed by Graeme Brown, director of Shelter Scotland, who, speaking to *The Scotsman* said: "Temporary accommodation is destructive to people's lives, giving them no sense of having somewhere safe and secure to live. We must see the figures for temporary accommodation dropping, as the number of people entitled to permanent accommodation rises. More cash for affordable rented housing in Edinburgh is vital to give people a safe, secure permanent home."

Despite having been commended previously for its efforts in tackling this issue, Edinburgh council announced earlier this year that "The council will find it difficult to meet its statutory duties to provide accommodation to all homeless people by 2012 because of the acute shortage of affordable housing in the city. The homelessness strategy has a strong focus on preventing homelessness because there are simply not going to be enough homes for homeless people in the future. Edinburgh needs an additional 12,000 affordable homes over the next ten years."

The government report shows that the problem of homelessness is increasing throughout Scotland as a whole with single people, followed by individuals with children applying in the highest numbers for accommodation.

No change after Dalkeith drugs bust

Local residents say that little has changed despite one of the biggest drugs raids ever carried out by Lothian and Borders police

Francesco Cirillo

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FAST APPROACHING A month after Lothian and Borders Police's sting operation on one of the major drug dealers in Dalkeith, local residents of the area have dismissed claims that the city's drug ring is now on its knees.

Despite reports in local media reporting the large scale of police operations in the area, it appears that this view has been exaggerated, with drugs still available for those seeking them.

Speaking to *The Journal*, one resident of the area said: "From the end of September [when the operation took place] neither I nor any of my friends have noticed any strange behaviour or problems down the street. Perhaps that's because there are other "goods" on the market."

He added: "I have to say that after the operation I was so scared and concerned about the possible reactions of the addicts. I thought that the lack of illegal drugs could lead them to violence, antisocial behaviour and more crimes. But, luckily for me and my family, I was definitely wrong".

Terry Powell, Chief Superintendent of Lothian and Borders police, had previously claimed that the sting would have a large effect on the local community. He said "It's one of the largest and most complex operations that the force has ever undertaken. I am sure that as a result of this two-day operation, the residents of a number of areas of Midlothian will see a big difference in their quality of life."

"We co-ordinated with health services to ensure they were ready for an increase in people seeking methadone prescriptions. They could be either those who take methadone on top of heroin, or heroin addicts seeking to replace the illegal drugs".

However, in the past few weeks CS Powell's prediction seem to have come to little. According to anecdotal reports from pharmacists in the area, there has not been any significant increase in methadone requests. One pharmacist, who asked to remain anonymous, said: "The situation is absolutely normal. Nothing has changed."

"I don't know what the police had expected after the action, but here we haven't seen any difference compared to the past. Nor down the street, I have to say, I haven't seen any relevant change in the behaviour of our inhabitants".

News Shorts wear them

PLASTIC FANTASTIC

An artificial vagina to satisfy a disabled teenager's raging passions. That's the solution chosen by Stephanie Courts, a community nurse, to help her young patient.

The revelation, made during this year's Royal College of Nursing conference in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, underlines how deep the problem of a lack of national guidelines for dealing with the sexual needs of physically disabled adolescents is.

Ms Courts obtained the vibrating sex aid after the 15-year-old patient, who is severely disabled, became distressed at not being able to satisfy his sexual urges.

Speaking to Nursing Standard magazine, Ms Courts said, "the team dealt professionally with a potentially embarrassing and legally difficult situation.

"Sexual health guidance is not out there and this is shocking."

MORE STRIKES AHEAD

Unacceptable. That's the answer of the Scottish trade unions to the latest pay deal offered by councils. The unions, which decided to reject the offer during a meeting in Glasgow, are now planning to ballot all 10,000 of their Scottish council worker members.

This means that the threat of further council strikes is very real. Scotland's councils increased their previous pay offer form 2.5 per cent to three per cent, but union bosses say the below-inflation deal is unacceptable.

"It is clear our activists do not accept that this offer is good enough. Our members, like others are suffering from the effects of the economic downturn," said Dougie Black, Unison regional officer and lead negotiator.

"The recent increases in inflation – especially in basic necessities like food and fuel – impact particularly hard on low paid members and a three per cent increase does not deliver the kind of help they need."

The results of the strike poll will be declared in early November.

UNFAIR TRADE

An Edinburgh joiner who built himself a replica police box to compete with Police Box Coffee Bars across the city has been successful in his application for a renewal of his trading license. John McConnell has come out on top in his battle against Tollcross Community Council and the Police Box Coffee Bars, who objected to his siting of a replica police box at the top of Middle Meadow Walk.

