

The University of Edinburgh Magazine
Issue 16 Summer 1999

EDIT



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EDiT

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Issue 16 Summer 1999

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Editor Anne McKelvie

Assistant Editors

David Eccles, Richard Mellis

Design

Neil Dalgleish for Visual Resources,
The University of Edinburgh

Photography

Tricia Malley, Ross Gillespie, Ewan Smith,
Visual Resources, The University of Edinburgh

Advisory Panel

Ally Palmer, John de W. Shaw

Advertising Sales Agent

Medlaworks
58 Southwold Road
Paisley PA1 3AL
Tel/Fax: 0141 882 1768

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BBC Correspondent wins Alumnus of the Year Award

BBC foreign correspondent Allan Little has been selected as the 1998 University of Edinburgh/The Royal Bank of Scotland Alumnus of the Year. The Award is made annually to a former student for services to the community, achievements in arts or sciences, in business, public or academic life.

Allan Little graduated MA in Politics and Modern History from the University in 1982. Joining the BBC in 1983, Allan worked in Glasgow, London and a number of local radio stations in England. While working for BBC Radio 4's 'Today' programme, he covered the Lockerbie disaster, and in 1989 reported from Czechoslovakia and Romania on the overthrow of Communism in Eastern Europe.

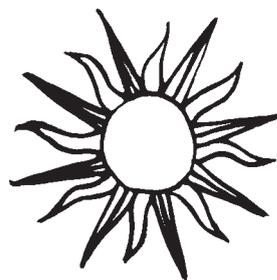
In 1990, Allan reported on the Gulf War from Baghdad, and his subsequent coverage of the suppression of the anti-Saddam uprising in southern Iraq and Kuwait's reprisals against its own Palestinian population earned him the title Radio Reporter of the Year, and Amnesty International Radio Reporter of the Year for human rights reporting. In 1991, the conflict in Yugoslavia took Allan first to Croatia, then Bosnia, and for his coverage he was named War Correspondent of the Year in France's 'Bayeux' journalism awards.

In 1995, having already covered the mass genocide in Rwanda and Zaire, Allan was appointed BBC Southern Africa Correspondent and, last year, he became BBC Correspondent in Moscow. He is pictured with (left) Sir Angus Grossart, Vice-Chairman of The Royal Bank of Scotland, and the Principal of the University, Professor Sir Stewart Sutherland.

IALS celebrates its 20th

The Institute for Applied Language Studies (IALS) at the University is celebrating its 20th anniversary with the publication a review of the Institute's development. IALS was set up in 1979 (occupying one room in Hope Park Square) by the Department of Applied Linguistics with the aim of supporting research and development. It is now the largest university language unit in the country. In its early years, IALS operated as an English language support service within the University, while developing new overseas business and gradually introducing courses in other languages. IALS moved to its present location in Hill Place in 1982, expanding later into refurbished ground and basement floors and neighbouring properties. Most recently, the Moray House merger has seen the English Language Centre at Holyrood joining IALS.

Development and expansion have been steady; after its first decade, the Institute had 37 staff, ran 23 different summer courses and measured both English Language and Modern Language enrolments in the high hundreds. Currently, staff number over 50, there are 38 summer courses and enrolments are more than twice their 1989 level. The Institute also runs overseas projects and consultancies, publishes an annual collection of research papers and runs an annual Symposium for language teachers, making a continued contribution to language learning and teaching and to the University.



Enlightenment Revisited

Enchantment, Energy, Excitement, Effervescence, Expectation, Experience, Education, Enlightenment, Edinburgh... Eureka!

Pick up a copy of the Centre for Continuing Education's new 1999 International Summer Courses brochure and an exuberant selection of 'E' words jump off the pages at you, transmitting the essence of University of Edinburgh summer school experience. Education and Enlightenment are what it's all about and the 1999 programme is more exciting than ever with new courses in Radio Production at the Edinburgh Fringe, Scotland's Railways and the Geology of Southern Scotland, as well as a special focus on developments surrounding the new Scottish Parliament. These accompany many well-established popular courses in Scottish Studies, the Edinburgh Festivals and much more.

Summer Courses are open to all adults - no previous knowledge or experience is required - just an enquiring mind and a desire to know more. You will be joined by adults of all ages and backgrounds from around the world - last year's participants included a Swedish librarian, an Argentinian teacher, an American ethno-psychologist, a Japanese lawyer, a Macedonian student, a French journalist, a Spanish civil servant, an Australian financial controller, a Scottish farmer, a Bulgarian musicologist, and a Canadian banker, among many others!

Find out all about the 1999 Summer of Enlightenment by requesting your free brochure from Ursula Michels at the Centre for Continuing Education, 11 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9LW. Tel 0131 650 4400/662 0783 (24 hours) Fax 0131 667 6097 Email ccesummer@ed.ac.uk Web site at <http://www.cce.ed.ac.uk/summer>

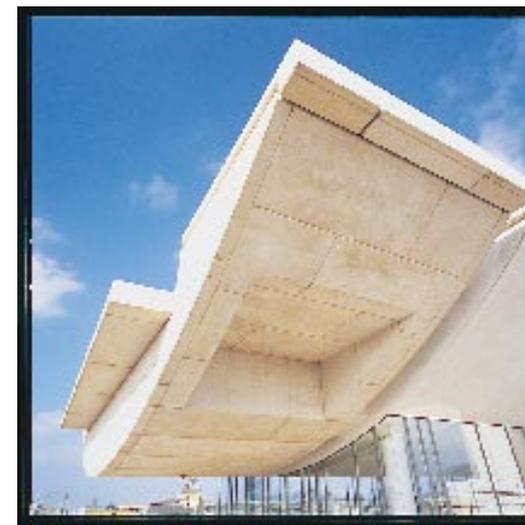
First Scottish Gazetteer for 113 years

The first fully comprehensive Scottish Gazetteer to be compiled since 1885 is being created in a flagship geographical research project by the University and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS).

The Gazetteer for Scotland project aims to provide easily accessible information about places throughout Scotland. The project, which will take a number of years to complete, will be based on the World Wide Web, and be available as a reference book. Aimed at both the Scottish community and an international audience, this is seen as a major development to promote an understanding of the geography of Scotland.

If you want to find out about towns, villages, rivers, bens and glens from the Scottish Borders to the Northern Isles, the Gazetteer will be the most useful source of reference. It will include not only descriptions of geographical features, historic sites and tourist attractions but also information on family names, famous people, and local industry.

