Unions to face shorter hours

by Robin Henry

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

The main changes, which were approved by the Union Committee of Management at the end of last term, are:
- Chambers Street House will be closed on Wednesday afternoons and Friday nights, to save £20,000 over budget.
- The Common Room in Teviot Row House will no longer be open in the afternoon, nor on the post-lunch sessions from Monday to Thursday (unless it is needed for private functions), the Teviot Restaurant will also be closed on Saturdays.
- Potterrow will be closed on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

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

Comment p.5

Explaining the changes, the Union President, Hilary O'Neill, said: "This is not a question of saving money, but more an attempt to stop the Unions incurring such large losses. Since the 1982 strike, the worst problem has been that things have continued as before, union catering would have ended the year £20,000 over budget. The problem has been that although the same number of students are using the unions, they are not spending the same amount of money. We assumed that this was because students just didn't have the money, although a survey is to be conducted in the next few weeks by the Education and Welfare Officer, Angus Erskine, to see whether people think union services need to be improved in any way.

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

Hilary said that the changes had allowed the free meals policy to be adopted, and she hoped that this would increase the number of people using the unions on Friday and Saturday nights. She said: "Nobody wants to restrict union services, but there have been problems for years. Those services have been expanded while the number of students has remained the same, and I think saturation point has been reached. Even with the changes, she said that the unions would still compete favourably with those in many other parts of the country, but she emphasised that it was up to students to use the services as much as possible if they wanted to see them maintained."
University launches fund campaign

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

An impressive portfolio has been made up describing the projects — ranging from scientific research, to the proposed building of an electronic music studio and various social improvement schemes. — which will be sent to benefactors, public and trust.arieties.

Although Mr Joseph has rejected the appeal of such self-help schemes, Edinburgh is the first University to launch a wide-ranging, up-to-date, scheme.

This is not an appeal where we are looking simply for a quick success," said Fund Raising Director, Iain More. "Our appeal is long-term in the sense we are trying to effect a change in attitudes — internal and external, which aims to generate more community based projects. "There are more science based opportunities here which we feel would be a more attractive to large companies."

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

Dr Burnett stated. "For the foreseeable future the University will continue to rely on public funding for the large majority of its income. However, the days are now gone when the state is likely to continue to support the core of initiatives necessary to maintain the full academic health of Universities."

A continuing appeal amongst graduates was launched by the General Council during the University's 400th year and has raised some £40,000.000 in the intervening 16 months. Both the central and the complementary EDFC aim to secure the financial and additional funding essential to keep the University supplied with up-to-date equipment.

Politics lecturer Dr Henry Drucker, Vice-Chancellor of the EDFC, told Student: "It is necessary to have the best equipment and opportunities for students, and staff at Edinburgh is to remain a possible candidate for the best university in the world, the only way of getting the money required."

"The amount of money we need sounds ambitious, however we believe that our appeal is mutually beneficial to both the University and our donors. Attitudes towards Universities have become more critical over the past twenty years — even companies seem to feel responsibility for higher education and have to look at the success of Japanese and American firms who work very closely with their Universities and Colleges to realise this."

In Edinburgh more teachers threatened exams

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

In England and Wales, the National Union of Teachers has said it would be ready to consider this move — should it prove necessary. In Scotland, members of the largest teaching union, the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), voted in this week to decide whether to boycott the preparations for this year's O and A grade exams, and for the new 11-plus exam which is due to be introduced.

Mr John Pollock, general secretary of the union, believes the teachers are "in for a long campaign" and if this is the case, it is thought that members involved in marking the exams papers will be asked to do other work as well.

Mr Pollock says that this would not prevent pupils from sitting the exams, but it would mean the results would not be processed in time for the University selection for the 1985/86 session. The Scottish examination board has stated that if this happens, it will call upon University lecturers and inspectors to do the job, but the Association of University Teachers' Council has already passed a resolution which pledges its full support to the EIS's stance, and has stated that Association members will refuse to carry out any duties normally performed by the teachers.

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

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

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

Graham Carter threatened resignation threat fades

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

Utilising Vice-President Court is the most senior one in the SRC beneath the four senatorial offices.

At a meeting of the SRC during the final week of term, Carter apologized for his resignation, which was only a few days later, he had withdrawn his offer and remains in his position. Various explanations of the resignation have been offered, ranging from a list of piqure to a manoeuvre to further his political career. However, this unsuccessful attempt by the Executive to try and gain rid of him.

The School of Philosophy

Several lectures will be held at 7.30 p.m., every Monday and Thursday

The School of Philosophy, 18 Chester Street, Edinburgh.

The same lecture is given on both evenings of the week, so you may, if you wish, vary your evening of attendance from week to week. The fee is £15.00 (£9.00 for full-time students). You may enrol now by sending your name and address with a cheque to the School or alternatively you may telephone 4592707 by 7 p.m.

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THURSDAY, 10TH JANUARY. AT 7.30 P.M.

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The School of Philosophy was established in 1976 to promote and expand the study of the philosophical sciences and their applications.
UGC warns Joseph against ending tenure

Leith Nautical College threatened

Bruntfield appeal fails

Briefly...

Rectorial nominations

Print Room Vandals

Films Society Fiasco

Leith Nautical College threatened

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

A supplementary report has been made to the Department of Education on the original recommendations that there should be a "continuing provision" of nautical courses at Leith Nautical College in addition to the University of Edinburgh, the College of Scientific Royal Institutes, and the Nautical Education at Glasgow College of Nautical Studies.

A working party was reconvened at the request of COSLA's Education Committee to consider comments from Leith on the working party's original recommendation. It stated that resources should be concentrated in Glasgow, but this will be seriously impaired by the loss of nautical courses at Abadan Technical College as well as those at Leith.

The Scottish Office have stated that the provision of the course at Leith Nautical College have been considered together with the expansion of the College of Nautical Studies, but in view of the lack of potential for increased enrolments, the College of Nautical Studies at Leith was not now considered to be an extension of the College of Nautical Studies at Leith.

