

VARSITY

OPINION

Tom Lane takes on mediocracy

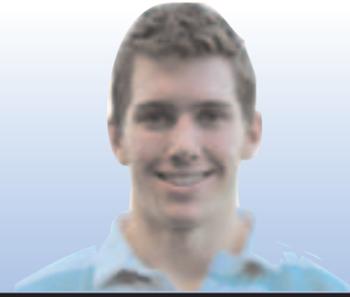
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PULL OUT

Out of the shadows

VC support for top-up fees threatens rift in uni

Tim Moreton and Tom Cahill

The University yesterday formally unveiled the scheme of bursaries that was revealed by *Varsity* last week. The scheme seems set to spearhead the Government's arguments that their controversial Higher Education funding proposals will not damage access.

At a press conference in Westminster the Vice-Chancellor, Alison Richard said that the proposals, under which grants of £4,000 will be offered to students whose parents earn less than £15,000, would make Cambridge "more affordable than it is now" for the poorest students. She estimated that one in ten students would be eligible for the full £4,000, but that up to a third of students – those with parental incomes as high as £35,000 – would also receive some support.

But the announcement was met in part with dismay from those who accuse Cambridge of conflating the issues of paying for teaching and providing maintenance. Ben Brinded, President of Cambridge University Student's Union (CUSU), said that, although the bursaries on offer were "excellent and comprehensive", there were other ways of funding them than through top-up fees. He argued fees would "damage the principle of equality of opportunity" and would "thwart the aspirations of future generations".

He argued, "It is widely accepted that full student loans are not enough to cover students' basic maintenance costs, but the University's implicit support for the White Paper in these proposals helps the government in shirking its responsibilities in providing this to all students."

Varsity's exposure of the scheme last week seems to have caused a rushed response from the Vice-Chancellor. She wrote a letter to *The Times* on Monday that, while not admitting the details of the scheme, justified its need by saying "[Our] commitment to access to higher education... is at risk unless universities become sufficiently well funded to be able to offer bursaries."

But her support for the Government's pro-

posals in this letter may have sparked a major rift within the University. She wrote that "the Government's proposals for a new approach to student fees... are right in principle" and that bursaries should be funded "from the increase in fee income".

Ben Brinded told *Varsity*, "The letter is not representative of the students or of the colleges and will affect access." Similarly, Professor Gillian Evans said, "We [fellows] have not been asked for our view. The Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge does not have authority to make policy for the university."

Yesterday, Professor Richard distanced the University from her comments, saying that she was "speaking on [her] own behalf". She told reporters that University Council had given only "informal consideration" as to whether to support higher fees.

Since Monday's letter, Homerton has set itself at odds with the Vice-Chancellor and announced its opposition to top-up fees, a position already shared by Downing and Churchill. The College governing body approved a motion put forward by students to register its objection.

The Government's proposals, which headed the list of new bills in the Queen's speech on Wednesday, are likely to be met by a backbench revolt by Labour MPs. An early day motion tabled on Wednesday has already received 128 Labour signatories. It asks for the Government to "publish full details of alternative [models of funding] to facilitate proper, informed debate."

CUSU will next week attempt to step into the breach when they release their 'Alternative White Paper' to the national press. The paper will call for an increase in top-bracket income tax to fund higher education. In its support, Brinded argued "Universities and students deserve better than what the Government is offering them. Bursaries are important to cover students' living costs but it's the fees and the debt that will deter most of the people we are targeting."

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Tim Moreton

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Monkey labs approved

Aisleigh Sawyer

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott granted the University permission to go ahead with a multi-million pound primate research centre at 307 Huntingdon Road last week. However, financial problems may still cause the University to abandon the plans it fought five years to get approved.

Overruling previous decisions by South Cambridgeshire District Council and the government planning inspectorate, John Prescott stated in his report last Friday that "the proposed development is regarded by the Government as being of national importance and that it is fully in line with government policy". The centre would be one of the largest animal testing laboratories in Europe. South Cambridgeshire Council had initially rejected the planning application for the PRC as protestors could cause chaos and disturbance to locals.

However, Pro Vice-Chancellor Tony Minson admitted that the centre looks set to be so expensive that it may be axed. A University spokesperson added that delays had made things worse, saying, "Each month that passes means a significant amount of money added to the capital costs of the project in inflation."

The centre is likely to cost £30 million to build and involve running costs of £1.5 million. Shortfalls in the project have been reported as between £7 million and £9.6 million.



307 Huntingdon Road- site for the proposed primate research centre

Nonetheless, the University remains officially committed to the project and is still in discussion with funding partners and agencies. Minson argued, "We want to do the science and... if we can manage the finances we will do it."

Reaction to the Deputy Prime Minister's decision was divided. Animal rights protestors were outraged by the "grotesque and astounding" development and South Cambridgeshire MP Andrew Lansley said, "It is unwise on John Prescott's part. We have argued all the way that

this is not the right site." The more extreme group, SPEAC, even warned that they are prepared to bring the University to its knees, saying, "Every brick laid will be contested". Cambridge admits that already "researchers, scientists, vets and admin staff have all been the target of threats."

However, a recent MORI Poll showed that more than 80% of the population recognizes the need for the use of animals in biomedical research. Meanwhile, the University maintains that testing is carried out in accordance with "the most rigorous piece of leg-

islation of its type in the world". Minson argued, "everyone who joins the protest will be marching against some of the most fundamental medical breakthroughs that have kept them... safe over the years."

Andrew Tyler, Director of Animal Aid, believes that "pulling the plug on the project due to lack of finances would give Cambridge a face-saving way out of the controversy". Cambridge responded, "The University is not bowing to pressure." Yet, despite their professed resilience the question of costs still remains.

Live don and prosper

Jonathan Wood

Living amongst ivory towers really can do wonders for your health. A new study based on an undergraduate dissertation has shown that Cambridge dons have life expectancies that are on average lives for four years higher than the general population.

A life of formal halls, expensive college wine, beautiful surroundings and riding a bicycle really could be the secret to longevity. Unfortunately the health benefits of a Cambridge education are not passed on to undergraduates who live only fractionally longer than the average.

The study was carried out by Cambridge vets Victoria Copas and Rachel Gylee, who were assisted by Dr Michael Brooke and Dr Oliver Kruger at the Department of Zoology. Their findings are due to be published soon in *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*.

The team took a sample of 311 fellows born between 1900 and 1920 who died aged 60 years or older. They had two control groups for comparison had a similar demographic composition. The first consisted of 558 under-

graduates at Caius who also died aged 60 or over. The second group was the wider UK population.

Copas described her methodology to *Varsity* more succinctly, explaining that they relied heavily on obituaries in the *University Reporter* and then "put it all into a big statistical model".

At the age of 60 the median expectation of further life of Fellows was 19 years. In contrast, former undergraduates had just 16 years left on the clock.

The national average for males was 15.3 years.

Dr Brooke said, "it seems unlikely that the enhanced longevity of Fellows is due to childhood background, because the undergraduates live no longer than the national population". One suggestion is that it "could be due to the [assumed] greater intelligence of Fellows, if there were a link between intelligence and longevity". The sedate college

lifestyle might well explain why dons live longer, "such features might include a secure job, accommodation and pension, a supportive community and the esteem of one's peers. They are features shared with a monastic lifestyle, and earlier work has demonstrated enhanced life spans among monks."

Copas added, "It is about the quality of life, job security, reliable accommodation and pensions. It's those kinds of things that can make a difference to life expectancy." She said that the response to the study had been "phenomenal, I've just been so pleased that we could scientifically prove that there was something there [that affects life expectancy], in those post-graduation years. I just hope someone takes the study further, maybe the next generation of zoologists."

Other factors were found to make no difference. Money it seems cannot buy good health-the wealth of colleges had no effect. Artists were no healthier than scientists. Likewise moving up the academic hierarchy had no effect. Masters live no longer than most fellows.



"Of course, it's precisely the high stress nature of the work that keeps me going"

Out with the frying pans

Laura-Jane Foley

Peterhouse has been enforcing health and safety regulations with unprecedented strictness, declaring it unsafe to keep cooking appliances in kitchens.

On the orders of the domestic bursar, college staff have searched students rooms for cooking items such as frying pans, kettles, sandwich makers and microwaves. They often entered rooms "unannounced and uninvited" and refuse to return confiscated items.

The college's motivation behind the room checks was student safety. For example, all kettles were removed from rooms on the grounds that

"scalding water could end up on surfaces and carpets and bedders could trip over the leads". This is despite the fact that the College provides every conference guest with a kettle.

The Peterhouse Sexcentenary Club (which acts as the college JCR but calls itself the Sex Club) passed a motion at their open meeting last Tuesday stating that they believed that the college's stance on the use of such appliances is based on "an overly paranoid reading of Health and Safety guidelines".

Drew Livingstone, President of the Sex Club, doubted the college's commitment to student safety pointing out that, "earlier this week maintenance moved a kettle from a landing where

it was plugged in, to the kitchen; the kitchen having no plug socket and the kettle lead being left in a pile of water. And they think we're unsafe."

The level of student dissatisfaction was evident from the number of people who turned up to the Sex Club open meeting earlier this week. One student told *Varsity*, "Porters, maintenance and housekeeping can access undergraduate rooms unannounced at any time they want (often without even knocking) by signing a key out from the porters". Livingstone added, "People are really upset about this. They feel they're being treated like children." At the open meeting, the Sex Club overwhelmingly resolved to demand that all the confiscated items should be returned immediately and a review of cooking regulations should be undertaken.

However, the College decided that the confiscated items will not be returned to students until they go down for the Christmas vacation.

Despite the motion, the 'spot-checks' are still officially taking place. The Bursar, who permitted them, is on holiday in Scotland. However, the housekeeper has called an informal truce due to the number of first years who descended on her in tears at the 'theft' of their belongings.



Alex Mair



Jess Blackstone

First Lady of the Union

Last week Kate Steadman was elected as the President of the Cambridge Union. She is the first female to win a Union election battle since Easter 2000. Her election caused controversy last week when her rival Alan Mak was declared ineligible to stand after accusations that he had forged an invoice.

Steadman hopes to put such events behind her, "I want a term that puts the Union in touch with members and in touch with the times."

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FIND OUT

16 January 2004
Are you in it?

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Was it a Balls Up?

Cambridge students got the chance to don their ball gowns and dinner jackets slightly earlier than usual at the Fresh as Snow Ball on Monday night. The 1,300 capacity Corn Exchange was at full capacity as revellers danced to the usual Cambridge musical fayre of R'n'B and cheese. Extra entertainment was, however, few and far between and took the form of a bucking bronco, a casino and a giant scalectrix track.

Breast cancer gene

A new gene for breast and ovarian cancer has been uncovered by a consortium of Cancer UK scientists. It was the missing link that doctors had been searching for and finally reveals the link between hereditary breast cancers and sporadic, non-inherited forms. The gene has been named EMSY and the project was undertaken at the Wellcome Trust/ Cancer Research UK Institute, University of Cambridge.

Online degrees

Cambridge could soon be offering degrees online in a partnership with UK eUniversities Worldwide, the UK government-backed company set up to provide online degrees from UK universities. On offer from May 2004 is an English language course which gives students higher intermediate language skills and also professionally and culturally relevant knowledge.

Downshifting up

A Cambridge University study has shown that over 20% of Britons aged 30-59 have voluntarily made long-term lifestyle change that resulted in earning less money. The study conducted by visiting scholar Clive Hamilton showed the average income drop was 40% and that women were more likely to downshift than men.

'Stop violence week'

This week is 'stop domestic violence' week and Wednesday saw a huge balloon release in Cambridge. In total 1610 balloons were released: 1410 red balloons to represent every reported incident of domestic violence reported in the last three years in Cambridge, and 200 for unknown incidents.