With financial support from the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland and the Robertson Trust, the initial design phase of the Gazetteer has been completed using information on Fife and is already available on the Web at <http://www.geo.ed.ac.uk/scotgaz/>. Data for the rest of Scotland will be added gradually by the year 2000.



Presenting Scotland to the World

The new Museum of Scotland building, purpose built to house over 10,000 objects from the nation's most precious treasures to everyday items, was officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen on St Andrews Day.

The new Museum, interlinked to the Royal Museum of Scotland in Chambers Street, is the latest development by the National Museums of Scotland whose very foundations can be traced right back to the University's own Talbot Rice Gallery. The National Scottish Collection, as it was then known, was initially held within the walls of the Talbot Rice Gallery overseen by one of the University professors. This collection progressively outgrew the available space and when the Royal Museum of Scotland was built in Chambers Street in the 1860s, the collection moved next door. This donation created a strong link with the museum, perhaps best embodied by the so-called "Bridge of Sighs" which to this day connects the two buildings across West College Street.

The new Museum, finished at a cost of £52.2 million, has been created to present Scotland to the World, and its exhibits have been themed into five categories: Beginnings, Early People, Kingdom of the Scots, Scotland Transformed and Twentieth Century.



Cover Story

Crime writer Ian Rankin, whose short story *The Acid Test* featured in the last issue of *Edit*, liked the illustration accompanying the article so much that he asked the photographers Tricia Malley and Ross Gillespie for permission to use it on the cover of his next paperback, *Dead Souls*.

'Portraits of Excellence', a collection of photographs of members of staff by Tricia Malley and Ross Gillespie, which featured in a previous issue of *Edit*, has been awarded first prize in the best corporate brochure of the year category of the British Association of Communicators in Business (Scotland) awards.



A Record Row

Earlier this year, Edinburgh University Boat Club completed its attempt to row the distance across the Atlantic Ocean on an indoor rowing machine in a new record time. Rowing around the clock, 57 oarsmen and women completed the distance of 3,314km from Newfoundland, Canada, to the west coast of Ireland in 10 days 3 hours 20 minutes. The event raised £3,000 to help the club buy a much needed new boat, with £300 being given to the Simpson's Special Care Babies charity based at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh NHS Trust.

The event took place in the Waverley Shopping Centre on Princes Street, in the heart of Edinburgh. The rowers completed one-hour sessions during the day and two-hour sessions during the night, including a six-hour shift between three people from 2-8am. The feat was finally completed nearly two days ahead of schedule on Tuesday, 19 January in a sprint finish by the Club President, Andrew Wallace.



Pets in practice

The Dick Vet's new Hospital for Small Animals at the Easter Bush Veterinary Centre, Roslin, opened its doors in January. It will use the most modern techniques for treating small animals; train vets to meet the demands of veterinary medicine in the future; and search for new cures and treatment for small animals.

The hospital is the largest of its kind in the UK and the best equipped in Europe with eight consulting rooms, four specialist treatment rooms, three general wards, and four operating theatres. It also provides a dedicated ward for exotic animals and a wildlife ward, which makes it unique among hospitals run by the UK's six veterinary schools.

Watching Richard Walker



We all watch TV or go to the theatre. The paintings of Richard Walker, which will be on show at the Talbot Rice Gallery from 1 May to 5 June, have a real and a constructed connection to both these forms of simulation.

For many years Walker has worked in the theatre painting the illusionistic backdrops for the imaginary places of drama. The backdrops are on a large scale, they work with trickery and effect, providing the right places for performance. Having to work with this artificial space and false drama is one of the reasons why the personal practice of Walker inhabits an area that could almost be said to be its opposite. In this exhibition the scale is small (television screen size) the paintings are quiet and domestic, seemingly at odds with our fast digital world, but also associated to the bedroom aesthetic of a whole generation of recent British artists. The simple subject matter of interiors, windows, doorways - entrances and exits - is sparse and frail, handled with thin washes of oil using often muted or sweet colours.



Musical Success in Utrecht

University students Veronica Tzu-Ying Yen and Robin Hutt have won first and second places in the 3rd International Students Piano Competition held in Utrecht. The competition is open to university students worldwide.

Veronica, from Taiwan, is studying for a MA general degree in arts, specialising in the History of Music. Robin, from Manchester, is studying for a BMus with special interest in performance and composition. In the final, Veronica played the Grieg piano concerto and Robin played the Schumann.

In addition to bringing both first and second prizes to Edinburgh, Veronica and Robin swept the board with additional special prizes. Veronica won the "U-Fonds" prize for interpretation of a contemporary Dutch work. Robin won the Parnassus Audience Award, voted for by the general public, for his performance in the final concert.



Edinburgh Worthies in Print

Some men and women connected with the University before 1901 became household names through their writings, and their books remain the standard works in their fields. From astronomy, physics, travel and exploration to medicine, mathematics and literature, these pioneering academics have had a lasting impact on scholarship. Some came from very modest backgrounds, and are a testimony to the high quality of Scottish education, as well as to the breadth of their ideas and pioneering spirit. Their writings are a research resource which attracts scholars worldwide to the University Library's Special Collections.

A book, Edinburgh University Worthies, has been compiled containing biographies and portraits of such luminaries as Robert Christison, Sir Archibald Geikie, Cosmo Nelson Innes, Robert Knox, Colin MacLaurin, William Robertson and Peter Mark Roget.

Edinburgh Worthies in Print is available at £9.95 (plus postage if ordering by post) from the Main Library, George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LJ (Tel 0131 650 3384; email Library@ed.ac.uk) and from the University of Edinburgh Centre, 7-11 Nicolson Street (Tel 0131 650 2252; Fax 0131 650 2253). Further details can be found on the Library's Web site at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/>

No.7

The ape and skull statue



THIS STATUETTE OF APE AND SKULL which stands in the foyer of the Ashworth

Laboratories at King's Buildings was presented to the Department of Zoology in 1942. It is one of a small number of bronze castings produced by Reinhold in 1892. Another sits on Lenin's desk in the Kremlin.

The Latin inscription is a slight modification of what the serpent says to Eve in Genesis 3.5:

'Eritis sicut dii scientes bonum et malum.'
(Vulgate)

In the Authorised Version this reads:
['For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and] Ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.'



text Stephen Fraser

HEADS, YOU WIN

Even before you can say it, **Professor David Collins** says it for you. The impressive bulk of a former special forces soldier turned psychologist seems incongruous given his academic office as the first holder of the Chair of Sport at the University of Edinburgh. But this new capture for the University from Manchester Metropolitan University is equally happy in his Great Britain tracksuit as he is in his professorial robes.

