

Five things you need to know today

✘ It took an academic from Glasgow to come to Edinburgh and tell us what is wrong with our ongoing tram project. At a talk given to the Royal Scottish Society of Arts last night by Professor Iain Docherty, he claimed that the problem is that the city's proposed tram route is quite wrong. He explained that the Edinburgh route, originally planned to run from the government headquarters to the airport, is a legacy of our generalist civil service, and that it should seek instead to join up places that people actually want to go to, such as hospitals, train stations and universities. We will have a report on his talk entitled *A Streetcar named Desire?* [in our separate article](#) later this morning, but it was certainly thought provoking.

[The Herald](#) reports that the Midlothian Ski Centre at Hillend has applied for planning permission for a development to extend the facility by building two new slopes and introducing an uphill travelator, which will cost around £500,000.

The Scottish National Portrait Gallery is nearing completion in time for its opening in December 2011, according to [The Press Association](#). We look forward to seeing some of the changes brought about by the extensive renovation. Can it be as good as The National Museum of Scotland?

[The Guardian](#) relates that the amethyst which formed part of the ceremonial ring owned by the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Right Reverend John Christie, and which was stolen from his home last Christmas, has been anonymously returned to him. In an errant piece of editing, however, they tell us that the Moderator lives in "Helensborough"...

✘ Quadrophenia is being shown tonight at [The Cameo](#) at

6.00p.m. The 1979 movie featuring music from The Who, and starring Phil Daniels, Leslie Ash and Philip Davis will transport you back to the Mods and Rockers era of the Sixties.