"We want the best, regardless of background"

Alison Richard speaks to Tom Ebbutt about the future of Cambridge

Weeks, even for those who run universities such as Cambridge, do not come much bigger than the one just gone. Front page of *The Times* on Monday, watching the Government outline its vision for the future of Higher Education on Wednesday, down to Westminster on Thursday for the announcement of a groundbreaking new bursary scheme.

However, despite placing herself at the forefront of the top-up fees debate, Alison Richard seems to be taking it all in her stride. Speaking to *Varsity* immediately after the bursaries announcement, as she travelled back up to the Fens for more meetings, decisions and dinners, she was still filled with the infectious enthusiasm that struck everyone who spoke to her when she first arrived from the States in September.

"I am passionately committed to access," she expounded as the train veered through the Hertfordshire countryside "and these new bursaries will allow us maintain and widen the range of people that come to Cambridge. We want the best, regardless of background."

No one would disagree with that. And in all honesty the new bursary system – offering £4,000 a year to the poorest students – will be the best in the country and is likely to spark a number of similar announcements from Britain's elite universities.

However, as I point out and she agrees this is not the end of the story; "This isn't only about cost there are also a number of perception aspects to the access issue and we in Cambridge have to work at that particularly hard".

These bursaries are designed to counter at least the financial aspect of this, because, as she accepts, the introduction of top-up fees – despite the fact that they are deferred – will have an adverse impact upon the way those the University hope to attract perceive

through parliament we would still look to move forward on this through fundraising but that would be in the longer term".

But she hopes they will pass, as is evident from the letter to *The Times*

on Monday penned by her along with the heads of four other leading universities in which she said that top-up fees are right "in principle". This letter, and accompanying front page article, has caused much controversy within academic circles as



Cambridge.

At present the payouts will start in 2006; "We will move to implement them as soon as fees are introduced. They are based around the proposals in the White Paper, however if the legalisation does not pass

the letter appeared to be stating the line of the University policy whereas in fact the last statement passed by University Council on top up fees expressed concerns regarding their im-

pact upon access.

However, Richard insists she was writing in a personal capacity. "I wrote because I believed... I couldn't be a part of the debate until the bursary system was in place and now it is, I felt that at that point in time it was right to say something."

So if she sees top-up fees being introduced does she see them being flat rate across the University or varied depending by course?

"I do have a personal view, but I would sit and listen to the views within the University before any decision was made".

And higher fees in the future, will you be drawn on that?

"They are an option on the table."

So for the moment that is what this week has given us; a fantastic new bursary system, a V-C in favour of fees and very few details besides. And for Richard what is on the table is enough to take out to the country and make sure that those who deserve a place at Cambridge apply for one.

"One of the remarkable features of this system is that, because there are no upfront fees, with this new bursary system poorer student will actually be better off than before."

And on paper no one can argue with that statement. The figures speak for themselves. The harsh realities of persuading those students that that is really the case is another matter altogether.

Mystery college sells wine stocks

Rachel Mundy

Over 180 crates of Claret were removed from the cellars of an unknown Cambridge college this week, to be sold at auction for a fraction of its actual price.

The wine went under the hammer at Cheffins showroom on Clifton Rd. However, this sale was shrouded in secrecy. Cheffins was barred from revealing of the College's identity.

However, sources in the crowd at the event however suggested that the contributor was King's College. The College butler was guarded when questioned over details of the wine store at his college, but the sale would tie in with rumours of mounting financial deficits at King's.

This decision to auction its wine may reveal a new approach being taken by the College. Each crate of wine was being sold for around £180, with bidding starting at £100. The auctioneer calling lots at the event commented to the crowded show room what "bargains" his customers were getting, suggesting there had been hopes for greater profit. Indeed, Commodore Harris, domestic Bursar at St John's College, commented that this amount was "nothing" and that

he would "be very surprised" if an auction such as this would go any way to surmounting the kind of deficit King's is facing. The whole auction will have only raised around £40,000.

The valuing of the wines suggests that they were being kept to drink, probably by the Fellows. Most crates were dated between 1995-8. It is very unusual for Colleges to keep wine as an asset for the purpose of auctioning. According to David Heyman, President of Cambridge University

Wine Society, the best wines are served at benefactor's dinners and occasions.

Charles Ashton, a partner in Cheffins, said: "We hold scheduled wine sales once or twice a year, colleges regularly take the opportunity to clear some of their stock". Of course, not every College can consider its cellars worth clearing for this kind of drastic gain. New Hall cellars house only 500 bottles in total, and Churchill and Robinson not much more. Unsurprisingly, Trinity has the richest

cellars, with their port range easily dating back over a hundred years.

Rumours abound that Trinity and King's wine cellars extend under large parts of central Cambridge. However, both colleges deny this; in fact, King's cellars are confined to the area beneath the Wilkins Building. They were not even built until the early 19th Century. However, some College cellars have a history. Corpus Christi cellars allegedly housed the command centre for East Anglia in World War II.



Alex Muir

Pity QEll: it's not her fault her speech was a fudge



Archie Bland

One thing no one can deny about the Queen: she's a canny old bird. And she's been around the block a few times, as it were (no offence meant, Ma'am, but you know what I mean): next year will be her fiftieth state opening of parliament. It would be fair to say, then, that over the years she's probably - through no fault of her own - come out with a considerable amount of terrible crap. Very little of it, though, can have approached the absurdity of this government's fudged announcement of its plans on fees. If she has any sense, she will be mighty embarrassed.

One could have been forgiven for thinking that Labour planned to take not a penny from students. So circumlocutory were the terms in which the controversial top-up scheme was laid out that it honestly sounded as if Blair and co. had made an extraordinary U-turn. Approximately, the plans were explained - or obfuscated - thus (see if you can spot the reference

Alison Richard's commitment to a bursary system is encouraging

to differential fees, because if you blink you'll miss it): A bill would be introduced to enable more young people to benefit from higher education. Upfront fees of any kind would be abolished. An office ensuring fair access would be instituted. Universities would be placed on a sound financial footing. And -

No, sorry, that's it. Hardly a beacon of clarity, is it? The only brief - and almost unnoticeable - reference to top-up comes in that promise to shore up university finances. This is classic dishonesty by evasion. It's the surest sign yet that the government is worried.

Cambridge's Vice-Chancellor Alison Richard was one of a number of high-profile signatories to a letter warning the government that it must stick to its guns. And her and her colleagues' names wield a good deal of influence, commanding as they do the official voice of the five most significant academic institutions in the UK. So when they speak they should be listened to. And their case is a convincing one: they point out that university funding per student has halved since 1978, and that if the ever-increasing numbers of students are to be provided for, the money must come from somewhere.

They also say that in order to ensure access for all if fees are instituted, they need the freedom to set fees at the levels they choose. If not, they will be unable to give bursaries and scholarships sufficiently generous to help the less fortunate.

It's in this latter section that they miss the point. They are certainly right that funding must somehow increase, and that access for - in their words - any students capable of benefiting from a university education must not suffer as a result; they are certainly wrong in their assertion

that the only way of ensuring this is in freedom for individual institutions to set fees at a level they choose.

If at present the problem of encouraging applications to places like Cambridge is one of perception, such a course will make it a reality, and therefore far harder to tackle. Bursaries or no bursaries, if differential fees are instituted, and, as would be inevitable, the more prestigious academic institutions charge more, no one will be able to deny that a Cambridge education will cost more than the APU equivalent. The principle that education is important in and of itself, and not just as a means to a careerist end, will die a final, permanent death.

It seems now inevitable that funding will be found from some form of fee if this government wins the next election, as it is extremely likely it will, and the mainstream of the debate ought to recognise this fact and adapt their arguments accordingly. There are two principle groups that reject this. The first are those sentimental nostalgists longing for the good old days of free higher education. They point out that they didn't have to pay when they were at university; but they forget that there were a hell of a lot fewer students then, and even if you think the government's 50% target is insanely arbitrary, you can't just remove all those new students at a stroke. The second set comprises the class warriors who possess what seems like a wilful incomprehension of the inevitable economic consequences of paying for this through tax - not to say a blindness to the moral question of whether it isn't actually fair enough to pay for some of the price of your education if its beneficiary is principally, er, you.

She's probably come out with a considerable amount of terrible crap

I don't want to believe most students unions fall into either of these categories - but if the likes of CUSU want to avoid being labelled typical simplistic students, it is time they proved they are not merely a special interest group with no understanding of the wider issues. If they wish to be taken seriously, it is now time for those who believe that differential fees would be a dangerous mistake to shift the terms of debate, and push for the same fee, at whatever level, to be set across the entire higher education sector. If this measure is combined with a generous bursary system - and Alison Richard's commitment to this is encouraging - there is a real hope that the dream of a universally accessible system of higher education with the resources to compete with the best in the world can be realised. If the debate fails to move beyond its current simplistic battleground, the likely outcome is either disastrous underfunding or disastrous social stratification. Anyone who cares about education, or this country, must do everything in their power to avoid such a result.

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The Big Fat Gardies Debate

Brian Little

The campaign to save Gardies was taken to the hallowed chamber of the Cambridge Union this week with Thursday's main debate being given over to the arguments over the closure of the much loved Cambridge institution.

The event was attended by many of the main players in the controversy. For the proposition Vas Anastasiou came to speak on why he believes his shop should stay. *Varsity* Editor Tom Ebbutt talked about the case for keeping Gardies and many spoke up in favour from the floor. For the opposition TCS columnist Johnny Mather, Tim Stanley and Marc Lixenburg stood up for the rights of the College. The Caius Bursar, Barry Hedley, was conspicuous by his absence.

The event was also attended by CUSU President Ben Brinded who spoke for the motion after a U-turn over the CUSU Gardies motion. In

a change to its previous decision, College JCRs have now resolved to back the *Varsity* campaign to save Gardies, after four votes at CUSU Council were changed the motion eventually passed. Brinded joined *Varsity* and Vas in support of saving Gardies.

Varsity Editor Tom Ebbutt began the debate with an explanation of why Gardies should stay and read from the letter of a Magdalene alumnus from the 1950s who had written in expressing his fond memories of Gardies.

TCS columnist Mather was scathing in his response: "I cannot believe we are debating this motion. This campaign portrays us as drunken louts; how does this make us look to those who are applying to Cambridge?". Vas slapped him down "The puke you are talking about is that of your own people".

The Gardies owner expounded his argument further; "You, the students of Cambridge, are the future leader of the world and it is important that you are happy". He

was supported by one speaker from the floor who commented, "Without Gardies the centre of Cambridge will die. All it will be is antique shops and jewellers".

CUSU President Ben Brinded challenged Caius to reconsider their decision. "Why can't you just add the two rooms which you will gain from closing Gardies to the £8million development you are planning to build [on West Road]?" he asked.

Those in the chamber agreed with his sentiments, shied away from the jokes of Tim Stanley, which left a slightly bad taste in the mouth, and voted for the motion by a ratio of more than 5 to 2.

President of the Cambridge Union Will Gallagher said that it is debates like this that place the Union at the heart of Cambridge life. "With the main players in the debate in the chamber tonight the students of Cambridge heard the arguments for themselves. Then they showed Caius exactly how they feel."



Parula Kopecká

The faculty of happiness

Rachel Mundy

The 'science' behind happiness provided the springboard for discussions at a conference organised by Cambridge academics and held at the prestigious Royal Society. However, critics labelled the 'Science of Well-being' as "new-age nonsense".

The movement, founded in 1998 by Martin Seligman from University of Pennsylvania, seems to be increasingly popular amongst professional psychologists and psychiatrists. The Royal Society conference marked the first time the field has been discussed in a major conference in Britain.