Final decisions will be taken by the Government on the basis of the recommendations made by the working party. The University of Edinburgh are no longer in charge of the College.

Bruntfield appeal fails

The proposal a year ago to close Bruntfield Hospital and to incorporate it into the new Edinburgh hospital was this week realised. An appeal against the action was lodged by a group of parents opposing such action.

One recent appeal to the Court of Session in December from Councillor Alex Wood, a former Health Secretary, was turned down by Mr John Mackay, MP. He stated: I am confident that flexibility of tenure would be achieved by allowing University to reappoint their academic performance.

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Britain's grants most generous

Britain has, by far, the tallest grants system within the Common Market. This was the clear fact which Lord Gisborough illustrated in his Hansard response to a British Parliamentary Question by Lord Waidsworth. The Hansard figures, which were supplied by Scottish Office Minister and Edinburgh South Conservative MP Michael Ancram, show the United Kingdom and the Netherlands as the only two EEC countries with a maximum grant level which even remotely approaches a basic minimum living income.

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

The report of Swinton, supplied as information for 1982- 83 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Maximum Grant</th>
<th>Average Grant</th>
<th>Proportion Receiving (1) Grant</th>
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<td></td>
<td>£, %</td>
<td>£, %</td>
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<tr>
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<td>740</td>
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<tr>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL above</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
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<td>600</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
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<td>600</td>
<td>50</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Devlin Scoble

Edinburgh District Council Labour administration was accused by the Conservative opposition of incompepline when they called a special committee meeting to overturn planning approval given only nine days earlier. The planning committee meeting agreed by 13 votes to 6 to reverse a sub-committee's decision of December 19th to give planning consent to Lochmaben Regional Council to construct an additional junction on the Sighnill junction of the city bypass. The Labour group said that the committee had been misled at the original meeting; since they had not realised the roundabout would also be used as a junction for the controversial Western Relief Road, Councillor Alex Wood - the leader of the Labour group who called the meeting - told Steubiner that Labour had also been opposed to this road as it would deluge the city centre with unnecessary traffic.

As a result of this major political error, the group has been advised that this latest planning approval could prejudice the outcome. The Labour councillors are not opposed to the city by- pass and it was only this development that moved them to call the meeting. The Conservative group however, said that this Labour U-turn reflected an incredib le display of incompetence and that the councillors had wasted £1,000, by calling an unnecessary meeting. The Labour group have said they will reconsider the city bypass when the outcome of the Parliamentary inquiry into the Western Relief Road is known.

Jacqueline Brown

Adam House Sale

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

Gig Guide

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

State Pen

Over Christmas I saw Amb Rudd, who's spending her third year at the University of Pennsylvania in America. She says it's just like Animal House without John Belushi, Dan Ackroyd or Delta Fraternity. Wild drinking parties do go on with milk shakes being qualified liberally until 5am or so. And the low rate of sterling improvement in Edinburgh University, students so none of them can travel around. Still, as she points out, at least it means there's some good people around to talk to.

Video Games

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

Rococo Nuts

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

Commonwealth Games cycling events under threat

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

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

Councillor Wood has found himself in conflict with the Games' organisers on a number of occasions, and last month made a direct attack upon the weave of having cycling included in the Games at all. The organisers, who are to use Pollock Halls of Residence as the Games village as they did in 1970, have reduced their financial demands on the city, instead of requesting more than £400,000 for refurbishment of the velodrome at Meadowbank, the organisers have recently stated that enough work could be done for £200,000 and £250,000.

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

Speaking to Student on Monday, Councillor Wood refused to make any further comment on whether the council would be providing any money at all to help the provision of cycling facilities, or even to state who was likely to provide the badly needed money if the council again decided not to help. He told Student "Cycling is an utterly minority sport, and it would overtake a lot of problems that transport were dropped from the Games altogether."

He added that he did not feel the provision of a new, or refurbished, velodrome, would be a useful asset to the city.

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

Devlin Scoble
United we close

The decision to close union bars and buildings at selected times from this week onwards is one which must raise a few eyebrows. Regardless of the financial straits in which the Students' Association currently finds itself, the 'open all hours' union policy of recent years should by now have been rescinded without greater consultation.

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

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

The expansion that occurred was almost inevitable if students were at least to have the opportunity of getting a fair deal from lower grants. That expenditure was unavoidable. Yet in some years we have seen the advent — albeit with the mandate of a General Meeting — of a travel company which this year diverted £6,000 from the EUSA budget. The motive of providing the Association with long term financial security was commendable, but now it appears that that particular plan has contributed to severe problems in the short term. Someone, somewhere, seems to have been short-sighted.

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Dear Sir,

On my way back from Nicaragua last month, I was shocked at the devastation caused by the Contra forces. It was one of the most harrowing experiences of my life. I would like to share this experience with the students of this university.

As I was traveling through the rural areas of Nicaragua, I witnessed the impact of the civil war on the local population. The Contras, backed by the United States, were responsible for this destruction.

The Contras launched a series of attacks on the local population, causing widespread fear and displacement. The Contras used guerrilla tactics, relying on the support of the local population to gain an advantage.

The Contras' methods of warfare included arson, looting, and physical violence against civilians. They targeted schools, hospitals, and churches, causing further damage and suffering.

As I made my way through the countryside, I saw houses and buildings left in ruins. The Contras had destroyed everything in their path, leaving a trail of devastation in their wake.

The people of Nicaragua were left with nothing but their memories and the scars of war. They faced an uncertain future, unsure of what the future would hold.

I urge everyone to consider the human cost of this conflict and to support peace efforts. We must work towards a resolution that benefits all parties involved, putting an end to this senseless violence.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew G. Ross

A case of double standards?

Madame, I am not without respect for the December 19 debate on the topic "Who would win? Lenin or Trotsky?". I would certainly give Trotsky a strong vote, but I am not sanguine about the potential outcome. It seems to me that the two men had different visions of the world, and that today's world is a reflection of those differences.

