

VARSLITY

INTERVIEW

Michael Moore:
the only interview he
gave in Cambridge
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NEW CROSSWORD

Pit your wits against Varsity's new
cryptic puzzler

LISTINGS BACK PAGE

STYLE

The Mods
come to
town
PAGE 14



Money, money, money



Tom Walters

- **Poorest students will get £9,000 to live on**
- **Bursaries could become top-up smokescreen**
- **Ben Brinded denounces scheme as "gimmick"**

Brian Little

Varsity has learned that the University is planning to announce a new system of bursaries that could transform access to Cambridge and give the poorest students £4,000 a year. However, CUSU President Ben Brinded fears the scheme may be used as a "headline-grabbing gimmick" to justify top-up fees.

The proposals will quadruple the support given by the University to the least well-off. Those whose parents earn less than £15,200 a year will get £4,000 in addition to a £1,000 grant from the Government. They will also be eligible for a £4,000 student loan to be repayed after graduation, bringing the total to £9,000. Cambridge living costs are estimated at £5,800.

However, it is notable that the University is planning to announce their proposals to coincide with the Queen's speech. The speech is set to announce legislation to introduce top-up fees. Apparently, although members of University Council have labelled Government proposals to water down the principle of free education as "distinctly unaromatic", they are scared to turn their noses up at the offer of more cash.

Brinded argues "The University are

being used by the Government to sweeten the bitter pill of top-up fees. There will be a bitter aftertaste.

"While we are thrilled by the idea of bursaries they are completely separate from top-up fees. The Government have the University over a barrel. The University needs money for access and education but why should it come from fees?"

The extra costs for the scheme will be £7.9m per annum and be funded by about a third of the revenue from top-up fees. For every pound the University gives out in new bursaries the Government will take three pounds in fees. Brinded commented, "This is a good scheme for maintenance of students whilst they are at University - but that is all. Students still have to pay up afterwards."

Brinded is especially wary of the dangers for "the student in the middle". The bursary scheme would provide full support for 955 current students but "official figures from the DfES show these proposals could still cause a 'poverty trap' for more than 2,000 students whose parents earn between £15,000 and £30,000."

He continues, "Top-up fees cause many problems. These bursaries only cover up the most ugly of them. They only act as a sticking plaster when a vaccine is needed."

"I introduced Mr Fluffy to the entire floor"

Tim Stanley on why booze is better than drugs PAGE 06

"Its exact location remains a mystery"

Rebecca Heselton on Loch Torridon PAGE 11

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Got a story?

Email news@varsity.co.uk or ring 01223 337575 if you have a story or meet us in The Bath House (hogshead) in Bene't Streeton Sunday at 7pm

So you think you're tolerant?

Benjamin Bland

Most Cambridge students consider themselves open-minded and liberal, but a survey has revealed that two-thirds of LGBT students have encountered homophobia.

'Attitudes to Sexuality', an online survey carried out by CUSU's LesBiGay Campaign, received 1500 responses, of which over 1000 were from straight students.

Although over half of LGBT respondents said that they did not feel that the University is homophobic, a similar number of non-LGBT respondents indicated that they had witnessed abuse based on sexual orientation. Only 30% of gay students were able to say that they had never encountered any homophobic abuse.

According to Campaigns Officer, Tom Clarke, the purpose of the survey was "to find out what issues affect the non-straight community and to foster a greater awareness amongst the straight community".

While the survey indicates that in terms of social events, CUSU is catering well for the LGBT community,



LGBT survey shows Cambridge is more tolerant than you might think

only a quarter of LGBT students feel that they go out on the 'scene'. Nonetheless, the first LesBiGay 'Unique' club night this term saw some 500 students turn up to Life. This contrasts sharply with universities, such as Bristol whose first LGBT scene event of the term, organised jointly with UWE, drew a crowd of only 50.

The survey also gauged attitudes

to wider issues, and it was here that the greatest disparity between gay and non-gay responses was evident. Nearly four-fifths of LGBT students said that gay couples should be allowed to adopt, whereas this view was supported by less than half of straight people.

Half of the LGBT students surveyed have some form of religious be-

lief, with 1 in 4 describing themselves as Christians. Of those that consider themselves religious, three-quarters do not perceive any conflict between their beliefs and their sexuality.

Full results from the survey will be posted online soon at www-lbg.cusu.cam.ac.uk.

Additional reporting by Katie Boswell and Tom Ready

Union scandal: Mak the knifed

Jonathan Wood

The Ents Officer of the Cambridge Union resigned this week and was forced to pull out of a presidential campaign amid claims of financial misconduct. A vote of no confidence was passed by eight votes to one by the Union's standing committee in Alan Mak after he was accused of filing a false invoice. Mak strongly denies the claim saying it was an "innocent mistake" and believes it was used as an excuse to stop him running for president.

Mak has presided over a successful term of ents but it was a speed-dating event held at the Union that led to claims of a conflict of interests and fraud. Mak submitted an allegedly self-penned invoice asking for £100 to be paid by the Union to himself.

Union president Will Gallagher said, "I don't think you forge an invoice by mistake, there is no place for corruption in the Union." He added that it is possible this is not the end of the matter, "We are going back and looking at all the expenses; there are still issues to be resolved." Mak had been a presidential candidate in the elections held on Wednesday but his bid was declared ineligible.

Mak was also accused of attempting to bribe Union members to vote for him in an MSN Messenger conversation. Mak denies the claim, saying he believed he was talking to a friend when in fact it was someone on his presidential rival's slate, "it was a sham designed to frame me." Gallagher himself was embroiled in an alleged vote-buying scandal when running for chairman of CUCA, the

Cambridge University Conservative Association two years ago.

Mak claims the invoice was an "innocent mistake" which he believed was correct procedure as he was "rushed" and that "because there was a political element... because I was the leading presidential candidate... it was the excuse to get me out... Will Gallagher never liked me". Believing the allegations to be an attempt to discredit him as a candidate, he claimed that "they didn't want me to get anywhere near the ballot box", "they know that if I was allowed to stand, I would have won".

Gallagher said that claims this was all an attempt to ensure Mak didn't win were ridiculous and that it "goes against everything I've said and done as president. If when we try to act against corruption we are ourselves

accused of being corrupt, can the Union ever get it right?"

There have also been claims that the Union's returning officers have acted unconstitutionally, failing to announce the names of candidates in this term's election and circulate manifestos. If true this is in breach of a constitution that was adopted last term to guard against corruption.

The director of the speed-dating company has issued a statement saying, "I think he [Mak] is someone of good and honest character and I do not feel that there was any wilful attempt on Alan's part to mislead or defraud the Cambridge Union". Mak is determined to fight the allegations or otherwise he'll be "tarnished forever", claiming he would "go to the proctors, or whoever it takes, to clear my name".



Alex Mair

TOP 5 UNION SCANDALS

Fitz 'Porta-Porters'

Laura-Jane Foley

As Fitzwilliam students expressed their concerns this week at the "crime epidemic" sweeping the college the Dean, Barry Landy, suggested cardboard cut-out porters should be drafted in to deal with the growing problem.

Students are unhappy at the lack of security at the College's Huntingdon Road entrance. Although it is the main means of access to the College, the Porter's Lodge through which visitors previously had to walk has been re-located to the back of the College.

Barry Landy controversially suggested that students' fears could be allayed by having a "cardboard porter" sitting behind an unmanned porter's desk.



The Knights of Christ's

This suggestion was criticised by a Senior College Officer who said "I have concern over installing a cardboard cut out. Although this will make the Lodge appear occupied, it might also cause individuals trying to gain access to become extremely frustrated by the fact they feel that somebody present is ignoring them".

The security problems arose this term when the Porter's Lodge was moved to Storey's Way close to a new accommodation block built over the summer.

It was decided that the Porter's Lodge should be near to this new building but as outgoing JCR President Ed Shattock explained, "there is no security at the front of college. Everybody still comes up Castle Hill and there are no Porters there".

Since the removal of the Porters from the front of college there has been an increased incidence of trespassers in college premises which students feel is due to the lack of a deterrent at the front of the college.

"On ten different occasions people had to be removed from the college - mostly 17 year old boys messing about, even using the pool table in our JCR", one Fitz student told *Varsity*.

On top of this there has been an increase in theft at the college. Since term began eight bikes have been stolen from the supposedly secure bike-park in front of the unmanned Porter's Lodge and a laptop and a wallet have been taken

from students' rooms.

One student said that "had the Porters Lodge never been moved, and been staffed, there is a large chance that this theft would not have taken place".

Barry Landy suggested that the thefts were not that unusual, telling one student that "in other years there has been noticeably more thefts in the first part of the first term, presumably because strangers are less easily recognised".

Ed Shattock told *Varsity* that despite access to the Huntingdon Road entrance being restricted to those with swipe cards, there was no-one to stop people coming in which was meaning that students didn't feel safe.

He said "having the principal entrance to College unmanned makes us more vulnerable to crime". It was this student anxiety and worry that led 200 members of the JCR to unanimously pass a motion "in favour of double manning" meaning both Porter's Lodges would be staffed.

Shattock explained that "this would substantially increase the security of the college, and create a safer environment for Fitz students."

The Bursar has since agreed to a Porter being on duty from 4pm to 2am on weekdays but this didn't please Shattock: "what about after 2 am and what about weekends? These are the times when we need Porters most".



Prata Kopecka

The geese are getting fat and lords are almost ready to begin leaping. The big day is just over a month away. Last Sunday Cambridge's Christmas lights were switched on by the Tin Man from the Corn Exchange's pantomime.

The lights also marked the beginning of Cambridge's first Food and Drink Festival, a series of gourmet food sampling, wine tasting, talks and presentations. See www.graf-fixation.co.uk/foodfest/about.html for details. Tom Cahill

'Don Air' is the future of Oxbridge travel

Amol Rajan

Academics frustrated by the Oxford-Cambridge journey time may soon be flying 'Don-Air'. A new charter jet route is being supported by academics as the only viable means of avoiding the infamously slow road journey from Cambridge to Oxford. The new route - dubbed 'Don-Air' - would shred the journey times from the current 3 hours to around 20 minutes.

The flights would be on chartered jets containing between 4 and 8 seats. Tourists and members of the public would also have access to the new 'airline'.

Many dons who work in both cities are finding their research programmes inhibited by the current journey times between the cities. Oxford dons have been pressing managers of Oxford's airport to push for the service.

Meanwhile, a spokeswoman for Cambridge University commented, "I am sure that [the service] would prove popular... It would be

used by both university staff and local businesses."

Travel between the cities has been difficult since the famous Varsity train line was scrapped in the 1960's. It had been for many years the most popular method of travel for dons flitting to and fro between the two cities.

Train journey's were notorious

for their intellectually-charged atmosphere; many a former student has recalled listening to eminent scholars argue with each other en-route to conferences or debates.

However despite calls from academics and others to reinstate the line a WAGN spokesman told *Varsity* that "no plans were underfoot" to address the issue, or indeed to "build

[any] new lines travelling West of Cambridge". Travellers are forced to travel via London, an expensive and time-consuming method, or frustratingly take to the roads.

Stagecoach's non-direct X5 route takes 3 hours, and departs hourly. It goes through, among others, Milton Keynes, Bedford, and Buckingham. Tickets are relatively cheap, with re-

turn fares costing £9.90. Students can travel for only £7.90.

A Stagecoach spokesman claimed that their cheap fare was very attractive for everyone, saying, "the popularity of the X5 will continue so long as students travel along its route".

The service is generally reliable. However, between Oxford and Cambridge lies one of the busiest stretches of Britain's busiest road. Journeys are invariably slowed down by traffic on the M25.

Car journeys obviously face the same problems. Though the two cities are just 65 miles apart, 118 miles of jammed roads need to be negotiated by motorists travelling between them.

The proposed flights would be run between Oxford's airport and airfields in the Cambridge area, including Duxford.

Travellers would pay between £100 and £150 for the privilege. But what a privilege it would be. The day when *Varsity* readers have coffee and mini-supervisions at 30,000ft may not be so far away...



Kate Ware

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Vas debates at Union

Our "Save Gardies" campaign will be taken to the Chamber of the Cambridge Union next week when the main Thursday debate will be 'This House would Save Gardies'. Vas Anastasiou, the owner of Gardies, is expected to be the star speaker. In addition you can now download 'Save Gardies' phone wallpaper from our fellow campaigner yotones.com by clicking on the link at our website – varsity.co.uk. The tasteful designs are available in both logo and picture form.

King's Support

At a well-attended JCR Open Meeting at St. John's College on Sunday a motion regarding rents was passed which expressed the JCR's support for the King's rent strike. This motion also mandates the JCRC to approach the bursary in advance of the usual rent negotiations and take appropriate action based on the bursars' response.

Phab Cambridge

A PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied) club that promotes social interaction between people with and without disabilities, is visiting Queen's College, Cambridge on 25th November. Fifty people who live around Cambridge will get the chance to interact with college members and dine in one of Cambridge's most historic colleges.

Competition Winners

The winner of the Fresh as Snow ball tickets are Katy Anstis, of Kings; Tania Wood, of Pembroke; Alana Finlayan, of Caius; Bharvin Vakani of Cats and Rob Paton of Trinity Hall. To collect your prize please email tickets@fresh-as-snow.com

Correction

In last weeks article (King's still in crisis) it was said that the motion passed authorising the rent strike had been declared unconstitutional. In fact it was only the aspects of the motion not relating to the rent strike that were declared unconstitutional not the motion as a whole. The error occurred due to incorrect information being supplied to Varsity.

Rowing lake will save Cam

Rachel Millar and Chris Adams

Cambridge Rowing Lake, a two-mile long training lake with an international-standard competition course and state-of-the-art teaching facilities, is to be built on Cambridge's outskirts. The unique new rowing lake looks set to improve facilities in Cambridge and relieve the pressure on the congested river Cam.

The project has been billed as the country's largest purpose-built sporting facility and 'one of the world's most sought-after rowing venues'. It has just completed its third phase of construction with one of the UK's largest ever archaeological digs, giving the area the all-clear for the main development to begin.

It will be linked directly to the River Cam upon its completion in 2009, giving crews from the 50 existing boat clubs already based on the Cam year-round access to top-class training facilities. Cambridgeshire

County Council has agreed in principle to the lease around 150 acres of council owned farmland.

Ian Stewart, County Council Chief Executive described it as "a hugely exciting project that will provide a real boost for local people who will be able to use both the rowing lake and country park".

The rowing lake, expected to cost over £15million, is intended to be ac-

cessible to anyone, from light recreational users to those competing at the highest levels.

"Cambridge is the busiest rowing centre in the UK, if not Europe, but there simply isn't enough space on the rivers to accommodate everybody," said Michael Garroway, of the Cambridge Rowing Trust. "This is a major step forward, although there is much still to be done... The lake

will meet the requirements for international races and only minor adjustments would be required for it to be raised to Olympic standard."

The Trust, a charity whose aims are to promote the teaching of rowing and similar sports to the wider community, is the main operator of the project. Plans for the new Lake were first drawn up in 1992 and, with the help of donors, went into the first planning stages last year.

Many users of the Cam claim it is severely overcrowded and dangerous, limiting sports development and training severely. A quick glance at the University's boat club online message boards reveals a plethora of tales of overcrowded waters, accidents and general river carnage.

Similar projects are a common feature in Europe, but such facilities are far less accessible here in the UK. Cambridge Rowing Trust hopes to carefully examine the most successful lakes from across the world and bring their best features to Cambridge.



Drug-assisted rape in Cambridge

Brian Little

After at least two suspected incidents of the use of the date rape drug Rohypnol on students, a teenager has been raped after being drugged during a night out in Cambridge.

The 16-year-old girl told Cambridgeshire Police that after leaving Po Na Na nightclub she was offered a drink by a man she had met in the venue, then taken to a house and raped.

Detective Sergeant Chris Wilson said the man was with two friends

when they approached the teenager inside the club.

He said the girl had danced with her attacker - who may be known by the nickname of "Super" - before leaving the club at some time between 10.30pm on the Friday and 12.30am on Saturday.

The girl can remember walking over Victoria Bridge onto Mitchams Corner and before going into white terraced house where she says she was raped.

"Unfortunately she has no idea what time it was and does not remember how she got home," Mr

Wilson said.

"She was left confused and disorientated and still has difficulty recalling the incident in full".

The police believe that some of the people who were out on Friday 7th November may be able to identify the man who is described as black, about 5 ft 8 in tall with a thin to medium build and a shaved head. He was wearing a dark green jumper and baggy trousers.

One of the other men who approached the girl in the nightclub was described as white, about six feet tall and had a thin build, spiky

hair and silver coloured glasses.

The incident comes after two other suspected incidents of drink spiking in Cambridge this term, both of them involving University students rather than Cambridge residents. The first occurred at a Caius college ent held during freshers week where two girls experienced symptoms consistent with the 'date rape' drug Rohypnol. The second occurred in Ballare when a student experienced similar symptoms. In both cases the students were looked after by friends and came to no harm.

Newnham offers referendum on men

Amol Rajan and Richard Allen

As the Women's Union celebrates the success of its Purple Ribbon Campaign to save Oxbridge's woman only colleges, students at Newnham have called for a referendum on whether men should be admitted to their college.

In a letter to *Varsity* this week Newnham JCR President Rebecca Collins answered calls for a referendum, "I'm sure the JCR would be happy to offer a referendum on student opinion on this topic". When pressed on the issue though she said that students would have to "go through the proper channels" and whether it took place or not would "be decided by the JCR committee".

This is an embarrassing situation for Cambridge. CUSU is currently campaigning to help keep St. Hilda's College Oxford an all female college. St. Hilda's faces the prospect of a second referendum, only seven months

after they voted to maintain their single-sex status.

The vote in March at Oxford's last remaining all-female college, saw the motion to admit male undergraduates fail to secure the necessary two-thirds majority in the college's governing council to exact change.

St. Hilda's was forced to hold the vote in response to a funding crisis precipitated by sex discrimination legislation that allows colleges to advertise for women-only posts but bans universities from funding them.

The 57% of the Hilda's students who supported segregation, feared the loss of a "supportive, tolerant, respectful atmosphere with an amazingly eclectic mix of people".

At Newnham however, calls for a "balanced social atmosphere" and a belief in the irrelevance of the founding aims of Newnham lie behind the move. An anonymous Newnhamite wrote; "the college was founded to promote female education in a man's

world... Women's colleges now belong to a past era".

Jo Read, CUSU women's officer, believes strongly in the continued need for women's colleges claiming 'they have the crucial role of providing an

academic environment tailored to the specific educational needs of women". Whether this argument will sway Newnham opinion remains to be seen

Additional reporting by Laura-Jane Foley



Bush whacked

Neil Laurenson and Jonathan Wood

Cambridge students were among the thousands of protesters who took to the streets of London on Thursday to voice their opposition to US President George Bush during his controversial state visit to Britain.

The protest's organisers, the Stop the War Coalition, estimated that numbers topped over 200,000 protestors from across the UK; the police put the figure closer to 70,000. It was claimed that yesterday's demonstration was the largest weekday march London had ever seen. The police were out in force to ensure the proceedings went ahead smoothly with over 5,000 were marshalling the protest. By last night there had been over fifty arrests of protestors. All police leave in the capital has been cancelled for the duration of Bush's visit, one in nine police officers will apparently be protecting George Bush during his state visit, with *The Independent* calculating the cost at at least £7m.