Sports science has become the stuff of academia even as it has taken on a new importance in contributing to the triumphs in every sphere of sport, from the blood and thunder of professional rugby to the surface gentility of tournament golf. Collins offers his clients confidentiality but so far the British weightlifting squad, international rugby players and the javelin thrower Steve Backley have been happy to admit they have benefitted from his particular brand of science-backed motivational psychology.

The man himself is quick to admit sympathy with confusion over the plethora of outside agencies in sport today. Collins goes straight for the jugular of what can seem a circus of trick-cyclists. "Within my field you have sports scientists - that is, proper scientists - and you have what I call 'used car salesmen', people who can talk a good game, management gurus," says the sportsman, who displays a fair proficiency in martial arts, canoeing, weight training and

H E A D S , Y O U W I N



rugby himself. "My job is to make myself redundant by teaching athletes to motivate themselves. Unlike many, I'm not interested in getting a continuing slice of my client's action."

"I guess from my appearance I don't look like a professor and I know I may sometimes not sound like one but I'm confident that what I'm doing is scientifically rigorous. I'm not going to turn round to this athlete and say, for example, 'What we are doing is increasing the degree of coupling in the dynamical system below the waist'. I'm going to say, 'We are going to work the legs, John'. But if his coach turns round and asks why we are doing it I can say, 'Look at this data on the laptop', and explain the science underpinning the straightforward advice."

The portable computer he wields is the first clue to the extent of science's penetration into sport and, by extension, into the brains and conscious minds of athletes. For Collins

The best physically prepared athletes can be undone if they are not properly mentally prepared

believes, as do most in his field, that the best physically prepared athletes can be undone if they are not properly mentally prepared. The apparatus which surrounds sport now is all about trying to gauge not just the physical movements involved in an action - the bio-mechanics - but also the neurological impulses from the brain and the impact of emotions, like stress and anxiety, on the mind.

Any successful athlete or team now needs an extensive backroom team if they want to be able to compete at the top level, given the rapid pace with which the boundaries of achievement are being pushed back. "I don't think people in

general realise exactly how hard athletes have to work to get anywhere. It needs total and utter commitment." And the best way to progress, believes Collins, is to build a special group of advisers round the athlete. "He or she will have a coach, a biomechanist, a physiologist, if a thrower an orthopaedic surgeon or shoulder specialist. They've got me as a psychologist, they've got a masseur and they've got a physiotherapist. That's their support team. That's what they need. Because that's what it takes. Because in sport, if you stand still, you go backwards, and if you work like stink you might stand still, and you have to work really super duper extra hard to get a jump on people."

When he is analysing an athlete, say a javelin thrower, Collins uses a gamut of scientifically valid observational techniques. He'll use kinematics, the science of body movement. He'll use heart and brain monitors to assess physiological

functions. But then he'll move on to the mind of the athlete, working out which buttons to push to motivate them to greater performance. "You need a very qualitative personalised understanding of the person's emotional make-up. We'd use questionnaire-based measures of processing load, assessing how hard the person is working. All of these things go together to show how we can help someone to react in the best possible way when the ordure hits the fan."

IT ALL SEEMS very far away from the cartoon book world of Alf Tupper, the Tough of the Track, who raced to victory on a diet of fish and chips, the epitome of cheerful amateurism. Is it naïve to imagine an Alf Tupper type coming from nowhere to win the big prize? Crushingly, inevitably, the answer is 'yes'. Besides, Collins adds slyly, Alf belongs to the comic book. The great heroes of athletics, the golden age amateurs, were

"In sport, if you stand still, you go backwards, and if you work like stink you might stand still, and you have to work really super duper extra hard to get a jump on people."

virtually professionals. Take Scottish sprinter Eric Liddell, for instance, who complained of his rugby and his church work suffering as he trained to become the best. "The mark of the greats has not changed. They still share an obsession, a compulsion to train and train and train until they are the best they can be," he adds. A real Alf would never have stood a chance.

Collins was switched onto psychology when he saw physiologists, who often study the body in isolation, conducting tests to determine the maximum effort possible for an athlete. "They said their results found the max. I thought that sometimes they didn't. What if there had been a lion on the other side of the running machine? What if the athlete's level of motivation was low that day? I knew their results couldn't be the full story." We all know the apocryphal stories of remarkable strength in extremis, little old ladies lifting cars off their husbands when the jack collapses. Collins knew from his medical studies that in most cases, humans only use a percentage of their muscle fibres at one time. Fire a greater percentage, and get ready to pick up your medal.

He had already been exposed to psychology in his military career, which took him into the Royal Marines. "It's an amazing thing to run at somebody when they are shooting at you but that is what they train you to do. I knew people could go further and further, because the service specialises in taking you to places you don't want to be." He has also seen competitors make up for inferior natural capability and talent with mental toughness and effort, outdoing rivals with greater on-paper attributes.

Cue the Scotland-England rugby clash in 1990, the Grand Slam game. Ten years on, people still debate the

importance of the mind game that was David Sole stalking out at Murrayfield like a gladiator. Collins, though, believes the game was won for Scotland and lost for England well before that hair-raising entrance. "The sum of your achievement is your potential minus something called 'product losses', which are factors like anxiety, or complacency. The Scots had already cracked it before the match. The mood in the England camp visibly relaxed. The training routines changed. The Scots maximised their strengths, they kept their focus, and they maximised the English product losses." The result is still one of Scottish sport's most vibrant achievements.

There are other ways into athletes' minds. Smell works. Collins had archers pause after a good shot to visualise their actions and smell a lavender-soaked patch. When he had them shoot in a room permeated with lavender, their scores went up. Another project worked on nastier stimulants. He gave weightlifters a substance they were told were steroids, and recorded greater lifts as a result. Next time round he told half the group the truth about the placebo only for their scores to drop, whereas the other group's increased again.

Collins has conducted research on steroid use and refers anyone unsure of the role of the pharmacist in sport to one research project conducted after the 1992 Olympics. A leading doctor surveyed the achievements of endurance athletes in the preceding games. The norm was clustered quite far down the graph, with the exceptions all out on their own in terms of their VO₂ max, their maximum potential effort. Four years later, the two groups were more equal in number, many of the athletes had moved into the higher category. "Either

everyone has got much fitter or there's something in the water," he suggests.

