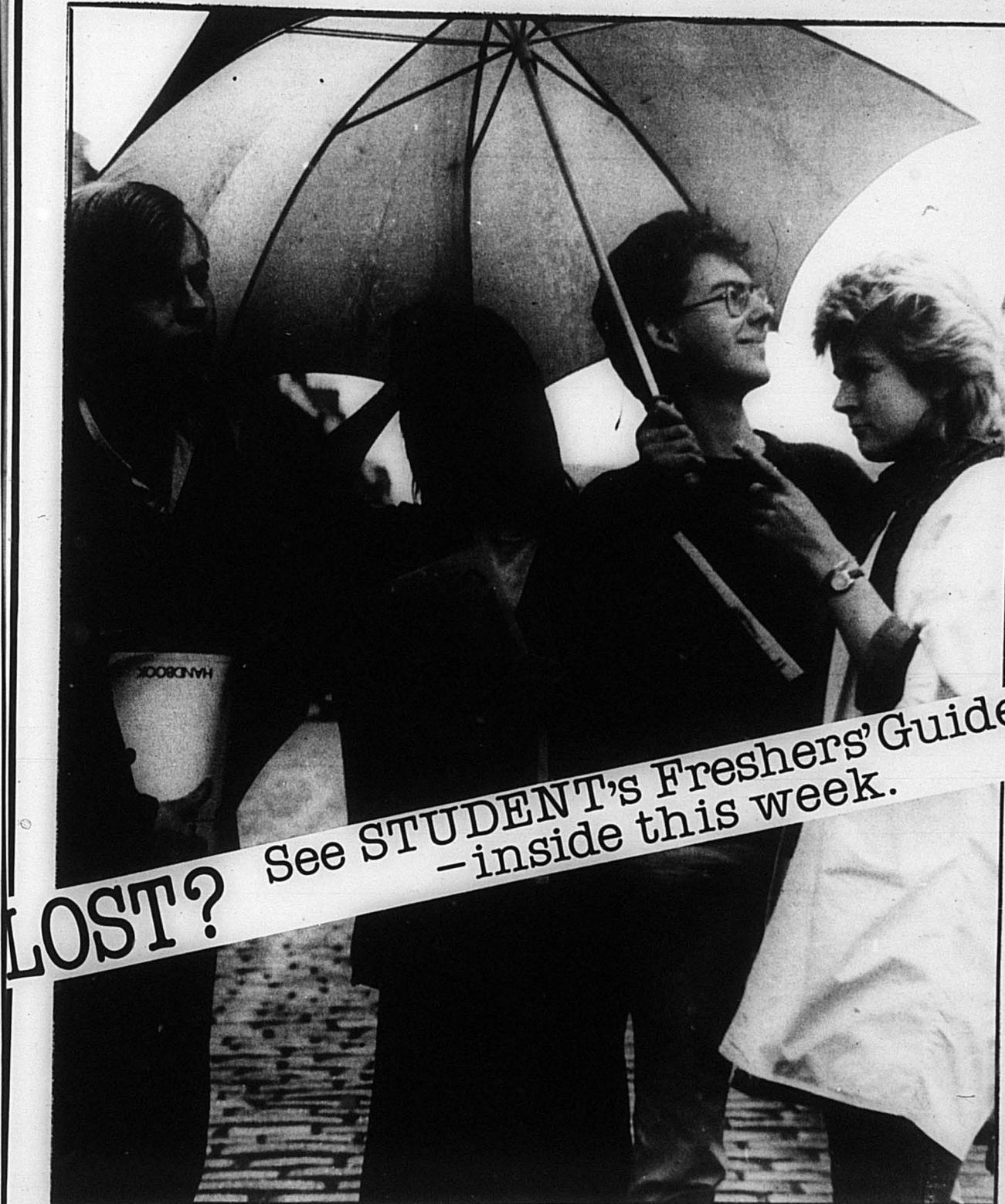


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STUDENT

Edinburgh University Student Newspaper



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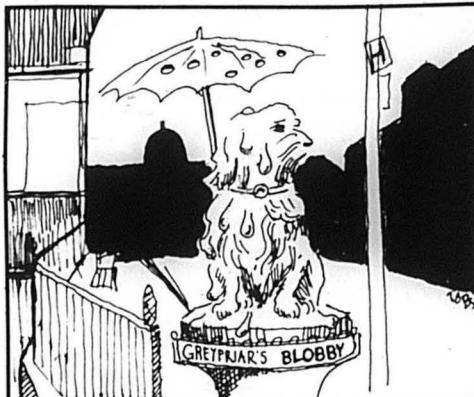
See STUDENT's Freshers' Guides
-inside this week.