Bush himself carried on with his engagements, including talks with Prime Minister Tony Blair on the situation in Iraq and AIDS in Africa and hosting a banquet for the

Queen in the US ambassador's residence, in a more low-key day compared to Wednesday's formalities, forty-one gun salute and state banquet. The White House's security requests that were rejected by Buckingham Palace had apparently included the closure of the 'tube' network, the shipping in of battle-field weaponry and the use of US air force jets and helicopters.

The march started along the three-mile route around two thirty yesterday afternoon, apparently slightly delayed as the police had underestimated the number of protestors, in Malet Street in Bloomsbury and passed parliament and Downing Street before finishing in Trafalgar Square. Extra security was laid on around Downing Street as protestors, booed, jeered and hurled insults at George Bush as they passed. There was major disruption to the centre of London with widespread road closures around the route as the protestors approached.

The protest reached its peak with scenes reminiscent of the toppling of Saddam Hussein's statue in Baghdad. A forty-foot high golden papier-mâché effigy of George Bush holding a missile with Tony Blair in his pocket was pulled down

in Trafalgar Square to loud applause. Mexican waves, sit-ins, and chants from "1,2,3,4, Tony Blair is Bush's whore" to "Tony, Tony, Tony, out, out, out", all featured prominently in the demonstration in the square as speakers addressed the crowds. Music and a carnival atmosphere in Trafalgar Square greeted protestors with bands playing along the way and the police generally quite friendly.

Some of the more colourful protestors included Abraham Lincoln walking around on stilts, would-be Guantanamo Bay prisoners in orange jump suits playing a football match on the embankment and a white coffin being marched along with 'Justice' written on the side.

Police had been worried that as many as 1,000 European anarchists could turn up with the express intention of creating disruption. The threats never materialised.

In reference to the protests, George Bush had previously spoken of his enthusiasm for free speech. However, a press conference yesterday was dominated by the bombing in Turkey as both Bush and Blair condemned the attacks which have left at least 26 people dead, including the British Consul-General.



Secrets of the Iron Lady

Margaret Thatcher's exercise books, her father's sermon notes, and the only remaining copy of the Tory Party's 1978 draft manifesto have been opened up to the public. Churchill College Archives released these along with hundreds of other previously unavailable documents on Monday. They reveal that early on in her career, the Iron Lady contemplated quitting politics entirely to focus on a career at the Bar instead, "with no further thought of a parliamentary career for many years". This is the first time that private and sensitive papers have been released during the lifetime of a former Prime Minister and many Government-held documents are still unavailable due to Whitehall regulations.

Students reject Bush



Jonathan Wood

Cambridge students ensured they played a prominent part in yesterday's national protest in London with five coaches, organised by the Cambridge Stop the War Coalition, setting out from Cambridge with around 120 student protestors on board. CamSAW, Cambridge Students Against the War, also played a major part.

One student, Kim Phillips from Jesus said that the march has definitely been a success, "without doubt no matter where they were in London today, Bush and Blair will have heard us".

Cambridge itself had been the scene of its own anti-Bush protest on Wednesday, with organisers reckoning around 100 protestors turned out in Market Square to demonstrate and topple statues of Bush and Blair. Various speakers addressed the crowd, attacking both Bush and Blair.

The motion 'Should CUSU have policy

against George Bush?' was debated by CUSU on Wednesday with 60 people present, 33 of whom voted in favour. However, as the meeting's attendance fell well short of the 100 people needed for quorum, the result has limited significance.

There have been a variety of other anti-Bush protests in Cambridge to mark the US president's state visit. Last Saturday saw a protest outside the Esso petrol station in Trumpington, with the protestors, including a tiger sporting an 'Esso sucks' t-shirt. They urged motorists to boycott the company.

A "Stop Bush" banner was unfurled last week on top of the railway bridge. The protestor, in an orange jump suit like those worn by the prisoners at Guantanamo Bay said "while thousands of innocent Iraqis have died as a result of a 21st century crusade, state honours are being lavished on a man who has shown utter contempt for life, democracy and international law". A man was later arrested in relation to the incident.

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Dave Hall Bush unlikely to be rattled by CUSU Open Meeting

They called it an 'indicative vote' in opposition to George Bush's state visit to Britain, but their disappointment was palpable. Yes, on Wednesday afternoon at an Emergency Open Meeting held at Kings, the gathered forces of CamSAW and the Socialist Workers' Party managed to muster just 33 votes in support of their motion. That strange phrase, 'indicative vote', was used because, the meeting being well short of the 100 members needed it to be quorate, the decision had no significance at all. It is not CUSU policy to oppose Bush's visit.

To be honest, I expected better of Dan Mayer and Sam Caldwell, the

proposers of this motion. Of course, their motion was unconstitutional (see Article A of the CUSU Constitution) and shockingly badly written ('Notes 7. That unlike a university education, Bush's state visit will be paid for by the British taxpayer'). Come off it, Dan. We can blame Bush for a lot, but higher education cutbacks? Oh, and while we're having this debate, let's be honest about the facts. My £1000 p.a. tuition fees don't quite cover the full costs of my education, do they? The rest is paid for by the British taxpayer). Nonetheless, I've always admired Dan as a behind-the-scenes political manoeuvrer. Surely, in the middle of King's College, hotbed of student activism, he could get to-

gether 100 people to force through an anti-Bush motion...

And so I sat, waiting, almost hoping, to be declared a Tory bastard and Bush supporter by people who had been induced to the Keynes Hall with the promise of an occupation against something if they were very very good. In the end, all I got was Dan Mayer, who duly called me a closet Tory and Bush lover. For the record, Dan, Bush is a dodgily-elected, oil-funded puppet, possibly the most stupid man ever to be trusted with the security of the world. Is that left-wing enough for you?

What followed was something of a farce. Just over 50 people, safe in the knowledge that no decision

made by this inquorate assembly could possibly have any significance, debated at cross purposes for 15 minutes. Dan and his cronies said they had the right to be politically active. We confirmed that they had the right to be politically active, but CUSU couldn't, and had no inclination to, take a stance on visits by foreign leaders. They said that many students opposed Bush. We confirmed that many students did and some students didn't. And some students like Marmite and some students hate it, but CUSU will not be supporting or denouncing Marmite.

Of the 11 people who, like me, voted against yesterday's motion, not one expressed any support for

Bush. Our point was simple: CUSU as a students' union should deal only with our interests as students. To take a position on foreign leaders would serve only to deflect CUSU's attentions from the important issues of higher education funding, international visa renewal charges and everyday student welfare.

We have an active, effective students' union at this university and they will continue to fight in the interests of all the students. And they will do well to ignore the ignorant posturing of so-called 'radicals' who think that the violent overthrow of the 'international ruling order' will start at a CUSU Open Meeting.

Dave Hall is President of the Union of Clare Students.

Why do students smoke pot? As far as Tim Stanley is concerned, it comes a poor second to booze

I have only smoked pot twice in my life. The first occasion was Christmas 1998 at my aunt's house in front of the (then) final ever episode of Only Fools and Horses.

My family have always been drug friendly - indeed, my aunt keeps bottles of morphine in her fridge (which is surprisingly easily confused with Gold Top milk) - and the conversation had moved swiftly on to the stash my cousin (a voracious lesbian studying at Southampton) had hidden in her room. Before one could say 'Puff the Magic Dragon' we were all getting pleasantly off our faces in a very seasonal way - but it seemed to me rather a dull sensation and I quickly moved on to egg nog as a more certain route to relief from the agony that those genetically closest to you inevitably bring.

The second experience was more profound. In the Thanksgiving of my first term I was invited to a very pretty young girl's room to suck upon a spliff the size of the New Forest. I naturally obliged, as I was keen to impress the young lady with my ability to get stoned very slowly and so inhaled deeply in short breaths. About ten minutes later I was lying in a bath vomiting profusely and swearing never to touch the stuff ever again. Later on that evening I groggily gave a Frenchman I hardly knew a massage and introduced my teddy bear to the entire floor by system-

atically knocking on doors and asking, 'Have you met Mr Fluffy?'

I recount these two stories not with pride, but to emphasise that when I denounce the taking of drugs I do so not with the moral upper hand. I am as guilty as the next man of attempting to escape the middle class ennui that is modern capitalism by smoking something that is probably eighty percent woodchip. Nonetheless looking back on both these experiences I have to admit that they were immature practices largely brought about by peer pressure. They served no purpose: in both

cases I felt ill afterwards and in one case I ended up walking to Grantchester bare foot.

Drink is a far more pleasurable and sociable way to while away a lifetime

But Cambridge is drugs obsessed. This is tragic for two reasons, ignoring entirely the argument that these hormone scrambling experiences probably lead inexorably to

early death. The first reason is that someone somewhere is simply not profiting from our misery. Indeed they're suffering inexorably. A few terms ago I entered a wheeze with a bisexual from Eton to report to the police the fact that illegal drugs were being taken in the Union (Howard Marks was handing them out). At the time this was just an amusing Cointreau-orientated prank, but in hindsight it had a serious point. Mr Marks was not importing something akin to nicotine. The vast majority of Marijuana crops are still produced in third world countries with GNPs so low they'd force even King's to

make cut backs. In short, blood, toil and near slavery funded Mr Marks' rise to predominance amongst student middle class layabouts. Drugs do not emerge from the ether, but are part of a cycle of crime that will never be broken unless we simply stop taking them.

Secondly, I realise now that drugs are not a solution to, but a symptom of, the failings of modern Capitalism. Is our existence so banal and our political system so rotten that we have to escape by shoving half of Columbia up our noses? Is Cambridge so dull that we can only get through it by sitting in front of a wall watching large pink rabbits make hay with distant cousins in blue? Possibly. But that says more about Cambridge and the world outside than it does about the power of heroin to change our world view.

In short, drug use is immature, ignorant of the consequences and symptomatic of a wider problem with our intellectual lifestyles. If only we could learn to appreciate art or literature more than we might not be reduced to snorting coke in toilet cubicles. Either way drink (particularly Gloag's Gin) is a far more pleasurable and sociable way to while away a lifetime. I can honestly say that alcoholism has introduced me to more people and more places than I'd ever have experienced if sober. And I've got the towels I nicked from Trumpington Police Station to vouch for me.





Naomi Loomes

Why Cambridge should think about positive discrimination

Interview week is fast approaching and the perennial question of 'access' is in the public gaze again. Bristol University elevated the debate to headier heights last year by discriminating against highly qualified students from private schools in favour of state school applicants with lower grades. Charles Clarke appointed an advisory committee on university entrance and got the New York giant Professor Schwarz on the case.

Schwarz wants to impose the American model whereby access is judged 'not by where one stands but on how far one has had to travel to get there'. It's a particularly touchy subject for Cambridge: a university perpetually pelted with accusations of favouring protégés from the leafy private schools in the South-East and not giving state school candidates a look in.

Schwarz's plan of action is this: draw up a geosociological chart showing all the most deprived areas and offer departments a 20%

premium for every applicant they take from these areas. It smacks of 'social engineering' - and not surprisingly the private schools don't find this very sporting, especially when parents have coughed up £8K a year for this not to happen. In short, the middle classes, in their Barbour jackets and wellies, are all jolly cross. Might they have a right to be? Is social discrimination ever acceptable?

There is a logic behind it. In 1962 0.25m students were in higher education which had soared to 1.3m by 2001. But whereas enrolments of students from professional backgrounds has risen from 15% to 50%, enrolments from non professional has risen from 8% to just 18%. The middle classes are hogging all the places.

Consider this alongside the 'plummeting standards' which are keeping the dons awake at night - they claim our first year is spent in 'remedial education' (teaching us all the stuff we should already know) - and you might deduce that the rugger and lacrosse captains are not exactly the sharpest tools in the box.

Schwarz says lots of great minds are falling by the wayside because universities aren't recognising that state school candidates might not get such high grades at A-level but they'll out-

The middle classes, in their Barbour jackets and wellies, are all jolly cross

perform at university.

There are two reasons why this might be so. Firstly because state school kids have to show more initiative if they want to learn and will therefore respond better to university-style teaching than their spoon-fed private school counterparts. Researchers at Warwick University have hypothesised an 'independent school effect'. This suggests that independent school candidates seem cleverer than they are because of their schools' ability to pull everyone through with high A-levels, but put them in the

melting pot of university and a 'performance gap' emerges - the state schools power ahead. Schwarz develops this, claiming that if two people have the same 3 As at A-level but one's from a private school and one a state school, then the state school pupil must have 'travelled further' and therefore must be 'drawn from a higher point in the underlying ability distribution'. You can see his point.

The second argument is that public school students by virtue of their 'cultural assets' are likely to have their networks and contacts and future earning potential pretty well established before they even fill out their UCAS form, and thus try hard for their 3 As in large part because they see Oxbridge as a chance to extend their high calibre social contacts. But once at university they have a 'diminished incentive' to work, happy to settle for 'the gentleman's degree' as long as they can have a super time at the Pitt Club and the drinking societies. Schwarz argues that state school children not so well attuned to the

world of networking amass their social capital by working harder and doing better academically - they get some 7% more firsts and 2:1s.

Is this a strong enough case for social discrimination? It seems too couched in generalisations and intangibles to know. *The Spectator* bemoaned 'the pogrom of the privileged children' but as usual their pessimism is overblown; Cambridge admissions officers say they've 'always tried to look at A-levels in the context they were achieved'. They won't be swayed by Schwarz's financial incentives and the other 'guidelines' are too permissive.

The Spectator forgets that the great legacy of the private school education is that you can breeze through interviews like you're selling insurance, in a way most people from state school could never do. As long as the interview remains the centrepiece of Oxbridge admissions the 'Tim nice-but dims' who can talk the talk will always have social discrimination on their side - whether they can walk the walk or not.

Confessions of an eBay addict

Ronojoy Dam looks at the growing phenomenon of online auctions

"That's it... I'm officially addicted to eBay; I can't think of anything I've done in the past six months that equals the thrill of winning an item or the fear and depression that follows being outbid at the last second. Bastards. It's madness I tell you. Madness. Somebody stop me. Please."

So read the email from a friend of mine sent to everyone she knew last month. Do not underestimate the seriousness of this issue for eBay addiction is a dangerous phenomenon mercilessly taking over the World Wide Web population as whimpering prisoners. Founded in 1995 the online auction market now receives in excess of 140 million hits per week and hosts around a million online auctions per day in over 1000 categories. For many, it's not just a pastime.

eBay addiction ravishes the time and money of sufferers as they comfort themselves with the pretext that they are actually gaining something of value, however little it may be. The latter half of Easter Term saw me descend into the depths of eBay junkiedom: sleepless nights endured due to the suspense of bids and the

plotting of future ones while constant checking of bid status became as necessary as breathing. The first failure to win an item by being outbid at the last minute by some vicious fiend is like a blow to the chest - one is left breathless, panting, in a state of shock.

Food was reduced to a mere means of minimal sustenance and nervous smoking increased as the time left on a bid was counted down. From only bidding on things I really wanted like a daily pheromone spray, which claimed would leave the opposite sex actually believing I was the beast of a man I knew I was and yet which no one else had quite caught on to yet, and that limited edition Manic Street Preachers vinyl 12" from '91, I suddenly found myself captivated by the thought of winning a potato chip in the image of Princess Di, a salt and pepper shaker set shaped like a gorilla in a palm tree and a truly wonderful alarm clock, featuring a small caricature of Bill Clinton that dropped his pants every hour to the melodic chime of *To All The Girls I've Loved Before*. It was only the end of term, a return to home and the feverish shaking of

internet cold turkey that saved my sorry ass. I am truly grateful.

However, while eBay may be guilty of insidiously causing addiction, it is also there to be exploited for one's own ends and a medium through which to exploit all those other losers out there. If a dodgy BMW were to pull up as you meandered through Market Square as the two slickly suited men inside compliment you on your bargain connoisseur appearance before proceeding to invite you into the backseat and show you an array of 'top quality' watches all for the reduced price of a few hundred quid, where else could you have a 40W flash of genius and quickly sell them for personal profit other than eBay?

A charitable man in the US put up the snow in his backyard for sale as it was surplus to requirements with the buyer having to collect. Another friend of mine, with more imagination than money, has decided to sell all his unwanted possessions on eBay in an attempt to pay his way to New York. He has raised £20.65 so far. It's not really working.

Maybe if you're like the eBay widow (www.ebaywidow.com) who is



Alex Matir

\$35,000 in debt due to her loving husband's lack of self-control and could really do with your charitable donation then there is hope to be found in the form of the eBay addiction patch. You simply apply the patch to your forehead and results should be expected after 230 applications. If all else

fails and an addict just can't pack it in however, well then they may as well take full advantage of the items on sale, which in the past have included marvellous wonders such as the meaning of life, a Falcon missile, dignity, drug-free urine and strawberry soda. If you can't beat it, buy it.

VARSITY

The Uni is a political pawn

The University is set to announce a scheme of bursaries that will radically change the financial position in which students from the lowest income backgrounds find themselves at Cambridge. By supplementing the Government's proposed Hardship Grant of £1,000 with a further £4,000 grant, Cambridge plans to use its financial clout to ensure that students whose parents earn less than £15,000 may not even need to draw their full student loans in order to get by at university.

The proposals are linked, in their substance and in their timing, with the introduction of top-up fees. The Government will use it to exploit what appears to be an enormous access stunt by the UK's flagship university to soften the announcement of differential fees in the Queen's Speech. What the Government should actually be announcing, regardless of their proposals for funding teaching and research, is a scheme of student support that actually meets basic needs.

As it stands, the Newton Trust bursaries (up to £1,000 systematically offered to all students with full LEA fee contribution) go a long way to closing the disparity between student loan levels and £5,800 – the figure that universities, Cambridge included, accept is a minimum realistic budget. That the Government does not currently offer any student the ability to even borrow such an amount is a disgrace.

Now, the Undergraduate Bursaries Committee and the Newton Trust, from whom these proposals arise, are providing tacit approval of top-up fee proposals in order to make up for the Government's continued failure in providing adequate maintenance support.

This is a bitter irony that will not be lost on those caught in the poverty trap of increasing parental contributions and rapidly reducing support just above the £18,000 income bracket. Tuition fee contributions, falling student loans, falling Newton Bursaries, and ineligibility for new Government Hardship Grants all start to bite. Plotting a graph of the parental contribution required to meet the University's "bread and water" maintenance target for different income levels shows those in the range of £18,000 to 30,000 suffer worst – along with those that fall through the means-testing regime. The "taper" that will determine to what extent these students benefit from the new proposals has yet to be decided, but it is unlikely to offer much consolation.

The Newton Trust has become a pawn in a wider political game. No student needs £9,000 to live on, but every student needs £5,600 to live on. *Varsity* calls on Cambridge University to introduce the proposed levels of support now, if they believe they are needed at all, and fund them from existing sources. How education and teaching are funded is a separate matter.

What the Union is for

Another term, another scandal at the Cambridge Union. Another aggrieved presidential hopeful who's willing to "do anything" to get back for what has been done. Echoes of Union terms past ring in our ears. But, in all honesty - do we really care?

The Union should be about good speakers, interesting, topical debates and ents that make you want to leave the comfort of your college. This term's programme has been a good one, but the Union needs to begin to attract as officers those who are interested in, and motivated by, putting a smile on the face of the members rather than climbing the greasy pole.

Next Thursday the Union debates whether or not we should save Gardies – surely the issue of the term at Cambridge. *Varsity* will be there. We're trying to make sure Vas will be too. Now the debacle is over, why not come along and see what the Union can really do in the area where it should be concentrating: making sure that Cambridge can't wait for next Thursday to come round.

