THE BOOKS FOR Romania convoy began its journey to Bucharest on Monday, with three Edinburgh University students among its ranks.

The windswept Castle Esplanade was the departure point for the fourteen vehicles. The fully laden trucks and vans were carrying essential medical supplies for the Romanian people and thousands of books to help restock the University of Bucharest Library.

The three Edinburgh Students who are helping with the Convoy, Ian Younger, Stephen Bax and Michael Barron are all staff members of Student, and in addition to distributing aid, they will be establishing close links between with Romanian students and hopefully setting up an exchange programme.

Team Leader Ian Younger pointed out that “cultural contacts are just as important in rebuilding Romania as material help”.

The trio had great difficulty in finding transport and funding for their journey. They had initially written away to over one hundred companies asking for sponsorship but were unsuccessful with every correspondence. It was not until the University were able to find a truck that the trip seemed to have any chance of going ahead.

Michael Barron, manager of the Student News Service, said that he was “disappointed in the citizens of Edinburgh” for not being more responsive to their appeal for help, but he was nonetheless “very grateful to the University” and was “looking forward to the opportunity of a lifetime”.

Ian Younger, the Editor-in-Chief of the SNS, expressed his gratitude to the University and added, “they had very short notice of the trip but they responded magnificently. In just two days they found and serviced the van and offered us all kinds of assistance. Now all we have to do is drive it their and back”.

The convoy was given an official send off by District Council Leader Mark Lazarowicz and the Romanian Rugby player Christian Raducanu. They wished the convoy good luck as the one o’clock gun sounded over the city and the Burshtinland Pipe Band added its own rousing farewell.

They will accompany the supplies and then pipe the convoy across the Romanian border, before giving a concert in Bucharest.

The journey is expected to take four days, with one overnight stop in Dover and then another in Budapest before pressing on to the Romanian capital. The Student News Service team are planning to spend a week in Romania helping with aid distribution before returning to Edinburgh on March 3rd.

As well as the three articulated lorries, including one donated by the Post Office, and the collection of smaller trucks there were two coach loads of volunteers, many of whom were dressed in the kilt.

Convoy organiser Kevin Earnshaw had encouraged this in Eastern Romania marched thousands of miners from the hope that it would bring some through central Bucharest in support of the Salvation Front, Romania’s interim administration. The protesters claim that the Front is still full of figures who are too closely connected with the old Ceausescu regime. On Monday night however thousands of miners from Eastern Romania marched through central Bucharest in support of the Salvation Front. President Ion Iliescu warned anti-government protesters that further demonstration against the government of the kind which took place last week would be dealt with “severely.”
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**Loans Demos Flop**

by Steve Martin

LAST week's loans demonstrations were marked by limited attendances and lower than usual press coverage, suggesting that interest in, and active opposition to, the scheme is in decline.

Estimates on the size of last Thursday's NUS march from London's Battersea Bridge to Hyde Park ran from 20,000 to 25,000, way below predictions that the national turnout could number 70,000. But Mr Tim Wonnacott, NUS Press Officer, said the Union was pleased with the turnout and believed the action to have been successful in reminding MPs of opposition to the loans bill, which received its third reading in the Commons that evening.

He added that the march and rally, the speakers at which included Scottish NUS President Donaldson MacKinnon, his national counterpart, Maeve Warner, and ANC spokesman Dennis Goldberg, received coverage in three out of the four "quality" newspapers and on most television and radio networks.

In an interview with Student, Martin Quinn questioned the beneficial nature of the coverage, given of which centred around the arrest of nine Socialist Worker Party supporters for sitting down and "obstructing the highway" in Knightsbridge, central London.

He suggested that this gave students themselves the opportunity to harden the build up public support for students' causes.

Edinburgh involvement in the action was limited to four members of Herriot-Watt students, many of whom, according to Union President Paul Reilly, were attending their first demonstration. He described Thursday's march as a "great success" and expressed surprise at the EUSA decision not to build for the event by, for example, organising an unofficial transport.

Speaking to Student on Monday, Martin Quinn defended the decision and pointed to the turnout as proof of EUSA's opinion. The Edinburgh demonstration was "not the most constructive course of action". But he stressed the fact that the Union had given backing to last Wednesday's East of Scotland NUS march in Edinburgh, but accepted that the level of support for this had been very "disappointing". Just 200 Edinburgh students joined the protest.

He also pointed out that an EUSA organised anti-loans press conference, held on Monday 12th February, attracted widespread press and audience coverage, with for example, the Glasgow Herald and the Evening News printing half-page features.

Meanwhile, the loans bill is being debated in Parliament, and a last ditch attempt by Labour and SNP MPs to have student loans excluded from the scheme was easily defeated.

They claimed that loans would encourage students to stay south of the border, so as to incur only three years debt, leading to the certain "loss of at least one Scottish student of higher education."

The last chance to prevent the bill becoming law will come in two weeks when the Committee of the Whole House of Commons discuss the bill; which received its third reading on the 19th February.

The motion to be debated is limited to four members of Opposition to the loans and the final word will be which essentially entails a Nuclear Weapons bill, which received its third reading on the 19th February.

Mr Gardiner is confident that EUSA will win support for the motion. "As an undergraduate at Oxford, we had to resort to similar measures, and the motion won there. I feel confident that the students will see this as an issue of free speech."

Although meetings of EUSA will continue in private, Mr Gardiner feels the use of EUSA premises makes them more accessible to other students, and can therefore help them to expand their numbers.

Denying any allegations of religious fanaticism, Mr Gardiner concluded "fundamentalist Christians make people feel alienated. We help people to understand their situation without judging them in any way."

At the moment however, CARP must accept their present situation, and await the outcome of the forthcoming General Meeting.

CARP plans to"answer back"

by Craig Williams

"THE CONTROVERSY surrounding the Unification Church is not justified, newspapers portray a stereotypical image of the movement."

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The group, according to students, both members of the Debates Committee, Roody Morison and Martin O'Neill, Bruce Kent and Field Marshall Sir Nigel Bagill last Friday to debate the motion "In the view of the events in Eastern Europe, Britain's nuclear weapons policy is now redundant." It will be broadcast on Radio 2 on Sunday 25th February.

The star studded cast was supplemented by two students, both members of the Debates Committee, Roody Morison and Martin O'Neill, Bruce Kent and Field Marshall Sir Nigel Bagill last Friday to debate the motion "In the view of the events in Eastern Europe, Britain's nuclear weapons policy is now redundant." It will be broadcast on Radio 2 on Sunday 25th February.

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It has been decided by a group of Edinburgh students, both members of the Debates Committee, Roody Morison and Martin O'Neill, to withdraw the motion, the proposal put forward by the Herriot-Watt educated Martin O'Neill, who welcomed by the EUSA President, Paul Reilly. Mr O'Neill made the point that the Soviet Union was in no position to launch any sort of attack, her troops would not be welcome in Eastern Europe.

George Younger MP, the former Defence Secretary, who was not present at the meeting, said "the proposal was an attempt to continue a nuclear arms race, and poured scorn on Mr Younger's belief in nuclear bombs "because they kill more people than the pound". He concluded by describing the world as a safer place when militarism was outlawed.

For the opposition Corish described the world as "instable", whereas during the Cold War it was at least stable and that a nuclear capability was needed more than ever, especially in the prolongation of nuclear powers.

Points from the floor included that the Eastern Europeans were still just as nasty as they used to be and that nuclear technology will never disappear.

The motion was carried by 85 votes to 65.
Major changes are planned for the reorganisation of books, study space and the lending system, at the university library in George Square. Already in process, the proposed changes will affect all floors, particularly the 2nd floor Reading Room.

The main library has been under an increasing amount of pressure in recent years, owing to lack of funds. University-wide cuts and the recommendations of the university funding council have meant reductions in the number of staff. The reorganisation of the building may make staffing easier.

Over the course of last summer books on the 2nd floor were re- ranged, and a large area previously given to study space and periodicals became a map section. This was part of a gradual shifting of books and study area to the upper floors, with the view to the eventual conversion of the 2nd floor Reading Room into the library reference section. The Reserve Section of the Reading Room and the ordinary hall lending service will be housed and staffed together on the ground floor.

This coming summer some 60-70,000 open shelf Reading Room books are to be transferred to the 3rd, 4th and 5th floors, according to subject. They will not be integrated with the normal stacks but will be kept in a separate area, rather like miniature faculty libraries. Currently not removable from the building at all, these previously open shelf Reading Room books will be made available on a new 7 day loan system.

Mr Peter Freshwater, the Deputy Librarian, said that the "move" came in response to a feeling that many Reading Room books are being tied down unnecessarily. The Reserve, 3 hour loan system will remain and books will be placed in the 3 hour or 7 day sections, according to their usual demand.

The 7 day loan system could lead to problems when books are unavailable at essay time. There will be no form of recall system on these week-long loanable books. More books on the upper floors could make for less desk space and the changes may lead to a noisier atmosphere on the 3rd to 5th floors. However, the Deputy Librarian said that he felt the plans could make for less noise - desks will be interspersed between bookcases.

Library staff have expressed concern at the changes - changes which are already underway. More time will need to be given to the shelving of books, particularly in the new 7 day loan sections on the upper floors. Whereas the 2nd floor Reading Room books are presently not too difficult to control, once more updates, over these floors, the task of keeping them in order may prove less manageable.

Peter Freshwater says the changes are all part of an aim to make the library "more user-friendly and more in keeping with the needs of students and staff." The implications of the plans are uncertain at present but the changes could pose a threat to the student - not just in terms of his ability to get at books, but in terms of his having a place to work.

The new plans will certainly not be able to go ahead without the approval of individual departments, particularly those in the Faculty of Arts, and the Library Committee, which will be meeting before the end of this term.

University Sends Message to Prague

by Louise Wilson

"WE ALWAYS remember that it is in the island of Britain, the constant refuge of freedom, that he seed of your freedom was carefully tended..." These words are part of a message that was to be sent by the University of Edinburgh to the Charles University in Prague two years ago. The message was never sent due to the advent of communism in Czechoslovakia, but last week the University announced that the message would at last be delivered.

The words were originally to be read out by the poet Edwin Muir, then director of the British Institute in Prague, in celebration of Charles University's six hundredth anniversary. But the arrival of the communists in March 1948, a month before the presentation was to take place, put an end to the event. Professor Richardson, withdrew senate support and cancelled the presentation.

Edwin Muir, however kept the scroll, and after his death in 1959 entrusted it to Dr Lumir Soukup, a graduate of both Prague and Edinburgh Universities. He hoped that one day freedom would be returned to Czechoslovakia. Since the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, Dr Soukup has contacted the University and they have agreed that the address should now be delivered.

