



Russia

Are we heading towards
a new Cold War? ▶20

Chocolate Heaven

Nana Wereko-Brobby investigates
the more exotic uses of cocoa

▶28



Nightclubs unite to fight violent crime

21 Edinburgh venues to track
known offenders

Anti-social behaviour targeted by
new common policy

Graham Mackay & Hamish Fergusson

newsdesk@journal-online.co.uk

A NEW INITIATIVE has been launched at 21 top clubs across Edinburgh to make the city's nightlife safer.

The scheme, called Unight, aims to enforce a zero tolerance policy against drugs, assaults, and weapons, and is supported by the Lothian and Borders Police.

Its member venues will share CCTV footage and stills taken of anti-social customers. Punters who are thrown out of one club, will be barred from all the others. Troublemakers will then be prohibited from entering participating establishments for a set period of time, with those caught in possession of drugs facing bans of a minimum of three months.

The initiative, launched on Friday 26 October, enjoyed a successful first weekend and was welcomed by the clubbing community.

Aiden Walke, manager of Mood on Broughton Street and joint chair of the Unight group, said: "We've had positive feedback from both customers and the police."

Lothian and Borders Police have commended Unight's foundation, offering the scheme their full support as well as legal guidance. Superintendent Ronnie Liddle applauded the group's direct approach. He said: "The message is clear, if you turn up with drugs, assault a member of staff or customer or cause damage to the premises you will

be banned from all 21 nightclubs."

Following the lead of similar partnerships recently set up across the UK, Unight's members hope to promote higher standards of supervision and safety across the city's nightspots.

Sarah David, manager of Cabaret Voltaire and co-founder of the project said: "We have entered into this partnership to try and provide an industry standard, to ensure that every late night venue works in close conjunction with each other in driving known troublemakers out of the city centre.

"I feel that for Edinburgh to grow as a whole there has to be more unity within the scene. I truly believe that with the new generation of club owners, it is our duty to implement certain standards for the future of clubbing, and enable all of our patrons to drink in a safe environment."

Prior to Unight's official launch its members assisted police in a three week crackdown on knife possession in the city centre. Bouncers worked alongside the police, searching revellers outside pubs and clubs.

Weapon seizures across the Lothian and Borders area revealed that one in 70 people carry knives on a night out, despite a 15 per cent fall in the number of people charged with carrying offensive weapons in Edinburgh since April.

An Edinburgh knife culture, described as "completely out of order" and "madness" by Craigmillar

Continued on page 2



Safer clubs: the Unight initiative will help to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and violent attacks Sarah Saleh

In The Journal this week...

page 16



The Scottish Election Fiasco

Report condemns
entire political
establishment after
hundreds of thousands
of Scottish voters
disenfranchised

NEWS

page 6



NEWS

Controversy over "hate" literature

Right-wing think
tank allegedly
discovers extremist
book at Edinburgh
Central Mosque

page 19

COMMENT

When anyone points out that it is irrational to spend billions of dollars a year on anti-terrorism measures when food poisoning kills far more people, no one wants to hear

- Phillip Knightley



Can Europe handle 100 million muslims?

George Grant explores the political and cultural impact that would accompany Turkey's accession to the European Union

►24

Phillip Knightley

The award-winning journalist responsible for breaking the Profumo affair and the Thalidomide scandal discusses media attitudes to the war on terror

►19



Up for the cup

Edinburgh University Football Club crush Highland league side Deveronvale to reach the third round of the Tennent's Scottish Cup

►32



"I find that a great part of the information I have was acquired by looking up something and finding something else on the way." **Franklin P. Adams**



Clubs to unite against violence

Continued from page 1
councillor Mike Bridgeman, is being targeted by the police-led Safer Scotland campaign.

Although violent crime in the city has fallen over the past year, Inspector Neil Phillip, police liaison officer for the Safer Scotland campaign, believes that "one knife or bladed weapon on the street is one too many" and warns that young people in the city are particularly at risk.

He said: "Statistical research shows that the most common profile of victims and offenders are males

aged between 16-25 and most students fall into this category." He added: "Friday and Saturday evening are the times when most people are at risk of attack."

Some students are concerned. Biology undergraduate Fred Cobb said: "Edinburgh is a great place to go out, but as a student you've sometimes got to pick your night and club carefully, I think students will definitely benefit from schemes like Unight."

Club manager Mr Walke recognised that students do not always feel safe in Edinburgh's clubland,

but hoped the Unight project will encourage them to venture out to non-student nights. He said: "I hope it will encourage students to feel safe, and to mix with the wider clubbing community."

The premises included within Unight are Lava & Ignite, Base, Cabaret Voltaire, City Night Club, Club Ego, Faith, Mood, Opal Lounge, Opium, Siglo, Stereo, Studio 24, Subway-West End, Lulu, The Liquid Room, WhyNot?, Club Massa, The Bongo Club, The Hive, Shanghai, Le Monde and Espionage.

Napier students scammed by bogus landlords

continued from page 1

experience, these forms of money transfer are favoured by fraudsters."

The spokesperson continued: "We are continuously looking at ways to get these key safety messages out there to even more of our users."

"We have plans currently in the pipeline to put out more warnings more visibly on the site. These should be appearing shortly."

NSA has recently received confirmation of another fake landlord, Van Marie Rillas, who is operating through a different website, www.accommodationforstudents.com.

Accommodation For Students told *The Journal* that after investigating the problem, Van Marie Rillas has been removed and blacklisted from its website.

All three of the individuals have been reported to the police and are currently under criminal investigation.

International students, particularly those visiting from the EU face additional difficulties in securing housing because they often do not have access to the information available to Edinburgh students.

Consequently many feel pressured to accept property of a lower standard and dubious nature.

Sigríð Hellberg, an EU student from Sweden studying business at the University of Edinburgh, told *The Journal*: "I am only studying for one semester at the university and it seems unfair that all non-EU students are guaranteed accommodation even for one semester, yet EU students often have to find their own."

Ms Hellberg applied for university accommodation and expected that the institution would arrange her housing. When her application was declined, Ms Hellberg was left to find accommodation by herself. She said: "It was so late that I would have pretty much accepted anything."

Ms Hellberg claims that the University of Edinburgh did not provide her with enough assistance in finding accommodation. She said: "There are a lot of unreliable housing websites out there with landlords pretending to have flats available for let. I was just lucky that I managed to find a good flat."

As a result of the scams, the reputation of Accommodation For Students and Gumtree as safe and reliable websites

has been called into question.

Studentflatfinder.com has removed Gumtree from their list of flat-finding websites as a result of security issues.

Josh MacAlister, President of Edinburgh University Students' Association (EUSA) and organiser of studentflatfinder.com, told *The Journal*: "Edinburgh is still riddled with dodgy landlords who are happy to see their customers ripped off."

"Fortunately, due to better standards and tighter regulations, along with face to face engagement from student bodies there are opportunities to expose them and get them to raise their game. This is an approach which EUSA has taken over the last year and it has shown real results. As a result of our work with Grant Management, the city's largest letting agent is now accredited."

Edinburgh-wide students have been working with the local government in an attempt to improve the housing situation in Edinburgh. On Thursday 25 October, Edinburgh's student unions, city councillors, MSPs, landlords and various accommodation companies convened in Teviot Debating Hall for the EUSA organised event, Student City Forum.

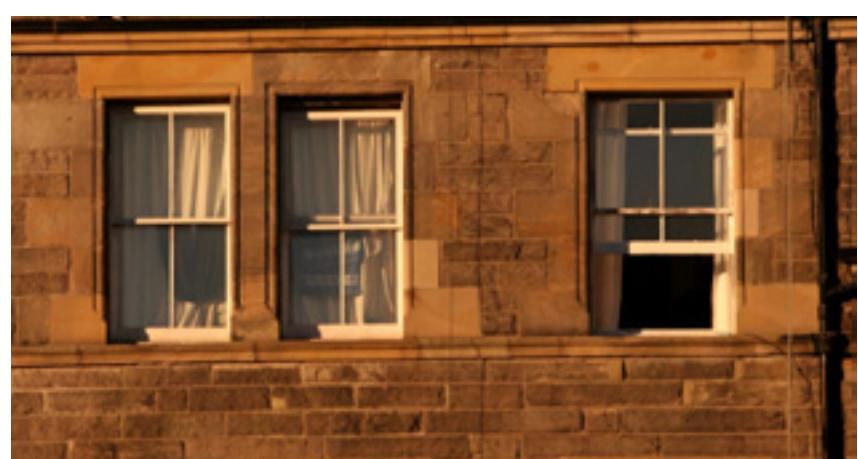
Student housing was discussed at length, with the aim of working to raise the quality, standards and safety of accommodation by supporting NUS Scotland's Brick by Brick campaign, providing flat-finding booklets and introducing workshops to assist students in finding reputable accommodation.

Priority was given to protecting students from dubious landlords and introducing measures that allowed for the greater scrutiny and exposure of 'dodgy' proprietors.

Jill Little, Deputy President of NUS Scotland is co-ordinating a tenancy deposit scheme as part of the Brick by Brick campaign, so that students have a mediator for their deposits to prevent unscrupulous landlords exploiting students.

Ms Little told *The Journal*: "The deposit would not be paid directly to the landlord, it would instead be held by an independent third party who would then keep the deposit, and would mediate any disputes between landlord and tenant."

She continued: "This would mean students in Scotland would have their money protected."



The Journal

EDINBURGH'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Editor Ben Judge **Deputy Editor** Hannah Thomas **Art Director** Matt Macleod **News Editor** Paul Traynor **Comment/Features Editor** Evan Beswick
Photo Editor Eddie Fisher **Copy Editors** Alex Reynolds, Gavin Lingiah, Kasmira Jefford, Katia Sand, Kayleigh Woods, Sarah Galletly
Sales Manager Devon Walshe **Sales Executives** Steve Jones, Alice Dunn, Jason Megson



"Invincible university" to open



60s troubadour Donovan unveils plans to establish a new university based on meditation, and funded by the David Lynch Foundation

Miles Johnson

miles.johnson@journal-online.co.uk

IN THESE HEADY days of rap music, ecstasy and Myspace the average student couldn't be further away from the supposedly mellow days of the 1960s. But a new initiative by Scottish folk singer Donovan could see the fire of Free Love rekindled in the hearts and minds of the capital's scholars through the art of meditation. Last week the 61 year old veteran troubadour announced in a joint press conference with the cult US director David Lynch his plans to establish the 'Invincible Donovan University', a new higher education institution for Scotland where students will be required to meditate, listen to psychedelic tunes, and strive for the highest reaches of the transcendental plane.

The Glasgow-born singer, most famous for the hits 'Mellow Yellow' and 'Hurdy Gurdy Man,' announced that the university's curriculum would

teach traditional university disciplines through the practice of transcendental meditation, a technique developed by the Indian guru Maharishi Mahesh Yogi and once practiced by the Beatles. Intended to be situated in either Edinburgh or Glasgow he informed the press conference that the initiative's ultimate aim was "to bring about world peace," with Lynch, the cult director of *Twin Peaks* and *Blue Velvet*, declaring that it would be a great university which will be a blessing for future students."

Donovan, who later announced his plans to a sold out audience at Edinburgh's Queens Hall, said he was receiving funding for the "consciousness based" university from the David Lynch Foundation and the Maharishi Central University in the United States. The pair have been staging events in locations across the world to promote the technique of transcendental meditation as a solution for tackling social problems such as crime, gang violence and underachieving school children.

Lynch, who has been practicing the technique for 34 years, claimed that donations given through his charitable foundation to allow pupils to meditate have seen significant improvements in their academic results and creativity. The David Lynch Foundation was launched in 2005 with the aim of raising \$7 billion for the promotion of 'consciousness based education' and promoting world peace.

The singer added that he believed that the correct implementation of the technique could result in practitioners reaching a stage of 'total enlightenment'. This state of spiritual bliss would then spread among the Scottish population and result in 'negativity' gradually being eradicated from the country. Once this stage had been reached, he said, no other nation would wish to attack Scotland and the country would become 'invincible', hence the title of his university. The singer added that he hoped that, through this process, threats to world peace such as international terrorism would be

eradicated.

While principally serving as the projects chief co-ordinator, Donovan also announced his intentions to teach at the university in order pass on his knowledge of transcendental meditation to the next generation of Scottish students. He first encountered the teachings of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi at the height of his fame whilst spending time in India with the Beatles. Later that night, where a video screen showed celebratory footage of the singer including John Lennon joking to Bob Dylan that "Donovan is much better than you", he introduced the initiative to the crowd with a specially written song. Entitled 'Invincible Donovan University' he serenaded the audience with lyrics including "I feel the cosmos call/ the universe will shine/ the Invincible Donovan University".

While some were not entirely convinced by the aging troubadour's plans, with certain members of the Queens Hall audience leaving early after Donovan's entrance onto the

"The university's curriculum would teach traditional university disciplines through the practice of transcendental meditation"

stage, others were more optimistic. "I think it is too easy to dismiss it all as nonsense", said forth year Arabic student Sophia Goulandris. "I think that many people believe that the human brain often operates at only a small proportion of its potential and maybe transcendental meditation could help students to improve on that".

Only time will tell whether prospective students of the Donovan Invincible University will agree.



GET IT ON THE WEB

Exclusive content, forums, discussions and subscriptions are available online:

WWW.JOURNAL-ONLINE.CO.UK

A devilish spin on a social networking phenomenon

A spoof of internet giant Facebook is the new "big thing" on the web

Hannah Thomas

hannah.thomas@journal-online.co.uk

A SATIRICAL SOCIAL networking website whose users collect "enemies" rather than "friends" has accrued over 12,000 members since its launch three weeks ago.

Hatebook, a well-executed spoof of the online giant Facebook, claims to be "an anti-social utility that disconnects you from the things you hate."

Known as "haters", site members create a personal profile through which they broadcast their frustrations.

The website closely resembles Facebook both in design and performance,

but its blood-red colour scheme, fiery logo and "evil" profile settings distinguish it from the original. Rather than listing their "favourite" books, quotes and films, Hatebook users specify those that they hate, and are encouraged to "post lies" about each other on "Blackboards", the Hatebook equivalent of Facebook "Walls".

Hatebook's three German creators, Nils Andres, Oliver Kuehrig and Niels Hoffmann have also embellished the site with some nifty features absent from Facebook. The integration of Google Maps enables users to trace the geographical location of fellow Hatebookers, and members are permitted to see who has visited their profile.

Speaking exclusively to *The Journal*, Mr Andres said: "It is a fun project that is intended to parody the current social networking craze and the people that take it too seriously. Valuable feedback from members revealed that they enjoy venting their aggressions here and discussing contemporary issues with others."

Managed by the Brand Science Institute, a Hamburg-based company specialising in consumer management, Hatebook employs four administrators based in Europe and America to monitor the site continuously. Any content deemed too offensive is removed.



Although the website has grown rapidly and already attracted much interest, Mr Andres stressed that the project is not for profit. He said: "It does not generate income and we don't want it to. This site should be more like Wikipedia and not a commercial endeavour like Facebook."

Facebook recently sold 1.6 per cent of their networking monster to Microsoft for \$240 million.

"I was asked the other day if we would sell it, and I strictly said no! The

internet is not independent anymore and it needs some neutral sites that are not owned by Google, Microsoft, Yahoo or eBay."

Despite evident similarities between Facebook and Hatebook, the site's creators have not yet been accused of copyright infringement.

Hatebook can be visited at www.hatebook.org

Services urge caution over Guy Fawkes Night

Graham Mackay

graham.mackay@journal-online.co.uk

THE LOTHIAN AND Borders Fire Department has warned revelers of the dangers of Bonfire Night, yet they have no intention of increasing the number of staff who will be on duty on 5 November.

Jimmy Burns, manager of the fire brigade's Operations Department, told The Journal: "There is a greater level of danger if bonfires are unsupervised because people are often unaware of what is inside them. Gas cylinders in the middle of bonfires are often the cause of accidents, and we strongly advise people to attend properly managed events where risk assessments will have been undertaken."

However, despite the clear danger presented by bonfires and fireworks

on Guy Fawkes Night, Mr Burns informed *The Journal* that "no further personnel will be placed on duty than on any other night." Instead, local neighbourhood management institutions such as Community Concierge will be called upon to ensure that celebrations are conducted safely and responsibly.

Similarly, the Scottish Ambulance Service will not be increasing its number of on-call staff on 5 November, despite the health and safety implications of Bonfire Night.

A spokesman for the Ambulance Service said: "There will not be any more of our staff on duty on Guy Fawkes Night that there would normally be at any other time. Rather, we will be tactically positioning ambulances and paramedics in areas where we anticipate the lighting of fireworks and bonfires."

Hazel Leslie of the Lothian and

Borders Police Safer Communities Department stated that similar action would be taken by the police force, adding: "The police force employs analysts to identify areas of the city that are considered to be hotspots for dangerous bonfires and firework use."

However, Ms Leslie declined to comment on which areas of the city fall into this category.

The police, fire and ambulance services will be hoping to avoid a repeat of last year's events on Arthur's Seat, when a stray firework ignited a 100 square metre area of the hill, forcing over 1,500 people to be evacuated whilst a team of 20 firefighters battled to extinguish the blaze.

When asked which groups of society were deemed to be at the greatest risk in terms of safety on Bonfire Night, Ms Leslie responded: "Accidents are most likely to occur amongst events carried out by youth groups."



Where to watch

Arthur's Seat

The traditional vantage point on Bonfire Night – particularly for Edinburgh University first years staying at Pollock Halls next door – may be somewhat more subdued than in years past as a result of last year's fire. That could be a blessing: the size of the crowds usually makes the ascent in the dark lengthy and treacherous. Unobstructed viewing of the antics at the foot of the hill can be had atop the ridge on the left of the Holyrood Park Road entrance to the park.

Blackford Hill

This Morningside beauty-spot is far removed from the mayhem of Arthur's Seat, but is consequently harder to reach for those living further away than Marchmont. The north-facing slope is a bit grim, dominated by telephone masts and devoid of cover to protect against the November wind – a serious hazard if you're setting off your own fireworks. The back end of the hill by the observatory, however, offers a sheltered view of Arthur's Seat, southwards to Prestonpans and beyond. Sneaking onto the golf course beneath the parking lot offers the greatest comfort, and is of course thoroughly illegal.

The Crags

Likely to be less crowded than nearby Arthur's Seat, the Crags offer the best view of the carnage that will occupy the scoop in the land between the east slope of the hill and the parliament tonight. Beware of abandoned mine shafts; to be honest, if you're mad enough to climb up here, you might as well spare the bother and join in down below.

Calton Hill

Not usually recommended for a visit after dark, the site of Edinburgh's faux Greco-Roman ruins is one of the best places to watch the New Years fireworks from; however, while benefiting from its central location, there are few spots in the area for amateur explosives artists to do their worst. Despite the significance of the occasion, the Queen is unlikely to be launching rockets from Holyrood Palace.

Hill End

The first outpost of the Pentlands and the site of Edinburgh's dry ski slope is a fair trek from anywhere useful, but on a good day the summit lets you see everywhere from Kirkaldy to North Berwick and in between. Those seeking a quiet lookout over all of Edinburgh should arrive before 9pm to get a cheeky ride up on the chairlift.

Scots voted for Salmond not independence, claims report

Alastair Sloan

alastair.sloan@journal-online.co.uk

THE NUMBER OF Scots believed to be in favour of independence has dropped to less than a quarter of the population, according to a recent report.

The study claims that many of those who voted for Alex Salmond did so not for his nationalist agenda but because they believed that he would make the best First Minister.

Carried out by the Scottish Centre for Social Research, the report has found that the SNP's victory was not necessarily a result of nationalist sentiment amongst Scottish voters.

Professor John Curtice, a co-director of the study, commented: "The SNP's victory in May was a success for the party rather than the cause of independence that it espouses."

"It had a popular leader and tapped a feeling that Holyrood should put Scotland, rather than partnership with London, first."

"This enabled the party to win the votes of those who already backed independence rather than win new converts to the independence cause."

Out of the 1300 people surveyed, 23 per cent said they were in favour of independence and more than 50 per cent said they wanted a devolved parliament with powers over taxation.

Participants were asked to score Mr Salmond's potential as First Minister as compared with Jack McConnell. 44 per cent gave Mr Salmond a score of seven or more out of ten, while 23 per cent rated Mr McConnell as highly.

The report also claims that the SNP was much more effective than Labour in presenting itself as "Scotland's party".

The SCRS argued that the SNP won the election in May based on its credentials as a party in government, rather than on its pro-independence position.

In response to the report's findings, Labour's Cathy Jamieson said: "This report shows that most Scots don't agree with Alex Salmond and that the majority of people in Scotland don't want to separate from the rest of the UK - so much for the strength of



Voters in the last Scottish election were pro-SNP but not pro-independence Oliver Proctor

Alex Salmond's argument on independence.

"It's time the SNP respected the will of the Scottish people and instead of picking fights and doing down devolution, got on with the job of government in Scotland."

The leader of the Scottish Conservative Party, Annabel Goldie, also told the BBC: "There is a clear implication for the three unionist parties - hold true to your principles, overwhelmingly Scotland agrees with you."

"But there is a stark message for the SNP. You are not there to grandstand on the world stage. You are not there to bicker for bickering's sake with Westminster. You are there to deliver on the bread and butter issues."

Nicol Stephen, the Scottish Liberal Democrat leader said: "The low support for independence is the big

message in this research."

Despite criticism from the three pro-union parties, an SNP spokesman claimed that the poll conducted by the SCSR showed that "the SNP is winning the support of the Scottish people."

A white paper published in August by Alex Salmond advised on three options for independence - continuing with devolution, altering devolution to add certain key powers to the Scottish Executive or full independence.

Much of the case for independence is based on "a cycle of under-performance" economically, which the SNP claim would stop with an independent Scotland.

Pro-independence campaigners have highlighted Scotland's poor growth rates over the last thirty years compared to the UK and many comparable European countries, including Ireland and Norway.

The white paper claims the eco-

nomic output of Scotland could grow by £19 billion in 2015.

In order to achieve this, Mr Salmond wants what he calls "the full set of tools," including the ability to borrow on the global credit markets, control spending in key areas like defence, and increase commercial investment.

The SNP has promised to match the UK's economic growth rate within five years by slashing tax rates for businesses and attracting investment into education, enterprise and transport. They have also called for rights to the natural gas and oil reserves in the North Sea to be "repatriated" to the Scottish people. It is thought that these reserves would fuel much of an independent Scotland's new economy.

But while £230 billion in tax has been raised from oil over the last 40 years, returns are set to fall. The oil fields of the North Sea are looking increasingly less attractive as extraction costs rise and reserves run low, with UK oil experts have argued that oil output in the UK peaked several years ago and is set to decline.

There are also key deficiencies in the Scottish economy which would make independence difficult. For example, Scotland has an ageing population and low levels of entrepreneurship.

Brian Ashcroft, policy director at the Fraser of Allander Institute commented: "There is little evidence that small independent states necessarily grow faster and are more prosperous simply because they are small."

The shortfall between tax and public spending in Scotland is currently filled by borrowing, amounting to £11.2 billion in 2005.