This could catch on...

With the University facing an ever rising deficit the Fellowship of Fitzwilliam College have come up with the solution everyone has been looking for – the cardboard staff member.

Not only can you be frustrated by the inanimate porter, why not queue up for your dinner and be confused by the cardboard canteen staff or head to your supervision and wonder how long your esteemed academic is going to ponder for. Until you realise he's just an amateur mock up. There is one place where the idea would certainly come in very handy; a cardboard King's Bursar. Willing to take the flak at regular intervals for the College's problems and very unlikely to ever consult his lawyers...

The week
in words

"We've seen plenty of American flags. We've seen plenty of people waving to us – many, many more people in fact than protesters"

First lady Laura Bush told reporters she had barely noticed the opposition to her husband's state visit to Britain.

"Had I been a terrorist intent on assassinating the Queen or American president George Bush, I could have done so with absolute ease"

Ryan Parry, reporter for the Daily Mirror, who got a job as a footman at Buckingham Palace to expose the poor security standards

"Thatcher's political convictions show us all the need to be strong and believe in ourselves"

CUCA Chairman Edward Cumming on the importance of the Thatcher Papers.

"The thought of a northern, working class, ethnic minority President horrifies the Union cliques"

Alan Mak on his disqualification from the Union election.

"It's not that I'm unsympathetic..."

Union President, Will Gallagher, softens the blow as he proposes a vote of 'no confidence' in Mak.

"I understand you've attempted to rectify the situation by leaving lights on in the Old Porters Lodge and a 'will be back sign'"

Junior Members' Association's Welfare Officer on security concerns at Fitzwilliam.

"I can assure you that within a very short period of time, multiple counts will be filed"

Tom Sneddon, Santa Barbara District Attorney, on the arrest of Michael Jackson on multiple charges of child sex abuse.

"We have just to keep our feet firmly on the ground and take away the hype and treat it just like another game of rugby"

England coach Clive Woodward on Saturday's Rugby World Cup final against Australia.

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Frances Robinson

Welcome to the finest production line in the world

A lot of the time, trying to get a degree here feels like being made to jump through burning hoops backwards whilst balancing a candelabra on your head. It's certainly not easy and it relies on being brainwashed, and cast in the mould of 'Cambridge Graduate'. This place gets under our skin, gets into our veins, makes us who we are, and also what we're 'meant' to be - like non-vintage wines, the aim is to create the same drinkable, but predictable product every year.

When I arrived here, fresh out of my northern state comprehensive school, I soon learnt that I could be so much more than the sum of my parts, but only if I played by their rules. It's all very well to be intelligent - which we all are - but now, as

a finalist and a linguist, I am painfully aware that we are uniquely, ridiculously employable, and also the most hypocritical students in the country. A hypocrisy that has admittedly been thrust upon us, but there is still little excuse.

Even the most demanding jobs are going to be a bit of a picnic after the average degree here. From what experience I have of the "Real World", nobody expects you to attend work on a Saturday (à la scientist) or to write an essay on somebody's life's work (à la Arts student) in six days. Count them. It's not funny when you're sat in the UL, desperately trying to get in touch with your inner existentialist, but on the other hand, no other university would credit you with so much intelligence, let alone give

you the right to exercise it... You have been indoctrinated not only to be aware of your superior intelligence, but also to use it, a skill which will leave you both equally cursed and blessed in future years.

In actual jobs, however, you work your sorry ass off for the man from 9 til 5, you go home, you switch off, you can be your own person. But because this place is like an alcohol-soaked version of an Enid Blyton school book - people even play lacrosse, for God's sake - you can never go home. Your supervisor probably stands behind you in the sandwich queue, and your exam results get stuck up on a big board.

I spent last year as an Erasmus Student in Paris, alongside students from Brighton, Bath, and UWE. They'd all lived out, and by 'out' I

mean dodgy rented accommodation with inadequate facilities and scary landlords, not a college house which was shockingly over ten minutes walk from the college bar, for at least two years, if not the entirety of their degree. For them, free laundry, bedders, hall and supervisions were alien concepts. But they also had no knowledge of late books, deanings, or being sent down. To achieve our edge in matters of thought and intellect, we are treated like naughty schoolchildren until the age of twenty-one.

I'm not being ungrateful. It's a fantastic lifestyle, but a completely unreal one too. You have to wonder why we are given so much - what do they expect in return for it? Aside from the obvious spare million to splurge on library books if we ever

do make money, why do they do it? I don't know. But I do know that as long as we enjoy formal hall, as long as our fellow students from Anglia work as hall waiters and bedders we will remain supremely well-educated hypocrites.

On the other hand, insanely privileged though we are, we at least earned it in a meritocratic way. It may be a big gilded playpen but at least we're here because we're bloody clever and not just because mummy and daddy are rich. Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to revel in everything that's great about this place, try to change the anachronistic idiosyncrasies and emerge victorious into the real world, before squinting through your hangover eyes and realising that it was all a dream...

Letters

Letters should be submitted no later than midnight on Wednesday, and be as concise as possible. The editors reserve the right to edit all copy. letters@varsity.co.uk

Gardies: Actually open since 1955

Dear Sir,

I recently read in *The Times* of the move to save The Gardenia from closure. It was said that the restaurant had been a landmark and a haven for the consumption of chips since 1961.

Sir here is a gross injustice! The Gardenia was in full action during my time at Magdalene from 1955 to 1958. I shall never forget and shall always be grateful for the generous helpings of spaghetti bolognese and chips or, if one felt slightly flusher, kebab with spaghetti

bolognese and chips. The owner was a suave and unfairly good-looking gentleman called Mr Alexander; I say "unfairly" because my fiancée was terribly taken with him! I should add that the girl who was then my fiancée was then doing Part I midwifery at Mill Road Maternity Hospital and that she has been my adored wide for very nearly 46 years now.

With all good wishes to you and the dear Gardenia, I remain, yours faithfully,
Dennis R. Blake

Milkround smiles

Dear Editor,

Last week's article 'The milkround runs dry' will have shocked many of your readers. Although it's true that 47% of Cambridge first degree graduates left without securing a permanent full-time job, they chose to do other things such as postgraduate study (36%) or a year-off and travel (7%). The number of unemployed Cambridge graduates actively seeking employment was only 3%. Although the economic downturn introduced uncertainty into some sectors on a national level, there will always be a strong demand for Cambridge students.

The Careers Service is here, funded by the University, to help students and graduates achieve whatever future they want regardless of the twists and turns of the stock market.

Regards,
Gordon Chesterman
Director, Careers Service

Paul Lewis is a prejudiced biggot

Dear Editor,

I write in outrage regarding Paul Lewis' prejudiced and dismissive treatment of Cuba in his interview with Tony Benn. With regards to breaching human rights, is it not enough that Havana has been judged the safest capital in the world, that every person without exception receives free medical care and free education through school, university and beyond.

Compare that with Cambridge where a stabbing is of-

ten not even headline news, a dental check up can cost £20 and the looming top-up fees will increase our debts by several thousands of pounds. Which nation comes out better?

I would suggest that the greatest abusers of human rights are those who impose the trade embargo on the island that results in nothing but the suffering of ordinary people. And those who continue to spread the ignorant view that Cuba is somehow in need of lessons from the West.

Yours faithfully, Helen Fraser

A clarification

Dear Editor,

I would like to clarify some remarks I made in last weeks article on Gardies. When stating my opinion, I was referring specifically to CUSU COUNCIL, and not to CUSU as an organisation. The latter plays a vital role in student life, - to the extent that I believe I could not fulfil my duties as JCR President without it. The former is a body that has a serious identity crisis, which causes it consistently to fail to fulfil its role. It neither accurately represents the Cambridge students (e.g. over Gardies), nor makes wise decisions (such as last year's blanket condemnation of the Union). It is far too easily manipulated and held to ransom by various interested groups, and is not sufficiently accountable to the student body.

Yours,
Ben Rawlings
JCR President, Trinity Hall

Americans aren't like Bush



Michael Lynas

Four Weddings and a Funeral was a movie made for the British market that made it big in the States. Love Actually by contrast is a movie made for the Americans. Just about every significant British actor of the last ten years is wheeled out for a series of cameos that conform to every stereotype that Americans have of us Brits. We are sophisticated, charming, bashful, handsome and clever. In other words, we are Hugh Grant.

Looking around the cinema and hearing the coos from the American audience it was clear: they love us, or at least the image of us that Richard Curtis saccharines-up.

Since I've been here in America I have relished this devotion. When people hear a British accent they go crazy. The mere incidence of my birth has transformed me into an admirable fusion of beauty and brains: Prince William and Tony Blair. Given that the only other British man they seem to know (Hugh Grant aside) is David Brent from *The Office* I suppose I should be flattered that I wasn't compared to him. Give it a few years.

If the American stereotype of the Brit is nice but misguided, the British stereotype of the American is misguided and nasty. Where they think we are clever, we think they are stupid. Where we are sophisticated, they are folksy. Where we are handsome,

they are fat. Where we are reserved, they are gauche. Where we hate war, they glorify war. They love Tony Blair; we hate George Bush. In our minds George Bush has become all Americans. George Bush is a stupid, folksy, warmongering President. So all Americans must also be stupid, folksy and warmongering, right?

Wrong. No individual can symbolise all Americans, not even a President voted for by a minority of her citizens. The good folk of Cambridge, Massachusetts are more progressive (or Lefty depending on your view) than any I have ever lived with. When they have finished their bottle of Dr Pepper they don't throw it away, they recycle it. When students from minority groups apply to their colleges, they give them extra points. When they have free time, they volunteer for a local charity. When they vote, they don't vote Bush. And they certainly don't support the war.

Now, Harvard and its environs are not America. But they are a piece of the large jigsaw puzzle that is America. A piece as real as those deep south states that have captured our attention in recent years.

By all means hate this President, protest against the war, donate to the George Galloway fighting fund. But please don't kid yourself that Bush is any more America than Hugh Grant is Britain.

Where now?

Fifteen years after Magdalene, the last of the former all-male colleges to de-segregate, opened its doors to women, students at Newnham, New Hall and Lucy Cavendish are collecting signatures as part of a 'Purple Ribbon Campaign' to support their colleges. But, with a near-equal balance of male to female students in Cambridge, can the University's women-only institutions justify their existence?

Can women's colleges survive?

Anne Lonsdale

President of New Hall

Aarti Shah

Women's Officer, Newnham College JCR

New Hall was created in 1954 to increase the proportion of women at Cambridge at a time when the University Statutes required that the total number of women should never be more than one fifth the total number of men.

This Statute was duly repealed and, thanks to New Hall and later the mixing of the traditional men's colleges and the setting up of Lucy Cavendish College, the numbers game has been won and the student gender balance is a comfortable 50:50. But the role of the women's colleges has long been about a great deal more than numbers. It is important to

"The role of women's colleges has long been about a great deal more than numbers"

realise that women's colleges are not survivors from the past - they are about the futures that women wish to choose for themselves.

The women's colleges in the United States (famous names like Wellesley, Smith, Mt Holyoke, Barnard), who saw their numbers decline in the Sixties at the time when the Ivy League Universities started to accept women, now find that the applications to them are higher than ever before, as ambitious and independent-minded women decide that this is their best career choice. Women mature at different rates from men and prefer to socialise on their own terms. It is not for nothing that Virginia Woolf insisted on the importance of "A Room of One's Own". It is clear from New Hall's results that students on whose talent and potential we take a chance - as we have done since the days when New Hall had its own

"Women mature at different rates from men and prefer to socialise on their own terms"

unique admissions system - do as well in Finals as the other women in this university. And in a year when we outperformed Trinity in the Mathematics Tripos we can be confident that our selection processes are in first class order.

There was a mistaken idea in the Sixties and Seventies that, for women, equality with men had to be synonymous with 'identity' - that women had to become more like men and move into male institutions. But the social forms and practices which grew up in celibate male institutions of the 19th century do not have to be the norm for the 21st century. Given that they have the academic and intellectual equality they deserve through the thoroughly co-educational structures of the University of Cambridge, women also deserve the chance to live in a society of their choosing, not one created by men.



New Hall students at graduation

The recent uproar over women's colleges has sparked an energetic debate, which has silently been in existence since their foundations were laid.

I'm writing this article in the hope of introducing yet another dimension to this debate, from the perspective of both a Newnhamite and JCR women's officer at Newnham.

"You don't have to be a preaching feminist to realise the imbalance in male:female ratios"

You don't have to be a preaching feminist to realise the distinct imbalance in male:female ratios at some colleges. It is true that if it weren't for single-sex colleges, at least 1500 women couldn't be at Cambridge and that's a really shocking statistic. In an ideal Cambridge, we wouldn't need any 'special' institutions to even out numbers, but it just proves a bias, highlighting the necessity for their continued existence.

Obviously, there are students at Newnham, New Hall and Lucy Cavendish who don't share my enthusiasm and support for all-female colleges (in my opinion, they're in the gross minority.) Truthfully though, they don't realise how lucky they are. It has been shown that a huge percentage of male success in exams is due to supervisions and not just because women are comparatively more stupid. CUSU Women's Council has proven that students from all-female colleges perform better in exams than their co-ed female counterparts. One of the best things about being at an all-female college is that women aren't intimidated by male peers in supervisions, so are offered the academic support needed to do equally well in exams.

It really angers me to hear prejudiced, unjustified male perspectives against all-female colleges, when clearly they're not the ones suffering at the hands of politics. There are some students, who for religious, social and sexual reasons may only feel comfortable in an all-female environment and single-sex colleges cater for these needs.

"It has been shown that a huge percentage of male success in exams is due to supervisions and not just because women are comparatively more stupid"

I've loved my time at Newnham and most people will agree with me when I say there is a remarkable, down-to-earth and friendly atmosphere at the college. Everybody should support the Purple Ribbon Campaign in support of women's colleges. And maybe think twice before judging - women's colleges are not unnatural or damaging to anyone's health, and they do not make us scared to talk to boys. They're a necessity and should stay. Forever.

Women's Colleges: A Brief History

- 1869 – Emily Davies opens the College for Women at Benslow House, Hitchin.
- 1871 – A year after lectures for women are established in Cambridge, Henry Sidgwick rents a house in Regent Street in which female students (five at first) can stay.
- 1872 – The College moves to its present site, two miles outside the city centre, and is re-named Girton College. An Association is formed 'to obtain for the students of the College admission to examinations for degrees of the University of Cambridge.'
- 1873 – The first three Girton students (Woodhead, Cook and Lumsden) to sit Tripos exams do so in this year, but are not classed or awarded degrees because Girton does not have official collegiate status.
- 1875 – After gaining a lease of land, Newnham's early supporters build Newnham Hall on the college's current site.
- 1890 – Newnham student Philippa Fawcett gains the highest degree result in the Mathematical Tripos (though, as a woman, her degree is unclassified and so discounted).
- 1897 – In response to a call to vote on whether women should be allowed to be examined for degrees, *The Times* prints train timetables so that graduates working in London could travel to Cambridge to vote against the proposal.
- 1921 – In Oxford women are admitted to degrees, but in Cambridge female students are limited to titular BAs, with none of the privileges available to male graduates.
- 1948 – Following a Regent House decision and royal approval, women are admitted to full membership of the University alongside men, and Girton receives full collegiate status.
- 1954 – New Hall, a third women's college, is founded.
- 1965 – Lucy Cavendish is established as a women's graduate foundation (admits first undergraduates in 1972).
- 1979 – Girton admits its first male fellows and undergraduates.
- 1988 – Magdalene becomes the last all-male college to admit women.
- 1997 – Lucy Cavendish is granted a Royal Charter and becomes a self-governing college.

What next? Send your comments and opinions to wherenow@varsity.co.uk

Scotland Special

It's a reindeer thing

Rebecca Heselton on beautiful, quirky Loch Torridon



Visit Scotland

"There is something inexplicably immobilising about staring at an ancient, heather-strewn mountain"

Desperate to escape holiday car-nage and the unrivalled ineptitude of international air travel I migrated to West Scotland where I was promised mountains, midges and a severe abundance of grey.

In fact, Loch Torridon is so remote and obscure that the only thing next to its name on the road atlas was a telephone. Just the one. I expected a small hive of activity...pubs, a school or two, or at least perhaps a post box. Not so. The nearest hospital is 2 hours away. By helicopter.

But it was beautiful. I've seen the Grand Canyon in the middle of two lightening storms. I've dived off the shore of uninhabited white pebble beaches at Cephallonian sunrise. Yet somehow an obscure, insect infested west-coast hamlet revealed nature's rawest and most unadulterated colours. There is something inexplicably

cably immobilising about staring at an ancient, heather-strewn mountain. The intensity of the colours and smells were challenged perhaps only by the obscene midges.

I should explain myself. Loch Torridon appears to the untrained eye as a fragment of Scotland largely bypassed by any form of modernisation. Its exact location remains a mystery simply because there are no specific maps of the area. The main attraction (though I hesitate to use the word, simply because there was no one there to be attracted to it) is a tidal loch that is inexplicably fresh water. One of the more surreal moments came on the first morning. Half the loch had disappeared to be replaced by what looked suspiciously like little green hairy hummocks. To further my disbelief there were sheep on the afore-

said hummocks. Being positively allergic to anything remotely resembling science or geology I shall keep the explanation brief. Under the cold water lake is a field. The sheep swim out (no really, they do. For a creature so aerodynamically challenged, they can swim bloody fast) and then graze on the presumably culinary superior grass.

Sadly it is not the idiosyncratic sheep that retain your attention. Midges have a far more lasting impression, normally taking the form of small red bumps. Indeed, one of my expeditions led me to the reindeer farmer who was always suitably attired in the traditional kilt etc. 'Aye' he said, eyes resuming middle-distance glaze 'Ah don't tend tae go out unless I'm wearing thermal underwear. Ah forgot tae wan day. They bloody murdered mah manhood.'

Thus informed I never ventured to leave my lodgings without an ozone damaging amount of mozzie repellent, and Marks and Spencer's finest.

Yet if midges rule the air, it is the reindeer who reign on the ground. Their bellowings, scuffling and inimitable charisma make them remarkable creatures, and I will admit to spending a considerable amount of time feeding them carrots, for the sheer delight of watching them fit the vegetable into their mouths, whole and sideways.

From the ruminating reindeer to eccentric underwater springs, undiscovered Scotland is challengingly beautiful. But Loch Torridon had a personal intensity that I did not expect to find in four mountains, a pond and a rare breed reindeer farm. But then, to be honest, I didn't expect to find a rare-breed reindeer farm...

Cruising on a Capital coast

Local boy Chris Wilson on Edinburgh's seaside environs

The annual International Festival leaves the city of Edinburgh open to misinterpretation. Although without doubt the Festival is a superb centrepiece to Edinburgh's tourist calendar it does leave many with the impression that Edinburgh is a "one trick haggis".

However, one relatively tourist free environment which provides much in the way of historical and natural attraction is Edinburgh's North West coastline.

Cramond village and its beach can be easily accessed by bus from Princes

Street and are the perfect places to walk off a hangover or recover from a drama overdose. The wide sandy beach allows visitors to walk out to Cramond Island at low tide and on a sunny day it's one of the most beautiful beaches in Scotland, with fabulous views across to Fife.

The village itself is seemingly untouched by the city and its hordes of puzzled-looking, camera-mad tourists. Its sleepy riverside cottages hide Cramond Tower and Cramond Kirk which in turn shelter numerous Roman remains. The morning could be satisfyingly rounded off

with a pub lunch at the Cramond Hotel or an ice cream at the small café which looks over the Firth of Forth. A true village within a city.