Dr Soukup himself will travel to Prague, next month, to deliver the speech. Thus fulfilling his promise to Edwin Muir. Along with the original Latin message of congratulations compiled by the Professor of Humanities, John Richardson, the Professor of Classics, has written an updated addition.

In it Professor Richardson continues the theme of "seeds of freedom", expressing the University's hopes that Czechoslovakia's liberty "once preserved in these islands by brave garrisons... might build and flourish in peace for the everlasting benefit of the human race". Baring any more timely interruptions from different regimes, let us hope that it will.

KINGS COLLEGE: The election for sabbaticals at Kings College, London has run into an unexpected hitch. After the election the ballot box was left overnight in the cafeteria and has now mysteriously vanished into thin air. A rather bemused election executive has set a date for new elections to be held in two weeks time.

WARWICK: A recent spate of false fire alarms in the student union has led to a reduction of Friday night bar extensions and the loss of the chance to get disability access for the upper floors of the union. The assistant registrar has offered a £250 reward to anyone who identifies the culprits of the latest false alarm, the fourth this term.

ABERDEEN: Students are thinking of new and even more inventive ways of paying their poll tax. Some are writing their cheques in Gaelic, while one student in particular is paying by cheques of 33 pence every two days. The banks have objected to this new tactic, but as it is not strictly speaking illegal, are unable to prevent it.

You can take it and... more! University ain't as hard as they said it was. Hell, you're on your way to a brilliant career!

But sometimes, when the going gets tough, and studying gets you down, you get a hankering after that good ole' home cookin', and then you've just got to run to...
The winds have once again wrapped their eyes stuck to the ceiling of one's MTV and the Superbowl. Fidel's cries the global hunchback, in the u.s. of A. the government justifies war as its own personal commitment as well as its own personal gain. This meant that eleven students were imprisoned on the same day that the Loans Bill was being voted on in Parliament. The march and rally were reportedly the very same day that the Loan Bill was being voted on in Parliament. Unfortunately for the EUSA, the march was not supported by any students who are actually asking a reasonable question to attack by putting the chain on the door and using the EUSA late night bus. For a start the average Friday night out poor girl is not so simplistic in the extreme. The Welsh nationalists. I think this revolution thing is going to everyone's head, but good luck to Daiydd Elis Thomas. I just hope the Welsh tongue finds a patient Lithuanian ear. The winds now blow north and the piano in the Usher Hall has become unplayable, the winds blow west and Perrier is undrinkable and then south to Australia where the loads are more than toads. The beast kill indigenous mammals who take a bite and poison the Queensland hippies who die and smoke it in feelers. The cane toad means business. And still the waving whippers, the winds, it's the winds and no-one takes notice.

Dear Student,

I write in reply to Tristan Brittain-Dissont's letter last week on Wendy Erskine Steele's cuts article about rape. I accept that it would be interesting to know how many women are actually asking a man up for sex when they offer him a cup of coffee, but for some reason I have a sneaking suspicion that it might be marginally lower than 1%

More importantly than this, however, is Brittain-Dissont's recommendation that women limit their vulnerability to attack by putting the chain on the door and using the EUSA late night bus. For a start the average Fridays night out poor girl is not so simplistic in the extreme. The Welsh nationalists. I think this revolution thing is going to everyone's head, but good luck to Daiydd Elis Thomas. I just hope the Welsh tongue finds a patient Lithuanian ear. The winds now blow north and the piano in the Usher Hall has become unplayable, the winds blow west and Perrier is undrinkable and then south to Australia where the loads are more than toads. The beast kill indigenous mammals who take a bite and poison the Queensland hippies who die and smoke it in feelers. The cane toad means business. And still the waving whippers, the winds, it's the winds and no-one takes notice.

I am a student of political science and I am writing to you as a student and a woman who is concerned about the problems of violence against women. I am writing to you because I believe that the government's 'carrot and stick' approach has played a significant role in the current situation. The government's sanctions against South Africa are an example of this approach. I believe that the government's approach is not effective and that it will not lead to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

I am writing to you because I believe that the government's approach is not effective and that it will not lead to a peaceful resolution of the conflict. I believe that the government should be doing more to address the root causes of the conflict, such as poverty and inequality.

I would like to hear your thoughts on this issue. I am interested in hearing your views on the government's approach and on the effectiveness of the sanctions.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
After the results of Saturday’s Internationals at Twickenham, the future of these tickets are now gold dust.

This year’s Calcutta Cup should be a good one, especially now that rugby followers; the Scot’s cunning win over the English and the English demolition of the Welsh sets the perfect scene for a thriller end to the Championship. Because whatever the result at the Arm’s Park in two week’s time, a victory from March 17th will be the decider.

But who will win? The pundit must fancy England on their present form; their displays this season have been merciless, inspirational and at times beyond belief. The Scots have provided such reliable ball that all the backs have had to do is convert pressure into points.

That hackneyed maxim is not always that simple to execute, but the English backs have looked consummate this season and their finishing has been lethal. Bob Andrew has found his feet and is marshalling the division with genius. Currie, Murray and Guicott have been dynamic; their attack apart, it must be noted that their defence in the last two weeks have solid, clearing up any defensive worries. Little mention needs be made of Andy’s kicking, suffice it to say that he seems to be enjoying his game.

Back to the forwards, the front five are undoubtedly the best in the Championship at the moment. Their confidence and their touch, highlighted by their scrum, has led to the conversation that the World Cup should be held in April. This comment should be made of Brian Moore, whose loose play this season has been superb and added another dimension to the English attack. Dooley and Ackford have been unstoppable in the lineout and the immaculate ball that they have provided has enabled the back line to play with ample scoring opportunity.

Scotland were disappointed with their lineout ball in Dublin. They seem to have been remarkably inventive since, however, and the humping of Chris Gray and Damien Cronin on Saturday was outstanding. This will no doubt be repeated against England, who will have been relying on the Scots to allow their forwards to pinch lots of good ball. The battle between the four jammers will certainly be one to be relished.

Scotland’s front five are now push over, Dale Solme having proved his immense power in an angular manner. This will be tested by occasional occasions, and Cronin’s looing surges forward are rekindled. If the Scots can provide sufficient back play the backs will be able to convert it to points.

RUGBY

As can be seen from the international matches of recent, it is the team that takes their chances that, in the end, takes the prizes. Saturday morning fixtures at a waterlogged Peferrmill, was another prime example. Kebo took their chances and scored their opportunities in the tries in the opportunities provided, whilst Edinburgh squandered countless chances.

Kebo II’s 19

Edinburgh Uni 6

In view of next week’s vital fixture against Carpa XT, it is perhaps just as well that the boys got this out of their system. The weather was not conducive to free flowing rugby and this was borne out clearly to the few hardy souls who braved the conditions, the two teams producing a game of endless mistakes and constant scrumming.

Ball was at the set piece was never used to full advantage whilst in the loose the forwards succeeded in gaining a quick 40 knts (or 4 hours as the case of Andy Stewart).

What makes a 3rd XV player could you fit it? Job requirements are as follows: (3) a complete detachment from the whole game; (e) the ability to talk a great game i.e. the ability to "buiy" (3) have no scrumming experience, (4) are most important, have an amazing capacity to consume vast amounts of alcohol. It all sounds good to you why not give it a go.

own end? Who knows what is going on in Formula One racing at the moment? It seems that Ayrton Senna, the Brazilian with so little else in his life as he has for anybody else’s, is fighting a personal battle with Jean-Marie G-motion, the President of FISA, the ruling body. The argument is not to restrict or not Machin pain Senna’s $100,000 fine last season...but frankly would the sport not better off without such lunatics?

After almost too much snow, this year’s Snowman rally. Eddie Scollin together with Eso Scottish Rally Championship, got under way but used to generate sufficient protests to generate a thaw which threatened to food Inverness: one official did not give him "all 4am. The eventual winners George Groch and Stell Bowles driving a Mazda 323 scored 19 points in 15 stages. Despite 1996’s, a good limm away from their nearest rivals. In the past the boys have never gone on to win the National Championship but I can’t see that this year they’ll be trying to break that duck.

The most who feared man in Rugby today? That’s right, Fearless Howard, the ref who has faced the West Indies in International Rugby. A good thing too; Carminati’s fall out attack on the pitch, and underhand menace to society, it must be said deserves it. Rogers’ Utility’s addition that his England aside has a, “stamp of greatness” must not be taken literally with people like Fred around.

Plans for a European Super League were officially published last week by the Continental League media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi. The plans would see a 16 team league being founded to generate the minimum 6 European games the big clubs currently want. The English representative? Bungy of course.

Surely it should be part of the prerequisites of qualification for a boxing referee to be able to count. After the Tyson/Douglas finale last week, a World Boxing Organisation light-middleweight fight between John David Jackson and challenger Martin Camara was not counted when the champion’s hand floored in the 11th. The ref was on 9 while the time-keeper was on 10.

Quote of the week is from Nick Faldo, having lost the Australian Open to Greg Norman, "It’s not about trying to find the bottom of the hole", said the British Open champion. The Great Escape, "it’s about six inches below the top!"

Graham Gooch too after his rain dances soon after his analyses that his team have faced the West Indies for him, and not for McCaughan’s pain Senna’s $100,000 fine last season...but frankly would the sport not better off without such lunatics?
Hockey round-up

The university women's 3rd XI hockey team showed mixed form at the weekend in their league matches they played.

On Saturday, a lot of hard work was put in by the whole team paid off and lead to a convinc­ing 2-0 victory at Perennell over Preston Lodge.

Both goals were scored during the first half. Susan Morgan had a great game setting up both goals from the Right Wing with some lovely play. After beating several defenders, the first goal resulted from her short pass to Lorraine McClung in the circle who flicked the ball past the P.L. goalkeeper from the back line. Soon after, a hard cross-pitch ball from Susan was intercepted and smashed into the back of the goal by Monica McLean who had to bring the score up to 2-0 by half time.

Throughout the match the university forwards played well together, keeping the pressure on the Preston Lodge team.

Preston Lodge did not produce many spectacular counter-attacks and the Edinburgh defence line consisting of Tara Kane, Paul Creggan, Sian Thomas and Fiona Anderson had no real problems in tiding up any loose balls.

Unfortunately, Sunday was not quite as successful as the Preston Lodge match, with Merchant Ladies proving to be much tougher opposition.

During the first half, Merchants had two good scoring opportunities and took them well, to lead the university team by 2-0 goals at half time. Edinburgh were finding it difficult to revive the flowing teamwork of the previous day and although Jane Stevenson, Moqua and Susan set up some nice moves, the Merchant Defences were not easily beaten.

However, the second half saw much more determination played by the if concentrated, and with Ruby fans as they travelled down to Aberdeen for a break from hockey, to take in the Line-up Round and International. Only one team member was not Irish by choosing superiority in the especially for the game to win 2-0 sets (17-7, 17-5).