The Cambridge team behind the conference included Nick Baylis, Dr Keberne and Dr Huppert, from the departments of SPS, Animal Behaviour and Psychiatry at Addenbrookes hos-

pital respectively. Baylis himself is the only 'positive psychology' lecturer in England and believes that the unique SPS department here at Cambridge has been very forward-looking in taking on a lecturer for such a controversial area of study.

Unsurprisingly, the \$30 million funding for a series of studies carried out in America, that provided material for the conference has come exclusively from American sources. A third of this was invested by the American government. Quite predictably, such resources are not available in the UK and Europe.

Baylis, who claims to have "never met a normal person," argues that "happiness is a skill and can be learnt or taught". Apparently, it is relatively simple to teach optimism even to hardened sceptics. He cites a previous study termed the 'Pen Optimism

Program'. This found that over a 5-year period, teenagers presented with just twelve 2-hour sessions on how to be more optimistic halved their rate of depression. He believes it is not helpful to label emotions as 'positive' or 'negative', preferring the terms 'constructive' or 'destructive'. He is at pains to emphasise the movement is not simply about happiness, rather all round well-being.

The essence of the findings is the need to identify 'signature strengths' defined as "any strength from which we gain physical or psychological satisfaction". Baylis offers the example of playing football on a Sunday, which appears to allow quite a broad spectrum for the application of the 'signature strengths' principle in everyday life. Indeed, it may even stretch to providing a scientific justification of a frequent pint down the pub.



Alex Mair

Master fates

Amol Rajan

Masters come and Masters go, but the turnover within Cambridge colleges seems to have been unusually high in recent months. Downing, St Johns, Pembroke, Trinity, King's, and Trinity Hall have all either got new Master's in office or lined one up for the near future. Similarly, last year Sir Richard Wilson, former head of the Civil Service, was appointed as the new Master of Emmanuel College.

The reasons for departure are many and varied. Amartya Sen, leaving Trinity in the new year, has secured a lucrative deal at Harvard, and is to be replaced by the Astronomer Royal, Professor Martin Rees.

Meanwhile, the retirements of many of the Masters have coincided. Dr Stephen Fleet, Professor Peter Goddard, Sir Roger Tomkys and Professor Patrick Bateman recently retired from Downing, St John's, Pembroke, and King's respectively.

Their replacements are, in turn Professor Barry Everitt, Professor Richard Perham, Sir Richard Dearlove (former head of MI6), and Dame Judith Mayhew. Meanwhile Professor Peter Clarke is set to leave Trinity Hall in September 2004. His successor has yet to be announced.

Whether or not the influx of new Masters is symptomatic of a wider brain drain in Cambridge is debatable. Sen, Nobel Prize Winner for Economics in 1998, is among the most famous academics in the world. However, the widespread praise for his replacement Sir Martin Rees and his endorsement by the Queen, testi-

fies to the continuing stature of the Trinity mastership.

The new Downing master Everitt has proved hugely popular among students and staff alike and as a leading member of the Medical Research Council, his intellectual calibre is well established. Like Rees and new John's Master Perham he was previously based at the College in which he was appointed.

Meanwhile, Dearlove's high-profile appointment has been met with great interest largely because of his former post within the secret services.

Few of the new appointments have met with great scepticism, and few of the leaving Masters have been accused of jumping ship. However, Dame Judith was a controversial appointment given her high-flying executive past in contrast to the general left-wing slant of King's students.

Undoubtedly, new Masters bring with them fresh ideas, experiences, and approaches and these are generally consistent with the gradual process of modernisation and development.

But there is mounting concern that swiftness of departure undermines the efficacy with which Masters are carrying out their jobs, leading to the abrupt conclusion of strategies for improvement that were formulated at the start of a reign.

Some have suggested that a solution could be to have a minimum period in office, such as 5 years. It would slow down the current influx of new Masters, but may do so without inhibiting the arrival of exciting new ideas. Either way, the Masters are turning, and the debate is stirring.

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The AIDS virus is out of control

Jonathan Stephenson on the need for urgent action

"Aids is the defining issue of our generation, and we will be defined by our response to it". So said Sean Barry, policy co-ordinator of the Student Global Aids campaign, a US-based network of student and youth organisations, at a 'Unite to Fight Aids' talk in Selwyn last month.

Which is to say, we've got to do something about this. Us, people our age, now. But, with World Aids Day coming up on Monday 1st December, what can we do about it? Well, here are some ideas.

Wear an AIDS ribbon. If it's the only thing you do for World Aids Day, wear the Red Ribbon on 1st December. It's the international symbol of HIV and Aids awareness. By wearing it, you're showing your support for over 42 million people across the world who are living with a disease for which there's still no cure.

And if people ask questions, that's a good thing. Tell them why you're supporting people living with HIV on World Aids Day. Tell

them that 2002 saw the highest number of new HIV diagnoses in the UK ever recorded. And tell them that in another ten years, an estimated 40 million children worldwide will lose their parents to AIDS.

Recognise the scale of the problem. Contracting HIV, as with other sexually transmitted infections, is a real risk for students in Cambridge. But Aids is a worldwide human rights catastrophe, as well as a sexual health issue. Here in the UK, treatment with drugs that dramatically relieve suffering and can extend an infected person's life by up to twenty years is considered a human right. Yet in the developing world, where 95% of those affected by the disease live, the high cost of the medicines, and the lack of funds to buy them or create strong health systems to deliver them, makes similar treatment impossible.

We know how to fight the worldwide Aids pandemic, but until now the way forward has

been hidden in a shocking tangle of excuses and lies. This situation has been called "mass murder by complacency" by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV/Aids in Africa, Stephen Lewis. He is hugely critical of the "profound moral void in the refusal of our leadership to respond to the HIV/Aids apocalypse, given our overwhelming wealth."

Tell the government to get its ACT together. A new Student Stop Aids Campaign is being launched at schools and universities around the country on World Aids Day, including in Cambridge. Students will be asked to sign giant letters to Hilary Benn, the new Secretary of State for International Development, calling on the government to take Action for Care and Treatment (ACT) now. The letters will ask Benn personally to commit to a Global Aids Plan appropriate to the scale of the crisis, including the necessary funding.

It is calculated that to pay our fair share to the Global Fund to

fight Aids, the UK must increase its contribution by at least an extra £284m in 2004-5. Dr Peter Piot, executive director of UNAIDS says, "There's not a lack of ideas, of strategies of what to do, but there's a lack of cash." You can sign the letter, and find out more about the campaign, from 2pm on Monday 1st December on King's Parade.

As Sentamu Sparks, a 24-year-old Ugandan IT student who works for The Aids Support Organisation (TASO) in Uganda, said at the 'Unite to Fight Aids' event, "Young people are the group most affected by HIV and Aids. Almost 60% of infections last year were amongst 16-24 year olds. But we are also the group with the best chance of turning this epidemic around. By raising awareness, lobbying governments and educating each other, I truly believe young people have the power to tackle HIV and Aids."

For more information about the campaign, contact: stopaids@peopleandplanet.org.

AIDS: THE TRUTH

- 42 million people around the world are now infected with AIDS
- 22 million of those are under 25
- 30 million live in sub-Saharan Africa
- Of the 30m, only 50,000 are receiving treatment
- 8,000 people die every day from HIV
- 14,000 people are infected with HIV every day
- In Botswana, HIV/AIDS has brought life expectancy down from 70 to 41yrs
- The UK has pledged £280m by 2008 for the UN

Watch out: MoJoW's about

Jewish and Muslim women get on just fine thanks, says Nabila Siddiq

There's a new crew coming your way, and they mean business. The MoJoW is in town. Peace and love are all the rage this season, but not courtesy of an Austin Powers sequel or tree hugging hippies. This season's peaceniks are none other than Jews and Muslims.

You may exclaim "Oh Behave!" at the thought of anything less than acrimonious disputes arising from Jewish and Muslim encounters, but the new Cambridge Muslim-Jewish Women's Dialogue Group (MoJoW) proves otherwise.

MoJoW is a unique group aiming to develop understanding between Muslim and Jewish women through dialogue. It is the first initiative of its kind in Cambridge and was set up by Miriam Feldmann of Caius, after a visit to Israel and the Palestinian Territories over the summer. What's so special about MoJoW is that it comes at a time when the Israel Palestine debate has reached yet another stalemate and the 'road map' to peace, much flouted by the US and UK before the Iraq war, has floundered in its half-hearted attempts to move towards viable resolution of the conflict.

But MoJoW has made religion - and not politics - its focus in an attempt to approach the problem at grass roots rather than political lev-

el because, according to Feldmann, religion provides for a common starting point of discussion.

Religion? A common starting point? That does sound odd. Surely relationships between religious groups are characterized by an emphasis on difference and a distinct sense of 'the other.' Malcolm X once remarked that if you believe in the oneness of God, you truly believe in the oneness of man. But relationships between followers of Islam and Judaism, who do indeed believe in one God, are commonly characterized by mutual mistrust and animosity.

Yet looking into Islam and Judaism, one finds that they are not so different as they initially appear. When the British government threatened a ban on religious slaughtering this summer, Muslims and Jews rallied together to defend halal and kosher (respectively) methods of slaughter. In fact it is ironic that the only other faith whose meat Muslims can eat, is that of Jews. Other similarities include the covering of hair by Muslim women and orthodox Jewish women and the regularity of daily prayers in both faiths. Perhaps the most surprising fact is the relatively peaceful co-existence between the two faiths before the 20th century, something noted by the Royal



Malika Worrall

Commission Report on Palestine of July 1937, which states that "the era of persecution which was to transform conditions of Jewish life in the Diaspora, began not in the Muslim world but the Christian."

Building upon such a history, MoJoW is an opportunity for Muslim and Jewish women in Cambridge to meet together to cel-

brate similarities as well as discussing challenges. Sophia Mahroo from New Hall, who co-organised the first meeting, emphasized the group's role in building friendships and how such a venture was encouraged in Islam, a theologically tolerant faith.

MoJoW's initial meeting was deemed a success by all present,

and the group hopes to continue meeting at least three times a year. At a time where the Israeli-Palestinian conflict shows no sign of resolution, it is important to applaud and encourage the resolve of the Jewish and Muslim women in Cambridge who are determined to talk - and continue talking - in their efforts to seek peace.

VARSITY

Access is the key

Only someone who has been on a different planet for the past year will be surprised at the contents of the government's Higher Education bill announced on Wednesday. Most will have been shocked by the message seen on the front page of *The Times* if they saw it on Monday. "Colleges demand no retreat on fees" shouted the headline and inside the Vice Chancellor of this university along with those of four others strongly backed the Government's top-up proposals.

For the University that last year voiced concerns about the access implications of top-up fees this is a big step. Yes, as has since been hastily pointed out, it is actually the personal view of the V-C but the fact that Cambridge's number one has come out with such a strong statement in such a high profile way will undoubtedly influence the debate. Whether the University's academics appreciate her action remains to be seen. The University's Parliament, Regent House, will have the final say over the implementation of fees and she will need to carry it with her if she wants to use the Government's proposals to increase funding to Cambridge.

The Bursary scheme announced on Thursday, which was revealed by *Varsity* in last week's issue, is a great step forward for giving financial help to the students who need it most. It will certainly be a very strong tool for access officers as they go out into schools to persuade sixth formers that Cambridge is the place for them. However perceptions of Oxbridge, even of higher education in general, as a place which is for someone else remain strong.

The Vice Chancellor should get out into schools in rural areas and inner cities and see for herself the size of the challenge if she really wants "the best, regardless of background". If she does then she will see the massive change in perception that is needed, something that is possible but not something that will not, even vaguely, be easy to achieve.

