



The Journal

EDINBURGH'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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ISSUE II

MONDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2007

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Safer clubs: the Unight initiative will help to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and violent attacks David Cheskin/PA Wire

SNP breaks student debt promise

Alastair Sloan & Sarah Clarke

newsdesk@journal-online.co.uk

STUDENTS IN SCOTLAND have expressed dismay after the SNP shelved plans to scrap student debt.

Nationalist finance minister John Swinney announced last Wednesday that the government would not deliver its manifesto promise to eliminate the debt accrued by students.

The news was delivered at Holyrood as part of the SNP's first budget since the party came to power in the elections last May. The conference saw the government drop a number of key election promises which had comprised their manifesto for the Scottish Parliamentary Election.

While funding for free prescription charges, a tax cut for smaller businesses and NHS waiting list guarantees were approved, the SNP's pledge to cancel student debt was relinquished.

The SNP had previously promised

Scottish students that the £1.9 billion package of debt held by the Student Loans Company Scotland would be cancelled.

Student leaders in Scotland expressed deep concern for this turnaround in government policy that will see the £1.9 billion debt remain unaffected. They claimed that the SNP's failure to deliver the promised financial support will have a damaging impact on Scottish students.

James Alexander, President of the National Union of Students (NUS) Scotland said: "Promises of more support for students, which formed a central part of the SNP's election campaign, have not been met."

"The SNP's costed manifesto promised £236 million to cover graduate debt payments, to transfer student loans to grants, and to abolish the graduate endowment."

He continued: "Large proportions of students from Scotland experience high

levels of debt and endure extreme hardship. They need the endorsement of the Scottish government to assist in resolving these difficulties."

Edinburgh's student unions have been working with NUS Scotland on the Final Demand campaign, designed to put pressure on the government to improve student support, drop student debt, cut course costs and improve access to further and higher education.

But in a speech to the Scottish Executive, John Swinney said: "I know there is insufficient parliamentary support for student debt servicing for loans to grants and we must therefore prioritise funding on policies that we can deliver and which will be supported by Parliament.

"I am therefore not allocating funding for student debt servicing in the period of the Budget.

"However, despite the constraints we face, we will deliver funding for a phased transition from student loans to grants,

starting with part-time students."

Despite the short-term reduction in funding for the sector, the SNP emphasised that Scotland's higher education institutions remain a priority for the party.

Fiona Hyslop, Education and Lifelong Learning Secretary, outlined the SNP's long-term plans for higher education funding. In a statement last week, she said: "Scotland's universities and colleges are central to that sustainable economic growth."

"We will invest £5.24 billion in total in Scotland's further and higher education, with an extra £100 million capital funding package in 2007/08.

"We will deliver support for students of £1.55 billion over three years with £119 million to end the graduate endowment fee and a phased transition from student loans to grants starting with part-time students."

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There's trouble brewing...

Scotland's largest soft drink manufacturer, AG Barr, has signed a deal to sell a new energy drink owned by one of America's most outspoken right-wing "shock-jock" families

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Keeping the US happy

George Grant argues that, 62 years after its creation, the UN needs reform if it is to tackle the modern international issues and challenges facing the world

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Sarah Saleh

Guinness for breakfast?

Kasmira Jefford & Nana Wereko-Brobby discover the simple pleasures of waking up to a strong drink at one of Edinburgh's all-night bars

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Camping it up

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"A man's character may be learned from the adjectives which he habitually uses in conversation."

Mark Twain

SNP breaks student debt promise

Continued from page 1
But Labour MSPs have criticised the SNP for breaking their promise to abolish student debt.

Labour finance spokesman Iain Gray commented: "For 18 months the SNP told Scottish students that it would write off their debt immediately. This pledge took Mr Swinney 18 seconds to ditch this afternoon."

The government's retraction has illustrated the importance of the student-led Final Demand campaign in influencing the Scottish government to increase student funding.

Whilst Scotland's higher education institutions were disappointed by the allocated funding, other sectors fared considerably better. One particular highlight of the budget was the announcement that council taxes would be frozen at their current rates.

Mr Swinney gave the budget speech having agreed a ground-breaking "cordat" with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).

This deal does not fully guarantee a council tax freeze, but the signatures on the agreement from the five presidents of COSLA carry considerable weight.

In return for this deal, 32 local authorities were promised up to £500m in extra funding over the next year.

Tory finance spokesman Derek Brownlee called for the local government deal to be fully assessed so that the council tax freeze would not affect spending on services.

If the agreement was fully ratified by all 32 local councils, rates would be frozen for three years, representing a real-term cut of 2.7 per cent per year.

In other areas, the drugs rehabilitation budget was cut, as well as the

amount set aside for affordable housing.

The budget included a pledge to generate 50 per cent of power from renewable sources by 2020.

Mr Swinney also laid out plans to increase public sector efficiency saving from 1.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent.

Sources close to Mr Swinney have admitted that the efficiency savings were needed to balance the budget because resources were so tight.

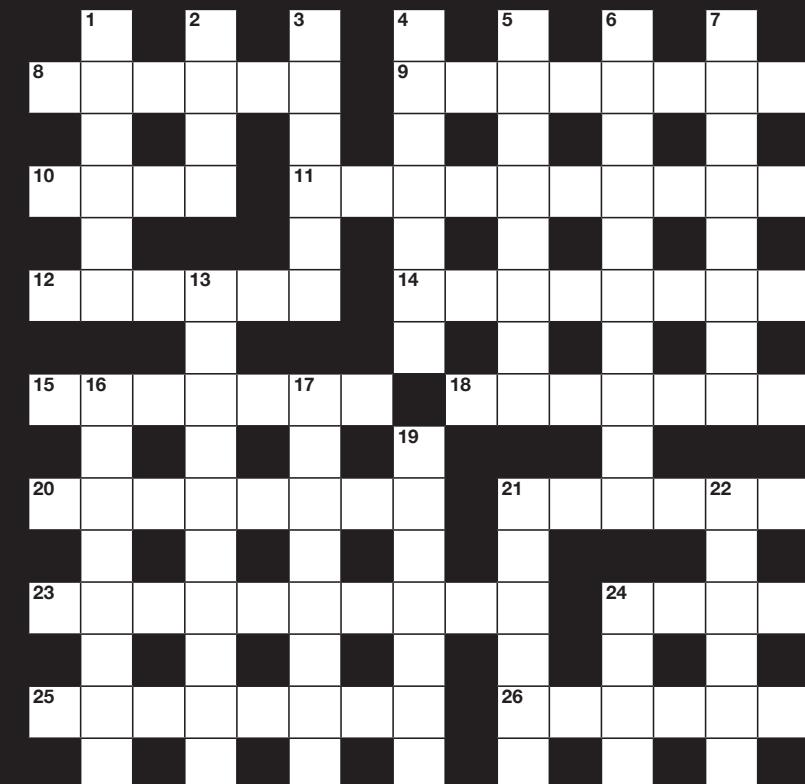
The Finance Secretary blamed the cuts on a tight financial settlement from the UK treasury. He said: "We are in a tough financial climate and we will not be able to deliver on all our commitments just as we would have liked."

He added: "With investment in our public services, matched by lower and fairer tax, I believe this budget meets the aspirations of the people."

Cryptic Crossword

Win a bottle of wine and a tin of top-quality haggis by sending in your correctly-completed crossword! Winners will be drawn from a hat.

Send entries to The Journal, 52 Clerk Street, Edinburgh EH8 9JB



ACROSS

- 8 Nothing in a smashed beam but a tiny organism (6)
- 9 Let out of renewed contract (8)
- 10 "Wait," we hear, "I'm inside a branch" (4)
- 11 Nice bridle is torn - unbelievable! (10)
- 12 What's left behind in city outskirts after a goo retreats (6)
- 14 Stimulate English sex (8)
- 15 Down-payment for novel I posted (7)
- 18 Great art gallery is made from plastic (7)
- 20 Loyalty from Cuban leader? I thank you (8)
- 21 American romantic attempt at verse (6)
- 23 Arrange cannon and halt, unconcerned (10)
- 24 Skirt worn by ballet dancer and Archbishop (4)
- 25 Terracotta urn, emptied of earth, hides traitor (8)
- 26 Groom at war (6)

DOWN

- 1 I'm wearing a napkin before start of evening drinking (6)
- 2 Her breasts contain an aromatic (4)
- 3 Calming little ocean, yes? (6)
- 4 Reach at broken pipe (7)
- 5 The French garlic makes one hypersensitive (8)
- 6 Puppet sprite has wrong doctrine (10)
- 7 Run fleet at sea, ebbing away (8)
- 13 The smell of a layabout or a young person perhaps? (10)
- 16 PS: Record one record and add to end of queue (8)
- 17 Fraud has 1001 in single fake tarot (8)
- 19 TV show in a powerful series (7)
- 21 Put early schooling into revolution (6)
- 22 One in odd ultra-religious ceremony (6)
- 24 Boy has note - it's grave (4)

Issue I solution

Congratulations to last week's winner Junta Sekimori, the winner of two tickets to The Filmhouse, the home of the Edinburgh International Film Festival



The Journal

EDINBURGH'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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AG Barr signs deal with far-right American “shock-jock”



Graham Mackay

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SCOTLAND'S LARGEST SOFT drink manufacturer, AG Barr, has signed a deal to sell a new energy drink owned by one of America's most outspoken right-wing 'shock-jock' families.

Barr, otherwise known as "The Irn-Bru Company", recently signed the controversial deal, allowing them to distribute Rockstar, a caffeine-laden energy drink invented by Russ Weiner, son of Michael Weiner aka Michael Savage, the extremist, conservative political commentator and radio presenter.

Mr Weiner, who ran for a seat in the California State Assembly in 1998, is a strong advocate of the deportation of illegal immigrants and the bringing together of "Americans who actively seek to take back our borders, our language, and our traditional culture from the liberal left corroding our great nation."

His father, Mr Savage, who has be-

come closely linked with Rockstar since they started sponsoring his live shows, holds a PhD in Nutritional Ethnomedicine from the University of California, Berkley and has written extensively on medical botany and nutrition. However, in recent years, he has focused heavily on the lambasting of ethnic minorities, homosexuals and liberals.

Recently, Mr Savage referred to Iraqi prisoners as "sub-humans", claiming: "I think there should be no mercy shown to [them], I believe that a thousand of them should be killed tomorrow."

He has also referred to disabled people as the "Wheelchair Mafia", branded same-sex adoption as "child abuse" and, when speaking about human rights and homosexuality, stated: "when you think 'human rights', think only one thing: someone who wants to rape your son."

Four years ago, he was sacked from his television show by broadcasting company MSNBC, when he told a gay caller to "get AIDS and die, you pig."

The release of Rockstar on the UK

market was slammed by Tom French, Edinburgh University Student Association's (EUSA) Vice President for Services (VPS), who has enforced a boycott against the selling of Rockstar products in EUSA outlets with immediate effect.

Speaking to *The Journal*, Mr French commented: "Having met with the appropriate union managers, and having researched into this matter, I have decided to put in place a boycott of Rockstar products across association outlets.

"This has been agreed on the basis that the very publicly expressed racist and homophobic views of the owners of the Rockstar brand are not compatible with the Students' Association's policy to support and promote equality and diversity within the student community and beyond.

"Further to this it is my belief that our commercial outlets should seek to promote more ethical products where possible, and should refrain from spending funds on buying in stock from unethical companies. That is why we continue

to expand our range of Fairtrade products, and in tandem, continue to boycott products from companies such as Nestlé and now Rockstar."

John McQuade, Chairman of Edinburgh University's Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay Society, echoed Mr French's views, voicing his full support for the boycott. He branded Rockstar "uncivilised" and stated: "under no circumstances should the company be dignified by having its product purchased by anyone, student or otherwise."

Speaking on the issue on a broader scale, James Alexander, president of the National Union of Students (NUS) Scotland, felt that Scottish students would vote with their wallets against the product. He said: "People in Scotland are socially conscious, and there could and should be a knock-on effect for people who preach these sorts of unacceptable views."

AG Barr have been unavailable to comment over the course of the last week.

"When you think 'human rights', think only one thing: someone who wants to rape your son."

Rockstar, which now rivals Red Bull in its popularity throughout the United States, claims that its drinkers experience the greatest boost of any energy drink on the market due to its unique herbal blend of Guarana, Ginkgo, Ginseng and Milk Thistle. However, the company's website features the blunt tagline "More caffeine", an appropriate slogan for a drink which contains 160mg of caffeine per 16 oz can, double that of Red Bull.



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Bonfire sets the city ablaze

Arthur's Seat damaged by all night fire in emergency services' busiest ever Bonfire Night

Hamish Fergusson

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THE LOTHIAN AND Borders Fire and Rescue Service reported Edinburgh's most eventful Bonfire Night yet, with crews responding to a record number of emergency calls.

Operators handled 826 calls between 6pm on 5 November and the early hours of the following morning. Last year the figure was 770.

A large number of incidents were caused by fireworks, including one on Arthur's Seat, where for a second year running a gorse-fire was sparked by a stray rocket. Firefighters were still attending to the blaze the following afternoon.

Martin Gray, acting head of the Historic Scotland ranger service, has warned of the threat posed by fireworks to Holyrood Park. He said: "Fires can kill rare wildlife and damage a special part of Edinburgh there for everyone to enjoy."

"Just as concerning is that people have been digging holes to set off fireworks, which causes potential damage in an area rich with archaeology. We would remind people that fireworks are not allowed in the park."

In another incident pensioners liv-



Arthur's Seat caught fire after a rogue firework was set off by Bonfire Night revellers Scott Hunter

ing in Mandy Gray's block in Willowbrae were woken by a barrage of 500 fireworks set off in the building's staircase. The impromptu display damaged doors and windows and was filmed by the youths responsible on their mobile phones. 75-year-old local resident Jack Kelly said: "I actually thought we had got away with it this year because it had been pretty quiet, but then there

was this almighty bang and I knew what it was."

"It was just horrendous, incredibly frightening but it is something we have grown to expect every year now, it is very sad."

Elsewhere a fire began after a firework was deliberately thrown through the bathroom window of a flat in Muirton Place, Dalry, and a children's

playground in Madeira Street, Leith, was set alight.

The unprecedented number of disturbances followed the rejection, by police chiefs, of a bid to ban the sale of fireworks to the general public. A spokesperson for the Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland said: "It is felt there is sufficient legislative power available to allow the police to

deal with those persons misusing fireworks."

An opinion poll conducted by the Edinburgh Evening News recorded 72 per cent of respondents agreed that it was time to ban the sale of fireworks to the general public. However Scotland's top policemen are concerned that a blanket ban may "penalise the majority of law-abiding citizens."

Edinburgh human rights lawyer "denied freedom of speech"

Hamish Fergusson

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ONE OF SCOTLAND'S top young lawyers has received widespread support as he faces a contempt of court hearing.

Leading lawyers, politicians and writers have voiced their opposition to calls by Lord Carloway to charge defence lawyer Aamer Anwar with contempt of court, after he issued a controversial statement on the steps of Edinburgh High Court.

The incident occurred in September, following the conviction of his client, Mohammed Atif Siddique, for three terror charges. Having gathered outside the court with the family of Siddique, a 21-year-old student from Alva, Clackmannanshire, Mr Anwar stated that his client had not received a fair trial, and described the eight year sentence as a "tragedy for justice".

He said his client was guilty only of "doing what millions of young people do every day - looking for answers on the internet."

His criticisms were described by the Siddique trial judge, Lord Carloway, as "simply a lie."

The judge said: "The remarks appeared to be an unjustified attack on almost every area of the trial process and thus presumably an attack on the court itself."

He went on to accuse Mr Anwar of "hiding behind the cloak of his client"

to make politically motivated attacks on anti-terrorism legislation.

Lord Carloway's subsequent decision to push for Mr Anwar to be tried for contempt has prompted an outcry within legal circles and beyond. The judge has been accused of overreacting, having already received a partial apology and an admission that parts of his statement were inaccurate.

A number of legal luminaries have criticised the decision, including Gareth Peirce, famous for her defence of the Birmingham Six and the Guildford

lashed an open letter written by the grassroots pressure group, Scotland Against Criminalising Communities, and signed by the author Iain Banks, veteran MP Tony Benn and Bashir Mann, convener of the Muslim Council of Scotland, amongst notable others.

It branded Lord Carloway's decision an "unprecedented attack on freedom of speech," and warned of its potential "far reaching consequences," concluding, "we believe that the current attack on Aamer Anwar is an attack on the fundamental right of all lawyers to represent their clients."

Mr Anwar said: "I cherish the right to freedom of speech which is one of the pillars of liberty and justice," but he declined to comment further while matters are under judicial consideration.

His case may be debated in the Scottish Parliament. Independent MSP Margo MacDonald plans to raise the issue in the form of a motion. She too is critical of the contempt of court allegations, and said: "I am concerned about any restraint being put on lawyers who speak their minds, give their opinions or campaign against injustice - and Aamer Anwar does all three."

Meanwhile The Islamic Human Rights Commission, which has consultative status with United Nations, is to refer the Anwar case to the UN.

Its chairman, Massoud Shadjareh, described the affair as "a very sad day for Scottish justice."

A date is yet to be set for the hearing.



Four, and for representing the family of Jean Charles De Menezes.

She said: "We should be grateful, in times of considerable fear for entire communities, that there are lawyers brave enough to speak out. The right to say the uncomfortable needs to be valued in a democracy."

She was joined in her disapproval by Michael Mansfield, one of England's top five QCs, Imran Khan, the London solicitor who acted for the family of Stephen Lawrence, and Baroness Helena Kennedy, barrister, broadcaster and Labour member of the House of Lords.

On 8 November *The Herald* pub-

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Edinburgh hosts winter sports championships

Graham Mackay

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THE MIDLOTHIAN SKI Centre Hillend Ski played host to the annual British Universities Dry slope Championships (BUDS) on 9 and 10 November.