The team certainly did themselves proud and refusing to be intimidated by the bus loads of Strathclyde supporters and the pressure of the occasion responded down quickly and easily to find their best form of the season. It was a nice talk from a nice man which I was quite happy to listen to.

Next up was Brian Irvine of Aberdeen FC, a committed Chris­ tian who talked about his life and how his faith had helped him through his life. Too soon, he had finished after giving only the briefest insight into a professional footballer's life.

In conclusion, it seems very good organisation as a focal point for Christians within sport, boun­ dary and Edinburgh University, and is certainly worth investigat­ ing.

VOLLEYBALL

WITHOUT doubt, this was the most exciting and demanding calendar, with the Scottish Uni­ versities Championships at Dun­ dee on Sunday, the girls were left with a slight feeling of regret.

The opposition here was not very strong giving the girls a chance to warm up before the semi­ finals, which the team quickly progressed to gaining 23/24 points in our section.

It was the home team of Dundee which we faced in the semi finals and Edinburgh won quite easily 2-0 sets. So to the final — the big battle against Strathclyde Uni­ versity, who we've faced in the past in the last two years (the 1987 final)

The team certainly did them­ selves proud! The game was played not having much to lose and Edinburgh won by 2 sets (17-7, 17-5).

After the 2nd's double win last weekend, they were looking forward to continuing their run of victories against the old rivals of Edinburgh Ladies.

The team certainly deserve full marks for their efforts and Edinburgh Ladies dominated both goals and were rewarded by two more goals, the first from Fiona and the second nearly put away by Natalie Caves.

In the second half, the Ladies set out with a lot to do and the heavy rain and dubious fitness of their side after appearing to have taken their toll. Edinburgh Ladies crept back, often con­ manding the game, and scored two goals, one from an impressive short corner. The Uni, now on their heels, put everything into defence and also almost stretched their own side. However, Trudy hit the post after beating the goalie. But it was not to be and Edinburgh Ladies equalised in the last five minutes, and the Uni's last valiant efforts in the dying minutes of the game were to no avail and they had to reluctantly settle for the draw and a single point in the division.

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Squashed!

SQUASH

Julie Nicol, the Scottish International, is in superb form. Two weeks ago she regained the British Universi­ ties squash title and added the Scottish title to her growing list of trophies this weekend with ease.

Sseeded number one, Nicol proved the organiser correct, coming through the draw with ease to reach the final, in which she met Kent's Tracy Parker. Her dominance in the court was total as she pointed out any minor errors.

The流动性 in the women's game at the moment is total; it would perhaps be more bemoaned if the men's events were to reach such heights. Such an easy reten­tion of her title must make her performance one of the outstanding efforts of this year's sporting calendar so far.

Her massacring of the field in the Scottish Universities event last weekend came as no surprise.
More than a year after the publication of the Satanic Verses, a similar controversy has erupted in the French and Arabic-speaking world, over a comic-strip version of the Koran. Dirk Singer reports.

The comic-strip Koran: an extract

"Have 30 years of prison made him whiter than I am?"

Proost. Finally, related to the latter charge, is the criticism that Proost's cartoons stereotype Arabs. Seddik naturally sees all of this differently, feeling that he is actually "working for Islam". Seddik originally set about with the project in order to make the Koran more accessible, "especially to youngsters, so that they can dissociate themselves from the Islamic stereotypes."

Seddik has been accused of wanting to "westernise and christianise." Related to the latter charge, is the criticism that the work stereotypes Arabs.

The work is due to appear in the English language at an unspecified date later in the year. In France the release prompted calls for the burning of the work, along with book burnings, and telephone threats against the author and the publisher. The Arabic World Institute in Paris has withdrawn the books from its shelves, and has stressed that it will no longer be stocked.

What sort of reaction will Si Le Coran receive from Britain's Muslim community, barely a year after the public protests surrounding the Satanic Verses erupted? So far the Islamic religious authorities in Britain are withholdi comment, perhaps in the hope that the work will not actually make their British publishing date.

Seddik himself, was a spokesperson at the Council of Mtons in London that said he "had no comment whatsoever to make on this." Mr Bustami-Khir, the Imam of the Edinburgh Mosque commented, "what I have read about this, I have only read in the Western Media...such reports are often distorted, and not always a true reflection of what is actually happening." Mr Bustami-Khir made clear that he was unable to give an opinion before reading the book itself.

The wait and see attitude of the Islamic Clergy in Britain perhaps gives an indication that a Satanic Verses style conflict will not erupt here in Britain, only to be published in Britain. However, a cartoon version of Islam's most holy book is hardly likely to go unnoticed either.

Steve Talbot

THIRTEEN months ago I was sitting in a small house on the outskirts of Jo'burg. The summer sun was searing its way through the small cracks in the curtained windows. My host was Krish Naidoo, at that time the legal represen­ tative to Winnie Mandela, Krish, Gabu Tugwana, act­ ing editor of the progressive New Nation newspaper and Lisa Kirkup, an arts student from Edinburgh College of Art, were all sitting relaxed and sipping a cool orange drink.

I was talking at length about new organisations in sport; the National Sports Committee (NSC), which is leading the pro­ tests against the now defunct rebel tour, was formed a few months later. Krish is now the General Secretary and has been fighting off death threats from far right extremists ever since. We inevitably talked of Man­ dela. Krish has been up and down to Pollmass Prison with Winnie several times in the preceding months. He said that the Cape was "hanging" with excitement and bustling with rumour. I asked the age old question on everyone's lips, "When will Man­ dela be freed?" Both Gabu and Krish felt it would be soon, maybe next year.

I haven't contacted either Krish or Gabu yet, but Lisa was cer­ tainly doing a Toyi Toyi and singing the anthem outside the statue of the Mother and Child in Festi­ val Square, Edinborough. And I was on College green in Bristol singing "Nkosi Sikelel' Afrika" and shouting "Viva Mandela! Viva ANC!" with my father on the day they released Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

I have been involved in Edin­ burough Students Anti-Apartheid for a good long while now. When I came to Edinburgh, it was at a time shortly after the "Mandela for Rector" campaign. The cam­ paign reached the columns of the Guardian but because Mandela won the Rectorship but because he was not allowed to sign the necessary forms forms to become a candidate. The regime would not allow it.

Last Thursday I was in the Lon­ don offices of the African National Congress. Whilst I was discussing to the deputy chief rep­ resentative, Billy Masefield, in walked Fred Carneson a long time ANC member banned in the 1950's before Mandela had been jailed. Fred, a kind white hair elderly man, wanted a copy of the Government Gazette; the paper that lists all banned and un-banned people, objects and litera­ ture. Fred had been "freed". For the first time in over 30 years Fred Carneson could be quoted, could meet more than one person at a time. A South African. Fred may even go home.

I picked up a copy of the Scotsman on the 10th and the heading started "Freed Nelson Mandela..." "What a difference a year makes," I was thinking. "Free Mandela for he has been "freed." He is free to walk the streets of Soweto. He is free to hold press conferences. He is free and he is black! He has no vote! He has no right to live anywhere! He has no right to vote. He has no vote..."
According to ecologists, soil which is continually and increasingly saturated by chemicals is made unhealthy in a way practised by today's industrial farmers, develops a dependency on those chemicals similar to that of a Junkie. With the recent creation of an Organic Farming Centre by the Edinburgh School of Agriculture and the Centre for Human Ecology, Edinburgh University is at the forefront of UK research into the use of organic farming methods to discover an alternative to this man-made weakening of the natural world. I spoke to Angus Marland of the Centre for Human Ecology, who is the Administrator of the project, to find out what he hopes the Organic Farming Centre will achieve.

Organic husbandry, Marland stresses, is the result of a conscious attempt to understand and cooperate with nature's processes and is not just a belief in the absence of chemicals. Although often associated with health food freaks, organic farming has a firm scientific basis and could, he claims, be described as the most modern system of agriculture yet devised.

The recent upsurge of interest in organic farming methods began during the first quarter of this century, when people started to notice agricultural problems arising from the use of artificial fertilisers. One of the first moves to improve the health of crops was the development by Sir Albert Howard of the Indore method of compost making. Following this innovation, links began to be observed between the way food was being produced and people's health. Sir Robert McCarrison researched the benefits to health of "whole" diets, in his experiment known as "McCarrison's Rats". He fed one group of rats a normal, "controlled" diet, while another group of rats were fed a traditionally bad diet of refined foods, high in carbohydrates and sugar. A third group was given an organically produced whole diet. From this he noticed that, while the first group continued as normal, after a period of time the second group developed a wide range of degenerative diseases similar to those suffered by many humans. On top of this, these rats lost their genetic ability to control their population density. However the third group exhibited high levels of health, well-being and social interaction.

More recently Lady Eve Balfour, who founded the Soil Association, ran a twenty year experimental farm and as a result of this work, the Association was divided into three sections - purely organic, mixed organic and artificial fertilisers, and one section relying entirely on chemicals. All the products of each section were recycled within the section, each of which provided its own seeds, and animal herds were self-contained in their own sections. A dynamic link was discovered between the soil, plants, animals and people - the health of one part was seen to depend on the health of the whole system.

Through these developments it was realised the appalling pollution and damage to people and the environment caused by the indiscriminate use of artificial fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides. In the days of "green" consciousness, the advantages of organic husbandry have become unavoidably apparent, and today it is practised all over the world - more than one million acres of farming land in Australia has been converted to using organic methods, while over 1% of agriculture in Europe is now organically produced. With £600,000 provided for its first two years of operation by Safeway plc, the Scottish Development Agency and the EEC, Edinburgh University's Organic Farming Centre has the first major institutional funding for organic farming in Europe. It is hoped that the publicity arising from this achievement will help towards the Centre's ultimate aim of attracting more farmers to convert to organic farming. At the moment however, Angus Marland believes farmers can afford to change over, because during the conversion which can last a number of years while the soil goes through a withdrawal period, the farmers lose money as their yield is vastly reduced. To mitigate this loss, the process of conversion has to be designed very carefully.

It is planned that the Organic Farming Centre will be a broad spectrum project, aiming for a balanced development of research into organic vegetable and beet production and a whole farm monitoring programme. An advice and training service will be created and the EEC Commission has requested that the information gained be stored in a Europe-wide database.

The techniques used in organic agriculture to produce food of a high biological quality - instead of merely looking good - are simple. The soil is enriched by organic manures - dung, harvest residues, bonemeal, hoof and hornmeal, for example - or even crushed plants and seaweed. Fertilisers are used, but these are not chemicals. These manures and fertilisers are then worked into the soil in such a way as to improve its structure and to encourage biological activity; it is the microbes which are of increasing its yield, whereas each year so-called "conventional" farmers must increase the amount of chemicals they use in order to maintain their production levels in the face of the sickness of the plants, the destruction of the soil's natural balance and the obligation to produce perfect goods without fail.