However, the main issue still on the agenda is independence, with Nicol Stephen saying recently: "The SNP obsession with independence is a roadblock to consensus."

Political furore over flags

Paul Traynor

paul.traynor@journal-online.co.uk

THERE HAS BEEN considerable uproar after the SNP-led Scottish Government sent out over 2,500 saltire flags to universities and schools across the country in a bid to boost the celebration of St Andrew's Day, celebrated on 30 November.

The packs contained a saltire flag and instructions on how to hold a St Andrew's Day celebration, including suggestions of ceilidhs and competitions.

Linda Fabiani, Scottish Culture Minister, said that she had wanted to make St Andrew's Day a more important occasion. However numerous parties have accused the SNP of launching a propaganda campaign funded by the tax-payer.

In a letter to Josh MacAlister, President of Edinburgh University Student Association, George Reid, the head of Further Education

Strategy, asked to be made aware of any celebrations taking place, to "allow us to fully reflect the contribution of Scotland's colleges, universities and importantly students [sic] associations to the celebration of St Andrew's Day."

Mr MacAlister believes the packs to be a waste of time, backing Labour's attack on the packs as SNP propaganda. He told *The Journal*: "Sending out propaganda to education institutions? I'm not sure it's the best use of money."

He added: "If the Westminster government sent union flags to every school, college and university in Scotland, would the SNP support it? Most students know that any national identity is about a lot more than a piece of cloth."

Along with the saltire and letter came a pamphlet that, according to Mr Reid "promotes our distinctive national identity."

The pamphlet, *This Is Scotland* contains snippets that read: "This is

pop: after Happy Birthday, Auld Lang Syne is the world's best-known song. In Japan auld Lang Syne is sung by youngsters when they leave school."

It also claims that Edinburgh is one of the "five most talked-about cities in the world."

Critics of the pack have called into question whether the money spent on the packs would not have been more beneficially directed elsewhere. Mr MacAlister said: "The general point here is whether sending out flags is the best use of civil servant time and public money."

He believes that the money should have been spent on further education and relieving student debt.

Ms Fabiani stipulated that the SNP has already made significant moves to combat students' financial problems.

With regards to the packs, she told the BBC simply: "We want to make it a big celebration. Plenty of countries celebrate their national day."

This is style
Recently Nike produced trainers using

This is worth hearing
This is living

Edinburgh is ranked in the top five most talked-about cities in the world.

Executive considers producing fabric and being frequently talked about among Scotland's achievements

"Hate" literature allegedly found in Edinburgh mosque

Paul Traynor

paul.traynor@journal-online.co.uk

THE KING FAHD Mosque attached to the Islamic Centre of Edinburgh (ICET) has been named as the only Mosque in Scotland to disseminate so-called "hate" literature.

ICET, which is based close to the University of Edinburgh's George Square campus on Potterrow was identified by the centre-right think tank Policy Exchange last week as being one of the 100 mosques in the UK making "radical" literature available on their premises.

Serving thousands of Muslims in the area and countless students at its adjoining Mosque Kitchen restaurant, questions have arisen over the damaging impact of the report on the mosque's reputation.

ICET's websites have been offline since last Thursday.

Written by Denis MacEoin, a graduate of Edinburgh University and Fellow at Newcastle-upon-Tyne University, the report was researched by four separate specialist teams.

These teams analysed information available from mosques throughout the country, culminating in a report that claims fundamentalist literature is available in many of the most mainstream UK mosques.

The book found at ICET, called Al-'aqida al-sahiha wa ma yududuha, wa risalat al-ma'iyy which translates as Correct beliefs, what opposes them, along with the treatise of the Divine Presence was purportedly a gift from the King of Saudi Arabia to celebrate the mosque's opening in 1998.

The same book was found on five

different sites, including mosques in London, Birmingham and Oxford.

The book states: "a person may become apostate for many reasons which can nullify his faith. These reasons would make someone's blood permissible to spill [to be killed for apostasy] and his wealth permissible to be usurped, because he is no longer a Muslim."

A mosque source has stated that the book was not stocked or distributed by the mosque and it is unknown how the researchers came across it.

However the report cited instances where material was found "under the counter."

Haithm Alhindi, President of Edinburgh University's Islamic Society told *The Journal*: "It [the report] seems to have a clear agenda to discredit the achievements and positive works of the central mosque as a significant and involved part of the Edinburgh community."

Among the report's conclusions, it states that a significant proportion of the literature originated in Saudi Arabia and calls for the UK to "demand a far greater level of transparency from Saudi charitable institutions operating in this country."

Saudi Arabia's influence on UK's mosques is indisputable, particularly in the case of Edinburgh's ICET. The King Fahd mosque cost 3.5 million to build and 90 per cent of construction costs were paid for by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

The report outlines various steps the UK should take, including revoking the charity status of institutions featured in the report and introducing strict regulations for Islamic schools.



Edinburgh's mosque: the only one in Scotland to house so-called "hate" literature Zheng Wang

GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT TO 60,000 STUDENTS IN EDINBURGH



SPECIAL ADVERTISING DEALS FOR SOCIETIES AND STUDENT GROUPS

CALL 0870 919 4909 OR EMAIL ADS@JOURNAL-ONLINE.CO.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION

Waste collections to become fortnightly

Alastair Sloan

alastair.sloan@journal-online.co.uk

THE CONVENTION OF Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) has admitted that fortnightly collections of household rubbish in Edinburgh are inevitable.

Half of the councils across Scotland have already stopped weekly collections of waste.

COSLA said that this was the only way to meet stiff national recycling targets.

By 2020, over half of all household waste will have to be recycled. Landfill waste will also be taxed at double the rate in two years time. Local councils will face huge fines if they overshoot their landfill quota.

European directives and Scottish Executive targets on recycling are forcing councils across the UK to move to fortnightly collections.

Doris Sofio, chair of Milngavie Community Council, told the BBC that residents were resorting to desperate measures.

One man in the area has been taking rubbish from his neighbours to the nearby dump in a large trailer.

Meanwhile, fire chiefs have warned that cut backs by the council on collections would increase the

numbers of fires and the cost of putting them out.

Fire services currently spend £40 million annually putting out fires in bins and refuse skips.

Chief Fire Officer Brian Sweeney said: "Fire setting is an opportunistic low level crime mainly carried out by children and young people."

Thirteen out of the 32 Scottish local authorities have now moved to a fortnightly cycle of collections. A further three have been introduced to the system in some areas.



Teenage thugs attack Edinburgh taxi driver

Graham Mackay

graham.mackay@journal-online.co.uk

AN EDINBURGH TAXI driver was assaulted by a gang of three teenagers in the early hours of Saturday 27 October as he stopped to drop off a passenger.

The 43-year-old driver was attacked in the capital's Duddingston Row area at around 12.30am when the youths forced his door open and aggressively demanded money.

When the victim attempted to shut the door in self-defence, the teenagers punched him repeatedly before fleeing the scene of the crime.

Police are now on the lookout for the attackers, all of whom were white males, although the driver was only able to give a description of two of them.

The main suspect is said to be between 17 and 18, around 5ft 7in, with a "pasty" complexion, and was wearing a white hooded top at the time of the assault. The second attacker is aged between 15 and 17.

As well as searching for the trio of thugs, police are also eager to establish contact with the passenger who witnessed the incident. He is described as being in his late 50s to early 60s and is believed to live in Duddingston Row.

Ex-pats summoned to Polish election stations throughout city

Paris Gourtsoyannis

paris.gourtsoyannis@journal-online.co.uk

AS SCOTTISH VOTERS contemplate the widespread disenfranchisement of this year's local and parliamentary elections, another community within the region has exercised its democratic rights with greater success.

The Polish general election of 21 October saw hundreds of thousands of expatriates and migrant workers cast their ballots in the United Kingdom, with voters in Britain playing an important part in ousting the controversial government of right-wing party Law and Justice in favour of moderate, pro-European Donald Tusk's Civic Platform.

Polling stations were set up at 23 locations nationally, including Edinburgh and Kirkcaldy, and of roughly 68,000 registered voters in the UK, approximately 44,000 voted.

While this was not the first Polish election to host balloting in Britain, participation was greatly increased in comparison with the last poll in 2005, ironically at the behest of the losing party's leader, now ex-Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski.

The Polish National Electoral Commission put turnout in the Warsaw district in which foreign votes were counted at almost 75 per cent, the highest in the country and well ahead of the already record-breaking national participation of 53.88 per cent.

In light of recent controversy surrounding the number of immigrants living in Britain, Simon Piatek of Polish Radio London suggests that Britons can take comfort from this figure. He said: "Poles in Britain just want to make money a bit quicker, to buy a house or set up a business back home."

Citing the spread of Polish-language publications, the growth of PRL's listening figures, and the general disinterest of Poles in local British politics, Piatek added that migrants "usually have families back in Poland, and most come to the UK planning to return after two or three years." He did, however, concede that his corporation's own estimates of the number of Poles living in Britain, which he places at roughly 1 to 1.2 million, dwarfs official government figures of 200,000. He said: "Polish workers often live four or five to a flat,

meaning that there are almost certainly more than anyone has counted actually in the UK."

Campaigning saw PM-elect Tusk visit Polish communities in London and Fife; he is expected to have made a return visit to London to thank his expatriate supporters before being sworn in on 5 November in Warsaw.

Of the votes cast in Britain, over 70 per cent went to the Civic Platform and its photogenic leader. Mr Piatek told *The Journal*: "Young people changed the result in this election. They saw that Kaczynski had only enemies and no partners; they wanted to have their say."

According to figures cited in *The Economist*, some two million Poles have sought employment elsewhere in the EU since their country's accession in 2004.

Many of these are young people seeking seasonal work in hospitality and unskilled labour – areas in which students traditionally seek employment.

The Office for National Statistics puts youth unemployment in Britain at roughly 14.5 per cent, almost three times the unemployment national average of 5.4 per cent.



Donald Tusk's Civic Platform take the lead in Poland

MORE

TARGETcourses
Postgraduate Fair Scotland

12pm-4pm, 7 November 2007
Adam House, University of Edinburgh

Pre-register online to collect your free chocolate bar at the fair

targetcourses.co.uk/fairs

- £10 towards your travel if you are studying outside Edinburgh*

TARGETcourses.co.uk

more postgraduate courses and expert advice

UNITE launch new Edinburgh property into fraught student housing market

Paris Gourtsoyannis

paris.gourtsoyannis@journal-online.co.uk

A NEW STUDENT accommodation development has been unveiled in Edinburgh's Canongate by UNITE, the UK's leading private provider of student housing.

The building at Panmure Court on Calton Road will, when fully completed, comprise 59 studio apartments for either one or two residents, each with their own kitchen space and separate shower room.

Several of the completed apartments have already been rented out to students from various Edinburgh universities and colleges, representing a wide range of nationalities and the full spectrum of ages, from freshers to doctoral postgraduates.

Jim Pike, Acquisition and Development Director at UNITE in Scotland, characterised Panmure Court's studio apartments as "premium quality student accommodation," placing an emphasis on the development's security features, which include closed-circuit television fed to UNITE's headquarters in Bristol. Hospitality managers will be on-site at all times to ensure the safety and well-being of residents, who will also have use of dedicated maintenance staff on call to resolve issues as they arise.

UNITE hope to benefit from pressures on student accommodation caused by new restrictions on the number of HMO licenses issued in so-called 'sensitive areas'. Provision of licenses, which are required for properties rented to three or more tenants, is limited to 30 per cent of housing stock in these areas.

In 2006, Edinburgh City Council increased the number of sensitive areas from 25 to 63; these now include neighbourhoods popular with students, such as Marchmont and Tollcross.

Speaking to *The Journal*, Mr Pike said: "It's understandable that communities don't want large numbers of students in the area. Clearly, when you get them together in one space, there's less chance of friction." Mr Pike denied that living outside the community diminishes the student experience.

Speaking about the student housing problem in *The Herald*, Edinburgh University Student Association President Josh MacAlister recently said: "The council hasn't really responded to that very well, either in service provision or in giving planning permission to developers who will build affordable housing."

His call for affordable accommodation is unlikely to be answered by Panmure Court, as the quality of the building is reflected in the price of rent. Whilst Edinburgh University student accommodation costs £80-90 per week, rent for the UNITE property will total £160 per week, a sum that represents more than double the figure offered in Heriot-Watt University's spending guidance.

Publicity has focused on the dramatic rise in HMO license provision, with Scottish Government figures showing a year-on-year increase of nearly 100 per cent in some areas.

Communities hosting large universities have struggled to cope with the influx of students seeking accommodation; a June 2007 St Andrews Residents' Association report for the local council complains that "in some streets HMO saturation is now 95 per cent."

A 2002 report commissioned by

the Scottish Government investigating the provision of HMO licenses a year after their introduction indicated that data collection was deficient and produced inaccurately low figures in regards to the number of HMO properties.

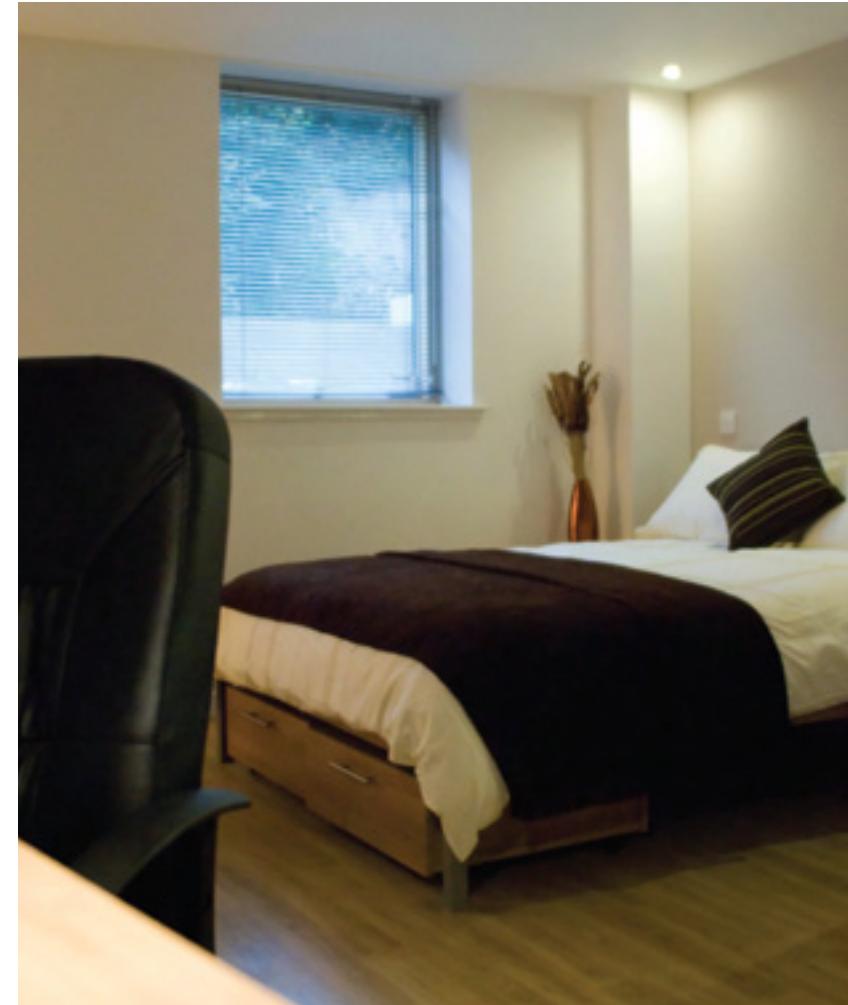
According to the report, "local authority knowledge on the size of the HMO sector and the number of HMOs of different sizes within their area was very poor," while "the city councils of Edinburgh and Glasgow were the only authorities where evidence was found of systematic street-level, survey work to identify HMOs."

In some cases, the proportion of Scottish local authorities providing data was as low as 16 per cent.

The project at Panmure Place continues the expansion of UNITE's holdings in Edinburgh, with this – the company's third completed property in the city – to be joined by a development under construction on Potterrow, and a proposed site at Chalmers Street on the Meadows.

The value of the completed property, designed by Glasgow architectural firm Murray & Dunlop and built by contractors Mansell, is estimated at roughly £8 million.

The same figure was spent by UNITE in acquiring undeveloped land at its Chalmers Street site, in one of Scotland's largest ever property deals.



The new UNITE building to be opened in Edinburgh Eddie Fisher



Art and artifice clash at Panmure Place launch

THERE'S A JOKE amongst University of Edinburgh students that the best view of the city is from the top of Appleton Tower – because if you're on top of it, at least you can't see it. Much in the same way, in a room full of architects, a group of three men in conversation at the edge of Panmure Place's launch event went completely unnoticed except by the keen eyes of Mike Pottinger-Glass, UNITE's planning and design director. "You don't often see three of Scotland's leading young architects chatting together," he said, adding that such a gathering would usually get the fists flying.

As lead designer on the project, one of the party, Professor Gordon Murray of Murray Dunlop Architects, had the honour of declaring the building open; his remarks made clear the levels of passion which could lead to blows over bricks and mortar. Harking back to Edinburgh's origins, Murray emphasized the challenge posed to new construction by the sense of age the city exudes – "the poet Coleridge," we were told, "on arriving by carriage commented that the city looked to be hewn out of the rock on which it stood."

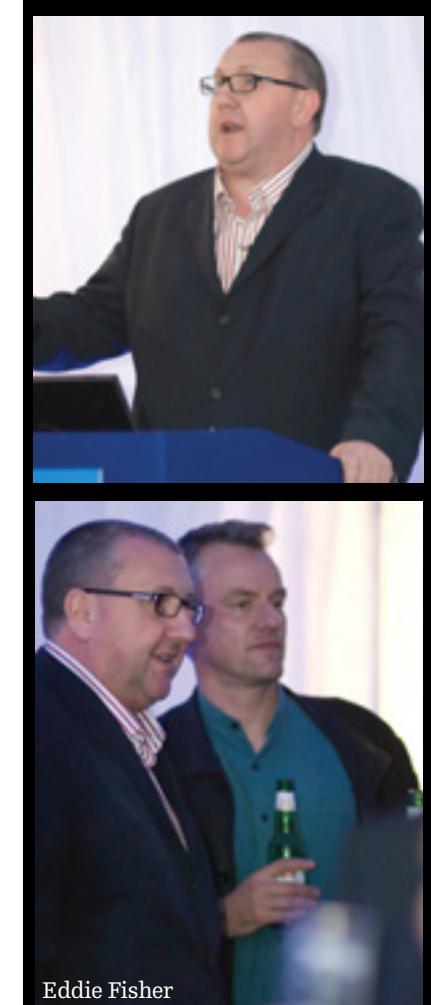
There was every indication at the event that the architects took seriously the responsibility of building on what is a World Heritage site; not least since the firm were runners up in the competition to design "a rather well known... large building around the corner." Murray was generous towards Enric Miralles' controversial Scottish Parliament, saying that "the building at least seems to be performing well and serving its purpose."

Yet for all the grand images of Edinburgh and its architecture, Murray appeared to be unable to escape the realities of the project. "Where student living meets friends in an urban lifestyle – well, at least that's what it says on the tin." Just add water and stir.

Panmure Place is, for all its frugal brilliance, a contrived space of "efficient, high quality residential units," and Professor Murray is perhaps not wholly aware of the incompatibility of his vision with the economics of UNITE.

Maybe that's why, when told it, he failed to get the joke about Appleton Tower. "Well, it's quite high, isn't it?"

Paris Gourtsoyannis



Eddie Fisher

Edinburgh News

Dedicated sex offence team praised

Alastair Sloan

alastair.sloan@journal-online.co.uk

A DEDICATED TEAM of specialists tasked with reducing sex crimes in the Lothians has been praised by Scotland's top prosecutor.

The group, known as the Amethyst team, was launched earlier this year and helps improve the training for prosecutors involved in sex offence cases.

Elish Angiolini, one of the top prosecutors in Scotland, said: "Rape and serious sexual offences are some of the most vile crimes which can be committed in society. We all have a responsibility to respond to offences of sexual violence with determination, and sensitivity to victims."

"As a result of the review of rape and sexual offences, staff across the prosecution service will be trained to a high standard to ensure a consistent

and professional approach to these crimes. The aim is to offer the very best level of service that we can, and prosecute where there is sufficient evidence and it is in the public interest to do so."

The new unit, which operates under the name of the Amethyst team, consists of more than 70 staff, including police officers, support staff, senior health officials and social workers.

It deals with all aspects of child and vulnerable adult protection, sexual crimes, domestic abuse and sex offenders.

The police's youth justice team are also based in the same building.

In addition to providing office space, there are purpose built interview rooms and a medical examination suite for victims who will no longer have to travel to different parts of the city to be interviewed and examined.



Government awareness program 2006



News Shorts

Pensioner Plummets

A Scottish woman has marked her 100th birthday by paragliding off a 2,500 foot peak in northern Cyprus. Peggy McAlpine, a great-grandmother from Stirling, became the world's oldest extreme sportswoman on 1 November when she completed her tandem jump, serenaded by bagpipers playing 'Scotland the Brave' upon landing. "I wasn't scared at all. I love heights, I love getting up in the air. I hope to do this again when I'm 105," said Ms McAlpine.

You will be assimilated

SNP First Minister Alex Salmond has been warned by the Vice-President of one of the world's leading technology companies that Scottish universities risk losing out by failing to forge closer links to business. Microsoft's Bob McDowell, a patron of the University of the Highlands and Islands, questioned the SNP policy of funding higher education entirely with public money, asking: "Why would all the citizens contribute to something that only a small percentage get the value out of?"

Hover here!

Regular hovercraft links between Edinburgh and Fife have come a step closer to reality after the consulting body responsible for regional transport pledged to re-examine the results of a July trial service. The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership said that a Stagecoach-operated service between Leith and Kirkcaldy, which drew 32,000 users in July this year, would most likely be accompanied by an additional ferry service in order to reduce congestion on the Forth Road Bridge.

Young woman attacked on Bruntsfield Links

Graham Mackay

graham.mackay@journal-online.co.uk

A 22-YEAR-OLD WOMAN was assaulted as she walked home through the Bruntsfield area of Edinburgh on 26 October.

The victim, who was walking along Whitehouse Loan before turning into a small side street leading to Bruntsfield Links, was grabbed from behind by the male assailant at approximately 10.30pm.

She immediately screamed, and in doing so alerted two men who were walking down Bruntsfield Place. The men rushed to the young woman's aid, at which point the attacker fled towards the meadows. He is described as being between 5ft 8in and 6ft tall and of a medium build.

A police spokesman said: "We are obviously very concerned at the manner in which this young woman was assaulted, and we are anxious to track down the man responsible."

"We are particularly keen to speak to the two men who rushed to her aid, as they may hold vital information to assist our enquiries."

"Similarly, anyone else who witnessed the incident, or noticed anyone behaving suspiciously in the area at the time, should get in touch immediately."