Lenin, with his pragmatic approach to politics, was able to adapt his ideas to the changing circumstances of the Russian Revolution. Trotsky, on the other hand, was more ideological in his approach, and was more comfortable with the idea of a revolution that was not driven by class struggle.

I am not sure that the outcome of such a debate would be informative, as it seems to me that the two men had different ideas of what was possible in the world at that time. It is possible that Trotsky's ideas were more relevant to the world we live in today, but I am not sure that we can compare the two men on the same plane.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew G. Ross

War or plain murder?

Dear Sir,

In The Student, for our January 27 edition, we published Andrew G. Ross's letter, entitled "A case of double standards?". I was struck by the statement "It is a case of double standards, as in that it when had been...

I agree with the sentiment expressed in the letter, and I believe that there is a need for a more nuanced approach to understanding historical events. The idea of comparing two historical figures, such as Lenin and Trotsky, raises some interesting questions about the nature of history and the role of individuals in shaping the course of events.

I would like to propose a similar debate to the one mentioned in the letter, focusing on the role of leadership in historical events. Specifically, I would propose a debate on the topic "How important is leadership in shaping historical events?"

I believe that this debate could be a valuable exercise in encouraging students to think critically about the role of leaders in history, and to consider the complex interplay of factors that contribute to the shaping of events.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew G. Ross

Sandinistas not so sweet

Last term our glorious leaders were capping on about the miners' strike and the "disgraceful" act of striking down undereconomic pits. This term we come back to discussing those very same issues. Are we not really nothing closer down "undereconomic" bars? Even the coal board would presumably have transferred us to a "labor" bar in Portobello. Do you mention coal bar standards? I think we should be told that.

Yours sincerely,
Mike Conway

STUDENT
**DUNE**

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

Dune is a story of trans-cendence Paul Atreides, potentially the next step of human evolution. It is caught up in his family's feud with the ghoulmechanistic Harkonnen clan on the sand world of Arrakis. He achieves final victory over his enemies by unleashing his lie-patric powers and gaining control over the ghoul's gigantic, radioactive sound waves.

The script, on the whole, condenses the book's 500 pages without losing fluidity, but the price that has to be paid for this is a clumsy lump of exposition that clots the opening. It is epic in scale although the now-standard special effects are fairly sparsely used, the emphasis rather being on the impressionistic sets.

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

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

Eliot Ellickson

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Gremlins

It is a bit of a sad irony that British Film Year should begin with our cinemas caving off closure only through the presence of a film directed by a Mexican-American comic; it's an even sadder irony, that of the comedy of manners, of the films that can make great films, some like Caddyshack are truly delicious, or the constant verge of bankruptcy, while the monied, like Spiesberg and Lucas are obsessed with updating Disney or completing their own space sagas. But while Lucas at least has some room for manoeuvre in the six remaining Star Wars Films, Spiesberg is casually working himself into a corner with every new project he takes on.

The mid-American small town setting which was the backbone of the Rose Encounters and ET should have been abandoned after the monumental butting of eqel images by Noble Hooper in Poltergeist; unfortunately the Gremlins' director has emulated it for Gremlins, and the result is a messy stalemate in which the stars of this film, the only known creatures lighter than the Lankhill branch of the Rangers supporters club are forced to walk the same barren streets as ET.

Fair enough, that all their illustrious predecessors did was to miss the last bus home, and then spend the next two hours phoning for a taxi home, whilst carrying off a passable imitations of Jesus Christ, but it was all done so well and performed so brilliantly that it became a cultural landmark in terms of cinema, and thus consigned all of its followers to the role of cliché. So, why did even to illustrate the absurdity of ET is, to imbibe it? Perhaps the factory was given a dressing-down by its Rabbi for going around telling Gente stories, or urged to repudiate them?

Whatever his motivation for making Gremlins is still quite a good piece of entertainment, though at times a lot of the humour is forced, and neither plot nor character have very much to say for themselves. Put simply, the story line is thus a flop inventor in Chinatown buys a small creature called a Mogwai for his son's Christmas present; this tiny, cute, kola-bear-like animal, who seems to spend most of his time at home watching all the right movies on tv, or singing to his owner, comes complete with three warnings - keep him out of the light, don't let him get wet, and never feed him after midnight - all of which are immediately disregarded, and before long Spiesberg is absolutely crawling with gremlins. The two set pieces which follow are well done, and quite amusing, as the gremlins take over a bar to drink, breakdance or play cards; and then hop off to the local cinema to watch Snow White. Which brings us back to the central problem with the film: too much time is taken up with references, either to all the clips of classic film every time a television is on (in ET you will remember we only had five seconds of The Quiet Man, or to the constant shadow of ET, or to the ego of Mr Spielberg himself, who makes a cameo appearance a la Hitchcock at an Invertors convention.

Gremlins is a docile film, and for those with short memories it can be a barrel of laughs for those of us who can remember getting ET its strictly second division stuff.

Stephen Sweeney
PLAYING TAG

TAG is a small company with only seven people currently attached and this creates problems when choosing works to adapt for performances. By commissioning an increasing number of new works, Ian hopes to extend the company’s output and support some of the creative talent he has helped attract to Scotland. In addition to his artistic ambitions with TAG, Ian recognises the financial pressures which exist and is determined to strengthen the financial foundations of the company. The Glasgow Citizens Theatre offer a subsidy by providing office space and generally sheltering them from the cold and financial support comes from Strathclyde Regional Council. The majority of the funding, however, is from the Scottish Arts Council and Ian must organise his last week to try and negotiate an increase in their contribution to TAG.

In a recent document, The Next Five Years, the Scottish Arts Council promised to encourage clients to develop a more considered approach to the presentation of the arts for children and young adults, and market funds accordingly. Thus, together with the fact that TAG is Scotland’s last financially supported theatre company, Ian Brown hopes to attract funding to set up a feature on TAG Theatres open theatre up to a young audience and ensure they can relate and respond to it. Only through such education of children can theatre hope to develop an appreciative adult audience.