ACID RAIN

Last week Edinburgh was the host to a major international conference on the problems acid rain presents, and the possible solutions. Organised by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, the conference was spread over three days (27th-29th) and was attended by many leading scientists and interest groups. The Acid Rain Inquiry, as the SWT preferred to describe it, was held in the George Square Theatre, and took the form of a major public debate on this increasingly politically sensitive issue.

Acid rain is the result of two major atmospheric pollutants: sulphur dioxide (SO_2) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x), both produced by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and petrol. High in the atmosphere these substances undergo chemical changes that result in the production of dilute sulphuric and nitric acid, which are dissolved in rain water. Hence they reach the forests, rivers, lakes and buildings where the damage is done. There is also a problem with dry particles of sulphur dioxide being deposited both in town and country environments. In cities damage is caused to buildings and stonework; in rural settings there are widespread effects on flora and fauna.

A little over a week ago, a Commons Select Committee produced a report on the problem, citing many examples of damage to national monuments in London. There was also reference to increasing evidence of the environmental damage in more remote areas, the North and the Scottish Highlands in particular. Much of the research in Scotland has been carried out by Prof. Fred Last and others from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, who were well represented at the Inquiry. Prof. Last was on a panel of four



assessors (including Prof. Aubrey Manning of Edinburgh's Dept. of Zoology) whose task was to ensure critical points of contention were debated fully in public.

The first two days were a detailed review of the available evidence, with many speakers from some of the most affected areas: Scandinavia, West Germany and Canada. It was repeatedly pointed out that many of these areas were net sulphur pollutant importers, i.e. that most of the acid rain falling on them was due to pollution caused by other countries, caught and transported by high level winds.

The final day on Saturday, looked at the findings of various research programmes and set them out as clearly as possible. A selection of points of view were presented by speakers from the Nature Conservancy Council, the International Energy Agency and

the European Parliament. Towards the end of the afternoon policy statements were made by the CECB, CBI, Council for Environmental Conservation, DoE, Friends of the Earth and the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment. This was followed by a short but heated public debate on the resolution to be put before the conference. The resolution proposed that Britain immediately commit herself to complying with EEC targets for reducing sulphur emissions by 30% by 1993 whilst continuing to put more money into research. It was passed almost unanimously.

Now with increasing pressure from various directions the ball is now in the government's court. It remains to be seen whether positive action will be taken.

Mark Percival

PS. Watch for the in-depth feature on Acid Rain in next week's STUDENT.

NEW TRAVEL CENTRE

Last Friday lunchtime at 196 Rose Street, David Steel, in his role as Rector of Edinburgh University and sporting dandruff on his shoulders, raised his glass of orange juice and officially declared the brand new branch of the Edinburgh Travel Centre open. This is the first travel agency to be opened by a university in the big, bad world of the public sector outwith the confines of the student campus.

The launch lunch (rumoured to have cost £1,000) proceeded with ample refreshments laid on, in the presence of representatives of the big-time travel companies, the members of the board of directors of EUSACO and staff who will work in the shop. After the reporters from the national press had been ushered out, 180 local businessmen were invited along to peruse the premises and to talk a little business. They must have talked a lot of

business because the party lasted until 1 am which is a good six hours longer than was planned.

The newly opened branch set in the illustrious commercial environs of Rose Street will hopefully attract customers from the surrounding business district as well as passing members of the general public. Julian Wiltshire, the Managing Director is confident that the ETC will flourish here (even in the highly competitive travel industry) and also at the soon-to-be-opened branch in South Clerk Street. Mr Wiltshire will not be around to see this flourish, however, as he resigned from his post on Friday.

You may well ask why the SRC has ventured into the world of competitive business. The Students' Association decided that an alternative source of income (other than the money they receive from the public purse) would have to be established in

order to maintain the services they provide. Seeing as the Association already ran a very professional and successful travel agency, it was decided that this would be the best area to expand commercially. It was decided to form a limited liability company (known as EUSACO) and obtain an Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) licence. The Edinburgh Travel Centre will compromise the Rose Street shop, the shop in Clerk Street dealing with the public and the original shop at the Student Centre reserved for students. The whole project will be overseen by the SRC Finance Committee who sit on the board of directors.