Another little-promoted coastal attraction is Inchcolm Island, in the middle of the Firth and only accessible by boat. Make sure you leave time to explore the cobbled streets of South Queensferry or have a pint in the pub (just opposite the pier) which was the basis for the start of Robert Louis Stevenson's novel *Kidnapped*. From the ferry, you are virtually guaranteed sightings of numerous seals

basking on the rocks, and in recent years dolphins and even whales have been spotted.

On the island, visit the remarkable 12th Century Abbey - when you walk around its cloisters, up and down its tight staircases and read the painted inscriptions on the walls it is hard not to have your breath taken away by its melancholy and isolation. The abbey was founded after Alexander I was forced to take refuge there during a storm in 1123; even today this trip is one for a nice day if at all possible. The sea; it's Edinburgh's great escape.

Skye



Visit Scotland

Visiting 'the Misty Isle' promises more than a 'pie in the Skye' chance of an excellent break. From spectacular scenery to unrivalled hospitality Skye has much to offer - it's a unique, truly special part of the British Isles.

Many of the views Skye has to offer are simply breathtaking. Some of the best can be taken in from the Cuillin mountain ridge which offers good walks and climbs for the fit, energetic student. For the less motivated there are countless other beauty spots easily seen when driving around the Island. Kilt Rock viewpoint near Staffin is particularly notable.

Although dark clouds rarely fall on Skye, there is still much to do if it does rain. The Aros Visitor Centre in Portree, amongst other things, takes an interesting look at the Island's heritage as well as some of the wildlife to be found on Skye in the recently introduced Sea Eagle Exhibition. Delving further into the past is also fascinating and Staffin Museum has many priceless artefacts including a dinosaur bone discovered nearby.

Staying on Skye is a rare treat and there are many hostels, B&Bs and hotels offering first class Skye hospitality as well as value for money. There is also a veritable galaxy of top notch places to eat. Amongst my favourites is the Flodigarry Country House Hotel which is big on atmosphere and has cracking food served all day in the friendly public bar. Even Skye has an Indian Restaurant and 'Prince in India' in Portree serves up a right tasty korma.

Fear not friends, Skye has a distillery and brewery and for those of us appreciating a little snortorino (Sir Dennis Thatcher's term) Talisker Malt Whiskey is the stuff. Its distinctive, peaty taste leaves one feeling warm right through. Red Cuillin Ale, brewed in Uig, is a nice, smooth drop full of flavour and character - recommended.

The morning after, take a 'Bella Jane' boat trip from Elgol to Loch Coruisk which enjoys a mystical reputation and can only be described as idyllic. Visit the Isle of Skye - it's well worth the journey.

Alasdair Ross

Dude, Where's My Country?

In the only interview given whilst in Cambridge Michael Moore talks to Tris Hager and Alex Rushmer about his battle with the American Empire

Michael Moore undoubtedly has a soft spot for England. He loves the spirit of the nation, embodied for him by the passing motorists warning each other about approaching speed cameras using their "blinkers"; he loves the fact that 30,000 men can sing "Broadway show-tunes" in unison at football games.

Like most Americans it seems, he adores the culture and heritage of England. After a long talk and book-signing session, he was still keen to wander around Cambridge, have a look inside King's College Chapel and sample some "real Cambridge food".

But Moore's soft spot for this country is waning. He has always admired that our nation is not yet American, but sees the Empire of the US slowly encroaching upon British soil.

He hates that public sector services are being chewed up and swallowed by the capitalist menace, remarking, with an appropriate mixture of derision and despair, "You have a fucking record store running your trains!"

When asked if Moore believed we were close to seeing an American Empire he remarked, "I think we're already there, but it's not too late to stop it." And stopping this Empire is precisely what

"We are a nation founded in fear. It's inbred in the culture and I don't know what to do about it"

Moore is on a mission to do, and it starts by targeting the man seated at its head – George W. Bush.

His new book *Dude, Where's My Country?* is essentially a reworking of the ideas expressed in his global bestseller *Stupid White Men*, a book that has still not been reviewed by the *New York Times* despite spending over a year on its bestseller list. It focuses on Osama Bin Laden, on the war with Iraq, but remains a polemic against the Bush administration.

He told *Varsity* that he is "optimistic" that Bush will be toppled at the next election. He feels that he is reaching people at the crucial moment – "I'm one of many. I've got a million people who have already bought this book in three weeks. *Stupid White Men* took a year to sell a million".

Perhaps this is why he remarks so flip-pantly that the American media's apparent boycott of his book (he has only appeared once on a TV network in the last month) is "so cool".

He shrugs, pointing out that "I've been completely ignored again, and it doesn't matter. The people tell each other and they find out about it and they go and get it."

"And that's why I'm actually very optimistic that no mat-

"I'm one of many, I've been completely ignored by the mainstream media and it doesn't matter"

ter how thick the media is, no matter whatever, the people are gonna do what needs to get done".

You may not agree with what he says, but you can't argue with the sales figures, and it is this that fills him with

pride: "America is a good country, full of good people. They just got a little lost along the way".

He talks about the American people's inability to understand the global hostility towards their society, and hints that it is this incapacity for self-diagnosis that is a major hindrance to change.

"We think we're a very generous people. People say 'Look at all the good we've done – Defeated the Nazis, saved the world, given them colour TVs, you know...why would you hate us?'"

he seemed to be broadly articulating public opinion.

Perhaps this is where one might question his motives. He is engaging upon a world book tour when the rest of the world already agree with him (in the broadest sense).

One wonders if his time would not be better spent at home diffusing some of the time bombs that threaten his society – the poor quality of education, the culture of fear.

He remarks passionately that "We are a nation founded in fear. It's inbred in the culture and I don't know what to do

"I think that the American dream has been revealed for what it really is: a dream"

about it but I'm really concerned about it".

One wonders if he shouldn't be trying to find the answer, and it may not be waiting for him in Germany, his next destination.

But whatever one may think of this current tour, there is no denying that Moore reaches a lot of people, and can speak both eloquently and powerfully when the need arises.

When questioned about the perversion of the American Dream he was quick to express his views: "No I think that what's happened is that the American Dream has been revealed for what it is: a dream. It's not a reality. It's just a carrot to hold out there in front of people's noses. So it's actually appropriately named. Apart from big business. For them it's not the American Dream it's the American Reality."

He is the master of the sound bite. When asked if the education budget could not be improved by shaving a few billion off of the hefty defence budget, he succinctly summarised his views: "Exactly. This is your own kids, why would you behave this way?"

Perhaps his problem is that while his

capacity to criticise in a catchy manner is well honed, he does not tend to provide the answers to the questions he poses. For him, education needs to be im-

proved, racism needs to be stopped, and Bush must go.

"America is a good country, full of good people. They just got a little lost along the way"

But he doesn't seriously discuss the alternatives. Perhaps this is because he has none.

It is because to discuss the alternatives would require a book of some magnitude and sobriety; it would require a book that his public would undoubtedly buy after his previous successes, but would probably not finish. In other words it is a book that Michael Moore does not want to write.

For Moore, what is important is that people start to question their way of life. He will leave the job of fixing it to those who are stupid enough to try.



Yet even when putting words into the mouth of his countrymen, Moore cannot resist a little joke and it is perhaps this that has led to a degree of criticism. When listening it is hard to know what is spoken in earnest, and what is delivered with the tongue planted firmly in the cheek. And perhaps he doesn't either.

During his speech he remarked rather vaguely upon his use of humour in his work. He seems to believe that it helps convey his message – and one cannot argue with the results in terms of sales.

But there is a sense that, while he is an excellent speaker, he is preaching largely to the converted, in this country at least. Speaking to his sister, she seemed surprised when told that Moore was less shocking this side of the pond, since

/21/11/03/LISTINGS/

Welcome to *Varsity's* Listings pull-out. With our expert's top recommendations below, Listings is your essential weekly guide to what's on in Cambridge over the next seven days.

F I L M L I T M U S I C T H E A T R E V. A R T S



Party Monster at 11pm at the Arts Picture House (Fri and Sat). Starring the indie stars Macaulay Culkin, Seth Green and Chloe Sevigny depicting the outrageous, gender-bending, drugs a go go nightlife of 80s Manhattan. A trashy classic with a marvellous soundtrack. Plenty of fun.



Ok. Listen. Books are well expensive but you still want that master library filled with wonderfully glossy and crisp novels and picture books and whatever else so get your ass down to **Heffers** on Trinity Street this Wednesday and get yourself a 20% discount fo' sho'!



This weekend is all about Cambridge's very own post-rock pop wonders **Akira**, supporting **Six By Seven** at Queens' on Friday night (21st) and playing at Trinity Hall's rock night on Saturday (22nd). Monday night (24th) hosts *the* Christmas Ball, **Fresh As Snow** for cocktail-fuelled action. Don't miss out!



"If Quentin Tarantino ever dabbled in fringe theatre, he might come up with something like **Roadmovie**" - The Guardian. Frankly, fuck that; big news is, it's pay-what-you-want at the **Cambridge Drama Centre** on Friday (8pm), and it looks like Roadmovie might actually be half-decent. Beats townie night at Life.



Last chance (Fri 21) to catch a free **exhibition of child art on HIV and AIDS** in the Gatehouse at the back of Clare College. From 2 to 7 and organised by the Red Ribbon Ball Committee. Tickets to their ball on the 28th raising funds for the Terrence Higgins Trust, will be on sale at the exhibition: www.red-ribbon-ball.com.

every tuesday at coco night club
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drinks £1*

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FILM

FRIDAY
CU HISPANIC SOCIETY:
Weekly FILM: 'EL SUENO DE LOS HEROES'
In Spanish with English sub-titles.
All University members welcome.
Sidgwick Site, Lecture Block 3.
3pm. Free for members.

SUNDAY
Christ's Films:
Secretary
Christs College, New Court Theatre. 8pm. £2.

Christ's Films:
Secretary.
Christs College, New Court Theatre. 10:30pm. £2.

St John's Films:
Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle - don't miss Cameron Diaz, Lucy Liu & Drew Barrymore!
St. John's College, Fisher Building. 7pm. £ 2.

St John's Films:
Charlie's Angels II - Full Throttle - they return with a bang!
St. John's College, Fisher Building. 10pm. £ 2.

WEDNESDAY
Kranky Klaus/ BB /Spook House
Three films by Cameron Jamie with live soundtrack music . The Junction, .
7pm. £7.50/£10.00.

THURSDAY
Christ's Films:
Blazing Saddles.
Christs College, New Court Theatre. 10pm. £2.

St John's Films:
The Quiet American - political intrigue, love-triangle & murder (with Michael Caine).
St. John's College, Fisher Building. 9pm. £ 2.

FRIDAY
CU HISPANIC SOCIETY:
Weekly FILM:
"POTESTAD"(Argentina).
In Spanish with English subtitles.
All University members welcome.
Sidgwick Site, Lecture Block 3. 3pm.
FREE FOR MEMBERS



ST JOHN'S FILM SOCIETY

Charlie's Angels:
Full Throttle, 12A
Sunday 23rd November - 7pm & 10pm

The Quiet American,15
Thursday 27th November - 9pm

What a Girl Wants, PG
Sunday 30th November - 7pm & 10pm

www.stjohnsfilms.org.uk

FIND MORE LISTINGS AT
WWW.VARSITY.CO.UK

MISC

FRIDAY
Cambridge Dancer's Club:
24hr dance for Children in Need.
Variety of dance styles.
St Columbas Hall, off Downing Street.
7pm.

CU Chabad Society:
Welcome the Shabbat with a delicious four course meal.
Chabad House, 19 Regent Terrace. 7:30pm.

CU Jewish Society:
Friday Night Dinner - Hawaiian themed special. All welcome.
Student Centre, 3 Thompson's Lane.
7:30pm.

Culanu:
Culanu's famous weekly Oneg (party!) - come and join the fun...
The Culanu Centre, 1st Floor, 33a Bridge St, bet. Oxfam and The Galleria. 10pm.

SATURDAY
CU Ballet Club:
Intermediate ballet. 2:30pm. £1.00.
Pointe class. 4pm. £0.50.
Advanced class. 4:30pm. £1.00.
Kelsey Kerridge, Aerobics studio, top floor.

Pembroke College Winnie-the-Pooh Society:
Eleveners -
Including a little smackeral of something.
Jesus College, M5a, Second Court. 4pm.

SUNDAY
Cambridge University Cartooning & Illustration Society:
Launch: Come and sign up for talks, classes & workshops!
Queens' College, Old Kitchens. 8pm.

C.U.T.C.C.S:
Tai Chi Chuan: Hand Form;
Weapons Forms; Pushing Hands; Self-defence.
Fitzwilliam College, Reddaway Room.
2pm. £2/3.

MONDAY
Buddhist Meditation Samatha Trust:
Introductory course in meditation.
rmh1001@cam.ac.uk.
www.samatha.org.
Pembroke College,
N7 Old Lodge. 7:30pm.

CU Jewish Society:
Study with a buddy - explore topics of Jewish learning.
Culanu Centre, 33 Bridge Street.
7pm.

CU Meditation & Buddhism Soc:
Meditation with tai chi, chi qong, creative writing, dreamwork.
Sidney Sussex College,
Knox Shaw Room. 7pm.

Maypole Quiz:
Cambridge's most entertaining quiz, with tickets drinks and cash prizes.
The Maypole Pub, Park Street,
Upstairs. 8pm. £1.

Romance.ucam.org:
Speed Dating:
"Musical Chairs with Chemistry."
30 introductions in one night - great fun!
http://romance.ucam.org,
Please sign up in advance. 7:30pm. £4.

TUESDAY
CU Ballet Club:
Improvers Ballet. For those of you that know the basics!
Kelsey Kerridge, Aeorbics studio.
8pm. £1.00.
CU Ballet Club:
Beginners jazz. Fun, lively jazz dancing! .
Queens' College, Bowett Room.
6pm. £1.50.

CU Chabad Society:
Parsha and Pasta - Come for a thought provoking supper.
Chabad House, 19 Regent Terrace.
8pm.

C.U.T.C.C.S:
Chi Kung:
Breathing Exercises for Stress Relief and General Health and Fitness.
New Hall, Long Room.
2pm. £2/3.

LOOKING FOR LOVE?



Hi my name is Steve and I'm 30 years old. I'm looking for a foxy lady between the age of 18 and 23 to share my life and home with. Big tits are essential, and long blonde hair as well. A classy lady. She must be a good cook, and be a patient mother to my 4 boys. Lucky ladies, if this sounds like it could be you please call me on 1800 LOOK 4 LUV

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Occupation:

Interests:

Dislikes:

Star Sign:

Children:

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MISC CONT...

WEDNESDAY

CU Chabad Society:

Kabbalah Course - a beginners guide
to the esoteric.
Chabad House, 19 Regent Terrace.
8pm.

THURSDAY

C.U.T.C.C.S:

Tai Chi Chuan: Hand Form; Weapons
Forms; Pushing Hands; Self-defence.
Fitzwilliam College, Reddaway Room.
7pm. £2/3.

CU Ballet Club:

Beginners ballet. Absolute beginners
always welcome!
Queens' College, Bowett Room.
6pm. £1.50.
CU Ballet Club:
Beginners ballet. Absolute beginners
always welcome!
Queens' College, Bowett Room.
7pm. £1.50.

C.U.T.C.C.S:

Tai Chi Chuan: Hand Form; Weapons
Forms; Pushing Hands; Self-defence.
Fitzwilliam College, Reddaway Room.
7pm. £2/3.

Kick Bo:

Non-contact aerobics using the
dynamic kicking and punching moves
of Martial-Arts.
Christs College, New Court Theatre.
6pm. £2.

CU HISPANIC SOCIETY:

Weekly CONVERSATION EVENING
and CLUB NIGHT at BALLARE!
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University Centre, GRANTA BAR.
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MUSIC

FRIDAY

Cambridge Music Festival:

The King's Piano Trio perform works by
Fauré, Beethoven and Mendelssohn.
King's College Dining Hall, .
9pm. £Student Tickets (very few): £13 in
advance
(01223 503333) £3 on the door (depend-
ing on availability).

Cambridge University Brass Band:

Joint concert with City of Cambridge
Brass Band, featuring a wide variety of
music.
West Road Concert Hall,
8pm. £7/£5.

Christ's College Music Society:

Presents Haydn's 'Clock' Symphony
and Schubert's Mass in G.
Christs College, chapel.
8pm. £5/3.

Disintegration @ Queens' Ents:

Live alternative rock with Six.By Seven,
student bands and DJs.
Queens' College, Fitzpatrick Hall 9pm.
£4.

Fitz RAG:

Rock n Roll and Cocktails for Children
in Need.
Fitzwilliam College, Reddaway Room.
9pm. £2.

Queens' Ents:

DISINTERGRATION! Live alterna-
tive rock feat. Six.by Seven, Akira
and Sleepwalker.
Queens' College, Fitzpatrick Hall.
9pm. £4.

St John's College Music Society:

Term Concert: Vivaldi, Bach,
Sibelius.
St. John's College, Chapel.
4pm. £8/5/3.

SATURDAY

Clare Ents:

Andy Votel (Twisted Nerve/Fat
City): Funk, soul, weird stuff.
Clare College, Clare Cellars.
9pm. £4.

COSYCOSY:

girl-boy bangywangy -
the press love 'em
www.cosycosy.com.
Portland Arms, Chesterton Road.
8pm. £4.

Queens' Ents:

CARNIVAL! 1EXTRA hits Cambridge
feat. Robbo Ranx- dancehall and hip-
hop.
Queens' College, Fitzpatrick Hall. 9pm.
£5.

Serious Sounds & Valve Sound System:

The legendary Valve Sound System
stops off at Cambridge.
The Junction,
10pm. £12/£14.

Phoenix Fives

New Jazz Band

Open auditions for all vocalists and
musicians. Bring something to
sing/play. Drum kit available.

Multitalented musicians ideal
but by no means essential.

Sat 22nd Nov 12 - 5pm

Sun 23rd Nov 10 -1pm

Mon 24th Nov 3 - 6pm

Churchill College Recital Room
(problems? contact Chivon on cw288)

St John's College Music Society:

Term Concert: Vivaldi, Bach, Sibelius.

St. John's College, Chapel.

4pm. £8/5/3.

The Boiler Room:

Breakbeat from DJ Venus (Uk Student
DJ Competition Runer-Up) and DJ
Kallous St. John's College, The Boiler
Room. 9:30pm. £3.

The Cambridge Music Festival:

Award Holders' Concert Chamber
music by Fauré, Debussy and Martinu.
West Road Concert Hall, .
8pm. £Student Tickets: £6 in advance
(01223 503333) £3 on the door (depend-
ing on availability).



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Tutors needed to work with our son on a
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The MAYS 2004

Deadline for submissions: Friday 23rd January

e-mail preferred: mays@varsity.co.uk
hard copies to mark richards, emmanuel college

www.varsity.co.uk/mays

party. elections.

join the committee. you'll get cv points, learn
stuff, have fun etc... admittedly it pales in
comparison with being a rock star, although
there are elements of power¹, money², women³,
wine⁴ and cars that shine⁵ - which helps.
oh yeah and we are partying at the riverbar
next thursday. big party. join us.

1) well you can be on the committee... 2) erm handling other peoples? 3) well half the committee
are... 4) come to the party or the events 5) in cambridge I guess it's bikes that shine...