Skiers from a number of British universities competed in the racing and freestyle events at Midlothian Ski Centre, Europe's longest and steepest dry ski slope.

Despite the racing events being the focal point of the competition in terms of points and prizes, the attention of the crowd was very much elsewhere. The sounds of heavy metal and drum'n'bass enveloped the bitterly cold night air as the competition heated up at Hillend's freestyle slope, where skiers and snowboarders flaunted their trademark moves, displaying a vast

range of jumps, flips, grabs and spins.

After the finals, in which the very best competitors delivered a spectacular show of various jumps, came the pro-am, with a select few of Edinburgh's elite skiers and snowboarders performing breath-taking stunts alongside the crème de la crème of university talent.

Edinburgh University's Adam McLean, who finished runner-up in the previous week's Scottish University's Dry slope (SUDS) skiing competition, told *The Journal*: "This is the best day of the year at Hillend. The students take over and everyone loves taking part in the competition."

Another competitor, Bex Eccles, of Robert Gordon University, who made the women's finals, commented: "The quality of skiing and boarding here is as high as it gets in any university competition."



Student skiers from all over the UK compete in two days of dry-slope action Jethro Collins

News Shorts

wear them



Onward towards global domination

Coffee giant Starbucks has announced that it is to open yet another Edinburgh-based outlet on Nicholson Street, bringing its total number in the city to 14.

Starbucks' current store locations include two outlets on George Street, two on Princes Street, one on both the Royal Mile and Lothian Road, and at Ocean Terminal, Fort Kinnaird and The Gyle shopping centres. The store at 140 Nicholson Street will give the corporation a strong footing in the fight against pesky independent coffee shops in Edinburgh's Southside.

Edinburgh survives city-wide power cut

Paris Gourtsoyannis

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A LARGE SWATH of Edinburgh was plunged into darkness on Tuesday 13 November after fires at two electrical substations in the city caused extensive power outages.

Parts of central and southern Edinburgh, extending from the Pleasance and along Melville Drive into Marchmont and Bruntsfield, were without electricity for several hours as fire-fighters battled the blazes and Scottish Power technicians struggled to re-establish the power supply.

According to the *Edinburgh Evening News*, some 15,000 properties were affected.

The incident began at George Square Lane, near the main University of Edinburgh campus, where a substation undergoing maintenance by Scottish Power workers caught fire at approximately 4.30 pm.

Power was switched off at the affected site, causing an overload at a second substation at Maxwell Street in Morningside. The resulting explosion had sufficient force to damage the surrounding pavement and resulted in the blackouts experienced across the city.

As well as homes and businesses, municipal lighting was affected by the outages, with important junctions along South Clerk Street, Melville Drive and Marchmont Road left without traffic lights.

Some residents reported that burglar alarms were falsely triggered as a result of the power cuts.

Melville Terrace, completely dark in the absence of municipal lights, was lit by the glow of mobile phones, cameras and PDAs and along Warrender Park Road, conscientious neighbours in tenement buildings placed candles in front gardens and stairwells.

No injuries were reported at the site of the explosion and fires, or as a result of the blackouts; however, several near misses were reported exclusively to *The Journal*.

An employee of Stoat's Porridge Bars, which operates a mobile outlet on Middle Meadow Walk next to the George Square Lane site, recalled that upon hearing of the substation fire and explosion, he rushed back to work.

He said: "I thought maybe I'd left the petrol for the generator out." Thankfully, as featured in the photograph accompanying the *Edinburgh Evening News* coverage on 14 November, he found his business intact.

He added: "I'd have quite a few enemies, otherwise. But it would have made a good headline."

Elsewhere, third-year Edinburgh University student Amanda Green found herself in a Southside flat whose occupants keep a pet boa constrictor in an electrically-locked glass container.

She said: "The lights flickered and went out, but they said everything was fine as long as the rest of the power stayed on."

"Then it all went dark."

Scottish Power reported that by 7.30 pm, all but 3,000 of the affected properties had been reconnected; the remainder were without electricity until approximately 9 pm.

International Football Scotland 1–2 Italy



NEAR MISS: Fans' joy turns to despair in the Three Sisters as Scotland fall to last-minute defeat Eddie Fisher

Liberal Democrat leadership bandwagon rolls into town

Paris Gourtsoyannis

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THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS last week held their leadership hustings in Edinburgh as the party seeks a replacement for Sir Menzies Campbell.

Leadership candidates Nick Clegg, MP for Sheffield Hallam, and Chris Huhne, MP for Eastleigh, near Southampton, addressed Scottish party activists and elected officials at a small gathering at the University of Edinburgh's New College General Assembly Hall on Saturday 10 November.

Widely regarded as the frontrunner, Mr Clegg emphasised the importance of the current leadership race, the second in as many years. He told assembled party members: "The country is watching. We haven't had a good time of it recently."

Sir Menzies resigned on 15 October in what was considered by many to be a coup against a leader whose age, coupled with poor results in recent opinion polls, had led many Lib Dems to question his ability to lead the party through the next election.

At the time of Sir Campbell's departure, the Liberal Democrats' support nationally stood at just 14 per cent, the lowest approval the party had experienced for several years.

Addressing the assembled delegates, Mr Clegg said the new Lib Dem leader should "showcase a different brand of politics," calling for an end to the current "clapped-out, two party system."

Presenting a platform of Five Challenges for Britain, Mr Clegg called for action to tackle political powerlessness, social inequality, fear of crime, environmental degradation and the threat posed by globalisation.

The younger of the two candidates, 40-year-old Mr Clegg attacked the present Labour government on its social policy, accusing the Prime Minister of dealing with profound social problems by "fiddling with tax policies and chasing tabloid headlines."

Citing the example of a constituent

who had received separate messages from her local council on the same day stating that she had been accepted and declined for social housing, Mr Clegg said: "You just don't treat people that way."

He added: "People are looking for a government with a sense of conviction that they know is listening."

53-year-old Mr Huhne also came out on the attack, accusing both major parties of practising "crass, callow and conservative politics," stating that both had "given up on big ideas and radical solutions."

Gordon Brown, he said, was the "patron saint of tax accountants," laying responsibility for the Northern Rock crisis at the Prime Minister's door, Mr Huhne added that Downing Street had lent £1000 to the troubled bank on behalf of each tax payer, without demanding the resignation of its management team.

Linking the approaching Remembrance Day commemorations to Labour security and anti-terrorism measures, Mr Huhne condemned the government's record on human rights, claiming that those who had died in the service of their country had chosen to defend "their liberties over their lives – while this government would have you choose your lives over your liberties."

Calling for militancy amongst party members, Huhne insisted: "We are different. You must oppose the things you think are wrong. This country does not need another conservative party, it needs a radical party."

"Now is the time for a grassroots crusade of liberals."

Introducing the pair of contenders, Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Nicol Stephen highlighted recent gains for the party north of the border, citing by-election victories in Helensborough and Dundee.

The Scottish leader also drew attention to the event's historic setting. The New College General Assembly Hall housed the Scottish parliament prior to the completion of its current home at Holyrood.



Candidates debate policies and the direction of the party after the turbulence of the last few weeks

Edinburgh set to cash in as Glasgow gets its Games

Paris Gourtsoyannis

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CONGRATULATIONS HAVE BEEN pouring in from across Scotland and the United Kingdom in response to Glasgow's success in being awarded the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Jubilation greeted the announcement from the Sri Lankan capital Colombo on Friday 9 November, that Glasgow would play host to the third largest sporting event in the world.

As news of the victory flashed across screens erected in the city's Old Fruitmarket, politicians of all persuasions celebrated together. Scottish Conservative leader Annabel Goldie, former Labour First Minister Jack McConnell, and SNP Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon danced to The Proclaimers' '500 Miles' in front of thousands of assembled revellers.

Meanwhile, the athletes and politicians who had travelled to Colombo to lobby for the Scottish bid and hear the announcement in person, were led in celebration by First Minister Alex Salmond.

"We will make these games the greatest sporting event our country has ever seen. They will be our chance to show the whole world the very best of Scotland,"

said the Scottish government leader.

Speaking on the economic rewards expected from the games, Bid Director Derek Casey said: "Around 1,700 jobs will be created, 1,200 from the games themselves and the rest from the building of roads, railways and hotels. Obviously some of those jobs will be outside the city."

"Overall, Scotland is predicted to see a 4 per cent increase in tourism because of the games."

Speaking to the *Edinburgh Evening News*, VisitScotland's Area Director for Edinburgh, Ben Carter, confirmed Mr Casey's statement. He said: "Around 50 per cent of all overseas visitors include a trip to Edinburgh during their stay in Scotland, so it is likely that many visitors to the games will extend their stay to include a visit to Edinburgh."

"The capital will undoubtedly benefit from the international exposure of the games. We can use the games as a draw card, while opening the window to a range of opportunities, like Edinburgh's summer festivals."

The Glasgow 2014 games will see events take place at Glasgow's landmark sporting and cultural venues, with Hampden Park transformed to accommodate athletics, Rangers' home at Ibrox hosting rugby sevens, lawn bowls being played at the historic Kelvingrove Park,

and the opening and closing ceremonies unfolding at Celtic Park.

Other regions of Scotland will also be included in the sporting festivities; Motherwell's Strathclyde Country Park will play host to the triathlon, with shooting events planned for a Ministry of Defence rifle range in Angus, and the diving competition to be held at Edinburgh's Royal Commonwealth Pool.

Conservative estimates put the figure for revenue generated by the eleven-day event at £81 million, with some £55 million made outside of Glasgow.

The £36 million redevelopment of the Commonwealth Pool will see it upgraded to full international standards in both swimming and diving facilities; however, spiralling costs have seen a funding gap of some £17 million open up, with only £4 million being pledged by the Scottish government.

Labour Councillor Paul Godzik, of Meadows & Morningside, says that poor planning in infrastructure could mar the games for Edinburgh residents. He said: "If we go forward with a redevelopment at Meadowbank and with the Commonwealth Pool having to be refurbished, it means in the critical period of the run-up to the Olympics in 2012 and the Commonwealth Games in 2014, Edinburgh's two major sporting facilities will be closed."

"People in Edinburgh could lose the

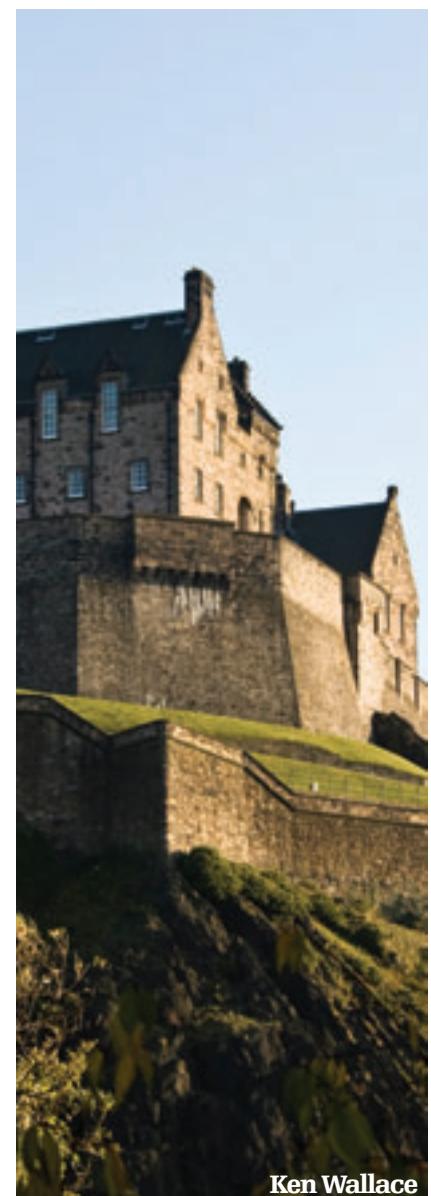
sporting opportunities they might have had."

Mr Casey discussed the role universities have to play in helping young athletes progress to an international standard of competition, telling *The Journal*: "In Scotland there are six Area Institute Networks which are linked to universities, local authorities and other partners - athletes then move into the Scottish Institute of Sport programme as they reach elite levels."

"Services available through the AIN's include support and advice on balancing sport and study or work, improving strength and conditioning, Sport Psychology and coach support."

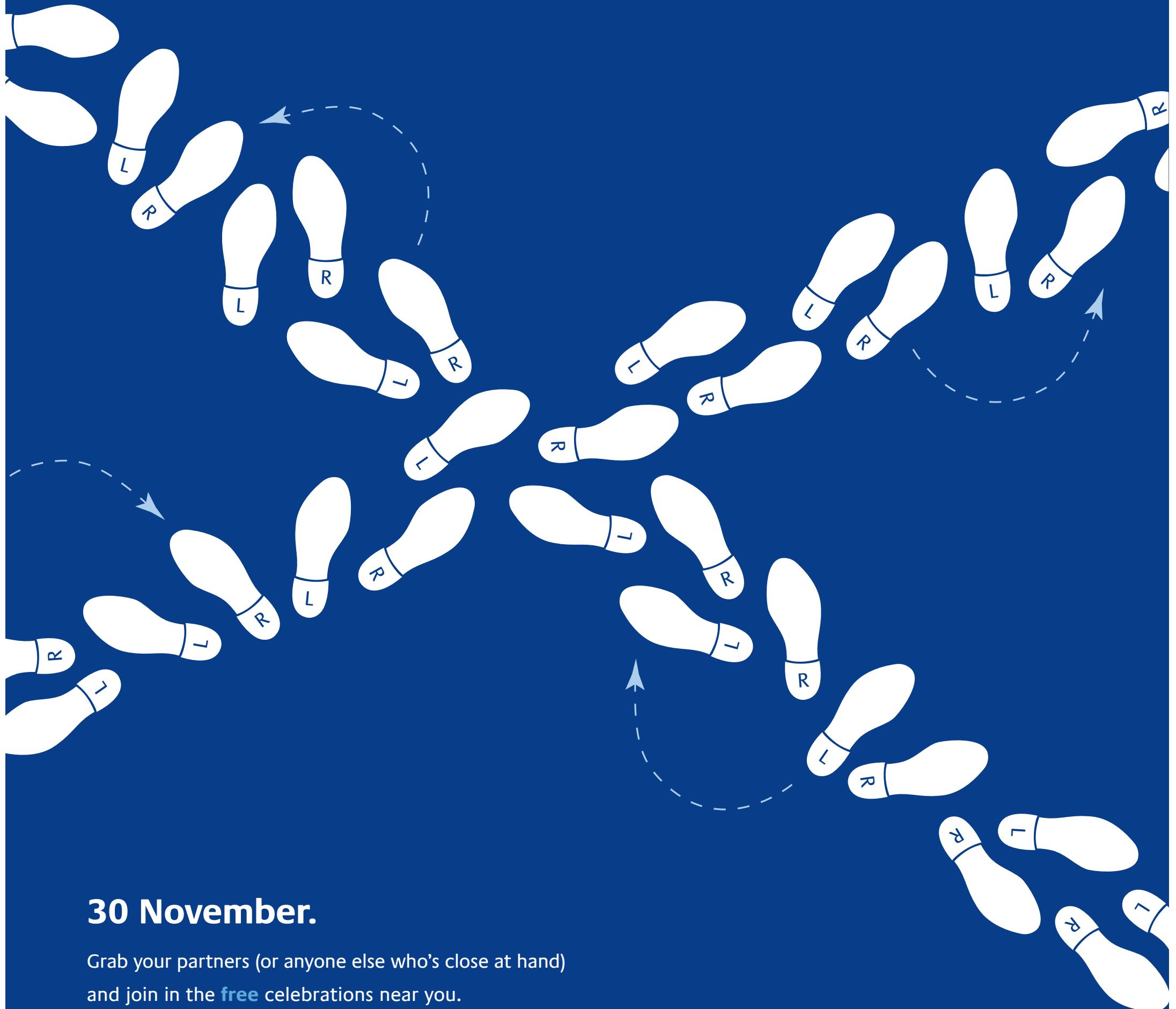
With Glasgow's victory in securing the Commonwealth Games, Great Britain may soon be looking forward to a decade-long 'golden age' of sport, with the London Olympics in 2012 and the Commonwealth Games in 2014 potentially followed by the world cups of football and cricket - in 2018 and 2019 respectively - both hosted in England, if the bids are successful.

Edinburgh has hosted the Commonwealth Games twice in the past: first in 1970, then again in 1986, when a boycott by 31 countries in protest at sporting links with the Apartheid regime in South Africa distracted from the sporting events.



Ken Wallace

CELEBRATE ST. ANDREW'S DAY WITH SALSA CELTICA.



30 November.

Grab your partners (or anyone else who's close at hand) and join in the **free** celebrations near you.

Salsa Celtica.

Revel in the exciting sounds of this world fusion band.

Jig to the traditional rhythms of the Portobello

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Academics highlight Scotland's role in slave trade

Nick Eardley & Neil Bennet

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THE UNIVERSITY OF Edinburgh held a public debate exploring Scotland's role in slavery and the slave trade on Wednesday 14 November. The event, held in the Assembly Hall of the university's New College, marked the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire.

Chaired by author and historian Professor Tom Devine, the discussion examined both the direct and indirect involvement of Scots and Scotland in slavery, as well as at the abolition movement in Scotland.

Professor Devine described the 1807 Abolition of Slavery Act as: "unprecedented in history, in that it wasn't done for economic reasons but because of the moral arguments".

He also proposed that the slave trade had largely contributed to the rapid economic development of Scotland in the eighteenth century as much of the capital for industrialisation came from trade in tobacco, cotton and other plantations that relied on slave

labour.

Professor Devine highlighted that there were both "dark and light" elements to Scottish involvement in the slave trade, with Scots deeply implicated in all aspects of the trade, including slave trafficking from Scottish ports and keeping slaves at home and abroad, as well as being at the forefront of the abolitionist movement.