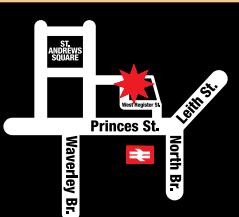
The Voodoo Rooms

BAR • RESTAURANT • LIVE MUSIC • CABARET CLUB

OPENING WEEKEND FRI 16th & SAT 17th NOV

THE VOODOO ROOMS 19a West Register Street, Edinburgh EH2 2AA Tel: 0131 556 7060
Check out our website for further details and events listings...

www.thevoodoorooms.com



Deal for CJD-free surgery

Neil Bennet

neil.bennet@journal-online.co.uk

THE UNIVERSITY OF Edinburgh has announced a deal with US hardware firm Plasma Etch to license a new advanced cleaning process, set to save the medical industry thousands of pounds.

The new technique, known as Mi-das, can clean all infectious agents from surgical instruments – including those contaminated with CJD.

The process involves plasma – ionised gas that is considered to be a separate, high-energy state of matter – being used to clean the surface of medical instruments. The technique is 1000 times more effective than traditional methods at breaking down biological material.

This includes prions – the suspected infectious particle associated with CJD in humans, as well as BSE in cattle and scrapie in sheep. As these particles are not living pathogens, like bacteria or viruses, it is much more difficult to reduce their infectivity by traditional sterilisation methods such as autoclaving – a common technique using heat and pressure.

Professor John Hopkins of the Centre for Infectious Disease, also at the university, explains: "All the current methods of sterilisation do not fully decontaminate neuroscience instruments, as there is the potential for CJD-related particles to remain."

"The new process is cheap, simple, easy to scale-up, and non-destructive – meaning expensive instruments can be cleaned and re-used."

It is thought the new process could be used both on neurosurgical instruments and also on dental instruments – after the government's Chief Dental Officer ordered dentists to stop reusing equipment used in root canal treatments earlier this year, for fear of spreading CJD.

Professor Robert Baxter, of the university's School of Chemistry, led the development of the technique over a number of years. "We are excited at the prospect afforded by this collaboration in developing our laboratory-based studies into efficient and practical solutions for what is a serious problem in healthcare."

The deal was struck between Plasma Etch, based in the US state of Nevada, and Edinburgh Research and Innovation – the University of Edinburgh's commercial arm.



University of Edinburgh signs deal to license advanced process for clearing CJD contamination Eddie Fisher

ECA celebrates centenary year

Neil Bennet

neil.bennet@journal-online.co.uk

EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF Art (ECA) celebrates its centenary this year with Ten Decades, a major exhibition at the City Art Centre which opened to the public on Saturday 27 October.

At an official opening last Thursday, Professor Ian Howard, Principal of the college and a featured artist, told assembled guests he was "delighted" with the exhibition. He said: "[It provides] a slice through the last hundred years at the college."

ECA has existed at its present site overlooking the Grassmarket and retained the same name since 1907. However the institution's history goes back much further; opening as the Trustees Drawing Academy of Edinburgh in 1760, the college is able to trace its roots back as far as 1729.

Despite its previous association with Heriot-Watt University and its current relationship with the University of Edinburgh, the college has always remained an independent institution.

The exhibition, held jointly by the college, Edinburgh City Council and the Fleming Collection, London, features over 80 works from ECA alumni and academics, including Dame Elizabeth Blackadder, John Bellany, Callum Innes and Anne Redpath.

Work of recent graduates is also exhibited, including *Secret Thoughts*, a portrait by Graham Flack, who graduated in 2002. An untitled work by 2007 graduate and Centenary Prize winner Paul Chiappe, showcases his hyperrealist style.

The exhibition is arranged in chronological order, starting on the top floor and working down, allowing visitors to experience the progression of work produced by College graduates over the last century. The ground floor also features a video installation showing clips from the annual fashion show, and bands performing in the ECA student's union – the Wee Red Bar.

Selina Skipwith, representing the



Over 80 works by ECA alumni and academics feature in major exhibition Steven Craig

Fleming Collection, spoke of her bemusement at the international media attention surrounding one piece, a portrait of Sean Connery as a life model at the college from 1952, wearing only a small item of underwear. The artist responsible, Al Fairweather, went on to become a successful jazz musician.

The exhibition will move to the Fleming Collection gallery in London after its time in Edinburgh. A charity auction in support of the college will also be taking place in London on Thursday 22 November, featuring many of the artists from the exhibition.

Edinburgh Café Scientifique: shedding light on science

Julia Perez

j.e.perez0203@googlemail.com

DARK, MUSTY ROOMS lit by the glow of a Bunsen burner, a faint waft of ammonia and chalk. This, perhaps, is where you think you might encounter that mysterious breed known as 'The Scientist'. "Not so!" retorts the Edinburgh Café Scientifique. Why not come along to the Filmhouse Bar instead for a pint and a slice of scientific know-how?

Opening up the world of science to the general public may be a difficult challenge, but it's not one that the Café Scientifique network will shy away from. Based on the Parisian

'Café Philosophique' concept, the many voluntarily run Café Scientifique groups around the UK and the world provide an informal backdrop for scientific discussion within local communities. They also aid and enhance open dialogue between the specialists and scientists that come to share their knowledge with the public.

In our quickly changing, technology-driven modern lives, science is not a subject that people who want to be in the know can afford to hide from. The media, however, can distort and misrepresent the true facts behind an important issue, and trying to tackle an original research paper can be a bit much for most people. The solution? Bring the scientists behind the

research out into the public forum for discussion and debate at a level accessible for everyone.

At a typical event you won't find full lecture-style presentations, or complicated equations and graphs – just a discussion of the topic from specialists in the field. Café Scientifique positively encourages people to ask 'stupid' questions, as the person sitting next to you will most probably be wondering the same thing.

Bird flu, the MMR vaccine, the Big Bang and 'making the bionic man' are all topics previously covered by the Edinburgh Café Scientifique.

Julia Perez is president of Edinburgh Café Scientifique

Malaria breakthrough by Edinburgh researchers

Cameron Robinson

cameron.robinson@journal-online.co.uk

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH LED by scientists from the University of Edinburgh has sparked hope for a new avenue in the treatment of Africa's biggest killer: malaria.

New research, published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, has shown that people with blood group O are naturally protected from the most severe forms of the disease, which claimed around two million lives last year – the vast majority in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Edinburgh-based team, headed by Dr Alex Rowe of the university's School of Biological Sciences, have shown there to be significant links between blood type and individual susceptibility to fatal malaria. Studies of African children in disease endemic regions concluded that those with O

type blood were 66 per cent less likely to suffer from unrousable coma and life threatening anaemia – symptoms characteristic of fatal malaria.

Malaria infection is caused by the microscopic parasite Plasmodium falciparum, which targets red blood cells. An often fatal consequence of infection is the clumping of healthy cells around the infected ones. These clumps of cells, known as rosettes, have the potential to block blood vessels supplying the brain, starving it of oxygen.

The crux of this latest research is the finding that cells of the blood type O lack particular structures found in AB, A and B blood groups. These structures are involved in rosette formation, as they aid attachment of the infected cell to the wall of the blood vessel, as well as encouraging recruitment of healthy cells.

As a result, type O blood cells form rosettes less readily than cells from other blood groups, and the rosettes that do form are weaker and



Diego Medrano

more prone to disruption.

This is not the first time blood characteristics have been shown to affect susceptibility to malaria. Sufferers of mild forms of sickle cell anaemia – a disease prominent in Africa – have been found to be immune to malaria as a result of the abnormal shape of their red blood cells.

Dr Rowe said: "If we can develop a drug or a vaccine to reduce rosetting and mimic the effect of being blood group O, we may be able to reduce the number of children dying from severe malaria in sub-Saharan Africa."

“Scoot along to ODDFELLOWS for the best deals...”

**The fabulous new discount card
is now available!**

Enjoy:

2-4-1 Meals

£1.50 Btls of Stella

£1.75 House Spirits and Mixers

£2.25 Pints of Carlsberg

£2.75 Dbl House Spirit and Mixer

£7.95 Btl of House Wine

No Curfew.

Oddfellows
14 Forrest Road
Edinburgh
T: 0131 226 5954
oddfellowsedinburgh.co.uk

Terms & Conditions apply



Controversial NUS reform to be backed by Edinburgh unions

Sarah Clark

sarah.clark@journal-online.co.uk

EDINBURGH'S STUDENT UNIONS are supporting an extraordinary conference to debate the reformation of National Union of Students' (NUS) core constitution in an attempt to modernise the organisation politically, financially and structurally.

The majority argue that reform is drastically needed in the NUS; the organisation is in huge financial debt, spending more money on bureaucracy than on the entirety of National Union campaigning. The core constitution has remained unchanged since the NUS was established in 1922 and consequently fails to reflect the diversity of the student population today, or the issues they raise.

Josh MacAlister, President of the Edinburgh University Students Association told *The Journal*: "I am a massive advocate of the NUS and I think that Edinburgh University should sit firmly in a national movement, but things need to change."

"We have called for an extraordinary conference to radically shake up the way NUS works so that it can satisfy the ambitions of its members

who want to see an effective national body that achieves tangible results.

"If urgent action isn't taken to confront the challenges facing the national union then it will have let down future students for years to come."

Constituent Members of the NUS have been demanding a review of the core constitution for nearly 20 years.

At the annual conference in Blackpool earlier this year, a motion was passed that the entire governance of the NUS would be reviewed. A steering committee was established, which, after extensive consultation and research, produced the White Paper, designed to provide concrete proposals on what and how to reform.

The National Executive endorses the White Paper and has explicitly called for an extraordinary conference.

Gemma Tumelty, President of the NUS, making a speech to the strategic conversation, surmised that the NUS were determined in "Reforming the way the National Union is governed. Balancing our budget for the first time in years. Committing to our strategy, and carrying it out. Campaigning, taking action and fighting for our beliefs."

The NUS governance review proposes to achieve equality, democracy and collectivism. They intend to divide policy into five key 'zones': higher education, further education, welfare, society and citizenship and union development. All five zones will have a committee, program and conference.

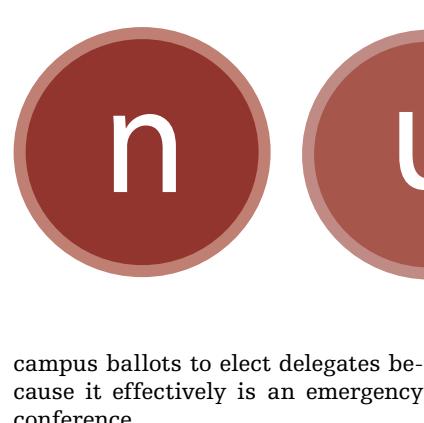
These 'zones' of policy will be discussed in locally-elected committee at local conferences. Similarly there will be sections for Liberation and Social Policy which will have their own program, committees and conferences.

The annual congress will debate the key issues raised by delegates from each of these segments. The decisions of congress will be turned into action by the political leadership: the Senate.

The Administration will assist in the running of the NUS as an organisation whilst the Steering Committee is designed to ensure democracy.

Both the Administration and Steering Committee will be student-led but assisted by experts in relevant fields.

Certain leftist factions within the NUS are critical of the reforms proposed. They fear that it will become less democratic as there will be no compulsory prerequisite of cross



campus ballots to elect delegates because it effectively is an emergency conference.

The new proposed structure of the annual conference precipitates a move away from conventional methods of debating NUS policy. Instead of NUS issues being raised by student unions and brought to the floor, policy reports will be drawn up collectively by 'zones' and debated in smaller conferences before being submitted to the annual conference for ratification.

Time allocation at annual conferences to deliberate policy will be dramatically condensed and individual student involvement limited.

Sophie Buckland, an executive member of NUS, said on her blog: "I opposed the review because it's undemocratic, cutting out pretty much

any opportunity for rank-and-file students to get involved in NUS."

Many students also consider this to be a favourable amendment. Liam Burns, President of Heriot-Watt Union Student Association, told *The Journal*: "Having zone conferences that debate and then pass on congenital policy to Congress [the old conference] so that we don't waste time that could be used on genuinely contentious issues will be beneficial."

The NEC has asked its constituent members to an extraordinary conference. 25 constituent members must submit the motion of calling for an extraordinary conference before the NUS can announce the event.

Gemma Tumelty cannot confirm the date but hopes to hold it on Tuesday 4 December 2007.

Heriot-Watt to reorganise academic year

Sarah Clark

sarah.clark@journal-online.co.uk

FOLLOWING IN THE footsteps of the University of Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt University will change the structure of their academic year from the current three term system to a two-semester arrangement in September 2008.

The move comes after the National Student Survey (NSS) highlighted that Heriot-Watt students are in need of less assessment and more teaching. The NSS results expose that 35 per cent of students at the University consider exams to be nothing more than a memory test.

Liam Burns, President of Heriot-Watt University Student Association (HWUSA) said: "We remain over-assessed and under-taught compared to other institutions, with far too many exams and not nearly enough meaningful feedback. Our National Student Survey results have made that clear."

In June 2006, the Planning and Management Executive confirmed approval of the move to a two-block structure of the academic year.

The restructuring of the academic year is designed to provide more time for learning by increasing the teaching weeks from 23 to 24 and reducing the exam assessment periods from three to two.

Undergraduate and post-gradu-

ate students will typically have eight rather than twelve modules annually planned to deepen the learning experience.

Bob Craik, Vice-President of Heriot-Watt University and director of the Restructuring Project Board said: "Fewer, longer modules will enhance student learning whilst retaining flexibility."

Flexibility is paramount to Heriot-Watt's idea of education. The University plans to introduce flexible learning materials including Vision, a virtual learning environment that will permit students to continue learning at a time and place that is suitable for them.

The new structure of the academic year aims to offer students adaptable and varied work-based learning experiences ranging from placements to projects in order to develop skills essential for students' careers after graduation.

New block dates means that students are no longer finishing later than contemporaries at other institutions, giving them better opportunities to gain valuable work experience, volunteering placements and graduate placements in the summer.

Heriot-Watt's provisional semester dates for 2008/2009 will be from 15 September 2008 to 19 December 2008 and 12 January 2009 to 3 April 2009.

27 April 2009 to 22 May 2009 will be a period of assessment.

STUDENT
SCOTTISH STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
SINCE 1887 - THE UK'S OLDEST STUDENT NEWSPAPER
news-features-interview-comment-film-music-culture-tech-tv-lifestyle-sport
visit us at <http://www.studentnewspaper.org>

Cuter
than a
bag of
baby
cats

www.journal-online.co.uk

Hundreds take to the streets to protest Trident renewal

Paul Traynor

paul.traynor@journal-online.co.uk

HUNDREDS OF PROTESTERS marched from the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood to the Ross Bandstand in Princess Street Gardens on Saturday 3 November to campaign against the government's Trident plans.

Organised by Scotland 4 Peace, the march - entitled People and Parliament Against Trident - attracted students, pensioners, socialists and clowns, as well as representatives from major political parties and religious bodies such as the SNP, the Church of Scotland and the Muslim Association of Scotland.

Speaking at the Ross Band stand, Shirley Ann Summerville, Scottish National Party MSP and representative for Alex Salmond read a statement from the First Minister.

The statement read: "I am disappointed not to be with you, there are few issues more important than nuclear disarmament."

He sent a clear message to the protesters, the people of Scotland and Downing Street that he would not tolerate the plans to place four Trident-armed submarines in the Clyde.

"The Scottish Government is opposed to the placement of Weapons of Mass Destruction on Scottish soil anytime, anywhere."

He went on to outline his application to the 189 countries in the UN Nuclear Proliferation Treaty to allow Scotland to have observer status.

This move has caused considerable uproar as, if approved, Scotland would in effect be a separate member from the UK, when it is not in reality a separate state.

The protest is opposing the acquisition of the Trident (II) D5 nuclear missile system from the US. The cost of the programme to adopt the UK's submarines to carry the missiles is thought to come in at around £20 billion.

The missile, a submarine-based nuclear warhead, has a range of up

to 4,600 miles, is accurate up to a few feet, and its destructive possibility is equivalent to eight Hiroshima's.

The adoption of the new Trident programme from the US was approved in March while Tony Blair was still in power.

The proposal did have considerable opposition within Parliament, with 88 Labour MPs voting against the plan; more than half of the 161 opposing votes in the House. However, a Commons vote wasn't even required, with the Cabinet having the authority to approve such a plan independently.

Alongside Ms Summerville, Phil McGarry - President of the Scottish Trade Union Congress (STUC) - outlined his stark opposition to the Trident proposal.

He stated that more jobs would be created than lost in the abolition of the programme. A fact that he claimed should put a stop to the "scaremongering" of the Westminster government. He said in his impassioned address: "We say no to a new generation of nuclear weapons on the Clyde."

Since its inception, the plan has been the butt of fervent protests from within Scotland, with Livingstone MP Jim Devine resigning his post as ministerial aide in March over the issue.

Criticism for the Trident project has drawn support from all circles: Annie Lennox, Bianca Jagger and Vivienne Westwood are all staunch opponents of the plan.

They argue that the old Soviet Bloc no longer exists, therefore the need for nuclear weapons is not essential.

Greenpeace state: "Tony Blair's decision to build new, more advanced nuclear weapons decades after the Cold War has ended is a monstrous waste of money and resources."

But it wasn't just politicians who had their say on Saturday, singer Karine Polwart performed her song 'Better Things' which she said was written after she realised the Trident programme was "very unimaginative".



Alex Salmond says no to any nuclear weapons in Scotland "anytime or anywhere" Jethro Collins

Trident (II) D5: the facts

- Length: 13 metres
- Weight: 58,500kg
- Diameter: 1.9 metres
- Range: More than 4,600 miles
- Cost: £16.8 million per missile
- Each submarine carries 16 Trident missiles
- Each missile carries three warheads but is able to hold twelve
- The Prime Minister has to OK any real launch



Salmond in British foreign policy row over UN

Helen Walker

helen.walker@journal-online.co.uk

ALEX SALMOND HAS taken his first venture into foreign policy, an area not included in the devolution settlement and which has traditionally been the sole reserve of the British Foreign Office, with a plea for representation at the next round of nuclear non-proliferation talks.

In a bold move, the First Minister has written to representatives of state parties of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty expressing his desire for Scotland to be granted observer

status. If this request is granted it would mean that Scotland would be represented separately, rather than as part of the UK, as is currently the case.

The list of 189 countries, whose consulates or embassies Mr Salmond wrote to, includes states such as Iran and Zimbabwe. UK ministers are said to be outraged at the actions of the First Minister, which undermines British foreign policy.

Similar criticism came from Holyrood as Nicol Stephen, the Liberal Democrat leader, accused Scottish ministers of "grandstanding on a subject outside their responsibility."

rather than concentrating on pressing matters which actually concern them.

The NPT is an international treaty which aims at limiting the spread of nuclear weapons. The treaty has five signatories, including Britain, which are acknowledged to have nuclear weapons.

The SNP believe that Scotland deserves direct representation at the talks because it is in Scotland that Britain's nuclear defences are located.

Earlier this year, the Scottish Parliament voted 71 to 16, with 39 abstentions, against the £20 billion re-

placement of Trident. Such sentiment contrasts poignantly with that of Westminster and gives the Scottish Executive a strong cause to seek a direct voice for Scotland on the issue.

Nicola Sturgeon, Deputy First Minister said that the Scottish Executive was "opposed to the replacement of the Trident system and the deployment of weapons of mass destruction on Scottish soil."

The First Minister sent the letters prior to the nuclear summit which the Executive held in Glasgow last week.

The conference on Scotland's Future Without Nuclear Weapons was part of the National Conversation

launched by Mr Salmond back in August.

Bruce Crawford, Minister for Parliamentary Business explained that the summit has resulted in an agreement to establish "a small working group" which, among other things, would explore the possibility of achieving NPT observer status at its next meeting in 2010.

UN officials are rumoured to have indicated that they would be sympathetic to an application by Scotland. Whether or not this will be granted is uncertain, if it is, however, it will set a significant precedent for the future role of Scotland's government.

14 Local & National Politics

Government must show "zero tolerance" on drugs

Alastair Sloan

alastair.sloan@journal-online.co.uk

A LEADING SCOTTISH expert on drug abuse has called for a "zero tolerance" strategy from the Scottish government in dealing with illegal drugs.

Professor Neil McKeganey of the University of Glasgow said that the drug situation in Scotland had reached breaking point and that the authorities were giving out the wrong signals.

He highlighted the downgrading of cannabis to a class C drug as a symptom of a "soft approach".

Cannabis was reclassified in 2004 from a class B substance to a class C.

The decision is now under review by the government.

Speaking to a group of Swedish politicians, he praised Sweden's zero tolerance approach to drugs.

"There are potential benefits for Scotland in adopting a zero tolerance policy on illegal drugs. We can learn from the Swedish example but there are also aspects of our approach here to illegal drugs that could benefit the Swedes."

Sweden has one of the lowest levels of drug abuse in Europe.

Tomas Hallberg, the director of European Cities Against Drugs Initiative, was amongst the delegation.

Neil McKeganey has previously called for drug addicts to be paid compensation not to get pregnant.



Neil McKeganey: government must do more to tackle drug abuse

"Right to buy" to be abolished in Scotland

Alastair Sloan

alastair.sloan@journal-online.co.uk

THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT will remove the rights of council housing tenants to buy their new-build homes, according to Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

Several local housing authorities

have already been allowed to suspend the "right to buy," as the practice is known.

In a ministerial statement to the Scottish Parliament today, Nicola Sturgeon also announced a new building programme for council housing to stem Scotland's growing housing shortage.

The government wants to see construction of new housing increase by

nearly 50 per cent.

The strategy calls for a 30 year trend of "running down the role of local authorities" to end immediately.

Sturgeon announced a wide range of measures aimed at improving the housing situation, including a series of government grants given to help first time buyers in the housing market.

She also put the burden of respon-

sibility on housing associations to improve their level of service and meet their targets.

The right to buy new council housing will be removed.

Details of Sturgeon's speech were leaked to the BBC in advance of the statement, leading to calls from Scotland's top civil servant to carry out a leak inquiry.

SNP conference roundup

Alastair Sloan

alastair.sloan@journal-online.co.uk

THE MOOD AT Aviemore this year was definitely one of consolidation, not triumph, as the SNP held its first conference as a party in power.

Falling eerily close to the 40th anniversary of the SNP gaining its first seat in Parliament, Alex Salmond used the opportunity to call for a referendum on independence, and for the unionist parties to find a way to back it.

There were also calls for a "bonfire of the quangos", a phrase used by Gordon Brown in 1995, in a bid to slim down government.

The M8 road linking Glasgow and Edinburgh was another hot topic. The road is currently part motorway and part dual carriageway.

Salmond announced plans for it to be upgraded.

Salmond told the hundreds of SNP supporters that as every day passed he was more certain of the need for independence.

Over the weekend, a leading Labour minister claimed that Scotland could stand on its own two feet if it came to it.