What are they doing?

You can almost imagine the meeting that took place to decide it. Long lazy Wednesday afternoon. Couple of bottles of port on the table. Deer park spreading out outside the window. Item four on the agenda: 'Student Safety'. "Hmmm, one is very concerned about student safety". "Hmmm, one wonders what one can do about it". "Hrrph, I know lets get rid of all kettles from student rooms, that will certainly make the College a safer place".

What are they doing? Just where did the rationale for this come from? No seriously Peterhouse – whatever possessed you to dream up the idea of confiscating student belongings in case bedders "trip over the leads" or scalding water was left on "surfaces and carpets". Your undergraduates are not members of a boarding school, they are adults; legally allowed to vote, fight in the army and be sent to prison. Why can they not be trusted to look after a kettle? We, like them, are in all honesty just lost for words; it really beggars belief that in the twenty first century a College can still treat its students like a bunch of children. Oh, hold on a minute, that'll be it, did anyone tell Peterhouse that we'd moved out of the 1800s? Right, better break it to them gently...

Dons live longer

Finally a reason to be academic. Low pay, little recognition and poor promotion prospects dog the profession. As Alison Richard put it at the start of term "No one enters academia to get rich but neither do they do it to take a vow of poverty". However, in the light a research revealed this week there is at least one reason why you might wish to do it apart from if you have a fetish for the UL: You are likely to live longer than those of us who are mere mortals stuck in the daily rat race.

Though you may be working from a leaking lecture hall, facing students on rent strike or a set of college accounts littered with red ink, according to the research done by the University's Department of Zoology you will, on average, live four years longer than the rest of us.

Whether with the stresses on College wine budgets and university pensions becoming ever more apparent this continues into the next generation remains to be seen. But for now, expect to see octogenarian professors wobbling round Cambridge on bicycles for at least a few years longer.



The week in words

"The Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge does not have authority to make policy for the university."

Professor Gillian Evans on Alison Richard's pro top-up fee stance.

"The most important thing in life is to be politically incorrect"

Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks talking this week at King's College

"Cindies in black tie"

The opinion of several revellers at the "Fresh as snow" Ball on Monday night.

"I feel sorry for the freshers who now think this is what a Cambridge ball is about"

Student Anthony Huszar who felt let down by 'Fresh as Snow'

"More women die from violence caused by men than die from cancer, road accidents and wars"

Gaynor Mears launching a campaign against violence by releasing 1610 balloons; for each domestic violence incident reported in the last three years in the Cambridge area.

"The Sex club believes that after the bar closes at 11.30pm the only recreational area is the Upper Sex"

The Peterhouse Sex Club (i.e. a JCR)

"He's been in office longer than Attlee and what has he got to show for it... in the words of (magician) Paul Daniels, 'not a lot'"

Michael Howard on Tony Blair's leadership after the Queen's Speech outlined Labour's plan for the coming year.

"A Bill will be introduced to enable more young people to benefit from higher education"

The Queen introducing Top-Up Fees in her speech to Parliament.

"Erm...."

Prince Philip on being presented a copy of TCS yesterday

"The leaders of tomorrow need to be happy"

Vas Anastasiou on why Gardies should stay open

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Tom
Lane

From Democracy to Mediocracy: The worthlessness of opinion

Last week *The Guardian* ran a series of letters by 'commentators' and readers, all addressed to George Bush, and timed to coincide with his State Visit. One read 'Dear George, I would just like to say how much I hate you... You are the reason for the poverty in the Middle East. You have no idea what you are doing... All you do is bomb other countries and give Israel lots of money'. Initially I assumed this was a misplaced editorial, before noticing it was penned by a certain 'Mickey, aged 12'.

At that age, I would have risen to a similar pitch of outrage only if someone had committed the atrocity of suggesting that *Super Mario Brothers* was better than *Sonic the Hedgehog*. Frankly, I suspect most kids are still the same, and that little Mickey's lack of a printed surname means he's the ventrilo-

quist dummy child of some staff writer. I'm not going to pick on the teeny tot, though. After all, he's only twelve and also happens to write a hell of a lot better than at least one similarly minded TCS columnist.

That this (literally) puerile dross even gets printed, however, points to a sea-change in the media: the massive increase in the importance laid upon public opinion, and the expansion in methods for expressing and manipulating this.

Democracy has transformed into Mediocracy. The ambivalence of the word is intentional, intimating both the rule of the media, and the tyranny of the mediocre. One of the few things that ever makes me wish I lived in an authoritarian state is when telecasters go out onto the street 'to see what the public thinks'. Who cares what the public thinks? Most of them are the

people who would be happy with hunting if you were to replace foxes with paedophiles, who believe in hanging and flogging, who think that Diana was killed by a Royal conspiracy, and who took *Where is the Love?* to number one for weeks on end.

There comes a point where moral relativism must end, and the most obvious place to draw the line is when you confront non-religious belief in something entirely stupid and without hard evidence. If you believe, for instance, that Diana predicted her own death, that the Iraq war is a Jewish conspiracy, that George Bush is really a communist, or any other such lunacy prompted more by fear and malice than evidence, then I have an 'opinion' of my own: you are a twat and deserve the most painful of deaths.

The problem with 'opinion' is that very often it's nothing of the sort – it's

a fossilised, unthinking, knee-jerk product of ignorance or mental conditioning. The Shakespearean overtones of the word 'opinion' carry the sense of 'mass error and capriciousness', which casts an interesting light on the way most papers now refer to their letters page as the 'opinion page'. The editors might just as well come clean and call it the 'prejudice page'.

The other Jacobean shading of 'opinion' is the notion of mass-manipulation, and this is something just as crucial to us as to the characters of Coriolanus. The major example of this is the Murdoch press, especially *The Times* and *Sky News*, with their frequent invitations to 'join the debate', or 'have your say' on some carefully phrased question. Last year, during the period when David Blunkett became a short-lived contender in the stakes to succeed Blair, *Sky News*

seemed to launch a covert war against him. The 'news flashes' at the bottom of the screen stopped just short of screaming 'Blunkett molests babies!' while the questions to which viewers were invited to respond all revolved around the underlying suggestion 'you think that Blunkett's a dickhead, don't you?' One suspects that this covert assault might stem from an intimation on Murdoch's part that Blunkett is less in his sway than Brown – clearly his favoured candidate for the succession.

Personally, I would fight fire with fire, by creating a weekly television programme with the intention of telling people what to think. It would be a Late Review format, with Martin Amis, J.G Ballard, Bonnie Greer and David Aaronovitch as its regulars. But, then, of course, I am well aware of the irony that this is all just my opinion...

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

What to do about CUSU Council

Dear Editor,
The recent Gardies Motion has increased interest and criticism of CUSU Council.

Anyone can come to Council, anyone can propose a motion, and anyone can speak. It's designed to represent all interest groups, and ALL students. However the only way that CUSU Council will be representative is by JCR and MCR Presidents and External Officers, taking a proactive role. They should seek the

opinion and mandate of their college and express the views of their student body rather than their own. The best solution to the supposed 'identity crisis' of CUSU Council is for people to get keen, come along to Council and say what they think.

Shea Luke and Ed Shattock
CUSU College Liaison Officer and CUSU Communications Officer

One more step

Dear Editor,
The mental image of Tim Stanley being 'pleasantly' off his face is probably enough to put me off drugs for life. Perhaps the 12 steps detox programme advocated by Narcotics anonymous could become the 13 step programme with a picture of Tim Stanley being the final and last push to becoming clean. Also, does his apparent obsession with various degrees of sexuality reflect an insecurity of his own? Just a thought.

Regards,
Ano

A former president writes...

Dear Editor,
I was outraged by your coverage of Alan Mak and his claim to be a victim of class and racial prejudice at the Union.

I am a former Cambridge Union president and an ethnic minority overseas student from Singapore. Throughout my Union political career, the colour of my skin was never an issue. Neither was my overseas accent.

Working-class presidents are not alien to the Union. Examples in recent years include Debbie Newman (Fitzwilliam) and Joe Devanny (Jesus), the latter a committed man of the Left.

Alan Mak still could have contested the elec-

Newnham sucks

Dear Editor
What's it really like in Newnham? Well to be honest, in a male dominated place such as Cambridge, it makes you feel stigmatised. The only reason the all female colleges are still here are not for our benefit, but for men; to justify their large intake in other colleges.

Women's officers talk about the importance of 'single sex education'. But the point is, it's not single sex education, our lectures and supervisions are mixed – it's single sex social life. If we're so equal to men, why should we be shut away?

A Newnhamite

tion despite the no-confidence vote. It was his premature resignation that disqualified him from the ballot. Alan could have chosen not to resign and taken his case to the electorate, which also has a vote during impeachment proceedings.

Race, class and nationality are no barriers to attaining high office at the Union. But there is no place for corruption, regardless of your background, and regardless of whether you have "presided over a successful term of ents".

Yours sincerely,

Wu-Meng Tan
Union President, Easter 2001

Bring me a Foster's of burning gold



Iain
Hollingshead

MA Cantab pending - life after Cambridge

I'm a firm believer in the principle that seven thirty should feature only once per day – especially on a Saturday – but here we are, up at stupid o'clock and mumbling negro spirituals into our breakfast Guinness. Come, sweet chariots, and carry me home to bed.

Still, it's not every weekend that you get the chance to be in the pub before the sparrows have passed their first wind, and can watch fifteen muscle bound oafs engaged in patriotic GBH. Raised jars, raised spirits. Now we're talking. Now we're singing. Bring me a Foster's of burning gold. I ask the big chap next to me which aspects of modern-day Jerusalem we could incorporate into England's green and pleasant land without putting the army on permanent alert. He tells me to shut up. I finish my second pint.

But now they're on the pitch. At Martin's command, unleash hell. Lots of lycra; lots of noise. The convict goes over in the corner. Bastard. Another pint to steady the nerves. Ben Kay, you fucking donkey, Neil Back's daughter could have scored from there. Eat pizza, you (19 stone) swine. Go Jonny go, hands out, channel, channel, arse in the air, squeeze it out, laxatives on the shopping list and over the posts it goes. Robinson,

you little beauty. Try that, *Sydney Morning Herald*, you bunch of boring, unfit old men.

Whistle, and it's heads down and drive to the bar for some half-time "oranges". Back on the pitch, and we're giving away penalties like shrimps at a barbie. One minute to go and the referee gives them a penalty for being worse than us. Must look that one up. Is he a convict too? We know where your kangaroo is.

But sod a wallaby, it's over, and we're into extra time. No golden goal, but we've got a golden left foot. Golden right foot, too. Wazaaa, we've beaten you at home and away. Arise Sir Clive, Earl of Twickenham. You are our favourite provincial solicitor. Hic. Arise Sir Jonny, Lord of the Sun newspaper. If I had a sister, I would sell her to you.

They think it's all over, but it's not yet. Waltz on home, Matilda. We're going for a proper boogie. Aussie bar – wise choice – but they're even better at losing than they are at winning. So this is how it feels. Come on Eileen, come on Ing-er-land. It's lunchtime, but we've just beaten seven other countries at a game we invented, so let's dance the day away until we're back among spit-roasting footballers, curling champions and Tim Henman.

Daytripping

Brixton



Andrew MacDowall

As an archetypal Londoner I must confess to being surprised that the dividing line between North and South for the majority of the Cambridge undergraduate population is not actually the river Thames.

Although for anyone who really lives Up North (anything outside the M25) all Londoners may be equal I would like to highlight the gaping chasm between Norf and Saaf London and argue that if you are going on a day trip, south of the river is the place to be.