Events marking the bicentenary of the 1807 act have been held in Manchester, Liverpool and elsewhere around the UK throughout 2007. Earlier in the year Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, called on the British government to apologise for its part in the trade, and former Prime Minister Tony Blair described his "deep sorrow and regret" for Britain's role.

The Edinburgh event, which followed on from the Scotland, Slavery and Abolition conference held the previous weekend, also saw discussion about individual slaves traced in Scotland, and about the lack of acknowledgement of Scottish involvement in slavery within the school curriculum.

John Cairns, professor of Legal History at the university's School of Law,

argued that Scotland has allowed its involvement in the trade to fade from history, and contrasted this to the 18th century, when owners of slaves showed no shame in advertising in the national press when one of their slaves had escaped.

Maritime specialist Dr Eric Graham attacked the History curriculum, arguing that school students should be taught that many Scots were involved in the trafficking and enslavement trades.

Looking at the Scottish abolition movement, Reverend Dr Iain Whyte told participants how the predominantly Christian activists had both moral and practical reasons for their convictions, believing all human beings equal, as well as religious motives. He also described how the Church of Scotland took a lead in the abolition movement to a greater extent than their English counterparts.

The panel also discussed the relationship between slavery and racism, along with the important role of women in the abolitionist movement and finished by taking questions from the floor.



Debate marks bicentenary of abolition of slave trade Eddie Fisher

Heriot-Watt on awards short-list

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HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY HAS been short-listed for two Times Higher Education Supplement Awards.

The university has received a nomination in the category of Outstanding Support to International Students. Sponsored by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), this award is given to the university which recognises the needs of, and provides support for, international students throughout the university and is based on students' replies to the International Student Barometer questionnaire.

In addition, Nandi Proteins Limited, a spin-off company set up by the university in 2001, is on the Business Initiative of the Year short-list. Nandi - a sales, marketing, intellectual prop-

erty and licensing company - was established to improve the nutritional values of common proteins and is at the forefront of fat replacement technology. It has so far raised £1 million via government and public grants, venture capital and private investment.

Nandi has product development facilities at Heriot Watt University where resources are focused on supporting customers to develop and commercialise food applications. Development of the technology pipeline is primarily through a core team of post doctorate researchers based at the university.

The number of entrants for the THES Awards 2007 has risen dramatically over the past few years. More than 90 per cent of UK universities entered the competition in one or more categories. The winners will be announced at the awards dinner on 29 November at Grosvenor House in London.

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QUEEN MARGARET UNIVERSITY'S new £105 million Craighall campus in Musselburgh, East Lothian has faced setbacks and delays, leaving the university students' union temporarily without premises.

The building, which is also set to house sports facilities and the university drama department, will possibly not be completed until after the Christmas break.

Student representatives James Wilkinson and John Baxter have started a petition on the union website demanding the building is completed and made available to students before the end of the Autumn term. A group in support of the campaign has also been created on the popular social networking website

Facebook.

John Baxter, Student Union Vice President said: "There is a massive chance that the Students' Union at QM may not be ready until after Christmas!"

"This is totally unacceptable and by joining this group you will be showing your support for your S.U. who are campaigning to get the building finished ASAP!"

The building is part of the 35-acre purpose-built campus, which includes both educational facilities and student accommodation comprising more than 800 rooms.

The state-of-the-art facility has been lauded as the country's "greenest" university campus, and includes a biomass heating system run using woodchips, allowing the campus to generate 60 per cent of its energy from a renewable source. There are also a limited number of parking spaces, while extra trains

and buses have been put on to serve students and staff.

A deal between the university and letting agents Grant Management will also see an internet cafe featuring an electronic bus time system to be installed at the new site.

Queen Margaret University - formerly Queen Margaret University College - is Scotland's newest university, having achieved full status in January this year.

The re-location to the new Musselburgh campus from the current three sites in Corstorphine, Leith and Elm Row has almost been completed after six years of planning and work. Most staff were moved to the new campus in September this year, though the student union building remains incomplete.

Representatives of Queen Margaret University were not available for comment.

Waterstone announced as Napier Chancellor

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NAPIER UNIVERSITY LAST week announced the appointment of Tim Waterstone, the founder of Waterstone's bookshop, to the position of University Chancellor in a ceremony at the Festival Theatre on Thursday 15 November.

Described as "an established authority on the development of early stage businesses," Mr Waterstone takes up the largely ceremonial position following a successful career with both Waterstone's booksellers and as founder-chairman of the HMV group.

Emphasising Napier University's commitment to producing young entrepreneurs, Dr Andrew Cubie, chairman

of the university court said: "Tim holds dear our values of providing access to higher education to all in society, but particularly those from less advantaged backgrounds. He is also the embodiment of entrepreneurship, another of our long recognised attributes."

In line with this business background, Mr Waterstone is set to give a lecture at the university, entitled "Brave New World: the changing face of entrepreneurship" early next year.

Mr Waterstone's tenure was inaugurated at a ceremony which also saw honorary degrees presented to several other leading business figures. Stewart Milne, founder of the Stewart Milne Group, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Technology for his company's influential timber frame house design

and for their research into carbon neutral housing, while Dr Wali Uddin was rewarded for his entrepreneurial restaurant group.

In other fields, Professor William Hardcastle's research into linguistic science at the Speech Science Research Centre at Queen Margaret University earned him an Honorary Doctorate in Science. Additionally, guitarist Bert Jansch—founder of the group Pentangle—became an Honorary Doctor of music, after being touted as "one of the most influential musicians of all time," by the university. The university praised Jansch's "extraordinary ground-breaking guitar playing and classic emotive songs."

In a statement released on Thursday, Professor Joan Stringer, Principal

& Vice-Chancellor at Napier University, said: "This graduation is particularly special for us as we are inaugurating our new Chancellor, Tim Waterstone, who I'm sure will be a fantastic asset to the University. We also have four outstanding recipients who we can honour for their dedication in their work to society."

Remarkably, Napier University has been without a Chancellor since 2003. In taking up the post, Mr Waterstone succeeds George Younger, 4th Viscount Younger of Leckie who sadly died while in office four years ago, aged 71. Known to some as "Gentleman George," the former Conservative MP for Ayre and Secretary of State for Scotland during the Thatcher years had held the post since 1993.

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Architecture nomination for Waterfront development

The waterfront development at Granton Harbour this week received an architectural award double-nomination that has left a sour taste in the project designers' mouths.

The "prestigious" Carbuncle Awards are the architectural equivalent of the Golden Raspberries, a run-down of the leading lights in bad design. The Granton Harbour project is in the running for both the headline "Plook on the Plinth" award for general crapulence and for "Worst Planning Decision 2008."

Sold as an alternative tourist spot to the picturesque New Town, Granton Harbour is to include a beach and promenade in addition to luxury flats and retail areas but has been described as a "dreary, market driven estate."

It will face stiff competition from the favourite, Cumbernauld Town Centre, winner for the past two years.



Student politician accused of public indecency

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A FORMAL COMPLAINT has been lodged against a senior students' association figure at the University of Edinburgh, accusing him of inappropriate sexual behaviour in a union building, *The Journal* has learned.

Tom French, the Edinburgh University Student Association (EUSA) Vice-President Services (VPS), has been accused of engaging in activities of a sexual nature by an unnamed junior bar staff member. The incident is alleged to have taken place in one of the adjacent rooms to the newly opened Library Bar.

The allegation, made in a confidential incident report, was leaked to the students' association-funded newspaper, *Student*, last Thursday by a junior member of the bar staff at Teviot Row House, who claimed to have interrupted Mr French and his boyfriend while they were engaged in an inappropriate act. The bar staff member is reported to have complained to the bar manager immediately after the event is alleged to have taken place.

EUSA President, Josh MacAlister confirmed that an incident report had been lodged, telling *The Journal*: "This is an internal process which we will be taking action on. We take all incident reports seriously and this is no exception. I have no comment on the details of the situation because it is a confidential process."

Mr French has categorically denied any knowledge or involvement in the incident. In a statement, he said: "This

allegation is both false and absurd, and would be vaguely amusing if it didn't have the potential to be so damaging to my strong record as VPS. I have no idea why someone would want to dream up this allegation unless they had some sort of malicious intent. Perhaps they don't like the way I'm doing my job, perhaps they don't like seeing two guys in a relationship; I've got no idea."

The report is so far being treated as speculation, according to Mr MacAlister.

It is understood that Mr French was first made aware of the existence of the complaint by *Student* journalists on Thursday and it was confirmed by Mr MacAlister that night. He has not been made aware as to the specific details of the complaint.

Mr French is understood to have taken a day of compassionate leave on Friday as a result of the accusation.

EUSA have so far refused to release any details on the alleged incident due to confidentiality restrictions placed on internal investigations. Such restrictions have thus far prevented the independent verification or falsification of the report and have been criticised by student politicians and journalists alike.

Mr French has lodged an official counter-complaint with the students' association over the conduct of the investigation after EUSA failed to officially inform him of the complaint immediately nor show him a copy of the report.

An unnamed EUSA source said: "If this were to happen to any other member of staff, EUSA would be looking at an employment tribunal."



Tom French: EUSA's Vice President of Services accused of lewd behaviour in student union building

Edinburgh students say no to TOTAL

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WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER saw 370 students meet in George Square Lecture Theatre for Edinburgh University Student Association's (EUSA) Annual General Meeting.

The unusually high turnout made it possible for the first time in years for motions to be passed. It was particularly the ethical issues that generated a sharp influx of student voters.

Josh MacAlister, President of EUSA, told *The Journal*: "It was great to see a good turnout and it clearly demonstrates that students engaged with the issues."

EUSA will lobby the university to make Accommodation Services more environmentally friendly by pressuring them to employ an Environment and Sustainability manager with a view to accomplishing a positive outcome.

However, some of the other areas that EUSA intend to work on, that elicited the greatest student support, could prove to be exceptionally challenging.

A motion was passed proposing that EUSA should pressure the university into using the threat of their £9 million investment in the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) to induce the bank to halt their investment in new fossil fuel exploration. The motion purposes that RBS should instead be encouraged to endorse new renewable technologies.

The motion stated that if this not achieved by the 2009 AGM, the university should sell their shares in RBS.

Furthermore, the issue of Edin-

burgh's complicity in indirectly financing the Burmese regime was raised at the AGM, with a motion passed to pressure the university to completely disinvest from TOTAL.

According to Burma Campaign UK, TOTAL provides the major European funding of the Burmese government.

EUSA have a good relationship with the university, and will be working with them to explore how the desired results can be realised.

However, these proposals are fundamentally the direct domain of the university. They encompass a complexity of issues and infer broad implications. For the university to explicitly accuse RBS and TOTAL of unethical behaviour by means of disinvestment is a huge step in itself."

Mr MacAlister told *The Journal*: "It is up to the student body to make a judgement on whether these motions are achievable and relevant."

Anna Davidson, Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPA) of EUSA, highlighted the dangers of lobbying for issues that would not achieve the desired results. She urged voters not to support the motion of creating an Ethical Oversight Committee for the College of Science and Engineering.

Ms Davidson said: "I am not against the emotions or the reasoning behind the motion. But I don't think we will actually achieve what we want to do."

Ms Davidson stated that an Ethical Oversight Committee already exists. The motion if put into practise by the university would examine ethical conduct rather than the desired inspection into the ethical applications of research.

Napier campaign to end mature student discrimination

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MATURE STUDENTS FACE ongoing age discrimination on account of Lothian Buses' failure to provide the same fare concessions for mature students as they do for students under 25 years of age.

A campaign headed by Napier Student Association (NSA) has gained Edinburgh-wide support to pressure Lothian Buses into offering the same discounted rates to mature students that their younger counterparts obtain.

Aran Simm, President of NSA, told *The Journal*: "Mature students are very much a part of the student population and Lothian Buses should reflect that in their fares."

43 per cent of the students at Napier University in the academic year 2006/2007 were mature students. At the University of Edinburgh there were 5,824 mature students, representing 22.8 per cent of the students enrolled.

Mr Simm said: "We feel that in many cases, mature students are under greater financial responsibilities at home in comparison to younger students."

"We hope that with the extent of support we have received, Lothian Buses will respond accordingly and meet our demands."

Edinburgh's student unions have campaigned over the past three years for equitable fares for mature students. NSA has recently elicited considerable support across Edinburgh, manifested in the success of their petition.

They have obtained over 1,000 signatures and it is estimated the support

of a further 1,300 un-named individuals.

James Alexander, President of NUS Scotland, told *The Journal*: "NUS Scotland has, for many years, been campaigning nationally for discounted public transport for all students."

"Lothian Buses are the only option for most students in Edinburgh, and must not be responsible for increasing student hardship in Edinburgh."

Typically, an annual Lothian Buses Ridacard that offers practically unlimited bus travel throughout Edinburgh, costs mature students £72 more with the student card for under 25s costing £372 and £444 for mature students.

Mr Alexander said: "We look forward to campaigning for Lothian Buses to end their discriminatory Ridacard system once and for all."

Lothian Buses have stressed that it is politicians' responsibility to accommodate for mature students that are excluded from the discounted tariffs.

A spokesperson for Lothian Buses told *The Journal*: "With any discounted product a limit has to be drawn somewhere and there are always going to be those who are just the wrong side of the line and feel aggrieved."

"Bus companies are generally willing to offer discounted or free bus travel to any group of passengers so long as the fares revenue lost is received from another source to enable the company to pay the drivers wages, fuel and other costs that are incurred running the buses."

"Everyone would like to travel free or at a discount so it is up to the politicians to decide who is to travel free and who isn't as it is the government or council who will pick up the bill."

The Scottish government in January

committed themselves to a Scotland-wide concessionary scheme for young people aimed at reducing the costs of travel.

Initially this was directed towards the 16 to 18-year-old age group but has been expanded so that all young people are eligible for dispensations in travel fares.

A spokesperson for Transport Scotland, although unable to comment on commercial decisions made by individual bus companies, told *The Journal*: "The Scottish government will continue to develop student support systems in consultation with stakeholders so that they are simple, fair and transparent as possible, with support targeted at those who need it most."

"Around 15 per cent of all students eligible to apply (approximately 35,000) receive travel expenses from the Students Awards Agency for Scotland. Applications are income assessed, but normally a student can expect to receive back all travel costs to and from their place of study above a minimum of £155 per annum."

A solution to the discrimination mature students are confronted with is difficult to achieve. Neither Lothian Buses nor the Scottish government are prepared to take responsibility and make solid changes.

Josh MacAlister, President of the Edinburgh University Students Association, told *The Journal*: "This is a really challenging issue because the buck is continually passed between the provider, the council and the Scottish government."

"Someone should step up to the plate and recognise the needs of mature students."

Fettes College production mocks famous ex-pupil

Helen Walker

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ONE OF SCOTLAND'S top public schools has written and produced a savage satirical play based on its most famous former pupil.

The *Which Blair Project*, written by a senior teacher and performed by boys from Tony Blair's own house, presents an acerbic look back at his time in office.

The plot depicts Mr Blair as a self important, air-guitar-playing, dandy who involves a geeky Gordon Brown in his bid to become head boy. The young Mr Blair then uses his position to build "a giant tent for people to, er, do stuff in" and invades neighbouring public school, Merchiston Castle, which he claims has weapons of mass destruction.

In an allusion to the hit TV cartoon *The Simpsons*, the young Mr Blair introduces himself to the audience with, "Hi. I'm Tony Blair. You may remember me from television spectaculairs such as *Princess Diana's funeral*, *The G8 Summit*, *Peace in Northern Ireland* and *The NATO Bombing of Serbia*. I particularly enjoyed that one. The governments of Europe, America and Russia thought I'd done such a good job with every-

thing else that they've sent me here to the Middle East to bring peace."

The play also includes cameos from stoned Etonians Dave and Boris. While Tommy Sheridan leads the "People's Revolutionary Buckfast Commandos."

David McDowell, History and Politics Master, who wrote the play, said in an interview with the *Scotland on Sunday*: "The play was mischievous rather than malicious and the punters really seemed to enjoy it."

The cutting parody seems slightly at odds with the proud tribute the school paid to Tony Blair only last year, by unveiling an expensive bronze bust in honour of the former Prime Minister.

Mr Blair has had an interesting relationship with his old school, being described by one former master as "the most difficult boy I ever had to deal with."

John Rentoul, author of the book *Tony Blair* said of the former PM: "All the teachers I spoke to when researching the book said he was a pain in the backside, and they were very glad to see the back of him."

McDowell still hopes, however, that relations with Mr Blair will not be affected and that he will be able to take up an invitation to speak to the school's Politics Society.



Queen's speech highlights co-operation between governments despite public disputes

Helen Walker

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DESPITE TENSIONS IN recent months between Westminster and Holyrood, the Scottish Executive has announced that certain devolved areas will be dealt with by Westminster.

The Sewel Convention, as the process is called, allows for Westminster to legislate in areas of devolution at the permission of the Scottish government.

This decision contrasts with the growing public hostility Alex Salmond has shown towards the Labour Government.

In Mr Salmond's speech to the SNP

conference he voiced his belief that the Westminster administration was intent on making life difficult for the Scottish Executive, asserting: "I don't think they are sitting around the cabinet table and cheering us on."

The prompt verdict on the Queen's speech and decision as to which areas are Sewel, has lead Brian Taylor, the BBC's political commentator, to surmise that "detailed information re. the Westminster plans has been shared behind the scenes with officials in Scotland."

This contrasts markedly to an October report in *The Scotsman*.

It stated senior Labour officials had warned Whitehall departments not to share information with the Scottish

government that might be used to the SNP's advantage.

The Liberal Democrats have criticised what they see as back tracking by the SNP on the Sewel Convention. The Lib Dems highlighted the criticism the SNP levied at the Liberal Democrat and Labour Coalition Executive when they agreed to Sewel areas of the devolution settlement back in 2004.