It is hoped that the Association will benefit from this project by using any profits to maintain the services provided for (and expected by) the student population. At least that's what we hope will happen.

More funds?

The recently burgeoning flow of academic knowledge into new industries, in which Edinburgh University has been a frontrunner, is perhaps not being exploited to the full because of insufficient funding from central government, according to a recent report. The study, entitled "Profit through Partnership" was conducted by the Scottish Council for Development in Industry, and suggests that public expenditure may be necessary to maximise new developments. writes Iain Cameron.

University projects such as Edinburgh's Wolfson Microelectronics Institute, Bioscot, and the newly established Artificial Intelligence Applications Institute, have established a new role in the development of the commercial potential of academic research. While such bodies have made great progress in obtaining funds from private industry, the new report suggests that they would benefit from the addition of a more disinterested source of income.

The government is wary of such proposals however, in keeping with its preference for private investment. In his statement on the report the Scottish Minister for Industry and Education, Mr Allan Stewart MP, forwarded the government's belief that with these development institutes "further improvement does not depend primarily on the provision of additional financial resources, rather it depends on changes in attitudes and behaviour."

The government therefore clearly has no plans to provide additional funds with which to fund such projects, belying the urgency of numerous government statements emphasising the importance of contact between industry and higher education.

The advantages of government subsidy were made clear by the Acting Director of the Artificial Intelligence Applications Institute, Dr James Howe. Reacting to the idea of central funding, he commented: "If one sets up a private company to service industry with research there's no real problem in getting capital, because there are sufficient banks and financial institutions willing to invest in such schemes. The difficulty is that by doing that one tends to remove people from the University. The structure of our operation is such that the University retains control, but it's hard to do this as there is little risk capital available within the University. So if the government were to provide a kind of 'pump-priming money' it certainly would be welcome."

As Dr Howe suggested, the value of such income would lie in added flexibility. Though the institute has attracted considerable investment, it tends to be committed to particular projects, and element of separate "petty cash" would be "very useful to expand existing expertise, and hire people against future contracts".

East-west talks

While editors and media-men the world over have tried to read between the lines of the recent exchanges between the USA and Soviet Union concerning arms reduction, Edinburgh University has continued to encourage the go-between role of academics and diplomats from East and West.

Between the 17th and 20th of September the 5th meeting of the "Edinburgh Conversations" took place in Moscow to discuss the issue of "Survival in the Nuclear Age". The discussions were co-chaired by The Edinburgh University Principal, Dr John Burnett, and as in the past one of the meeting's prime movers was Prof. John Erickson of the University's Defence Studies Department.

It is perhaps through these informal talks that the current diplomatic moves between the super-powers can be put into perspective, for while each side had recently called for greater communication, only to deflect the other's proposals, the participants of the "Edinburgh

Conversations" found fears of an unhelpful get-together quite unwarranted, resulting in what were described as "full and frank discussions".

The success of this year's conversations may perhaps be attributed to a worsening of international relations even since last year, when the communiqué resulting from the meetings spoke of an increasing need "to establish greater trust". This year's statement emphasised such a need still further, calling for moves towards the ending of all forms of the arms escalation in an effort to reduce tension. Another factor in the talks' particular urgency this year may have been the last year's spate of revelations concerning the nuclear winter. While last year's communiqué made only a marginal reference to these discoveries, the 1984 talks make a much more concerned plea for consideration of these possibilities, in particular concluding that the nuclear winter constitutes "an irrefutable argument against the concept of a 'first strike' nuclear strategy."

AND BRIEFLY...

Postcode stamping of bicycles

In an effort to alleviate the increasing problem of bicycle theft on the University campus, Lothian police will be providing a FREE postcode stamping service at the following University locations on the dates indicated:

Tuesday, 16th October—
Myne's Court, 7-8 pm.

Wednesday, 17th October—
King's Buildings, Centre concourse (south end). 8.30 am-2.00 pm.

Wednesday, 24th October—
Pollock Halls, 2.00-5.00 pm
(provisional).

Thursday, 25th October—
Central Area, Potterrow Garage,
8.30 am-4.30 pm.

It's cheaper by bus?