Leaving aside all the obvious highlights of the South Bank such as the Eye, Tate Modern or Borough market, it is ridiculously easy to escape from the madding crowds in Norf London and head somewhere with genuine spark. The Tube (contrary to popular Norf London myth) does actually extend south of the river, so hop on and head for Brixton.

Brixton has changed a lot since the 1980s; from being the front line between police and protesters Coldharbour lane is now lined with bars, restaurants, shops and clubs, with beemers not burnt out wrecks blocking the traffic. But SW9 has to some extent escaped yuppification. Rather than being filled with the ubiquitous All Bar One, Café Rouge, Topshop establishments, Brixton has evolved into a unique place to hang out. Take St Matthew's, the local church which houses the insanely popular Bug restaurant and Bug Bar in the crypt while Mass, the nightclub, pulsates away above.

Want to dance? Brixton has some of the best music in London; the Fridge is one of the long established venues and hosts hard dance parties, with the occasional gay night thrown in for variety. My heart, however, belongs to the small, dark, sweaty venue that is Club 414, which pumps out hard house and techno all night long. If you are after something more relaxed, just opposite is The Juice Bar on Coldharbour Lane, a licensed café cum library cum poetry performance venue where the walls are lined with books by black authors and you can get a piece of the best pecan pie in London.

Despite the rising property prices Brixton has remained true to the original diverse nature of its community. Saaf London rocks!

Cat Barton

Misty Mountain Hop

How rural Peru took to Zoe Organ and imported Stilton

Clean, unbeaded, and conspicuous, we stalked intrepidly along the river to our new home. All the attributes of the public school pilgrim dangled noisily from our sacks: red London buses full of fudge, pots of marmite and my wonderful Stilton, ready to present warmly to my Indian family on arrival. The green mountains looked slightly furry, but that would not interfere with the great sublimity....

"It's just like Lord of the Rings!" squealed a fellow English teacher. I tried to let the majesty of the mists repair themselves over this atmospheric wound; "part of the character-building experience of a gap year is to learn to cooperate with the other volunteers," said an abstract authority in my head. "Like Lord of the Flies," I chuckled sadistically to myself.... Teamwork! My feet trudged a little more heavily. And yet every time I looked up I saw dragons peeping from the mist and big pink Chessington-like crocodiles springing from the red rock under the little rope bridges and through the rapids of the canyons. I would live as far away from this girl as possible: survival was paramount. Dramatic clichés swamped my head.

I arrived at my home. I can still remember her grin as she battled with ferocious maternity through the layers of washing. Brandishing a carving knife and a mouth of sharp grinning teeth- my mother, the carnivore. Blood dripped down her apron and brushed against the washing. She threw her heard back and cackled. I was delighted. My Márquez-like dream was taking shape...

Upon her fingers nodded the heads of baby guinea pigs, "Yo solamente como las cabezas" she giggled. "She only ate the heads", the most nutritious part. I decided this must be a great act she put on for each new volunteer; such naïve cynicism! Various parts of guinea pig were to be a feature of every Peruvian day, whole and live ones turned up planted in my underwear drawer, claws dropped from the roof as I left the house to be detangled from my hair by obliging pupils. Absurdity was becoming so refreshing. Any remaining arrogant culinary nationalism was soon to be dashed...

Oh majestic cheese! The Stilton presided like a fortress over the expanse of potatoes on the table. It had struggled across the Atlantic after I had stupidly declared it under bacteria at JFK airport and had to sign it through all these tests declaring my respect for the American government and George Bush in particular... they had better like it! A bronzed finger plunged in and met



Zoe Organ

The Sacred Valley of Peru - a wonderful sweeping sight

the great gullet of judgement.

It was out! Expelled with a shriek like a bat from hell, that great rumbling inferno of the poor beasts condemned to my mother's stomach. The room was alight with laughter and loudness. It was de-

smoothed as it was gradually turned into a sort of gourmet play-dough while the multifarious sorts of potatoes, termed "la papa" after "the father", were shockingly allowed to preside. Revolutions always begin with food.

"It's just like Lord of the Rings!" someone squealed. I would stay as far away from this girl as possible

tested! But more importantly it was to introduce me to one of the most touching creatures of my life: "Bring out la Bastarda!", the rest of the family following cue, it was agreed by all that it would be hilarious to smear my prestigious offering all over the face of the maid's baby, an exquisite three year old named after her mothers unfortunate spontaneity, and watch. Her tears and objections were

I have dwelt a lot upon the kitchen; it is understandably the family temple. The loyalty of the well fed. A little like when we keep a pet and incessantly feed it and wash it and watch it. Little offerings were left at the foot of my bed. I was woken in the morning with a ritual breaking of the radioactive-coloured sachet covered in boiling water: "Fruit juice!" My mother also offered to bath me in the prestigious

tub, (I let her plait my hair instead). And they watch. It is like being gripped under a microscope in the iron clasp of food and lodging. Friends would congregate in a circle in the living room and instruct me to "Baile, gringa!" "Dance, westerner!" or "Sing, gringa!" And if I did escape for romantic runs along the mountains, I would be followed by all the hundreds of stray dogs in the village, and often any awkward lurching llamas who were bored of a Sunday morning.

Whether like a hamster performing on a wheel or as the leader of a directionless herd, from every angle you are condemned to be part of the animal kingdom, to face your gut and sinews and blood. This sense of comedy and absurdity but humility is so surprising and admirable in such an oppressed society.

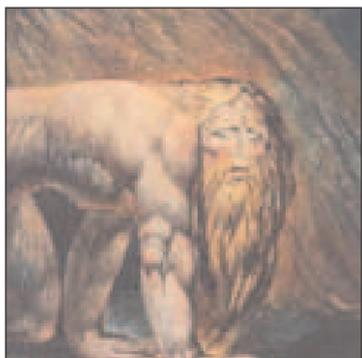
/28/11/03/LISTINGS/

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



Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World is set during the Napoleonic Wars. Russell Crowe's ship is suddenly attacked by a superior enemy. The conflict between duty and friendship rages as he pursues a high-stakes chase across two oceans, to intercept and capture his foe. It's meant to be very good. Apparently.



Dr Harvey will take a party to see **Prophetic and other Illuminated Books by William Blake** in the Fitzwilliam Museum at 2pm on Friday 28 November. Foregather at the rear entrance to the museum via the lane at the far left corner of the Museum facade. No admission after 2pm. Apologies for late notice.



This Is Not A Mingle rocks King's on Thursday. Tickets are £11 and available from 12-2 and 6-8 this Sunday at King's Bar. The Yuletide line-up includes Bailey, the 1Extra Drum'n'Bass King, and Hip Hop courtesy from Mystro, Genesis and the Answer. Get The Wow return with electro shenanigans and there's an indie room.



Selwyn Touring Theatre annually tour a French play to 6th forms round the UK. A delightful, sparkling and witty performance of **Marivaux's 'Le Jeu de l'Amour et du Hasard'**. Comic theatre in a beautiful setting. Performances in Selwyn College Chapel. December 2nd, 4th, 6th. 8.30pm.



New exhibition, **Jonesy You Schlaag!**, influenced by late nights, gin, *Eastenders*, drunken texts and all kinds of filthiness in mixed media for your pleasure. Far too extravagant for Cambridge, for a taste of this otherworldly glamour email arts@varsity.co.uk for details of the secret location and special deals...

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**

Name: Steve
Age: 30 years
Occupation: Bobcat Operator
Interests: Shooting, Poker, Strip Clubs, Heavy Metal Music, Woodwork, Television
Dislikes: Fat Women, Small Tits, Squirrels, Posh Restaurants, Small Cars
Star Sign: Taurus
Children: Four



Love Life Laughter



WARNING: THIS MAN DOES NOT SHOP AT JOY

An eclectic mix of urban fashion and gifts from London

21 Petty Cury, Cambridge, CB2 3NE. Tel 01223 322 123. Monday - Saturday: 9.00am - 6.30pm. Sunday 11am - 6pm

To submit listings go to www.varsity.co.uk/listings

AUDITIONS FOR ALAN BENNETT'S "GETTING ON"
 To be performed week 2/3 Lent term
 Friday 28th November, 3.00pm-6.30pm,
 Fisher Building, St. John's College
 Saturday 29th November, 9.00am-12pm & 4pm-7pm
 New Music Room, St. John's College
 For further details, please contact Suzy, on scp37

CAMBRIDGE FOOTLIGHTS
 Announces the deadline for submission of scripts for
2004 Harry Potter Prize
 A comic play writing competition
 The winner to be put on by Footlights as an ADC Week 8 Lateshow
 Hour-long scripts should be submitted no later than **16 Jan 2004** to Matt Harvey, Queen's College.
 Email mh386 for more details

The Heywood Society
 Announces Auditions For **Grandiloquence**
 by Jonathan Lister
 a lent term week 9 lateshow at the ADC
 Auditions 11-5pm Sat 29th November and 11 - 4pm Sun 30th Nov in ADC Dressing Room 2.
 Any questions please contact Christine (cht31) or Jon (jr138)

Calling instrumentalists to auditions for new blues jazz band!
 Instrumentalists of all experience welcome!
 Bring along something jazzy/bluesy of your own choice!
 Wednesday 11.30am- 1.30pm & 3.30pm - 6pm
 New Music Room, St. John's College
 Thursday 1pm-5pm
 New Music Room, St. John's College
 For further details, please contact Suzanne at daisycat999@yahoo.co.uk

The Amateur Dramatic Club
 auditions for Lent 2004 Shows
Christie in Love
 (male parts only, wk2 LateShow at the ADC)
The Visit
 (wk5 LateShow at the ADC)
East
 (wk6 LateShow at the ADC)
Richard III
 (wk7 MainShow at the ADC)
 details - <http://auditions.cuadc.org>

Cambridge University Musical Theatre Society presents a Week 3 ADC Theatre LateShow
songs for a new world
 by Jason Robert Brown. 4th-7th February 2004
applications are welcomed for the following positions:
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
STAGE MANAGER
LIGHTING / SOUND DESIGNERS
SET / COSTUME DESIGNERS
COSTUME TEAM
PUBLICITY TEAM
ASSISTANT MDs / REPETITEURS
cast auditions
Bring a song: no dancing experience required
Saturday 29 November
 10am-12pm ADC Theatre Bar
 6-9pm Keynes Hall, King's College
Sunday 30 November
 11am-3pm Mumby Room, King's College
 With queries about auditions or applications, or to apply for a position, contact Andy (acm62).
 Applications' deadline: 01/12/03
www.cambridgemusicaltheatre.co.uk
CU MTS adc theatre

CAMBRIDGE FOOTLIGHTS
 Invites applications for
Producer
Technical Director
 For the 2004 Spring Revue 'Cracking Up'
 The ADC Week 6 MainShow
 Email Matt (mh386) with CV and cover letter

CAMBRIDGE FOOTLIGHTS
 Announces Auditions
 For the 2004 Spring Revue 'Cracking Up'
 Sat 29th and Sun 30th November 12 - 5pm, ADC Stage
 Email etlvc2 for more details

W.S. Gilbert and A. Sullivan's
YEOMEN OF THE GUARD
 Professionally directed and designed for
 Cambridge Arts Theatre 9th-13th March 2004
 Auditions for MALES: leads and chorus parts
 Sat 29th November 12-5pm
 St John's College, Fisher Building, Room 4
 Please bring something to sing!
 Contact Liz Halbert (eah31@cam.ac.uk) for more information

PEMBROKE
 Pembroke Players announce auditions for their Week 3 Lent Term Mainshow
THE MYSTERY PLAYS
 -to be performed in the Wren Chapel, Pembroke
 Sat 29th Nov, 1 - 6pm, Pembroke New Cellars
 Sun 30th Nov, 12 - 4pm, Pembroke Old Cellars
 Contact Simon (sjmt2) for further information
 Applications to produce also welcome - please email Simon

FILM
SUNDAY
Christ's Films:
 Welcome to Collinwood.
 Christs College, New Court Theatre. 8pm. £2.
Christ's Films:
 Welcome to Collinwood.
 Christs College, New Court Theatre. 10.30pm. £2.
Queens' Films:
 Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers .
 Queens' College, Fitzpatrick Hall. 9pm. £2.
St John's Films:
 What a Girl Wants - guys, come along and find out!
 St. John's College, Fisher Building. 7pm. £2.
St John's Films:
 What a Girl Wants - our end of term treat for girls :).
 St. John's College, Fisher Building. 10pm. £2.