Under the proposals, Westminster will include Scotland in improvements to health care professions. In addition, in order to tackle climate change more effectively, the Scottish Executive will also allow Westminster to provide a statutory UK framework for action to tackle global warming.

Even with such co-operation, there are still significant elements of Mr Brown's 29 Bill programme, outlined in the Queen's speech, that will not affect Scotland. Gordon Brown's proposals to raise the age of compulsory education or training to 18 are not supported by the SNP and will not be adopted in Scotland.

The Education Institute of Scotland has backed such a decision but it does signal further divergence between education policies in Scotland and the rest of the UK.

Fall outs between the administrations began back in the summer when Tony Blair indicated he was happy for the Lockerbie bomber, Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed al-Megrahi, to serve out his

prison term in Libya.

More recently Alex Salmond has launched an attack on Alistair Darling, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, after the increase in Scotland's budget was significantly lower than previous years.

The First Minister accused Mr Darling of "short changing and squeezing Scotland" and that such incidences presented an even stronger argument for independence, rhetoric which Mr Darling described as "bluster".

The arrangements for Gordon Brown's legislative agenda has caused some to view the developments as indication that the two governments are embracing a more pragmatic approach of co-operation.

Salmond backs proposals for organ donation

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SCOTLAND'S FIRST MINISTER has backed the idea of presumed consent for organ donation, amid calls for Scotland to lead the way in the field.

The support comes after a British Medical Association (BMA) survey found that Scottish approval of an organ donation opt-out system was at 74 per cent, 10 per cent higher than in the rest of the UK.

Under such a system it is assumed that people are willing to donate their organs after death unless they have stipulated otherwise.

Dr Peter Terry, Chairman of BMA Scotland, was keen to emphasise that there would "always be a choice," stating: "Discussions with the family should also continue before donation takes place."

In the light of strong Scottish support Lord George Foulkes, Labour MSP,

has called for Scotland to continue setting the pace for the UK, as it has done in the past with measures such as the smoking ban.

However while both Alex Salmond and Nicola Sturgeon, the Secretary for Health and Deputy First Minister, have expressed support for the campaign, they have been keen to point out that any measures would need to be the same across the UK.

Ms Sturgeon commented: "Organs available for transplantation are allocated on a UK-wide basis. The work on presumed consent needs to be undertaken across the UK, to avoid the risk of different systems developing in different parts of the UK."

According to figures from the BMA, 9000 people currently need an organ transplant in the UK and around 400 hundred die every year while awaiting kidney, lung, heart or liver transplants.

An overwhelming 69 per cent of the Scottish population surveyed indicated that they would be happy to donate

organs for transplantation but only a quarter of those in the same sample were on the organ donor register.

Dr Terry commented: "A system of presumed consent would address the apathy that exists towards signing up to the NHS Organ Donor Register. Presumed consent would mean that the views of the majority become a reality.

"It is now time to take this to the people of Scotland more widely."

The tide of support for an opt-out, rather than opt-in policy, towards organ donation seems to be turning in Scotland.

The BMA's survey showed Scottish support had increased by 10 per cent since its last poll in 2004. In addition the country's chief medical officer, Dr Harry Burns, recently presented a U-turn on his stance on the issue by declaring his approval of the policy.

At the SNP party conference last month a motion supporting the proposal was passed with overwhelming support.

Anne McLaughlin, the SNP Glas-

gow Convenor who tabled the motion, told *The Journal* she was "really pleased" by the First Minister's backing but she felt that "even more positive was the overwhelming support from the conference as a whole."

Ms McLaughlin's own findings, from a survey conducted at the conference, almost exactly mirrored the results found by the BMA for Scotland.

Ms McLaughlin said she agreed with the comments by the Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon on the issue and maintained that the next steps would be "to have a lengthy consultation, so that people know exactly what is involved."

The UK-wide Organ Donation Task Force is currently exploring the option of organ donation opt-out at the request of Westminster Secretary of State for Health, Alan Johnson. However George Foulkes has pledged that, if the SNP Executive does not take action on the issue of organ donation opt-out, he will table a private members bill.



Student protests paralyse universities in France



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MOVES BY THE French government to privatise universities have seen mass protests from students all over the country.

The protests began at the end of last month and on Friday 9 November, 41 universities were disturbed, with more protests expected to follow. Students

took to the streets with transparencies saying "University is not an enterprise" and "We are not for sale." 30 universities were completely blocked, as agreed by students voting at the General Meetings.

The Minister of Higher Education, Valérie Péresse, told the news channel LCI that the strikes are detrimental for students and explained that the new higher education law had been agreed in the summer. She met with UNEF, the National Student Union, to discuss the

problem, but no agreement was reached. Bruno Julliard, the UNEF president, has called for wider participation in the movement.

Student protests have coincided with strikes by railway and metro workers, civil servants, teachers and opera and theatre staff. The indefinite railway strike has been in the centre of attention of both the media and President Sarkozy. Many students see the university blockades as ill-timed and counterproductive.

Barbara Pomiechowska, a student at the Université Michel de Montaigne Bordeaux 3 told *The Journal*. "There are two factions: the first one believes that the only way to make the students' voices heard is to blockade the universities. The others think that Sarkozy will not pay attention anyway, and blockades can only harm the students. I believe that this time the blockades are indeed idiotic as hardly anyone notices them. Some other way of protest is needed."

Despite Ms Pomiechowska's skepticism, blockades have been successful in the past, such as in 2006 when the students protested against the First Job Contract that would have let companies fire employees under 26 that had been employed less than two years for any reason. The government saw the law as a way of combatting unemployment among the young and resisted the protests from February until mid-April, but eventually agreed to scrap the law.

University of Leeds holds memorial service for murdered student

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STAFF AND STUDENTS at the University of Leeds have held a memorial service to remember student Meredith Kercher, who was murdered in Italy on Friday 2 November.

The 21-year-old student was found dead in her apartment in Perugia where she was studying on exchange from Leeds as part of the ERASMUS program.

Around 120 people gathered at the university's Parkinson Building steps and held a silent procession to Tetley Garden, where candles and flowers were placed beside a picture of the young student.

A spokesperson of the Italian department at the university said: "The whole department is in shock that such a terrible thing should have happened. We will remember Meredith as a beautiful, clever and happy young woman, who was serious about her studies and popular with her peers."

Another memorial service is to be held in September when those currently on exchange programs, including many of Kercher's friends, have returned.

Kercher's American flatmate Amanda Knox, Knox's Italian boyfriend Raf-

faele Sollecito and Congolese bar owner Diya Lumumba have all been held on remand suspected of the student's murder. On Thursday 15 November, Italian police reported that the DNA of both Ms Kercher and Ms Knox had been found on a knife belonging to Mr Sollecito.

Further tests are being carried out by forensic experts to link the suspects with Ms Kercher's death. All three deny any involvement.

Leeds students remaining in Perugia have been offered accommodation in all-female halls of residence or substitute placements elsewhere in Italy. Many have temporarily returned to the UK in the aftermath of the murder.

All other students from University of Leeds who are based in the country have been offered the Italian department's full support.

However, the murder has raised many questions over the ERASMUS program, particularly in Italy.

A student who had been on the programme told *The Leeds Student*: "Some of the Italian men were aggressive and there were often fights. When I got to Perugia I was told not to live in certain areas because in many ways Perugia is quite dangerous; it is in the middle of a major drug route into Europe."

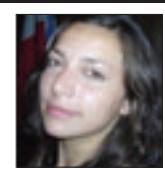
The student added however that

living in Perugia was, despite the negative aspects, one of the best times of his life.

Other students have expressed concerns at the accommodation being offered to students on the scheme.

Edinburgh University postgraduate

Meredith Kercher:
murdered in
Italy while on the
ERASMUS European
exchange program



student Chiara Pannozzo, who spent a year in Verona as part of her undergraduate course, told *The Journal* that she also experienced problems on her ERASMUS exchange. She said: "I didn't feel safe at all; you don't get any support from ERASMUS. Once you're out there you're on your own."

Asked if anything could be done to improve the service offered to foreign students, she added: "It's important to have a point of contact, if not from ERASMUS itself, somebody within the university that is dedicated to people from foreign institutions. I think you need more briefing on the area you're going to and the facilities you're getting."

University of Plymouth staff celebrate Lotto win

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MEMBERS OF STAFF at the University of Plymouth have been celebrating after a lottery syndicate saw them win £8.8 million. The group, based at the university's Faculty of Science, won just over £490,000 each in the triple roll-over.

The 18 women at the Devon institution have been playing the lottery for 13 years after setting up a syndicate in 1994. The triple roll-over was only the lottery's third, and was shared with another anonymous ticket holder.

Nicola Carter, one of the winners, described the experience as "totally surreal," whilst syndicate organiser Susan Hayley added: "This is the size

of win we had always dreamed of."

All the winners have pledged to stay at the university, and are determined not to let the win affect their work. Ms Hayley said: "It's a really nice place to work, we all get on very well, and at the end of the day this is life enhancing, not life changing. It's not a sum that is going to let us retire."

The win comes only three weeks after Leah Sumray, a 21-year-old chip shop worker from Cornwall scooped £1 million in the lottery's Million Pound Scratch-card game.

At the beginning of August, a man from Cornwall found he had two winning tickets for a £2.5 million jackpot, having bought two tickets with the same numbers after forgetting he had already purchased his weekly ticket.

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wear them

A much-needed waste of money
Edinburgh city councillors last week announced a major capital injection of £100k to boost productivity in its waste disposal department.



Hot on the heels of the announcement in last fortnight's edition of *The Journal* that waste collections will "inevitably" become fortnightly, Edinburgh's binmen are to be sent on special team-building exercises throughout the year – occupying the time they have available thanks to scheduling changes.

Opposition leaders have branded the expense an "outrageous waste of public money."

12 Comment

True to thee 'til death: why Jehovah's Witnesses refuse blood

Dr. Andrew Holden

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IT MAY SEEM paradoxical, given the advances in medical science, that those who hold allegedly rational religious beliefs would choose to die rather than accept medical treatment. This is, however, a decision often taken by the Jehovah's Witnesses – a puritanical religious group founded by a Pittsburgh draper, Charles Taze Russell, in the late nineteenth century. Although the Witnesses eschew mysticism (their beliefs are based on an "intellectual" empirical interpretation of the Bible) and accept most forms of medical intervention, they remain steadfast in their refusal of blood. It is this more than any other doctrine for which the Witnesses are renowned.

Two weeks ago, the national press reported the death of 22 year old Emma Gough – a young Jehovah's Witness who refused a blood transfusion during childbirth. The story has provoked widespread discussion not only about the effects of biblical literalism on young devotees, but on the wider issues of religious freedom and the rule of law. While one school of thought advocates state intervention in a case such as this (a view held by conservative Christians whose ultimate concern is for the unborn child), the more liberal democratic argument defends the right of the pregnant mother to follow her religious conscience. The fact that Mrs Gough had already given birth to twins at the time of her death makes this a less contentious ethical and legal matter than might otherwise have been the case. Be this as it may, it is important to understand why the Witnesses believe what they do and to offer some analysis of their heterodox religious code.

The Witnesses' Refusal of blood

hence, blood transfusions became part of nationalistic manifestation along with armies, national anthems and flags. It could be argued, therefore, that the Witnesses' condemnation of blood transfusions constitutes a rule of pollution and purity that is instrumental in creating structural boundaries. In a period marked by state opposition to their doctrines between the 1930s and the 1950s (particularly in Europe and North America), the Witnesses needed to maintain their exclusivity in order to re-establish their universal collective identity and to detach themselves from orthodox Christianity. The blood prohibition enabled them to do just this. The Witnesses' refusal of blood is analogous with Jewish dietary laws – it affirms the view that sacrifice is part of the price of membership, thus strengthening the Society's internal cohesion. From a sociological perspective, blood is a powerful symbol of allegiance for the Witnesses simply because it is unimportant to other faith communities.

For the religious sceptic, the greatest difficulty lies in understanding how groups with such arbitrary beliefs continue to flourish in a so-called (post)modern age. The answer, it seems, is that they are able to offer certainty to those who are overawed by epistemological relativism, individual freedom and semiotic pastiche. While the evolution of capitalism and modern medical science has no doubt caused tension between faith and reason, it has not, if Mrs Gough's death means anything, destroyed our belief in an omnipotent creator.

The patriotic period of the Second World War (ideologically anathematised by the society which regards itself as pacifist) provided fertile soil for the blood prohibition. The American population was regularly incited to donate blood for its injured soldiers;

In Robert Mellors Primary School, Nottingham, children are dressing up as their favourite Harry Potter characters and reciting 'spells' in attempt to make maths classes more fun, and raise the school's poor academic standard.

It's just as well the Department of Children, Schools and Families have put an extra £3 million towards tackling bullying in schools – by being able to single out the nerds wearing robes, the average bully's job has been made much easier.



Lewis Killin

DEBATE WITH THE EXPERTS ON THE JOURNAL'S WEB FORUMS

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The beacon of knowledge

With the gap between scientific knowledge and public conceptions wider than ever before, new initiatives are needed to persuade researchers to engage with the public

Professor Mary Bownes

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RIGHT NOW, ISSUES such as mobile phone masts, medical vaccines and the spread of infectious diseases are often cause for great deal of public concern. With so many researchers working in such a vast array of fields, the volume of information being passed on a daily basis is quite overwhelming, even for those said to be experts.

In recent years, the mantra "Publish or Die" has become the main concern of any university researcher. Indeed, in a 2006 survey conducted by the Royal Society, the majority of respondents cited the pressure to publish research and attract funding to their departments as the major factors preventing them from conducting public engagement work such as debates, exhibitions, media appearances or outreach activities with schools.

While research councils—which fund most of the research in the UK—have public engagement high on their agendas and most grant holders are required to engage with the public about their research, for many this is not high on their list of priorities. There is little support for researchers who would like to do this, and few rewards for those who do.

The higher education funding councils that fund our universities also need researchers to organise high quality engagement with the public, inspiring more confidence in the research process as well as a better understanding of the

benefits of its advances. However, it is clear that this broadening of the agenda by funders has not been embraced fully by higher education establishments. As such, several researchers in higher education institutions across the UK have set out to deliver a new project to create "Beacons for Public Engagement".

"Edinburgh Beltane," a consortium led by the University of Edinburgh, along with Heriot-Watt University, Napier University and the University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute has made a successful bid to be a part of the scheme with the aim of engaging with people so that they can manage their lives with increased confidence and make informed decisions about their own health and lifestyle. It should also help the government hear the public's voice so that people are able to have an influence on the future direction of Scotland.

We also aim to embed a culture change in our institutions so that researchers engage more widely with the public. This must be a two-way process and our researchers will benefit enormously from hearing a wide variety of views on what they do.

Edinburgh Beltane competed against more than 80 other partnerships for one of the six Beacon titles. Having proved successful, we will receive £1.2m from Research Councils UK, the Wellcome Trust and Scottish Funding Council to support researchers and bring about a cultural change to facilitate researchers engaging with the public.

In Scotland we have very special

advantages with a relatively small population and a limited number of higher education institutions. This makes networking and sharing events much easier. Another advantage is the proximity of the Scottish Parliament who have expressed a wish for more engagement in policy making by the public and we see a Beacon as being a genuine way to facilitate this process.

To deliver our vision, our partners include a mixture of researchers, both basic and applied or translational. We cover a very broad range of disciplines across the sciences, engineering and medicine, the professions and the humanities and social sciences. It brings together those who deliver activities direct to the public in a professional capacity through businesses, public places or the media. We needed to include members of the public from both city and rural environments as they can have very different views and needs and we have to know about both to inform our research. So it is centred on a cluster of universities in Edinburgh, but has partners such as the University of the Highlands and Islands, to provide us with the rural dimension.

Changing cultures, especially within large and autonomous institutions full of people who are highly individualistic and chosen precisely for those skills, does not happen overnight but is an essential undertaking.

We have some outstanding examples of public engagement activities within the partnership at present and so we have lots of good practice to share and experience to build on.

Drinking through the nose



Simon Mundy Comment Editor

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said an open letter from the British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA). As well as the AHA's mission statement, Tuesday saw us treated to a 225-page report on public health from the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, which also urged the government to take steps to alleviate the problems caused by alcohol. Committee chairman Lord Krebs summarised: "People often reject the idea of a 'nanny state,' but the Government has a duty to look after the health of everyone – and sometimes that means guiding or restricting our choices."

Lord Krebs' attempt to reassure libertarians may have sparked more panic than the report itself: talk of "guiding or restricting" choice can sound evasively euphemistic, eerily echoing China's ruthless "harmonising" of dissenters.

He has a point, of course: a modern government which took no steps to safeguard public health would indeed be in dereliction of its duty. But according to Mill's "classical harm principle," discussed at length in the Nuffield report, the state has no justification for interfering in behaviour which affects only the agent himself.

If this is the central bone of contention in this debate, then the BBPA's outrage at the idea of "restricting personal freedoms" seems a touch belated: as Health Minister Dawn Primarolo points out, UK alcohol taxation already stands at "something like the second-highest level in Europe." Further hikes in taxes will serve only to tighten a restriction that is already in place; for all the bright ideas being bandied about, an end to Britain's growing drink problem seems as much as ever.

But the mention of taxation provoked predictable howls of anguish from drinks industry lobby groups: the AHA's proposals would "restrict personal freedoms and limit consumer choice,"

Drowning in a sea of broken promises

Tim Goodwin

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I AM SLIGHTLY concerned that my column is in danger of turning into a little bit of an anti-Nationalist rant. I think it's common knowledge that there's really very little risk of my swanning off and joining the SNP any time soon, but nevertheless, I want this column to be taken seriously (at least a little bit) and getting a reputation for not liking the government hardly fosters that impression. Nonetheless, I am absolutely enraged by this week's SNP budget, and so cannot help but comment on it. Next time, I promise, I won't mention the nasty Nats at all.