The community council argued that the Mr McConnell's box was sited in an area already saturated with coffee shops, being adjacent to two branches of Starbucks and a Police Box Cafe. Objections were also raised over the fact that the box was left on the pathway overnight.

In light of this, the renewal of Mr McConnell's trader's licence has come with the condition that the box be removed after trading hours.

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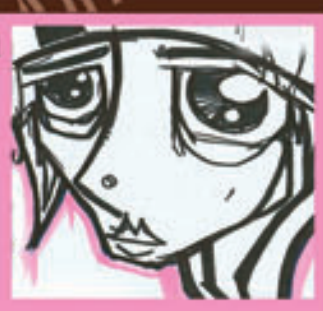
the view



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THURS 6th NOV

SICK NOTE

1st BIRTHDAY!!

INDIE ELECTRO IDIOTS DANCING

11PM - 3AM SELECTED DRINKS £1.70

22.10.08

THE SOUND OF ZURICH

dj's zwicker & kalabrese with ivan e on visuals

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SICK NOTE

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PRIZES FOR FANCY DRESS

FREE ENTRY EVERY THURSDAY AT CABARET VOLTAIRE

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every wednesday @ the cabaret voltaire

resident electro-punk gary mac

26.11.08 POPOF (dj set)

[paris, france]

Utah Saints

Sugarbeatclub

Fri 31st Oct

A.Skillz

Evil Nine (Live)

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FRI 28th NOV

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DJ Yoda

Utah Saints

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ECA unveils 'feeling' software

Ground-breaking 3D imaging technology allows hands-on control of virtual environment

Rob Church-Taylor

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A SPIN-OUT COMPANY based at Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) has launched a piece of design and modelling software called Cre8, which allows users to interact with and manipulate content in a virtual 3D workspace using their sense of touch.

The software product, designed by Anarkik3D, has recently been launched by American company Novint Technologies, the creators of the Novint Falcon, a revolutionary 3D touch controller available for PC and used in enabled PC games.

Cre8 provides a coherent 3D environment by combining "haptics"—technology which gives people a sense of touch within computer generated environments—"stereovision"—visual perception in three dimesions—and a collocated environment. The result is pioneering design freedom across six planes of movement with interactive touch manipulation.

Anarkik3D CEO Ann Marie Shillito said: "It's great that our first product is so inclusive.

"It is easy and intuitive, and with the touch sensation, it is great fun to use. The software allows users to create and manipulate objects, experiment with forms and generally [be] imaginative."

According to Anarkik3D, the product's main target group is likely to be designers, artists, architects and sculptors.

The attraction of Cre8 for these individuals is that it encourages imagination and creativity without the usual added cost of producing physical design prototypes.