Tuesday 25th November

The Challenges Facing the Professional Services Industry - Deloitte

Following the recent scandals, the professional services sector is facing some serious
challenges due to the impact their work has. Deloitte will be discussing these challenges, and
the outlook for the sector's future. You'll be able to find out more about this company and meet
some of their employees.

Thursday 27th November

Event TBC - visit website for more details

END OF TERM PARTY!!!! - Riverbar, (opp. Magdalene, along the boardwalk, past Henry's)

Meet other members of the society, drink, chill, talk to the current committee if you are interested
in running for a position - £5 Non-Members, £3 Members - includes 3 free cocktails.

Sunday 30th November

Elections - visit our website for more details.

All events are free to members, start at 6.30pm at Sidney Sussex, and include wine and dinner.
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New Jazz Band

Open auditions for all vocalists and musicians. Bring something to sing/play. Drum kit available.

Multitalented musicians ideal but by no means essential.

Sat 22nd Nov 12 - 5pm

Sun 23rd Nov 10 -1pm

Mon 24th Nov 3 - 6pm

Churchill College Recital Room (problems? contact Chivon on cw288)

CAMBRIDGE FOOTLIGHTS

invites applications for writer/director (or co writer/directors) for

Footlights Spring Revue 2004.

Send CV and 150 word outline of concept for show to Footlights pigeon hole, ADC Theatre, by 5pm Saturday 22nd Nov for interview Sunday 23rd.

The Cambridge University Gilbert and Sullivan Society

Announces auditions for

YEOMAN OF THE GUARD

Professionally directed and designed for

Cambridge Arts Theatre

9th-13th March 2004

Sat 22nd and Sun 23rd December 10am-2pm

Magdalene College, Benson Hall

Please bring something to sing!

Contact Debbie Grossman (dkgrossman@ntlworld.com)for more information

The Amateur Dramatic Club

announces

AUDITIONS

for Lent 2004 Shows

including

Christie in Love

(wk2 LateShow at the ADC)

The Cripple of Inishmaan

(wk3 MainShow at the ADC)

The Visit

(wk5 MainShow at the ADC)

East

(wk6 LateShow at the ADC)

Annie Get Your Gun

(wk8/9 musical MainShow at the ADC)

For details on times & locations, as well as further details on the individual shows, see <http://auditions.cuadc.org>

Keep up to date – subscribe via soc-adc-actors-request@lists.cam.ac.uk

MUSIC cont...

The Cambridge Music Festival: Lunchtime Prom IX Music for oboe, bassoon and piano by Poulenc, Saint-Saëns and Dutilleux. Emmanuel United Reformed Church 1:10pm.

Trinity College Music Society: Courtney Lewis conducts music by Prokofiev and Caius composers. Trinity College, Trinity College Chapel. 8pm. £5/£3/£1.

SUNDAY
Cambridge String Players: Tom Poster plays Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No 1. West Road Concert Hall, 7:30pm.

Clare Jazz: Fitz Swing. Clare College, Clare Cellars. 9pm. £4.

Selwyn College Music Society: Cambridge Music Festival: Coull String Quartet performing Reicha and Beethoven. Selwyn College, The Hall. 8:30pm. £13 full/ £11 concessions. student £3 tickets available on the door 1 hr before concert.

University of Cambridge Philharmonic Orchestra: A concert of Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and Sibelius. Trinity College Chapel, 8:30pm. £3/£6

MONDAY
The Cambridge Music Festival and CambsDance: Dance Mass I Dance to Fauré's Requiem and Fanshawe's African Sanctus. APU Mumford Theatre 8pm. £7 in advance (01223 503333)

TUESDAY
Cambridge gamelan: Traditional Javanese music work-shop. Music Department, West Road. 6pm.

The Cambridge Music Festival and CambsDance: Dance Mass II Positive Action dance to Fauré's Requiem and Fanshawe's vibrant African Sanctus. APU Mumford Theatre 8pm. £Student Tickets: £7 in advance (01223 503333)

WEDNESDAY
CU Rock Soc / Lockup Music: Live Music Showcase -dj's, 8 acts plus Elvis headline. Cafe Africa, Sturton Street, £10 door, £8 advance. 7pm.

Jesus College Music Society: Members of Jesus College Chamber Orchestra perform a chamber music recital. Jesus College Chapel, 9pm.

FOR

OUT OF ORDER

A farce by Ray Cooney

Week 4 ADC Mainshow

Sat 22nd and Sun 23rd November 2-5pm

Robert Gardner Room, Emmanuel College

Email jps56 for more details

The Cambridge Music Festival: Belioz L'enfance du Christ CU Chamber Choir and Orchestra Conducted by Timothy Brown. King's College Chapel. 8pm. £30 – £20, in advance (01223 503333) £3 on the door. Advance booking recommended.

Trinity College Music Society: Adrian Horsewood and Helen Forbes perform early Spanish secular music. Trinity College, Frazer Room. 8pm. £4/£2/£1.

THEATRE

FRIDAY
Brickhouse Theatre Company: 'Tantalus' - debut of epic tragedy produced in association with RSC. Robinson College, Brickhouse Theatre. 7:30pm. £5-£6.

CADS: 'Volpone' by Ben Jonson - Sexy, comic satire of greed. Christs College, New Court Theatre. 7:15pm. £5 and £4.

CUADC: The Water Engine - this year's Freshers do Mamet. ADC Theatre, 7:45pm. £5 - £7.50.

CUADC: Albert's Bridge - CUADC Freshers' lateshow, by Tom Stoppard. ADC Theatre, . 11pm. £3/£4.

Hannah & Hanna: 2 Teenage girls seeking asylum. 1 from Kosovo. 1 from Margate. The Junction, Clifton Rd. 8pm.

REDS: A.A. Milne's classic and brilliant Toad of Toad Hall. Emmanuel College, Queen's Building. 7:30pm. £3/£6.

The Fletcher Players present: The Readiest Way To Hell, by Elizabeth Boyd. The Playroom, 7pm. £5.50/£4.

SATURDAY
Brickhouse Theatre Company: 'Tantalus' - debut of epic tragedy produced in association with RSC. Robinson College, Brickhouse Theatre. 7:30pm. £5-£6.

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The Fletcher Players present: The Readiest Way To Hell, by Elizabeth Boyd. The Playroom, . 7pm. £5.50/£4.

The Marlowe Society: SCRIPTLAB: rehearsed reading of Cambridge new writing. Pembroke College, New Cellars. 6pm.

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CADS: 'Volpone' by Ben Jonson - Sexy, comic satire of greed. Christs College, New Court Theatre. 7:15pm. £5 and £4.

TUESDAY
ADC/FOOTLIGHTS: ALICE IN WONDERLAND - Christmas Panto! . ADC Theatre, 7:45pm. £5/£6.50.

Ariel Society / CADS: William Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida. Christs College, New Court Theatre. 7:15pm. £5/4.

Brickhouse Theatre Company: 'Tantalus' Robinson College, Brickhouse Theatre. 7:30pm. £5-£6.

JCDS: 'Tis Pity She's A Whore, a tragic play about incest. Jesus College Chapel, . 8pm.

Coming Out Of The House: The Fletcher Players present an adaptation of Sophocle's Electra. The Playroom, 7pm. £5.50/£4. Box Office: 01223 503 333.

CUADC and Footlights: Alice In Wonderland ADC Theatre, 7:45pm. £5 - £7.50.

Mankind, by anon: A fifteenth century morality play presented by the Fletcher Players. The Playroom, 9:15pm. £5.50/£4. Box Office: 01223 503 333.

Pembroke Players: GUYS & DOLLS, Music/Lyrics: Frank Loesser, Book: Swerlings & Burrows. Pembroke College, New Cellars. 7:30pm. £4/5.

Pembroke Players: The House With The Twisty Windows. Pembroke College, Pembroke New Cellars. 10:30pm. £3/4.

Shirley Players (St. Catharine's college drama society): Luigi Pirandello's 'Six Characters in Search of an Author'. The Octagon, St. Chads, 7:45pm. Plays every evening till Saturday.

JCDS: 'Tis Pity She's A Whore, a tragic play about incest. Jesus College Chapel, 10.15pm

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Coming Out Of The House: The Fletcher Players present an adaptation of Sophocle's Electra. The Playroom, Box Office: 01223 503 333. 7pm. £5.50/£4.

CUADC and Footlights: Alice In Wonderland ADC Theatre, 7:45pm. £5 - £7.50.

CUADC: Cigarettes and Chocolate - Lateshow by English Patient director Anthony Minghella. ADC Theatre, 11pm. £3/£4.

Homerton Amateur Theatrical Society: DANCING AT LUGHNASA - Homerton College, Auditorium. 7:30pm. £4/£5.

JCDS: 'Tis Pity She's A Whore, a tragic play about incest. Jesus College Chapel, . 8pm.

ACROSS

1a: Animal is head over heels after a post-morning drink. (8)

6a: Creator's knack is time. (6)

9a: Covet parts of a table after father is a pest. (5,4,4)

10a: Fate, remembered as request for lip service (6)

11a: Sly beatified bar, without the bar. (8)

13a: Shake ass in Mr Men styles. (10)

15a: Ring back: got lucky (4)

16a: Where to find china and silver items, at first. (4)

18a: Around Penman Tony Banks, don't like this. (3-7)

21a: Many Holly Hunter films are non-originals. (8)

22a: Join a female title to a family name (6)

23a: Irishman following a Welshman, a saintly Englishman, an Australian and a Scot. (6,7)

25a: Fabric made from former secretary's tresses? (6)

26a: Both egos same regarding hidden fabric (8)

DOWN

2d: River Island or dessert wine. (7)

3d: Intruder may move in a simple way. (11)

4d: Attempt something tricky at first for a one-night stand (5)

5d: Boost is thrown around musicians. (7)

6d: For example, each new sub-editor's initially between articles on body of water. (6,3)

7d: Piggy needs a sweet to be playable. (3)

8d: Girl's girl is girl. (7)

12d: With kids surrounding her, it's surprising she is able to get by! (4,7)

14d: Something found at airports just about ran cartel (6,3)

17d: Sign: "Beware of the Sting". (7)

19d: Gabriel's short child back for feeding. (7)

20d: Nowhere to dig out east for Nicholas Cage or Queen Latifah, forexample. (7)

22d: Little things as cat gets in. (5)

24d: Letter and when it should get there. (3)

1	2		3		4		5		6		7		8	
		9												
10							11				12			
13					14						15			
16	17				18		19						20	
21										22				
		23		24										
25														
							26							

The Ordinary

BLAG!

No prizes here, mama.

ISSUE EIGHT: Your chuff's got me looking so crazy right now

ONLY SEVENTEEN SHOPPING DAYS LEFT TILL RAMADAN

No, don't test on us

New student protest about inhumane testing



Le Reporteur
Jean-Pierre Onion

Some Cambridge students united this week in what several critics have called a united front. These brave, brave people have taken a brave stand to oppose the callous policy of the University to systematically carry out inhumane and cruel tests on human beings.

Gaz Tofting, a second-year dosspiece, is the childbrain and boss of the newly anointed and dubiously named Do Not Us Test (or DoNUT) movement. He describes this new movement as "an inevitability" after he found some of his first year exams "a little bit boring and tricky".

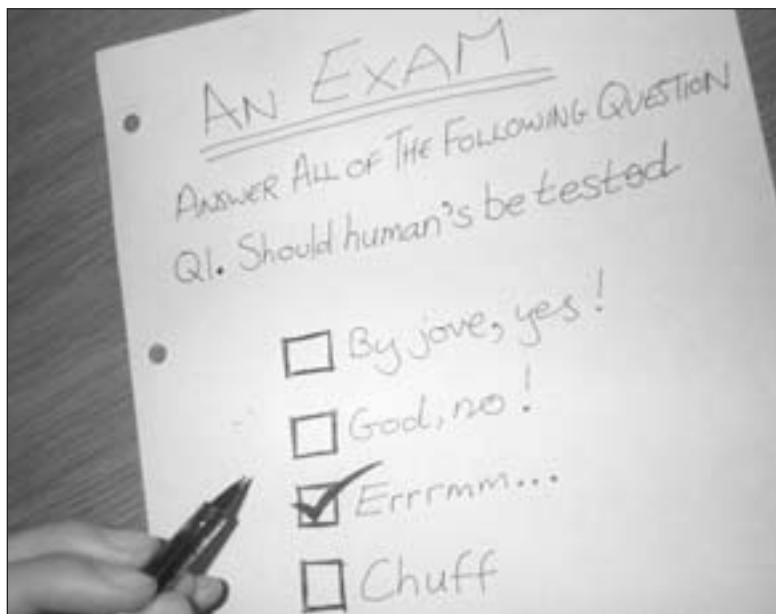
"Yeah, it was pretty gash," Tofting told me and my girlfriend over twiglets and Bovril (in that order) on Wednesday afternoon. "I was kept in a small library for days at a time, where I was forced to read

books and write down some things. I was deprived of sleep, food, drink and some other civil liberties involving my trousers. And don't get me started on the water torture and electrodes."

Electrodes? Water torture? Trousers? "Okay, I made that last bit up out of the top of my face," backtracked Tofting. Silly.

However, Tofting did point out some things slightly more useful than a back-pocket in a sock. For example, did you know that in the last academic year over 10 007 students were the subject of "tests" within in the university? I did actually. Some were tested on up to seven separate occasions, some being asked to think about something for over 45 minutes at a time. And did you know that the most common answer to all exam questions in 2003 was d) The Black Hole of Calcutta? No, nor did I.

"But what's it all for?" poses Tofting. Go on. "Well, I, nor the members of DoNUT - it's a cool name isn't it - don't



THE SECRET OF EXAM SUCCESS: Moisten my nib and then tick my box. Gosh!

really know. I mean who gives an ovulating orang-utan if I know about post-watershed philosophy, rainbow theory, the price of cheese or even basic spelling and grammar? The examiner and my mum - that's all."

What a surprise, he goes on. "What are degrees if not just numbers with a colon between them. I don't need a piece of paper to prove my value to the world of work. Unless my work involves paper. But if I was a graphic designer or something hopefully they'd provide the paper. I could be a pulper

and make paper. Or a paper boy."

"But any man that can think of the DoNUT name, he's got to be a sought after employee anyway," continues Tofting, his own trumpet being audibly blown.

The first DoNUT march was due to be held this coming Monday in Marks and Spencer, but has had to be postponed while imaginative rhyming placard slogans are thought up. "DoNUT, though," reiterated Tofting. "Do you see what I've done there?"

Yes, brother, we see what've you done. We want to see what you will do.

Same old story?



Hack-packer
My Friend Billy

A startling new report out tomorrow claims that gap year stories - notorious for boring the hell out of freshers who didn't take a year out - could be made interesting.

Local scientists and magicians have been working all night trying to prove this exciting claim and make it into a story for me.

Gap year students, or 'Gappers', have earned a reputation for cornering their new friends and regaling them with tales of personal aqueduct triumphs in Peru or Mexico. Some have even been to Australia. However, the hope is that now, instead of reducing their passive audience to tears of frustration, Gappers may well be able to spark some life into the conversation using the ancient art of brevity. Or just listening.

"I achieved just as much in my summer as Ricardo did in a year," explained angered first year John Dull. "It's just that he thinks my holiday stories of grouting

and re-pointing in Somerset are nothing compared with his snake charming in Bombay."

"Claptrap!" retorted Ricardo. "I never talk about my gap year. OK, so yesterday I was wearing my Ayres Rock T-



A real humdinger of a gap year story told here in exclusive singular pictorial format

Gap year tales to be made more interesting

shirt but I was only telling the porter about the sunset on Waikiki Beach because I could tell he was wondering what it'd be like to go abroad".

Gap-year story boredom is a trend which the experts say is prevalent, especially in Cambridge. "We feel for John," sympathised regional scientist Eric Coli. "Grouting is a noble task and definitely deserves as much attention as touring the Australian East coast with nothing but a couple of chicks and a four-by-four..."

Eric?
"...and some water of course, to prevent dehydration. I'm afraid I can't help you with your article anymore. Sorry," he concluded.

Gappers, who are easily spotted by their array of beads and oversized quiffs, are being encouraged to challenge themselves to talk about British matters for at least 50% of the time under the new proposals. For example, the underground, football and cauliflower cheese are all interesting UK topics up for grabs that really get mouths boiling here at home. Try it.

COLLEGE SHORTS

GOB

From your way-out dean: The college gay pride march will take place this Sunday at 2pm. Due to the college's already liberal concession in allowing this event, the dirty benders will only be allowed to march once around main court before being spat at and chased out into the gutter. Sick.

EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE

College has the displeasure to inform you that several students have recently made it back to the Ursula Andrews' site residence perfectly safely without any threat of attack. New measures are to be taken to keep complacent students on their toes. Porters will dress up as shadows and hide in bushes, streetlights will be adjusted to the "19th Century Dickensian" setting and a light aircraft playing heavy breathing sounds will be flown at low altitudes above the route home.



BUSH: Is that a porter?

BO

From yo' bedder: Hey, you! What's that sound? Everybody knows what's going down.

GOOD HIDING

The College Hiding Club will meet at 4pm next Tuesday at an undisclosed location.

UP

Sports round-up: football, hockey, rugby, cricket, table-tennis etc.



BOOTY CALL: Not literally, you div

HAVE

If anyone has a ticket for the prescription counter at Boots (50 to 70 would be good) for this Tuesday please contact Pukey (plc69).

WE ♥ MODS



Modelled by James, Rowland, Rachel & Siobhan

Styled by Nicole & Sara

Make up by Helen Lygo @ Molton Brown Tel 01223 353 954

Photographs by Ria Cooke

Clothes clockwise: Jeans £120 Dogfish, Shirt £80 Dogfish, Shoes £75 Dogfish, Jacket £10 Oxfam. Rachel: Dress £17.99 New Look, Belt 50p Oxfam, Boots £249 Ally Lulu. James: Suit £425 Dogfish, Vest £3 Market, Bag £4 Cancer Research, Shoes £75 Dogfish. Siobhan: Coat £54.99 Frank, Shoes £139 Ally Lulu, Sunglasses 50p Romsey Mill Charity Shop, Bag £179 Ally Lulu. Rachel: Top £21.99 Joy, Denim Skirt £29.99 Warehouse, Boots £10 Cancer Research, Earrings £1 Cancer Research. Siobhan: Dress £32.99 Frank, Boots £135 Reiss, Earrings £4 Top Shop. Rowland: Jeans, Shirt & Shoes as before, Jacket £10 Oxfam, Tie £1 Cancer Research. Rachel: Dress £95 Reiss, Leggings £4 Top Shop, Boots £307 Ally Lulu, Bag £289 Ally Lulu, Earrings £6 Top Shop, Beret £1 Oxfam.

DIY Corner

DIY graffiti- the Jean -Michelle Basquiat way. The Louis Vuitton graffiti bag may have seen its day, but don't be a slave to fashion. Customise your shoes with messages. Buy a sale pair of flat pointers from Office at £19.99 and scribble away. GO ON - You know you want to!! (erm!)



Get yer frock on...

Get into the groove and pull out your party gear for this term's winter balls. Be seen at *Fresh As Snow* on Monday 24th or the *Red Ribbon Ball* on Friday 28th November. Await our response to your attire in, 'Sara & Nicole's What Not to Wear: Fashion Faux Pas Compilation.'