I guess, when I think rationally about it, I'm not all that surprised. To paraphrase (read 'steal'): it is a truth universally acknowledged that a government who promises to be all things to all men while in possession of a limited budget is bound to run into some serious difficulties. After all, how can you expect to offer – as was promised – greater levels of public funding to hospitals, schools and universities, to massively increase support for small and local businesses, local police forces, and agriculture, all with the backdrop of scrapping as many forms of government income (read 'tax') as possible?

The simple truth is that you can't, and the budget demonstrated exactly that. The real tragedy, however, has been the consequences for higher education funding. Universities Scotland, the umbrella group that represents the

interests of higher education, called for £168 million. Instead, they've been given £30 million. That's a massive shortfall.

And the reason for this? Well, according to Fiona Hyslop MSP, the Education Secretary, it's because this is the SNP's manifesto: it was the line in the SNP manifesto that read: "our universities compete on a global basis in research and development, and we need to provide more government support for them to continue to do so as a key driver in Scotland's economic and enterprise agenda." Or maybe it was when they claimed in the last election that they "recognise and respect the crucial role of education" and were willing to fully fund it. Maybe, just maybe, Universities Scotland wasn't being so unreasonable after all.

But really, I hear you cry, what on earth possessed Universities Scotland to think they could get £168million? I don't know – maybe it was the line in the SNP manifesto that read: "our universities compete on a global basis in research and development, and we need to provide more government support for them to continue to do so as a key driver in Scotland's economic and enterprise agenda." Or maybe it was when they claimed in the last election that they "recognise and respect the crucial role of education" and were willing to fully fund it. Maybe, just maybe, Universities Scotland wasn't being so unreasonable after all.

There's also a real danger that this could result in a major meltdown in Scottish politics with the Conservatives publishing seven "red lines" which they demand must be in the budget before they will vote for it, and Labour and the Liberal Democrats also submitting their own amendments. But without any overall control in the Parliament or a working coalition – made impossible by the SNP's devotion to independence, a devotion they've now postponed for seven years – the possibility of gridlock becomes a frightening

ing real prospect.

The major problem I have is that this budget is all about style over substance. It's all about populist moves (such as freezing council tax) and none of the hardcore governing we need (such as providing universities with the £100 million extra they need to be competitive or provide the funding promised for a drug rehabilitation programme). Being in government is about making tough calls that will genuinely improve our quality of life, not pandering to Joe Average so that when you eventually get around to calling for independence you look like Mr. Nice Guy.

And the really sad thing is that these populist moves make really very little difference, other than sounding a little bit nice. If you take the average property – a Band D flat – and look at how much cash you'd save from a freeze on council tax inflation, it comes in at around £260. That's ever so slightly over a 71p saving per day. Whoopie-do. You'd have to wait three days before you'd saved enough to even get a bus to town and back.

I'm not saying that council tax funds education – it doesn't. What I am saying is that the Scottish Government has got its priorities all wrong. We live, work and study in the country that gave the world the Scottish Enlightenment, in a city made famous by great academic minds like David Hume, Adam Smith and Charles Darwin. We should be proud of our education, and we should be prepared to fund it. We should not be bartering it away for a quick fix of popularity.

13 Comment

Health and Safety? What a load of poppycock



Scott George McCombe Divinity Student

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I FIRMLY BELIEVE that the upset produced by the continued presence of Nannery dwarfed the poignancy of Remembrance Sunday. On the one day when the nation takes some time out of its busy schedule to remember the heroism of the men who fought, and often paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country, we stand proud and silent, with our red poppies attached to our breasts. However, this year the nation's tribute was dampened by PoppyScotland's ridiculous decision to replace the traditional pin on a poppy with a plastic, green stick on the grounds of "safety reasons."

Pray tell, how can the nation possibly show respect to the veterans of the Great War whilst covering from a pin?

Personally, I am deeply offended by the implication that a harmless, if not momentarily uncomfortable, pin-prick poses such a severe threat to my well-being. But this is not the first time the nation has been gratuitously insulted in such a way. Perhaps as a substitute for failing abysmally in its proper function, the Government has taken the role of Nanny Colossus, dictating what we can and cannot do, lest our health be threatened in some irreparable manner. As we have seen in recent years, the attacks upon our intelligence, and our fundamental freedoms, have become a regular occurrence with everything from tobacco to alcohol to milky tea bearing the aggression of health-fanatics.

Despite the claimed (although I take issue with this supposition) best

intentions of the State, one could be forgiven in pondering over the latest snuff-advert propagated by the Health Education Board of Scotland, and asking what business it is of the state to dictate how healthy we keep ourselves. I would suggest the primary cause for this interference is the national loss of any established, proper moral authority. Thus, the State has taken upon itself the role of moral guardian. This has never been the purpose of government and, if the implications of such an authority are stretched to its possible, and logical, conclusion, is a frightening prospect.

Today the State bans smoking as immoral activity, tomorrow it bans chocolate. A frivolous example perhaps, but when the State undertakes the decision to moralise, based on its own skewed idea of ethics, nothing is safe from the Westminster and Holyrood, humbugs. Furthermore, since when did civilised Britain drift into agreement with Protestant Fundamentalism on the perverse notion that health is directly equated with morality? The rhetoric of brandishing possibly unhealthy activities as immoral should be consigned to the unlettered ramblings of backwater snake handlers, not the elected Parliament of the British people. This is particularly true in an age when talks of legalising euthanasia and easier access to abortion are constantly on the table. Do I detect the stench of hypocrisy?

Of course, those who idolise health always have philosophically defunct sound-bites ready to respond to criticism leveled in their direction. Usually it involves pitifully condescending tripe on how adults cannot be trusted to make the "correct" decisions so must rely on Big Brother for "encouragement." Those of a softer persuasion rely on the smoking ban genre of excuses to attack quackery of second-hand smoke.

My intention was not to descend into a ranting tangent but this subject inevitably leads one into it. We do not need constant surveillance and dictations regarding our health. We are not infants. So let's stop throwing tearless tantrums and do something about this mess, before our right to protest is declared "unsafe."

14 Editorial

The Journal

EDINBURGH'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | ISSUE II

Scottish Budget The price of apathy?

WITH AN ELECTION manifesto heavying with pledges and a katty insufficient to fulfil them, last week's Scottish budget represented the biggest shunt to the Scottish Nationalist bandwagon during their brief tenure in government. Almost unsurprisingly—although less so than the discovery that the Scottish Government had promised far more than it can deliver—the group to come away most disappointed with the budget announcement are Scotland's students.

Having campaigned on a platform of "dumping student debt," of promising to pay off the £1.9bn debt owed collectively by Scottish students and graduates to the Student Loans Company, the SNP has grossly breached the trust of the future generation of business and society leaders. But it is a breach of trust unlikely to harm them.

Part of the reason why students have been worst hit in this budget, and part of the reason why student conditions have steadily dropped since the withdrawal of grants and the introduction of top up fees, is that there is no grassroots political organisation of any note at all.

It would be lazy to blame this on apathy, at least in its most traditional of interpretations. Students are among the most politically active in society

with regards to single issue causes such as tackling climate change, equality and human rights. However, when it comes to engagement with the political establishment and, with it, access to power, students are hugely under-represented. An illustration can be taken from the city of Edinburgh and the Council's decision to impose housing quotas on certain areas, limiting the accommodation options of future generations of students. Given that students as a group constitute over 10%

Rather it is the succeeding generation, those children entering their teens, with almost no political consciousness, that will bear the brunt of any changes—or in this case broken promises—made to the system. In effect, the very idea of students existing as a political demographic is a myth and that, perhaps more than any other contributing factor, is why academic pursuit has become increasingly difficult and expensive for Britain's young.

If we are to protect our educational future, and with it the strength of our economy and society, then society as a whole needs to take a vested interest in the well-being of the future, not the current, generation of students. When we vote for a government that makes such promises as the SNP made in May, we must make sure that these promises are kept. We must not allow these promises to be broken and there must be public outrage when they are among the first to be dropped. But importantly, we must acknowledge that students will not safeguard their successors because they have less invested in them than any other group. Rather businesses, universities, parents and schools must carry the mantle and ensure that the next generation are not so comparatively less well off as we are vis a vis our predecessors.

Students' Association AGM Idealism and ignorance

THIS YEAR'S "HEADLINE" Annual General Meeting motions were the usual ramshackle collection of idealism and ignorance. The first, a motion proposing that a letter be sent to Edinburgh University Principal, Tim O'Shea urging him to sell off the University's shares in the TOTAL oil company, displays features of both essential elements.

In the first instance it displays incredible naivety and a gross over-estimation as to the global influence held by a Scottish higher education institution but more than that, it represents a move that more likely than not may serve to be counter-productive.

The Journal condemns unequivocally and unreservedly the actions of the Burmese Junta, whose appalling record on human rights and mismanagement of their nation's wealth has set them apart as one of the greatest evils in the world today and believes it is nothing short of the absolute truth to say that foreign companies have been allowed to run amok with the vast amounts of natural resources the country holds. But whilst TOTAL can certainly not claim a clean sheet in its dealings with either the government or the people of Burma, let us not forget several vital facts: TOTAL is a European company based in a country

and Union with a strong commitment to human rights, with legislation to protect human rights, with free speech and a free press in which to criticise those who abuse human rights.

Indeed, what will happen if TOTAL leaves Burma? It would be both idealistic and ignorant to assume that the Burmese Junta, left high and dry with no one willing to tap off their burgeoning lakes of oil and gas, would feel the heavy breath of international condemnation on their necks and crumple before our very eyes.

The People & Planet pressure group who proposed this year's TOTAL motion will no doubt have discovered their issue du jour on The Burma Campaign UK's website, where TOTAL is listed as a major investor in the Burmese economy. What they may have missed as they skipped through the site was the presence of two other major investors, China National Petroleum Corporation and China PetroChemical Corporation, the world's eighth and eleventh largest petrochemical giants respectively, not to mention China National Offshore Oil Corporation.

In today's globalised world, it is impossible for Europe and America to determine who can and cannot rule a country using economic sanctions

alone, particularly not in China's back yard. As soon as a European company moves out of Burma, a Chinese one is more than willing to step up to the plate. It is not necessary to patronise the reader with a list of Chinese companies that have been singled out for their less-than-transparent human rights records or, indeed, to mention the Chinese legislature's lack of any of the protections of human rights that this nation, France and the European Union hold.

Putting pressure on TOTAL and other globalised companies to ensure that they treat their foreign employees fairly is essential. And most importantly, it is not impossible. No pressure, however firm or weak, can ever be brought to bear on China PetroChemical Corp. by People & Planet's Edinburgh branch or anyone else.

Disinvestment is the one certain way to ensure that any disproportionately high voice Edinburgh's students may have is lost. Losing insider status removes any option the university may have to pressure TOTAL to protect the rights of their workers more effectively. Additionally, to extract TOTAL from Burma would be one certain way to ensure that the European Union has no way of affecting the powerbase of the Burmese Junta.

The Monday poem Resolution

I once read that "it is a great thing to do what is necessary before it becomes essential and unavoidable," which is what I aim to do this year.

I will take some risks, perhaps four.

I will try to write something every week. I will be confident, I will be myself, and I will find a way

around that paradox. I will make the effort to do something sociable at least once a day.

I will quote Bob Dylan more and Lord Of The Rings less.

I will use this year to decide the next twenty, thirty, or forty, and I will continue to think of abstract, indefinite things to do so that I have an excuse

to not actually do them.

I will ignore this list in January, forget it in February and be myself again by March. I will accomplish something.

by Daniel Watkins

The first issue of Read This magazine is available from WordPower Books and the Forest Cafe or can be ordered online at www.readthismagazine.co.uk

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The Journal

Corrections and clarifications

In the issue published 5 November 2007, the following credits were omitted from the printed publication:

Nick Eardley and Joanna Hosa (National Student News editors)

Miles Johnson and Matthew Barnes (News Investigations/Features editors)

Alison Lutton (Profile editor)

Jonathan Burt and Jack Charnley (Rugby editors)

Emily Glass and Becky Owen (Hockey editors)

Dominic Moger and Tom Crookston (Football editors)

Lewis Killin (Chief Illustrator)

On page 22, The Princes' Scottish Youth Business Trust was incorrectly referred to as the "Princes' Trust Scottish Youth Business Trust." Additionally, on the same page, the Cryptic Crossword was published with 4 clues missing. Sorry about that...

On page 27, *The Pearlfisher* was awarded 4 stars when the reviewer intended the awarding of only three.

On page 30's Sport Round-up, Aberdeen 2 was incorrectly placed at the bottom of the BUSA Scottish Conference League 3. This should instead have been Queen Margaret University. Additionally, because of a translation error, none of the given hockey match results were correct.

Still labouring for the cause

Alison Lutton discovers that life in the bear pit hasn't dented David Blunkett's appetite for politics

Alison Lutton

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"I DON'T MISS the six-and-a-half day weeks, sixteen hours a day; I don't miss the backbiting; and I don't miss the inability to go and see Sheffield Wednesday when there are home games," laughs David Blunkett. Today, however, it's almost as if he never ceased to be a Cabinet Minister. Suited "protection" lingers round Tavistock Row House, where, appropriately enough, Blunkett has just spoken about "security, terrorism and civil liberties in the 21st century" in an event hosted by Edinburgh University Labour Club. Now a backbencher with a "much, much higher quality of life," he still answers every question about government policy with a "we," never once being significantly drawn from the party line. Blunkett, even now, clearly fancies himself as something of a prime mover. An acknowledgement that he finds "being out [of office] frustrating because you often think, 'I'd like to contribute to the inner discussion on that,' and if you're not in the Cabinet, you don't," is quickly moderated by an assertion that "I'm able to influence events in other ways by speaking, writing, lecturing, by discussions with Cabinet colleagues who are still my friends and by bringing my experience to bear."

This may smack of arrogance, but it's undeniable that Blunkett's legacy still looms large over the government's most pressing concerns. Last week's announcements of changes in legislation regarding both school leaving age and anti-terrorism measures can be traced directly back to foundations laid by Blunkett during his respective stints as Secretary of State for Education and Employment (1997-2001) and Home Secretary (2001-2004). Asked about the educational reforms, Blunkett is naturally approving. His own quite pottered experiences of education—he left school without any qualifications, then took O-levels while also pursuing a vocational course, before taking A-levels on day release from full time employment, eventually gaining a degree in Political Theory and Institutions from Sheffield University—must certainly underpin his view that "the principle and objective of ensuring that 16 and 17 year olds have access to education and training as well as to work is absolutely fundamental." But to simply take the reform at face value is not, he argues, to go far enough. For Blunkett, "to deal with those who are deeply damaged or dysfunctional, we have to start much earlier, we have to examine those who left the education system at 12 or 13, either effectively by truanting or by simply disengaging from what was taking place in the classroom even if they were there." Only then, by 2015 when the plan is fully implemented, will Blunkett accept that "we've achieved what we set out to do."

Blunkett's progressive views on further education are, arguably, tempered by aspects of higher educational reform which were set in motion during his cabinet tenure: most notably, the introduction of increased tuition fees for non-Scottish universities. Blunkett is at pains to point out that "we didn't have top-up fees in the end." Asked how he feels the introduction of these fees has gone, Blunkett is careful to remain neutral. Though pleased that the changes haven't given rise to "any of the damaging impact that people feared," he clearly feels that any further increase in fees would be counter-productive. He warns: "when the review comes in 2009, I hope we're very cautious about whether we take any further steps and whether we dislocate a system that does appear to be working." Despite this, Blunkett is unwilling to concede that increasing fees while simultaneously attempting to increase participation in higher education might be at all paradoxical: predictably he observes that "only a

small percentage of total investment in higher education comes from the individual" and allows only that it becomes an issue when considering how to "make it easy for those who decide to take socially worthwhile but not very highly-paid jobs." Momentarily, you can almost glimpse Blunkett's past as a firebrand councillor in 1980s nuclear-free Sheffield glimmering under his government-hardened exterior.

Education, however, is not the dish of the day. It was his latter tenure as Home Secretary which saw him preside over another controversial policy: the development of biometrical identity cards for use within the UK. This remains very much his pet project; a large proportion of the speech he delivers today is devoted to extolling the virtues of the cards, with Blunkett summarily dismissing the oft-repeated objections to their introduction as "bunkum."

Even now, Blunkett is keen to stress the integrity of the proposed system, asserting that, for him, there's only one question which identity cards should be used to answer: "is this the person they say they are?" That they could be otherwise employed is, for Blunkett, beyond the pale. Pushed as to whether he feels the implementation of such a scheme—the only one of its kind in the world, with the comprehensive maintenance of what Blunkett continually refers to as a "clean" biometrical database being a matter of particular contention—is feasible, Blunkett concedes that it poses "a massive challenge" and that its full introduction "will take many years." It is interesting that, to underline the potentially positive effects of the scheme, Blunkett stresses that the clarity it would offer regarding individuals' legal rights would, ultimately, "take a lot of the fear out of the subliminal insecurity that comes when right-wing newspapers bang on about being overtaken by very large numbers of people in the country who shouldn't be here."

Ah yes, the newspapers. During (and, significantly, immediately after) his time in office, Blunkett's eventful personal life meant that he came under extensive, and intrusive, media scrutiny. To summarise the most significant in a chain of career-compromising incidents: his affair with a married woman, Kimberley Fortier, her pregnancy and the paternity battle that ensued; and his alleged pushing through of a visa for Fortier's nanny. Years later, this obviously still smarts: today's speech sees Blunkett invoke what he describes as his being "hounded" by *Daily Mail* journalists over a six-month period to exemplify infringement of civil liberties. It would be easy for this to eclipse what was for Blunkett equally troubling: media response to his policy-making.

In his Cabinet diaries *The Blunkett Tapes: My life in the Bear Pit*, recently published in paperback, Blunkett bemoans negative media opinion in relation to identity cards. Unfortunately, this was not a concern which he could shed along with his Cabinet responsibilities.