Stephen Jardine

The student Thursday, 10th January 1985

ARTS

THE LINTON PORCUPINE BY ROSS LAIDLAW

Note that I Nicholas Wainwright am safe returned from roul of my my £10,000 per annum derelict and moored for my own use certain rooms in my stately home. During the course of the season, I have become aware that certain misunderstandings have arisen with regard to this property and the legal rights which I have over it. It is therefore incumbent upon me to give notice of my intention to recover possession of the property forthwith.

Ross Laidlaw

Duncan McLean

THE STUDENT Thursday, 10th January 1985

ARTS
Thurs Popula canoon
Electric Dream proceeds to
had bargained
(Student faced with more than they
have bargained for when they go into business dealing with spooks.

Gremills
153, 5.15, 8.15
Much acclaimed (though why I
can’t imagine) Spielberg yarn
about a bunch of horrible little
creatures which run amok in the
town of Kingston Falls.

Indiana Jones and the
Temple of Doom
7.00, 5.00, 8.30
Indiana Jones befies his way through
great adventure. The only doom
about this film is that it may never
end. Tickets £2.20 (£1.20 for students
in Cinemas 1 and 2 and first two performances in Cinema 3).

Filmhouse
(229 3050)
Here is the Autumn
Thurs 10th-12th, 8.00, 8.30
James Ivory’s rather slow but well
acted and satisfying version of
the Henry James novel. With Vanessa
Redgrave and Christopher Reeve.

Heart Like a Wheel
Thurs 10th, 8.45
Surprisingly successful biopic of
Shirley Muldowney, the first
professional female race car driver. Bonnie Bedelia good as Ms.
Muldowney.

PLUS
Over the Edge
Bunch of frustrated youngsters
left to find entertainment in drugs,
drink and sex as an escape from
their typical nest new town for
middle-class families.

ABC
(229 3050)
Gremills
(Tickets £2.70 and £2.30)
2.30, 5.30, 8.30
Much acclaimed (though why I
can’t imagine) Spielberg yarn
about a bunch of horrible little
creatures which run amok in the
town of Kingston Falls.

Dune (Tickets £2.30)
3.05, 8.00
Continuing and, considering the
vast sum of money spent on
making it, not as good as one
might have expected. Film version
of the celebrated Frank Herbert
novel.

Once Upon A Time in America
(Tickets £2.20)
8.30 to 10.30 every evening
(with an interval)
Sergio Leone’s superbly mounted
and orchestrated epic tale of
American corruptibility.

Odeon
(5677311)
Ghostbusters
2.00, 5.00, 8.00
A surprisingly entertaining film
with Dan Akroyd, Bill Murray and
Harold Ramis finding themselves
faced with more than they
had bargained for when they go
into business dealing with spooks.

101 Dalmatians
2.15, 6.00, 8.30
Popular cartoon classic returns to
the screen.

Electric Dream
2.30, 5.45, 8.15
Mildly entertaining film about a
computer which composes a song
to please its owner’s girlfriend, but
proceeds to cause embarrassment
by uncontrolled interventions
in private life.

(Student tickets £1.30 except Fri
and Sat evenings in Odeon 2 and
3.)

Filmpaths
Exhibitions
Castle Street Fine Art
Mainly Watercolours
By 19th and 20th century contempo-
rary artists
10c Castle Street
Mon-Fri 10.00-9.00
Sat 10.00-1.00

Central Library
Child Poverty Action Group
Exhibition
George IV Bridge
Mon-Fri 9.00-8.00
Sat 9.00-1.00

City Art Centre
Mine Own Romantic Town
Edinburgh through the eyes of the
artist.

Treasures of Edinburgh
Works from Edinburgh’s Libraries
and Museums.
Market Street
Mon-Sat 10.00-9.00

The Postman Always Rings Twice
Fr 11th and Sat 12th: 8.30
Sixth version of the once banned
James M. Cain novel. Jack
Nicholson and Jessica Lange play
the lethal, false-orden couple.

The Brother From Another
Planet
Sun 13th-Sat 19th: 10.15, 8.30
Enjoyable film centring around a
male extraterrestrial trying to
survive in Harlem.

Andre Rublev
Sun 13th-Sat 19th: 7.15 (2.15, 7.15 Sat)
Eight imaginary episodes from the
life of 15th century minor icon
painter Andre Rublev, seen here
as a troubled visionary reduced
to years of silence by the horrors
that he witnesses. (Unsubtitlled)
Student tickets £1.50.

Film Society
Late Night, Fri 11th
Odeon
11.15 Risky Business
The story of Jack Goodson, who
divides his time between studying
and sexual fantasy. A film with a
scattering of smart lines.

12.30 Trading Places
John Landis and Dan ‘Ghost-
buster’ Akroyd in succinct comedy
affected with art and nimbleness
that looks back to the classic
Hollywood comedies.

Sunday 14th, GST
6.45 Devi
A strange story of a farmer who,
while his son is away at university,
persecutes his daughter-in-law
that she is a goddess.

8.25 Heat and Dust
The integration of two stories
of Anglo-Indian romance, one set
in the 1930s and the other in the,
1990s.

Wed 16th, GST
6.45 Hue and Cry
The first of the classic东亚
comedies in which East End boys
discover that their favourite boys’
paper is being sold by crooks to
pass information.

8.15 Riders of the Lost Ark
An outside. Bogartian hero fights
the Nazis in this first ‘Indiana
Jones’ film and there will no
doubt be many more). Thoroughly
enjoyable stuff.

Edinburgh Revived
Selection of works from the
collection.