Scotland Office Minister David Cairns said he does not believe the country would "wither and die" if it were to break from the UK.

poke
my pouch
and call me
a pom

Corking offers
from STA Travel

Fly to Australia

fr £599 save £150



BRITISH AIRWAYS
Specialist Partner

Fly round the world

fr £849 save £150

Save up to £50 on
selected Contiki trips

Save up to 10% on selected
Connections Adventures

STA TRAVEL

www.statravel.co.uk



Find out more about our
other fair dinkum offers

STA Travel Edinburgh
27 Forrest Road, EH1

0871 468 0617

www.statravel.co.uk/oz

Fares include all taxes but exclude Airline Failure Cover. Fly fr London, Manchester, Newcastle & Glasgow. Valid for travel 16Apr - 15Jun 2008, more exclusive fares available for other travel periods. Australia fare based on flying to Melbourne. RTW taxes based on flying UK-Melbourne-LA surface New York London. Many other routes available at exclusive prices but taxes will vary. Save messages are compared to annual non-student product. Book by 19Nov. Eligibility restrictions and booking fees may apply. Tours are subject to availability and date restrictions. Eligibility, booking conditions and local payments may apply. Booking period: 10Oct - 19Nov. ABTA 99209 | ATOL 3206

£500 per essay: Cambridge students cash in on "cheating"

Joanna Hosa

joanna.hosa@journal-online.co.uk

LACK OF BOTH time and money has driven Cambridge University students to work for Oxbridge Essays, a company selling custom-written essays and dissertations. Although the university condemns the practice as "cheating", it remains an attractive source of income for students, who can earn up to £500 per assignment.

The university's strict regulations regarding part time employment—which prevents students from working more than two hours a week—mean that many undergraduates struggle financially. According to *Varsity*, the Cambridge University student newspaper, essay-writing for cash is widespread, with over 500 Cambridge students and alumni working for Oxbridge Essays alongside others from Oxford University.

According to the Oxbridge Essays website, the essays are intended to provide a "model and perfect example of academic research" to be used only as guidance and inspiration, leading

the service to claim that its practice is "fully legal and fully plagiarism free."

Despite the site's disclaimer, one anonymous Oxbridge Essays employee told *Varsity* that "you know" what the essay will be used for. She said: "They [Oxbridge Essays] do have this legal loophole but everyone knows what really happens to the essays we write. And that's why they keep their clients anonymous; to cover themselves."

"I know it's unethical, but it is so expensive in Cambridge. I don't think I'm cheating. I'm making good money to improve my writing."

Oxbridge Essays considers its work no different from that of private tutors whose legality is not questioned, and demands to be treated on equal terms. A spokesperson for the company claimed that student's allegations were "all pure speculation based on no evidence."

According to *Varsity*, the university's board of graduate studies is looking to modify its existing plagiarism clause in order to prohibit this, calling the scheme "an attempt to deliberately degrade the academic integrity of the university."



Anger as far-right invited to speak at Oxford University

Nick Eardley

nick.eardley@journal-online.co.uk

STUDENTS AT OXFORD University are poised to set up a campaign in opposition to Nick Griffin and David Irving speaking at the Oxford Union's Freedom of Speech forum.

Although the line-up for the forum has yet to be confirmed, the union has invited British National Party leader Nick Griffin and controversial historian David Irving to discuss the limitations of free speech. Campaign groups Unite Against Fascism and the National Union of Students have both condemned the decision.

Gemma Tumelty, President of the National Union of Students (NUS) said: "The pair's racist, anti-Semitic,

homophobic and Islamophobic views threaten the safety of our diverse university communities. Wherever the BNP is active, racist attacks and other hate crimes increase."

Pledging to support moves to have the invitation reversed she added: "It is unacceptable to expose students and staff to the possibility of attacks and to give a platform of academic respectability to Griffin and Irving."

Former Cambridge student Mr Griffin was shown in an undercover BBC documentary describing Islam as a "wicked and vicious faith" in 2004. He was later found not guilty on two occasions of using words or behaviours intended to stir up racial hatred, and condemned the government for announcing a review of the law in the aftermath of the case.

Mr Irving was jailed for ten months in Austria in 2006 for glorifying and associating with the Nazi Party, and faces further charges for Holocaust denial in the country. He has been accused of manipulating historical evidence and criticised by Jewish groups for denying the extent of Nazi genocide during the Second World War.

Unite Against Fascism spokesperson Weyman Bennett warned against giving Irving and Griffin a platform, he said: "Millions were murdered in the holocaust not because their arguments weren't good enough, but because those who could have stopped fascism under-estimated the threat it represented. Many thought its flaws so obvious they could easily be exposed."

However, the Oxford Union has denied giving a level of legitimacy to the

arguments of both Mr Irving and Mr Griffin.

In a letter to students, President Luke Tryl said: "These people are not being given an opportunity to extoll their views, but are coming to talk about the limits of free speech.

"Stopping these people from speaking only allows them to become free speech martyrs, and from my experience groups like the BNP do well if they look like they're being censored.

"I think it's patronising to suggest that Oxford students aren't intelligent enough to debate these people, and I have great faith in the ability of Oxford students to challenge them.

"I realise that this is a difficult area but the Union was founded particularly to discuss and promote free speech."

Durham dean suspended after allegations of plagiarism

Nick Eardley

nick.eardley@journal-online.co.uk

THE FORMER DEAN of the business school at Durham University has been suspended on charges plagiarism.

Tony Antoniou had continued as Professor of finance after stepping down from his position as Dean on 5 September after allegations were printed in the *Times Education Supplement* that he plagiarised research.

A statement from Durham University said: "The University takes plagiarism extremely seriously. Professor Antoniou has been suspended from duty with immediate effect."

The university has been keen to highlight that the allegations do not relate to Professor Antoniou's research at Durham, but this will do little to reduce the damage caused to the school.

Professor Antoniou was appointed Dean after a merger between the business school and the department of economics, and was seen as a key figure in improving the schools research problems.

Durham University has confirmed that it has embarked on a search for a replacement for the Professor, with the business school currently being managed by an interim group of senior staff.

Professor Antoniou's suspension comes as a number of other plagiarism cases are being investigated in academia.

A former Wolverhampton University lecturer is preparing for legal action against his ex-employers following his dismissal for plagiarism, and University of Colorado Professor Ward Churchill was dismissed for similar offences in July.

Despite constant warnings to undergraduate students about plagiarising material, with most universities using electronic plagiarism detection software to prevent plagiarised work passing as students' own, the policing of academic work is less rigorous.

Another investigation is being carried out at The University of York into allegations that Professor Antoniou's doctoral thesis also contained plagiarised material.



Toby Ord

Party self-interest, slogans and wasted ballots

All parties accused of "pursuing potential political advantage" in election fiasco that led to four per cent of votes spoiled

Helen Walker

helen.walker@journal-online.co.uk

NO PARTY CAN be considered blameless for the Scottish parliamentary election fiasco that saw nearly 150,000 wasted votes and a complete failure to put the needs of Scottish voters first, a leading polling expert said last week.

Ron Gould, the Canadian elections expert in charge of the official report into the botched election, wrote to the Electoral Commission in response to the Electoral Commission last week to emphasise that, while the responsibility for the May elections "lay with the Scotland office and Scottish executive" all political parties were guilty of "pursuing potential political advantage".

Mr Gould sent the letter after many of the political parties used his report—*The Scottish Elections Review*—as a basis for laying blame solely on the shoulders of the Westminster government over their handling of the poll.

The report's findings have given rise to fierce rows in Westminster. Gordon Brown was told to use more 'temperate' language at Question Time last week, as the Conservatives called for the responsibility for elections to be removed from Douglas Alexander, the Scottish Secretary and organiser of the Scottish parliamentary elections.

Mr Alexander, a close ally of the Prime Minister, has faced strong criticism from all the major parties.

The Liberal Democrat Shadow Scotland Secretary, Alistair Carmichael, said: "Douglas Alexander must explain his actions to Parliament. If he is unable to come up with a convincing explanation, he will have no alternative than to go."

Mr Alexander would have been in charge of Mr Brown's abandoned general election campaign, had it been called.

In response to this political finger

pointing, Mr Gould has stressed that "all political parties in Scotland were involved in the debates, contributed to the final decisions and shared in the failure to prioritise the interests of the voter."

The report was initiated by the Electoral Commission in response to around four per cent of the votes cast being spoiled, a marked rise from the 0.6 per cent of votes which were rejected in the previous Scottish election.

While Mr Gould has been keen to point out that all the parties were at fault, the report does state that what was "characteristic of 2007 was a notable level of party self-interest evident in ministerial decisions".

In a letter to Gordon Brown, Mr Salmond has asked that Scotland be allowed to run its own elections. This would be a change from the current situation where the task of organising elections is shared between the Scottish Parliament and the Westminster run Scotland Office.

The Gould report recommends that a single body should be responsible for this role. Like Alex Salmond, the report suggests that the Scottish Parliament would be the 'logical institution' for such a task. The Liberal Democrats are in agreement with the SNP executive on this matter.

Nicol Stephen, the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, commented: "Organising the Scottish Parliament elections was one of the few significant tasks that the generously resourced Scotland Office has had to do over the last few years and yet the majority of the failures highlighted in this report were within its remit."

In response to the report, the current Scottish Secretary Des Browne - while not agreeing with "every aspect" - has acceded to separate ballots for the parliamentary elections and to the "decoupling" of local and national elections.

The Electoral Commission is due to make a response to the report later this month.



Matthew Barnes

matthew.barnes@journal-online.co.uk

MAY 2007, SCOTLAND. After the third general election of the devolved Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) became the largest party in the country. It gained 47 of the 129 available seats compared to Labour's 46, the SNP's largest rival.

SNP leader Alex Salmond himself was involved in a fierce struggle for his own constituency of Gordon, winning with 14,650 votes - a close margin of 2,062 votes over his opponent, Liberal Democrat Nora Radcliffe, who claimed 12,588. The Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats gained 17 and 16 seats respectively.

Turnout at the election was notably higher than in previous years: 51.7 per cent in the constituency vote and 52.4 per cent in the regional vote, compared to 49.4 per cent in both in 2003. Whether this surge in voters was due to the appeal of a Referendum on Independence is unclear.

The real significance behind the SNP's victory is not its own gains, but Labour's losses.

The clash of the titans in Scotland took place at a time when Labour's support across the whole of Britain was cracking at the seams. The fact that Labour's fall from grace was not simply a Scottish phenomenon means that the SNP's gains should perhaps be interpreted as a result of decreasing confidence in the other Scottish parties rather than just simply a desire to become an independent entity.

One could argue that for many, the SNP was the best of a bad bunch.

Nonetheless the election was an historic one. It saw the first ever nationalist party seize power in Scotland, witnessing the defeat of the previously untouchable Labour Party which had effectively governed Scotland since 1955.

Under the Union of the Crowns Act, 1707, Scotland and England ceased to be a single nation and decided to move forward together as partners for a brighter future. The years that followed saw the rise of the largest mar-

time empire ever to exist, of which Scotland was an integral part. Scotland fought in Great Britain's wars, traded in its merchandise and colonised its lands across the globe, effectively creating its own private empire within that of the United Kingdom.

The SNP's victory on the Union's 300th anniversary was as symbolic as it was historic, but what does it actually mean? Does the fact that so many voters in Scotland chose SNP mean that they all want independence from their Southern neighbours after all these years?

The core issue of Alex Salmond's campaign was the Referendum on Independence planned for 2010, an issue which puts the SNP at odds with Scotland's other parties. However, statistics show that the majority of Scots do not actually want national independence. Some figures indicate that only 25 per cent of the population are in favour of independence, with the highest estimation at only 50 per cent.

The real significance behind the SNP's victory is not its own gains, but Labour's losses.

The clash of the titans in Scotland took place at a time when Labour's support across the whole of Britain was cracking at the seams. The fact that Labour's fall from grace was not simply a Scottish phenomenon means that the SNP's gains should perhaps be interpreted as a result of decreasing confidence in the other Scottish parties rather than just simply a desire to become an independent entity.

One could argue that for many, the SNP was the best of a bad bunch.

Historically, the nationalist party's victory threatens the Union. However, the SNP is just a party like any other, holding policies that supporters of the party will both approve and disapprove of. We must not assume that because independence was one of their key policies that all their voters voted SNP simply because of that. After all, most Scots do not want independence as such, but rather greater powers for the Scottish Parliament whilst still being part of the United Kingdom, and many voters saw the SNP as the party to bring this change about.

It is also worth noting that the SNP

Jeffrey said that "time was getting on for a change."

The SNP's victory is all the more significant because the figure head of Labour's Scottish campaign was Gordon Brown. A strong believer in the strength of Britain under the Union, Brown actively tried to dissuade the Scottish public from voting SNP, a victory he knew would threaten the Union. Despite wielding considerable influence in Scotland, Brown's attempts to sway the Scots were unsuccessful.

This failure has caused many to question Brown's overall leadership skills; if he was unable to help Labour keep a hold on Scotland - his birthplace and personal fiefdom as many think of it - then how will he run a stable Britain?

It is clear that the SNP focused heavily on the 'independence from Westminster' card, many voted for the party due to their other policies, such as those on Iraq, Trident, healthcare and education reforms.

Historically, the nationalist party's victory threatens the Union. However, the SNP is just a party like any other, holding policies that supporters of the party will both approve and disapprove of. We must not assume that because independence was one of their key policies that all their voters voted SNP simply because of that. After all, most Scots do not want independence as such, but rather greater powers for the Scottish Parliament whilst still being part of the United Kingdom, and many voters saw the SNP as the party to bring this change about.

It is also worth noting that the SNP promised a referendum on Scottish independence, not independence itself. Whether they do or do not support it, many Scottish people simply want to be given the choice on the Union, unlike in 1707 when many felt that their country was 'bought and sold for English gold.'

Scottish Election: a recap

Matthew Barnes

matthew.barnes@journal-online.co.uk

MAY 2007, SCOTLAND. After the third general election of the devolved Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) became the largest party in the country. It gained 47 of the 129 available seats compared to Labour's 46, the SNP's largest rival.

SNP leader Alex Salmond himself was involved in a fierce struggle for his own constituency of Gordon, winning with 14,650 votes - a close margin of 2,062 votes over his opponent, Liberal Democrat Nora Radcliffe, who claimed 12,588. The Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats gained 17 and 16 seats respectively.

Turnout at the election was notably higher than in previous years: 51.7 per cent in the constituency vote and 52.4 per cent in the regional vote, compared to 49.4 per cent in both in 2003. Whether this surge in voters was due to the appeal of a Referendum on Independence is unclear.

The real significance behind the SNP's victory is not its own gains, but Labour's losses.

The clash of the titans in Scotland took place at a time when Labour's support across the whole of Britain was cracking at the seams. The fact that Labour's fall from grace was not simply a Scottish phenomenon means that the SNP's gains should perhaps be interpreted as a result of decreasing confidence in the other Scottish parties rather than just simply a desire to become an independent entity.

One could argue that for many, the SNP was the best of a bad bunch.

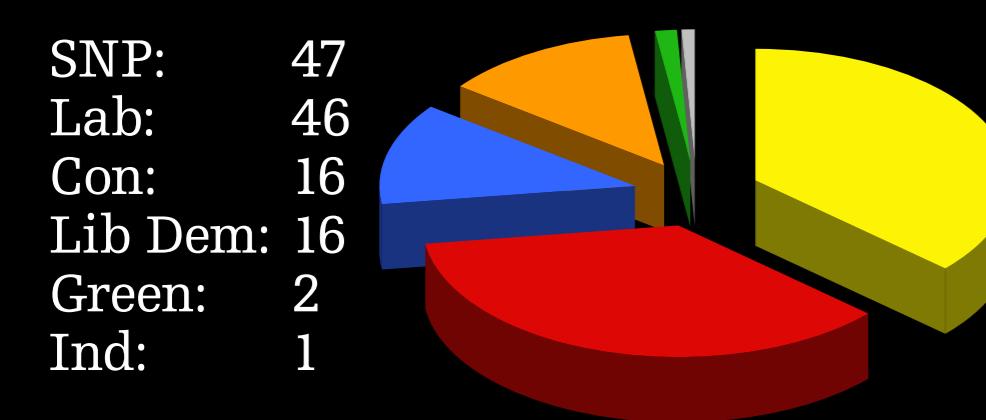
Historically, the nationalist party's victory threatens the Union. However, the SNP is just a party like any other, holding policies that supporters of the party will both approve and disapprove of. We must not assume that because independence was one of their key policies that all their voters voted SNP simply because of that. After all, most Scots do not want independence as such, but rather greater powers for the Scottish Parliament whilst still being part of the United Kingdom, and many voters saw the SNP as the party to bring this change about.

It is also worth noting that the SNP

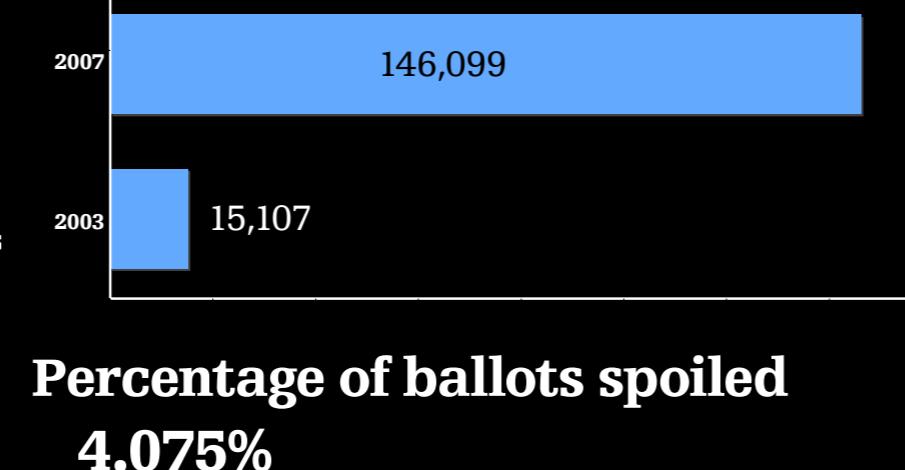
"Through consultations, it became clear to the Review team that both the Scotland Office and the Scottish Executive were frequently focused on partisan political interests in carrying out their responsibilities, overlooking voter interests and operational realities."

The numbers behind the election

Seats of the parties as of May 2007



Rejected ballots



Notes on a scandal

On the list and member votes being on the same ballot paper

"Holding two different ballots at the same time, with two different methods of marking ballot papers, was just asking for additional problems."

Page 35, Appendix B

On how well help was supplied about the voting process

"There was so much information, I switched off."

Page 42, Appendix B

On the descriptions of parties on the ballot

"How can a choice for regional list be Alex Salmond etc when that implies you are electing a First Minister and not a regional MSP? It also unfairly skewed the list to place Alex Salmond at the top of a long list and could well have attracted a great number of additional votes. For me, the design had been manipulated to give party advantage and this tainted the fairness of the electoral procedure."

Page 39, Appendix B

On Douglas Alexander

"Douglas Alexander MP was repeatedly told that it was inadvisable to hold two elections on the same day. I understand that the Electoral Commission made this point rather forcibly to no avail. I suggest that he is no longer 'fit for purpose' and should resign or at least be demoted to the backbenches."

Page 45, Appendix B

WE CAN STILL DO IT

Nov 17th. Our date with destiny.



Tennent's. Proud to support Scotland.

Discussion & Debate

Comment



Knowing your enemy



Phillip Knightley

Media Commentator

phillipgk@aol.com

SOMETHING ODD IS happening in the War on Terror. Although there have been apparent successes, the overall picture is by no means rosy. In the United States the media has turned on the architects of the war, President Bush and Vice-President Cheney, with a viciousness that would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

A recent edition of the influential *New Yorker* magazine blamed Cheney for what has been happening. It accused him of manipulating a "callow, lazy and ignorant" Bush into refusing to accept that the laws of the United States can in any way stop them from doing whatever they want in their "endless, endlessly expandable war on terror."

The magazine says they have inflicted unprecedented disgrace on America's moral and political standing by launching the Iraq war under false pretences, conducting it with "stupifying incompetence" and has accused them of crippling America's armed forces, "which no longer overawe and will take years to rebuild."

Further, any pretence that Muslims per se were not being deliberately singled out as terrorist suspects by the American authorities has vanished after the recent humiliation of Britain's first Muslim minister, Shahid Malik MP, at Dulles airport, Washington DC.

He was on his way back to Britain after a series of meetings with the Department of Homeland Security when he was detained and searched by officers of the very department he had just visited. He complained later: "A couple of other people were also taken to one side. We were all Muslims – the other two were black Muslims, both with Muslim names."

This is the second time that this has happened to Mr Malik. Last year he was detained at the John F. Kennedy International Airport for an hour by Homeland Security despite the fact that he was the keynote speaker at an event organised by – Homeland Security.

There appear to have been no such blunders on this side of the Atlantic, as yet. But there have been other worrying developments. Admiral Sir Alan West, Gordon Brown's new Security Minister, warns that the War on Terror is not going to be won quickly and could take ten to 15 years or longer. He says the government has failed to get its anti-terrorism message across and what is now needed is some "un-British snitching."

But how extensive this informing on your neighbours might become was highlighted by Professor Anthony Glees, director of the Centre for Intelligence Studies at Brunel University. The same day as Admiral West gave his downbeat assessment of the War on Terror, Glees estimated that there were "up to 200,000 potential martyrs at universities at home and abroad who are susceptible to recruitment" by terrorist groups: if true, a worrying thought for the counter-terrorism services.

In my view, the problem is that, from the

Without a clear definition of what "terrorism" means, governments have created a threat which can continue on indefinitely; a threat which the media are all too happy to maintain



The key to understanding terrorism is to define exactly what it is

"When anyone points out that it is irrational to spend billions of dollars a year on anti-terrorism measures when food poisoning kills far more people, no one wants to hear"

beginning, governments have failed to define what they consider terrorism to be. Is it simply, in the words of Professor Richard Rubenstein from the Centre for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, "a form of violence you don't like"? Is it attacking civilians, rather than soldiers? But, according to British author Phil Ress, the USA and Israel are bigger killers of civilians than their terrorist foes, so such a definition would

sweep both governments into the net as well. And if you leave terrorism undefined or defined loosely so as to get agreement, then you have to accept that it will never go away.

Next, we have refused to consider what the terrorists' motives might be. Instead we simply wrote all terrorists off as "evil people" out to destroy our way of life. But this begs the question: why do there appear to be more evil people around today than there used to be?

We ruled out in advance any negotiations of any sort with our terrorist foes. But anyone who has studied recent history knows that the best chance of ending terrorist attacks is through negotiations. Terrorism in Kenya, Cyprus, Aden, and especially Northern Ireland, ended because negotiations brought compromise.

And, finally, we allowed those with a vested interest to exaggerate the terrorist threat. Counter-terrorism has proved a boom business, providing thousands of new jobs for security and intelligence officers, surveillance and forensic experts – and, yes, authors and journalists. All of these naturally tend to paint any threat in strong colours, because it is in their professional and financial interests to do so.

When commentator Christopher Hitchens

writes that the dominant fact of our future will be that nowhere is safe from terrorist attacks, that no matter where you live, "it's coming." That makes headlines. But when anyone points out that it is irrational to spend billions of dollars a year on anti-terrorism measures when food poisoning kills far more people, no one wants to hear.