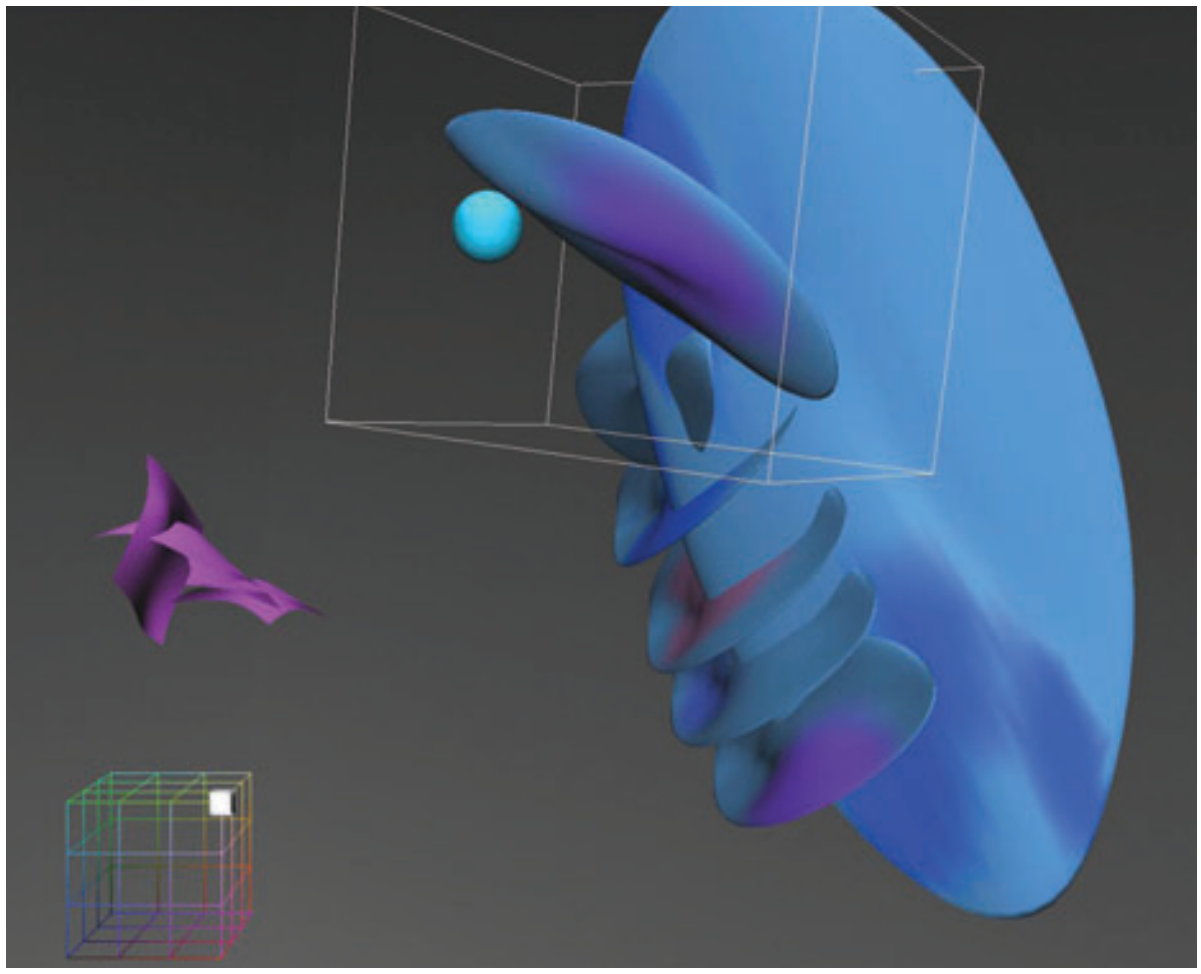
This enables the user to rethink or change a design plan with no waste of materials. In addition Cre8 could increase the speed of the whole production process by up to 500 per cent.

Anarkik3D began its original research into haptics with funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Board. Further funding was provided by Scottish Enterprise and latterly the Scottish Executive through the SMART:SCOTLAND scheme, designed to help small businesses develop new cutting-edge products in Scotland.

Anarkik3D is based at ECA and is led by Ms Shillito. Cre8 was developed by Xiaoqing Cao and Abi Ullattil, with technical consultation from Dr Mark Wright, a research fellow at the University of Edinburgh and ECA.

Although Cre8 is currently only available in the US, Ms Shillito expressed hope that it will soon be available in the UK.

"We have an enormous creative surge, and the software will make exploring and playing around with forms, creating organic shapes, and colouring them, very much more accessible to anyone and everyone."



Stem-cell breakthrough in diabetes treatment

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THANKS TO REVOLUTIONARY research into stem cells, scientists at Edinburgh University have revealed that they are a step closer to a cure for diabetes.

They have developed stem cells which are able to reproduce and develop into the cell variety associated with the gut—such as liver or pancreatic cells—known as endodermal cells.

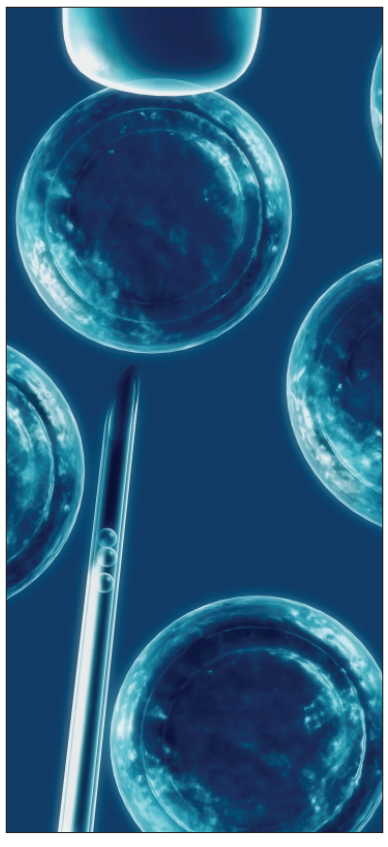
The team have managed to avoid the traditional drawbacks of using embryonic stem cells. Previous techniques can lead to a mixture of cells being created. The mixture can contain stem cells that upon implantation can lead to tumours forming.