If the stories of the horrendously low student grant have persuaded you that it will be impossible to travel the world during your salad days, then Cotter's Coachline are attempting to change your minds with their 'Special Student Saver' trips to London, from now until the offer's closing date on 30th June next year. Moreover, on your £14 return trip from Edinburgh you will be fed by a hostess, and be able to watch movies, listen to music, eat, wash, sleep and indulge in all sorts of mod cons. sounds great, doesn't it? But yes, there's a catch — the offer does not apply to the Christmas and Easter holiday periods. Shame. Still, if you're really desperate to spend your money, you can catch the coach at 9.45 am or 10.30 pm daily, arriving in London eight hours later. You can find out the point of departure from the Student Travel Centre — Cotter's haven't seen fit to tell us.

Freshers' Guide

KING'S BUILDINGS

The Kings Buildings — distant, exotic, mysterious. But what is the truth about this land to the south? Join me as I start by asking the question....

Where the hell is KB?

Okay so you know already that KB is the science campus. Due to a vagary of the lads in charge in the early 1920's it was placed out at the end of Mayfield Road on a 115 acre site. Which is about as socially useful as a hole in the head. But let this not dislodge you, for KB is a wondrous place (no, really). I mean, did all you prospective chemists know that the foundation of the chemistry building was laid in 1924 by George V. Fascinating, eh? Imagine, if you will, that you aren't going to be stuck in the middle of nowhere (look, if you were an Edinburgh College of Commerce student in Sighthill, you'd really have something to moan about). There, doesn't seem so bad now, does it?

Having leaped to conceptual hurdle that KB is merely a short 25p journey away on the No. 42 bus from George Square, you'll be in a good position to start to appreciate the occasional plus point offered by the place. The endless hours of fun you can have trying to find your way out of the James Clerk Maxwell Building (JCMB to trendies everywhere) for example. But what can you do when you finally make it to KB (something I've often wondered myself)?

The Adventure Begins

First thing to do kiddies is to grab a copy of the free booklet "The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to KB" (hello David) and check out the PLAIN TRUTH about the SIN, VICE and HORROR of KB!! Shouting in print is good fun, don't you think? This small publication is useful, but it doesn't tell you everything — so read on...

One of the first thoughts that occurs to me concerns the minibus service to KB. Find out if you can get a priority pass to travel between KB and George Square — mostly your friendly Director of Studies will tell you without provocation. If not, it's definitely worth looking into, because the process of getting on the minibus with the rest of the common students can sometimes be a wee bit hazardous with 30 people going for 16 seats. You'll see what I mean.

If you've made it to KB unscathed, the first thing you realise is that it's big. Really big. I once jogged around the perimeter. It took me days to recover. Of course the most strenuous thing I usually do is getting up on cold Edinburgh morning. Nevertheless, it is big, so while it is worth going on a Freshers' guided tour of the place ("...and on our left we have the gothic splendour of the Union toilets . . .") which I did, you probably still won't know where anything is (I didn't). But don't worry, it'll soon become fairly obvious. That is, except for finding your way out of JCMB.

"Is The War Still On?"

JCMB is the most imposing building on site because it's so bloody big — the largest University building in Europe in fact, as I'm sure you'll be told on numerous occasions. If you're into physics, maths, meteorology or computing, you'll have to go into it sometime. You could bring a big

ball of string and leave a trail behind you as you venture into the depths. But some smart bastard would probably carry out an experiment on its conductivity, so a better idea would be to follow your nose. Having found the toilets you should instead go for the coffee lounge whose major feature is a pretty view (*yuk!*) of the fields at the back. This is pleasant to look at as you spend 20 minutes eating one of the justly famous crusty rolls.

There are more doors in JCMB than almost anywhere in the universe, so be careful which one you choose (remember "Yellow Submarine"). It could lead to anything from a broom cupboard to a nuclear reactor to a director of studies. I think the broom cupboard's probably the best bet. Rumour has it that the chap who developed LSD in the '60s is still in one of them. You think I'm kidding? Even if you have no real reason for going to JCMB it's worth it for the high density of eccentric professors walking around trying to find their way out. When you get out, you'll probably be hungry and, more importantly, thirsty. So . . .

Avoiding Stress

Don't scoff. There's a lot of it about. If you actually like exercise there's a KB multi-gym for rupture freaks and the ever popular and funny pop-mobility (less crowded than the Pleasance sessions). Come and see me in my pink leopard on Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes.