Dame Stella Rimington, former head of Britain's security service, is one of the few experts to try to put it all into perspective. "We are tending towards this sense that we must all be 100 per cent safe. A better way of presenting it is to say that the world is a difficult and dangerous place and if we want to be safe then we have to make choices about how much of our civil liberties we want to give up."

My answer is: none.

Phillip Knightley is a multi-award winning journalist, critic, and non-fiction author.

He will be taking part in this year's University of Edinburgh Remembrance Sunday Debate on media reporting of war.

Free tickets are available at <http://www.ed.ac.uk>

Russia and the West: towards a new Cold War?



Dr Luke March
Russian Politics

l.march@ed.ac.uk

YOU CAN BARELY move these days for images of a malignant and terrifying Russia, whether it be the forlorn face of Alexander Litvinenko dying a lonely death from polonium poisoning in a London hospital, Vladimir Putin in full spy garb adorning the cover of *The Economist*, or Viggo Mortensen posing as a vicious Russian mobster in David Cronenberg's latest thriller. The question I am now most often asked when talking about Russia is not "how is Russia developing?", but "how concerned should we be?" Russia now has ever increasing economic, political and military power. How real, then, are the concerns of a new Cold War that are now prevalent everywhere in our media?

In a nutshell, we are right to be concerned, and no-one can now seriously pretend that modern Russia is an easy, predictable and thoroughly reliable international partner. But it is a long way short of being an 'enemy', as it was during the Cold War, and avoiding Russia becoming such an enemy depends almost as much on us as it does on Russia itself.

At the very least, modern Russia has a serious image problem. Whilst this says a lot about the hyperbolic and simplistic tendencies of the Western (and especially British) mass media, which increasingly portray Russia as a vicious, vengeful petro-state, it can't be denied that there is no smoke without fire. Russia is a

dangerous place for opposition politicians and media; it is an assertive and often non-constructive foreign policy actor (particularly towards its immediate neighbours); and corrupt money courses through its higher echelons. Russian leaders see themselves as European, but their attitude to European organizations from the OSCE to the EU is very semi-detached, seeking pivotal influence within the organizations without the obligations of membership.

Moreover, in their attitude to individual liberties and minority (particularly homosexual) rights, Russian leaders express 'European' values that the majority of decent Europeans would not recognize. Although some of the wilder theories circulating – that Putin himself orders the deaths of journalists and ex-KGB dissidents, and the bombing of his own citizens, for electoral purposes – are outlandish, the fact that the authorities' participation in some of Russia's most nefarious practices cannot be discounted entirely says much about the quality of political life in the country.

But this is still a long-way short of 'back to the USSR.' Although Putin's popularity is massaged and manipulated, he has genuine support within Russia for giving the population much of what they want: economic growth, political stability, and domestic (if not yet international) esteem. The Russia Putin leaves behind is unquestionably a more confident and happier place than the country he inherited from Boris Yeltsin. Putin has consistently argued that democracy and political liberalism are important for Russia, but that Russia's stability and

economic growth are pre-requisites. This argument has a powerful logic and most of Russia's citizens seem to agree.

Despite Europe's much-reported energy dependence on Russia, in fact it is more a case of economic interdependence: the EU is Russia's largest trading partner and Russia is the EU's third biggest.

Furthermore, Russia has a point on many international issues, with which it must be engaged and not simply dismissed. Take, for instance, its opposition to a new US missile shield in Poland and the Czech Republic. If the US had not unilaterally withdrawn from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in 2002, Russia might trust it more. But even so, the Western media has been remarkably uncritical of the USA's proposals. Are we really to believe that if Russia proposed to place missiles in Venezuela and declared they were aimed at defending its ally from North Korea, that the USA would accept this decision uncritically?

Moving out of this impasse will be tricky. For the foreseeable future Russia is unlikely to become a more friendly, more 'European' and less truculent political partner, and after Putin it may indeed move in the opposite direction. But Europe, and the West more generally, urgently need to come up with better policies that speak in a more co-ordinated, more robust but less condescending voice towards Russia.

Generally, there are three views of how to proceed towards Russia: a hawkish view (held, for example, by Dick Cheney, the US vice-president) which seeks to penalize Russia for its domestic and international trans-

gressions to the extent of expelling it from international organizations; a pragmatic view that seeks engagement where it works, but holds out little hope of Russian improvement; and an idealistic view that seeks active engagement alongside a commitment to greater Russian democratization. None is ideal.

A hawkish approach may produce the very behaviour it intends to avoid – a resentful and isolated Russia. The pragmatic approach holds out few mechanisms for improving mutual relations and will simply ignore Russian bad conduct, and the idealistic approach may be considered patronizing and so can be counterproductive.

It may be, however, that given the high-level political deadlock none of these approaches will work, and that the only solutions will be low-level initiatives on a case-by-case basis: increased economic relationships between medium and small-scale business, working visits between lower level officials (where are the exchanges between Russian and Scottish parliamentarians?), and increased educational exchange. Such measures, whilst hardly headline-grabbing, engage with Russia's biggest political resource: its people, whom opinion polls regularly indicate are more European, more reflective, and more critical of their politicians than is often proclaimed. But we ourselves, in Scotland and in Europe more generally, can kick-start such a process, by looking beyond the headlines, and regarding Russians not as our eternal enemy, but as somewhat tentative partners who need to be encouraged, and not just cajoled.

Brown and the "ghost prisoners"

Aamer Anwar

aamer.anwar@journal-online.co.uk

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT has come under increasing pressure over the last year as details of the routine use of US-sanctioned torture came to light through the CIA practice of "extraordinary rendition" – kidnapping suspects and shipping them out to secret prisons abroad for torture and interrogation.

Under US laws brought in after 9/11, those suspected of terrorism offences can be transferred to military custody on the orders of US President George Bush. They can then be detained indefinitely, tried by military commission with no right of appeal, and even subjected to the death penalty.

Military detainees need not be held on US soil, and there is a deliberate policy of not doing so. They are shipped off to Guantanamo Bay, or face secret torture camps in Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. According to reports in the New York Times, the CIA has transferred hundreds of terror suspects to foreign prisons since 9/11, of which some of the flights have landed for refueling at Glasgow Prestwick Airport.

These "high-value detainees" are true ghost prisoners, undeclared to the Red Cross, and held, in some cases, for years without any outside communication, even with their families. People considered to be a threat have been quite literally kidnapped off the streets.

At a press conference last year, Tony Blair denied all knowledge of CIA rendition flights passing through British airspace, but this was a lie. A recent report from the Council of Europe named Britain among 14 complicit European countries and identified covert CIA detention centres in Poland, Romania, and the British-controlled island of Diego Garcia.

"We have sufficient grounds to declare that the highest state authorities were aware of the CIA's illegal activities on their territories," said the report, which includes testimonies from many serving and former US and European intelligence agents. "What was previously just a set of allegations is now proven: large numbers of people have been abducted from various locations across the world and transferred to countries where it is known that torture is common practice."

The report gave a shocking depiction of the conditions in which prisoners were held: "Detainees went through months of solitary confinement and extreme sensory deprivation in cramped cells, shackled and handcuffed at all times." Prisoners were subjected to "a constant hum of white noise from loudspeakers", punctuated by "cackling laughter, and the screams of women and children."

Using the 9/11 attacks as moral justification for these disgraceful actions, the CIA operates with the full support of our government. Yet this is an organization that has, in its time, collaborated with Saddam Hussein, providing him with lists of socialists and trade unionists to be eliminated. It also worked with what was to become the Al-Qaeda network, when it fought the Russians in Afghanistan.

This dreadful history is hardly secret, although it is rarely discussed. There are members of the New Labour government – Gordon Brown included – who certainly know the CIA's record. Today they turn a convenient blind eye to CIA rendition and torture. Now they see these tactics as necessary to safeguard the "New World Order" that they have bought into.

Confessions of a right-winger

Scott George McCombe

scott.mccombe@journal-online.co.uk

FOR MANY REASONS, but one in particular I should like to elucidate on, I am a minority student in the city of Edinburgh and, I suggest, any educational institution in the United Kingdom. However, this is one minority group that will not be defended by the screeching of various civil rights groups. Indeed, as anyone who follows current events with the slightest interest will know, this is one minority group that suffers much aggression from the so-called defenders of freedom. And what is this much maligned minority that I consider myself a part of? Am I a Muslim, a homosexual or a Jew? No, I am considered a traditional, right-wing conservative. Can I hear the Pogrom chants already?

Far be it for anyone to think that the following will contain a self-pitying lamentation. There is almost nothing more contemptible than a group that languidly bemoans its sorry state in the hope that society will take pity upon them. Even more so when the group is responsible for the state they wallow in. And, I am disheartened to say, conservatives have certainly done their part in producing the dismal situation currently observed. As

this is the first edition I feel it is right to set-apart this special occasion by applying the harsh criticism I would usually administer to liberals, modernists and all manner of other peculiar people, to my own particular clique of opinion.

Before one even touches on the issue of how we became such a minority, one must grapple with our popular image. We are viewed as backwards, archaic and bigoted. Much of this image should be put down to the influence of American conservatism, where odious broadcasters flaunt their journalistic skills by shouting-down, interrupting and insulting any guests desperate enough to appear on their show – shows unfortunately watched by many Brits interested in American politics. While watching squeamish left-wingers being verbally abused can be intensely satisfying, as well as deeply therapeutic, for it to happen constantly does give weight to the notion that our beliefs are so intellectually defenceless that we must resort to simply drowning out the opposition in a tirade of empty rhetoric.

While the American conservatives may have the above crude mannerisms, we Brits cannot claim to have elevated ourselves above our audibly allies. If anything, the American Right has done with a bang, what we con-

ducted with a quiet conceit. We have neither shouted our opponents down nor debated them as equals. Rather, we have been idly smug in our fervent belief that conservatism so obviously makes sense that any idiot will realise it, if given enough time. We have sat by as the Left has taken over our country, constantly unveiling new legislation designed to destroy traditional values, all the while twiddling our thumbs with gloating expectation that Britain will realise her folly and turn back to us. We have become so certain of Britain's pomp and glory that we feel it utterly unnecessary to waste time defending our time-valued customs. Our defence of almost anything appears to involve reference to tradition, as if the measure of time is enough to protect us from the onslaught of liberals. How wrong we are!

While we have been complacent, our opponents have been preaching. While we have been stagnating, our opponents have been campaigning. As a result, the political and social zeitgeist has moved firmly into the Left's camp.

British conservatives, like the rest of the nation, are aware of this. So what has been the response of the British Right? To alter the meaning of conservatism by replacing it with an unprincipled pseudo-Right often

called 'compassionate conservatism.' The election of the utterly ridiculous 'call-me-Dave' Cameron is a fine example of this tomfoolery.

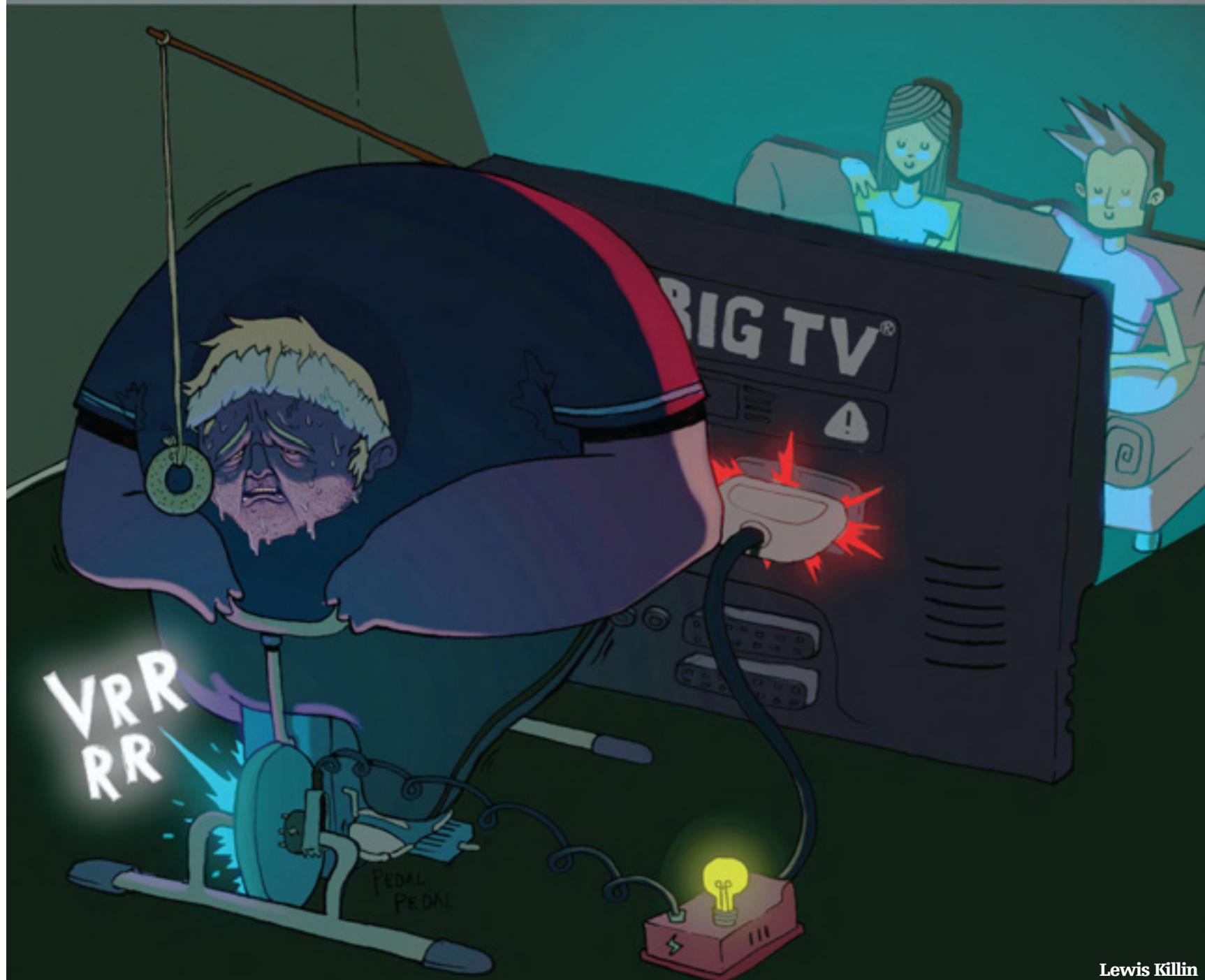
Our opponents are not frightened by this. Any fair-minded observer would surely see it as throwing in the white flag: evidently, our beliefs were clearly wrong and thus we have morphed ourselves into a diluted imitation of the Left. Not only does the Left cease to perceive us as any threat, but many sympathetic to our cause will, rightly so, abandon us in disgust. Some may attempt to argue that since this transformation, the Conservative Party has gained support. This may be true but only due to the Party disintegrating itself into the Left-wing swamp.

That is how we have become a minority, it is why we are currently a minority and it is why we shall continue to become a victimised minority.

This may have offended a few conservatives. It was sincerely purported to. This should be understood as a battle-cry, urging conservatives to no longer placidly observe the United Kingdom descending further into the hands of the Left, criminalising all we stand for, but to take action and demonstrate that we are a force to be reckoned with. To shirk from this, is to condemn what is right – in both senses of the word – to oblivion.

Aamer Anwar is one of Scotland's top human rights lawyers

By converting Britain's future 'eco-friendly' towns into 'healthy' towns, health secretary Alan Johnson is convinced he has found one simple solution to the nation's energy and obesity crisis:



Lewis Killin

Nationalism, propaganda and party loyalties: a week in student politics

Tim Goodwin

tim.goodwin@journal-online.co.uk

AT THE BEGINNING of the week literally thousands of schools, colleges and universities received a free Saltire flag and glossy propaganda brochure courtesy of the Scottish Government as part of a move to boost national sentiment and celebration on St. Andrew's day.

The problem? Well, I'm not overly comfortable with that little blast of nationalist pride—cynically inspired by the falling public interest in Scottish independence; currently, as *The Herald* reported, at a ten year low of 23 per cent of the population—being paid for out of the taxpayers pockets.

Here's a little bit of Goodwin maths. 2,563 Saltires were despatched at £1.79 each. That many flags multiplied by that much money equals considerably more than the average student loan: that's right folks, a whopping £4,587.77. Now let's take into account postage. Assuming that each was sent second class and weighed in at under 250g (which is probably generous), we can deduce that our newly renamed but no more shiny Scottish Government paid £1,537.80 on post. Throw in the costs of the glossy booklet and the manpower used up packing the whole set up, and we're probably looking at a cost of around £8k.

£8,000 is what your average pensioner receives in a year, over a third of a new policeman's salary and eight months worth of what the squaddies in Iraq are getting, and, crucially,

nearly twice the maximum student loan. That money could, and should, have been better spent.

But that's not where this little saga ends. When Edinburgh University's illustrious student President voiced such concerns to the national press, the Federation of Student Nationalists (FSN) went nuts.

Why? Well, according to the FSN, it's all to do with party politics. You see, Josh MacAlister is a member of the Labour Party, and so naturally any criticism of a Scottish Government policy simply must be because Number 10 has phoned up and asked him to attack the Nats. Naturally.

I too am a member of the Labour Party, and I too was accused of taking my orders from the Party Machine when attacking politicians for some of their more ridiculous antics when I was President last year.

During the election, I wrote to the *Edinburgh Evening News* to refute Mike Pringle MSP's statement that he had never agreed to vote against new student fees, when the day before the vote he had made that very promise to me, only to break it the very next afternoon. The result was that I was accused of having used my position for party political gain.

It's funny really. If that were the case, how come no one from the Labour Party has attacked either Josh or me for being party political when we campaigned against quotas on student housing or against top-up fees (I've been around long enough to remember the march in London when they were first introduced)? And how come no one from the Lib Dems or the

Accusations of playing party politics don't disguise the fact that the SNP propaganda campaign is a wasteful and ridiculous exercise

SNP welcomed us into the fold, assuming we were new members when we supported scrapping the Graduate Endowment?

Those who go out accusing others of being inappropriately party political always have one thing in common: they're in the wrong. There's no getting away from the fact that Mr. Pringle MSP broke his word and betrayed the student movement. You can't deny that spending eight grand on flag waving is excessive. The only way you can disguise it, however, is to rubbish your critics.

The truth is simple: you're not a member of a political party to peddle their every manifesto bullet-point. You're a member because you believe in the principles. As a student activist, you have a duty to stand up for students. When the government spends the kind of money it has just spent on flags and brochures, instead of textbooks and teachers, you have a duty to say so. What Josh did wasn't party political, nor was it careerist. It was a no-brainer.

Enough bating

Capitalising on the Saudi state visit, the Policy Exchange's report contributes little towards their own cause. Or anyone else's.



Chris Williams
Comment Editor

chris.williams@journal-online.co.uk

THERE CAN BE little doubt that the conservative think tank, Policy Exchange, timed the release of its report, *The Hijacking of British Islam* with exacting precision. With those perennial bad boys of international politics, the Saudis in town, tea cups were already clattering in the cosseted world of Middle England as over-zealous fears of Islamic Extremism reared their ugly heads again.

This report, from the authors of such memorable publications as *Living Apart Together: British Muslims and the paradox of multiculturalism*, documents the discovery of extremist literature in mosques across the nation, not least our very own Edinburgh Central Mosque on Potterow. And so, while a gathering storm of Islamophobia brewed last week following John Simpson's tetchy interview with King Abdullah, the report was certain to set Fleet Street hearts fluttering with dreams of sensational headlines. But as integrationists who explicitly aim for a British society in which social and cultural differences are neatly ironed out, has the report done anything to further the think tank's cause?

Prior to the report, few in Edinburgh would have had cause to suspect or fear the worshippers at our Central Mosque. With regular open doors days, tours of the Mosque, exhibitions on Islamic history and art and a daily open-air curry kitchen there could hardly be a more pleasant example of a community seeking to positively interact with the city at large. Look no further than August this year, when our Muslim neighbours served food nightly in a beer-sodden Festival bar for an example of just how far they are prepared to run with the idea of social cohesion.

So what has this report achieved? For many Muslims in Edinburgh, it has probably sparked doubts about developing a relationship with the city any further; for the less enlightened non-Muslim, it has probably contributed a little more to an irrational fear of Islam and its followers. But for the average citizen of Edinburgh—for us as students—this report has only served to leave a bad taste in the mouth. There is no extra anxiety about the goings on in a building so familiar to many of us, but a relationship with those seeking inclusion, togetherness and community in Edinburgh has been affected by the work of a group who have contributed nothing to the life of the city.

With a faith which does not conform to British ideas of centralised religion issuing diktats from above, it is all too easy for many to feel threatened by the unfamiliar structure of global Islam and even the humble mosque. Reports such as that of the Policy Exchange, which detail extreme examples of the functions of this community out of context are unhelpful and unwelcome in Britain today.

“
DEBATE
WITH THE
EXPERTS
ON THE
JOURNAL’S
WEB
FORUMS

VISIT
WWW.
JOURNAL-
ONLINE.
CO.UK

The Journal

EDINBURGH'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | ISSUE I

Scottish elections

A load of old ballots

SO THE DUST has finally settled on Alex Salmond ("for first minister") and his dastardly maneuver to sneak votes right from under the noses of the voters themselves – those same voters who messed up all the ballot papers. In no small part, it's dust that has been hoovered up by Salmond himself: by rushing at the election fiasco press with calls for Scottish electoral autonomy, Salmond has effectively scared off many of the SNP's critics – everyone else, that is.

But there's another, equally important tussle being punched out over wasted ballot papers: namely, is "the voter" stupid or not? Of course the answer is yes, at least for the 146,000 who couldn't figure out the Scottish Parliament ballots, and a further 38,532 for whom local council choices proved too opaque.

Befitting the spectacle of a public inquiry, the Gould report on May's election troubles, naturally, extrapolates: the 200,000 unfortunates easily become "the voters," the helpless

victims to "a notable level of party self-interest evident in ministerial decision making (especially in regard to the timing and method of counts and the design of ballot papers)."

Should the wording of the report be taken at face value, this might well be tantamount to abuse. The Scotland Secretary, Douglas Alexander is surely guilty of an unforgivable failure to handhold; a vicious disregard for the laws designed to protect those most vulnerable or daft in our society. Angus Macleod in the Times (24 October) willingly conforms, lamenting the fact that "the voters lost." Poor, wee voters. Come 27 October, however, and it appears that Macleod has given those voters back their spunk, as he credits them with putting the thumbscrews on Salmond over his electoral promises on student debt and class sizes.

It's a bit unfair to single out Angus Macleod for toying simultaneously with ideas of the thicko voter and the media's make-believe ideal, the ever-savvy man on the street. Politicians

are equally guilty of holding at arm's length a handy abstraction of the electorate – an abstraction which neatly seals them off from the sticky task of admitting that voter x, on page 42 of the Gould Report who "switched off" when asked to contribute to democracy can't be lumped in with voter y who, thankfully, didn't. Far easier to paint the voter as a confused bunny than to recognise ballot paper boo-boos as an indicator of a failure to equip some members of the population with the necessary tools for democratic participation.