In a major breakthrough, the cells that have been created by the Edinburgh scientists can constantly renew themselves in the lab, removing the need for the harvesting of more cells from embryos and so maintaining uniform cell cultures.

The team claim that the cell could be injected into diabetics, potentially ending their dependency on insulin injections.

Dr Josh Brickman, of the University of Edinburgh's Institute for Stem Cell Research and MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine, said: "For the first time, we have found a way to generate and purify precursors of liver and pancreatic cells. We did this by recreating the path of cell development in embryos to a point where we could identify and purify these cells. Remarkably they can grow in a dish, providing a renewable source for future applications in medicine."

The findings of the study, funded by the BBSRC, Scottish Funding Council and JDRF, carried out in collaboration with the MRC Molecular Haematology Unit, Oxford, were published in the journal *Cell Stem Cell*.



University to support bilingual children

Elisabeth Evans

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THE UNIVERSITY OF Edinburgh has launched a new scheme to promote bilingualism for children.

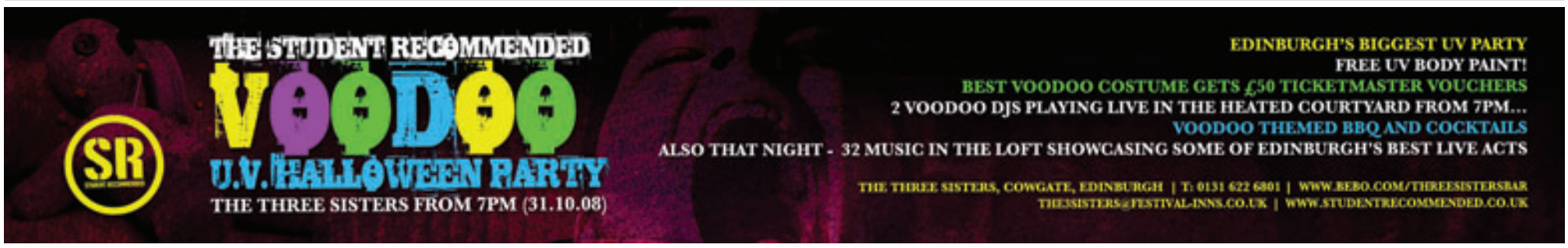
Bilingualism Matters is a one-stop-shop for families looking for information and advice on using multiple languages in everyday life, along with its challenges and benefits.

A recent government survey highlighted that bilingualism in Scotland is on the increase, with more than 100 languages being spoken. The new service, claim university experts, will help to inform the public of the advantages of bilingualism and encourage both families and teachers to support children's development of multiple languages.

Antonella Sorace, of the University of Edinburgh's School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences said: "In many parts of the world it is common for children to be exposed to two or even more languages right from birth but bilingualism is a relatively new phenomenon in most of Europe. As a consequence there is a lack of information and support on the benefits of bilingualism – our aim is to bridge that gap.

"Some families are concerned with issues such as how bilingualism may affect their child's achievement in school; others are keen to raise their child as bilingual, but don't know how to do this – these are some of the issues with which we can help."

Bilingualism Matters is a free resource which is co-sponsored by the RSA Scotland (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce) and part funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).



Lottery cash for Nelson monument

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THE "TIME BALL" atop Edinburgh's Nelson monument on Calton Hill has received a £50,000 Lottery Fund grant for restoration, amidst recent claims by UNESCO that Edinburgh's status as a world heritage site may at risk.

The project to restore the famous time ball on top on top of the Nelson monument is a joint venture between Edinburgh World Heritage and the City of Edinburgh Council. The work is part of the ongoing Twelve Monuments project which aims to restore important monuments and statues throughout the city.

The gearing mechanism for the time ball is in need of repair and has not operated for more than 18 months after it was damaged by heavy gales. The Nelson monument, which supports the time ball, will also undergo stonework repair and extensive re-pointing of the lime mortar.

The Heritage Lottery Fund grant comes just weeks after Koïchiro Matsuura, the director-general of UNESCO, expressed his concern over the safety of the city's status as a World Heritage site.

Whilst visiting Edinburgh last month, Matsuura stated: "Edinburgh's world heritage site is very important, and it is crucial that its outstanding features are preserved and protected."

The time ball was installed in 1852 by Charles Piazzi Smyth—second Astronomer Royal for Scotland—and clockmaker Frederick James Ritchie.

The mechanism consists of a timber sphere, sheathed in zinc, which rises and falls around a central timber post. The time ball enabled ships' captains in Leith Dock to accurately set their chronometers by observing the dropping of the ball which occurred at one o'clock each day.