Demand for organic foodstuffs amongst consumers is far greater than retailers can at present supply. Last year a survey of 1,000 adults revealed that 90% of people over the age of 15 were seriously concerned about the environment and were willing to pay more for "green" products. Indeed, one in four said they would be prepared to spend up to 25% more on environmentally friendly goods than on their equivalent conventional products.

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It is this huge consumer demand that has led Safeway to become involved financially in the Organic Farming Centre. Already Safeway stocks organic produce in all of its 260 stores. However at the moment they are forced to import 60% of this from abroad and still, they claim, can only meet half the demand. They need to increase the security of supply of their organic produce. In his speech at the Centre's opening ceremony, Alistair Grant, the Chairman and Chief Executive of Safeway, admitted: "What we are looking for from this project, is assistance in establishing a regular and guaranteed supply of good quality organic produce at a premium which is commercially realistic once the market is established."

Ultimately Angus Marland hopes that the Organic Farming Centre will make organic agriculture more economically viable and that by, through research, increasing the security and quality of the supply of the produce to wholesalers and retailers, attract more farmers to convert to organic farming. Whatever happens, this is only the beginning.
Since undertaking the writing of this article I have been confidently assured by a number of experts that alcoholism is a disease. That it is hereditary, and implicitly then that the 'alcoholic' is not to blame for it. This reflects a deep-seated misunderstanding in the minds of millions worldwide. It is disturbingly ironic that the majority of 'alcoholic' experts in Britain would now dismiss outright this ill-informed concept of alcoholism, whilst the general public still think of it as a mark of liberal and enlightened opinion. For this reason the disease theory is still wielded around by 'non-specialist' as a scientifically established fact when in reality it is not this at all, but rather a learned behavioural disorder.

The belief that alcoholism is a disease is a response, it seems, to a humanitarian conscience which insists that an 'alcoholic' cannot help behaving how he does and so should not be punished for his behaviour. A colossal increase in drinking in the last 40 years has stimulated a concerted effort to promote this view spearheaded by the remarkable organisation of Alcoholics Anonymous established around the time of the First World War by the enigmatic 'Bill W' and 'Dr Bob'. What this huge body of thought has failed to see is that the rejection of the disease theory does not dismiss the belief that alcoholics should receive concern and help. Consequently a drunk may no longer be considered 'sick', but at the same time retain the quality of not being 'bad' either.

Though individual alcohol consumption has increased to dangerous heights in the last 30 years, it is a sobering thought that in the second half of this century Britain remains vastly drier than during the 18th century when 832 pints were drunk per person annually. Bearing in mind these figures include children and non-drinkers, and that beer in those days was considerably stronger than its modern counterpart, this suggests a fairly imprecise alcohol feeling was finally utterly discredited. However if the physical effects of heavy drinking, ranging from testicular shrinkage to brain damage, will.

In its entirety here.

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This country's drink problem is serious and increasing. Because a small proportion of drinkers drink a large proportion of the nation's alcohol (20% of the population drink 80% of its alcohol), the drinks industry must accept big reductions in consumption if it is serious about checking alcoholism. However with the possibility of 70 Members of Parliament having vested interest in the drink industry legislation is not likely to be forthcoming. Present plans suggest that in 1992 with the single market agreement of the EEC, in Britain spirits will fall in price by £2.27 a bottle, wine by 70p and beer by 15p a pint, causing an estimated 28% increase in the amount of alcohol consumed nationwide. Proportionally, deaths, illness, accidents and social problems will increase. If this doesn't persuade you that drinking less could well be a good idea perhaps the physical consequences of heavy drinking, ranging from testicular shrinkage to brain damage, will.

If there is to be a resolution to the problem then alcoholism itself must be recognised for what it is. Not a disease, the origin of which lies in folklore, myth and tradition but a behavioural disorder. Once this is done considerably more effective preventative education and actual treatment can be expected.

Alcohol is the most commonly used and socially acceptable drug. But its abuse is on the increase in Britain. This problem of alcoholism is widely regarded as a type of 'disease', yet argues James Niven drunkenness is in fact a curable behavioural disorder.

Heredity alcoholism too is often misrepresented. For it is a primitive human instinct to model one’s behaviour on successful and contemporaries as at home in the child’s imitation of his parents social habits. At its most simple; the daughter seeing her mother drinking alone may wish to do the same. Not so clear is the pattern of under-achievement, involvement in trouble and unhappiness experienced by the son of a heavy drinker who has not grown up with the qualities to avoid such instability because of his father’s condition. Alcoholism then comes as a result of his misguided adolescence which is inextricably linked to his father’s drink problem and inevitable neglect.

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If there is to be a resolution to the problem then alcoholism itself must be recognised for what it is. Not a disease, the origin of which lies in folklore, myth and tradition but a behavioural disorder. Once this is done considerably more effective preventative education and actual treatment can be expected.
On January 16th the government rejected proposals for random breath tests. CADD, formed in 1985 to publicise and combat the problem of drinking and driving, was bitterly disappointed. Its members consist of those concerned with this "hidden slaughter" on our roads. But its support for RBT is not unique — CADD are not an hysterical or interfering minority. For, believe it or not, the following salient organisations — and many more — all advocate RBT: Association of Police Officers (ACPO); British Medical Association; Automobile Association; Royal Automobile Club; and the Institute for Alcohol Studies. Even government investigations — Blennerhasset in 1976 and Central Policy Review (Think Tank) in 1979 — have called for its introduction. Finally, there is overwhelming public support — for instance, an NOP poll in September 1989 found 81 per cent in favour of RBT. So why does the government resist the scheme?

After all, the drink/driving problem is nothing to be complacent about. Government statistics indicate that 20 per cent — or 1,000 — of all road deaths are alcohol related. But even this is an understatement, because official statistics only include drivers over 16 who are over the legal limit at the time of an accident and die within 12 hours of the accident. So, if a drunken driver kills himself and his three passengers, only his death is recorded as alcohol-related. Also excluded are the many drunken drivers who die some time after the accident.

Recently, for instance, a woman was killed by a drunken driving with excess alcohol. The police policy of breath testing produces partial and limited statistics that understate the problem of drink/driving — hence it regurgitates and reinforces that outdated belief that drink/driving accidents are rare, inevitable, and must be endured. The truth is radically different. Seventy people are killed or injured every day in alcohol-related road accidents, and RBT offers a means of stopping many such crimes.

The government attempts to perpetuate via statistical manipulation. One motive — excuse revenue — is clear, but it may also be that the government is deceived and influenced by the powerful Brewers' Society and its lobbyists. Whatever the cause, the government resists RBT by using a simple technique; it produces partial and limited statistics that understate the problem of drink/driving — hence it regurgitates and reinforces that outdated belief that drink/driving accidents are rare, inevitable, and must be endured. The truth is radically different. Seventy people are killed or injured every day in alcohol-related road accidents, and RBT offers a means of stopping many such crimes.

Few consider the possible arguments against RBT. One could be that it is an ineffective strategy. However, in light of evidence from Australia, Scandinavia and America, where RBT is well established, it is clear that this criticism is unfounded.

In 1989, BBC TV's "Horizon" reported that "since its introduction in New South Wales, drink/driving deaths have dropped by 40 per cent, with a welfare and health saving of 260 million". CADD estimates that random breath testing in Britain could save, annually, 500 to 1,000 lives, 5,000 to 10,000 injuries, and £200 to £500 million in lost productivity. (Department of Transport values a human life at £500,000.) Further, these calculations exclude the savings in time and money for the police, courts and health services. Finally, evidence shows that "highly visible spot checks" for RBT encourages more disciplined and safer driving. Given such gains, the potential argument that RBT sacrifices personal liberty (by testing innocent people) can be discounted. Public opinion clearly indicates that, just as with airport security checks, this principle is outweighed by the benefits the system accrues to society. So perhaps more convincing would be the view that the police and the courts already efficiently deal with the problem of drink/driving.

However, the police policy of breath testing is patchy. This is partly because in order to enforce a test, a policeman must have grounds for "suspicion" that an individual is over the legal limit of 80 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood. Many forces are not keen on exercising these powers because of the legal debate and accusations of heavy-handedness or victimisation those situations throw up. Hence, breath testing is given different emphases by different constables, and this hinders a concerted effort against drink/driving. RBT, however, suffer no such ambiguities and would be nationwide policy.
THE ALMIGHTY

Venue

AT LAST the world's best kept secret is out - The Almighty are in fact a gospel band, or at least so it seemed as the religious sound of organ wafted out through the dry ice on the stage, creating a Hollywood-like impression of heaven. However, the four figures that emerged through the mist bore very little resemblance to angels, in fact they look like they've popped up from the 'other' place. We're talking greasy hair, bachelor gear and totally wild tattoos; by this point we are all well aware that The Almighty are nowhere to spread the word of God, as I'm sure that Jesus would not approve of the swearing that is spurted out in large doses. "I know you all hate me!" grunts guitarist and singer Ricky, who is the nearest thing we got to a deity.

BIRDLAND

The Network

RATHER optimistically the Red Cross are here. They are to be disappointed by the dearth of blood-drained bodies taken to the brink of life by the rock 'n' roll frenzy that is Lloyd Cole. Lloyd Cole is boring. Boring yet fascinating: such is the contrast between Cole the person and Cole the songwriter. He remains the storyteller, brilliant but detached; his non-confessional approach doesn't make a comfortable live set. The songs are masterful vignettes of small lives, beloved guitar heavens so attractive on record, and yet per-

Birdland are an enigma; how can a band with such presence, peerless talent and devastatingly good looks be so shit? It be that their own songs are of such poor quality that not even Hazell Dean would deign them fit to put on her new album? Or perhaps is it that

Rob, the singer, has a voice that is better suited to catering-wauling? Maybe. And, having written the handbook of manufactured rancourness themselves, the synchronised jumping, spitting at the audience and guitar throwing was merely a formality.

That said, the atmosphere was very good. Perhaps the audience were prepared, having heard the maxim, "Expect the worst and you won't be surprised." Birdland did their best and couldn't have tried any harder. Their bad-boy, "Fuck You" attitude is good fun to watch and although it shocked nobody and becomes somewhat tiresome after their normal set length of 4 minutes, who cares?

"This is Birdland and Birdland are Rock 'n' Roll Niggers!" New that's what I call an encore introduction. These guys really know how to have a good time. There are three reasons for this being the best part of the concert; first, Rock's Roll Nigger isn't their song, second, they smiled whilst playing it (love the pearly whites, girl!), and finally, it was the last song that they played. Birdland may be shit, but that's not so bad if you still haven't progressed from your anal stage.