Going for a leisurely stroll around the grounds is much more my line really. You can take in the more eccentric little quirks of KB-land. Like the forestry lecture theatre that looks like a tree, the mysterious Mammalian Genome Unit (took me two years to find out where my genome was), the man with the three-legged dog, postgrads of dubious taste in clothes and the large number of army surplus shoulder bags.

If you're at a loss for something to do, as I often am, usually during a lecture, it's fun wandering around other people's departments. Just look as if you know where you're going (even if you're completely lost) and nobody will hassle you.

And if you're really bored there are the libraries (I haven't been that bored yet). The KB Centre Library is usually so quiet that you can hear a couple of ladybirds having a wild party in the corner. The 4th floor JCMB library is much the same, but at least there is more of a challenge in finding it.



Steak Pies and the Meaning of Alcohol

The fact that food is marginally more expensive at KB than at George Square (high transport costs, eh?) and not quite as good is more than offset by the attractively low price of alcohol in the Union bar.

There is little to choose between the grub offered by the KB Centre refectory and the Union scran. The environment and general atmosphere at the Union are considerably better, particularly after the recent renovations, and now that the Union bar's been overhauled it should be an attractive place to drink at last. You wouldn't believe how green and horrible it was when I was a lad. You lucky bastards.

The 45" TV in the coffee lounge is a great excuse for skipping classes, but stay directly in front of it, because if you're more than 30° off axis you'll find yourself wondering why all those people are watching a blank grey screen accompanied by the soundtrack of a tacky Australian soap opera.

Don't suppose it would affect your appreciation much.

A last word about food. The made-to-order rolls from the KB centre grocery shop are excellent — just don't tell the guy behind the counter you're a Hearts fan.

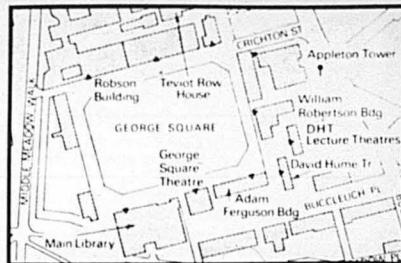
KB is not reknowned as the trendiest of places. In fact its occupants are mostly extremely ordinary looking. It is however, unfair to suggest that there are more hippies here than George Square, a place where tie-dyed shirts and Afghan coats still abound. Wait till you see the Green Banana Club in the Potterrow on a Wednesday night.

Speaking of music (smooth link there, eh?) KB evening ents are rarely huge, but are frequently most amusing (if you can be bothered trekking out to them). A surprising number of well-known local bands are willing to play in the KBU, although the Stray Cats are one of the few that haven't. I think it was Rush . . .

The jukebox in the bar has one of the better selections in the University. Like, where else can you still get "Anarchy", "Holidays in the Sun" and "My Way" on one machine.

But perhaps, most importantly, there are some great KB snowball fights, of a nice winter's day. Mr Editor said he was worried about this feature. Now you can see why. Have fun and don't do computer science.

Mark Percival



Abandon compasses and street maps of Edinburgh for the following article has been painstakingly compiled (?) to provide you lucky people with a comprehensive, if somewhat irreverent guide to the great, big, ugly buildings that form George Square — the place in which most first years happily spend their time in pursuits of academic and/or social nature.

To start this little tour, let me take you down to the entrance of the Main Library, where one can while away the hours by scribbling all sorts of irrelevancies on the desk tops; catching up on lost sleep from the night before in some peaceful corner of the upper floors; searching in vain for the book that is vital for that essay that ought to have been handed in last week; chatting to friends you haven't seen for "absolutely ages"; or, for the more conscientious amongst us, there is the nasty alternative of submerging yourself in lecture notes in an attempt at some serious study . . .

Anyway, to get back to the library entrance where, if this guide is to make any sense at all, you ought to be standing. Now turn to your right and walk eastwards slowly, thus giving yourself a chance to look around you to appreciate in full the architectural monstrosities that surround you. (When I said ugly, I meant really ugly).

The next building on your right illustrates my remarks beautifully: it being the odd-shaped construction of George Square Theatre. And besides being an obvious venue for staging plays, you may find yourself in attendance here at lectures, or even in the company of other eager film buffs watching yet another classic being screened by the Film Society. But be warned; firstly the screen is minute and secondly there are thousands of Film Soc members, and the theatre has a seating capacity of only 530. So in order to avoid the bitter disappointment of being refused entry to see "Raiders of the Lost Ark" for the sixth time — be smart and go along early.