Earlier this year, *The Observer*—erroneously, says Blunkett—reported that a company with which Blunkett was working, Entrust, was involved in the development of Spanish identity cards. Blunkett now seems glad to be able to clarify the facts, and, while his detailing of what Entrust actually does is somewhat opaque—"Entrust's a very interesting little company that...tries to avoid cyber crime and [aids] companies protecting themselves against intrusion and it works as part of a consortium of other companies so it doesn't do anything on its own"—one thing at least is patently clear: "it doesn't actually deal with I.D. cards."

This considered, a degree of guard-edness in some of Blunkett's responses is, perhaps, understandable. Asked how he feels Gordon Brown compares to Tony Blair as a Prime Minister, he barely misses a beat before asserting his credentials as "a loyal colleague



Blunkett's legacy still looms large over the government's most pressing concerns Lewis Killin

There is only one question identity cards should answer: "Is this the person they say they are?"

and someone who's stayed with Gordon and Sarah three times at their house here in Scotland"—as if this, over twenty years of political collaboration, were a particularly impressive strike rate. *The Blunkett Tapes'* candid detailing of the pair's oftentimes tumultuous, but always eventually positive relationship evaporates entirely as Blunkett gushes, "I think we are very fortunate that, hav-

ing had one leading world statesman at the helm for ten years, we now have another, as both Tony Blair and Gordon Brown are, by any measure of political leaders across the world, statesmen of the first order." Having been against an early election "all along," Blunkett feels it's only a matter of time before Brown proves himself as Prime Minister by "delivering the same sturdy and imaginative leadership that he did when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, which led to us having the most secure, stable and successful economy in the Western world." Any idea of no love being lost is, then, categorically bunkum.

His tuna sandwich (which he has been lunching on intermittently throughout our interview, and which initially elicited much excitement from his current guide dog, Sadie) finished, Blunkett is ready for the off. Oddly enough, it's only now that a brief chat about Harry Potter dints the curmud-

geonly politician's image he permanently presents. Nevertheless, a busy weekend lies ahead of him: he'll shortly be speaking at a meeting about dementia—an important matter, he argues, given the fact that well over three quarters of over-80s suffer from the condition—co-convened by the University of Edinburgh and Help The Aged, and on Sunday will speak at and participate in a question-and-answer session along with Edinburgh North and Leith MP Mark Lazarowicz. While his Cabinet days are long behind him, the relish with which Blunkett apparently plops his fingers into these various pies, and the conviction with which he still relays his views, mean that, inevitably, he will be bringing his experience to bear for many years to come.

David Blunkett was Home Secretary between 2001-2004 and is Labour MP for Sheffield Brightside

UN: fit for purpose?



George Grant
Features editor

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ON 2 SEPTEMBER 1945, in the calm waters of Tokyo Bay, General Yoshiro Umezawa signed the Instrument of Surrender on behalf of the Japanese Imperial Army General Headquarters, and insodoing officially brought to a close the Second World War. From Hiroshima to Hawaii, from Dresden to Donetsk, World War Two saw some 50 million soldiers and civilians killed in what amounted to the single deadliest conflict the world had ever witnessed.

For the Allied leaders, the natural question in the wake of victory was thus: "how do we prevent this from happening again?"

It was the general consensus in the marble corridors of both Washington and Whitehall that the pursuit of empire-building was the major contributing factor behind the conflicts with the Nazis in Europe and with the Japanese in Asia. Indeed, it was as a result of this supposition that provisions were to be made that would greatly affect the nature of international relations for the next fifty years.

The first internationally codified anti-imperialist statement from the Allies came through Article III of the Atlantic Charter of August 1941, which served as the basis for the Western Allies' war aims. It asserted "the rights of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live." It was an awkward fact, therefore, that the Union Flag still fluttered over fully one quarter of the earth's landmass and its peoples, whilst the French Tricolour asserted France's authority in large swathes of north and western Africa and parts of southeast Asia.

The Americans, by far the most powerful state to emerge from the war, had made clear all along that what was to follow World War II would be a drastic departure from the status quo ante bellum. In an open letter of October 1942 entitled "To the People of England," the editors of Life magazine stated bluntly "one thing we are sure we are not fighting for is to hold the British Empire together." In the same year the American Under-Secretary Sumner Wells proclaimed, "the age of imperialism has ended."

The new post-imperial age, then, would be one in which nations worked together as equals, as opposed to ruler and ruled, and the security of one would be guaranteed through solidarity with the rest. The institution that embodied the spirit of this new dawn was the United Nations, which officially came into existence on 25 October 1945, and through whom all global disputes were to be mediated and national and human rights protected.

The opening words of the UN Charter read: "We the peoples of the United Nations, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war... to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights...to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, and for these ends...to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security." To fulfil this pledge, the UN counted among its institutional armoury a Human Rights Committee, a Decolonisation Committee and, as its most powerful body, a Security Council with the power to "take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security."

In the immediate post-war cli-

mate of 1945, the powers afforded to the United Nations and its emphasis on international cooperation and the primacy of national sovereignty were entirely appropriate. Almost all of the major conflicts of the preceding decades and indeed centuries had been the consequence of national aggression and expansionist tendencies directed by one state towards another. Given the premises under which the Allies had fought the war—as embodied in the Atlantic Charter—imperialism was also no longer a tenable concept. Not only was the UN interested in dismantling existing empires but also in enshrining the rights of states. The UN Charter explicitly upholds the principle of national sovereignty, and by extension, implicitly forbids member states from interfering in the domestic affairs of another state unless that state's activities constitute a breach of international peace and security.

But in the radically different world of 2007, these safeguards and provisions pose extremely serious problems.

In today's geopolitical climate, some of the greatest threats to international security and human rights come often not from external forces but internal ones, be it in the form of civil war or the persecution of individuals at the hands of their own governments. This is true of Zimbabwe, where the 27-year reign of Robert Mugabe has transformed the "breadbasket of Africa" into an economic and humanitarian disaster area; in Sudan, where the government has actively encouraged civil war and the persecution of its citizens, and in Burma where the military Junta there viciously suppresses any and all opposition, regardless of condemnation from the International Community.

The United Nations therefore, if its founding pledges to protect the peoples of the world and international security are to be taken as more than mere rhetoric, must adapt to meet the challenges of internal conflicts and human rights violations.

But to achieve the difficult balance between national sovereignty and the responsibility to protect human rights, external pressure to uphold the latter at the possible expense of the former must come with the widest possible international mandate, and it is for this reason precisely that the United Nations must take greater responsibility. The highly undesirable alternative is leaving the decision to intervene to one single state and its allies, who may well act more out of self-interest than concern for human rights, and who necessarily lack the international legitimacy that very often makes the intervention sustainable in the long-term.

The most obvious culprit here is the United States, whose policy of unilateralist diplomacy in recent years, evidenced most strikingly in Iraq at present, has led to charges that self-interested policy making have resulted in a decreased respect for human rights, and even of neo-imperialism. But the United States has come to this position largely as a consequence of long held and deeply ingrained scepticism in certain quarters that the United Nations is incapable of adequately addressing the issues about which the US is concerned, combined with a belief that, as the pre-eminent economic and military power on earth, it is capable of solving the world's problems largely alone.

On one level this is correct. As the former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who from 1993 to 1996 served as the American permanent representative to the UN pointed out, the total two-year regular budget of the UN is "roughly what the Pentagon spends every thirty-two hours". To be precise,

On the 62nd anniversary of its creation, the UN needs reforming if it is to tackle the major international issues of today



Mikhail Evstafiev



Geoffrey C. Gunn

"In today's geopolitical climate, some of the greatest threats to international security and human rights come often not from external forces but internal ones"

the \$3.8 billion UN budget amounts to roughly 0.13 per cent of the US Federal Budget. Despite this, a capped figure of 22 per cent of the UN budget is provided for by the US. Given the United States' dominant position on the Security Council, no UN peacekeeping operation can hope to prosper without its approval.

In short, the United Nations needs the United States, and keeping the Americans happy should thus be a pressing reason for UN reform in and of itself. But it is equally true that the US needs the UN. The US's absolute supremacy in the field of blowing things up is undisputed, but the experience of Iraq and to an extent Afghanistan has shown that it is not so pre-eminent in the area of soft power. Many of the problems the US is at present trying to solve, such as preventing the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, or dealing with the threat of terrorism, cannot be achieved by just one country, even with its particular friends, acting on their own. One needs global institutions to impose legal constraints on nations and to provide legitimisation for action; often quite coercive action. Many Americans understand this very well, after all, they were the ones who set up the United Nations, and there is every reason to believe that the change in administration that will follow the elections in 2008 will herald a government more responsive to the needs of multilateral diplomacy.

But if the United Nations is to meet these challenges it must adapt. One of the leading authorities on the question of UN reform is Lord David Hannay, at present Chair of the UK's United Nations Association (UNA-UK), having served most recently on the UN High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. Speaking to *The Journal*, he said: "any international organisation needs to adapt and reform all the time to meet the challenges of a changing world, and changes in the world very much justify reform of the UN."

Lord Hannay believes that the end of the Cold War signalled the best opportunity yet to remodel the UN, asserting that "it has been possible to change the UN quite a bit, but not in my view enough to deal with a phenomenon of which we see quite a lot, that is to say failed states, nor indeed to deal with the oppression that some states visit on their citizens."

The biggest single inhibitor in his opinion is "the implicit wording of the Charter; that you can do what you like to your own citizens and no one has the right to interfere." The 1990s laid bare the deficiencies of the 1945 set-up by way of the 1994 genocide of the Tutsi minority in Rwanda. In the 100 days between 6 April and mid-July some 800,000 were slaughtered at the hands of the Hutu-led government. So too at Srebrenica in July 1995, when more than 7,000 Bosniak males were murdered by units of the Army of Republika Srpska (VRS) under the command of General Ratko Mladić.

In both instances, the UN was conspicuous only by its absence. It was these instances that led in part to the resolution of the UN World Summit in September 2005 which asserted that the UN had the responsibility to go beyond the strict mandate of the Charter, concluding that if a state was either unable or unwilling to protect its own citizens against grievous international human rights abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law then the international community as a whole had a responsibility to take up the mantle. The doctrine was entitled "The Responsibility to Protect," and to that end two new bodies were established:



Devon walshe

the Peace Building Commission to assist the victims of state failure, and the Human Rights Council, which replaced the ineffective Human Rights Commission.

However, as is so often the case in the murky world of international diplomacy, these reforms have yet to be effectively implemented, as is evidenced by the ongoing problems in countries such as Sudan, Burma and Zimbabwe. There are two major hindrances. The first revolves around the deficiencies of the UN Security Council, the body charged with executing all actions in this field.

Again a reflection of the 1945 status quo is its five permanent, veto-wielding members: the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, China and France and, as Lord Hannay explains, "if there is a disagreement about the way in which such an intervention should take place between the five permanent members, and there is quite often a disagreement on this matter, that can lead to a veto in the Security Council and so you cannot get the authorisation that you need from it for the specific measures you may wish to take."

Particularly obstructive in this sense are Russia and China. The Chinese especially operate on a foreign policy that is happy to conduct business with rogue regimes regardless of the way they conduct their political affairs. Most strikingly this has been true of Sudan, where China's willingness to continue business with the government has provided the latter with the necessary funds to bear the weight of international sanctions on the one hand, and made the former reluctant to support the necessary military intervention to bring an end to the suffering for fear of losing trade on the other. Unfortunately, reform of the kind desired by humanitarian interventionists that

would remove the power of veto from the permanent members is exceedingly difficult given the fact that these same members could, and almost certainly would veto the very resolution needed to remove it.

The second constraint is of a quite different nature. If the surrounding countries of states in which a humanitarian crisis is unfolding don't support any action, then the constraints in real terms are very great. According to Lord Hannay, "this problem is very clearly outlined in Zimbabwe, whose neighbours, particularly South Africa, do not support intervention but would rather pursue a diplomatic solution, not effective so far, and perhaps not likely to be effective, but that is their view. And the neighbours of Burma—China, Thailand and India—have taken a similar line on non-interference which has therefore given the Burmese military a kind of free-run."

Of primary concern to these nations is the refugee problem that inevitably follows military intervention. In the case of Zimbabwe however, the refugee crisis is already acute, and if the Burmese Junta continues to pursue its present line, the same may soon become true there. One cannot disregard the concerns of neighbouring states, since their support is always essential for any intervention, but self-interest must be overcome if such gross human rights abuses are to end, and it is the responsibility of the UN to put greater pressure on these countries to accept that this is the case.

A significant increase in the UN's paltry budget, so as to make readily available the funds and other resources necessary to deal with refugee fall-outs and reconstruction costs would thus be a welcome reform. But in fact, an increased commitment to conflict prevention would not just save lives,



Mikhail Evstafiev

it would save money too. According to the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict, the international community could have saved nearly \$130 billion of the \$200 billion it spent on managing conflicts in the 1990s by focusing on conflict prevention rather than post-conflict reconstruction.

For any of this to happen, however, requires a fundamental change in attitude to the issue of national sovereignty and human rights.

The incumbent generation have largely failed to address this issue effectively, and the cost in terms of human life has been unacceptable. Only very recently have world leaders begun to come around to the idea that human rights should supersede national sovereignty, but realpolitik has prevented the necessary will to enforce the change, let alone the legal capabilities and obligations to ensure that it happens.

To be sure, there are bodies and conventions in existence whose decrees legally oblige states to cooperate should they be so required. One is the International Criminal Court at The Hague, but this has the power only to extradite and try individuals suspected guilty of committing the crime, not of preventing the crime itself. The Genocide Convention of 1948 exists, yet it has no enforcement provisions. Similarly, the UN's "Responsibility to Protect" morally obliges nation states to act when human rights are being contravened,

but so far it has proved exceedingly difficult to reach agreement on how to enforce this obligation if the state in question resists, or if sovereign nations do not wish to contribute peacekeepers.

The latter decision is at present, entirely voluntary, since the UN has no standing army of its own. The former Secretary General Kofi Annan once described UN peacekeeping as "the only fire brigade in the world that has to acquire a fire engine once the fire has started." Just such a fire engine has been proposed in the form of a United Nations Emergency Peacekeeping Service (UNEPS), which envisions a 12,000-18,000 strong unit of military personnel, civilian police, legal experts, and relief professionals who are voluntarily employed by the UN to provide rapid assistance as soon as a Security Council resolution gives the authorisation. Many voice concern at such an idea, worrying that larger countries would use the force as leverage against the weaker ones.

The only other alternative would be a provision that legally obliged countries to provide forces for peacekeeping operations should the UN so demand, but this would effectively require nation states to forfeit their sovereign decision when and where to deploy their military personnel. As Lord Hannay concludes, "this would, in my view, be a bridge too far."

Yet there can be no question that

the present situation is several bridges too short. The incumbent generation seems still wed to the somewhat post-colonial notion of national sovereignty as the most cherished thing of all.

Perhaps it is up to our generation, the world leaders of tomorrow, to move away from this outdated mindset and towards the belief that our common identity as members of the human race must come before our loyalties to a particular nation state.

In lieu of the fact that such a change cannot come about, let alone be properly enforced, without real international consensus, it is the responsibility of those who make up the United Nations to see that such a change is brought about. We no longer live in 1945. Globalisation should have brought home to everyone the fact that just as we on this earth are better connected with each other than ever before, so too our common responsibility to ensure that we all have equal protection of our human rights, enshrined in international law and regardless of where we live, should be equally evident.

George Grant is a fourth-year student of History at the University of Edinburgh.

The UN in numbers

Founded
1945

Member states
192

Current budget
\$3.8 billion

Troops deployed
70,000



Art OPEN for Business

OPEN: Edinburgh College of Art Exhibition

★★★

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THE GENTRIFICATION OF Leith continues at a rapid pace: whilst The Shore has for some years now been a centre for those trendy chrome 'n' leather type bars and expensive looking restaurants, the area surrounding the actual docks has been slower to embrace the march of modernisation. Until now, that is. The beautiful old Corn Exchange building, which nestles at the foot of Constitution Street, was last year transformed into a stunning gallery and office space. Along with being home to Navyblue, the design specialists, the building's ground floor has dedicated space for emerging artists to display their work.

Having previously hosted only solo exhibitions, there is a great deal of excitement surrounding the launch of OPEN, the gallery's first ever group show. MA students at the Edinburgh College of Art were invited to submit works from any discipline, as long as they were no wider than 30cm and no taller than 200cm.

Students from all of the ECA's various departments took up the challenge, and the results are truly a sight worth seeing. Using a variety of different media, a range of disciplines are displayed, from the traditional to the modern. Paintings, prints, sculpture and video installations are all featured.

The competing approaches students from different disciplines have used to meet this brief are fascinating. Selkirk & Begg's response was to construct a concrete block entitled 'Allocated Space x2'. Others were determined to make a more personal statement with their work: Jana Liptak's 'A Poem for all My Lovers, Past and Future' is particularly striking, whilst Francesca Nobilucci went for an even more blunt statement with her work entitled 'Washing my dirty laundry in public'.

This exhibition provides a wonderful opportunity to view not only original works from the great artists of tomorrow, but a chance to explore one of Leith's most loved buildings, reborn for the 21st century.

OPEN runs from 15 November to 22 December (Wednesday to Saturday) at the Corn Exchange Gallery, Leith.



Theatre Camping it up in style

Edinburgh University Savoy Opera Group's *Salad Days*

★★★★★

Rosie Hedgerrosie.hedger@journal-online.co.uk

AS A MUSICAL that aims to trace the post-university life choices of characters Jane and Timothy, the Savoy Opera Group's production of Julian Slade's musical *Salad Days* stylishly disregards the veneer of a conventional coming-of-age tale.