PEMBROKE
 Pembroke Players announce auditions for their Week 3 Lent Term Lateshow
FIVE NIGHT STAND
 five nights of stand-up comedy with a different comedian each night
 - to be performed in New Cellars
 Sat 29th Nov, 12 - 4pm; Room S15, Pembroke
 Sun 30th Nov, 12 - 4pm; Room H13, Pembroke
 Please prepare about 3 minutes of material for the audition
 Contact Adam (art33) for further information

PEMBROKE
 Pembroke Players announce auditions for their Week 5 Lent Term ADC Lateshow
HERE KITTY
 New writing by Tom Powell
 - to be performed at the ADC Theatre
 Sat 29th Nov, 1 - 3pm
 Sun 30th Nov, 12 - 6pm
 Room N7, Pembroke
 Contact Tom (tjp30) for further information

Cryptic Crossword No2: Set by Luke Peabody

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						

- ACROSS**
- 1 Frank and Bert's street allows entry (4,6)
 - 6 No women strip totally and get firsts. (4)
 - 9 Tourist is Jack with a terrific top on. (7)
 - 10 Believe to be fishy (7)
 - 12 Actor who appears in "Ape Science". (5)
 - 13 Leaves airline with a note. (9)
 - 14 A cult consisting of Orion Jelly and Animal House (7,3,5)
 - 17 The croutons from around a New Orleans creation (8,7)
 - 20 Druggy cop sends (without a direction) a flower (9)
 - 21 This animal is one of seven (5)
 - 23 Wise righteous person with a book (7)
 - 24 Condition for mask, almost. (7)
 - 25 What Australia did is missing. (4)
 - 26 Constriction arising from method of playing guitar (10)
- DOWN**
- 1 Scopes out around animals (9)
 - 2 It is shortly after Edward changes (5)
 - 3 Son or daughter of girl is top quality (7,6)
 - 4 Laboratory work (7)
 - 5 Need a particle to complete assignment (7)
 - 7 New totty is all in a dither about Westlife's first number (6,3)
 - 8 Rich man confines within grounds (5)
 - 11 Around Rosa's mother, I'm not willing to support Henry. (3,6,4)
 - 15 Age about a thousand tanks. (9)
 - 16 Marry a bird to a british director. (9)
 - 18 Name and title reversed to (7)
 - 19 Dump aces without a rod (7)
 - 20 Give friend direction to kingdom (5)
 - 22 Another vegetable a spinach-lover loves (5)

MISC

- FRIDAY**
CU Chabad Society:
 Welcome the Shabbat with a delicious four course meal.
 Chabad House, 19 Regent Terrace. 7:30pm.
CU Iraq Society:
 International Fund Raising party for Iraq-Music from around the world.
 Darwin College, Common Room. 9pm. £2.00.
CU Jewish Society :
 Friday Night Dinner - Guest Speaker Lord Janner. All welcome.
 Student Centre, 3 Thompson's Lane. 7:30pm.
CU STAR:
 Rnb/HipHop Charity Event.
 King's College, King's Cellars. 9:30pm. £2.
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.

The Cambridge Footlights
 invites applications for the role of **Tour Manager**
 for their 2004 National Tour.
 Guidelines for the position can be found in the Footlights pigeonhole in the ADC clubroom
 Deadline: Sunday at Noon
 For more information please contact Notzarina on nhr23

The Round:
CEILIDH!
 Traditional-ish dancing, neither experience nor partner required.
 Parkside Community College, by Parker's Piece. 8pm. £3 unwaged, £4.50 waged.
SATURDAY
CU Ballet Club:
 Intermediate ballet. 2:30pm. £1.00
 Kelsey Kerridge, Aerobics studio, top floor.
 Pointe class. 4pm. £0.50.
 Advanced class. 4:30pm. £1.00.



PEMBROKE
 Pembroke Players announce their auditions for their Week 7 Lent Term Mainshow
THE REAL THING
 by Tom Stoppard
 - to be performed in New Cellars
 Sat 29th Nov, 12 - 4pm
 Sun 30th Nov, 12 - 4pm
 O Basement, Pembroke
 Contact Cat (cvm21) for further information
 Applicants to produce also welcome - email Cat

Kelsey Kerridge, Aerobics studio, top floor.
Pembroke College Winnie-the-pooh Society:
 Including a little smackeral of something.
 Jesus College, 1, IV Library Court. 4pm.

SUNDAY
CU Automobile Club (CUAC):
 R2 of Karting Championship- 1.5h Enduro Race- Teams of 4.
 Email bte21@cam.ac.uk by 23/11.
 Red Lodge Karting Centre, 20min from Cambridge.
 2:30pm. £30 for members, £32 for non-members.

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.



Rocann Huppert

The Road to Twickenham

Alex Drysdale

Varsity Rugby Correspondent

It all started 122 years ago as a thirty-a-side kick about on Parker Piece, when one Cambridge undergraduate travelled to Oxford and invited his friend to 'a jolly good game of rugby'. The Varsity match 2003 will be played at the slightly more hallowed ground of Twickenham, home of the Rugby World Champions, and with over 50,000 spectators in toe. Millions more around the world, from Finchley Park to Fiji will tune in to see Cambridge take on Oxford in what has become the premier student sporting occasion between the two most famous Universities in the world.

Analysis of the rivals' prospects in the 2003 Varsity match, based on a win-loss ratio puts Cambridge a whisker ahead. Indeed, from the twelve matches played at the time of writing they have won eight and lost four, while Oxford have won five, lost four and drawn three. However, bear in mind that it has been half a decade since either team has won the encounter by more than 3 points and it seems

clear the Varsity showpiece is going to be a nail biter.

It is perhaps more illuminating to compare the results of matches against the same sides: both teams have played Loughborough (Cambridge won 33-18, Oxford won 60-6), London Wasps (Cambridge lost 24-15, Oxford lost 25-21) and Leicester (Cambridge lost 60-6, Oxford lost 7-14). However, putting too much weight on such comparisons can be misleading, as an injury-depleted Cambridge side will testify after they were trounced by 60 points in the Leicester match. Indeed, sometimes teams have an off-day as Oxford did when they were made to sweat out a 12-12 draw against Bedford (Cambridge easily saw Bedford off by 28-3).

A further critical factor to be considered is the form of the teams, as this can breed confidence and belief which gives teams a psychological edge over their opponents. Barring pre-season it took Oxford until the day before Bonfire night before they managed their first victory of the season and while in their first five games they managed just 98 points they are currently hitting a spell of form with 111 points in their last two games. According to skipper Eru, Cambridge's form has been "rather

erratic" this season although this can be largely attributed to injuries. Indeed, at one point in time the Blues had 13 players out with injury. Coach Tony Rodgers has said that this is the worst injury crisis he has had in 24 years of being a coach and the hard ground at the start of term is being blamed. Much of Cambridge's success may depend on whether they can get the likes of Frost, Gladstone and Abiola back to fitness in time. Indeed, the difference between a full complement Blues team and some of the under-strength teams fielded so far this season is huge and probably worth around 20 points. However, on a positive note some of Cambridge's key players are peaking just at the right time, evidenced by Dafydd Lewis' heroic 21 point haul against Northampton.

One further statistic that could be revealing is that while Cambridge concede an average 23 points every game, Oxford are 6 points better off per match on just 17. Defensively Cambridge are going to have to be at their best especially in the three-quarters where the Dark Blues scored 8 out of their ten tries against Loughborough. Indeed, according to Oxford coach Steve Hill 'we've been looking for more width this season' and Cambridge should expect Oxford

to play an expansive running game. Cambridge should try and emulate the superb defence epitomised by World Champions England. Psychologically this is vital. Take Wilkinson's devastating hit on Australia's fly-half when he picked him up and speared him, hammering him into the earth. Nothing is more beautiful than someone getting well and truly nailed, especially an Aussie or an Oxford student. A huge hit early on by Cambridge could psychologically be as good as a score and defence will be where the game is won or lost. To turn the traditional maxim on its head 'defence is the best form of attack'. Critical to this will be the back-row combination which is likely to start as McGarry, Eru and England U 21 Ben Woods. Woods is one of the University's outstanding players and it will be his job to put the heat on the Oxford fly-half. Indeed, last years no.10 for Oxford, Honeyben is out with injury and thus Cambridge need to do as the English did to Michelak and pressure the decision-makers out of the game. The video of England v France in this year's semi-final should be compulsive viewing for Woods.

Men to watch for the Dark Blues include Canadian international prop Kevin Tkachuk who has just re-

turned from World Cup duty (coming on as a substitute in the Wales v Canada clash), taking the number of Oxford graduates who played in the Web-Ellis tournament to five. According to Oxford-coach Steve Hill he made 'a huge difference to our scrum' when coming on in the Loughborough match and he is equally devastating in the loose. Indeed, Eru has warned his men that Oxford's strengths lie in their pack, especially in the front five. Taking care of Tkachuk will be third time returning Blue Rudolf Bosch, nurtured on the sun-baked rugby pitches of South Africa. Bosch on his day is like a wild animal, his marauding rampages seemingly candescent of a childhood of hunting springbok down with his bare hands.

So who will go home with the MMC trophy on December 9th? Injuries aside, defence and a low penalty count will be critical factors. In addition to this it is vital that Lewis keeps up his form with the boot and keeps knocking those penalties and drop-goals. Having watched Cambridge all season I believe if they play to their patterns, retain the ball and defend aggressively as a unit they will come away from Twickenham with the much treasured MMC Varsity trophy.



The Varsity Match for the MMC Trophy

Twickenham Tuesday 9th December 2003 Kick-Off: 2.00pm

For tickets call Ticketmaster on 0870 9020000
or visit www.ticketmaster.co.uk



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passion – rivalry – commitment

THE 122nd VARSITY MATCH CURRENT SCORE: CAMBRIDGE 57 OXFORD 51

Having a ball

Shanaz Musaffer

The 2003 Varsity Ball will take place in the spectacular setting of London's Café de Paris for the second year in a row, with students anticipating what promises to be another enjoyable evening's entertainment.

It is amazing to consider how far the Ball has come in recent years: in 2001 it was held in a hotel lobby, whereas last year it was held in a top London club with over 750 guests in attendance. Kitsch Lounge Riot opened the show with their terrific live set featuring performances from many of London's West End stars. There was even a touch of celebrity about the place with supermodel Caprice making a special guest appearance.

It all serves to whet the appetite for this year's event. With tickets at a mere £20, which includes a limited amount of free drinks, the chance to party in one of London's top venues should not be missed.

The Café de Paris, in London's Piccadilly, has a glittering history spanning nine decades, and has entertained a wide variety of famous guests, ranging from the Prince of Wales in 1924 to the legendary Cole Porter in the 1930s, Old Blue Eyes Frank Sinatra to George Michael and Mick Jagger. Recent parties include the film launches of Spiderman and Ocean's Eleven as well as the Brit Awards nominations party.