Kieran McNally

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THE PALE Saints are the latest in a long line of classic popsters to emerge from the much touted 4AD stable. Since the release of their stunning debut EP, Bargie into the Presence of God, in September of last year the Saints have become revered by the popular music press. Since then they've toured extensively, picking up a large cult following, and managed to gain indie super status with two entries in John Peel's Festive Fifty. But don't be put off by the "indy" tag, this is big sounding, big thinking music.

And it's not just raw power pop either. Fretted, fragmented guitar waterfalls cascade everywhere (honest) and even the feedback is glorious! The Saints glide effortlessly over ground previously tread by mentry metal. Ian 'Master's' voice soars so enjoyably. Take a sip and a sniff. Craig McLean

Student

BEST BEFORE WINTER

Glasgow Videodrome

BEST Before Winter attack this pop game in stages. Taking off from their recent acoustic set at Oddfellows, the first song is acoustic guitar and tambourine; the second boosts the addition of the full drumkit; for the third, the electric guitar joins the fray, bass guitar beefs around in the background. Taking this incremental approach, Best Before Winter offer different interpretations of their method, but throughout, what strikes is the quality of their SONGS. Unlike Moni, whom the band are nominally supporting, BBW have no need for umpteen guitars, keyboards and falsified vocal flourishes. Songs of the strength of Something Like It and Hit the Moving Target give ample, spacious scope for Katrina Fitzsimmons' unfused yet high altitude vocals to do full justice to choruses that already have one foot in the door of chart stardom. Best Before Winter are pop, never pop. Even in the first full band set, they're inherent grandness spills forth. There are days of wine and roses ahead. Take a sip and a sniff.

LLOYD COLE

Usher Hall

"You know it's true when the actress says she was easy," sang the first-time-onstage Lloyd Cole. Lloyd Cole is boring. Boring yet fascinating: such is the contrast between Cole the person and Cole the songwriter. He remains the storyteller, brilliant but detached; his non-confessional approach doesn't make a comfortable live set. The songs are masterful vignettes of small lives, beloved guitar heavens so attractive on record, and yet per-

formed here they lack that vivac-

ity, and Lloyd lacks the charm of his contemporaries (Michael Stipe, Morrissey and Lulu) so the whole affair seems routine. Howe-

ever, no amount of lethargy can destroy "Perfect Skin" and it's the strength of the songs rather than the singer which makes Brand New Friend, Big Snake and No Blue Skies so enjoyable. Like the heckler said: "Wash your hair, Lloyd." Put a few sequins in your pants. But of sparkly, lovely.

Of course in the audience's eyes the lad done great, but fussy pedi-

ans like me left disillusioned. If he needs to go on playing it cool, so be it. Fortunately his music exams outside his own acquired attitudes; he cannot deny us that.

He may have cultivated the stub-

ble of a bohemian, but he still has the arse of a bookworm.

Stuart Walker

PREVIEW

"There are days of wine and roses ahead. Take a sip and a sniff..."
THE DRY ice swirls, ghostly screams fill the air, while an extra from the Rocky Horror Picture Show flits past mysteriously. The air clears, the lights blaze and our heroes strut seductively into their leather clad positions, pointing and hoping that this particular colour of lipstick doesn’t clash with their tattoos. Get the picture.
This is rock and roll, and Pretty Boy Floyd are not going to let us forget it. They’re Rock And Roll Outlaws with only “48 Hours To Rock And Roll” “Sieve Sex” Summers on lead vocals and sextys (that’s what sex is) gives a glimpse of his rock ’n’ roll staple whilst Krispy Krash Major (guitar and anxiety) lens loose on the guitar solos.
But, I mustn’t mock, at least they’re not making any pretensions to greatness: “We’re leather boys with electric toys and we’re making noise tonight”. And to tell the truth they sound as if they’re having a bloody good time. There are enough cliches in this record to fill, well, a book about cliches, but what the hell, they don’t care.
Jill Franklin

MUTE DRIVERS
Everyone
One Little Indian LP
AFTER THE tuneful single, Boomtown, I certainly wasn’t expecting this from the Mute Drivers. Rather than the polished chartbound follow through we are given a collection of sharply pointed spears to throw at the establishment. These songs are stripped down to the bare essentials. Thus, they are more direct and infinitely more intense. Company Chairman tramps unrepentantly into REM territory, with a guitar line similar to that of Finest Worksong, and tells a tale of capitalist greed and Thatcherism. Hey Michael is an irrelevant attack on the the America of Bush and Reagan, while House of Cars and Government Man bring the message, and part of the blame, home to Thatcher’s doorstep.
Pop has never been so direct and exuberant and we’ve never been so deserving.
Kieron Melotte

LITTLE ANGELS
Kicking Up Dust
Polydor Single
I used to work with a girl who assured me she was good friends with this lot. I’d imagined it kept it bloody quiet myself. It’s not as if anyone needs another bunch of nicely permed rockers with their phony American accents and innuendo packed “I want to see your hands in the air right now” metal blige. True to form, Kicking Up Dust is an unimaginative and utterly uninspiring waste of time. Hopeless.
Robin Mitchell

UGLY AS SIN PAIN
China single
UGLY AS Sin, as the name seems to suggest, are not very attractive. But this is not the type of dirty, gritty, hardcore unattractiveness that would endear them to the thousands of unwashed goths that roam the nations. However, I think I can sort of see where they’re coming from, and I suppose I must concede that they have the sort of cliche-ridden guitar sound that would endear them to the thousands of unwashed goths that are the nation’s worries.
Kieron Melotte

JAGGED EDGE
Trouble
Polydor Mini Album
THE ALMIGHTY
Power
Polydor EP
TWO desplicable little records from two desplicable little bands. The Almighty are slightly better than Jagged Edge, but that’s no compliment. After all, Goebel was slightly better than Hitler.
The Almighty came on like a labour-led Zodiac Mindwarp, just without the double entendres. And as a Zodiac record without any references to his “lightening rod” is about as worthwhile a prospect as an edition of Bulleye without the God-like genius that is Jim Bowen, you can safely rely on the Almighty’s lack of talent. Jagged Edge wouldn’t know a double entendre if it jumped up out of the recording studio, looking raunchy and intense. And long-haired pretensionists may be dreadful - they do after all, sing about “wild and wonderful women” who “drive me f-wording crazy” - but they really are left standing by Jagged Edge in any contest for appalling-ness.
We’re here dealing with a collection of four long-haired and exceptionally ugly young men who have no chance at all. None. They bramely admit to having toured with Ozzy Osborne. They plaster the inside sleeve of their sleeve offering with photographs of themselves in the recording studio, looking raunchy and intense. And long-haired and ugly. That same studio looks to contain two unacceptable things: a wall plastered with pictures of “foxy chicks” and (more frighteningly) a stone taken from the latest edition of Cuming Stunts Gentlemen’s Art Magazine; and a producer who bears more than a passing resemblance to Christopher Biggins. Unforgivable. And then there’s the lyrics. Whoever came up with this lot makes Princess Diana look like a possible winner on Going for Gold. . . “Rosy, Rosy, won’t you wind me up? Rosy, Rosy, won’t you strut your stuff?” being a fairly typical gem. The music itself - plodding and faced with clumsy guitar solos is as predictable as the cut of the band’s trousers (rather tight, especially in the vicinity of their oh-so-large souls-pants). Both the records are quite milk-curdlingly bad, and both bands deserve a Salamani Rubbide death sentence to be placed upon them for their contributions to music. Time for the Iranians to get busy.
John Tuson

COMPETITION & RESULTS

Competition - they just get better and better. Last week it was copies of Lloyd Cole’s wonderful album and this week it’s tickets to see the world’s most exciting and controversial hip hop band, Public Enemy. It seems by now everyone in the Cole competition old the answer right were: Sarah Falcomer (Pollock Halls), Marie-Claire Taylor (West Nicolson St) and Sharon Ramsay (Phippsby, Deep). They all correctly answered that the promotional Walkmans for Cole’s single No Blue Skies was a bridge (thick CFCs and atlas bone layer), and can collect their prizes from the Student offices on Friday at 1pm.
This week competition will enable two lucky friends to take a special friend along to the Barrowlands on the 27th of March to see the very wonderful Public Enemy. Simply answer the following question and give the music pages a phone on 558 1117 before 1pm on Tuesday and a pair of tickets courtesy of Regular Music will be winging their way to you.
For which film by Spike Lee did Public Enemy pen the single Fight The Power?
"WHERE does our memory begin?" the rhetorical question provided the starting point for Teatr Blik's Niko Blik's 90 minute show, where aspects of contemporary Polish and culture were explored in juxtaposition with Poland's history. What seems like a dreamy recipe for an entertainment was, however, made unique by the highly original use of mime and dance, with mordant Polish music as a backdrop. The starkly minimal black-and-white set and sparse use of props meant that we relied much more on the players’ facial expressions and movements to tell us what was going on - for there was no dialogue to help us. The show was, as a result, somewhat disturbing - for Teatr Blik's highly individual use of mime is different from the typical ‘doplicki’ we have come to expect. Instead, it was grotesque towards women and yet are the most vociferous critics of sexual harassment and rape. Interspersed with some sharp character observations and a lively style of presentation the first sketches promised an entertaining and genuinely funny evening which alas it was not to be.

As with most satire there is a risk of the satirist assuming a man's superiority and the trio certainly did not quite meet it. Instead of providing a ridicule of former's style. A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE AS MANY AS 60 ALTERNATIVE COMEDIANS - FOR FREE!

LOVE STORY OF THE CENTURY
Traverse Theatre
13 - 18 February

IN A BARREN setting, empty apart from a table and a window in the surrounding walls, “Love Story of the Century” describes a woman’s life and relationship with her brilliant husband - a genius who resorts to binge drinking, violence and indulgences.

Gillian Hanna and Mary

EL CONCIERTO DE SAN OVIDIO
Adam House
14-16 February

FAITH CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS. This is the principal motto behind Antonio Buero Vallejo's allegorical drama. Entrepreneur and pretended philanthropist Valdín, employs a group of blind musicians, formerly reliant on charity for their living, to perform in a concert at the festival of St. Oviedo. But Valdín, with brilliancy and exaggeration, with a blackly surreal edge of humour that one can only assume is peculiar to Poland. Would you call two grown men parading in spangles, jock-straps and hitting each other with whips "humorous?" Neither would I. The audience involvement was constant throughout as we became the jury, chuckling at all of the slaps, quips passed between the Judge and rival QCs. The character here only seemed to fit the role - pompous prosecutor etc.) - but both Edward De Souza ( Mr. Justice Tredwell ) carried off their roles with conviction creating many memorable moments. The best line of the night however came when a bit of set scenery collapsed and the Judge reproved the giggling audience, saying sternly “Silence in this court of love and pain that lift far above the usual who-dunnit mystery.