Set in the 1950s, *Salad Days* centres on two friends who experience parental pressure to get married and find employment. Deciding one day that they must hurry to do both in order to avoid these unpleasant family lectures, they get married and agree that Timothy must take the first job that he is offered. A tramp offers them the grand sum of £7 a week to look after an old piano which, as it transpires, incites all who hear it to dance. A dastardly plan by the Ministry of Pleasure and Pastimes attempts to foil the enjoyment of the young couple, but a chance encounter with a flying saucer, a plethora of conveniently employed uncles on Timothy's part, and the persuasive powers of Minnie, the piano, ensure a harmonic end to the increasingly bizarre musical extravaganza.

THE MAGICAL "HURDY-GURDY" at the centre of Slade's musical at first

seems mirrored in the thrown-together relationship between Jane and Timothy at the beginning of the piece. The imbalance of this initial lurch into the tale is soon redressed, however, and as the first foray into directing musical theatre by Nick Ward, *Salad Days* is a compelling effort. Ward directs a particularly strong cast and, without overshadowing the talents of Olivia Holland-Rose as Jane and Joe Pike as Timothy, the character of Nigel played by Ali Watt drives most life and humour into the musical.

The cast perform with gusto, and the tiny musical ensemble led by Derek Williams revives the musical score to its past glory. Despite slight weaknesses in the group chorus, the cast utilise the small, rather bare stage set with skill, and though the limited space occasionally cramps the choreography, these slight imperfections allow the piece to retain the innocent charm central to its theme. *Salad Days* is certainly a camp production, and does not seem to shy away from this concept; yet it also oozes wit and engages the audience in a way that makes it impossible to disregard.

EUSOG's Salad Days was directed by Nick Ward and ran at The Pleasance Theatre from 13-17 November



Music The spirit of St Louis

British Sea Power

★★★★★

Chris McCallchris.mccall@journal-online.co.uk

A PACKED CABARET Voltaire awaits British Sea Power as they assemble on stage at the rather early time of 8.45 pm. As the first chords of set opener 'Remember Me' ring out, there are still dozens of eager fans squeezing themselves into the venue, and the temperature rockets accordingly.

While not so great for those stuck at the back, these conditions usually bode well for a great British Sea Power performance: this band thrives in claustrophobic environments, and is renowned for whipping their audience into such frenzy that near rioting often ensues. Although if you were confronted with a seemingly deranged singer bellowing "Gymnastic whores down on all fours with septic balls from fucked up whores!" you might be somewhat edgy as well.

The truth is that British Sea Power are the Jekyll & Hyde of popular music. Their earlier material ranges from the grandiose, to the peculiar, to the downright bizarre. In more recent times, BSP have left many of these eccentricities

behind and concentrated more on the sort of accomplished, sweeping rock tunes that The Cure forgot how to write a long time ago. This calmer, more reflective side of BSP is very much the equal of their more aggressive material. It's only when the band play live that you can fully appreciate how these contrasts combine to create something very special. This progression is similarly evident in how the band look: three years ago, they resembled a bunch of Great War deserters. Tonight, their chosen look is more 1950s man-about-town.

Tonight's set is a pleasing mix of BSP's back catalogue, liberally laced with a half dozen songs from their long awaited new album, due early in the new year. The undoubtedly highlight of the evening, however, is a blistering version of 'Fear of Drowning', a song that doesn't quite fit either of BSP's competing personalities. Judging by the new material on offer, it's this middle way the band are intent on exploring. In the meantime—as set closer 'St Louis' roars to life—let's all whip ourselves into a frenzy one last time.

British Sea Power: Cabaret Voltaire, 7 November

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Arts & Entertainment

Theatre EUTC works Pratchett's Discworld magic

'Guards! Guards!' by Terry Pratchett

★★★★★

Claire Jarvis

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THERE IS ALWAYS a responsibility that accompanies bringing to life a novel blessed with a strong and opinionated fan-base, never more so than for the likes of Terry Pratchett's successful *Discworld* novels. There are also added complications that come from dramatising an imaginative fantasy, as well as translating trademark Pratchett humour to the stage. Such are the challenges which Edinburgh University Theatre Company take on with aplomb.

The guards in question are the city watch of the bustling conurbation of Ankh-Morpork: a motley bunch, consisting of a petty thief, a cynical drunk, a plodding sergeant, an orang-utan and the newest recruit Carrot Ironfoundersson, who is just a little too naive and eager. He couldn't have come at a worse time: a plot is afoot to usurp the wily Patrician of the city by means of a large fire-breathing dragon.

The company overcomes the main barriers to bringing the Discworld into a 'Roundworld' setting via clever use of the famed Pratchett footnote, making it possible to halt the proceedings to provide explanations. The impression of the

dragon is created with sound effects of thumping leathery wings, whose Jaws-like intensity builds up genuine suspense in the auditorium.

The cast do their best to recreate the characters as they appear in print: Stephen Graham is a treat as the haughty and imposing Lord Vetrinari as he glares around the stage, as is Freya Slipper as hoity-toity Sybil Ramkin, kitted out in tweed and Wellingtons.

One of the disappointments of the production is that it fails to convey some of the more satirical, clever aspects of the novel, which are part of the Discworld series' wild appeal. Much of the action is instead rendered purely as comedic slapstick. There is also a penchant for the walk-on parts to utilise 'ned-speak' ("Innit?") which becomes rather grating.

Niggles aside, this is a solid production that does its best to bring alive a complex world and sate the pernickety fans—this reviewer included—who leave more than satisfied that no serious mauling of their Discworld has occurred.

'Guards! Guards!' was adapted by Stephen Briggs from the novel by Terry Pratchett and is directed by Alex Hall. Bedlam 6th-10th Nov (Run Ended)



Music Edinburgh University String Orchestra

★★★★

Evan Beswick

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IT'S TOUGH ENOUGH an undertaking for a student ensemble to pull off Bach's violin concerto in A minor – more so when said group have managed to coax 180 of their friends and relatives into Nicholson Square Church for the performance. There's bound to be a purist amongst them. Fortunately there isn't, because EUSO's Bach is certainly no period reproduction. But, more exciting is that it's not meant to be.

Because, under William Conway's baton, EUSO feel tonight like a group trying, and succeeding, to shape a real performance. Take the first half programming: rather than scratching around for the taught, gutsy baroque string sound their instruments can't possibly find, Conway chooses to coax unexpected lyricism, particularly in the second movement, from the A minor concerto. Hence the clever choice of Sibelius' *Rakastava* suite. Lush and dense, the considered shaping of Sibelius' idiosyncratic legato phrases lays the ground for soloist Aaron McGregor's wonderfully dramatic interpretation of the Bach.

Easily the highlight, however, is Schönberg's *Verklärte Nacht*. EUSO show remarkable control over the extremely broad emotional demands of the tone poem: the attack Conway calls for in the unison passages is sharp and clear; Schönberg's tentative transition into the bold D major chorale is handled with perfect restraint.

Sure, on rare occasions the tuning comes unstuck; the exceptionally tough swirling, tumultuous middle section runs away at times; a fudged pizzicato pause slackens some of the suspense. But, then, it is a suspense that the group have already built up spectacularly. More apparent than any nitpicking is that the performance is well-wrought enough for it to matter.

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Music Send for the men in white coats

We Are Scientists

★★★★★



Rod MacNeil

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PURVEYORS OF FINE facial hair, and equally fine three-minute pop songs, We Are Scientists are in town to show off their numerous talents. Having already delivered a comedy seminar at Heriot-Watt earlier in the day, the band return to the day job at a sold-out Potterrow.

Tonight's support, The Departure, are wholly unspectacular. While three quarters of the band do their best to convince the audience of their astute musicianship, frontman David Jones does his best to nullify their efforts, hopping and staggering around the stage as if suffering from a particularly painful dose of cramp, all whilst attempting to give the overriding impression that he couldn't write a decent song for a poke of chips.

The headliners provide no such

disappointment. Taking to the stage at ten o'clock—and without a single labcoat in sight—they launch into their signature tune, 'Nobody Move, Nobody Get Hurt', sending the crowd (average age, 17) into spasm. Sadly, Potterrow still has to find its feet as a live music venue: it's not until a storming version of 'Can't Lose' mid set before the PA stops impersonating a giant washing machine.

But this is not to detract from the quality of the performance – especially from a band who lost their drummer just a few weeks ago. In a set split between their first album and new material, the Scientists (bolstered by the addition of a second guitarist) prove that the bouncing basslines and catchy pop hooks of their debut are set to remain more than just a flash in the pan.

We Are Scientists: Potterrow, 11 November.

Food editor: Nana Wereko-Brobbey
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Morning tipples

Guinness for breakfast, anyone?

**Nana Wereko-Brobbey &
Kasmira Jefford**

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WHATEVER THE SITUATION, there are always two sides to a story, a coin, and a city. There are most certainly a few well-hidden sides to Edinburgh life that are often forgotten and which go against the grain of the normal practice, and normal social hours. The hugely overlooked and—in our humble Bacchic opinion—sadly underrated 6am pub blurs the distinction between night revels and morning top-ups, festive drunkenness and serious boozing. Forming a sort of underground network reminiscent of the Prohibition era, drinkers enter a liminal space in which alcohol-related taboos are removed, or revelled in, and everyone present is in on one big secret.

Penny Blacks has the ambience of a back room lounge, or small shabby sitting room, where nothing has been moved for the last decade. Under its old wooden beams, the room is awkwardly furnished with oak barrel tables and canteen-style plasticised tables, with a characterful head barman, the picture image of Springfield's beloved bartender Moe, completing the bizarre tableau. There is a feeling of established routine as the pub opens its doors at six to a surprisingly sober queue that has gathered outside: it's quite clearly a

daily stopping point for some of the clientele. The retro American jukebox starts up and a playlist of classic Aerosmith and AC/DC tunes contribute to an atmosphere that is both nostalgic and just plain incongruous. Having secured a barstool and ordered "the craziest damn cocktail you have," (when in Rome), our investigative team got to grips with out-in-the-open early morning drinking and, in doing so, discovered a sub-culture more respectable than anticipated.

According to barman Fraser, four types of people gravitate to Penny Blacks. Firstly those for whom the 'after-party' cry still holds sway, long after student days have passed. In the wake of an evidently successful Ann Summer's party, we encountered a particularly loquacious co-drinker and regular, seeing out the last hour of darkness with a celebratory WKD, whilst offering black market Viagra at the bargain price of £100 a pair and divulging her affections for the younger man. Similarly soaking up the dregs of an evening, a post-casino crowd unsuccessfully scouted for girls in a pub dominated by middle aged males. Then came the post-work drinkers, bouncers and bartenders enjoying a night cap after long shifts. The final two groups were made up of men appreciating a civilised pint with the morning paper and Guinness-swilling elderly gentlemen who, in Fraser's morbid

opinion, were simply "biding the time till death." What surprises, and perhaps disappoints, the casual observer is that Penny Blacks does not live up to its legend. Often drunkenly suggested, but rarely visited, one expects to find a debauched den of vice, revelry and inebriation. In reality, the majority of punters were self-medicating with the early morning pint to either motivate for the day ahead or sedate for imminent sleep. Slurred professions of love, bar-top dancing and chants to the music were all unfortunately lacking.

Thankfully, Penny Blacks does ascribe to its image as underground, word-of-mouth, pseudo-illicit establishment. Helped by its proximity to the 1920s-esque Café Royal, there is something of the speakeasy about it. Researching this article started with a google-chase for early morning pubs that always culminated with just Blacks. In actual fact, once initiated into its drinking culture, we were furnished with a list of just under a dozen other pubs in Edinburgh catering for the same unusual timekeepers. Putting on a show of respectability, the bouncer at the door dutifully performs age and sobriety checks. However, this is somewhat undermined by a customer code that is careful enough not to alienate its potential crowds by distaining true drunkenness. As Fraser chuckles the odd plastered punter out, he helpfully furnishes them



with comprehensive details of where to find the next hovel. From Cockburn Streets's Scotsman's Lounge to South Clark Street's Quarter Gill, it seems that the 6am pub is simply the victim of bad publicity. In fact, Scotsman's Lounge, with its good lighting and spacious ground-floor set up, is positively cheery. The recent transformation of Leith's rather drab Old Salt into the gay bar Princillas, which allegedly has a habit of welcoming punters at 5am on Fridays and Saturdays, shows that the morning boozer is adapting to survive in a more demanding, and perhaps more alcoholic, Edinburgh. Offering a counter leisure-culture for those in Edinburgh who function in a different time zone to most, the early morning pub seems relatively harmless. If anything, it could do with putting itself out there a bit more for a student population that resorts to necking whatever is at hand (cooking wine...) in an attempt to prolong the party and delay the reality of academic commitments.

However, asking a respectable-looking and coherent fellow drinker what the week held in store for him, we received a reply more suited to a hippy commune than inner city Edinburgh: "a roadtrip into oblivion." Whilst there are certainly some who drink to forget, the early morning pub is still a choice spot for drinking to remember just how carefree and rule-defying life as a student can be. Seriously, get involved.

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Women's Hockey

U of E 1st 2-1 U of E 2nd



Edinburgh University Women's Hockey Club defeat their reserve side to claim a narrow victory in last week's top-of-the-table clash. Full match report available online Tom Bishop

Strathclyde prove easy meat as Heriot-Watt make case for promotion

Rugby
Strathclyde 5
Heriot-Watt 38

Jack Charnley

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HERIOT-WATT'S TRY MACHINE overcame a young Strathclyde side in a routine away win in Glasgow to retain their position at the top of division two of the BUSA Scottish conference.

The 33-point margin of victory doesn't flatter Heriot-Watt, who were clearly the stronger side. They scored first early in the first half through Kyle Best, and although Strathclyde were able to respond to make it 5-5, from that point onwards Heriot-Watt dominated the game with fluid attacking rugby, scoring six tries, twice through winger Lewis McKinstry's efforts down the left wing in the second half. Strathclyde were suffering from injury problems and were forced to field a team that included seven freshers, who struggled against the skillful Heriot-Watt attacks.

Their lack of experience showed in the 52nd minute. Strathclyde had stolen the ball and were on a counter-attack but Heriot-Watt centre Pete Saunders, in a daring display of cheek, joined the Strathclyde line as he tracked back and, like a wolf in sheep's clothing, managed to receive a pass from his opponents who mistook him for one of their own. The ball eventually fell to Joe Hickman, who proceeded on a long darting run through the field, and, ending up on the opposite wing, let his teammate McKinstry in for an easy score.

Three minutes later No. 8 Liam

Slaven went over a blind side run straight from the scrum, and Andy Grodyanski the full-back followed up with an excellent conversion to make it 5-24 and truly crush Strathclyde's spirits.

Although they managed to compete in the rucks and mauls, Strathclyde were simply unable to handle Heriot-Watt's pace and invention in the midfield, especially the likes of Saunders and his No.13 Marcus McAllister. It was their skill that accounted for the first-half tries. Saunders put Best through in the 20th minute, working it down the line with ease to score in the corner, and they combined well with a one-two pass to make space for Hickman to go over eight minutes later. Fresher flanker Pascal Thomas also deserves a special mention; he seemed to crop up all over the field with big hits, strong runs, and even kicking to get his team out of trouble.

Late on in the game space really opened up for the Heriot-Watt wing-ends to cause havoc. McKinstry found himself with a one on one down the line with the try line in sight. He opted to kick and chase, but was beaten in the race by the opposing full back Callum McKenzie. This didn't deter McKinstry however; he followed up with a massive tackle, and his opponent dropped the ball over the try line for him to score his second. Then five minutes from time, more great work from Saunders left Ross McLaughlin with a wide gap down the line that he duly exploited. McAllister converted to round up the scoring and make it an emphatic 5-38.

Heriot-Watt are in a rich vein of form this season, they have now played four and won four in the league, and after beating Edinburgh in the varsity game and dominating Strathclyde, they will be full of confidence when they entertain Aberdeen on the 21st of November.

Edinburgh secure another Varsity victory with hockey triumph

Burgh Varsity Women's Hockey
Edinburgh 4
Heriot-Watt 1

Emily Glass

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A FINAL MINUTE goal hammered home by the University of Edinburgh placed victory over Heriot-Watt beyond doubt as they cruised to a 4-1 win on Wednesday 7 November. Following a successful penalty four minutes earlier, Amy Morrice made Edinburgh's first Varsity triumph of the afternoon even sweeter.

After defeats in the football and rugby, the University of Edinburgh's Women's Hockey team were relying on a win to ensure the University remained in competition for the Varsity. Heriot-Watt, on the other hand, had the opportunity to break Edinburgh's grip on the competition.

The University of Edinburgh won the first push-back and seized the opportunity for early dominance with an early goal attempt, but were denied due to some brilliant defending by Watt's goal-keeper. A short corner in the fifth minute, however, saw Edinburgh's Gemma Maxwell beat the goal-keeper with a second shot at goal that gave Edinburgh an early lead.

Heriot-Watt countered with a strong attacking flourish but Edinburgh's early goal enhanced their grit and determination and the team's strong defensive play kept the Watt at bay. Another short corner for Edinburgh in the twelfth minute saw them pushing for a follow-up goal but Watt's defence proved too tough to penetrate.

Edinburgh did not have to wait too long for their second goal, however, as captain Sue Davidson earned her position on the team with a brilliant goal in the 16th minute after putting pressure on Watt in the semi-circle.

The battle for possession was fierce as both teams' thirst for victory pushed them to their limits. Twenty minutes into the first half a hard hit rebounded off the leg of Heriot-Watt's Katie Smith, causing an injury that saw her carried off the pitch. A sloppy final 15 minutes full of mis-hits and interceptions suggested that 2-0 would be the score carried in to half-time. Watt, however, intercepted Edinburgh's strong cross-pitch passing and pushed for a goal to regain status in the first half. In the final minute of the match Heriot-Watt's attack proved fruitful against Edinburgh's sloppy defending and a late goal set the scores at 2-1 to Edinburgh at half time.