Nine years later the one o'clock gun was added as an audible signal.

Adam Wilkinson, director of Edinburgh World Heritage, said: "The time ball is one of the idiosyncratic rituals of living history, at once both familiar and particular, which are part of the life of the city. The great majority of people would prefer them to continue rather than quietly be forgotten."

The project will work closely with city museums to help people understand more about the history of the unusual time piece. Training will be provided for volunteer guides who will give tours to visitors.

Colin McLean, head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Scotland, said: "The Heritage Lottery Fund is delighted to help ensure that this characteristic tradition of Edinburgh can continue for many years to come."

The restoration work, which is expected to cost around £230,000, is scheduled to begin in the new year and will take an estimated six months to complete.

THEEDINBURGHBLOG.CO.UK

Council apologises for tram chaos

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EDINBURGH CITY COUNCIL has been forced to find new solutions to the mounting pressure placed upon the city's traffic network by the construction of tramlines. A meeting was held on 6 October to establish the main grievances and work towards finding ways around problems caused by the increasing numbers of diversions throughout the city.

The meeting was prompted by the chaos which ensued following the closure of the Mound/Princes Street junction on 2 October.

Jenny Dawe, leader of Edinburgh City Council, was forced to make an apology to those who faced lengthy delays on the first day of the closure. The Liberal Democrat councillor said: "This is the biggest construction project Scotland has ever seen, and we apologise again for the delays last Wednesday. I can assure drivers and travellers that actions have been taken to ensure we do everything we can to stop this happening again."

The meeting resulted in development of a new peer group consisting of representatives from the police, Lothian Buses and Transport Initiatives Edinburgh (TIE). The aim of the group will to be to formulate further plans in order to avoid the delays witnessed on 2 October, when many passengers were forced to walk part of their route due to severe congestion caused by roadworks.

Further apologies came from Willie Gallagher, executive chairman of TIE, the group which is overseeing the tram project. He said "Despite careful modelling and planning, it was clear by the morning rush hour that the temporary traffic measures were not fully working."

"I would like to apologise for the delays to both bus passengers and drivers."

Mike Pringle, Liberal Democrat MSP for Edinburgh South, also believed that the meeting was positive. He added to Cllr Dawe's comment, saying: "It became evident very quickly last week that there were problems, and I was delighted that the City of Edinburgh Council took swift action in calling talks between the key stakeholders."

It is estimated that the road works on the junction will continue until the end of November 2008, however, there are further works set to commence in January next year, when Princes Street is to be closed to traffic .

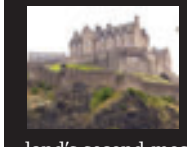
Monday's meeting established one of the main reasons for the severe disruption as poor communication of information to motorists, and the new peer group will aim to ensure that there is clearer information available regarding the diversions and the roads that are to be closed. A further proposal from the group suggested the introduction of extra Park and Ride services to complement the existing facilities already in place at Straiton, Hermiston, Ingliston, Sheriffhall, Newcraighall and Ferrytoll.

This complies with Lothian Buses' request that, where possible, drivers should use alternative means of transportation. The company has, however, stated they will endeavor to work with the business community to ensure deliveries to affected areas are possible, but it is unlikely that this will bring comfort to staff unable to reach their places of work without significant delays.

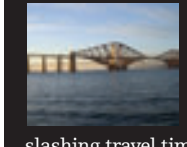
The meeting has undoubtedly brought about fresh hope for an end to the chaos, with Mr Pringle remaining positive about the future of the tram network: "Once complete the tram network has the potential to revolutionise Edinburgh's transport network. With the new peer review group now in place to oversee traffic management plans, I hope that, in the meantime, disruption will be kept to a minimum."

SILVIA FOTEVA

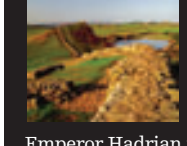
The biggest construction project ever?



Dominating the skyline of Scotland's capital for roughly a millennium, **Edinburgh Castle** – Scotland's second-most visited tourist attraction – sits on what geologists believe was once an active volcano.



Opened in 1890, the **Forth Rail Bridge** transformed the local economy of Fife and Lothians, slashing travel times between Edinburgh, Dunfermline and Dundee. Construction took seven years, and of a total workforce of 4,600, almost 100 lives were lost.



The northern defensive fortification of the Roman Empire was built following a visit by Emperor Hadrian in 122AD. **Hadrian's Wall** stretches 80 kilometres from Newcastle-upon-Tyne to the Solway Firth in northern Cumbria. The main stone wall was built ten feet high and three metres wide.