So who knows who you'll be rubbing shoulders with on December 9th. One thing that is for sure is that it promises to be a magical evening, all the more so if it follows a Light Blue win!

For tickets and information on this year's Varsity Ball, visit www.varsityball.com

THE BEST IN THE BRIDGE

Six of the best to watch out for in Varsity 2003



Dafydd Lewis

Date of Birth: 21/03/1981
Height: 1.80m
Weight: 90kg
Position: Fly-half
Previous clubs/honours: Represented Wales at U 18, 19, 21 Student and 7's Levels
Nickname: Welsh Wizard
Job to do at Twickenham: Dafydd must be the pulse of the team. Control the play and patterns with a good tactical kicking game and good distribution. Decision-maker and creator. Hopefully he will keep up the good kicking form. His boot could win the Varsity match.



Gav Webster

Date of Birth: 11/05/1973
Height: 1.95m
Weight: 109kg
Position: Lock
Previous clubs/honours: England U 19's, 21's together with England and Ireland Students. At club level he has played for Northampton Saints, Rotheram and Valencia.
Nickname: Gav
Job to do at Twickenham: Gav is the old shoulders of the team and as such needs to provide a steady head when it counts. Secure line-out ball and providing a strong platform from set-pieces



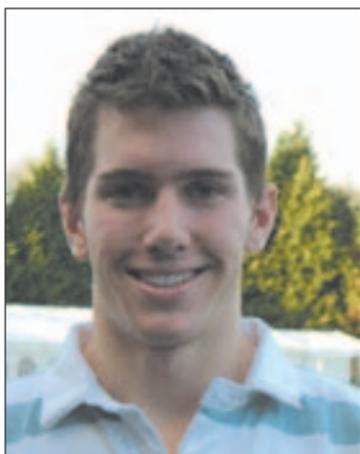
Rudolf Bosch

Date of Birth: 27/11/1974
Height: 1.78m
Weight: 108kg
Position: Prop
Previous clubs/honours: Stellenbosch University, Worcester RFC, Boland in the Currie Cup, Western Province
Nickname: Dr. Evil
Job to do at Twickenham: Keep a tight lid on Oxford's international prop Kevin Tkachuk. Lead the battle of the front five against a strong Oxford unit. Marauding forward runs and strong loose play.



Ben Woods

Date of Birth: 09/06/1982
Height: 1.93cm
Weight: 104kg
Position: Open-side flanker
Previous clubs/honours: Represented English Universities, England Students, England U 21's
Nickname: Woodsy
Job to do at Twickenham: The Oxford back row have been in devastating form this season. However, in Woods they will meet their match. Stopping Oxford's ten from having any time on the ball, putting in big hits and support play. Good outside bet for first try scorer.



Charlie Desmond

Date of Birth: 22/09/83
Height: 1.77m
Weight: 70kg
Position: Wing
Previous clubs/honours: Educated at Haileybury in Herts.
Nickname: Deso
Job to do at Twickenham: Deso is the king of producing the unexpected, whether it's a length of the pitch wonder try in Paris or an interception against Steel-Bodgers. He has the potential to be a match winner at Twickenham. May be quite all match and then produce the impossible. One to keep your eye on.



Simon Frost

Date of Birth: 13/01/1978
Height: 1.88m
Weight: 70kg
Position: Centre
Previous clubs/honours: Played for Gold Coast Breakers, Swansea and London Welsh, as well as representing Natal 'A' and South Africa U 21's
Nickname: Frosty
Job to do at Twickenham: Having spent most of the season in the treatment room, it is vital that Frosty is fit for Varsity. His play is characterised by strong runs over the gain line and big hits in midfield.

The essential guide to the Varsity Match

Alex Drysdale

Of the 121 matches already played, Cambridge are edging the Dark Blues with 57 victories, 13 draws and 51 defeats. After three successive defeats, Cambridge managed to prize the treasured MMC trophy back from Iffley Road in 2002. If you are looking for an explosive day of rugby this year then read on....

First and foremost we need to get you there. Twickenham railway station is a ten minute walk from the ground. Services operate from Waterloo and Vauxhall. In addition to this there is a regular bus service on match days which goes from outside the ground into Richmond.

Secondly attire. Remember, this

is Oxford v Cambridge so we want to win the best fans award as well. Any college or University scarves, hats, jumpers, hoodies and sports stash is all welcome. In addition the Light Blue rugby jersey is always a good bet, and although not recommended for not being sufficiently partisan, you can't go too far wrong with an England rugby shirt these days.

Remember however, it is December and Twickenham is not centrally heated so you might want to bring a hip flask of whiskey to warm the cockles. Another important thing to bear in mind is noise. We want to be the noisiest fans in Twickenham and to that end whistles, rattles and air horns are all welcome additions. If you can't get

your hands on any of these then just bring your best singing voice and get ready for a few renditions of 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot....'

The Under 21's match for the MMC plate starts at 11.30 am with the Varsity match kicking off at 2.00pm, finishing around 3.30pm. This leaves plenty of time post-match to enjoy celebrations of another double Light Blue victory over Oxford with your friends in the pub, before bidding your farewells for the Christmas vacations.

If you are looking for a few watering holes in and around the ground then here are a few that come recommended. The Cabbage Patch is to quote 'one of Twickenham's great rugby institutions'. The Landlord Frank Dupree

is somewhat of a character and the atmosphere in the pub has a distinctly rugby flavour. If your starting off in Richmond then try The Old Ship. Dating back to 1735, this pub has a real sense of history which

benefits the occasion. This pub serves award winning ales and is a bitter drinkers paradise and also serves an exciting mix of Thai cuisine which could be just what the doctor orders before the main event.



Rosam Huppert

Martin's men ready to raise the curtain

U 21'S Preview

Gareth Humphrey

If the phrase 'curtain raiser' conjures up images of young lads in oversized rugby shirts, cheered on by their mums whilst the majority of the crowd head for a pie and a pint, then think again. There'll be no cringeworthy singing or half-hearted cheer-leading to build up to this year's Varsity match. Instead, the under 21's (we're talking genuine undergraduates here, not a bunch of land economists from down under, invited here to strengthen the Blues!) will do battle with their counterparts from the Other Place.

Is this just a bit of fun? Thirty students running round for a while, more concerned with their after match pint than affairs on the pitch? Not a chance! These guys are serious about their rugby, and there is no shortage of talent. Captain and hooker Tom Martin is one of several under 21's to have moved up a level to play for the Blues this season. He

picks out 'full of gas' Charlie Desmond, centre Craig Bennet, contracted to St. Helen's rugby league team, and 'hard as nails' Adam Gilbert, an England Schoolboy, as being three players to keep your eyes on. The game seems likely to provide more entertainment than the main event which has been dominated by the boot in the last few years – although who are we to criticise kicking rugby, having cheered Johnny Wilkinson's every kick over the past few glorious weeks?

In the modern game, however, it is refreshing to see running rugby and tries aplenty being the order of the day. The only problem is that most of these tries have gone to the Oxford side in recent years, a trend that Martin is keen to reverse: "We're going to go out and play rugby at Twickenham. There is a lot of hunger and determination in the side and a huge will to win."

So can this "will to win" be transferred into points on the pitch? History is against Cambridge, who have been comprehensively beaten in the match for the last three years. This year's results have also been

mixed – an encouraging start was followed by heavy defeats against development teams from Harlequins and Rotherham. Martin admits that organisation has been a key problem, but hopes that his team will rise to the occasion: "Although it's not quite there yet I'm confident we'll be more than up to speed come Varsity. Our last game against London Welsh was very promising. Although it finished 13-8 to the Welsh they are a team who put 50 points on us last year and we were playing without a proper

goal kicker due to injury." Along with a draw against the Army and a win over Norfolk, the performance against the Welsh was encouraging. They have one match left to fine tune their preparations, on Saturday against Loughborough, and with their goal kicker back to fitness there are no excuses for under performing.

Oxford's warm up matches have also produced mixed results, with four wins and four losses, although their latest victory over Loughborough suggests that

Cambridge will need to be at their very best to win. Speaking about the difficulty he will have in picking a back three from the array of speed and flair he has at his disposal, Martin assures us of expansive play, entertainment and 100% dedication. There is no doubt that this pre-match fare promises far more than is normally served up before such occasions, and if Cambridge's commitment is matched by that of the Oxford team, expect the fireworks to rival a Saturday night in Sydney!



Kiwi Captain should contain Oxford Pack



Rajan Lakhani speaks with Blues Captain Stu Eru

The Varsity match is less than a couple of weeks away – what do you think of Cambridge's performances so far this season?

They have been rather erratic; that has been mainly due to the injuries we've had. We have had injuries from the start of the season. In our tour of Japan, Simon Frost sustained an injury after 20 minutes who is a pretty influential figure in the squad and the injuries have never stopped since. Having said that, it gives the opportunity for the younger players to get some experience at the top level.

We know 3 established players will probably miss the Varsity match (Simon Frost, Fergus Gladstone and Aki Abiola) – have there been any further injury blows since?

Not at this stage – at one point in the season we had 13 players out. Those three players are not definitely out – they are doubtful and

there is still time for them to prove their fitness.

You say this has been an injury ravaged season for the Light Blues – has there been any particular reason for the glut of injuries, or is it simply bad luck?

I've talked to Tony Rogers, the coach and in his 24 years as a coach, this is the worst season of injury problems he has seen. It might have something to do with the harder grounds we used at the start of the season. Most of the injuries have been muscle strains but we have to just push on.

Away from off the field injury problems, to what extent have the matches against the big club sides, for example the Leicester Tigers and Northampton Saints helped you to prepare for the Varsity match?

Without a doubt, those matches have helped. Those are the kind of strengths of sides we need to face. Oxford will be really pumped up for the game, so we need to face tough, strong opposition beforehand. They are great workouts. Playing the big sides allows you to see your weaknesses and where we can improve.

In what ways has the team improved from last season?

We have developed our patterns a lot more, especially in Japan. We have made some changes and we're in reasonable shape.

What kind of style of rugby have Cambridge aimed to play this season?

Obviously being a student side, we like to play flowing rugby. It is difficult to establish that kind of style of rugby given that players are on

edge as they might be on trial. Our rugby season is very structured towards the key Varsity match in the first term. You might say it's very conservative but it's the right way to go.

How important personally is victory for you in the Varsity match?

I have only played in one Varsity match and fortunately we won that one. I do not know what that side of the coin is like and I don't really want to start finding out now. Talking to guys who have lost, it's a burden to carry throughout the rest of the season. It is 50/50 match and it is on a knife-edge.

Given the injury crisis, how highly do you rate the team's chances?

Whoever plays, it doesn't matter in the end for what happens on the day is the most important aspect. The major thing is those players in key positions carry us through.

Cambridge thankfully ended the 3-match losing streak last time out. Having won last time, does it put any greater pressure on you as captain?

Not at all, no. We would have faced a lot more pressure had we not won because we would have been staring down the barrel at the possibility of five defeats in a row! It's tough but the pressure is back on Oxford.

What aspects of Oxford's play do you feel you need to keep under control?

Probably the forwards. They have got a strong tight five now. They have a very good scrum. They are very good up front. We need to reign

in and control their forwards. That won't give too much away though.

What was the atmosphere at Twickenham in the last game?

It's brilliant, awesome. You get a buzz when you walk out. It's exciting, talking to your team-mates on the paddock. For the players, the whole historic aspect of the occasion is something else.

Does the history of the match make the match more daunting?

No. Last year, we had to throw everything at them. We are aware of the whole occasion a lot more and have more experience.

How do you respond to the critics of the Varsity match who argue that these two teams should not get the privilege to play, especially since you know it's the same match every year?