Fruitmarket Gallery
Paintings by Steven Campbell
29 Market Street
Mon-Sat 10.00-6.00
Sun 2.00-5.00

National Gallery of Scotland
Turner Watercolours
The Vaughan Bequest
13 The Mound
Mon-Sat 10.00-5.00
Sun 2.00-5.00

National Library of Scotland
Poet and Painter
Allen Ramsay: father and son
1684-1756
George IV Bridge
Mon-Fri 9.30-5.00

The Spectre
The Danes of
Curtis
Curitii
The Heros
For Future
**Week's On Dio**

**Kings Theatre**

**Sinbad the Sailor**

Until 2nd Feb 2.15 and 7pm

Pantomime lasts as on "Unra McLean, Johnny Conway and Christian are outback by a caipet! This is the last show at the Kings before it closes for restoration.

- Tickets: £2.45, £5.90 from box office. Concessions available.

**Brunton Theatre**

Musselburgh (665 2324)

Dick Whittington and Cat

Until 12th Jan 2.30 and 7.30pm

Last chance to see this traditional pantomime. Lots of fun and jokes with Dick, Pussy and a pair of hares.

- Tickets available from the box office.

**Royal Lyceum Theatre**

229 Waverley

The Mix

16th-24th Jan 7.45pm

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

- Tickets £2.50-£4.80 from box office.

**GOTOMIC BEAT**

**REGGAE & SOUL CLUB**

**AT THE SATELLITE**

**EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY**

**REGGAE & SOUL**

(Chief DJ: All at the Controls)

From 9.30pm to 3.00am, late bar.

Open to all: Doors close at 2.15am.

It's Fun! It's Groovy! Check it out Soon!

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**Waterloo Bar**

Waterloo Place (556 2029)

Thursday 10th January

Tori

Wednesday 16th January

Amateur Hour

Preservation Hall

Victoria Street

Thursday 10th January

Bobbin' John

Saturday 12th January 7.30-12am

George Roy Jazzmen

Sunday 13th January

Tam White Dixters

Monday 14th January

Fast Breeder

Tuesday 15th January

Still Thinking

Wednesday 16th January

Charlie McHai

**Coasters**

West Tollcross (226 3252)

Wednesday 16th January

Bouncy inflatable disco

Talent contest - champagne £1 advance (from Napier College)

£1.90 at door.

**Hoochie Coochie**

West Tollcross (220 1908)

Sunday 13th January, 11pm

Sid Presley Experience

**La Sorbonne**

69 Cowgate (230 5041)

Thursday 10th January

Gobi Dexter Yacht Club

Friday 11th January

Dakot Cipes

Saturday 12th January

News From Nowhere

Monday 14th January

Paris Line

Tuesday 15th January

Maximal Reality

Wednesday 16th January

Rhythm System

**Usher Hall**

229 1150

Friday 11th January 7.30pm

Concerts — Vernon Handley

cello — William Conway

J. S. Bach: Suite No. 1 in D major

for cello.

Britten: Suite No. 3 for cello

- Admission free.

**Queen's Hall**

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

Saturday 12th January 7.45pm

Conductor: Yv Pascal Tortelier

violino: Oscar Shumsky

Viofr: Eric Shumsky

Mozart: Violin Concerto No. 1

Mozart: Violin Concerto No. 2

Mozart: Violin Concerto No. 3

Mozart: Sonzor concerto

- Tickets £1.80 student standby.

**St. Cecilia's Hall**

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

Saturday 12th January 7.45pm

**The Georgian Concert Society**

Bach tercentenary celebrations.

open with a selection of sonatina

for violin and harpsichord an

an unaccompanied partita for solo

violino.

- Tickets £2 student standby.

**McEwan Hall**

Friday 18th January 7.45pm

**Jazz**

20th Street Saxophone Quartet featuring Bobby Watson.

Bobby Watson

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**University Music**

Reid Concert Hall

Tuesday 15th January 7.30pm

Cellist — William Conway

J. S. Bach: Suite No. 1 inmajor

for cello.

- Admission free.

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**TeVo! Row Toga Party**

8 pm-12 am, Happy Hour 9-10, Charlie McHai. Entrance £1 (40 members).

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**Friday 11th January**

**EU Buddhist Society**

Venerable Khenpo Tseultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche talks on "The Path Of The Yogi," Lecture Hall A, 7.30 pm. No charge.

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**Tuesday 15th January**

**EU Debates Committee presents**

"This house would nationalise prostitution." Woman speaker — student, TeVo! Debating Hall, 7.30pm.

**EU Debates Committee presents**

"This house believes that the Arts in Britain are elitist. " Guest speakers — student, TeVo! Debating Hall, Thursday 17th January at 7.30pm. All welcome.
SUGAR AND SPICE

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

COCTEAU TWINS
Usher Hall

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

After all, where’s the mystery in Wake Me Up Before You Go Go? Increasingly these days music has been reduced to “see us on the video and see the photo in Smash Hits” — nothing left to the imagination. Rather, the product is hurled at us in one big glossy package with all the subtlety of a twelve inch remix (with fussy post, knock). Today’s chart scene, for the most part, is the musical equivalent of a fast food restaurant: quickly digested and leaving very little impression once finished.

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

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

Indeed it was this intimacy which was apparent above all else at the Usher Hall Robin Guthrie and Elizabeth Fraser, the lovers and close friend Simon Raymonde were clearly in a little world of their own up on stage — all quiet smiles, nods and winks. We the audience felt almost privileged to join them for the evening.

The mystery persists when the Cocteau Twins play. Robin and Simon stand silently at either side with their guitars and tapes, in front of an ever-changing backdrop of slides any one of which could be a Cocteau Twins record sleeve. At the centre of it all stands Elizabeth Fraser, the white silk, she is a beautiful sulphur-like figure. When not singing, she performs a faintly disturbing “band-ballot”, pulling her fingers and violently beating her chest; when she sings it is like nothing on earth, coming at least from an angry shriek to a mournful sob. God knows, but I have been told you, since practically every appearance is indiscreet and titles such as Minimal and Llower don’t exactly help. Yet the overall effect is spellbinding.