It's fairly pointless for politicians to talk about "the voter;" Churchill's "average voter" doesn't really exist. But the report by Ron Gould does, though, and his recommendations for sweeping electoral reform are being taken all to seriously. By treating "the voter" as a single entity Gould proposes formulating policy on the back of the minority of voters who can't work a ballot paper. These aren't the voters who ought to be directing politics.

Transcendental education

Donovan Invincible University

NEWS THAT THE Invincible Donovan University might, just might, pick Edinburgh as the base of operations to fuse academic rigour with transcendental meditation could be seen as little more than an attempt to rejuvenate a woefully inaccurate stereotype of free love as the staple of the student lifestyle: the courting of the Edinburgh and Glasgow press by both Donovan and the University sponsor, David Lynch via the 61 year-old folk singer's revisiting of his psychedelic hits certainly has the whiff of gimmick about it.

So, traditional academic disciplines, according to Donovan, are to be taught via the practice of transcendental meditation as developed by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. One presumes, of course, that Donovan knows exactly what he is doing: 'Hurdy Gurdy Man' and 'Mellow Yellow' are, after all, expert ventures into surreal pop. That's the music degree more or less covered. David Lynch will, surely, help out on the media studies side of things; and there's more than enough material in Twin Peaks to inspire essays on the human condition. The meditation could fruitfully be slotted in towards

the end of lectures where students pursuing more traditional disciplines might opt for sleep. For best effects, Transcendental Meditation should be taken for twenty minutes, twice per day. Although some might prefer to read the paper.

But on a more serious note, there's a real concern as to how compatible Donovan's proposal really is with serious academic pursuit. Particularly suspect is transcendental meditation's derivation from a pseudo-religious system of consciousness, one which includes states such as "Cosmic" and "God" consciousness. If by "traditional university disciplines," Donovan means critical analysis techniques derived, in essence, from the Enlightenment (and taught in most mainstream institutions) one wonders how the two might be reconciled. Equally shaky is the Invincible University's pursuit of "total enlightenment" – a concept key Enlightenment thinkers like Lord Kames steered well clear of. Furthermore, there exists a difficulty regarding the University's aim to "bring about world peace." While noble in itself, it is unusual for a serious academic institution to forward a

political stance or ideology so readily. It's not inconceivable that this might prove antithetical to the free exchange of ideas within the institution.

Clearly, there are contentious issues regarding the educational opportunities the Invincible Donovan University presents. Worth remembering, however, is that transcendental meditation, far from attracting academic scorn, has received attention from major research universities the likes of Yale, Harvard and Stanford. While no plans have just yet been announced to add the practice to Ivy League syllabuses, researchers have observed physiological effects ranging from the reduction of blood pressure to increased brain functioning. Given the time and money spent on improving educational techniques – the success currently being reaped from phonetic literacy teaching, to name a fortuitous example – should Donovan et al. indeed score a pedagogical blinder with this one then surely the venture is a worthwhile addition to the debate? It's just unfortunate that success or failure of the venture comes at the risk of higher-education careers for a group of guinea pig students.

The Journal

Edinburgh's Student Newspaper

WHILE UNLIKELY TO shunt the memory of Guy Fawkes from the collective national consciousness, 5 November this year accrues the additional—though minor—significance of becoming the anniversary date of the first edition *The Journal*, Edinburgh's student newspaper.

From its formative conception nine months ago on a cold, dark February night, the original vision for *The Journal* has—with the immeasurably valuable assistance and guidance of the Princes Scottish Youth Business Trust and Business Gateway, and

the support of staff, their families and friends—finally been realised in print and online.

Set up to be independent from any university, students' association or political party (and, indeed, political affiliation), *The Journal* follows a business model unique to any Scottish student publication. As an institution, we shall also aim to have a positive impact on the training and practical education of journalists in Scotland.

We shall strive, over the course of however much time we are allocated,

to uphold a number of key values: to act as a forum for debate and ideas; to provide functional useful information on the city of Edinburgh and the institutions that impact most on the lives of students; and to continuously seek to uphold rigorous standards of quality and intellectual integrity.

We value any comments, suggestions and opinions and, indeed, believe that interaction between the reader and the newspaper are of integral importance to the success of any such publication in this, or any, age.

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO THE JOURNAL

PRIZES FOR THE LETTER OF THE WEEK.

EMAIL

LETTERS@JOURNAL-ONLINE.CO.UK

POST

52 CLERK STREET, EH8 9JB

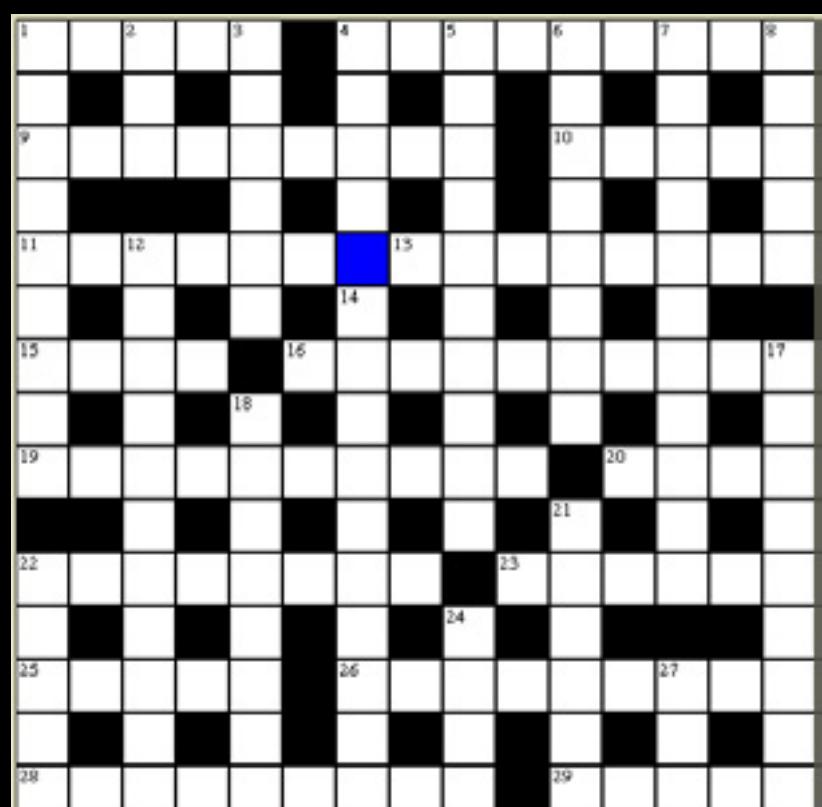
OR VISIT OUR WEB FORUMS AT
WWW.JOURNAL-ONLINE.CO.UK/FORUMS

The Journal

Cryptic Crossword

Win two free tickets to the Filmhouse by correctly filling in the crossword (winners will be drawn from a hat)

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



Across

- 1 Four in love - the French will be green (5)
- 4 Service bad? Summon him! (9)
- 9 A freelance photographer may provide father with some razzmatazz and nothing besides (9)
- 10, 11 Collapsed, starving? Nag a local MP (5,6)
- 13 Boy lips badly, perhaps (8)
- 19 Choose Tory in back room to have power (10)
- 20 A wildcat on the golf course, we hear (4)
- 22 Company gone? Left alone (8)
- 23 Go to see what a chequered flag might mean on the Isle of Man? (6)
- 25 It's language, or at least part of it (5)
- 26 I are? Frequently, this is out of order (9)
- 28 Lasting under cane, beaten (9)
- 29 A bright, blue-eyed youth beginning in Glastonbury, perhaps (5)

Down

- 1 Thumbs are black after work at Post Office (9)
- 2 One member is a mischievous sort (3)
- 3 Butler ran down carrying something for another (6)
- 4 Drunk upstart in zoo with liqueur (4)
- 5 Bacilli, and goo, perhaps (10)
- 6 Like horse chopped up and eaten (8)
- 7 Developing print of one afflicted with wanderlust? (7,4)
- 8 Woman in US state gets goat (5)
- 12 Rotten old shire and state (5,6)
- 14 Middle East art of running a country without elections? No tyranny, drugs (10)
- 17 Stuffing mixed? Try a roast (9)
- 18 I? Er, I don't know him! (8)
- 21 A letter about Tory leader may make them a pariah (6)
- 22 Standing of a saint in southern church (5)

Huhne's afraid of Nick Clegg?

Alison Lutton wonders whether the Lib Dem man of the moment can really set the party alight, or if it's just hot air

Alison Lutton

alison.lutton@journal-online.co.uk

"PRESENTATION, PRESENTATION, PRESENTATION" if Nick Clegg is ever to adopt a mantra, then this should probably be it. A recent TV appearance saw him admitting to old batears Andrew Marr that any major differences between himself and his only challenger for the coveted title of Liberal Democrat leader, the party's Environment spokesman Chris Huhne, lies in style rather than substance.

Clegg has a point, even if it is made somewhat cynically in an attempt to dispel rumours of backbiting. The Public Whip reveals that in the current parliamentary session, Clegg and Huhne have voted the same way in 96.1% of motions they both attended. Cursory glances at both contenders' campaign material reveal broadly similar political focuses, with the environment, community issues, and national security emerging as key areas of interest shared between the two.

The superior style seems, for now, to be triumphing: shortly before the time of going to press, bookmakers William Hill had him as 2/7 favourite, with Huhne lagging behind at 5/2. Since it's the man, and not necessarily the politician, who is winning the race, it's only fitting to have a good long look at Clegg. Come Christmas, he will most likely have succeeded his former boss Ming The Merciless - to whom he always was, most categorically, loyal.

Clegg was born in 1967 to a cosmopolitan family - he has Russian noble heritage, no less. He attended the prestigious Westminster School, whose alumni include Sir Christopher Wren, A.A. Milne and Andrew Lloyd Webber. So far, so decidedly uninspiring. However, it was during his time at Westminster that Clegg, on an exchange trip to Germany, was arrested for arson after setting a rare cactus collection aflame. Unfortunately, what could otherwise be seen as a street cred boosting affirmation of liberal credentials is somewhat overshadowed by revelations about his rival, Chris "drugs are nice" Huhne. He had to win on something.

After graduating from Cambridge (naturally), Clegg went on to do further, politically-focused study in the USA and Belgium - a slippery slope. Next came a short-lived but fairly illustrious journalistic career. Despite having a glut of prizes (well, at least two) heaped upon him, Clegg tired of all the attention and took himself off to Brussels in 1994 to undertake a relatively obscure role in the European Commission: good preparation for his political future, you might say, and no doubt his much-touted multilingualism came in handy.

He spent the next five years fretting over Russia and getting married, before giving it all up in 1999 for the dubious honour of becoming Lib Dem MEP for the East Midlands. This alone not being sufficiently exciting, Clegg also became Trade and Industry spokesman for the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party. But even this couldn't hold Clegg's attention for long. He eventually stood down in 2004, complaining of being tired of hovering "outside the main arteries of political debate" - possibly not the most opportune phrase ever to trip off a Lib Dem's tongue.

Oddly enough, Clegg's departure proved quite timely and a matter of months later, he became MP for Sheffield Hallam, his current con-



Nick Clegg: Playing with fire in the battle for leadership of the Liberal Democrats Tom Hunt

Clegg was arrested for arson after setting a rare cactus collection aflame

stituency. He has been Foreign Affairs spokesman, and, since 2006, 'Shadow' Home Secretary.

Impressive, and indicative of true breadth of experience this may well be, although some would argue that Clegg does not have enough of a parliamentary background to merit election as party leader just yet. What is more interesting, however, is what some see as Clegg's lack of traditional Liberal values. Certain sections of the media have even alleged that he may have right-wing tendencies; others have gone further, hinting at parallels between Clegg and one Mr David

Cameron. Clegg has since responded to these allegations by creating yet another PR storm: interestingly, rather than simply negating rumours about his rightward leanings, Clegg instead preferred to voice his desire to 'cast the spotlight' on Cameron, and to ask him "if you are a liberal, why are you leading a party which is so illiberal?" Clegg seems to be implying that he isn't too conservative; rather, David Cameron isn't Conservative enough.

This really misses the point. The most convincing parallels between Clegg and Cameron have been drawn on the basis, not of politics, but on the whiff of over-spin which hangs heavily over both of them. As *The Observer* cheekily suggested, Clegg is the Cameron to Huhne's David Davis - he's simply much better at pressing all the right buttons, despite his professed distaste for "the politics of the marketing man."

Even his supporters are aware of the importance of image to Clegg's bid for leadership. His campaign team has

a YouTube presence, with one video seeing a box-ticking selection of Clegg acolytes enthusing about their man. One of their main reasons cited for Clegg's appeal? His ability to draw those not typically within the Lib Dem remit to the party.

Certainly, if his campaign website is to be believed, Clegg "has an appeal to people of all ages and of all backgrounds." Implicitly, this includes students. Clegg's background in academia (he spent brief spells lecturing at Sheffield and Cambridge), however, doesn't seem to have led him to develop any great interest in student issues, on which he is far from forthcoming. A recent visit to Edinburgh University Liberal Democrats - albeit in his capacity as Home Affairs spokesman - concentrated on civil liberties, arguably missing out on an opportunity to consolidate student support prior to Campbell's resignation. Even a more recent visit to The University of Surrey with Huhne, saw Clegg focusing generally on the party's future and only tak-

ing what the University's Bare Facts news site refers to as "carefully vetted" questions.

All this seems to matter little, however. Lib Dem students - at Edinburgh at least - are backing Clegg; Ross Stalker, Vice-President of EULD, told *The Journal* that most of their committee members are "confirmed Clegg supporters." For certain other students, Clegg has a more particular appeal. The "Nick Clegg is more of a hottie than David Cameron any day" Facebook group, set up after the Cameron original got a mention at the Tory conference, now boasts over seventy members. No such group exists for poor old Huhne.

As the two-horse race draws to a close, then, Clegg's Red Rum is inching ahead of Huhne's Mr Ed. Clegg is adamant that voters are "fed up with tough talking and posturing." Let's hope for his sake, then, that style doesn't necessarily mutually exclude substance, as come December 17, he's probably going to be held to his word.

Can Europe handle 100 million muslims?



George Grant
Middle East Review
george.grant@journal-online.co.uk

"WE HAVE A problem with the integration of Muslims which raises the issue of Islam in Europe. To say it is not a problem is to hide from reality. If you let 100 million Turkish Muslims come in, what will come of it?"

In asking this question, French President Nicholas Sarkozy is not alone. His predecessor, and one of the men who drafted the European Constitution, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, was blunter when in 2002 he stated flatly: "In my opinion, Turkish membership would be the end of Europe." Indeed, it is no secret that many European Union member states have great reservations about Turkey becoming a fully paid-up member of the EU. Given that only three per cent of its land mass is technically located within Europe, and with an at least nominally Muslim population of 99.8 per cent, many within the EU fear that a "clash of civilisations" makes Turkish membership an unpalatable prospect.

Historically, Turkey and Europe have hardly been good bedfellows. Aggression between Turkey's predecessor—the Ottoman Empire—and European rivals dates back as early as the eleventh century. It was not until the collapse of the Ottoman regime following its defeat in WWI that Turkey, using Europe as a model, started to pursue a rigorous programme of modernisation and, most importantly, secularisation throughout the 1920s and 1930s under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal "Atatürk." What emerged was a secular state with a Muslim majority, as opposed to a Muslim state, that embraced many of the "Western values" that today make it a serious candidate for fully-fledged membership of the European Union.

One of the most consistently dependable allies of the West against the Soviet Union throughout the Cold War, Turkey first applied for Associate Membership of the new European Economic Community (EEC) in September 1959, which was finally accepted under the Ankara Agreement four years later. The Ankara Agreement envisaged "closer economic ties" between Turkey and the Community, with the ultimate aim being full membership.

However, old tensions between Turkey and Europe had by no means been eradicated, even in the climate of the Cold War. 1974 saw a back-sliding of Turko-European relations with the Turkish invasion and occupation of the northern third of Cyprus following years of tensions between Turkish and Greek Cypriots. This culminated in a Greek-Cypriot coup in July of that year that overthrew the president, Makarios III, and saw the proclamation of a union of the island with mainland Greece under the notorious Enosis Plan.

Though the Turkish invasion prevented this, the newly formed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC) was declared illegal and was left internationally isolated. Despite repeated efforts on the part of both the United Nations and the European Union to re-

unify the island, most famously perhaps the Annan Plan of 2004, Cyprus remains divided and is, without question, the biggest single hindrance to Turkish membership of the European Union. This is particularly so following the controversial accession of the southern Republic of Cyprus to the EU as one of the ten new member-states in 2004 after the Greek Cypriot rejected the Annan Plan. The Republic of Cyprus, like all other members of the EU, now has a veto over any question of the admission of a new member-state, and Turkey is faced with the awkward problem of not fully recognising the side it is negotiating with.

However, the Turkish application faces other problems too. Amongst them are European reservations about the continuing influence of the army in the political arena. The self-proclaimed guardians of Kemalist secularism, the generals have intervened on several occasions since 1945, most recently ten years ago with the so-called post-modern coup that led to the ousting of a government seen to be acting in contravention of this character.

Since then the threat of force has been as effective as force itself, and this year there have been none-too-subtle rumblings in the barracks both preceding and following the election of former Foreign Minister Abdullah Güll to the presidency on 28 August. Widely seen as an Islamic conservative, his insistence that his wife wears Islamic headress, banned in Turkish public buildings, has only added to these concerns. Yet herein lie two interesting paradoxes.

The first arises because that to which Europe objects—the strong arm of the military in politics—declares itself necessary in order to prevent any back-tracking on the part of the Turkish political establishment towards the creation of an Islamist state. Thus the initial problem of military meddling in matters political is one about which the European establishment can object. But the bitter irony is that the realisation of the latter concern—an avowedly Islamist Turkey—would be worse still for Europe, making too hard a push for the ejection of the army from the political stage potentially dangerous. The second paradox perhaps eases to an extent the first insofar as it is the incumbent conservative Islamic Justice and Development (AK) Party, of which Mr Güll is a member, that has arguably done more than any of its more secular predecessors to bring Turkey along the road to full integration within the European Union. 2001 to 2002 saw the introduction of

"The situation is far from ideal, but inviting Turkey to join the party has the potential to solve as many problems as it poses"

Will Turkey and the EU be able to overcome historical enmity and acute cultural differences to become a major force in Middle Eastern and world politics?



a raft of major political and human rights based reforms by the government, including the abolition of the death penalty, in an attempt to bring Turkey into line with the EU's Copenhagen accession criteria.

Yet this is a party that provoked nearly a million secularist Turks to rally in Istanbul twice in one April fortnight this year, chanting "no to sharia," and protesting, amongst other things, plans by the Party to create alcohol-free zones in Turkey and recent bids to outlaw adultery. This is a party that also counts the Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan as a member, a man jailed for four months in his youth for reading a poem which included the lines "The mosques are our barracks, the domes our helmets, the minarets our bayonets and the faithful our soldiers." Yet it is also clearly a party committed to European integration, which begs the question, are Islam and Europe so very incompatible? Even areas of secular domestic policy, where the EU deems there is work to be done, have their contradictions.

Perhaps the principle stumbling block in this regard is Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code, which upholds the Kemalist nationalist policy making the derogation of Turkishness a punishable offence. This law led famously to the summoning of the Nobel Prize winning Turkish author Orhan Pamuk before the courts in 2005 for discussing the Armenian genocide, an event the government rigorously denies to this day. Such a law, the men in Brussels say, is contradictory to the European value of freedom of speech.

Yet as many Turkish politicians have repeatedly pointed out, to overturn this law would require the direct intervention of the executive in matters pertaining to the remit of the judiciary, thus curtailing judicial independence which is itself seen as a cornerstone of Western democratic principles. Even if the offending article was to be abolished, and there has been talk that it might, the question of the Armenian genocide itself would remain another controversial sticking point. In 2005 The European Assembly voted by 356 to 181 calling on Turkey "to recognize the genocide of the Armenians," stating further that this was a "prerequisite to accession to the European Union." This followed a unanimous vote by the French Assembly in 2001 officially labelling the events of 1915-17 as genocide. Perhaps concerned that a refusal to accept the existence of a genocide by the government was symptomatic of a wider issue of Turkish reluctance to treat its ethnic minorities on an equal footing with the rest of the population, the bill nonetheless provoked uproar in the Turkish media and a consequent outbreak of anti-EU sentiment in the country as a whole.

It is probably fair to say that the Assembly bill calling for compulsory recognition of the genocide is one of those examples of bad laws for a good cause, because there can be little question that real work remains to be done in Turkey to improve the rights and representation of its ethnic minorities, of whom the Armenians are just one. The other principle group in question are the Kurds, who comprise approximately 15-20 percent of the pop-

ulation, but whom the state refuses to recognise as a separate ethnic group. Feelings of national unity run high on the political agenda, and threats to the wholeness and integrity of the Turkish state are keenly felt; Kurdish nationalist feelings, whether expressed politically or through violent means, are continually being combated. The majority of the Kurdish population live in the economically underdeveloped southeast of the country, and for decades there has existed there a state of emergency in which Turkish forces have combated the Kurdish militant organisation the PKK, who fight for an independent Kurdish state.

In recent weeks, fighting between the two sides has flared up again, with PKK attacks on Turkish positions and convoys leading to dozens being killed on both sides, and, worryingly, Turkish counter-incursions into northern Iraq to strike what they claim are PKK training camps in the area. Over the years estimates for numbers killed on both sides range from 25-35,000, and this continuous state of hostility has undoubtedly led to government reservations about granting greater rights to a minority who count amongst them a great many who wish to be rid of the Turkish state all together.

But in fact, Turkey is really its own worst enemy in this regard. It can be argued with good reason that it is precisely because the state affords its Kurdish population such limited rights that so many wish to be rid of it. High levels of poverty and unemployment in the southeast, running at up to 50 per cent in some areas, provide the PKK with fertile recruiting ground.

At present, Kurdish education is provided through only a few private local courses and television in Kurdish is for just half-an-hour each week under the monopoly of the state-broadcasting corporation TRT. Though Turkish authorities recently recognised the Kurdish language, many regard this as a cosmetic operation. Perhaps more could and would be done if there were greater political representation of Kurds on both a regional and a national level. One significant step in this regard would be the relinquishing, or at least reduction of the ten percent threshold required to win a seat in the Turkish Parliament, and indeed there have been calls from within the European Union for this to be done. The government line is that this threshold is necessary for political stability as it prevents radical minorities from winning representation.

Clearly then, the situation is far from ideal, but inviting Turkey to join the party has the potential to solve as many problems as it poses. Traditionally, the EU's strongest foreign policy weapon has been carrot as opposed to stick diplomacy. The EU sees itself as a bastion of human rights, democratic government and fair play that the rest of the world would do well to follow. Though not inconsiderable problems still exist in the newly admitted countries from Eastern Europe, all of these states have implemented reforms in their social, legal and political systems that would have been improbable without the incentive of EU membership.