VARSlTY ARTS

Horror Vision

Ronojoy Dam talks to artist Cameron Jamie prior to his UK debut

Cameron Jamie was born in 1969 and raised in the Los Angeles suburbs of the San Fernando Valley. The underground US filmmaker and artist describes it as a place "where nothing really happened. There was a lot of emptiness. I ended up questioning things a lot: why things were the way they were. You didn't have to do very much to be considered as extreme. Just mentioning the word art was enough". Extremity and questioning emerge as fundamental elements of Jamie's art and it is obvious that his childhood home and upbringing have had a formative effect and left a lasting impression upon him.

The Institute of Visual Culture and the Junction have collaborated to present a screening of three of Jamie's films to a live soundtrack performed by seminal cult US hardcore rock trio, the Melvins, as part of a nationwide tour that brings the internationally acclaimed artist to these shores for the first time. The trilogy: *Kranky Klaus*, *Spook House* and the black and white super 8 film *BB*, explores the darker contexts of vernacular suburban ritualism. *Kranky Klaus* is set in central Austria's villages during Christmas time where not only is St. Nicholas's arrival, bearing gifts for the good, expected by the local people but so is that of the mythical beasts, the Krampus, to punish the bad. The film does not centre upon the normal conflict between good versus evil but instead around the two elements working in unison resulting in the shaggy-coated Krampus embarking upon a brutal rampage of punishment. The horror theme is furthered with *Spook House*, filmed in Detroit's white working-class suburbs in the run-up to Halloween with buildings converted into spook houses, corpses prepared for cannibal feasts and 'vigilantes' and 'vampires' out on the town.

These two films in particular have an explicit horror element to them but violence is a constant theme throughout Jamie's work and its poetics is important to him. "The films explore the different notions of violence", elucidates Jamie, "*Spook House* is about perception



Spook House by Cameron Jamie - Courtesy Institute of Visual Culture, Artangel and the artist

and fear of violence, interpreting the environment into psychological trauma. *Kranky Klaus* is more about it being physically personified. The perception of what is real and what isn't. Violence is a theatrical medium, perfectly suited to the underground ritualism of these films". "My art is intense", says Jamie, "It is weird and deliberate. I

don't want to imitate and I don't perform for an audience." The Paris-based artist has built up a quasi-mythical word-of-mouth reputation in Europe for his quirky performance art centred upon wrestling, which saw him dressed up in ridiculous costume and giggling like a girl while fighting equally absurd opponents such as

a Michael Jackson impersonator and a French prison convict. "BB was like an extension of my own performance work" explains Jamie, "In 1998 I was the first person to document the recent phenomenon of teenage backyard wrestling that was occurring in suburban LA". Kids play out their fantasies of identity in make-shift rings, escap-

ing reality and releasing their pent-up disaffection in pseudo-headlocks and headbutts.

The Melvins intensify this work with their deep pounding live soundtrack. Formed in 1984 and their line-up having included the bassist of Seattle indie heroes Mudhoney as well as Shirley Temple's daughter, the Melvins were hugely influential upon the whole grunge movement, being often cited by Nirvana's Kurt Cobain as a primary influence. The band develop the claustrophobic brooding of the screening with their slow and unnerving doom-ridden rock. "The collaboration", in Jamie's words, "was natural. They are old friends, an innovative band who are similarly conceptual." However this is not to suggest that Jamie's work falls into the category of conceptual art that constitutes a few people in a room staring brain-numbingly at a fuzzy television with serious gazes of intent while pretending that their eyes are not hurting and trying to cover up the dirty thoughts running through their minds. "I hate video art," Jamie proclaims, "I don't see the point in watching thirty minutes of empty landscapes. I like the performance aspect of the film experience, the idea of my films only being able to be seen with the band playing".

Jamie's films, while unveiling society's ugly underbelly, also revels in the art of the macabre and violent. As he explains it, "As well as dealing with social issues and people's fear, my films are also highly independent personal meditations." This imaginative exploration of suburban sub-culture and its vernacular practices that stands between the public and the private and fired in sound and vision, is what provides these showings with style, substance and originality but perhaps most importantly it is Jamie's belief that right now, "We are living in the apocalypse".

Three Films by Cameron Jamie with live soundtrack music by the Melvins
Wednesday 26th November,
The Junction
£10 door/ £7.50 advance/ £5.50
limited student tickets
Ring Junction Box Office in
advance on 01223 511 511

Thinking Outside The Beatbox

Henry Bowen talks to beatboxing champ, Killa Kela

Killa Kela is an amazing beatboxer. He produces an incredible array of beats, scratches, and noises, entirely with his mouth. And with a guest appearance alongside Justin Timberlake at the N*E*R*D concert in Brixton two weeks ago, and a support slot on Busta Rhymes' current UK tour, he's getting noticed.

Some of the routines he does sound impossible, but he insists, "There's no tricks, it's all just about practice. It's not so much what I'm doing as what I'm doing with it." Unsurprising, then, that he says "I started at quite an early age, I was beatboxing 5 or 6 years ago, but I've been making noise and music with my mouth for as long as I can remember". Most of us have probably attempted to beatbox, but when did Killa Kela realise he could develop it into a career? "I don't imagine it to be a career. When you're so young, you've got to find your feet and keep money coming in. I would never call it a career, it's just a grind." In case you think that sounds a little bleak, he reassures me, "Everything I do is fun. I love trying to be the best I can be".

It all took off when he sent a demo

to Ninja Tune heavyweight DJ Vadim. "I was on the Russian Percussion tour for two years. We did 250 shows in a year, in 18 countries. That got me recognised in the whole hip-hop scene. Off the back of that I started doing shows in clubs, and just kept building".

Since then he's been a member of the Scratch Perverts and breakdance legends the Rock Steady Crew, but his main focus now is his own crew, SpitKingdom. "It's my crew, my family of artists, that's more or less how I roll now".

In between his own shows, performing at award ceremonies and appearing alongside major rap stars, he somehow manages to work on his new album, the follow-up to last summer's *The Permanent Marker*. What can we expect? "On *The Permanent Marker*, I explored a way of making an album without using anything except just a beatbox. But you can't translate what you hear live. On the new album, I do more vocal-led stuff, I'll sing and do the beat at the same time, scratch it up, flip it backwards, change my voice. We're incorporating live elements, plus we've got a Pharrell session, tracks with Artful Dodger

and Super Furry Animals".

So what can Cambridge expect from his live show? "Something you've never experienced: MC Trip will host, tell me 'Do this, reverse that snare, make that noise'. But at the same time you don't even need to watch it, you can just dance. It's a spectacle in a sound system format." When asked if he'll fall into the trap of just showing off his skill rather than entertaining the crowd, he says, "If it's good funky mu-

sic that's coming out of your mouth, people understand that a lot more than if I do a hundred sounds at once coming out of my nose". And he doesn't even care if you think beatboxing is just a fad: "It's cool, come and see my show and let me make you think otherwise!" So get down to the Fez on Tuesday November 25th to experience it yourself.

www.killakela.com



Courtesy of Spring PR

Dear Morrissey

In the pantheon of gods who walk the earth there is a certain glum Mancunian with an Elvis quiff and flowers peaked coquettishly out of his trouser pocket. Like the Shakespearean fool, you are part honesty, part comedy and part bawdysly-winker. You are the master of epic melodrama, blacker than sin songwriting and some truly moving music. But why are you a god? 1) There's the song writing that ranges from the holiday camp cheekiness of *Some Girls Are Bigger Than Others* to the plaintive words of *Stop Me If You've Heard This One Before*: "the pain was enough to make/ a shy bald Buddhist reflect/ and plan a mass murder/ Who said I lied to her?". 2) Then there's the time you famously ripped off your shirt on *Top of the Pops* to reveal the words 'marry me'. I mean, come on, would Daniel Bedingfield ever do that?(eeeeew) 3) For all the accusations of misery thrown at you, you still represent what's so lacking in modern pop music, a sense of fun that's more than Lee from Blue 'wackily' saying he'd shag an alien, a tongue in cheek approach which is more than Christina's imagined tongue in your gob. Without hyperbole, I (and many others) want to have your unwanted children.

lots of love,
Mogin Sakam xxx

Rephlex UK Tour

The Boatrace, November 14th

Rephlex Records was founded 12 years ago by Grant Wilson Claridge and Richard D. James (Aphex Twin to his mother), who would be Britain's most famous perveyou of perverted techno if he didn't insit on changing his name so much. To celebrate this anniversary 'DJ Smojphace' (guess who?) is joined by labelmates Bogdan Raczyński and Astrobotnia for a 14 date UK tour, which touched down in Cambridge last Friday.

I was once privileged enough to hear Gilles Peterson say "It's all about the music, all about the good music." And Friday was just that.

The ethos of Rephlex is clear: the artist's complete refusal to perform, choosing instead to hide behind their equipment on an unlit stage, barely even acknowledging the existence of the crowd. But it's not arrogance. This 'performace' style simply turns all the focus on to the music. And the music was good enough to stand on its own. It's not that Rephlex are inaccessible exactly, just that they're playing hard to get, and isn't that always sexier?

Astrobotnia, hunched over his laptop, triggered some vintage Rephlex material, the synths snapping and crackling, the beats clattering and stuttering, before melting down into

the vocal sample, "peace" over and over. Bogdan Raczyński on the other hand played new, more melodic material rather than something heavier as afficianados might have expected. Clever use of melody, together with chiming rhythm patterns underscoring the set, created some fantastic textures. Thanks are also due to promoters Bad Timing, who ruthlessly provide the Cambridge masses with great quality edifying randomness, whether we asked for it or not. With nights like this, who needs days?"

Nick Moses and Sebastian Reynolds

COMPETITION

To celebrate the November release of *Rephlexions* Varsity is giving away a Rephlex CD plus badges, stickers, wristbands and other such exciting bumf. To win, correctly complete the following statement:

"When Afie and Kat got it together on Eastenders I...."

- a) "Cried till I got snot on my velour tracksuit"
- b) "Scoffed at the foolish fantasy of love."
- c) "Nothing. I was too busy living my real life."

Submit answers and donations to music@varsity.co.uk

Blondie

Corn Exchange, November 14th

As Debbie Harry enters the stage, you can't help but feel a little embarrassed. No, not because you secretly 'still would', but because a band as culturally significant as hers, owed such hefty musical and stylistic debts by the Karens and Julians of today, are surely deserving of a better tribute than this.

An overpriced tour of provincial British venues, audiences cosseted by a thick ozone of Brut and perm lacquer, a setlist usurped in predictability only by the demand for Snakebite at the Corn Exchange bar - hardly a suitable swansong for one of the greatest pop groups of all time. But, past glories cast aside and all amps cranked to 11 simply out of aged necessity, a rousing *Atomic* begins the night's proceedings, with *Sunday Girl* and *Dreaming* not far behind. Yet as is customary on such

tours, the inevitable introduction of 'The New Material' removes all momentum entirely. New single *Good Boys* is memorable only for the mumbles of tattooed female devotees pretending to have already memorised its lyrics.

So the show continues to be plagued; the edge and urgency of their classic singles smothered by the insipid pointlessness of their most recent albums' efforts. A moment of genius emerges when a sublime *Rapture* segues seamlessly into Sugarhill Gang's *Rapper's Delight*, Debbie laying down rhymes like only a 58 year-old can. But this is aptly spoiled by her insistence the crowd chant 'I...am...somebody' - making like the God Channel while you dream of a sweaty, smoky CBGBs in 1974.

Jon Swaine



www.gratefuljoe.com



Felix Wight

Michel Dalberto Piano Recital November 10th West Road Concert Hall

When Michel Dalberto sits at the piano, he relaxes. He reclines into the back of the tatty orchestral chair that he prefers to the conventional piano stool, brushes his fingertips over the keyboard, then leans into the piece he is about to play.

You can tell that he's done this before. In fact, he's done a lot over the last thirty years. In 1975, he won the Clara Haskil Prize, which he now gives out himself as Chairman of the competition's Jury. Three years later he won First Prize in the Leeds International Piano Competition. He has also won a couple of prizes and much praise for his recordings, which include fourteen CDs of Schubert's complete works for piano.

However, in keeping with the CMF's French theme, Dalberto stuck to composers from his homeland: Debussy's *Images* and Ravel's *Gaspard de la nuit* being the highlights of each half, although set off well with César Franck's *Prelude, aria et final* and Fauré's *Theme et variations, Op 73* and *Nocturne No 13*.

Throughout his playing, Dalberto held an astonishing degree of control over every aspect of each piece. With his head continually tilted to one side, and with quite rhythmical eyebrow

raises and lip pouts, he maintained his precise articulation in both the soft, glistening passages of Odine and in the loudest and stormiest parts of Scarbo, even when he actually karate-chopped or fist-thumped the lower notes at the end of the massive crescendos that descended from the top register of the keyboard.

What was surprising, though, was the lack of students in the two-thirds full West Road audience. With cheap tickets available on the door, and the standard this high, the masses of concerts each day between now and Friday, 28th November, there's surely no excuse to miss de-stressing to at least one concert from this triennial festival. **Edward Levene**



REVIEWS

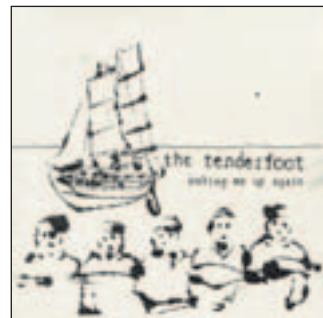
David Bowie, Never Get Old Out Now Columbia

I don't like old people. They're inert, creatively stagnant, and don't dissolve in water. And as, over a background of pleasantly twangy funk guitar and self-consciously 80s synths, Bowie claims he's 'never gonna get/never gonna get/never gonna get old' he appears, ironically, to be displaying some of these characteristics. Not only are the sentiments of *Never Get Old* a bit meaningless and vague, they're also untrue. He is old, and unfortunately, this unpleasant fact seeps its way into the song. Its alright, tuneful, has a nice rhythm, listening to it is more interesting than a variety of domestic tasks, and er, that's it. **Was Yaqoob**



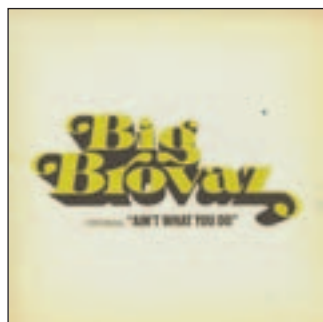
The Tenderfoot, Waking Me Up Again Nov 24th 5:15 Records

Just as it seemed Brighton couldn't get much cooler, along come The Tenderfoot to piss all over our youngest city's parade. Lacking both the song-writing craft and the originality of their hometown cohorts, *Waking Me Up Again* is so inconsequential it practically doesn't exist. Roughly the musical equivalent of an old man's shrug, a lone guitar is strummed apologetically - the band seeming so determined to achieve delicate minimalism that they forget to actually include a song. As if things couldn't get any worse, singer Darren Moon is virtually Gruff Rhys' vocal twin, leaving you longing for any shred of SFA-esque innovation. Dreadful stuff. **Jon Swaine**



Big Brovaz, Ain't What You Do Dec 8th Sony (Riot Recording)

Last single *Baby Boy* came complete with a *Friends* parody video which was, remarkably, even less funny than the actual show. This outing continues the theme of hip-hop for pre-schoolers. Despite pleading for street credibility, Big Brovaz will always be a group for kidz who think designer labelz really do matter. They've found a formula (about as childish as Blue Peter's yoghurt pot/ sticky back plastic combination) and they're sticking to it. Nick a chorus from a song that wasn't great first time round, add waltzy circus beats, over-produced harmonies and put the rap into crap. There are no redeeming features to this song. **Kate Collier**



Pots about Grayson Perry Eli Ratcheva on Beauty and the beastly

Nursing a hangover, Grayson Perry seems every bit the latest enfant terrible of the art world - brooding, blasé and forbidding.

The label seems much more appropriate to Perry than the Chapman Brothers because the world got used to their insistence on working on the same sex/death axis long ago, while Grayson Perry has only recently entered the central arena of public disdain/adoration as the Essex potter who jabs at the raw nerve of working class England with indecent scribbles all over his beautifully presented ceramic vases.

His work is so mesmerising and sensually seductive that clients often neglect to uncover the many layers enveloping each pot. Perry is particularly pleased with the anecdote about a very respectable lady who bought one of his works, *Bog Men*, without noticing the crude drawing, which he copied from the walls of a lavatory of two men doing unspeakable things to each other. Only later when she looked at the pot closely did she decide to choose another. But let's face it, a choice between gun-toting babies, foul-mouthed little girls and suicides all against a background of gold and decorative penises verges on the limited.

A little more information is required at this point. Perry is currently exhibiting alongside the other three Turner prize nominated artists at the Tate Britain and took a little break from basking in the warmth of public reaction to lecture to the Visual Arts Society last Thursday. He is, according to the press, the public's favourite to win. Does he think he will? "I have to" is his simple answer.

And of course let's not forget the numerous opportunities that all this attention gives him to get together with his dressmaker and spin out a fabulous frock for his alter ego 'Claire' to wear out and about. He begins by describing his first experience of making a pot at the age of eight which coincided with the first stirrings of excitement upon putting on a tight smock to work in. Dressed in his mother's clothes at thirteen, he admits "It turned me on".

Although he sneers at the question, "Who makes the work, you or Claire?", his transvestite persona is tightly bound with his work. Being married to a psychotherapist gave him better understanding of his early ceramics: "my subconscious was still leaking out all over the place" and led him to realise that "psychotherapy in general has been



Grayson Perry

quite a big influence on my work over the years. It is an interesting lens to look at the world through".

What seems to me to be the greatest influence on his work however, is a delicate balance between the work of Aubrey Beardsley and images drawn from 'amateur porn mags'. He likes the juxtaposition between the expectations people have from his beautiful pieces and their content - jarring, purposefully provocative and

always satirical. He describes his working process as "organic messy" and believes it is rather "poncey" to have a particular drawing style.

It might not be conventionally tasteful but his work appeals to art critics and the public alike precisely because of this concoction of the naff and fetishistic, sprinkled with a good measure of phallic imagery and good old-fashioned hands-on craftiness. Mischievous and catholic all in one.

Stripped Bare

Anthony Caro's sculpture, *The Deposition*, in Christ's College Chapel shows the body of Jesus removed from the cross and wrapped in a winding sheet ready for burial, a group of mourners looking on.

Situated in the entranceway to the chapel, it confronts the visitor immediately - a tall mass of curving metal shapes, striking intertwined forms, the bronze and copper tones of the beaten metal giving out undeniable warmth.

Ribbon-like, metal forms hint at figures and individual entities emerge but never dominate. Within the bending shapes there is space so that the sculpture appears both solid and fluid, changing in appearance as one circles around it.

Caro, a former Christ's student, hopes *The Deposition* "like the music in the chapel" will "induce a mood of reflection". It offers an obvious contrast to the most prominent of Caro's Cambridge works: the industrial-looking work situated on the concrete outside Churchill College. Together, these two sculptures demonstrate the lively diversity of Caro's unique sculptures in metal.