HE HAS encountered many athletes so obsessed with achievement they knowingly risk their own health. "We have worked with bodybuilders who would use a combination of 12 different drugs - it's called polypharmacy - at somewhere between 20 and 40 times the recommended dose - and that includes doses for animals. People know the dangers. But they are obsessed with looking for an edge, with winning, and many people will do whatever they believe it takes."

His powerful opposition to drug use does not translate to a blanket condemnation of athletes who use. He believes they are often victims of a culture where the international sporting bodies collude in the pressures and temptations by failing to demonstrate real political will on drug use through adequate punishments. "I have had to counsel clients through positive tests and it destroys their lives. This is a complex area and the media simplify it into black and white, with users evil people to be vilified. I do think they are cheating, but remember the US athletics team in the last Olympics was sponsored by a drug manufacturer."

He does not see the lucre on offer in sport today as a spur for the use of stimulants. "These people are obsessed with being the best, not the richest." Other deeper forces can, however, have an impact. Collins cites one test where it was found that athletes tried harder and achieved more if the person testing them was of the opposite sex. "It worked much more for men than women, with men anxious to impress." Some things are basic. ☐

Stephen Fraser is Education Correspondent of Scotland on Sunday.



another time

another place

text **Antonia Swinson**

illustration **Fiona Stewart**

Four years ago, after many years living in London, writer and columnist Antonia Swinson came back with her family to live in her University city. Sights and sounds are subtly different, yet familiar...

FOR THE FIRST FEW MONTHS there is the constant feeling that you might at any moment crash through *Back to the Future's* Space Time Continuum by meeting your younger self coming round the corner. But Princes Street windows bring you back to reality. You stare, somehow expecting to see the young undergraduate Toni Swinson - long red hair and floppy jumper - but someone else is staring back at you, a mother of two, hair cut in a bob, dressed in a suit and carrying a briefcase. When on earth did you turn into her? Of course inside yourself, you still feel twenty two, until you walk through George Square, and see eighteen year olds chatting on their mobile phones with that Generation X seriousness you never, ever managed when you were their age.

AT FIRST, it is the familiar which surprises, as if every building has a giant tag with your personal history attached. Hendersons, with its deliciously 60s murals, still has the same menu and its special brand of slightly loopy Australian girls behind the counter. The Scotsman office dominates the North Bridge, and Jenners keeps gentility in place in Princes Street, while the Castle, Mound, Caley, David Hume Tower and even the foul concrete stump of the St James Centre remain fixed points. The sharp, cutting wind, the crimson buses and the all-pervading smell of beer bring back that other life you once had.

Feeling rather smug, I take my two children for Saturday supper at Pollock Halls. The atmosphere is more grown up these days, like a perpetual conference, but there are the same queues and clattering of trays. I am doing very well going down memory lane when, to my amazement, a fresher starts chatting me up in the salad queue and offers me a drink upstairs in the Bar.

My children fall about with half-amused horror, but my own shock comes when I suddenly realise that I was Freshers Conference Director the year he was born and that the grant he receives has barely gone up since I was at University. I tell him that I used to be able to save £100 a term on my full grant, and he looks at me as if I really am from another time. Go get the Flux Capacitor, Doc!

When the shock of the familiar wears off, the new buildings

become the biggest eye-openers, apparent impostors in your own personal map of the city. When did the Festival Theatre on South Bridge replace the old Bingo Hall where we used to get tickets for Murrayfield internationals? Whatever happened to Fountain-bridge? The condemned building there where I rented a room for £7 a week is now sandblasted into conservation area elegance, and all around the brewery there is new development for leisure and housing. The smell of beer remains, but the pong of the old dray horses at the dairy where Sean Connery once worked has long gone.

Look across the skyline on an Edinburgh day from the top of the David Hume Tower, and it is not the grey stone and the spires which excite, but the cranes stretched across the skyline which proclaim the city's renaissance, the huge number of Saltires waving in the wind which are testament to a great new national self-confidence.

I never had a car when I was at University. So it is as a driver that I take in the new one-way system and the whole areas of the city which have been redeveloped. Drive down Lothian Road and there is the Sheraton Hotel and the Exchange, the new city centre financial business district. Nearby, the Edinburgh International Conference Centre bursting with business. Then visit Leith and take in the loft living and chic restaurants. Britannia is now in dock, floating with studied nonchalance near the new Scottish Office headquarters.

The cranes stretched across the skyline proclaim the city's renaissance the huge number of Saltires waving in the wind are testament to a great new national self-confidence

It has been Edinburgh's penchant for vested interests which many decision-makers argue has condemned the city for so many years to such genteel paralysis

There is a heady pioneer excitement here that this is new territory to be conquered. Though not with 80s style gentrification, but with a new thrusting cosmopolitan street cred, abandoning any mores of the gentry. Britannia, with its exhibition celebrating the Royals' taste in 50s tat is surely enough to make the whole area republican. The waterfront district from Newhaven to Leith is in the full throes of new development and by 2003 the new Ocean Terminal will provide retail facilities for visiting cruise liners, while Granton, which has 50% of Edinburgh's vacant industrial land, is on course for a radical chic overhaul with new offices and restaurants.

Drive south east to Newcraighall and here lies Kinnaird Park with its monster UCI cinema, its Toys R Us, and its satellite retail parks. It is dazzling and could show London's Brent Cross a clean pair of heels. While further round the City Bypass, the Gyle Centre with its massive Marks & Sparks and the nearby business mecca of Edinburgh Park are like huge footprints of the new creature the City has become. With its proximity to the airport and M8, this is rapidly becoming a mini town in its own right, and is expected to attract 50,000 employees within five years.

Perhaps the most subtle changes, however, are in the New Town, which has recently seen many financial services' and lawyers' offices converted back into residential use. Many are flats

which have been bought up by parents of University students who are now seeing their investment rocket with the arrival of the Scottish Parliament. For the past six months too there has been a trend for small offices of consulates and press agencies to buy into what were once Scottish life offices. This is now a city in a race. There is talk of an underground retail street under Princes Street, and who could ever have foreseen, twenty years ago, that the draughty old bus station in St Andrew's Square which once brought me up from London for just £3 is soon, if given planning consent, to house the Scottish branch of Harvey Nichols.

EIGHTEEN YEARS ago, Edinburgh was a chummy provincial town for lawyers who more or less tolerated the Festival. Now there are Festivals all year round with tourism one of the big three employers along with financial services and the public sector. Yet, it has been Edinburgh's penchant for vested interests which many decision-makers argue has condemned the city for so many years to such genteel paralysis. And now, just as Edinburgh is having to fight for market share of national and international tourism, the Parliament's arrival is raising high expectation for the Scots, a combination which is currently forcing huge dramatic changes within a tight time-frame which are not without controversy and pain.