And they’re human too! Elizabeth behaves shyly at the huge roar that greets Sugar Hiccup; when The Spangle Maker offers an extra special occasion she laughs in surprise and embarrassment, the whole occasion is as warm and engaging as any concert I’ve seen; three cuddly musicians who play a set comprising material largely from the Head Over Heals period of their career. Only the very last song All But An Ark Love dates back to their debut days. Perhaps this permits him a little shirt or two, something up a bit.

The Cocteau Twins anonymity does not equate with humourless disdain for their audience. Some brand them as willfully obscure but I think it is their attempt to retain a sense of the unknown; to appear opposed to revealing all, a la Frankie — let them fascinate you.

Keith Cameron

Young King Cole
and his merry old souls

LLOYD COLE AND THE COMMOTIONS
Caley Palais

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

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

unassuming figures wandered onto the stage. Maybe these kids were the roadies? But no: Fringes flicked, contact lenses on, and the songs began jangling through a modest PA. A dedicated new down the front were dancing but most of the rest of the wild Edinburgh crowd only noise they’d finished their drinks. The first song is towards the end of the short but strong set with a dull song in sight, the beat hugger the feet and the tunes hitting the floor.

Lloyd Cole made the back sound tonight — maybe you’re not knowing what it’s all about in ’86.

Mark Percival

STUDENT Thursday, 10th January 1985
Smoke on the Waterfront

SIMPLE MINDS
Glasgow Barrowlands

Last Friday saw the second night of a 3-date appearance at the Barrowlands Ballroom by Glasgow’s Simple Minds. The evening began with a brilliant set from the support band the Junior Show whose membership read like a who’s who of those who were the rock scene. Fronted by the charismatic Richard Johnson, ex-lead singer with the Hibids, their performance easily merited the rapturous applause they received from the crowd. Mr Johnson ended by telling us that in one year they will be back, this time headlining. From what we were treated to, this ascent seems rooted in fact rather than fantasy.

Next came the main event of the evening, the quiet but rather unprectable entrance of John Cale. The spotlight shone on the audience. The concert that followed was slick and professional with all the hallmarks of the later shows. Songs such as ‘Promised You Building’, ‘Inferno’ and ‘The Catwalk’ couldn’t have been better reproduced had you sat there playing the records, with the American producer a popular number in which the Glasgow punters could exercise their vocal chords.

Throughout the evening the energy was high, the music delved into many of the hits that have made Simple Minds a household name. The band played with such energy that the audience were left breathless. The atmosphere was electric and the crowd were fully into the performance.

Could you tell me a little about the achievements and highlights of Simple Minds? The band has received numerous awards and nominations for their music, including multiple Grammy Awards and induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. They have also sold over 70 million albums worldwide.

John Lindsay
Faith, hope and Charities

Remember an article in the last issue of The Student, in which a striking attack was launched both upon ESCA (Emergency Student Charities Appeal) and also upon the perennial favourite, the aptly-named old student publications. The objections didn’t go entirely unnoticed. Jenny Dunn finds that things have changed in the tiny office at 42 Pleasance.

ESCA’s annual general meeting last night got off to a bit of an advance publicity it should have had, but that those who turned up to see the committee and listen to their chairman’s speeches also had a good time - certainly the members of the congregation of Pythian’s Jewes’ People’s Front (or do I mean the People’s Front of Judea?). It dragged on for a very long time, punctuated by cries of “let’s have a voton that” (and just occasionally “let’s have a bloody move on that” - even in and out of the meeting, unofficially, in the corridors.

In any case it was a relief from the AGM where resolutions go through like Casey Jones determined to get the train to Pleasance as soon as possible. The meeting, the usual AGM where business was done, was primarily concerned with the Unofficial Promotion of the Charities, the problem of publicity and the failure to publicise. That almost includes the floatation process. In fact the national floatation was a failure, and who would have had it - which is precisely what was going on. And who would have been there? People in the office weren’t... After all, it’s not a question of being noticed. People were just not hearing of what was going on, and was there anything else that could be done to break through the wall to the outside world? That’s the question the board will be up against again. It’s the problem of publicity.

And so, things are changing. ESCA is, for example, developing its communications between the graduates. Now and then you might have heard of the 24-hour dance marathon. The floats process are still going strong, and despite competition from the coal-not-dole brigade, the Charity Week is looking strong, for we hope to be replaced by Rag Week ’85. The dance marathon, the floats, the Charities - as always, they’re going to be really missed. The challenge is to be found in the city.

The rush to the ESCA offices gets underway.

For the casual visitor to Peru, exposed to the dazzling blaze of colour and the bustling life of the Sunday market place, the mention of an ancient Inca civilization worshiping the sun and crafting in gold as its most powerful god on earth, appearances can be deceptive. Past and present seem to merge in the Andes, and to stray even from the mainstream of twenty-first century life. The miraculous stone cities, with their magnificent structures, which are situated high in the Sierras were dedicated to rituals of sun worship which still persist through the traditions of still-unconverted Indians. The community of the Inca was at its height during the reign of Pachacuti in the fourteenth century. In the city of Cuzco, capital of the Inca empire, the sun god was worshiped in the temple of Sacsayhuaman - the most noble of all the Inca cities.

This picturesque scene makes an excellent example of the larger economic, social and political context of powerful Inca heritage. South America has long been a haven for those who have sought to escape from the West. Political, economic and social exiles have found sanctuary in the continent and have contributed to the development of Latin American culture. The Inca Empire extended from what is now Peru to Chile and parts of Bolivia and Ecuador. The Inca Empire was a huge empire, with a population of millions. It was a highly centralized state, with a strong central government. The Inca Empire was divided into provinces, each under a governor. The Inca was the ultimate authority, and all the provinces had to be loyal to him.