Ursula Davies

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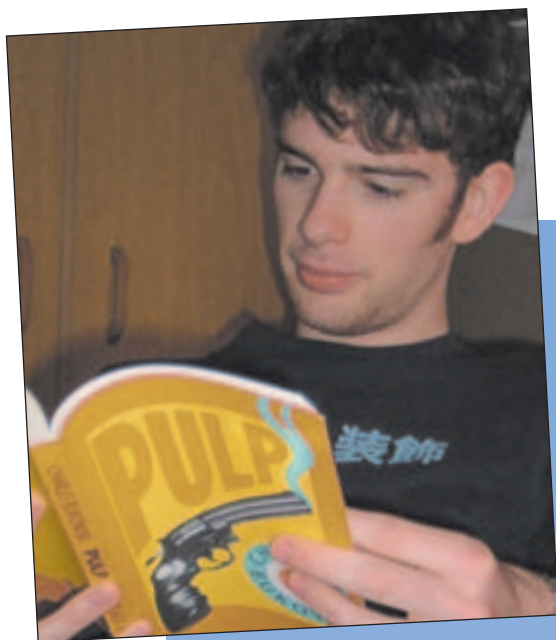
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Martyn is reading *Pulp* by Charles Bukowski



Alex loses himself in *Labyrinths* by Jorge Luis Borges



Ronojoy learns lessons from Greil Marcus' *Lipstick Traces*



Helen reads Stoppard's *Indian Ink*

Readers' Lives

"It must be great having all that time to read."

You'd think, studying- or as these parts term it "reading"- English. In my own Tripos experience it's been, more often than not, *The Shepherd's Calendar*. (And you'd need a fairly twisted idea of a good time to find the fun in that one.) Simply, even jaded English finalists make time to read for pleasure. Perhaps, it may be accounted a more pressing need: a reminder of why you chose to spend three years at the most literal kind of book learning.

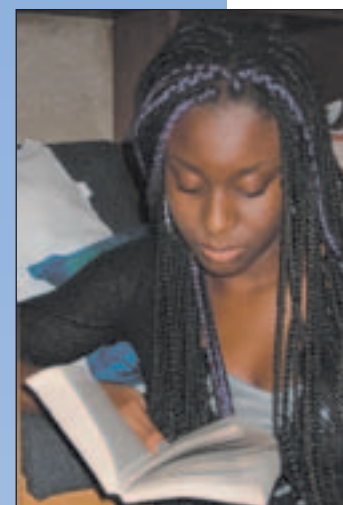
In one's own self centred circle, a

jaunt to somewhere better, but what of other readers? There is an aesthetic quality to looking at other people read, watcher and watched, "each at our own trade." Of course, saying so is an excuse to quote Frank O'Hara's sublime *St Paul and All That* (one I never pass up), "I read what you read / you do not read what I read / which is right, I am the one with the curiosity / you read for some mysterious reason / I simply read because I am a writer."

Thinking back to stories read as a kid, and I remember the ones I'd readily miss dinner to finish. It's nos-

talgia for a time when a book was a story, and much more than just "words on a page". Not that it's regrettable to refine one's approach beyond, "I feel...", but to not let this polish slip to the sort of dryness, which has forgotten what all the fuss was about in the first place.

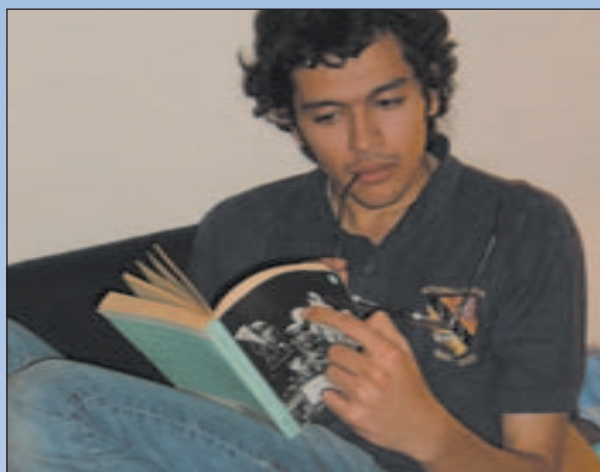
These rather amateur photographs are, I suppose, a study of a pastime which manages to be both shared and personal. Readers read books that others have read before. And yet, their experience of - and enthusiasm for- the book in hand gives it quite a different shape.



Francine pretends not to get excited by Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*



Daisy, John Updike & Roger's Version



Zubin with J R Ackerley's *Hindoo Holiday*



Frank O'Hara's *Poems* mesmerise Elaine



Fran reads Jack Mapanje's *Chameleons and Gods*



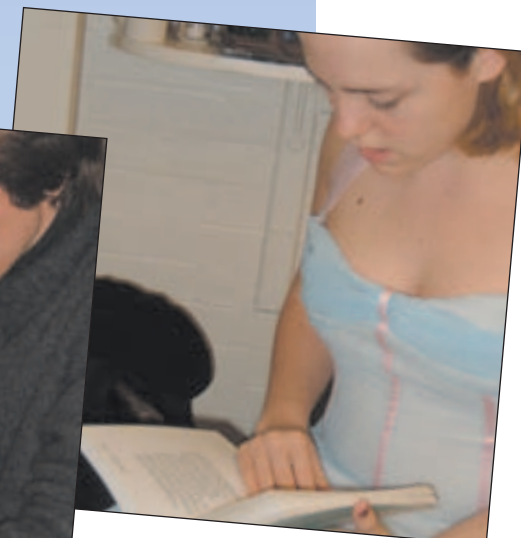
Ruskin rocks Tom's world



Angela perplexed by James Joyce's *Ulysses*



Noah intent on Gore Vidal's *Essays*



Kate reading Tony Harrison's *Poems*

Funky Fresh, Dressed to Impress...

Charlotte Holden takes a shufty at what the first years have to offer

'A play by David Mamet': the simple caption of the ADC's *The Water Engine*. Mamet's name is a signature for 'plainspeak': distillation of abstract dialogue into the crackling of raw confrontation. The background is a copper-plate brick wall, along with the sprawled stars and stripes. This was going to be a very gritty take on the good ol' US of A.

At a glance the plot seems a little clichéd. Set in 1930s Chicago, the play centres around Charles Lang, the inventor of a water-powered engine. Robert Heaps gives an admirably subtle portrayal of this fluffy-haired genius whose life passion is his scientific drawing. Hoping to patent his invention, he falls into the grip of lawyer Lawrence Oberman, who, be-

ing evil, doesn't like the idea of a young upstart threatening to "close all factories" with his new gadget.

Dread set in from the beginning. As I waited with high hopes for the curtains to rise, the clouds from the smoke machines cleared only to reveal a single three-legged stool at the centre of the stage; my heart sank at this most threatening symbol of the worst pretensions of 'back-to-basics' theatre...

Any attack on the sweetness of the American Dream could indeed be in danger of swinging towards sour grapes, becoming equally clichéd in its naïveté. However, the director's approach is to augment the plot with a counterattacking saccharine overload of sound and visuals, like a dramatic take on Phil Spector's 'wall of sound'. The stage becomes a packed split

screen of the chaotic ants' nest of Chicago life, as the spotlight flits from scene to scene, giving the eye no respite as one overlaps another.

I came away feeling frazzled. This could have been a masterpiece of Kafkaesque nightmare, the puzzling sights and sounds an effective background for the central plight of Lang in his bureaucratic maze. However, I didn't really have time to think about that. The quieter moments of contrast provided a few dark spaces for reflection, but there weren't enough.

The keystone that supports this discord is the symbolic persona of Uncle Sam (Jay Miller). His voice is raucous, his yankee drawl grating the ear almost as much as his gaudy stars-and-stripes costume dazzles the gaze. Combined with cherubic good looks,



ADC

one is unsure whether to love or hate him. Well, that's what the American Dream's all about, honey.

Arching his back as he lurches bowlegged about the playroom, his clumsy yet powerful movements steal the show, in a profound sense. His con-

cluding soundbite is a shirking reality check before the curtains fall to the eerie tinklings of light jazz. Was this all a nightmare? Or a dream? You decide.

The Water Engine runs at the ADC, 7.30, every night until Saturday

Theatre most shows a man: speak that I may see thee

Odds were stacked against CADS in staging *Volpone*, a rarely seen Jacobean comedy with demanding roles and a bleak theme. It's success is therefore to the utmost credit of the director and actors.

Rarely was there a discordant scene in what proved a fascinating rendering of Jonson's masterpiece, with a barnstorming and yet subtle per-

formance from Harry Adamson in the difficult title-role. The acting was generally thrilling, demonstrating real command of 17th century verse, a skill so precious in student productions. Of particular note were Jez Jameson and Martin Brown who gave vigorous performances as the ageing Corbaccio and imperious Corvino respectively, while Michael Winawer brought sexual am-

biguity and a Machiavellian flavour to Mosca.

The direction was slick and – crucially – the play's transposition to the Victorian era was successful: it had a definite Dickensian feel, evoked by melodramatic direction and Jonson's two-dimensional characterisation.

One clear and, for me, perplexing fault was the misplaying of Celia: sign-

posted in the Director's Notes and yet not avoided. The 'insipidity' of Celia is essential in demonstrating her subjugation in a patriarchal society: sexual shenanigans with Mosca do not avail this. However, the homoerotic tension between Volpone and Mosca proved far more effective and illuminated their relationship well.

CADS has presented an accom-

plished production, funny where it is meant to be and morally disturbing where required. That it falls flat in certain directorial additions is tribute to its willingness to innovate, which succeeds brilliantly elsewhere.

Oliver Tilley

Volpone runs every night at Christ's New Court Theatre, 7.15, until Saturday

Let's drink and make Merry

Franz Lehar's *The Merry Widow* is an operetta about love, greed, patriotism and intrigue. Central to the plot are two love affairs, that of Valencienne (wife of the gullible Baron Zeta) and the Frenchman Camille, and of the merry widow Anna Glavari - heiress of 20 millions - and her old flame Count Danilo, who are too proud to admit they still care for each other.

Before the couples can be reunited (Valencienne with her husband and Anna with Danilo) there is plenty of hilarious confusion and strife.

The women seem to have the control around here, as the men acknowledge in their despairing comic ensemble 'Women!'. Camille is under

Valencienne's thumb and everyone under Anna's spell, portrayed as a wonderful tease – all eyebrows and smiles – by Charmian Shipp.

The impressive voices of Kathryn Lilley (Valencienne) and Nigel Murfitt (Camille) came across particularly in their Act I duet, 'A highly respectable wife', and other musical highlights included Danilo (Graham Gemmell)'s beautiful song, 'You'll find me at Maxim's' and the Act II Finale, a sextet in which all the principals express their feelings, with Patrick O'Brien's bumbling Baron at his most bemused. A mention must also go to the Jeeves-like Njegus (Simon Merrington) whose gangly butler was brilliant throughout, from his first ferrero-rocher-bearing entrance to his gallant saving of Valencienne's honour.

The words were clear and the twists in the plot (which looked scary in the synopsis) easy to follow. Though there were occasional cringe-worthy puns, the poetry was mostly witty, and the occasional off-stage prompts were easily forgiven.

You may start by thinking the production overwhelmingly cheesy, but there comes a point at which you relax and accept that the only way of dealing with a script like this is to ham it up as much as possible.

Not recommended for anti-Gilbert and Sullivan snobs, this is unchallenging entertainment at its best, full of laughs and sing-along tunes, as well as an impressive and well-directed amateur cast.

Hazel Norton-Hale

The Merry Widow runs at the Arts Theatre, every night 7.30, until Saturday



Polly Griffiths

Black Tie night in the Crystal Maze

Proposals invited for the cover of the MAYS 2004

Every year for over a decade the May Anthologies has published the very best in student writing from Oxford and Cambridge. This year we are launching a competition for our cover design.

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Good intentions pave the way

Nobody ever said that writing a play was an easy thing to do. I'm sure Elizabeth Boyd was aware of that when she set out to write and direct *The Readiest Way to Hell*. Perhaps it's stating the obvious, then, to call this is an ambitious project whose very existence is an impressive achievement in itself. It is a pity that the production fails to live up to the ambition which fired it.

The play centres around Joseph (Ben Willis), an 18th century gentleman about to be executed for having murdered a young woman. The story is of a morbid fascination with the internal components of the human body, seen

in both the obsessions which lie behind this act of murder, and allusions to the practice of dissecting executed convicts (inspired by the anatomy law of 1752). It is a fascinating premise.

It is disappointing, therefore, that the play fails to address fully any of the issues it raises: Joseph's attempted explanation of what drove him to kill is impeded by pseudo-philosophical verbosity, delivered with unconvincing urgency. Ben Willis has stage presence, but his character is 1-dimensional.

This is perhaps a problem with directing a script one has written oneself: a more objective director could have drawn a less self-indulgent per-

formance. Boyd seems to have been more concerned with bringing out the 'poetry' of her script, than with presenting Joseph as a human being: surely the one thing that any play about a murderer ought to do. This insensitivity is particularly evident in the murder scene itself: the act is committed quickly, cleanly and without any sense of the brutality motivating it. The scene is unpleasant to watch, not because of what actually happens, but because it fails dismally to portray the true horror of murder.

There are some promising flashes: interesting performances, particularly by Willis and Isabelle Schoelcher, but which are sadly in need of development; some nice moments of dialogue; and elegant lighting. But the production is fundamentally let down by its inability to convince or enlighten. A play which could not manage this was never going to succeed, but when the play in question was about a murderer, it was never going to seem anything other than naïve and crass.

Credit where credit's due: this is a brave attempt. Which makes it all the more sad that it doesn't quite hit the mark.

Hazel Pearson

The Readiest Way to Hell runs at the Playroom, 7.00, until Saturday



ADC

A quick 'alf

Luke is one of life's victims. He tries hard, but the nonchalant cool that appears to come so effortlessly to others consistently evades him. Exploited by his mates and besotted with a girl he could never realistically hope to get, the only thing he can rely on is the fruit machine in the corner. However, ultimately even this betrays him.

The set of *Luke and Stella* is austere – a stool and a perimeter of beer bottles the only concessions to reality – but for an hour the stage becomes a lively pub thanks to Tim Key's confident control of the space and a faultless soundtrack. The use of background noise – the muffled PA system in the toilets, the "ker-ching!" of the fruit machine and the bustle of voices taken from the nearby Regal – notably enhances the transformation.

The scene changes do occasionally encumber the fluency of the performance, but this becomes unobtrusive towards the end, when Key switches swiftly between characters in a heart-rending confrontation that avoids descending into crass melodrama. By introducing Macker, the object of Luke's fear and pity, Key includes an antagonistic dynamic to both the play and Luke's character, and also showcases the flexibility of his acting talent.



Tim Key

Tim Key has created an exceptional piece of theatre. Luke is so pitilessly and yet sensitively observed that were the play not so funny, it would be excruciating. The direction is energetic, ensuring that the audience does not lose their sense of involvement, and benefits from deft touches, such as the eye-traced paths of Luke's conversants as they walk away.

Short enough to be a stopover before a club, meaningful enough to feel worthwhile and funny enough to ensure a good night out, *Luke and Stella* is one not to be missed.

Hannah Kowszun

Luke and Stella runs at the Corpus Playroom, 9.15, until Saturday

Mum's the word

Archie Bland is swept off his feet by *The Mother*

People are forever banging on about breaking taboos. Nothing pleases artists more than the idea that no-one has ever been quite as daring as they are, that they're breaking new barriers in the discussion of human experience, that they are – that terrible, over-used word – groundbreaking.

But Roger Michell's *The Mother* does, I think, break a real taboo: old people having sex. Old women, at least. You'll see fat old men having sex a fair bit on the silver screen – anything to do with the fact that producers and studio executives happen to be fat old men too? Surely not. But the fairer sex, when they reach a certain age, rarely get beyond the confines of a very specialist sort of movie, unless they want to play sweet old biddies, or are Judi Dench.

Anne Reid's performance suggests it should happen more often, because she is absolutely magnificent as May, the mother in question, who, in the aftermath of her husband's death, embarks on an affair with her daughter's thirty-something lover. At the beginning of the film she seems like – well – just an old woman; by the end she is a fully realised human being, with all the flaws and graces that implies.

Reid has had a fairly low-key acting career to date – she is best known

for roles in *Dinnerladies* and *Coronation Street* – and on this evidence that is a terrible waste. She has an extraordinary ability to slip suddenly from one mode to another, so that when you are watching her being a mother she will suddenly change somehow and look like a woman, vibrantly, defiantly sensual. Her transformation is perfectly pitched, and few films this year have had more memorable or affecting pivotal moments than May's redemptive gasp that she thought no-one else would touch her but the undertaker.

Hardly less good is her leading man, Daniel Craig, who captures exactly the uncertainty of his character Darren's position – it would be easy to paint him as a moral coward, or, at the other end of the spectrum, a hero who disregards society for the sake of his true love, and Craig avoids this pitfall. As he despairs at one point, it's a fallacy to think anything is deliberate: he, like everyone, is simply making it up as he goes along.

The supporting cast is fine, and features a sad and rather moving cameo from Oliver Ford Davies, more often seen on stage; Cathryn Bradshaw is a little monotonous as daughter Paula, but that's a flaw of the writing as much as the performance. Kureishi's adapt-

ed story is by no means perfect, and relies on more than a few clunking stereotypes for its underlying familial psychology – sister jealous of little brother, mother not loving enough to daughter because not respected enough by father, youth of today self-absorbed and unfeeling about the problems of age, grandchildren unruly because parents too busy being middle class, and so on.

What it lacks in subtlety, however, it makes up in sheer emotional energy and honesty: the writing, and therefore the direction, never shy away from making the audience uncomfortable. (Many and often were the embarrassed giggles at the Picturehouse, and not only during the sex scene. If nothing else, see this to be entertained by the reactions of your fellow audience members – the gasp at the first kiss was hilarious.)

Unfortunately the whole excellent shebang is let down a little by the ending. Darren's behaviour is too glibly textbook in its motivation and fails to convince, or arouse our sympathies. Nevertheless, beautifully photographed and boldly directed, *The Mother* is a rare treat. And you get to see her boobs.

On at the Arts Picture House



image.net



Gavin
Versi

United States vs Europe, 1991
Ryder Cup

The infamous “War on the shore”, taking place on South Carolina’s Kiawah Island, came during the conflict in the Gulf. Though staunch wartime allies, nationalistic fervour was apparent in both camps, particularly the Americans’. Indeed, US player Cory Pavin sported an army-style camouflage cap for the final-day singles, violently pumping his fists after every other shot.

The lead changed hands on many occasions over the weekend until, as fate would have it, Europe’s Bernhard Langer had a six-foot putt

to win the final hole of the final match and with it retain the Cup.

Weighing up the putt, there was not a whisper to be heard as every spectator fell mute, in fearful anticipation of how Langer was to strike the ball. He stepped up, addressed the ball, and drew back his putter in the manner he always would. A putt he would have made at least seven out of ten times became something like a 10-1 shot in the pressure-cooker atmosphere of the War on the Shore. He missed. Europe fell to its knees. The Cup was reclaimed by the Americans. And the margin of victory/defeat? A few millimetres.

It’s the taking part that counts:
the tale of three sporting failures

Jimmy White, 1994 World
Championship Snooker Final

Jimmy White is a national hero. As much for his habit of losing in the final of the World Snooker Championships as for his charismatic style of play. He first reached the final in 1984, then four consecutive final defeats, from 1990 to 1993 had us all wondering whether Our Jimmy would ever fulfil his life’s dream. The following year he had his best chance.

At 17-all in his sixth final White was at the table, building a break that would seal him the title. But a routine black stayed in the jaws of the pocket, allowing old adversary Stephen Hendry to clear. The gasps of the

Sheffield crowd as White missed that black echoed in living rooms the length and breadth of the country. This was too much to bear.

A misty-eyed White reflected on his fourth final defeat by Hendry with characteristic, unforgettable humour: “He’s beginning to annoy me now”.