Let me at this juncture take a few words to warn all trendy young females of the dangers that await stiletto heels in the crevices between the cobbles that pave the way around George Square: your shoes may never be the same again . . .

However, whether or not you have adorned your feet with high heels, the tour continues. Moving in the same direction — to remind you it was to the right — you arrive at the Adam Ferguson Building.

Adam Ferguson apparently introduced the method of studying humans in groups from which the origins of sociology are borne. An interesting fact, eh? — and there's lots more of them to come. And with a bit of logical thinking it would not surprise you to hear that the sociology departments are housed within this building.

Now on to something much more impressive — that tremendous erection before you (I'm talking about the building) — that stretches far up into the sky is the David Hume Tower, or the DHT to those of us who have been around for a while. David Hume

was supposedly the greatest Scottish philosopher ever. And yes, folks — you've guessed — on one of these many floors (don't ask me which one) you can find the department of philosophy! But there are lots more subjects catered for within this concrete eyesore for all you art students. Also the lift may be slow but it's worth the wait, for otherwise it's one hell of an exhausting trip up all those stairs.

Turning the corner and still sauntering along you can see a long, low building discreetly set back from the rest — that's DHT Lecture Halls. They are very, very big and if you haven't got a large class they tend to get really, really cold in the winter months — of which Edinburgh seems to have far too many.

Whilst talking about cold things it would seem logical to mention the frozen depths of the DHT Basement. In particular, the coffee room which is never, ever warm. Also down here you can get confused by the corridors, ramps and staircases that connect some of these buildings together and are very handy to use on rainy days.

The William Robertson Building — named after some famous historian — caters for the history and commerce students amongst us. This place is full of dark, dingy corridors, lined with doors that all look alike: great for getting lost in. However, these do something else of interest to the members of the fairer sex and that is the ground floor toilets. What? Let me explain: the graffiti splattered on the toilet walls makes marvellous reading — very educational and much more fun than yet another boring old tutorial.

Lastly on the eastern quarter of George Square we have the Appleton Tower — yet another mini-skyscraper built to spoil the wondrous view one gets of the Edinburgh skyline from Arthur's Seat. And this time round it's the scientists, engineers and mathematicians who gather here daily to talk about topics of great relevance to the world in general.

Okay, folks, I've given you some general blurb about half of the all-important George Square and I'm now completely fed-up with the place and also fast running out of space. So I shall abandon you to discover the finer points of the rest of the square. The highspots being the Erskine Medical Library, the Hugh Robson Building and the Pharmacology and Psychology Departments. Exciting, eh?

Katrina Philip

PS: should it all become too much for you during the warmer days, take it easy and escape from the essay writing by sunbathing in the picturesque setting of George Square Gardens. It's where all the hip people hang out in the summer term . . .



Freshers' guide

> STUDENT <<

So, here we are, another year, another 'Student', another set of first years. Firstly, welcome to Edinburgh University. We at 'Student' wish all of you the very best and hope that you enjoy your years at the University.

By now you will have received all the information you will ever need about how things operate around this veritable seat of learning. It would be pointless for us to attempt to compete with that enormous stack of information which came in your Freshers' mailing. Instead, what we have tried to do in this issue is give you an alternative guide to the more relevant aspects of university life. We sincerely hope that you find the Freshers' Guides useful, if only because they are all contained in the same easy-to-carry, great-to-be-seen-with, handy publication.

Enough about this week's edition. 'Student' is Edinburgh University's independent student newspaper. You will undoubtedly come across another rag produced by students called 'Midweek'. Like 'Student' this paper comes out once a week. Like 'Student' it is produced entirely by students for other students. The major difference between 'Midweek' and 'Student' is that the former is a publication produced by the Students' Association and as such it has no editorial freedom from that organisation. 'Student', on the other hand, has absolute editorial autonomy. Therefore we can say what we like when we want to say it. This means that 'Student' has an important role to play in acting as an Association watchdog. Thus we are popular with everyone but the Association, although it has to be said that only rarely do the two parties come into direct conflict. (They are usually good girls and boys up there.)

'Student's role, however, extends far beyond this. We also report all university news, both about Edinburgh University and about anything else of national significance. In addition we include pages on music, arts and sport. Also to be found without our 16 pages each week are features pages, and one of the most comprehensive What's On guides available in the city.