The Watt began the second half as the dominant team as they pushed hard against Edinburgh's defence, putting pressure on their one-goal lead. A green card for Watt's Megan Bennett, however, turned the tables of the match and saw Edinburgh regaining their attacking form shown during the first 35 minutes.

As the 65th minute came to an end with no goals scored, the second half of the Varsity battle looked set to be disappointingly dull. A penalty awarded to Edinburgh in the 66th minute heightened the tension of the match and Megan Barbour's flick past the goal keeper into the bottom left corner of the net secured Edinburgh's victory over Watt with four minutes left of the match.

Edinburgh did not become complacent in the closing minutes of the match, however, and their continued attacking play saw Morrice's shot slam into the back of the net as the icing-on-the-cake of Edinburgh's success in their Varsity campaign.

Sport Round-up

FOOTBALL

BUSA Scottish Conference League 1

	P	W	D	L	G	Pts
Stirling	8	5	2	1	10	17
Heriot-Watt	6	3	1	2	9	10
Edinburgh	6	3	0	3	4	9
Glasgow	6	2	1	3	-9	7
Strathclyde	6	1	3	2	-3	6
Dundee	6	1	1	4	-11	4

RESULTS

7/11/07	Edinburgh	2-3	Heriot Watt
14/7/07	Dundee	3-3	Stirling
14/7/07	Glasgow	1-1	Strathclyde
14/7/07	Heriot-Watt	5-0	Dundee
14/7/07	Glasgow	3-0	Edinburgh
14/7/07	Strathclyde	2-5	Stirling

FIXTURES

21/11/07	Edinburgh	vs	Strathclyde
28/11/07	Stirling	vs	Heriot-Watt
28/11/07	Glasgow	vs	Strathclyde
28/11/07	Heriot-Watt	vs	Dundee
28/11/07	Glasgow	vs	Edinburgh
28/11/07	Strathclyde	vs	Stirling

BUSA Scottish Conference League 3

	P	W	D	L	G	Pts
Albertay	7	4	2	1	11	14
Edinburgh 4	7	4	1	2	5	13
Napier	7	4	1	2	5	13
Glasgow 3	7	3	3	1	1	12
Glasgow 2	7	2	1	4	-6	7
Aberdeen 2	7	0	0	7	-16	0

RESULTS

7/11/07	Glasgow	3	1 - 1	Napier
14/11/07	Aberdeen	2	1 - 4	Napier
14/11/07	Strathclyde	2	1 - 4	Napier
14/11/07	Glasgow Cal	2	1 - 4	Napier
14/11/07	St Andrews	2	1 - 4	Napier

FIXTURES

21/11/07	Stirling	3	11 - 1	QMU
21/11/07	Glasgow	2	1 - 4	Napier
21/11/07	Strathclyde	2	1 - 4	Napier
21/11/07	Glasgow Cal	2	1 - 4	Napier
21/11/07	St Andrews	2	1 - 4	Napier

RUGBY

	P	W	D	L	PD	Pts
Glasgow	4	4	0	0	132	12
Glasgow Cal	4	3	0	1	97	6
Stirling	3	2	0	1	-3	6
Edinburgh 2	5	2	0	3	-12	6
Dundee 2	4	2	0	2	-14	6
Napier	5	0	0	5	-203	0

RESULTS

14/11/07	Glasgow	4	2 - 1	Napier
28/11/07	Stirling	2	1 - 2	Napier
28/11/07	Edinburgh 2	5	2 - 0	Napier
28/11/07	Dundee 2	4	2 - 0	Napier
28/11/07	Napier	5	0	0

FIXTURES

21/11/07	Stirling	2	1 - 2	Napier
28/11/07	Edinburgh 2	5	2 - 0	Napier
28/11/07	Dundee 2	4	2	

Continued from page 24

line, and a flowing back move that included a beautiful take-and-give off his bootlaces from Griffiths released Butler down the left wing to storm home and, with the resulting conversion, narrow the gap to 28-15. With the momentum firmly behind them, Stirling began to press hard but thwarted themselves on several occasions through silly penalties.

After his first miss of the afternoon, McGonigle re-composed himself shortly after to convert a penalty, giving Edinburgh what looked like a match-winning deficit. Stirling were not done yet though. Some suspect defence on the Edinburgh blind-side at a scrum allowed the ebullient McRory, who had an excellent game at scrum-half, to finish one of his sniping runs and offer his side hope. Minutes later, after some poor refereeing which missed a blatant knock-on, he was at it again capitalising on the good fortune by collecting his own chip on the Edinburgh 22 and just outpacing the Edinburgh cover defence to score.

Despite McRory's heroic efforts to drag his team back from the brink, it was ultimately fruitless as Edinburgh held on nervously to secure their second win on the trot. Coach Dale Lyon reflected afterwards: "We've had a poor start to the season but the guys have started to turn things round and we're now starting to put into practice in games what we've worked on in training and execute our game plans better. The team's lost quite a few players from last year and it's largely a new bunch of lads so we're rebuilding right now but I'm encouraged that the players have really stepped up to the mark in the second half of this season."

Stirling will probably feel that this was a match they shouldn't have lost, having had more sustained pressure and controlled the forward battle. However, thanks to some poor handling, indiscipline and poor decision making at crucial times, they could never quite translate this slight dominance into points on the board. Edinburgh were largely indebted to the flying Eseonu and the solid Geddie for their victory and despite the continuing resurgence after a poor start to the season, both forwards and backs will need to work more effectively as individual units and together in order to continue the revival.

Football

**Heriot-Watt 5
Dundee 0**

Tom Crookston*tom.crookston@journal-online.co.uk*

WHAT A DIFFERENCE a fortnight makes. Just two weeks ago Heriot-Watt were sitting bottom of the BUSA Scottish Conference League 1, having taken one solitary point from their opening three games. Three wins and an astonishing fifteen goals later, they have moved ahead of arch-rivals the University of Edinburgh into second place and have the top of the table firmly in their sights. Judging by this ruthlessly efficient performance, you'd be brave to bet against them.

Two fine strikes from Ewen Watson effectively killed the game off before the interval, and two more in quick succession either side of the hour mark made the result a formality, leaving time for a wonderful solo effort from Omar Kader, who beat two Dundee defenders on the edge of the box before slipping the ball coolly under the advancing goalkeeper. Only some decidedly reckless finishing from the Heriot-Watt strikers prevented them from reaching double figures in the second half.

Dundee struggled manfully to keep a toe-hold in this game, but the team was simply unable to cope with the pace and directness of the Watt's football. In Phil Berry and Ross Paterson, Dundee possess two tall, powerful forwards who might have intimidated a less organised defence, but they toiled in vain against an unflappable back line. Meanwhile, their own defence seemed completely at a loss against Heriot-Watt's two rapid

wide men, Craig Gillen and the superb Kader, who had put Edinburgh University to the sword a week previously.

The match began brightly, and Watson's composed finish inside the first ten minutes suggested that we might be in for another rout. But a stalemate soon emerged, both teams careless in possession and unable to put together more than a handful of passes. Indeed it came as something of a shock when, minutes before the interval, Kader's smart turn and reverse pass opened up the Dundee defence for Watson, whose low shot Chris Cargill could only deflect into the net.

Two goals behind at half-time, Dundee desperately needed a change of plan. Unfortunately, without a manager and with only one substitute available, they were unable to come up with a way to get themselves back in the game. The second period began much as the first had ended, with Heriot-Watt keeping the ball well and Kader tormenting the hapless Jonathan Currie. Three times in ten minutes he laid on golden opportunities that his strikers wasted, before Cassidy finally rediscovered his Midas touch and put the game beyond doubt. His fine close-range finish on the hour made it 3-0, and was followed up two minutes later with a jinking run into the box that left defenders trailing. Finding himself one-on-one with the keeper, he simply pulled the ball back to the arriving Oliver Anthony for the simplest of finishes.

Inevitably the game opened up in the final thirty minutes, with Heriot-Watt unable to sustain the blistering pace of the first hour. Chances went begging at both ends but Dundee never looked capable of mounting a comeback, and it was left to Kader to provide the final flourish that his side's dominant performance fully deserved.

Burgh Varsity Men's Hockey

Edinburgh 3 – 2 Heriot-Watt



Edinburgh clinch Burgh Varsity crown with final-match victory in the Men's Hockey. Ken Wallace

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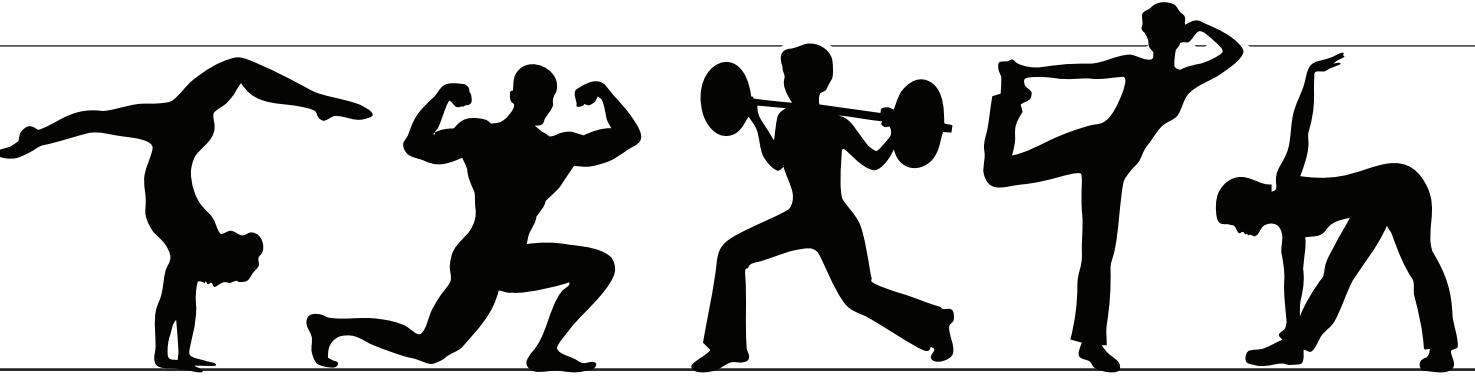


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Sport



Home victory breaks Edinburgh's losing spell



Edinburgh edged this close encounter thanks to some inspired back play **Ken Wallace**

Rugby
U. of Edinburgh 31
Stirling 25

Jonathan Burt

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AFTER A POOR start to a season that has seen Edinburgh lose away to Stirling and Dundee and suffer a drubbing last week at the hands of Varsity rivals Heriot-Watt, this fixture took on great significance as the university looked to mend their broken ways and avenge the reverse fixture that started the poor run. In the end, Edinburgh held the edge in this close encounter thanks to some inspired back play from Kelechi Eseonu and John Geddie in particular, though it was not all plain-sailing as a late Stirling rally threatened to snatch the win from the hosts.

In crisp, sunny conditions Edinburgh started brightly, taking the initiative from the off, and it was not long before the first points were on the board. After solid forward play set up

the attacking base, the three-quarters launched a penetrative attack with Geddie breaking the line and setting up the supporting Eseonu to finish down the left. With the two points added by McGonigle, Edinburgh continued to press from the restart and, following some excellent forward play in the loose and several phases, it was left to Tom Clarke to crash over from three metres out.

McGonigle converted again to leave the hosts 14-0 up with only ten minutes on the board. Stirred from their torpor by the Edinburgh blitz, Stirling responded in kind with a carbon copy try, centre James Griffiths matching his counterpart minutes later. Having established a foothold in the game, Stirling reduced the gap further with McCann slotting a penalty after Edinburgh hands were caught handling in the ruck. With the game on a more even keel and Stirling shoring up the gaps in the midfield, some clever tactical kicking from Doubleday kept the Stirling back three honest.

However, it wasn't long before Edinburgh regained their early momentum. With the forwards again establishing a solid base, Geddie took a short ball from Henderson and cut a diagonal run back

across the Stirling three-quarter line. With the Stirling half-backs sucked in and some smart work by the Edinburgh back row to secure a quick ball, the ball was spun wide with speed to the merciful Eseonu who ran a zig-zag through the remaining cover defence to score in the corner. McGonigle kicked to go 3 from 3 for the day.

The bit firmly between their teeth now, Edinburgh added a fourth minutes afterward, with Eseonu completing a clinical first half hat-trick. The Geddie/Eseonu one-two punch was once more the source. Middleton, composed throughout under the high ball, took one such ball on his ten metre line and released his back line from right to left. Geddie broke the line with Eseonu close by and a switch on the 22, with Eseonu shaping a run off his wing towards the posts, resulted in another 7-pointer.

Despite Edinburgh's considerable dominance on the score board, in truth this flattened the hosts. Stirling began the second half determined to press home their slight forward advantage. Sloppy work at the line-out allowed Stirling to secure ball on the Edinburgh ten metre

Continued on page 23

Varsity joy for Heriot-Watt as they trump oldest city rivals

Football
U. of Edinburgh 2
Heriot-Watt 3

Dominic Moger

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EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY'S SCOTTISH Cup pioneers were brought uncomfortably back down to earth with a defeat against a hugely enterprising Heriot-Watt side at Peffermill on Wednesday 7 November. With Heriot-Watt leading by two clear goals following strikes from Luke Cassidy, Aaron James and captain Oliver Anthony, only a smartly taken opportunity from Liam Hughes ignited a match that had hitherto been anything but a hostile local derby.

Fielding a slightly depleted line-up following their Cup heroics, Edinburgh appeared hesitant and were unable to re-discover the fluency that had epitomised their play in the latter half of the Deveronvale encounter. With Rimes replacing Bennett in goal, MacRae filling in at centre back, Makhoul picking ahead of Thompson in center midfield and Beesley being shifted to a position just behind Hazeldine, the spine of the Edinburgh side was unrecognisable from the previous match. It was therefore no surprise that Heriot-Watt, fresh from the 7-1 humiliation of Glasgow University, began the brighter, with Gillen on the Heriot-Watt left looking particularly impressive.

Indeed, Heriot-Watt took only five minutes to pierce the Edinburgh defence: Gillen burst down the left, skipped ably past the bemused Munro and delivered a low ball which was tucked home by Cassidy despite pressure from the lunging MacRae. This was symptomatic of how the first half unravelled: Heriot's two pacy wingers caused problems for the Edinburgh full-backs, often requiring Dean Jones and Christopher Woods on the flanks to help out defensively. With the added problem of the wind gusting in their faces, Edinburgh could not consolidate in midfield. Another problem was the incompetent place-kicking of rookie goalkeeper Rimes, whose weak right foot consistently delivered goal kicks into the dangerous area between his own defence and midfield.

Occasional openings presented themselves to the Edinburgh strikers but they were easily thwarted by the ever alert Heriot-Watt defence, for which Keast was exceptional, particularly in the first half. In spite of Heriot's superiority in midfield, their chances were limited too, reliant on snap-shots from defensive clearances and the frequent offerings of the Edinburgh midfield who could not secure possession for any significant period in the first half. Consequently, set pieces represented Edinburgh's most likely means of breaching the sturdy Heriot defence. So it proved to be the case in the 33rd minute as Fusco launched a free-kick into the Heriot box causing a flurry of swinging legs and scuffed connections from which the terrier-like Hazeldine latched on to the loose ball only to hook it over the bar from seven yards out.

At one goal down the match remained finely poised but a horrendous misjudgement from Rimes sent Edinburgh in at half-time in severe

trouble. From 40 yards out on the far right touchline Heriot-Watt's left back, the impressive Aaron James, swung a wickedly swirling ball that succeeded in removing the main body of players from the game, causing hopelessly flailing Rimes to drop tamely into the net.

The second half began with Edinburgh evidently eager to reclaim the initiative. However, it was not until just before the hour mark that this energy was rewarded with anything approaching a chance and, when it came, it originated with another free-kick. From 35 yards out Fusco shaped to shoot only to deliver a chipped ball to the far post where it was headed onto the roof of Davidson's net by Hazeldine. Just three minutes later Edinburgh had reduced the deficit. Following a rare defensive mishap, Redman burst into the Heriot-Watt box, only to be eased off the ball by the converging centre backs. A harsh penalty it was but Redman's charity was in short supply as he stepped up and coolly slid the ball down the middle, sending Davidon plunging to his right.

The Watt responded in kind, Kader and Gillen stretching the home defence without finding the telling final ball. Indeed, with the wind once again playing far too influential a role in the match, Heriot's composure at the back was being gradually eroded under a volley of high balls delivered from the accurate right foot of Fusco. After one such passage of play the ball broke for Makhoul 25 yards out. His strike was clean and true but, deservedly in the context of the game, it struck the bar and Heriot-Watt maintained their lead.

From this it would have been expected for Edinburgh to push on and exploit the conditions that the wind and the visitors' increasing discomfort afforded them. However, it was not until the 83rd minute that Edinburgh threatened once again. With Fusco's free kick, Redman found himself alone at the far post, but the space evidently appeared so bewildering that he succeeded in kicking only air.

The miss proved costly as Heriot scored the decisive third. A quick exchange of passes between McLeish and Kader set the diminutive winger free, his cross evading the out-of-position Munro for Anthony to steal in at the far post to stoop and head the ball home.

Finally Edinburgh awoke to the fact that the match might be beyond them if nothing were done. A one-two on the right freed Hazeldine but he dragged the shot wide of Davidson's right hand post. Another one-two involving Hazeldine and Beesley released the latter to cross low from the right for substitute Hughes to notch what seemed a consolation. With just a minute remaining Hazeldine found himself alone in the Heriot box but Davidson saved well with his legs to seal the win for the visitors.

Understandably concerned with the imminent Cup match, Edinburgh nevertheless looked lackadaisical, unable to create anything in open play until the final stretched minutes. Heriot-Watt will prove to be a force to be reckoned with in this league as their combination of pace and sound technical ability was sufficient to neutralise the effects of the wind and the visit to a team who had been placed higher in the standings.