Both Frank Finlay and Wendy Craig gave superb performances. It would have been easy to overact the traumatic emotions portrayed in the second half and kill the play but instead it was poignantly conveyed all the love, laughter and pain of their situation. The poetry of Dylan Thomas became a medium through which the characters could voice their perplexing intentions; the final poem was spoken with just the right amount of choked emotion.

The carefully designed set and skilful use of voices also contributed to the delivery of the performance. Before the show I had been rather apprehensive that it would prove mediocre but all round excellent performances created an evening of entertainment and sadness. Definitely a show worth seeing.

Fiona Gordon

play is visually effective. About a woman and her son, both young and starting two women, the show is primarily concerned with the adversities endured by the female race. On reading her grandmother’s diary, it is found that she suffered similarly through marriage, and the recurrent use of "she"/"her" throughout the monologue, implies the presence of a strong sting of feminism. The intensity of such a play is therefore strong and it would prove mediocre but being well performed, with good lighting and an effective set, shorter would be more appropriate, due to the flatness and drammatic of the film.

Catherine May

McCauley play the part of a wife and mother who is striving to write a back against a backdrop of children and a demanding husband. These are the role participants in a monologue which passes back and forth between them, as the story describes the barbiturary with alcoholism and the deterioration of a once happy marriage. Dramatic and intense, the setting remains the same throughout the play, ensuring a claustrophobic and stifling atmosphere.

Though initially empty, by the end the floor is bankruptly strewn with bottles, books and roses and the resultant mess adds to the chaos and topsey-turvey produced by alcohol, so that the audience were a touch uneasy as a result, and didn’t seem sure whether to giggle or applaud at times. Even the piano music, which seemed so stark and commanding of the origination, tended to grate a bit on the nerves by the end of its repetition - it was like one of those nightmares where you see the same scene over and over again.

Would you call two spangled jock-straps humorous?

This could be seen as a comment on the show as a whole - I hadn't, I found it repetitive and its pointless obscurity left me cold. It was an ambitious idea for a great length of time and the scope of such an undertaking demands more than the confines of mime can offer - but yet, without the mime, the show would be profoundly unsettling. A beautiful show - but perhaps not the likes of me.

Karen Virapen

Student
THE DECADE AHEAD
The Scottish Gallery
until 27 February

Just as 1989 brought an epidemic of eighties retrospectives, so 1990 is bringing a rash of nineties predictions. The Decade Ahead at the Scottish Gallery showing the work of twelve Scottish artists and twelve Scottish craftsmen, is an exhibition in this vein. These are artists who it is believed will feature prominently in the art scene of the future; perhaps this is a new decade title for another young talent exhibition, since many of the artists were hardly sunk in oblivion last year and hardly won equal presence through the power of their intuition and the beauty of their work. The works in this well laid out exhibition are varied and accomplished; no artist lets the standard drop (except perhaps Murray Robertson with his ghastly science fiction images though some make more impact than others. Peter Macleod’s pop art, Jackson Pollock like paintings catch your eye not least because they occupy a huge amount of wall, yet Peter White’s marvellous sand toned oils with their figures hovering in shadowy uncertainty at the sides of the canvas are the equal in their quiet strength. I was also sustained by the work of the craftsmen; especially to Philip Eglinton’s beautiful earthware figures with their simple curves and madonna like expressions. Gail Alsmee’s sugary red reliefs of a crystalised form and the shape of Vikingships. In general this exhibition’s bold title makes you view the work in terms of what the artist will bring to the new phase. There is a lot here to get enthusiastic about but little that is really fresh. The corset of the nineties in embryo then the outlook is positive but not challenging. Considering the exhibition in a stylish gallery but I wonder if this is really the stuff of 1999’s recollections.

Vicki Miller

Gwen Hardie
Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art
until 18 March

GWEN HARDIE is a young Scottish artist who is known for her innovative treatment of the female form. Her aim is to reclaim a way of portraying the female body that is based on sensual intuition rather than the masculine tradition of representing women as some kind of eternal ideal. Her art is an attempt to portray the body as we really live in and experience it.

Her most striking work is a series of paper relief sculptures. Their texture is carefully built up to represent skin and the general impression is tactile and earthy. They are very much alive and one of her reliefs “Dancing” is a particularly inspired combination of practical solidity and swaying movement. These works are all very stylish but they do seem to contain a warm and affectionate representation of something to do with the human figure. Hardie’s pictures are an interesting collection though of varied quality. Some of them have a certain impact and one of them “Coupling” is a powerful and unemotional representation of physical union. It portrays huge faceless forms and personal identity seems to play no part in the contact that is being made. In contrast her watercolours “The African Sketchbook” are a more light hearted and colourful treatment of the general theme.

Her most recent work is a series of black and white canvases designed to represent the skin either in microscopic detail or as some kind of cosmic configuration deep from a great distance. I found these pieces very disappointing. They are a fairly grim collection and lack the lively and forceful humanity that runs through the rest of her work. Her most recent work is very promising and often moving. Hardie succeeds in her challenging ambition to portray the female body “from within” and the power of her intuition and her ability to represent it make this an impressive exhibition.

Clare Thornley

John Collins

MARTIN TAYLOR’S SARABANDA
Queen’s Hall
16 February

WHEN MARTIN TAYLOR appeared on stage it was as though we had been suddenly transported back in time fifteen years into the mid 1970’s. The combination of carefully groomed shoulder length hair and beard together with closely cut suits made for an air of incongruity. However, none of this matted once the virtuoso of guitar started to play. What he lacked in stage presence was more than compensated by his effortless technique and inspired melodic improvisations.

Taylor is well known in jazz spheres for, playing along side such names as Stephanie Graelli and Buddy De Franco. His style falls somewhat in between Joe Pass’s rock solid mainstream.

SNØ
Usher Hall
16 February

THE MANFRED SYMPHONY, with its unconventional programme-based structure gains even more than most of Tchaikovsky’s major works from a spectacular performance, and that is certainly received from the SNP and Bryden Thomson.

Thomson’s feeling for Tchaikovsky’s rubato was persuasive and spontaneous sounding. His interpretation of the outer movements was broad and spacious. Perhaps a tauter, more urgent manner is the norm for a coherent account of Tchaikovsky’s music, but the paradox was that with the breadth went a fine control of tension which ensured that every movement was capped with an overwhelmingly powerful climax. The melancholy sweep generated by the dark orchestration and strong dissonances of the first movement, the delicately scored scherzo with its rapidly changing kaleidoscope of sound representing a waterfall and the lyrical serenity of the pastoral movement all made their point eloquently.

Taiwanese soloist Chi-Liang Lin joined the orchestra for Prokofiev’s violin concerto no. 2. A useful frame of reference for this work is Prokofiev’s ballet Romeo and Juliet as there are many “reminiscences” within the work. I have heard more academic and ultimately more devlish accounts of Prokofiev’s sin and games in the outer movements but none more brilliantly displayed. Lin shaped the piece gracefully and the fabulously scored intermezzo was impressive, but he could have injected some student aggression in the rebellious sections. Thomson’s direction of the accompanying woodwinds was loose and clumsy, especially in the Andante where there was no groundswell against which Lin’s improvisatory counterpoints could soar.

Alan Campbell

John Collins

John Collins

Joanna Swanson

Photo: John Elliott

with the ability to play solo and give the illusion of a small combo and John McLaughlin’s all encompassing combination of blues, rock, folk and jazz. Sarabanda, Taylor’s first permanent group features pianist, Dave Green who this Scottish demon only a few years ago completed the Leeds College of Music Jazz and Light music course. Newton London his base but on Friday returned to demonstrate his facilities technique and impeccable taste - a rare combination.

Also performing were “Melanie O’Reilly and Watch What Happens”. This recently formed local band performed several original compositions as well as standards such as “Old Devil Moon” and “Body and Soul”. Especially beautiful were the rambles in hot Latin groove which enabled their double percussion section to be exploited.

Local band Brave New World (David and John Rae (drums) deserve special credit for providing the odd rhythm section to fire hands throughout the evening.

John Elliott

SHIFT 93: MIXED MEDIA WORKS BY JOHN COLLINS
Collective Gallery
until 3 March

EACH INDIVIDUAL work in this exhibition is involving in itself, but taken together, the images suggest a powerful, if at times disjointed, theme. The artist is passionately concerned with the process of destruction and construction and of society. Consequently, his works project a personal journey of awareness and a political and ideological statement.

Two works show split sections of the human body in diagrammatic form. Reminiscent of anatomical drawings, the familiar textbook organs are distorted to represent a redoucification of the psyche and the soul. That this process can be a violent and destructive one is borne out in the vivid, discordant atmosphere of roots swelling into an abundance of a bishop scrawled in black paint. Taylor’s first per-
Jacqueline Bisset and Ed Begley Jr. in Scen es From The Class Struggle in Beverly Hills

Scenes From The Class Struggle In Beverly Hills

Dir. Paul Bartel

Odeon

The LENGTHS publicity agents will go to try and make a turkey seem palatable. Scenes From The Class Struggle in Beverly Hills is glowingly described as a "wickedly funny contemporary restoration comedy. Well, it isn't. Not funny, and about as far removed from a restoration comedy as Howard the Duck.

The title, about the only promin­ ing aspect of its whole farago, is misleading: there is no class struggle, merely a tired parade of sex­ ual exploitation linked by the most tenuous of plots. Basic, mas­ serf in a wealthy mansion finds himself threatened by gambling creditors. To pay off a required $9000 he makes a deal with his fel­ low employee, the bisexual Frank. If Jean can seduce Clara, a "nearly forgotten sitcom queen" (Jacqueline Bisset in a role that is probably too close for comfort) before he has his way with Clara's friend Lisabeth, then he'll pay him the money. If not, Frank has sex with Juan. Squeezed into the whole framework are a range of characters so one-dimensional and dramatically impotent that it is hard to imagine any director giving his go-ahead to the project. The characters are an irrelevance, serving no purpose whatsoever save to go to bed with one another and rush woodenly into rooms at inopportune moments. Pedro Almodovar carried a similar con­ cept off with better wit and style in Women on the Verge of A Nervous Breakdown, but he understands humour. This is a bedroom farce without the farce, and it's painful to watch. Perhaps it is wrong to even

When I fall in love

Dir. Taylor Hackford

When your gallant film editor first asked me to review this film many weeks ago, it came under the title Everyone's All-American. Then it was a minor American release, running unabashedly straight to video. Now it is up for cinematic release under the deliberately neutral title of When I Fall In Love.