"Goodness!" I hear you gasp, "who is responsible for this wonderful production?" Well, that's where the snag comes in. You are. The paper is open to, indeed depends on, every student at the University. It is your paper and it depends entirely on your support. There are several ways in which you can lend this support. The most obvious is to buy it each Thursday when it comes out. The second way is to contribute articles. A letters page is included each week and is obviously open to everyone as a forum for debate on any subject. If you want to contribute something more, then how about writing a feature on whatever it is that interests you? You could also submit news articles, music reviews or anything else that appears relevant. Remember, it's your paper, so you could even come down and demand a page to yourself if that's what you want.

Ultimately you can present yourself down here at 1 Buccleuch Place every Friday lunchtime and actually get involved in the production of the paper. We are always short of people in that department and no one will be turned away who is interested. Indeed you are assured of a warm welcome if you want to get involved in either the writing or production side of things.

Enjoy yourselves, get involved, and remember 'Student' gives you much, much more; but the paper needs you as much as you need it. Good luck.

All articles and enquiries to: Student, EUSPB, 1 Buccleuch Place.

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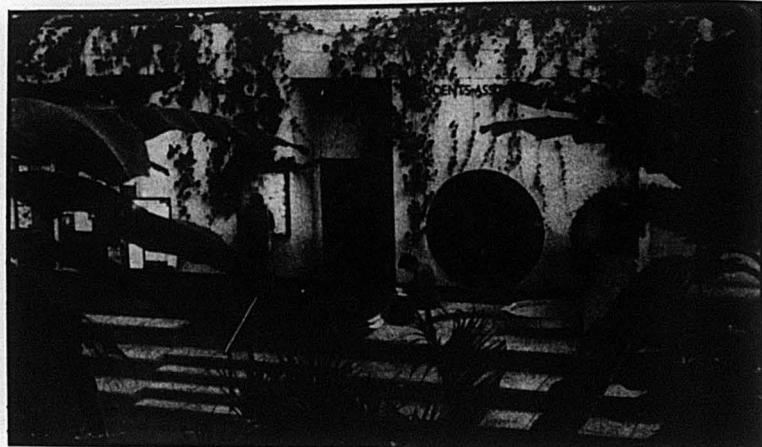
WANTED!

Got the snap to be a 'Student' photographer?

'Student' desperately needs some photographers, so if you have a camera and the ability to develop your own photographs, then why not come down and see us on Friday at 1.00 pm in 1 Buccleuch Place. We have a darkroom and all the necessary materials will be provided.

"The Association"

◇ a play in two acts ◇



A CIRCULAR concrete building with a plastic dome and assorted green vegetation beneath (banana trees, ferns, ivy etc.). At one side is a round window beside two glass doors. Inside, people walk around looking burned. The rattle of typewriters and the hum of photocopies remains constant below the babble and occasional shouts. Two figures squat on uncomfortable concrete steps by the palm trees.

ACT I SCENE I

Rapunzel (*hushed whisper*): Helmut, I've got something to tell you. I think I'm going to have a ...

Helmut (*interrupting*): But didn't you read the EUSA handbook in your Freshers' mailing? I didn't believe you. Anyway it's too soon to tell.

Rapunzel: No, I'm sure. I want to ask this morning. I feel really sick. Mum and Dad warned me ... said I wasn't responsible enough. I should've listened. God I need help now. What'll I do Helmut? Sir Keith Joseph's a bastard — he just doesn't care.

Helmut: I know, Rapunzel, but it's not too late. There're ways to avoid getting an overdraft. Here — look at this. (*Points to Money Advice Centre leaflet*) There's some good stuff in here about covenants and housing benefit and things. I'm glad somebody took the time to produce it. Who did produce it anyway ... EUSA?

Rapunzel: I'm not sure, I think it's something to do with student politics and elections.

Helmut: Oh God! How boring. Nothing to do with us anyway ... The typewriters rattle on unaffected.

Scene 2: The first day of term, 1.35 pm in the busy Potterrow. Helmut and Rapunzel have just finished lunch.

Rapunzel: I'm not too sure if I like the sound of all the work I'm going to have to do this term — all those essays! What a bore.

Helmut: I know ... it's depressing. Last week was really good even if we did spend some money. It was worth it. Apparently some girl from EUSA organised the whole thing. There was so much to do.

Rapunzel (*leafing through a copy of Midweek*): It says here that a lot of things happen every week. The Dance at Teviot, the Green Banana Club at Potterrow, Afternoon Tea at the Pleasance. EUSA seems to provide quite a lot.