Though in recent years the city has been put on the map internationally, by being designated a

World Heritage Site in 1995, and because of the 1997 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting which saw Edinburgh on TV screens worldwide, the biggest threat to Edinburgh's development is almost the by-product of its success. Traffic. The perception is now that you cannot drive in and park, and this now threatens the sustainability of the centre, as well as the outlying retail and business parks. With increasing numbers of people across Fife and the Lothians buying into Edinburgh for work or cultural life, 'demand management' is now the buzz science in Edinburgh's City Chambers which is keen to reduce through-traffic while encouraging both workers and big spenders. In the summer Edinburgh will learn whether its application to Government to introduce road pricing has been accepted.

I now feel, at last, up to speed on the issues facing this most fascinating of cities, and view my University life with enormous affection as a hinterland which helps me belong. The young Toni Swinson has at last stopped following me around the streets, for now I own my own piece of Edinburgh's present. I just wear thick cardis, comfortable shoes, and have rediscovered my talent for making lentil soup. ☐

Antonia Swinson graduated MA from the University of Edinburgh in 1980 and was Freshers Conference Director in 1978. She now writes a weekly column for the business section of Scotland On Sunday; her new novel *The Cousins' Tale* is published as a Flame paperback on 17 June by Hodder & Stoughton. The Antonia Swinson Web site - www.foraid.demon.co.uk/antonia_tswinson



on the trail of the trial

George Rosie meets the Professor of Law at the University of Edinburgh who has doggedly sought to solve one of the most intractable problems of this century.

WHENEVER THE emotionally-charged subject of the Lockerbie bombing climbs back onto the agenda, there are two people the British media reach for. One is Dr Jim Swire, the Bromsgrove GP whose daughter Flora was killed on Pan Am 103 and who is now spokesman for the British families. The other is Robert Black, Professor of Scots Law at the University of Edinburgh, the man who devised the legal strategy of trying the two Libyan suspects under Scots law but on the 'neutral' territory of Holland. It was, almost everyone agreed, a useful solution to a thorny legal problem. But ever since it was mooted, government and bureaucratic hostility made it look like the solution that would never be taken up.

But all that changed when Muammar Qaddafi gave up the two Libyans - Lamen Khalifa Fhimah and Abdel Basset Ali Al-Megrahi - into Scottish custody. Now that the two men are safely tucked away in 'Her Majesty's Prison Zeist' under guard

by Scots law officials, prison officers and police, Black feels vindicated. "I'm absolutely delighted," he says. "It's not often that an academic like myself gets to have an effect on the real world."

There is a powerful irony in Robert Black's preoccupation with Lockerbie. He was born and raised in the little Border town. In fact, he was there a few days after the bombing happened. His father is a Lockerbie man, a plumber to trade, and his mother came from a fishing family in Aberdeen. "So I don't come from a family of lawyers," he says. "My grandfather was a mole catcher. In fact, one of my cousins is still at the mole catching. I think he's one of the last full-time mole catchers in Scotland." After a prize-winning career at Lockerbie and Dumfries Academies, Black began studying law at the University of Edinburgh in the autumn of 1964, "the first member of my family - on either side - to go to university," he declares.

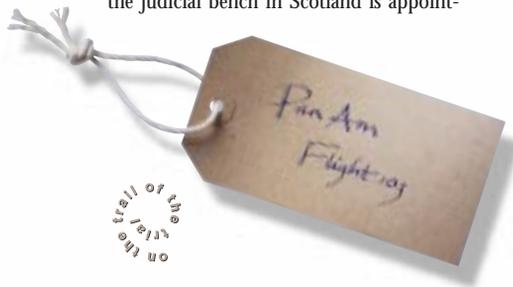
His student career was a success; First

Class Honours, the Lord President Cooper Memorial Prize and the Vans Dunlop Scholarship. Then it was three years on a Commonwealth scholarship at McGill University in Montreal where he did an LLM on the 'History of the Scottish Law of Reparation for Personal Injuries and Death', an issue that was high on the legal agenda in the 1960s. "A lot of people were arguing in favour of what was called no-fault liability," he recalls. "But I was opposed to that. Fault serves a moral purpose. If somebody is injured because of someone else's fault, then the wrong doer - or the negligent party - should pay."

The years at McGill were followed by a spell teaching at Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, then it was back to the University of Edinburgh in 1972 as lecturer in Scots Law and entry to the Scottish Bar. Between 1975 and 1978 Black was an officer with the Scottish Law Commission which he followed by three years as a practising advocate. In 1981 he returned to

the University as Professor of Scots Law, a post he has held ever since, and from which he makes occasional forays as an external examiner, conference speaker and legal researcher.

Black's published canon is too large to enumerate. He has written on everything from 'Delict and the Conflict of Laws' (1968) to 'The Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Judiciary' (1998). The latter is an intriguing critique of the way in which the judicial bench in Scotland is appoint-



ed. In between, he found time to act as General Editor of that massive tribute to Scots Law the Stair Memorial Encyclopaedia, and to become one of Scotland's most 'media friendly' legal sources, adept in front of camera and microphone and wise in the ways of press and television reporters. "Not always easy," he says, still smarting after a run-in with a journalist from one of the London broadsheets.

BLACK HAS BEEN involved in the Lockerbie calamity ever since 1992 when a consortium of British engineering companies despatched him to Libya to see if there was any legal way to unblock the sanctions log-jam. He quickly concluded that nothing could be done until the two Libyan suspects had been tried for murder - and either convicted or cleared. A meeting in October 1993 with the Libyans' defence team (which consists of British as well as Libyan lawyers) threw the problem into stark relief.

"They believed - and with some justification I think - that there had been so much publicity about the Lockerbie bombing that the accused men could never get a fair trial in front of a Scots or American jury." Particularly as the FBI were offering a price of \$8 million 'for information leading to the apprehension and prosecution' of the two indicted Libyans.

All of which prompted Black, in January 1994, to come up with his plan; a trial under Scots 'law and procedure', but held in a 'neutral' country before a panel of international judges presided over by a Scot. There would be no jury. Any sentence would be served in a Scots gaol and any appeal against sentence or conviction

would be heard by the High Court of Justiciary 'in its capacity as the Scottish Court of Criminal Appeal'. (The essentials of the plan remain, although the original international panel has been replaced by a trio of Scots judges.)