In The Class Struggle, the English­ speaking students are not only a convenient plot device but a frequent source of comic relief. In The Class Struggle, Roselyne is a rather tiresome character. In this film, Roselyne is an English county historian, known to his adoring students as the Gray (Jacqueline Bisset) and to his girlfriend and later wife (Jes­ sica Lange). It follows his career from being bookish, licensed undergraduate star, through con­ tinued success at Johns Hopkins University to an eventual drun­ kness, boorish retirement. I was ini­ tially puzzled by the film's new­ tone: both of the main pro­ tagonists are in love when the
Roddy Dunlop, Captain of the University Rugby Club and a 2nd year law student, talked to Zoe Pag­namenta on the sub­ject of his heroes...

"There are millions of people I admire. I can’t think of that many people who really inspire me - who I could class as ‘heroes’;

Finlay Calder was the captain of the Lions on their victorious tour of Australia last year, and captain of the Scottish team for the 88-89 season. As a player, he’s very aggressive. He plays in the back row, as I do - he plays to try to do, but nothing like how I do play.

I admire his leadership qualities most of all. He’s a very eloquent, soft-spoken guy. He’s not what you’d expect when you’ve seen him on the pitch. He doesn’t come on the telly and grunt at you - he’ll sit and explain what happened, and the team’s tactics. He’s got a mind. He’s a very good ambassador for the sport.

What marks has he left on soci­ety? - Stud marks.

I like John Wayne, because he doesn’t take any shit. He looked like he had a really good life, I like his acting, and he comes across as a total misogynist alcoholic. I’m not saying that I’m a misogynist alcoholic, although many would say I am, but I like what he stands for...

I guess cowboys and rugby players share a similar kind of camaraderie, they both like-baked beans, like to drink, sing songs, and yeah, they both ride hard and stay in the saddle longer.

John Wayne’s best film was definitely ‘The Cowboys’ (1972). Ever since I played cowboys and indians in the backyard, and said ‘get off your horse and drink your milk’ to my wee pals.

I’ve always admired my dad. My dad’s done what I want to do. He played rugby to a high standard. He did law, as I’m doing, became an advocate, and he’s now a part-time sheriff before graduating to be a full-time sheriff. He’s doing, and has done, what I want to do, and he’s done it well.

Stephen King is a superb writer - I’ve read all his books. I did a dis­sertation on him for my SYS English, comparing his work to...

Robert Louis Stevenson’s ‘Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde’ and Stoker’s ‘Dracula’. He’s very underrated. Just because horror’s a genre that’s not given much credence, people don’t rate King as a writer. But what he does - he does very well.

He tries to frighten rather than to disgust and horrify. It’s the dramatic ‘icy fingers up your spine’ that’s so good. ‘It’ is a one thousand page long, absolute clas­sic.

James ‘Porky’ Thomas, the outgoing Rugby Club Captain, is someone I admire, though I take the mickey out of him constantly.

James was born in Yorkshire on the 23rd of January 1966, and was educated at public school. He’s the most classic bully I’ve ever met. He can stand at a bar and taunt the hind legs off a donkey and can get anything organised...the only word for him is ‘bully’.

He’s a very decent, very funny guy. He doesn’t have much hair left at the moment because we cut it all off on Monday. He is particul­larly famous for his stripeats at Ladies’ Rugby Club Events.

He’s very good at persuading talented boys to join the Club - boys who could play 1st or 2nd division Rugby. He’s good at pre­senting the Rugby Club as a great thing to be in. He has organised almost single-handedly, our com­ing tour to Zimbabwe, in March - getting together sponsors and events, even a safari trip.

James didn’t worry about his playing, and did a classic job as Club Captain. Ideally he should have been Club Captain forever.

Has HE left any marks on soci­ety? - Stud marks...That’ll go down well."
1. TOUCH OF EVIL
Ossie Wellels, Charlie Heston and Macouln Dietrich.
1.30 pm, 6.15 pm, 8.30 pm Mon
2. THE ACCUSED
6.00 pm, 8.15 pm Mon
1. LA BOHEME:
Film version of Puccini’s opera.
2.30, 6.30, 8.15 Tues
2. THE ACCUSED
6.00, 8.15 Tues
1. DRUGSTORE COWBOY
2.30 pm, 6.30, 8.45 pm Wed
2. IDENTIFICATION OF A WOMAN
3.00 pm, 5.45, 8.15 Wed
Minne concessions £1.00 Mon-Fri with main card. Early evening concessions £2.80. Main evening £3.10. No concessions on Saturdays.

Netherbow
43 HIGH STREET
556 9579
THE WINTER’S TALE
The Canopy Theatre Company, on tour after a run in London, present Shakespeare’s play.
Until Sat 24 Feb.
7.30 pm
£3.00/£2.50
MUSICAL STATUES
Alison and Tony Wotton’s exploration of what happened in the 18th century in Shakespeare’s plays.
Thur 22-24 Feb
1 pm
1.30
KING’S
2 LEVEN STREET
229 1201
BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT
Play by Jeffrey Archer and starring Wendy Craig.
Until Sat 24 Feb.
7.30 pm
£5.45

Richard Demarco Gallery
Blackfriars St
557 0707
SHOULD I BE AFRAID TO TRUST MYSELF?
New work by Terry Newman.
20 Feb-30 March
Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm; Sun 2 pm

Portrait Gallery
Queen St
566 9621
JOHN IRWIN
This portrait of fashion photographer including ones of Andy Warhol, Bob Geldof, Grace Jones and Billy Connolly.
Until 2 April
Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm; Sun 2-5 pm

La Belle Angele
Harrie’s Close
226 2774
SHUT UP NORTH
A collection of photographs taken by members of the Association of Photographers who use handmade process of printing. Until 25 Feb
Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm; Sat 11 am-4 pm

Queen’s Hall
Clere St
669 2019
BODY AND SOUL
Black and white prints of jazz stars by Marc Margie.
Until 4 March
Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm

Bedlam
2 FORREST ROAD
225 5073
IRISH NATIONS
EUTC perform Howard Brenton and Tanya Fray’s play written in response to the Savile Row killing.
Wed Sat 24 Feb
1.30 pm
£3.00/£2.50
ELECTRA
Sophie Press’ 2000 year tragedy performed by EUTC.
Wed Thu 24-25 Feb
7.30 pm
£2.60/£1.50
ROYAL LYCEUM
GRINDLSTAD ST
229 9697
JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK
Sean O’Casey’s Dubliner tercentenary domestic tragedy.
Until Sat 3 March
7.45 pm (Sat Mon 17 & 24 Feb, 3.15 pm)
£3.00/£2.50

National Library of Scotland
George IV Bridge
226 4351
RONALD STEVENSON
Exhibition of Edinburgh’s best known contemporary composers.
Until Sat 24 Feb
Mon-Fri 9 am-3 pm; Sat 9.30 am-1 pm; Sun 2-5 pm

369 Gallery
230 Cowgate
225 5425
DRAWINGS BY ALAN WATSON
Includes portraits of life aboard a whaling vessel.
2-24 Feb
Mon-Sat 10.30 am-5.30 pm

Bourne Fine Art Gallery
4 Dundas St
557 4509
SCOTTISH WATERCOLOURS AND OILS
Exhibition of works from the gallery’s stock.
Mon-Fri 10 am-6 pm;
Sat 10 am-1 pm

Fine Art Society
137 GEORGE STREET
226 6730
CONTemporary Artists
Including works by Richard Evrlich, R. C. Baudelaire and Edward Bowden.
Until 27 Feb
Mon-Fri 9.30 am-5.30 pm;
Sat 10 am-1 pm

Cannon
Lothian Road
229 3603
1. SEA OF LOVE
2.05 pm, 5.05 pm, 8.05 pm
2. PARENTHEHOD
1.55 pm, 4.55 pm, 7.55 pm
3. BLACK RAIN
2.00 pm, 5.00 pm, 8.00 pm
Student discount on Mondays.

Odeon
7 Clerk Street
567 7231
1. HONEY I SHUNK THE KIDS
1.15 pm, 3.45 pm, 6.15 pm, 8.15 pm
2. WHEN HARRY MET SALLY
6.30 pm, 9.00 pm
OLIVER AND COMPANY
1.30 pm, 5.30 pm
3. GHOSTBUSTERS II
1.05 pm, 3.30 pm
SCENES FROM THE CLASS STRUGGLE IN BEVERLY HILLS
Times not available, phone to confirm.
4. TURNER AND HOOCH
1.00 pm, 5.00 pm, 8.00 pm
5. BLAZE
With Paul Newman. Times not available, phone to confirm.
£1.75 student concessions until 6 pm.
Normal price £2.00

Brunton Theatre
Musselburgh
665 2240
When Smoking is Bad for You, the Edinburgh Camp
The first is a monologue by Chekhov featuring a henpecked husband deploring his wife’s school for girls.
The second is a holiday camp farce by Jack Crox.
Until Sat 24 Feb
7.30 pm
£4.25 (E)

Playhouse
Greeniside Pl
557 2500
Cats

Just when you thought you’d heard the last of this, they go and extend the run for three weeks.
Until 24 Feb
7.30 pm (Wed & Sat Mat 2.30 pm)
£8.50 (£H) £6.50 (£H)

Central Library
George IV Bridge
226 9684
Lethal Lives
Photographs recording the changes wrought on Edinburgh’s dockside port since the turn of the century.
19 Feb-26 March
Mon-Fri 9 am-6 pm; Sat 9 am-1 pm

The Scottish Gallery
94 George Street
226 5535
The Decade Ahead
The gallery try to predict artists and craftsworkers who may gain greater recognition in the near future.
Until 27 Feb
200 & 5 pm; Sat 10 am-4 pm

Gellery of Modern Art
Belford Road
556 9521
Gwen Hardie
Artist trained in Glasgow and Berlin best known for her paintings of females.
14 Feb-18 March
Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm; Sun 2-5 pm

FILM

FILOM HOUSE
LOTHIAN ROAD
226 2688
1. DO THE RIGHT THING
2.30 pm, 6.30 pm Thurs
Rosalie Goes Shopping
All is well for Rosalie and her St credit card until a computer disrupts her life.
8.45 pm Thurs
2. KENNETH ANGER 3
Collection of short films.
3.00 pm, 6.45 pm, 8.45 pm Thurs
1. DO THE RIGHT THING
2.30, 6.30, 8.45 pm Fri
Rosalie Goes Shopping
All is well for Rosalie and her credit card until a computer disrupts her life.
8.45 pm Thurs
1. HIGH WIND IN JAMAICA
2.00 pm Sat
Rosalie Goes Shopping
8.45 pm Sat
1. LE GRAND CHEMIN
Birth, death, sex, kick games and adult scenes are seen through the eyes of a seven-year-old.
7.30, 8.30, 10.30 pm Sat
1. TOUCH OF EVIL
8.30 pm Sun
1. LE GRAND CHEMIN
8.30, 10.30 am Sun