The Inca Empire was a complex society with a well-developed administrative system. It was an agricultural society, and agriculture was the main source of food. The inca had a well-developed calendar that was based on the movement of the Sun. It was used to plan the planting and harvesting of crops. The Inca Empire was a militaristic society. It was a time of great military expansion and conquest. The Inca Empire was also a time of great cultural and artistic development. The Inca Empire was a time of great religious devotion to the Sun god. The Inca Empire was also a time of great scientific and technical innovation. The Inca Empire was a time of great political and economic stability. The Inca Empire was a time of great artistic and literary achievement. The Inca Empire was a time of great social and political change. The Inca Empire was a time of great economic growth. The Inca Empire was a time of great international relations. The Inca Empire was a time of great military expansion and conquest. The Inca Empire was a time of great cultural and artistic development. The Inca Empire was a time of great religious devotion to the Sun god. The Inca Empire was also a time of great scientific and technical innovation. The Inca Empire was a time of great political and economic stability. The Inca Empire was a time of great artistic and literary achievement. The Inca Empire was a time of great social and political change. The Inca Empire was a time of great economic growth. The Inca Empire was a time of great international relations. The Inca Empire was a time of great military expansion and conquest.

 Peru, the golden land

The Inca Empire was a time of great military expansion and conquest. The Inca Empire was a time of great cultural and artistic development. The Inca Empire was a time of great religious devotion to the Sun god. The Inca Empire was also a time of great scientific and technical innovation. The Inca Empire was a time of great political and economic stability. The Inca Empire was a time of great artistic and literary achievement. The Inca Empire was a time of great social and political change. The Inca Empire was a time of great economic growth. The Inca Empire was a time of great international relations. The Inca Empire was a time of great military expansion and conquest. The Inca Empire was a time of great cultural and artistic development. The Inca Empire was a time of great religious devotion to the Sun god. The Inca Empire was also a time of great scientific and technical innovation. The Inca Empire was a time of great political and economic stability. The Inca Empire was a time of great artistic and literary achievement. The Inca Empire was a time of great social and political change. The Inca Empire was a time of great economic growth. The Inca Empire was a time of great international relations.
Hepatitis breakthrough

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

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

What is Hepatitis?

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

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

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

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

New Process of Making Vaccine

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

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

The Problems of Vaccination

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

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Hepatitis breakthrough

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

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

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

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

New Process of Making Vaccine

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

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Edinburgh Review No. 67/8  
166 pp. £2.95

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

Following the example of the excellent, short-lived Cambridge publication Grantia, which is now distributed by Penguin, Edinburgh Review is now resistent in a glossy paperback format which will hopefully have more meaning than its predecessor. But the changes have not stopped there. Glorying in the new motto to gather all the eyes of culture into one, ER now seems set to pursue a much more likely and fruitful approach in an attempt to take control once again the lead in Scottish letters.

The new tact is evident from the start with a strong felch section featuring work from Agnes Owens and Jim Kelman, but the six short stories included are in no way parochial, as other contributors such as Pamela Brandt and John O'Donnell widen the range to encompass both America and Ireland. Indeed it is Ms Brandt who almost steals the show with her story Two Mitoù Héros, a breathtaking slice through the urban ghetto of America which also takes an aside to the media priorities of that much besmirched nation.

Nevertheless, the home team is solidly steered by Jim Kelman, whose writing with the doctor manages to wed realistic grit to kaleidoscopic whirl of character and class and philosophical through the medium of a doctor who prefers to discuss his life with a patient rather than treat his sick soul back. And as he sometimes in his praise of Jayne Anne Phillips' Machine with the most of the writing here, it is thankfully released from the shackles of intellectual claptrap to become direct, informative, and valuable in its ability to make people comprehend and think.

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

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

If there is one potential flaw in this polished collection, it is the relative lack of the group of Glasgow writers who, while they have revitalised Scottish literature in recent years, have not yet done a protagonist in the new-style ER. One can only hope that they are used as a platform for more daring content in the future.

Liam Cameron

Shame
by Salmon Rushdie
(Picador £2.95)

It was perhaps inevitable that Salmon Rushdie would find success in Britain after all, the British have always had a soft spot for India. In the days when colonialism was in fashion she was the crowning glory of the empire, now that we have expressed admiration, we look back on India with the same disdain as the British once did on them.

It is therefore not surprising that the novel should appear in the Edinburgh Review. Rushdie's condensation was successful and absolute — he had already faced liberal charges in the British press about his novel. The novel itself, whilst centering on the betrayal of India by her leaders, is far from political tract. It is a work of enormous imagination and constant inventiveness, a kaleidoscopic whirl of character and culture, tied together with the art of a master storyteller. In its scope and in its achievement, it is a truly epic novel, and as such, justly deserves to be seen as the major novel of this generation and as a testament to the way in which the novel can still transcend the usual conceptions of the genre.

As a surprise when Rushdie's next novel Shma turned out to be so good. While it could never match the shocking novelty of its predecessor, it is more than made up for in its form and originality. The novel is set in a country which is not quite India, and follows the development of six unlikely characters through the two themes of shame and shamela-ness. Each of the novel is set in the improbable, an idea which locals itself round the novel's title. No Rubaiyat, but three mothers — fuzzy, peripheral, involved, insomniac, stargazing, fat, what manner of hero is this?

If it was Midnight's Children which made Rushdie's reputation, this one can only say that Skema has certainly confirmed it — and more. This is the best new novel of 1985 — but it is either for yourself or your literary survival.

Stephen Sweeney

On the Backside

The wind bellowed through the empty car crushing glass, I screamed with ambivalence — Wow. And our wind carried with it a muffled laughing. But there was nothing left to laugh at. All the trees were dead that night in Chicago —

Battery razors, food mixers, lawnmowers, lightbulbs, crockpots, televisions, radios — the motordrive. An electric second of pure destruction — man's machines suicide. Leaning behind only a smouldering pile of heat.

So I thought to ourselves: Oh dear, there was the kind of war.