"The Libyans agreed more or less immediately," Black says. "They had no problem with the idea, and they said so in writing. That view was also confirmed by Libya's Deputy Foreign Minister. But the British authorities were dead set against it.

It was a useful solution to a thorny legal problem, but government and bureaucratic hostility made it look like the solution that would never be taken up.

Successive Lords Advocate and Foreign Secretaries have all dismissed it as something that was infeasible, that couldn't be done, that just wouldn't work."

But when Dr Jim Swire got to hear of Black's scheme for a Scots trial abroad he threw the weight of the Lockerbie families behind it (even though he personally is convinced that the Libyans had nothing to do with the bombing of Pan Am 103). The Lockerbie families have remained the Black plan's most determined supporters and advocates. Together Swire and Black have had two lengthy sessions with Muammar al-Qaddafi in an attempt to persuade the Libyan leader that his two countrymen would have a fair trial at the hands of Scots Law.

He found the Libyan leader an enigmatic figure. He recalls his very first meeting with Qaddafi in April 1998. "It was in this extraordinary armoured tent near Tripoli," he says. "We sat at this little table in the lounge part of the tent. Qaddafi never looked at us once. All through the conversation he just stared into the middle distance. But in the end it proved to be quite a useful meeting. We even made him laugh. Our interpreter said to us 'The leader laughed three times. Someone will pay for that.'"

Black's second meeting with Qaddafi in September 1998 was a more relaxed affair. "That time he did look at us," he says. "He greeted us wearing this extraordinary straw hat. Jim Swire had brought him a tartan tie as a small gift. So Qaddafi swapped him the hat for the tie. I suppose Jim still has it." Black describes the Libyan revolutionary as "a strange man" who liked to claim that it was not up to him whether or not the two suspects were handed over to the Scots for trial. "He

said that decision was for the Libyan people. He kept saying 'I am only the servant of the Libyan people'. Well, maybe..."

Black does think that Qaddafi may have taken a real political risk by handing over the two men to the Scots. "We understand that Libya has its internal feuds and disputes," Black says. "The clans which Megrabi and Fhimah come from might not be best pleased with the Leader - as Qaddafi is called - handing over the two suspects to a western legal system. The

whole thing might be much more difficult for him than we realise."

He says there was a good deal of high-level, behind the scenes pressure on Qaddafi from two sources; the Arab League and the Organisation for African Unity. "Nelson Mandela was particularly active," he says. "The fact that there is going to be a trial in the Netherlands owes a lot to Mandela."

BUT A TRIAL IS one thing; a conviction is another. Like Jim Swire - with whom he is now firm friends - Black believes that the evidence against Megrabi and Fhimah is shaky in the extreme. Some of the crucial forensic evidence is based on work done by men who have since been discredited. "Look at the cassette player that's supposed to have contained the bomb," he says. "It's from a model that is only available in the USA. The whole case against the Libyans is riddled with inconsistencies like that one."

Black remains convinced that the trial is the best - perhaps the only - way for the Libyans to 'clear' themselves of the bombing of Pan Am 103. The United Nations may have lifted the sanctions, but there is still the suspicion that Libya was behind the worst aviation atrocity in modern history. Until Megrabi and Fhimah 'thole their assize' (as Scots lawyers say) that suspicion will remain to haunt the Libyan people.

Whatever the outcome, the trial at Camp Zeist will be a genuinely historic event. When it happens, Robert Black can take the credit for almost singlehandedly solving one of the most difficult, politically-loaded problems of modern times. □

George Rosie is joint Deputy Editor of the Sunday Herald.



ownlaboelectric



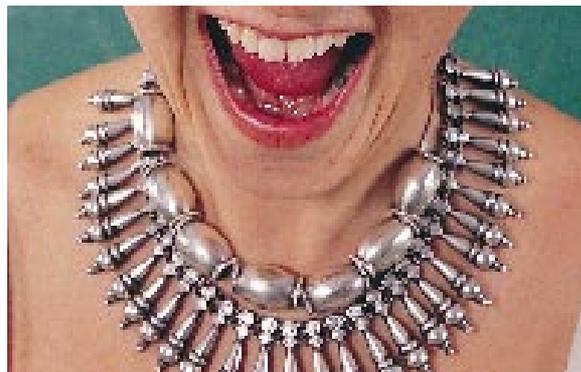
"You've either got or you haven't got style," goes the song. These Edinburgh students have developed their own, highly individualistic style.

Ruth Dlugolecka, studying Fine Art (opposite)

"I've had it like this for a couple of years now....I kept changing my hair because my mum never let me experiment when I was younger. When it ended up shaved, I was really happy with it. She said to me she thought it was very attractive, but I think she'd probably prefer if I did have hair."

Timothy Lenkiewicz, studying Geography

"I made the trousers. I thought I might study fashion after I've finished Geography, but I don't have a big enough portfolio at the moment to get into any fashion college.
"That's a flesh tunnel in my ear, I did it myself. You do it quite slowly, and then it just gets stretched. I've had it since I was about 16."



Mary Rhodes, studying English Literature and Classics (top and middle)

"I dye my hair every 5 to 6 weeks. It's fun and I can get away with it just now. My favourite colours are bright orange and bright pink - the green was a mistake, it was meant to be blue. Back home in Dunoon I was surprised to see children hiding behind their mother's skirt in the supermarket, until I remembered I had green spiked hair."

Deborah Gibson, studying Nursing and Social Anthropology

"I lived with a bedouin family for two years in the Sinai desert and lived in the Middle East for 16 years before, so I've had quite a Middle Eastern influence. You get more energy in different clothes - just go for it! It's nice to have different colours, it brings a bit of zest into life, it's fun!" 



Cannabis

THE
PHILOSOPHER'S
STONE



Neil Montgomery
examines the many contradictions
in our attitude to cannabis.

I have noticed, over a number of years, that some people become distinctly nervous when I introduce my subject to conversation. Cannabis - the word comes out and, suddenly, the person I've been speaking to stiffens into a shell; their epidermis seems to solidify, frozen in the expression it held on hearing the third syllable. Only the sheer panic escaping from their eyes reveals that time indeed has not stopped. Within a fraction of a second I can see that I am being completely reassessed. Deep within, their gaze transforms from emblematic to apprehensive - seeing becomes looking and I am no longer a benign respondent in a shallow conversation. Even the most adept communicators reveal an inner concern about what their outer concerns might reveal - words and expressions that follow are chosen carefully.