Linford Christie, 1996 Olympic
100m Final

I grew up watching Linford Christie run. A fast-talking man of remarkable bulk, he gave me much joy during the early to mid-nineties with countless grand prix wins and major event medals.

1996 was to be his final bow, his swansong. Qualifying for the Olympic

100m final fairly easily, Christie was as focused as ever as he stood on the line. Having spoken often about going “on the ‘B’ of the ‘bang’”, Christie negated this with a nervous false-start. Furrow brows. The runners stood up, the tension palpable. Down they went once more. Another false start. Christie again. He was out.

Linford removed the upper portion of his leotard, and held his head in his hands, as his farewell ended in the most painful manner possible. It was a cruel and ill-fitting end to a glittering career. To add insult to injury a new world record was set by Donovan Bailey in the race. Christie could only stand by and watch.

Catz women
thrash Fitz

COLLEGE HOCKEY

Sam Richardson

Catz cemented their challenge for the women’s hockey title with a 6-0 victory over Fitz. The game was something of a grudge match after Fitz recently knocked Catz’s second team out of Cuppers on penalties.

Nomad Louise Garvin proved the key player in a Catz team stacked with a combination of University players and promising freshers. She scored four goals, including a spectacular short corner. Louise Edwards and Helen Lloyd also added their names to the score-sheet.

Skipper Ali Roland told *Varsity* that “hopefully it’s all good news in time for Cuppers”. However Caius and defending champions Jesus are also unbeaten, and may have something to say come the end of the season.

In the men’s league, Jesus thrashed the highly-fancied Emma 8-0, but with John’s and Magdalene still undefeated, Sam Grimshaw’s men will have their work cut out to retain their title.

Christ’s look determined to bounce straight back from last year’s relegation, going top of Division Two, beating Girton 3-1.

Darwin and Girton play out bore draw

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Ben Reeve

Girton and Darwin cancelled each other out as the top of the table clash ended in a 0-0 draw. Both teams came into this encounter with high expectations, Darwin, fresh from an impressive 3-2 victory over Downing, and Girton with three wins from three in league and cup matches so far this season.

Darwin’s Captain Dave Cooper was missing through injury, but watched on as his boys applied early pressure, and Girton were caught on the back foot in the opening minutes of a very physical game.

The visitors had a strong spell midway through the first half and began creating chances, but the aerally-adept Darwin back four seemed to be impenetrable with goalkeeper Pete Brown on commanding form.

In a gritty second half, both teams were irritated by some inconsistent refereeing. Darwin dominated in the air and came close to scoring twice near full-time, with a Matthew Reeves strike just missing the near post. But neither team could edge ahead.

The draw was a fair reflection of a scrappy game in which neither goalkeeper was really tested. Sidelined Girton Captain Geordie Bob commented, “We went in hoping to hammer them again, but they matched us out there and we know we can play better football than that”.



Alex Muir

Darwin and Girton battle for the ball in a 0-0 draw

In Cuppers, Jesus beat Pembroke 5-0 in the only all first division tie. Laurence Brenig-Jones gave Jesus a deserved lead with a low shot, and after that Jon Young’s side didn’t look back. The captain himself

scored with a towering header, and Sam Vardy popped up at the back-post to make it 3-0 by half-time. Will Stevenson, fresh from a slating in *Varsity*, then added two goals, one of which literally broke the net.

Jesus Barr Catz from race for rugby title

COLLEGE RUGBY

Sam Richardson

Jesus reasserted their position as the main threat to St John’s, with a 28-13 victory over Catz.

Both kickers scored penalties in the nervy opening exchange, before Jeremy Langridge took advantage of a gap in the Jesus defence, following a scrum awarded

in the Jesus twenty-two under the absurd mark rule.

But Jesus struck back in a similar manner. Micky Barr took a superb catch on half-way, and after the resulting scrum the incisive James Chervak scored with a darting run. The teams went in at 10-10.

The ice cool David Ingall gave Jesus the lead with a penalty, as both teams became frustrated by some dubious refereeing until the outstanding Barr ran outside the Catz

defence to make it 21-10 on the hour.

Rallied by Tom ‘The ginger bullet’ Fursdon, and with Will Jagger playing expertly, Catz fought strongly, but Fursdon’s penalty was all they had to show for their efforts before Jesus skipper Brian Fitzherbert finished an open-side move to complete the scoring.

With an all-Etonian second row, the tireless Rich Houston everpresent at the breakdown, Tom Ogden providing some deft tactical kick-

ing, and a large array of supporters providing chat from the touch-line, Jesus look like a force to be reckoned with this season.

But to take the title they need Adam Brown’s in-form John’s side to slip up, which may be unlikely after they routed Fitz 57-0. Peterhouse-Selwyn were beaten 29-12 by Downing, although skipper Marcus Nelson said his men were “robbed by some fat forwards denying some scintillating back play”.

Men’s Hockey - Div 1

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Robinson	4	3	0	1	31	11	6
Magdalene	3	3	0	0	12	2	6
Jesus	3	2	0	1	13	4	4
St John’s	2	2	0	0	10	4	4
Caius	2	2	0	0	7	3	4
Emma	4	2	0	2	8	16	4
Cam City	2	1	0	1	4	3	2
Sidney	2	1	0	1	4	5	2
Catz	4	1	0	3	8	13	2
Pembroke	3	0	0	3	2	11	0
Queens’	2	0	0	2	1	11	0
Downing	3	0	0	3	4	21	0

Men’s Hockey - Div 2

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Christ’s	2	2	0	0	13	1	4
Selwyn	3	2	0	1	8	4	4
Corpus	3	2	0	1	3	3	4
Clare	2	1	1	0	4	0	3
Trinity Hall	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Jesus II	3	1	1	1	6	9	3
Girton	3	1	0	2	5	4	2
Trinity	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Churchill	3	1	0	2	5	9	2
Fitz	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Peterhouse	2	0	0	2	0	14	0

Women’s Hockey - Div 1

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Caius	3	2	1	0	9	1	7
Catz	2	2	0	0	8	0	6
Girton	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
Jesus	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Emma	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
New Hall	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Trinity	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Queens’	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Fitz	3	0	0	3	0	13	0

Men’s Football - Div 1

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Girton	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Darwin	4	2	1	1	5	8	7
Catz	2	2	0	0	9	1	6
Downing	2	1	0	1	12	3	3
St John’s	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
Jesus	2	1	0	1	1	4	3
Long Road	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fitz	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Trinity	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Pembroke	2	0	0	2	0	12	0

Men’s Football - Div 2

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Churchill	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Caius	3	2	1	0	8	6	7
St John’s II	3	2	0	1	8	3	6
Robinson	3	2	0	1	9	10	6
Emma	2	1	0	1	6	2	3
Homerton	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Selwyn	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Fitz II	3	1	0	2	6	8	3
Kings	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Queens’	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

Cooke's athletic ambition

Women's athletics captain Alex Cooke talks to Shanaz Musafer

What are the training facilities like for athletics?

Well the track is meant to be the biggest in the country, we've got a beautiful pavilion, and we've got showers, a bar and lockers. And nobody uses it! I think people just think that you've got to be really good to use the track. The amount of times I've said to people, "It's a University track, of course you can go down there. You're allowed to use it and you don't have to pay." It's next to the hockey pitches on Wilberforce Road, and even the hockey people don't use it!

How do you rate Cambridge's chances in this year's Varsity match?

I think both men and women have a good chance. The good thing about Varsity matches generally in different sports, is that they're very evenly matched because everyone has got the same work ethic – you've gone to uni to work and sport is more of a hobby. Between Oxford and Cambridge, it's going to be close, it's going to be down to on the day who's not injured.

You've played international lacrosse as well. How do you have time for everything?

I've just taken lacrosse up again. I went to the Under-19 World Cup, then when I came back I was captain of the Under-18 team in my last year at school. I played a little bit when I first got to Cambridge but then I gave up because I didn't have enough time. But

I've taken it up again this year so we'll see how it goes.

I've just taken up boxing as well and that's taking up quite a bit of time, and then also I do cross-country! It sounds like I do a lot of sports, but they do actually complement each other.

You were in a car accident...

Yes, it was August 2002. I was driving home from work and this car pulled out in front of me and I went smack into it. I got winded and I thought that was my main problem. Then I realised my knee hurt and I lifted up my skirt and there were bones on show and a slit going across. I went to hospital and got it sewn up but I didn't really have much advice. Then when I got back to Cambridge I completely overtrained and basically I just buggered up my whole leg because it hadn't healed properly

Now, whenever I talk to people at training I tell them, "You've got to rest and eat properly and sleep properly." I don't think people give their bodies enough time to recover.

What are your personal ambitions for this year?

To get the 400m record! To recruit women to the team and hopefully they will enjoy athletics, and get the best out of people. To be honest I'm not even thinking about Varsity right now. I like Varsity, I think it's really good fun and it's nice to have a target. But I think too much focus can be put on it, so that if you lose it you're going to be left with a bitter taste. Whereas if you don't focus on it and have a great year, if you win Varsity then it's a great bonus.



Cooke receives the Freshers' Varsity trophy for the women's team

You fell out with last year's President after a certain incident. Would you like to put forward your side?

It took place at the Christmas party last year. It wasn't well attended but we had people there and we had some very young girls there who were quite naïve. Then Nav [Childs] starts doing a strip tease, and you laugh but you're not expecting the person to take everything off and walk round the room!

I was thinking about it the next day, so I sent an email saying, "Great party Nav, really enjoyed it, but maybe next time don't take all of your clothes off because what if someone had walked in, it would have looked really bad." He sent this round to the whole male list of the club, saying some not very nice things. So that's how our relationship deteriorated quite quickly from then on!

The full-length interview can be found at www.varsity.co.uk/sport

SPORT IN BRIEF

Basketball

The Blues Basketball team faced Birmingham in a close contest. The first quarter saw Blues guard Adam Wolpaw lead all scorers with an impressive 13 points. In the second quarter, Birmingham's zone initially presented problems to Cambridge, who eventually found solutions in the form of relentless penetration moves from Wolpaw and sharp shooting from Blues Captain and point-guard John Papadopoulos. The half-time score was 40-36. Despite two consecutive 3-pointers from Birmingham which brought the match back to within 2 points, the Blues finally took command of the game by going on a 15-0 run. The quarter ended strongly for Cambridge, thanks to inspirational play by Blues forward Marc Farrell. Entering the fourth period with a 19 point lead, the Blues had to take care not to get too comfortable. Despite early scoring from Birmingham, Cambridge re-discovered their form with forward Jack Hodd providing much of the scoring. A monstrous high-flying dunk from Blues captain and centre Richard Edden (thanks to Wolpaw's off-the-backboard pass) confirmed Cambridge's dominance in this game and they comfortably prevailed 86-62. The next home match is on December 3 at home vs. Leicester. Latest information and fixtures can be found at www.cubbc.com

Water Polo

On the 15th November, Cambridge Ladies' Water Polo Team travelled to Wales for a friendly against Cardiff University's team. Cardiff (semi-finalists in BUSA last year) had beaten them in their last two encounters and the Light Blues were missing five of their starting seven. This was a baptism of fire for five new Cambridge recruits who were literally thrown in at the deep end. At the end of the match, with a final score of 20-12 to Cardiff, Cambridge were bruised, battered and beaten, but bolstered by a strong performance from an inexperienced team.

Rowing

Saturday's British Indoor Rowing Championships saw the lightweight rowers of CULRC build on their successes at the Fours Head. They came away with a host of strong performances, including several personal best scores and 5 of the top 16 finishes in the BUSA Lwt. category. The highlights of the day, though, were medal winning rows from Andy Hudson (Queens') and Tom Dyson (Robinson), who secured bronze in the BUSA and U18 Lwt. competitions respectively. The squad now looks forward to next Sunday's racing at York Small Boats Head.

Women win Freshers' Varsity Match

FRESHERS' ATHLETICS

Rob Coles and Rich Wheeler

The 59th annual Athletics Freshers' Varsity Match took place in Oxford last week seeing a promising set of performances from Cambridge athletes despite the dreadful conditions. The day was capped by a light blue victory in the women's event.

The women's match continued on from the precedent set in last year's Varsity Match proper with Cambridge triumphing comfortably over their dark blue counterparts by a score of 95 to 84. On top of this tremendous team effort however there were also numerous outstanding individual efforts.

Sue Edwards won both the 100 and 400m hurdles emphasising light blue dominance in this discipline, while Teresa Winstead of Wolfson matched this achievement with a double victory in Javelin and Shot. Back on the track the outstanding Katie Skelding broke two match records in a sprinting masterclass to leave Oxford reeling and she later returned to bring Cambridge home in both relays. The most spectacular performance of the

day however was by Kosnatu Abdulai in the long and triple jumps. Despite the awful conditions the John's student managed to win both events, achieving the Blues' standard in the latter.

The men's team meanwhile suffered an overall 91-81 loss. Stuart Forbes decimated the field to win the 800m, silencing a cocky Oxford crowd. Pembroke's Anthony Green had led coming into the home straight before falling, thus denying the light blues a deserved victory. Nevertheless both Forbes and Green look like accomplished runners and should make their mark come the main event in May.

Martin Bock's imposing performances all over the track signalled what a huge asset to the team he will be whilst Simon Bulley made the transition to the slightly heavier senior throwing implements well, winning the Hammer and Discus comfortably.

The match finished on a high for Cambridge with dogged victories in both the men and women's 4x400m relays while the excellent team spirit was also praised by CUAC President Richard Wheeler: "It was an awesome day with lots of good performances, especially considering the conditions. We really performed well as a team".



Kosnatu Abdulai leaps to victory in the long jump

Here are some of the Varsity team's top sporting moments:

England's 1966 World Cup win. Hat-trick hero Geoff Hurst goes down as an England legend alongside the likes of King Arthur and St George.

Alex Drysdale

The Rumble in the Jungle: Muhammad Ali vs George Foreman. The greatest at his best. Magic.

Rajan Lakhani

Not many people can say their top sporting moment came at Selhurst Park. I was in the grandstand though the day of Eric Cantona's infamous kung fu kick...

Sam Richardson

Northern Ireland 1-0 Spain, 1982 World Cup. The Irishmen lead by Pat Jennings hang on for one of the biggest upsets in World Cup history.

Mark Adair

E-mail yours to sport@varsity.co.uk

BACK TO WINNING WAYS



Andrew Sims

Sion Lewis celebrates his second goal of the game after putting Cambridge 2-0 up. The win puts Cambridge on eight points, only one point behind Lincoln in the table

BLUES FOOTBALL	
Shanaz Musafer	
BLUES	2
LINCOLN UNI	1
In a week which saw defeats for all the home nations, as England slipped up against Denmark and both Scotland and Wales saw their dreams of qualifying for Euro 2004 shattered, the Blues avoided the jitters that seemed to be going round and took a huge step forward in their bid for promotion with a magnificent victory over league leaders Lincoln.	
Going into the match having dropped points in their last two league games, and facing opponents who had	

won three out of three, anything less than a win would have been a serious blow to their title hopes. As skipper Chris Fairbairn said after the match, “It means that we’ve made a good start to the season. If we’d lost that it would have only been average”.

The win came courtesy of two headers from St John’s stalwart Sion Lewis, whose all-round performance was vital to the Blues’ win. Having moved from right back to the centre of defence in the recent absence of the injured Ben Allen, Lewis marshalled the back four superbly, which included Girton’s whizzkid Alex Mugan making his debut at left back.

Lincoln had arrived ready for a tough encounter, with none of their players pulling out of any 50-50 challenges. In fact, they didn’t pull out of many tackles at all, even ones that it perhaps would have been wiser

not to go for in the first place, with four of their players receiving yellow cards. Although they had slightly the better of the opening twenty minutes, they soon became frustrated at their inability to penetrate the Cambridge defence.

From then on the Blues dominated the game, playing neat possession football and duly taking the lead when Lewis beat the stranded Lincoln goalkeeper to head in from Dave Harding’s free kick. Landing awkwardly though, he needed a few minutes to recover before he could celebrate the goal with his team-mates.

This was only one in a long line of injuries throughout the match, which was extended by a good 15 minutes of overall injury time. The twinkle-toed Harry Hughes had already departed from the pitch after half an hour holding his head, hav-

ing been sent tumbling to the ground by a late tackle. The Lincoln team too kept the physio busy, with a couple of their players needing treatment after clashes in the penalty box.

The Blues had chances to make it two before half time, the best of which fell to Fairbairn but his glancing header went wide of the right hand post.

The second goal came in the second half, via another well-executed Cambridge set piece. Harding played a short corner to Johnny Hughes and his cross was met by the powerful head of Lewis.

Cambridge were cruising and will be disappointed not to have kept a clean sheet. But with fifteen minutes to go, the referee, who was having an inconsistent game, awarding free kicks one way and then giving them the other, signalled for a Cambridge foul on the right hand

edge of their penalty area. Lewis was mystified by the decision, believing that the whistle had gone for an off-side Lincoln player, only to find himself penalised for what one can only assume was shirt-pulling.

Everyone stood and watched as Mark Tyrrell stepped up and curled a left-footed shot past Joe Garrood, who also unfortunately just stood and watched. The goal gave Lincoln hope of snatching something from the game but Cambridge remained composed in defence and held firm.

Fairbairn was delighted to inflict a first defeat upon Lincoln: “I’m very pleased with the performance. We defended superbly,” he said. The result will give the Blues a huge boost going into a vital week of BUSA action. On Wednesday they travel to Leicester to play De Montfort Uni and return trips to Lincoln and Derby follow.

Lewis kicks Saints to touch

BLUES RUGBY	
Rajan Lakhani	
BLUES	21
NORTHAMPTON	17
Cambridge scored a huge confidence-boosting 21-17 win over the Northampton Saints on Monday evening. The Blues took an early lead thanks to the boot of Daffyd Lewis who was to have his best match of the season, kicking as he did all 21 of Cambridge’s points.	

Throughout the match, the Blues were causing the Midlands outfit problems on their lineouts, successfully turning over possession on a number of occasions. Northampton’s tactics were less astute as they tried to rattle Cambridge’s temperament with bouts of petulance. However, as half-time approached, Cambridge went 9 points to five in front with another well-struck penalty from Lewis.

More of the same was needed from Cambridge in the second half, especially from the forwards, who had been superb in the first half. Cambridge extended their lead further with two penalty goals from Lewis, leaving Northampton with a

mountain to climb at 15-5.

Northampton’s play became dirtier as the game wore on, with the scrum-half not scared to put his boot in and a minor fight broke out, although to be honest this was no Barrera vs Pacquiao epic. Luckily all this was only a temporary glitch, for Lewis kicked a superb drop-goal to put Cambridge 18-10 in front.

Saints replied with their first converted try to set up a tense finish but with only a few minutes remaining, Lewis added a further three points to his and Cambridge’s haul. The defence held out to give Cambridge an impressive win with the Varsity match fast approaching.

Varsity Rugby Competition

Win the complete Varsity Rugby day out

To win tickets to both the Twickenham match and the Official Varsity Ball with the players at Café de Paris, just answer the question below:

What is the official name of the Cambridge University second rugby side?

To enter e-mail sport@varsity.co.uk. Closing date: midnight Tuesday. Last week’s winner: Robert Hackney.

The Official Varsity Ball

The Official Varsity Ball will be held at London’s Café de Paris on 9th December. Tickets are £20 and include limited free drinks. To apply for tickets or for more information please visit www.varsityball.com