Theatre

Traverse Theatre
GRASSMARKET
226 2633
SUSPENDED SENTENCES
Multi-media performance involving sculptor Malcolm Paynter and choreographer Jill Wicke.
Until Sun 25 Feb.
7.30 pm
7.30 pm
CHANGES IN THE HOME
Vive Robertson explores the domestic pressures caused by three sisters living together.
Thu 22 Feb
7 pm

STILLS GALLERY
105 HIGH STREET
557 1146
Bitter Harvest
Exhibition of photographs by David Lurie recording the lives of farm labourers in South Africa, taken in January and February of 1988.
Until 17 March
9 am-1 pm
Until 17 March
2 pm-6 pm

National Gallery of Scotland
The Mound
556 9821
ENGLISH PORTRAITS AND FIGURE DRAWINGS 1600-1900
A selection from gallery’s stock.
Throughout Feb and March
Mon Sat 10 am-5 pm; Sun 2-5 pm

Portfolio Gallery
4 Candelmaker Row
225 1911
David Harvey: Striking Poses
24 Feb-25 March
Wed-Thu Sat-Sun noon-5.30 pm
Open Eye Gallery
75 CUMBERLAND STREET
557 1020
Pat Simpson and Irene Scott
Recent work by these two artists; mostly landscapes in watercolour.
Mon Fri 10 am-6 pm; Sat 10 am-4 pm

GIG GUIDE

Stephen Barnaby

There are great gigs for gig writers in the programme this week. Something for everyone.

Thursday

THURSDAY

LUN rNCTIE CONCERT

The Leda Piano Trio, playing Beethoven and Mendelssohn. 7.30pm, Reid Concert Hall

THURSDAY

KING'S BUNGALOW LUNCHTIME TALK

1992 and European Integration - High Technical Collaboration' With Dr. Melita, PSTC

1:00pm, 6th floor common room JCMS.

"LE BEEUG CON LE GAMBE LUNGE"

It means: Let there be long legs, and if you want to know more, go along to the latest Italian Department - free wine at the interval. Also Friday 23rd, 7.30pm, Adam House Theatre

BUNAC

Video and talk for those wanting to go to the States with Bunacamp or KAMP this summer. 7.30, 7th Stane Teiviore.

FRIDAY

LUN TEE CE CONCERT

Richard Piller from St Monheyes in Croydon. 1:00pm, Reid Hall

VESSELI MUZI KI

A folk folk ensemble, straight from the USSR, just starting their UK tour. 6.00pm, Music Hall, Assembly Rooms

EU FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

European Tour. Meet at the north sale of Brigg Street (RUT Bus Stop No 12) at 1.35pm

EU CHRISTIAN UNION

"Social Responsibility - Love your Neighbour?" Tea & Drop in with Bill Ochens. 6.30pm, Chaplary Centre

TV GUIDE

Thursday

Tommy Hay

Songs of Praise comes from Parliament this Sunday (BBC 1, 6.45). Parts of the Palace of Westminster and clock tower were never televised before and explained a little bit more to many of the "Mother of Parliaments" described as having a model for the emerging democracies in Eastern Europe. Worthy watching to see what is still going on in the "Parliamentary System" that would make stone cringe when she explains to everyone... a little bit more on the Chamber of Commons. The truth is that we have a new Prime Minister who is not afraid of making change. How? - an approach to life of a man who has been in power for too long. But if you've never seen the programme before, you should be ashamed of yourself. Current Affairs - American President. It shows how the world's changing.

HOLISM

What? - an approach to life to come out and find out more. a talk by James Hall 7.30pm, Chaplary Centre

EUCEPHER CONCERT

Beer and Science at the Student Union, Town Hall. 7.30pm, Student Union.

EU CHAMBER CHOIR

Music from Haydn, Harper, Harris and Coleridge. 6.00pm, Music Hall, Assembly Rooms

EU CONSERVATIVE & UNIONIST ASSOCIATION

Touquet Middle Reading Room

TUESDAY

FRENCH SOC LUNCH

Music from Parma - the true heir to the Baroque. 1.30pm, French Department Basement.

LUNCHTIME CONCERT

By the students of Music. 1.00pm, Reid Concert Hall

EU LABOUR CLUB

Brian Duncan, National Secretary of the Scottish Campaign for a Scottish Assembly will be speaking on the Scottish view of Constitutional Convention. 6pm, Chaplary Centre

THE MODERN ART SOCIETY

Life Drawing Classes every Tuesday and Wednesday, Blue Mountains. 7.30pm, Top Floor, Hunter Building, Art College, Locusus Place, £2.

EU FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

A Cabaret in aid of Romania, music and comedy, including the Pentoo Violins. 8.00pm, Pleasance

SATURDAY

4TH EDINBURGH PEACE FESTIVAL

Assembly Rooms, George Street

NATO HAS IT A PARTNER?

10.00 p.m., Lieberman's, 41 INTERFAITH WORKSHOPS

1:30pm, 5th Retired Room, Global Co-operation. 11.00am, 4pm, Pride Room

EU CHARMS ORCHESTRA

Music from Hayde, Pepe, Harris, and Coleridge. 6.00pm, Music Hall, Assembly Rooms

EU CONSERVATIVE & UNIONIST ASSOCIATION

Touquet Middle Reading Room

FRIDAY

LUN TEE CE CONCERT

Richard Piller from St Monheyes in Croydon. 1:00pm, Reid Hall

VESSELI MUZI KI

A folk folk ensemble, straight from the USSR, just starting their UK tour. 6.00pm, Music Hall, Assembly Rooms

EU FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

European Tour. Meet at the north sale of Brigg Street (RUT Bus Stop No 12) at 1.35pm

EU CHRISTIAN UNION

"Social Responsibility - Love your Neighbour?" Tea & Drop in with Bill Ochens. 6.30pm, Chaplary Centre

Saturday's entertainment should definitely include the Tea Dance at the Assembly Rooms (5pm, £1.50). A nice civil way to avoid the Princess St crowds. Speaking of crowds (and you've all managed to grab James Donovan tickets? Rare! If please, optimists, continue dancing."

Other exciting things to do this week include testing your artistic skills at the Drawing Classes being held at the Art College in Bute Street on a Tuesday and Wednesday (7.00pm, £5). Or if you prefer, make time for a visit to the Filmmakers for another showing of The Arranged (Monday and Tuesday). If you've never seen it, you should be ashamed of yourself. and even if you have, it's well worth another view.

But if you're finding time in this busy schedule, try the Central Library for the "Leith Loves" exhibition. It shows the changes to the parade since the start of the century. Not to be missed.0}

The promised mix of Latin, jazz and soul is proving increasingly popular. Night 3, Tollcross

3:00pm, Unusuas Centre

STREET

E SEMESTER PRINCIPALS

LADIES DINNER

Dress to Impress. Earlier dates may be held. £25 per person. Place your order at the leaflet desk in the library or by 6pm on Friday, 25th February.

TRIALS

LADIES DINNER

Dress to Impress. Earlier dates may be held. £25 per person. Place your order at the leaflet desk in the library or by 6pm on Friday, 25th February.
With Student Loans in the Political Spotlight and Tory Gloom in Scotland, Jeff Sinton spoke to Ian Lang, Scottish Education Minister, about his thoughts on both.

At this point I wanted to know his reaction to the claim of Ms Donna MacKinnon (the President of NUS Scotland) that 4 year course students in Scotland would be 61% worse off than those doing three year courses in England, assuming a 6% rate of inflation. Not unnaturally for a Government minister, he commented that a 6% rate of inflation was "unacceptable and the Government was trying to lower that figure."

He conceded, however, that those students whose courses took that extra year would have to borrow more than their three year contemporaries. Nevertheless, he seemed anxious to dismiss the charge that fewer students would study in Scotland in the future by stressing that there were currently three year courses on offer in Scotland, and longer courses available in England.

"The Scottish higher education system is expanding", the Minister said, "with 25% of students attending a Scottish university coming from England." He did not believe that a top-up loans scheme would alter this situation, since graduates earned £3,000 more per annum than non-graduates and he felt it "not unreasonable" that students should be expected to pay something to fund their education.

It seems clear that a change in government style or policy towards higher education in Scotland will not be forthcoming - the hard-line of Forsyth looks set to continue.

As far as veterinary education in Scotland is concerned, he was delighted that the Glasgow vet school has been saved, thanks to Malcolm Rifkind's hard fighting on its behalf. He was grateful for the thanks the Scottish Office had received from the vet schools and reaffirmed his commitment that students should pay for part of their tuition fees. This idea is to be part of a general trend of looking for alternative sources to fund higher education, given the Government's commitment to higher education.

The Conservative Party's fortunes have fluctuated since the 1987 General Election, and it had, at one point, fallen into third place in the opinion polls in Scotland behind the Scottish Nationalist Party. In the light of recent opinion polls which once again put the Scottish Conservative Party in second place, I asked Mr Lang about his party's electoral prospects in the forthcoming General Election in Scotland. In reply, he said that "the Party's chances are good", since support for the Conservatives is now coming back and there was "evidence of a mood of buoyancy among Party officials and activists", now that alternative proposals to the community charge had been revealed by the Labour Party in Scotland.

"The Labour Party's Roof Tax was", he said, "horrendously unfair, for few people would pay the tax, with just householders paying a tax which was related to the capital value of the house." He had no doubt that a broadly based tax - the community charge - was a fairer method of paying for local government, with rebates of up to 80%, linked to ability to pay.

It is quite clear that the proposed revaluation for Scotland just before the last General Election was the start of Conservative unpopularity. The Government's community charge has alienated the voters in Scotland and the lack of an alternative from the Labour Party to divert attention from the problem has only added to electoral problems. The Labour Party has rejected the proposal for a local income tax favoured by the Democrats and Nationalists, and has instead come up with the Roof Tax. Based on the property value of houses, this gave Mr Lang his chance to attack.

"It is highly unfair that the Labour Party's Roof Tax would be based on what a council official believes a house is worth - a single pensioner would pay the same as four adults living next door. It is also unsatisfactory, he continued, that this tax would be based on revaluation of property fluctuations each year, and furthermore, absurd that the price of oil in Rotterdam has to be paid.

As an alternative to the Labour Party's tax, he feels that a capitation grant would be far fairer. It is also pointed out that the price of oil in Rotterdam has to be paid.

At the end of the interview, I was left in doubt that the Government's Bill would go ahead unaltered despite its reluctance to amend it. It does not appear that Ian Lang will change the approach favoured by Michael Forsyth. The position of the Government towards higher education in Scotland looks set to remain the same.