NEIL MONTGOMERY

WHAT I'M describing, of course, is a brief moment of unconscious deliberation, a programmed hesitance triggered by a highly significant but ambivalent word. But why this tension? Why does the word 'cannabis' not encounter programmed repugnance or automatic acceptance? If my subject was instead 'heroin', or 'real ale', my partner in conversation would probably not leave their body in limbo while withdrawing to inner consultation. These minority group consumables have broadly agreed symbolic meanings and associated constructs that have become embodied and codified; part of our knowledge, language and actions.

We have developed very confusing and uncertain social images for association with the word 'cannabis'. Recently, however, an escape from such temporary paralysis and social panic has presented itself through the public reporting of cannabis being used as a therapeutic rather than recreational substance. A certain relief can be spotted in the eyes of the nervous because we can now begin to discuss the perfectly respectable topic of medicine.

You may indeed be reading this and thinking to yourself, 'surely nobody is shocked by the mention of cannabis anymore - this is the nineties'. You would not be alone; a number of people have said the very same thing to me. Think for a moment, though, about the situations you could find yourself in where you

would not be comfortable talking about cannabis - in particular, raising the subject. Perhaps it would be with your boss, or the bank manager, perhaps your parents or children. There are situations, and in particular those that involve a hierarchical relationship, where any discussion about cannabis proceeds with considerable caution or the insurance of a disclaimer.

This scenario will be a familiar one to the readers who are closet cannabis users; however, importantly, the caution is not related to the personal guilt of past deeds but to the fear of future actions. What might the boss do if he thinks I smoke cannabis? One does not need to participate in cannabis smoking to have some ownership in this fear. It is after all a controlled substance; illegal to possess, supply or cultivate. Interestingly, the consumption of cannabis is not illegal; though how one consumes it without possessing it is problematic. A muse that has, more than once, stimulated almost acrobatic solutions in the creative discourse of militant tokers.

This fear is real; it is based on the sure and certain knowledge that too much loose talk about cannabis could have a debilitating effect on one's future actions. The fear is real because knowledge is limited. The picture is incomplete and as such is disturbing. However, the picture is beginning to show some form; three distinct areas that have some overlap are beginning to emerge from the fog. They are places of activity, themes under which cannabis is used:

recreational use, the most (in)famous; industrial use; and therapeutic use, the most topical. Here, I want to focus on one particular problematic. How do we resolve a fear of something that we may want to apply as medicine?

LET'S ASSUME for a moment that the numerous institutions and individuals who believe that cannabis has therapeutic benefits are right. How do we pave the way for acceptance of a substance, described at the birth of its control as 'perhaps the most dangerous of all narcotic drugs', that carries with it connotations of a darker side? As Dr. Geoffrey Guy of GW Pharmaceuticals, which is conducting the UK Medicinal Cannabis Project, put it: "How do we bring patients in from the cold? How do we get from 100% of cannabis patients as law-breakers to a significant portion as participants in our legal programmes?"

Amidst the search for answers it is obvious that some of them lie in the very ability for such a question to be asked. Here we have a pharmaceutical company discussing 'cannabis patients' and 'legal programmes' just 20 years after its prescription was prohibited. Furthermore, the question readily expands to include potential patients; those who may benefit from but will not involve themselves in cannabis use, therapeutic or not; those who are not prepared to break the law yet might be suffering for it. An environment for change is already being prepared.



Its effects seem
unpredictable,
awkwardly variable,
difficult to categorise
and regulate

Despite a political landscape that would appear determined to maintain the illegal status of cannabis, progress is being made in one crucial area, the gathering of knowledge. Importantly, it is a specific kind of gathering and a particular type of knowledge. The gathering has governmental authority and the knowledge is scientific. I can hear the collective bleating from the 'legalise cannabis' campaigners' corner as they question with considerable angst the need for a lab coat and rubber stamp to legitimise something that has been 'common' knowledge for thousands of years. There may be many good arguments against the desire, indeed hunger, for scientific, codified, ostensibly objective knowledge to function as the only authoritative knowledge - particularly given the numerous disasters left in its wake - but the fact is, in our place and time, we seem to need it.

We feel more comfortable when our lives are ordered, when difficult decisions can be made for us, and we demand assurances that these decisions will be the correct ones. In a dialogue between people and the State, alternate desires become resolved in an understanding of mutual dependence. To make this complex relationship of interdependencies accessible, a legible framework must be in place and it can only be but a simplification, a tangible grid of mutual understanding. However, it would be misleading to imagine that this framework was inflexible; slow to

react perhaps, but indubitably mobile. Knowledge changes, it develops and grows; new facts come to light, old facts are rediscovered and redundant facts are disposed of; the process takes time.

CANNABIS, SINCE ITS inclusion on the Poisons List in 1925, became subject to tighter and tighter controls until the use of almost the entire plant (all except stalk, roots and non-germinating seeds) became absolutely illegal (deemed to have no medicinal value). All cannabis activity became rigidly codified as unacceptable; it lost any status that it had established on the grid and any attempts at antidisestablishmentarianism were ignored. The 'don't criminalise' cannabis lobby was pretty much non-existent. Cannabis activity moved 'between the lines'. The proliferation of its recreational use became a handy weapon for the State in the War on Drugs and its distinct seven-fingered leaf became a symbol of resistance. Cannabis the poisoner and cannabis the liberator.

The gathering and distribution of knowledge also moved off the grid and in 'between the lines'. State funded research into cannabis became almost non-existent; codified, scientific knowledge about it became redundant. Amidst the mêlée of unstructured activity, cannabis knowledge became the property of reforming, subversive and revolutionary mandarins. Cannabis 'between the lines' became elevated

through music, myths, legends and folk-heroes to cult status. Unsurprisingly attractive to fringe and liminal groups.