So it is with Turkey, and pulling up the drawbridge to fortress Eu-



"It would not be unexpected to see greater problems with the integration of Europe's Muslims should the Turkish application be rejected"

Europe is hardly likely to result in Turkey jumping to address its problems which, at present, obstruct it attaining full membership. Even the kind of 'privileged partnership' preferred as an alternative to full membership by a number of more hostile EU states, is unlikely to have the desired reforming effect within Turkey. Indeed, it may be seen as a patronising alternative that Turkey would feel unable to accept. In fact, increased awareness of European hostility to the idea of Turkish membership has already led to many within the country to question the merits of joining at all. A Eurobarometer survey in 2006 showed that only 45 per cent of Turks support accession to the EU, fewer than in certain existing member-states, and just 35 per cent trust the EU. An outcome that sees a mutual rejection of Turkish membership on both sides would be in nobody's best interests.

If Turkey were to be admitted to the Union, under present rules it would also receive the second highest number of seats in the EU Parliament after Germany, and analysts suggest that Turkey's population could overtake Germany's by 2015 if present trends continue, in turn giving it the largest number of seats. Such a prospect is worrying to more than just a few. However, given that the total European population stands at close to 500 million, it seems unlikely that the Turks could run amok without opposition.

But why is the prospect of a politically strong Turkey in the Parliament so very worrying anyway? One might just as easily ask why Austria, with 18 MEPs at present, does not voice greater concerns about Germany's overwhelming 99. Concerns of this nature seem to be rooted in cultural prejudice, a belief, even if it is not always spoken,

that to give the heir to the Ottoman Empire (with cultural values seemingly so very different to those of old Europe) such influence would be dangerous if not catastrophic. In fact the reverse is probably true: to hold such opinions and to make it known that they are held is the more dangerous alternative. There can be no question that since the events of 11 September 2001 the world has changed, and that the world's perception of Muslims have, in turn, changed with it. Many in Europe believe that the bombings in Madrid in 2004 were the consequence of the Aznar government's support for the Iraq war of 2003, and similarly the 7/7 bombings in London—and more recently the failed attempts in Glasgow and London again earlier this year—the result of the United Kingdom's involvement. The EU has been called a 'Christian Club' before, yet it is a club with significant proportions of Muslim and, indeed, Turks living in it too, the latter alone numbering some 3.8 million at present.

The riots in the suburbs of Paris and elsewhere in France in October and November of 2005 were partly provoked by a sense of alienation and non-acceptance amongst the Muslim population, and if Europe is really to be the lighthouse of freedom and acceptance that it rightly aspires to be, then these are issues that need to be addressed. Admitting Turkey to the Union may well prove to be part of the solution. Rejecting it could just as easily add to the problem. Far from being a negative, it is precisely because Turkey's population is overwhelmingly Muslim that the EU should be seeking to integrate it as a member, provided Turkey's commitment to secular democracy can be upheld. To refuse Turkey membership to the EU, particularly if it does implement the reforms



Selahattin Sönmez

required of it, would send a message to Europe's Muslims that they are not themselves fully welcome here. How could it be otherwise if the powers that be do not wish for Turkey to be a member on the grounds of its different cultural heritage? It would not be unexpected to see greater problems with the integration of Europe's Muslims should the Turkish application be thus rejected.

Turkish membership also has significant foreign policy implications, particularly in the Middle East. With Turkey part of the club, there is the very real prospect of the EU becoming the most important world player in Middle Eastern politics. There can be little doubt that the United States has lost both influence and credibility in the region following the bungled follow-up to the Iraq invasion in 2003, a fact epitomised by the increasingly gung-ho attitude of the Ahmadinejad regime in Iran towards the outside world, and the US in particular.

Russia, traditionally another big player, loses credibility thanks to its persistent support of Serbia over the

question of independence for Kosovo, with Albanian Muslims making up 90 per cent of the latter's population, the continued persecution of its own Muslim citizens in Chechnya (undoubtedly Russian opposition to Kosovar independence stems from concerns of setting a precedent given the Caucasus own fight for the same thing), and of course the legacy of its invasion of Afghanistan in 1980.

At present China seems uninterested in meddling in matters political, instead pursuing a foreign policy of live-and-let-buy, evidenced most strikingly by its policy of non-interference in Sudan whilst continuing to buy oil and trade there. The EU by contrast still enjoys some credibility in the Middle East, owing to the opposition of France and Germany to the Iraq War, despite the actions of the UK and others who followed the US into battle. Admitting Turkey to the Union could only help matters in this regard. Portugal's Foreign Minister Diogo Freitas do Amaral had good reason when he asserted in October 2005 that "the agreement to start talks with Turkey will probably

displease Mr Osama bin Laden, who has done everything to prevent this moment arriving." Not only is Turkey a Muslim country, albeit majority Sunni in contrast to Shia Iran and Iraq, but it shares borders with both of those countries, as well as Syria.

Turkish membership would also send a clear message to the Middle East that Europe was not merely a 'Christian Club,' though it is hardly such a thing anyway. Rather, it could grow to be seen as a body genuinely empathetic towards the Muslim world, and capable of credibly assisting in solving its problems. Given that this is the case, and given the centrality of the Middle East in world politics in recent years, it must be concluded that far from asking whether Europe can afford to accept Turkey into the Union, it must instead be asked that, if the EU is serious about playing with the big boys in matters pertaining to political foreign policy, how can it really afford not to?

Art Ten Decades

ECA Centenary Exhibition

★★★★

Chris McCall

chris.mccall@journal-online.co.uk

SINCE ITS FOUNDATION in 1907, the Edinburgh College of Art has both taught and inspired many of Britain's finest artists. Now, in its centenary year, a major retrospective of works by the ECA's most distinguished alumni and academics has gone on display for the first time. Eighteen months in the making, the exhibition celebrates the College's extraordinary heritage and legacy. Drawn from the city collection, the Fleming collection, the College's own possessions and individual artists themselves, *Ten Decades* not

only offers a fascinating insight into the history of the ECA, but the development of Scottish contemporary art through the 20th century.

The exhibition is spread over three floors of the Edinburgh Art Centre, with each floor covering roughly three decades of the ECA's history. Work on display from the college's early years is mostly formal portrait studies and still life, but the whiff of artistic rebellion is never far away. Provocative paintings by Eric Robertson and Dorothy Johnstone stand out just as much today as they must have done when they were first publicly displayed in 1919, although *The Scotsman* are unlikely to be questioning their moral

standing this time around.

A wide range of more contemporary works are also on display, including paintings by David McClure and John Bellany, who are amongst the most well known of the college's alumni to be featured. Bellany's *The Obsession*, his famed portrait of Port Seton fishermen, is almost worth making the trip for alone. *Ten Decades* is a fitting testament to the raw talent the ECA has nurtured over the years, and the great works of art that have been produced as a result.

Ten Decades runs at the Edinburgh Art Centre, Market St. until 19.01.08



Music Make Model

The Cabaret Voltaire, 30 October

★★★★

Johnny Brick

johnny.brick@journal-online.co.uk

WITH 2008 LURKING around the corner, a sizeable Cabaret Voltaire crowd acquaints itself with one of the many bands tipped to break into the mainstream next year, if there still exists a mainstream in

this Myspace-governed musical landscape.

It is immediately apparent with opener 'The LSB' which particular records have been playing on Make Model's childhood stereo: the dual male/female vocals call to mind The Pixies' finest pop classics, as their front woman shrieks like a siren, occasionally not quite hitting the

right notes – much like Kim Deal in her prime – adding to the slightly flawed magnificence of a thunderously-executed set.

It is hard, with the many members and multi-tiered vocals, not to fling Arcade Fire comparisons at them but Make Model do, to an extent, court the analogy: their set is full of danceable tunes and lyrics that are far from doom-laden. Very unusual time signatures allude to Roxy Music, whose influence is obvious in their very name (see the Roxy LP *Remake/Remodel*). And yet, keeping heads bobbing and knees knocking for a good three-quarters of an hour, the powerfully

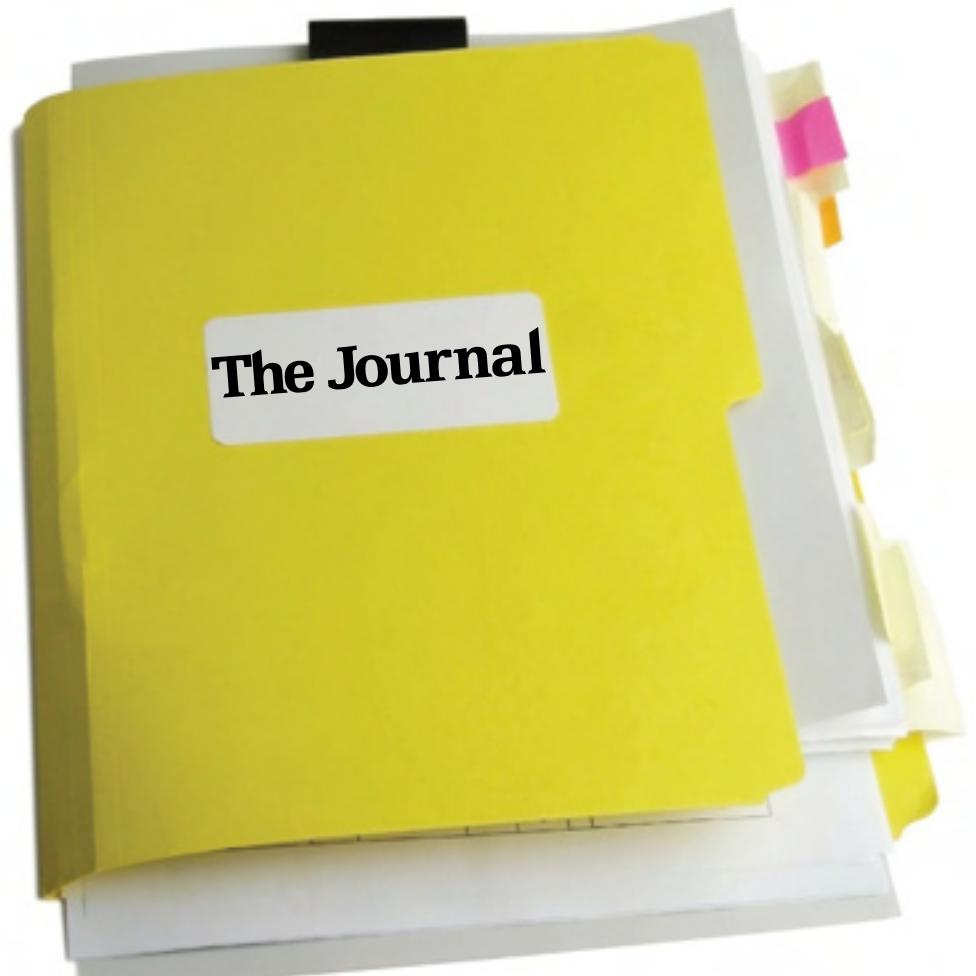


metronomic drums and melodic twin guitar hooks also seem to recall both the jangle-pop of Teenage Fanclub and American drive-time rock. The set highlight, 'Glasgow Number One,' features charming maracas and sombre melodica, and their musicianship effervesces greatly.

Positive energy radiates from the band, and the sing-a-longs on 'Tea Song' and new single 'The Was' are the right side of twee. One cannot underestimate the anomalous nature of Make Model in the modern mainstream and, as long as they are well-exposed, they could prove to be a festival staple for years to come.

FITLADS
www.fitlads.net
Free gay chat,
dating, profiles, pics
Real gay guys into
real gay guys

PRINT YOUR ESSAYS
FOR NEXT TO NOTHING



Feeling ripped off by printing costs?

The Journal will print your essays, posters, flyers and booklets for next to nothing. Prices start from 3p/sheet and special deals are available for student groups and societies.

To find out more visit
www.journal-online.co.uk/print

Theatre The Pearlfisher

by Iain F MacLeod

★★★★

Lucy Jacksonlucy.jackson@journal-online.co.uk

IT IS 1948, and at a young age village-girl Jess flees the prying eyes of society to join a travelling pearlfisher named Ali.

She embarks for a life on the road after bearing a child fathered by her jealous lover, Roderick, who she unintentionally kills. The action subsequently skips forward to 2007, picking up the trail of Jess' granddaughter Jessie and following her struggle to survive on a modern caravan site with her feckless partner Alec. Through the two female characters, *The Pearlfisher* reveals how a grandmother's actions affected the future of her descendants and examines what it means to be a traveller and an outcast.

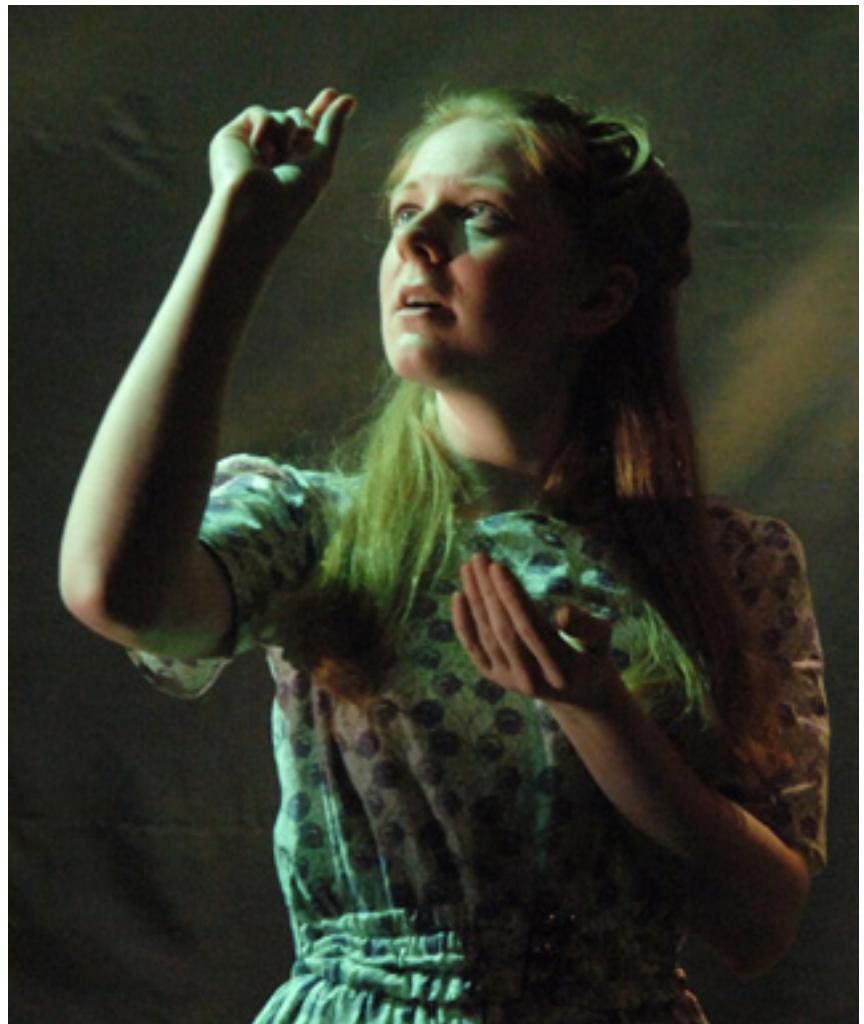
Philip Howard's parting production as director of the Traverse theatre is a meditation on the concept of Scotland, past and present, but remains an attempt at a romantic epic about the perseverance of mankind and the human and, in particular, the Scottish spirit.

While the story itself – presented through a haze of gauze as a half-remembered, fuzzy folk-tale – is touching, it never reaches the depth of insight or fullness of character that might be expected from such a partnership. Elspeth Brodie as both Jess and Jessie is instantly engaging, however some of the other characters appear to exist solely as demonstrative devices of various Scottish ways of life, or more general representatives of 'the outsider,' examples of which being the horse-trader and fellow traveller in the first act or the Iranian political refugee in the second.

They distract from a narrative which could be allowed much more flux.

Iain F MacLeod's often clumsy script gives the play a disjointed feel, which is not helped by alienating staging decisions: while the turf stage complete with river provides an emotive setting for the action, the placement of the offstage characters around the stage and the occasional spot lighting suggests a *Talking Heads* mode of performance which is entirely inapplicable. Although moving in places, *The Pearlfisher* suffers from a lack of depth that makes it feel more like an exploration of cliché rather than the intended exercise in storytelling.

The Pearlfisher is directed by Philip Howard and runs at the Traverse Theatre until November 10. www.traverse.co.uk 0131 228 1404



Music The Invincible Donovan University

A transcendental trip: Donovan & David Lynch

The Queen's Hall, Friday October 26

★★

Sigga Jonsdottirsigga.jonsdottir@journal-online.co.uk

STRANGE, SURREAL AND downright bizarre are words generally used to describe David Lynch's films. Well, now these words can also be employed to describe Donovan – Lynch's transcendental sidekick. As part of the tour to promote Lynch's new book *Catching the Big Fish: Meditation, Consciousness, Creativity* and the David Lynch Foundation for Consciousness-Based Education and World Peace Mr. Lynch has teamed up with 60s cult troubadour Donovan to spread the message of transcendental meditation.

Not surprisingly, after Lynch finishes his Q&A session and welcomes Donovan to the stage – so making himself the warm-up act and Donovan the headliner – many audience members

take their cue to exit the building. But they miss out, because what those remaining are treated to is like a scene out of *Twin Peaks*: pure Lynch-like goodness. An aging rocker resembling a 70s throwaway tells stories of his experiences with the Beatles in India, bathed in weird mood-lighting. With the addition of some strobe lights and Kyle MacLachlan, the stage would be set.

Donovan, a flower-power legend in his own right, will always be overshadowed by greater musicians of the time, even though he might have influenced the Beatles. He seems infinitely sad, reminiscing about better times and still clinging to the songs that made him famous. Of course, he plays the obligatory 'Universal Soldier,' 'Hurdy Gurdy Man,' 'Mellow Yellow' and the like but even these songs never garner real delight from the

audience (save one audience member sitting next to me who appears to be Donovan's biggest fan in the universe, transcendental or not).

The surreal highlight of the evening comes as Donovan graces us with a song written to honour the founding of his new transcendental meditation university – to be located, perhaps, here in Edinburgh and aptly named the Invincible Donovan University. I'm struck by an odd feeling, one which takes a while to piece together. In an interview at the AFI Dallas International Film Festival this year Lynch was asked what his views on product placement in films were and he responded with his usual crispness: "Bullshit. That's how I feel. Total, fucking bullshit." If that is so, why do I feel like I've been taken for a ride on the commercial transcendental meditation highway?

Music The Wedding Present

The Liquid Room, October 24

★★★★

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

IT'S NO SURPRISE that many consider The Wedding Present to be the archetypal 80's indie band. Many of their songs – indeed, it sometimes seems like all of them – are introspective musings on heartbreak and general relationship meltdown. Add David Gedge, the Present's frontman and chief songwriter whose flat drawing voice makes Morrissey sound positively cheerful, and the image is complete. Indeed, John Peel once described The Wedding Present as the Leeds version of The Smiths, but in reality they defy such lazy comparisons. They are fully formed musical legends in their own right, at least to the dozens of obsessive fans in attendance tonight.

The band are on tour to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the release of their debut album, *George Best*. Much like the footballer it was named after,

the album is packed with unpredictable brilliance, but unfortunately tires towards the end. It is performed tonight in its entirety, from the shimmering beauty of 'My Favourite Dress' to the pounding 'Anyone Can Make a Mistake.'

Gedge has been kind to David Gedge, and he's still more than capable of producing the intensity required for songs such as 'Everyone Thinks He Looks Daft!', which incidentally may well be the most cutting breakup song ever written. Gedge has always taken an uncompromising approach to songwriting. His strength is in capturing the petty, inner frustrations that any spurned lover has felt, and turning them into surprisingly joyful celebrations of life. It's just a shame that he has always used the same four chords to do so. But these are minor complaints. Anyone who has loved and lost, but survived long enough to laugh heartily about it, can relate to The Wedding Present. That, in itself, is something very special.

 edinburgh festival theatre

**Richard Alston
Dance Company**

FESTIVAL THEATRE
TUES 13 NOV
7.30PM
TICKETS £9 - £15

"Alston's choreography is lyrical in the deepest, clearest sense: it sings"
THE VILLAGE VOICE

Box Office 0131 529 6000 www.eft.co.uk



Chocolat chic

Chocolate has escaped its 'yummy sweets' tag and is coming to a venison cutlet near you

Nana Wereko-Brobbey

nana.wereko-brobbey@journal-online.co.uk

THE NATION'S EATING habits have long been a media obsession: *Super Size Me*'s Morgan Spurlock sacrificed waistline and liver on a diet of burgers, fries and milkshakes in order to prove a point about the obesity epidemic in the US; in *The Race To Size Double Zero* Kate Spicer endured an alarming number of colonics and faddy diets to make the point that you can in fact be "too rich and too thin."

But as we pick on the lettuce leaf for its lack of substance, and the chip for its excess of the stuff, there is at least one foodstuff that has fared slightly better under the critical gaze: chocolate.

On either side of the size debate arguments abound as to why this is the very last ingredient that shall ever be cut from our shopping lists. Whilst those on diets chant the mantra of 'antioxidants' as they nibble the edges of their organic Green and Black's, those off diets indulge in the hope that decadence, comfort and even happiness will come to a head in that final square of Galaxy.

Chocolate long ago transcended the childish realm of 'yummy sweets' and has become a sexual substitute, a health food, a gourmet raw ingredient, a friend (for some). In place of the South Beach or Zone diet, you may be just as likely to succeed with Lenny Neimark's tempting, Pasta, Popcorn and Chocolate Diet. Unlikely, but appealing.

So far reaching is its popularity that chocolate is not just confined to the dessert list. In Stockbridge, gastro-pub Hamiltons gets innovative and playful with a venison dish drizzled in a rich chocolate and chilli sauce. This is a rare instance where adding chocolate to a recipe actually matures it, moving the dish from pub grub to innovative cuisine. Nestled on a bed of creamy parsnip mash, which balances the firmness of the venison perfectly, the dark chocolate sauce is sparingly arranged. Infused with chillies, the fiery kick is subtle and more of a smart afterthought. It prevents the chocolate from being the last taste in your mouth - a reminder that this is an entrée, not a desert. At £14.95 it is

the most expensive dish on the menu but provides a warming fullness not unlike that Christmas feeling.

For a truly upmarket experience, vegetarian restaurant David Bann gets even more adventurous with their 'Chilli and smoked cheese tortilla tartlet with chocolate and tequila sauce.' A bold choice but surprisingly good. However, to really get back to a simple enjoyment of the stuff, nothing beats a good chocolatier: away from the chic Parisian maisons du chocolat, Edinburgh has its own version of consumer heaven, Plaisir du Chocolat. Creator Bertrand Espouy produces amazing quality chocolate, both in its simplest forms and its most unusual. Stranger varieties include the Bergamont (infused with earl grey), the Arabesque (infused with roses) and the Casablanca (with green tea and mint). And now, with a new boutique opening next month at 48 Thistle Street, heaven is officially a little bit closer.

