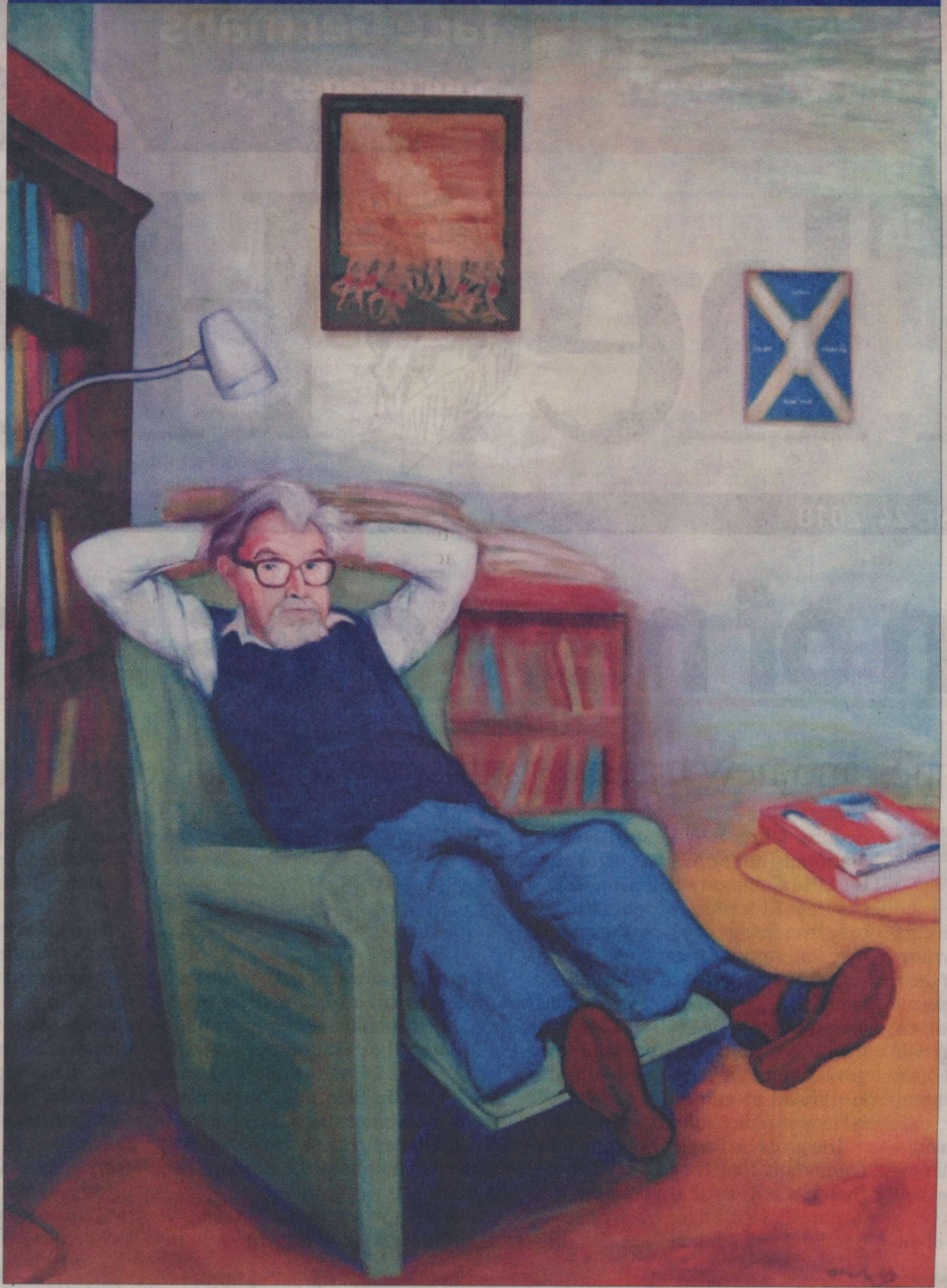


## Gray portrait unveiled at Oran Mor



THE first major portrait of the leading Scottish writer, painter and polymath Alasdair Gray was unveiled last night.

The painting, on show at the Oran Mor venue in Glasgow, was commissioned from Scots artist Sandy Moffat by Democratic Left Scotland, a radical, feminist and green organisation. It was unveiled by the Scottish Arts Council's head of literature Dr Gavin Wallace.

Gray, as well as being a noted artist and mural painter, wrote

Lanark, considered one of the greatest modern novels.

Oran Mor was chosen to house the painting because of Gray's links with the building – he painted the ceiling murals in the main hall.

Moffat has painted portraits of Dame Muriel Spark and Iain Hamilton Finlay, as well as the Poet's Pub picture featuring Hugh MacDiarmid, Norman MacCaig and Sorley MacLean.

Stuart Fairweather, convener of Democratic Left Scotland

said: "Alasdair Gray is an inspiration for all Scottish radicals. His contribution to Scottish culture has been enormous and we wanted to honour that."

Colin Beattie, of Oran Mor, said: "It is fantastic to be able to hang this painting. We are enormously grateful to Sandy Moffat, Democratic Left Scotland and of course to Alasdair Gray for giving us this opportunity."

Picture: Sandy Moffat