Helmut: Did you read the bit about their travel shops? It seems funny to think that we own a company with three travel shops. Someone told me that the Students' Association's got a turnover of three-and-a-half million pounds — and students control it! Apparently there's no

other University like it in the country.

John Mannix enters the building accompanied by Hilary O'Neill.

Helmut: Hey look. There's that guy with the funny accent that looks like he wears a lot of eye shadow. He's Senior President, isn't he? I read that there's four sabbatical posts in EUSA and they each get a year off and £5,000 for running the place. He looked a bit of a dick in that blue sweatshirt though. Still for £5,000 ...

Rapunzel: That girl was wearing a blue sweatshirt too. Hilary somebody-or-other — she's union President.

Helmut: yes. I met her. She kept talking about the BBC and debating competitions.

Rapunzel: So who else gets £5,000 for drinking lots of beer then? Well I suppose they maybe have to do more than that sometimes ... boring to do more sometimes ... boring meetings and all that stuff. Still for £5,000 ...

Helmut: I saw them at the Opening Ceremony. One was trying a beard I think. He was dead small and had funny trousers on ...

Rapunzel: Oh yes, Callum Calder. It said in the EUSA handbook that he didn't have a personality. What a shame. I thought he was cute.

Helmut: Not another one. All did you last week was tell me how many good looking blokes you'd seen and how many propositions you got every time you went for a piss. Sorry, I didn't mean to shout. The other sabbatical's some goon called Kenny Dalgleish. No it's not Neil Dalgleish, that's it. He produces that Midweek rag. Bit of a bloody poser if you ask me ...

ACT 2

The last week of term. Rapunzel and Helmut are on the point of splitting up. They haven't been getting on too well recently — Helmut has accused Rapunzel of becoming "just another faceless hag" since she got elected in the October bye-elections as a first year rep on the SRC. Rapunzel has accused Helmut of being completely apathetic and ignorant of the importance of "student political" issues, the SRC, the education system and the present government's education policy.

Sitting in the library coffee room, they are caught up in the same arguments again.

Rapunzel: I think that's really unfair ... and untrue. It's not everyone in the SRC and EUSA that's as you said, "a member of a self-congratulatory clique". A lot of them put a lot of time and effort into getting things done which improves the situation for all of us ... including you. And you just sit

there and drink your pints of Holsten. Don't care at all about what's going on?

Helmut: Don't give me that "don't you care?" crap. I'm sick of it. You're not going to change anything. And all you say about politics — you don't know what you are talking about — it's just what your tutor told you at your last tutorial. You won't change anything. Not here, not in Britain, not anywhere.

Rapunzel: Christ, I hate your attitudes, sometimes! You're such a complete uncaring moan at times. The only reason you'd probably ever go to a General Meeting was if the Union was going to double beer prices. You can't think of anything but your own bloody self.

Helmut: Oh that's good coming from you! I only care about myself, eh? Well where have you been 75% of the times I asked you go out this term. "I've got such and such committee — it's just this once though." For all you worry about everyone else's welfare, you don't seem to mind leaving me sitting on my own.

Rapunzel: Sitting in on your own! Don't make me laugh. You were out getting pissed! Look, whether you like it or not, the SRC is useful and it actually does get things done. Like **No Digs** last year. You might have been in a grotty bedsit this year if that campaign hadn't been a success. You wouldn't have been so complacent then, would you?

You just don't realise what's going on. You're going to have to understand that I believe in what I'm doing and what the SRC in its various parts is doing. We can change the way the University does things. But if everyone just sits there and does nothing, saying "Oh it's nothing to do with me. I can't do anything, I'm too busy." Then what's the point? You'll take the benefits, but have you ever heard of input? I doubt it. That's what's wrong with this whole country. You don't know, you don't want to know and you don't care.

You maybe think that you're going to get through University collect a 2.1 or 2.2 on the way out and everything will be fine. If you think that that's all University is about then you're more naive than you were at the start of Freshers' Week. Degrees don't mean jobs. In fact, to some people, a degree doesn't mean much at all. This University, and especially EUSA, offers a lot of opportunities to do something useful and valuable for you and for others. You can just get your DP's every year, do your exams and then piss off, but if you ask me that's boring, and a waste of opportunities for yourself. But I don't expect you understand. Maybe you will in four years time ... by which time ...