The erotic potential of chocolate is continually being capitalised upon by sex, gadget and gift shops. In a bid to romanticise, excite or regenerate sex lives, chocolate has established its place firmly in the bedroom. Whilst Ann Summers (of Rampant Rabbit infamy) has made a dent in the market with their 'Chocolate Body Sexy Paint', copious gift shops play the humour card with mint-choc breasts and fondant penises. Apart from the bothersome task of scraping the mess off after the initial thrill, and of course the diet guilt involved in consuming so much of the stuff in a bid to be sexy/playful/alluring, there are other downsides. Lucy Tanat-Jones, proprietor of the Edinburgh erotic boutique Organic Pleasures, has strong views on the subject. Keen to appeal to the chocolate-loving market, Tanat-Jones has tried most products on the market and found them wanting: they either taste disgusting, won't come off or irritate the skin. In response to this, and in keeping with her policy of organic, non-toxic materials, Lucy is currently working on a new potion of her own that will be hitting Broughton Street in the very near future.

Thankfully Tarant-Jones is a firm believer in one of the cardinal rules of chocolate: if you are going to eat it off a bodypart, it better taste damn good.

Get your chocolate fix

Hamiltons, 16-18 Hamilton Pl
0131 226 4199

David Bann
56-58 St Marys Street
(Off the Royal Mile)
0131 556 5888

Organic Pleasures
71 Broughton Street
0131 558 2777

Plaisir du Chocolat
48 Thistle Street
0131 556 9524



Sarah Saleh



☆ films worth talking about

FILMHOUSE

HOME OF THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

SCOTLAND'S FOREMOST INDEPENDENT CINEMA

world cinema, classic re-releases, retrospectives,
seasons, festivals, special events

student discounts available 7 days a week

We've got pie

journal
online

www.journal-online.co.uk

88 LOTHIAN ROAD EDINBURGH EH3 9BZ
BOX OFFICE 0131 228 2688
www.filmhousecinema.com

Theatre First time for a timeless tragedy

'Living Quarters' by Brian Friel

★★★★

Lucy Jackson

lucy.jackson@journal-online.co.uk

WITH THE MYTH of Phaedra as its subtext, the UK première of *Living Quarters* toys with concepts of free will, divine judgement and personal choice. Rather than adopt Racine's more brutal interpretation of the legend, Friel cleverly introduces an impartial arbiter, a character extraneous to the real action of the plot, known only as 'Sir'.

As Sir courteously explains at the start of the play, the excellent revolving set can be not only thought of as a wonderfully naturalistic house and garden but as the space inhabited by the minds of all those involved in the unfolding events. While the Butler family have all gone their separate ways, their mental attempts to understand or justify the acts of themselves and others at particular moments in time on the same day lead them back to this space, prompting not only discoveries on the nature of human tragedy, but also the phenomenon of the human ability for introspection and self-analysis.

While the events between the Butlers and their patriarch's child-bride unfold, actual and imagined pasts interweave and combine to give each a chance to evaluate their own behaviour, at the same time never moving far

away enough from the action to alienate or confuse the audience. Friel's lyrical, poetic writing provides the depth of meaning that would otherwise be lacking in a piece with such clinically psychoanalytical implications.

As with Enda Walsh's Fringe smash hit *The Walworth Farce*, Friel explores the Irish literary preoccupation with reworking the past to see where it began to crumble – here exemplified by his character Father Tom Carty (Gary Lilburn). Father Tom is initially desperate to prove to Sir that he is capable of playing out a different role in the reprisal of the tale of the Butler family. But while patriarch and war-hero Frank Butler confidently states – like the warrior Theseus himself – that he would not and could not have behaved any differently, Father Tom struggles and fails to prevent Frank's final, desperate act. As the sole representative of the church, this raises questions about Friel's own thoughts about free will – although as Father Tom urges, since it is always possible to repent to the Lord, there is always a choice.

Featuring classy acting by a strong cast, John Dove's production is not only a thought-provoking, but also a thoroughly enjoyable production.

Living Quarters is directed by John Dove
The Royal Lyceum Theatre until November 17
www.lyceum.co.uk Box Office: 0131 248 4848



Hairy Watt Comedy Club

Tuesday 13 Nov
Live comedy for only £3.50
doors 8pm - starts 9pm



Sandy Nelson
"A surefire gag-fest of material.
Natural charm and superb
audience awareness."
- The Scotsman.
www.myspace.com/weesandynelson



Charlie Ross
"One to queue up for.... a gay PE teacher with film star looks,
he bonded instantly with the mixed audience, his gentle
observation being genuinely funny."
- Edinburgh Evening News
www.myspace.com/charlierosscomedy

Compere Raymond Mearns
Larger than life and twice as much fun, Raymond Mearns is
one of the most experienced performers in Scotland. Mark
him in the "not too be missed" category.
"A man who knows how to swear properly." - Billy Connolly
www.raymondimearns.com

Getting here is easy: Lothian Buses 25 & 34 every 30 mins.
Getting home after midnight: Lothian Buses N25 operates hourly from campus to city centre.
Students and guests over 18 only. Management reserves the right to refuse admission.

WWW.HWUSA.ORG/HWLIVE

THURSDAYS 9PM

HWLIVE

"ATTRACTS SCOTLAND'S HOTTEST BAND TALENT" - THE LIST

8 Nov
£3 Entry

RIESER
ROCKETFOX

15 Nov
£5 Entry

The Hedrons
underbelly

22 Nov
£3 Entry

ANNIECHRISTIAN
TRANSAUDIO

All acts are confirmed at date of print. HWUSA cannot be held responsible for any changes to the programme.

Women's Hockey

U of E 6-1 Glasgow Caledonian



A dominant Edinburgh University over-power Glasgow Caledonian in the BUSA Scottish League 1 Ken Wallace

Queen Margaret girls trounce Glasgow team

Women's Hockey

QMU 8
Glasgow 0

Becky Owen

becky.owen@journal-online.co.uk

A FINE ATTACKING display from Queen Margaret thoroughly embarrassed a determined, but distinctly over-powered Glasgow side as the two sides met in their mid-table League 3 clash. QMU cruised to a fantastic 8-0 win over the University of Glasgow 3rd team, in a match they dominated from start to finish.

From their first goal, scored after thirteen minutes, Queen Margaret never looked back, with a second following just six minutes later. The win leaves Queen Margarets in third position in the BUSA Scottish Conference Women's Hockey League 3A with Glasgow Thirds just a couple of places behind them in fifth.

Glasgow managed early on to keep a lid on the QMU side, as possession was largely equal in the first few minutes. However Queen Margaret's strong attacking attitude soon came through. Their first attempt on goal

came after ten minutes although to no avail.

After some slightly weak defending by Glasgow however, Queen Margaret were back in the semi circle and this time number 12 scored an impressive goal.

Following the push back, the ball was in Queen Margaret's control almost straight away and strong attacking meant they were once again in the semi circle. This time, however, they could not do enough and the determination of the goalkeeper shone through with an impressive save. Nevertheless this determination could not hold the attackers back for long as, after a couple more minutes, Queen Margaret displayed their strength once again culminating in a second goal.

With the half-time result standing at 2-0 Glasgow needed to lift their game, but didn't manage to rectify the situation in the second half as Queen Margaret's overpowered them, scoring another 6 goals.

At times during the match, the 8-0 final scoreline would have appeared to flatter Glasgow, who could have ended the game on the receiving end of a cricket scoreline were it not for the resilience and determination of their goalkeeper.



QMU teaching Glasgow a lesson Becky Owen

Edinburgh beat St. Andrews with late try flourish

Rugby

Edinburgh 15
St Andrews 10

Jack Charnley

jack.charnley@journal-online.co.uk

THE UNIVERSITY OF Edinburgh secured their first victory in the Scottish Conference this season by overcoming a stubborn St Andrews side 15-10 at Peffermill. Two fine individual tries from Moe Middleton and Kelechi Esenonu late in the second half were enough to dispatch the visitors, who - until the 75th minute - were desperately clinging on to their early lead.

Both sides produced a cagey and error-stricken first half display, especially in the line-out which became a lottery in the windy conditions. Edinburgh fell behind in the 13th minute when poor cover at the breakdown allowed the St Andrews flanker, Peter Wiper, to break through the gap in the Edinburgh defence and score an opportunistic try under the posts.

Despite this early set-back Edinburgh were the stronger side for most of the game. They dominated the kicking battle and the scrum, but failed to convert their possession and their territorial advantage into points.

Fresher fly-half Liam Steele produced an erratic but promising display, and his replacement Matt Bennet stamped his authority on the game with intelligent kicking which pinned St Andrews down in their own half. His penalty before the break narrowed their lead to four points. Often under pressure, St Andrews were able to retain their lead with gritty, organized defending in their own twenty-two, and occasionally surprised Edinburgh in the counter attack. They broke out wide in the 58th minute and produced a penalty, which they converted to reassert their lead.

But Edinburgh struck late in the game to clinch the victory. In the 70th minute, a St Andrew's clearance failed to find touch and Edinburgh full-back Middleton capitalised with a brilliant instep to lose his man followed by a well-angled run to score in the corner and make it 10-8. Five minutes later Edinburgh's talismanic winger Esenonu received the ball in his own half and displayed impressive strength and pace to dart past several players and score under the posts. Steele, who had come back on as a blood sub, promptly converted to make it 15-10, which was enough to win the game.

Edinburgh will be pleased with the style they showed at the finish, and the forwards will gain confidence from their success at the scrum, where they clearly over-powered the opposition. The result helps Edinburgh to gain momentum after a poor start to the season, but despite their victory they still remain bottom of the league.

GET MORE ON THE WEB



VISIT
JOURNAL-ONLINE.CO.UK
FOR ALL THE LATEST
SPORT RESULTS

Sport Round-up

FOOTBALL

BUSA Scottish Conference League 1

	P	W	D	L	G	Pts
Stirling	6	4	1	1	7	13
Edinburgh	4	3	0	1	8	9
Strathclyde	4	1	2	1	0	5
Heriot Watt	4	1	1	2	3	4
Glasgow	4	1	0	3	-12	3
Dundee	4	1	0	3	-12	3

RESULTS

24/10/07

Heriot-Watt 2 - 2 Strathclyde

Stirling 6 - 1 Glasgow

31/10/07

Strathclyde 3 - 1 Dundee

Stirling 1 - 4 Edinburgh

Heriot-Watt 7 - 1 Glasgow

FIXTURES

7/11/07

Edinburgh vs Heriot Watt

Dundee vs Stirling

Glasgow vs Strathclyde

14/11/07

Heriot-Watt vs Dundee

Glasgow vs Edinburgh

Strathclyde vs Stirling

BUSA Scottish Conference League 2

RESULTS

24/10/07

Glasgow Cal 2 - 5 QMU

FIXTURES

7/11/07

QMU vs Strathclyde

14/11/07

Strathclyde vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Heriot Watt

1/12/07

Heriot Watt vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

18/11/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

1/12/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

18/11/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

1/12/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

18/11/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

1/12/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

18/11/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

1/12/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

18/11/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

1/12/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

18/11/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

1/12/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

18/11/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

1/12/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

18/11/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

1/12/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

18/11/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

1/12/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

18/11/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

1/12/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

18/11/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

1/12/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

18/11/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

1/12/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

18/11/07

Dundee vs Dundee

Glasgow Cal vs Dundee

Strathclyde vs Dundee

1/

Cassidy hat-trick sends Watt to seventh heaven

Football

Heriot-Watt 7
Glasgow 1

Tom Crookston

tom.crookston@journal-online.co.uk

ROOTED TO THE bottom of the table and without a win to their name so far, Ross Campbell's Heriot-Watt side came into this match desperate to kick-start their season. And kick-start it they did, effectively killing off the tie with four goals inside the opening 25 minutes.

Curiously, it was Glasgow who started the strongest, putting the Watt under pressure right from the kick-off. Less than ten minutes in, Scott Devennay's pile-driver forced a smart save from Jamie Davidson, and from the resulting corner Sean Buchen capitalised on defensive uncertainty to give Glasgow the lead.

Unfortunately, that was to be by far their best moment. Within five minutes Omar Kader had slotted home from close range to level the score, after good work from the outstanding Gilbert Patterson on the left

flank. Two more goals in quick succession from Luke Cassidy and Oliver Anthony put Heriot-Watt firmly in control, and by the time Ewen Watson had headed home Patterson's inch-perfect cross they seemed to be thoroughly enjoying themselves.

The same could not be said of Glasgow. Robbed of several regulars by course commitments – the first-choice left back missing out in order to perform emergency surgery on a horse – they understandably lacked coherence, as many of the side were playing together for the first time. The back four in particular were unable to cope with the pace and trickery of wide-men Patterson and Kader, and only a stubborn display from third-choice goalkeeper Andy Livingstone prevented Heriot-Watt from racking up a real cricket score. Sadly the defence were less resilient, and Livingstone could do little more than look on admiringly as Cassidy's athletic scissor-kick provided the finish that Kader's excellent run and cross deserved.

Now four behind with 25 minutes played, the Glasgow side's frustration began to show. The game threatened to turn sour as tempers began to flare, and a nasty clash of heads

forced Campbell to replace Watson with Mark Bissett shortly before half time. But there was still time for Patterson to restore a touch of sweetness before the interval, catching Kevin Lee in possession and whipping another devastating cross towards Kader who, finding himself unmarked on the six-yard line, obligingly headed home.

Heriot-Watt kept up the pressure after the break, with Livingstone saving well from Patterson and Cassidy in quick succession, and they always looked to score more goals. Campbell brought on Andrew Forbes and Craig Gillen before the hour, and it was Gillen whose driving run down the left channel provided the ammunition for Cassidy to complete his hat-trick with a looping header twenty minutes from time.

To their credit, Glasgow refused to give up, with Sean Buchen twice testing the defence's concentration in the final few minutes with a couple of driving runs into the Heriot-Watt box. But it was not to be, Davidson's fingertip save denying Buchen just seconds before the final whistle. In the end the scoreline was a fair reflection of the difference in quality and organisation of the two teams.

Rugby

Heriot-Watt 41 – 0 St. Andrews 2nd



Dominant Heriot-Watt side cruise to third straight victory over lackluster St. Andrews reserve side Eddie Fisher

The Journal

EDINBURGH'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

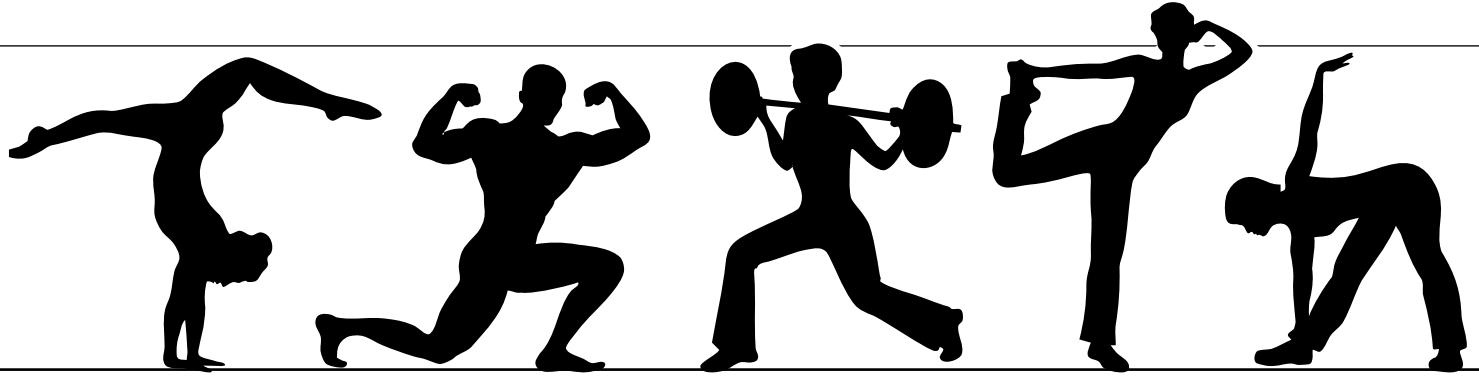
Join us!

EDINBURGH'S NEW CITY-WIDE
STUDENT NEWSPAPER IS RECRUITING WRITERS,
DESIGNERS, ILLUSTRATORS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS
FROM ALL OVER THE CITY

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING YOUR
MEDIA SKILLS, WORKING FOR THE JOURNAL IS THE BEST WAY
TO GAIN REAL-WORLD JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.JOURNAL-ONLINE.CO.UK

Sport



Edinburgh dump Deveronvale out of running for Scottish Cup

Football

U. of Edinburgh 3
Deveronvale 1

Dominic Moger

dominic.moger@journal-online.co.uk

A BRACE FROM Peder Beck-Friis and a late strike from substitute Christopher Woods earned the University of Edinburgh victory over Highland League outfit Deveronvale in the Scottish Cup second round on Saturday afternoon.

At a blustery Peffermill, Edinburgh took the lead through Beck-Friis only for it to be cancelled out by a Michael McKenzie goal eight minutes before half-time. However, a second from Beck-Friis regained the initiative for Edinburgh before Woods added the gloss finish to a result that saw the University into the third round and a clash away to Cove Rangers.

With each side dogged by the persistent wind that swept across the ground, the opening stages were characterised by fitful and disjointed football. Deveronvale, playing with the breeze, dominated possession and required the Edinburgh defence to stay on constant alert. Out of the mire of misplaced passes came the first chance for the Highlanders. Good combination play on the left resulted in a chance for McKenzie but his shot, typically, was diverted behind for a corner off a lunging defender's head. The resulting corner was only partially cleared as it fell to John Coutts whose effort, however, fell well wide.

Edinburgh seemed cowed by this early pressure and, unable to find a foothold either upfront or in midfield, were fortunate not to fall behind when an innocuous shot from well outside the area was allowed to squirm through the grasp of Scott Bennett in the Edinburgh goal, but stopped mercifully short of the line. Bennett's error was symptomatic of the problems the wind was causing for the University rear-guard as clearances from which some form of relief could have been claimed failed to reach the front men.

The Vale continually tested the competence of the Edinburgh centre backs with a barrage of high balls. Fusco and Cathcart remained ever vigilant and their obduracy eventually paid off. On a rare foray forward Edinburgh won a free kick on the right side, midway into the opposition half. With the hitherto untested Deveronvale defence unsure how to deal with Jack Beesley's low, curling delivery which found the channel between goalkeeper and back four, Beck-Friis stole in at the far post to notch his third goal in two games.

On the balance of play it was an undeserved lead and so it was no surprise that the Vale countered with a sequence of corners. From the last of these a defensive clearance was met with a stinging volley from Fraser Bremner forcing Bennett into a stunning save, diving to turn the ball around his left hand post. Deveronvale were now on the offensive.

Paul Urquhart was denied by Bennett after some neat interplay on the right, and then Bennett had to be alert to smother the ball as it almost broke for Gary Clark. As if in rehearsal, McKenzie was released on the right by Clark

only to have his shot saved at the near post. However, McKenzie, just a minute later, was not to be denied again as he cut in from the left and dispatched an emphatic finish past the helpless Bennett.

Deveronvale clearly deserved the equaliser and could have taken the lead if not for a poor offside decision to deny Michael Ewan a genuine goalscoring opportunity. By half-time the visitors were in the ascendancy both in terms of chances and in the style of football they had executed and yet, in the face of a strident breeze, Edinburgh had proved to be defensively outstanding.

The second half was a different story. Edinburgh started with renewed energy and flair. Only four minutes into the second period a one-two on the left released Stephen Maxwell whose low cross was scuffed in at the far post by Beck-Friis. As in the first half the goal gave Edinburgh something to hold on to, the Vale's evident superiority giving way to frustration and ill-discipline as McKenzie was booked for a horrendous two-footed lunge just before the hour. The Highlanders' growing sense of dismay was compounded after a flowing move from right to left, engineered by the productive McKenzie, resulted in a pinpoint cross from Clark which found Ewan unmarked five yards out only for the Vale striker to nod the ball tamely into Bennett's midriff.

This visibly sapped the energy from the tiring Vale players and served to invigorate the university side. The effervescent Beesley skipped past Stephen Dolan on the right and sent over a cross which was met by Michael Hazeldine whose looping header was expertly tipped over by Jamie Blanchard. Edinburgh's style of play had greatly improved and another breakaway led to Beck-Friis narrowly missing out after good work from Beesley and Andrew Cook.

Whilst Deveronvale could never be discounted, especially on the right side through the irrepressible Coutts, Edinburgh's lead meant that the Vale attacks became ever more desperate. After an exchange of passes down the right between Coutts and Duglonski, the latter's shot was deflected and tipped over by the increasingly assured Bennett. By this stage, Deveronvale were flagging, their inferior fitness leading to the squandering of chances that otherwise may have led to something. After Ewan sliced wide after the hapless Munro was beaten on the Edinburgh right, victory was sensed by the Peffermill crowd.

The potentially jittery final five minutes did not prove to be so. Beesley's intelligent improvisation led to Blanchard forcing his drive onto the crossbar after a botched free kick routine. Victory was then assured when substitutes Jamie Hair and Christopher Woods combined to release the latter, who outpaced the exhausted Deveronvale defence to slide a delicate finish into the net via the far post.

The result may have flattered the home side but it was testament to the defence that the foundation was laid for a comfortable second half. Edinburgh can now look forward to the third round with the knowledge that just 90 minutes separates Dougie Samuel's side from a potentially lucrative fourth round tie.



A strong defensive display sees university side progress to Scottish Cup third round Jethro Collins

10-woman Heriot-Watt held by late goal

Women's Hockey

Heriot Watt 1
Robert Gordon 1

Emily Glass

emily.glass@journal-online.co.uk

A LATE SECOND-HALF goal secured Aberdeen's Robert Gordon University a hard-earned 1-1 away draw with Heriot-Watt University.

Clare Andrew's 61st minute goal came about from a swift Robert Gordon counter-attack following a failed attack by Heriot-Watt which saw Robert Gordon charge up the pitch to score.

Despite the windy conditions, Heriot Watt began the match in fight-

ing spirits and a well-executed short corner pushed the team into the lead through a Jo Hutton goal with only 6 minutes gone.

However, early lead seemed to bring a halt to their attacking play as after ten minutes Heriot-Watt took their foot off the accelerator. Neither team seemed capable of keeping possession during an otherwise uneventful first half which was punctuated with free hits and short corners. Robert Gordon fired many a hopeful shot wide of target in a desperate bid to equalise but went unrewarded.

Heriot-Watt came back onto the pitch with a restored desire to win at the start of the second half. Countering this, however, was the Robert Gordon team's steely defending to avoid conceding any more goals and, with their eye on scoring themselves, tough

attacking play.

The grapple for possession resulted in a few raised balls and, unfortunately, a minor injury for a Robert Gordon player. The goal-less 25 minutes of the second half and the on-going battle for possession clearly created frustration for the teams as a few desperate manoeuvres were attempted which resulted in a Heriot-Watt player being sent off, leaving the side one player down. Robert Gordon seized the prime attacking opportunity on the ten player opposition and a well placed hit saw Clare Andrew bring the scores to a draw.

The final ten minutes of the match were increasingly desperate for both teams as they attempted to score the winning goal. However both defences proved too strong and the scores were left tied at the final whistle.