[Poetic discussion]

By George Zero

If you think you can do better, or have any contributions at all, then send them into the Back Page.
IN SEARCH OF EXCELLENCE... AND SNOW

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

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

The Dolomites are a complex mixture of unspoilt beauty and pretentious fashion; the latter being highlighted by the exclusive resort of Madonna di Campiglio, where the cars are washed in river water and fur is worn in gay abandon. The men's events in Madonna emphasised the decline of the increasingly dour Denmark and the emergence of three men likely to fill his place. There is Bengan Kretai, who has been in the top ten in the world cup for the last five years and showed what potential he has in comfortably winning the easy-going Swiss, Pirmin Zurbriggen, last year's overall world cup winner in the Alpine events. Add the power and dynamism orchestrated by the space-age suits and helmets that is a bit of a surprise to see something as sexy as Maria Walliser break out from the cocoon.

The women's circuit will be dominated by the usual fastwreaks of Hess and Epiele and the retirements of Whittaker and Weir might well be compensated by the emergence of 18-year-old Michaela Figen, the Swiss girl with the looks to grace any Terry Voges show. After Santa Caterina, the circus packed up for Christmas. Bill Johnson couldn't stop the jet lag so had his turkey in the Alps, but for the rest, it was time to get away from it all and reknuckle the fire and enthusiasm before the fields of Romvag become alive with the sound of cowbells.

Photos by Dave Yarrow.

CONGRATULATIONS

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

UP FOR GRABS

In the near future the Home International Championship starts, with all the home countries hoping to regain some pride after their respective defeats by the visiting Australians. Scotland will be trying to defend their Grand Slam title, and with the injured players recovering since the Australian international they should have a good chance of doing this, because no side appears to be outstanding this year. However, Scotland do not open their account until 2nd February, and with Murrayfield against Ireland and so they will be able to have a look at the opposition when England, encouraged by their 22-15 victory over Romania on Saturday, and Ireland meet on Jan. 19 in Dublin, while the unpredictable French take up on the Well, with Terry Hynes back after injury and the newly instituted British Lions probably in their ranks on the same day in Paris. It should be an interesting few weeks. More news later!
When I decided for some reason, not much better I suspect, than most people's reasons for choosing a university, to come to Edinburgh, various relatives — wishing to appear interested and finding me non-committal on the subject — suggested reasons for my choice. One suggestion which occurred frequently — and was invariably accompanied by a governous blanking and twitching around one eye — was HOGMONAY! I was, frankly, perplexed. Had these hitherto amiable aunts and uncles suddenly been rendered so distraught at the prospect of their dear niece living so great a distance from themselves that they had developed nervous twitches? I decided that this strange institution referred to as HOGMONAY! which produced such disturbing facial paroxysms in my relatives and myself, deserved investigation.

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

Another Scot, conjuring up an idea from some part of his anatomy (not, I suspect, his brain), locked himself in his watch. At about, and outburst. "It's only 11.45! A horrid silence pervaded the room. What heaven,accorded beyond Siddom and Somnorrir, had desecrated the sacred Hogmanay? A witchhunt, which made those of the McCarthy ilk look like a vicar's tea-party, ensued. Each increased individual turned to his neighbour demanding "Who dunnit?" After I had participated in this strange rage a few times, all the stately bystanders took note of the enemies draped around my person. I was promptly sent into the corner with dreadful threats and curses ringing in my ears. Once there, like a true Englishman, I fell asleep, hence missing ringing in the New Year.

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

The Back Page presents the fourth stimulating student crossword.

Last week's solution

Across
1. The Royal Edinburgh Home for Students of Science? (5, 6)
2. Three feet a limb. It's something the nigger needs. (7)
3. The average Russian back for a ramble. (7)
4. A drop of wine, this rent. (4)
5. Elements of tin back in America. (5)
6. Joint where the coal comes from. (4)
16. This sign's exclusive, by the way. (2, 6)
20. Stop Ted running around little sister. (6)
21. Step in to play a keyboards instrument. (8)
22. He can put the beams up, and tie them tight too. (7)
25. Small company in surrounding image. (4)
26. Salvation Army boy provides fresh greens. (5)
27. You'll find a girl if there's one in the end. (4)
29. Unusual arrangement of garnets. (7)
31. Mathematica Rule! (7)
32. Does it refer to the past mistake? (9, 9)
33. Arch-support of Hollywood cove. (8)
35. Practice fighting with a Pole? (4)
36. Eliminate way that's not like a chap at all. (7)
50. Restricted by a tiny creature in cover. (7)
51. Rain fall in the Middle East. (4)
53. Old sets changed in the State of Atheism. (7)
56. Keep on walking, like this vagrant does. (5)
57. Make amends. Musically by the sound of it. (5)
60. Tissue with head removed. That's the point. (5)
61. Mark the scale of a successful student. (8)
62. Punctuality man with a little weight behind him controls the computer. (7)
63. Robber in London could make any afternoon refreshing. (3, 4)
64. Abundance sell a lot of cars. (7)
65. Rash effect of over-exposure. (7)
66. Right in the middle of tight hand, originally. (5)
67. Last resort of England in former times. (4)
68. Worry where the basket might stop. (4)

Down
1. Rash eye, with wrong feet. (9)
2. A ramper turns to tell the tale. (7)
3. Practice fighting with a Pole? (4)
4. Eliminate way that's not like a chap at all. (7)
5. Restricted by a tiny creature in cover. (7)
6. Rain fall in the Middle East. (4)
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18. Worry where the basket might stop. (4)

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

Bad Points
1. Bashful.
2. Fiery tempered.
3. Impulsive.
4. Easily bored.
5. Impatient.

Signs Aries normally gets on with
1. Leo
2. Sagittarius
3. Gemini
4. Libra
5. Aquarius

Famous Aries People
1. Lenin.
2. Charlie Chaplin.
3. Van Gogh.
4. Bette Davis.
5. Marlon Brando.

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