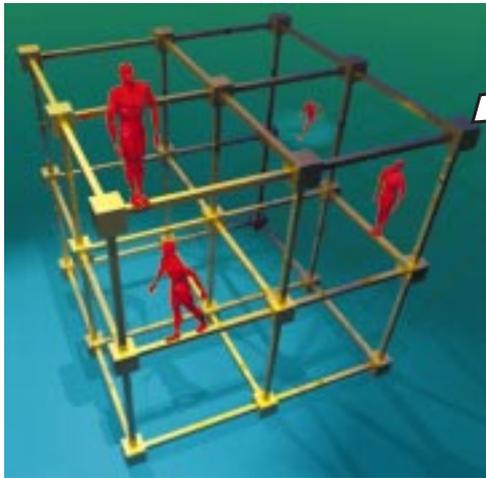
In this environment the list of its spiritual and medicinal qualities expanded until, for many of its followers, the plant became the Philosopher's Stone, a cure-all for mind and body. It may, of course, be that in time an extensive list of the measured medicinal properties of cannabis will indeed make it a kind of Philosopher's Stone or it may be that such an extensive list is instead consigned to be the product of a Philosopher's Stone. And therein lies one of the most important problematics with cannabis for the world of medicine; its mind altering properties which science knows remarkably little about. Its effects seem unpredictable, awkwardly variable, difficult to categorise and regulate. A new word needs to be employed to describe cannabis because it is poorly described as a depressant or stimulant. It is arguably not a narcotic and almost positively not hallucinogenic. It seems to variably affect the functioning of the sensorium - cannabis is a sensoriant. However we decide to describe it, whatever pigeonhole we decide to place it in, the categorisation is underway.

There are few doubts now that some benefits can be gained from the therapeutic application of cannabis. Gradually, cannabis therapeutics are moving towards the 'grid' with support from numerous respected groups

and institutions - the British Medical Association, the Church of Scotland, the House of Lords and the Home Office to name but a few; 'grid-dwellers'. It is terribly important that, as we begin to codify our understanding of cannabis activity, we pay profound attention to 'between the lines' knowledge, that we don't dismiss a wealth of knowledge because it appears not to be scientific. The UK Medicinal Cannabis Project, licensed by the Home Office and being conducted by GW Pharmaceuticals, is committed to an understanding of this knowledge. It is part of my role as Consultant Anthropologist to make this knowledge as accessible as possible. To do this, following a traditional method of anthropology, involves me in the long-term, participant observation of cannabis users in the UK - 'what a burdensome task,' I hear you say.

AS AN ANTHROPOLOGIST, my interest, of course, is not only in making legible the savvy of cannabis users, but in understanding the processes we employ in the selective appropriation of knowledge. If we are going to reduce and codify, what forces drive the selection and appropriation process, and why? I find the theoretical and academic enquiry into 'what's going on with cannabis?' fascinating, and its combination with 'fieldwork' stimulating. It is also immensely satisfying that my work puts me in the position to be able to help 'bring patients in from the cold'. Surely, this is what drives most if not all research; the belief that eventually, even if it takes more than a lifetime, its findings will not only contribute to 'a body of knowledge' but make a valuable contribution to the quality of life. ☒

Neil M. Montgomery, a postgraduate student in the Department of Social Anthropology, is Consultant Anthropologist to the UK Medicinal Cannabis Project. Email Neil.Montgomery@ed.ac.uk



Close Quotes

Continuing our end-of-the-millennium series on the prospects for the professions, Professor RICHARD COYNE 'decentres' architecture.

THERE IS A conflict in the education of an architect. On the one hand educators think they must preserve, promote and pass on a core of architecture skills. On the other hand, in the tradition of liberal education, educators recognise the need to equip students to stir things up, and to challenge accepted understandings of architecture.

On the subject of core skills, it seems as though the community needs to know what to expect when they employ an architect, a concern realised in our attention to standards, and the accreditation of schools and individuals. Of course, what constitutes the core of architectural education has changed over the years. A general consensus is emerging that the issues of the built environment are too vast, and the procurement of buildings too complex to reside with a single body of professionals. Architects commonly lament that they are no longer the master builders, the overseers, the controllers of the building process or the final arbiters on what is good for people and the environment.

The core of architecture now appears to be 'design', understood not from the position of the overseer, but the designer as the person who speaks and acts for the cause of synthesis, integrating complex factors into tangible proposals that can be realised in spatial terms. Architecture focuses on spatial design, the definition and configuration of spatial elements, as a means to formulating and addressing human needs. In an architecture school, education in design is promoted through the studio, where trainee designers work together, discuss, reflect and bring diverse factors to bear on some task, subjecting their work to scrutiny and critique.

On the other hand there is the need to equip students to be agents of change, to lead and not just follow, and to challenge

the core of the profession, even the centrality of design.

The centrality of design is controversial among architectural educators. There is a familiar lament that when they graduate, few architects spend their time designing. Most architects are not involved in projects of comparable vision and spectacle to those they undertook as students. Most practitioners are involved in solving detailed technical problems, with routine buildings. It seems that architects can be specialists other than in design. In practice they can be managers, entrepreneurs, documenters, specifiers, facilitators, critics, theorists, collectors, archivists and historians.

IF THERE IS this tension in architectural education between the notion of a core of skills, focusing around design, and the liberal goal of decentering architecture, then perhaps design itself provides the key to resolving this tension.

First, if design is to be the focus of architectural education then we can attend to its definition. To design is to produce a proposal, an intervention or an instantiation. The building, the intervention, need not be the end of the story, but the provocation it engenders can be part of a process. Some architecture schools see design in this broader way. Students may produce spatial explorations other than proposals for buildings that may be construed as paintings or sculptures, 'virtual architecture', events, installations, and even solutions to technical problems. If design is to remain at the core of architecture, then it does so as a critical pursuit, identifying and promoting productive differences within and amongst artefacts, practices and contexts.

Second, we can recognise that formal architectural education is part of a continuum in the education of the architect. An architecture degree fits within a combina-

tion of moves by the professional, which involves experimentation with new degrees, finding oneself in different practices, and undertaking changes in specialisms and even changes in career. It is not that there is a pure career strand that is architecture, with deviations from this, but architecture can be seen as all these diverse activities. Design, as the core of architecture, is a restless pursuit.

Third, it is worth recognising that the community that is architecture is diverse, a fact partly recognised in the educational community in the UK. We recognise that different schools have different strengths, educational policies and even different views of what is architecture. In assessing a student we don't need to ask whether a particular student has the skills to be an architect, but will he or she be in a position to contribute to the diverse professional community that is architecture. Will the graduate make a place for himself or herself within it? This diversity is at the heart of design. Design involves community, a sharing and colliding of horizons, working through conflicts, and participation. Complaints about architecture, and disquiet over the quality of the built environment commonly come down to the question of who was consulted in the intervention, and who participated. If design thrives on participation within a diverse professional community then this is also the case with architecture.

In design, which is at the core of architecture, we find this restless movement, a subversion of sorts that is already there. An architecture school can be the site at which this movement is given free rein. It is not an anarchic restlessness, but it recognises that restlessness is the core itself, a symbiotic tension between what needs to be taught and its revision and reconstruction. ■

Richard Coyne is Professor of Architectural Computing at the University of Edinburgh.