Critics are entitled to their opinions. We are lucky and when I was abroad, I was envious of the big occasion so that makes being part of it even better.

How would you describe your style of captaincy?

I don't bark at the players or give them orders since there are so many good players in the team. I like to think the guys can contribute and have a role in leading the team as well.

Following your injuries, did you ever envisage being captain for such a big occasion?

Not at all. Having the injuries ... it made me more determined to get the most of rugby. Playing in the Varsity match was one aim, but I never saw myself leading the team out at Twickenham.

More than any captain, you have

emphasised the role of the light Blues off the field as well as on the field – is that the aspect of your captaincy you are most proud of?

Yeah, I think it is an area that needed to be addressed. Oxford have done a lot on the marketing side of things. I wanted to give the marketing side a facelift. I wanted to explore the creative side and I had a lot of help from others. It's great fun.

How did the motto of Blue Blood, Red Heart come about?

I sat down with the lady who arranges the merchandise. I wanted to have a motto like the football clubs here or rugby clubs in New Zealand. They have all these catch-phrases. We basically brainstormed things and the motto came up. Blue with the colour of the team and the idea of the heart of the lion. It allows people to read whatever they want into it and has a number of connotations making it more accessible.

There are bound to be pre-match nerves – what do you and the players like to do to chill out?

Yeah, try to keep things as normal as possible. It is difficult with Twickenham, the great crowds and the massive number of fans when you are coming up to Twickenham, cheering you on. But we have experienced players, do things that are normal as possible and follow your routine. It's when you start to move away from routine, things begin to go wrong. The atmosphere you never forget.

Everyone at Varsity wishes you the best of luck at Twickenham!

MUSIC

FRIDAY

Boogie Wonderland:
80's, 90's & Naughties Disco Extravaganza.
The Junction, .
10pm. £4.50/£6.50.

Cambridge University Symphony Orchestra:

Sibelius 3, Wagner, Strauss Horn Concerto (Edward Corn).
West Rd Concert Hall, .
8pm. £10, £6, £4 (students).

Cambridge University Symphony Orchestra:

Ed Corn plays Strauss with CUSO. West Road Concert Hall, 8pm.

Clare Ents:

Salsa! Lesson, DJ + live band Manteca.
www.clare-ents.com for further details.
Clare College, Cellars.
9pm. £3/4.

Kettle's Yard:

Luch time concert lasting approx 40 mins,
John Myerscough - cello.
Kettle's Yard, 1:10pm.

Newnham Ents:

Acoustic night raising money for AIDS charities. FREE entry.
Newnham College, Bar. 8pm.

Peterhouse Music Society:

Solo Violin Music by Bach: Jamie Campbell, Benjamin Moore.
Peterhouse, Chapel. 8:45pm.

Selwyn College Music Society:

Music for advent: Bach cantatas and seasonal choral preludes.
Selwyn College, Chapel.
8:30pm. £3.50 full/£2 concessions/ free to members.

Trinity College Music Society:

Trinity Players and Singers perform their most recent works.
Trinity College, Trinity College Chapel.
8pm. £5/£3

SATURDAY

Alternation:

Indie/Alternative Clubnight.
Kambar, Wheeler St, near corn exchange.
10pm. £3/5.

Clare Ents:

Live Madagascan Funk: Modeste & Band, support from Dubmaster Deckhead.
see www.clare-ents.com for more details.
Clare College, Clare Cellars.
9pm. £4.

Man on The Moon:

Milf (www.milf.vze.com)
Amara (www.amaramusic.com).
Man On The Moon, 2 Norfolk Street,
Cambridge. 7:30pm. £4.00.

St. John's Ents:

"Santa's little helper!".
St. John's College, Fisher Building. 9pm. £4.

SUNDAY

MWM:

Acoustic music from Simon Mastrantone and Jeremy Warmesley.
Clown's Cafe ,8:30pm.

St. John's Ents:

St. John's Ents presents "Santa's little helper!".
St. John's College, Fisher Building.
9pm. £4.

The Bluetones & support from The Vessels:

The Bluetones' massive Spring Tour comes to The Junction.
The Junction, 7pm. £13.50/£12.50.

MONDAY

Fitzwilliam, Churchill & New Hall Music Societies:

Michaelmas Term Orchestral Concert, including Elgar 'Cello Concerto.
Churchill College, Dining Hall.
8pm. £5/£3.

St. John's Ents:

"Santa's little helper!".
St. John's College, Fisher Building. 9pm. £4.

TUESDAY

Cambridge gamelan:

Traditional Javanese music workshop.
Beautiful-sounding tuned metallophones and gongs. Music Department, West Road. 6pm.

THEATRE

FRIDAY

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

Ariel Society / CADS:

William Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida. A lively, fast-paced production set in the First World War.
Christs College, New Court Theatre.
7:15pm. £5/4.

BATS:

Henrik Ibsen's A DOLLS HOUSE.
Booking 01223 503333. Queens' College, FITZPATRICK HALL. 7:45pm. £5/4.

Brickhouse Theatre Company:

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

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 - a grown up Alice in the CUADC/Footlights annual Panto.
ADC Theatre, . 7:45pm. £5 - £7.50.

Show of Hands:

The cutting edge of English acoustic music.
Brian Mc Neill.
The Junction, 7pm. £11/£12.

St. John's Ents:

St. John's Ents presents "Santa's little helper!".
St. John's College, Fisher Building. 9pm. £4.

WEDNESDAY

Fitz JMA:

London Elektriciry Rawganics DJs biggest best loudest party2finish term!.
Fitzwilliam College, . 9pm. £7/£8.

Jesus College Music Society:

Piano Recital by Tim Byram-Wigfield,
College Director of Music.
Jesus College Chapel, 9pm.

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The Junction, Clifton Road. 7pm. £5.

CUADC:

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

HATS - Homerton Amateur Theatrical Society:

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

Mankind, by anon:

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

NICK WHITFIELD/WES WILLIAMS present ROADMOVIE:

A funny, fantastical tale of the extremes of humanity . The Junction, 8pm. £8.50/£5.50.

Pembroke Players:

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

Pembroke Players:

Mary Pakington's little known 'thriller', The House With The Twisty Windows.
Pembroke College, Pembroke New Cellars.
10:30pm. £3/4.

Redshift:

London Elektriciry, DJ p and more!
9pm - 2.30am.
Fitzwilliam College, .
9pm. £7/8.

St. John's Ents:

St. John's Ents presents "Santa's little helper!".
St. John's College, Fisher Building.
9pm. £4.

THURSDAY

Cambridge Classical Guitar Society:

Bring your classical guitar to perform, or come and listen! Info (01223) 565552 .
St Lukes Centre, Victoria Road, Cambridge
CB4 3DZ, .
8pm. £3.

Cambridge Classical Guitar Society:

Bring your classical guitar to perform, or come and listen! Info tel. 565552 .
St Lukes Centre, Victoria Road, 8pm.
Entrance £3.

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MagSoc:
Finzi Clarinet Concerto, Shostakovich Piano Concerto no. 2, Bernstein's Chichester Psalms.
West Road Concert Hall, Faculty of Music,
West Road. 8pm. £6/£4.

St. John's Ents:
"Santa's little helper!".
St. John's College, Fisher Building. 9pm. £4.

Trinity College Music Society:
A special performance of Bach's Christmas Oratorio. Trinity College, Trinity College Chapel. 7pm. £6/£4/£2.

FRIDAY

Boogie Wonderland:
80's, 90's & Naughties Disco Extravaganza.
The Junction, .
10pm. £4.50/£6.50.

Kettle's Yard:
Ed Corn playing the french horn - approx 40 mins.
Kettle's Yard,
1:10pm.

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THEATRE

SATURDAY

ADC/FOOTLIGHTS:
ALICE IN WONDERLAND - Christmas Panto! 7:45pm. ADC Theatre, . 7:45pm. £5/£7.50.

Ariel Society / CADS:
William Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida. Set in the First World War. Christs College, New Court Theatre. 7:15pm. £6/5.

BATS:
Henrik Ibsens' A DOLLS HOUSE. Ad. Booking 01223 503333. Queens' College, FITZPATRICK HALL. 7:45pm. £5/4.

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 an adaptation of Sophocle's Electra. The Playroom, Box Office: 01223 503 333. 7pm. £5.50/£4.

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

Pembroke Players:
Mary Pakington's little known 'thriller', The House With The Twisty Windows. Pembroke College, Pembroke New Cellars. 10:30pm. £3/4.

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

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

Footlights:
SMOKER - the final stand-up night before Christmas. ADC Theatre, . 11pm. £4.

Pembroke Players presents:
"A DAY IN THE DEATH OF JOE EGG" by Peter Nichols. The Playroom, 7pm. £4/£5.50

Selwyn Touring Theatre:
Marivaux's Le Jeu de l'Amour et du Hasard (in French). Selwyn College, Chapel. 8:30pm. £4/£3/£2.

WEDNESDAY
ADC/FOOTLIGHTS:
ALICE IN WONDERLAND - Christmas Panto! 7:45pm. ADC Theatre, £5/£7.50.

CUOS:
Dido and Aeneas - Purcell's passionate opera. ADC Theatre, 11pm. £3/£4.

Pembroke Players presents:
"A DAY IN THE DEATH OF JOE EGG" by Peter Nichols. The Playroom, . 7pm. £4/£5.50.

THURSDAY
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Dido and Aeneas - Purcell's passionate opera. ADC Theatre, . 11pm. £3/£4.

Pembroke Players:
A Day in the Death of Joe Egg, by Peter Nichols. The Playroom, . 7pm. £4/5.50.

Selwyn Touring Theatre:
Marivaux's 'Le Jeu de l'Amour et du Hasard' (in French). Selwyn College, Chapel. 8:30pm. £4/£3/£2.

Small Change present Red Velvet:
A hilarious and poignant meditation on nostalgia at a time of crisis. The Drama Centre, 8pm.

FRIDAY
CUADC and Footlights:
Alice In Wonderland - a grown up Alice in the CUADC/Footlights annual Panto. ADC Theatre, 7:45pm. £5 - £8.50.

CUOS:
Dido and Aeneas - Purcell's passionate opera. ADC Theatre, 11pm. £3/£4.

Pembroke Players:
A Day in the Death of Joe Egg, by Peter Nichols. The Playroom, 7pm. £4/5.50.



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A real pop idol?

Magnus Gittins talks to impresario and *Pop Idol* judge, Pete Waterman

This is one self-styled 'pop music phenomenon' which certainly has staying power. In an industry characterised by youth, Pete Waterman is one of its few elder statesmen having produced over 200 songs in a forty year career. Synonymous with the sounds of the 1980's, Pete introduced us to the, perhaps fair to say 'varied', talents of Kylie Minogue, Rick Astley and Bananarama. These days, it is rare to find anyone with less than five pints down them who will admit to enjoying Kylie's *I should be so lucky*, but love it or loathe it, it was certainly popular at the time, and made him a very rich man.

With the increasing proliferation of professional songwriters, I'm interested to find out whether any room remains in popular music for the performing artist, or singer-songwriter. He interrupts me, "no such thing as a performing artist. Mozart played the piano to make money. Bob Dylan was famous for phoning his agent to make sure his cheque had cleared before he went on stage. You're not going to tell

"There's no such thing as a performing artist. Mozart played the piano to make money"

me that Bob Dylan wasn't a good singer song writer, but he did it for cash."

Convincing, but also depressing; if music is only about pandering to our sentiments in order to reach into our wallets, it all seems rather empty. Surely though, I ask, aren't musicians motivated by other things? What about inspiration, wanting to change the world... "No. Why did he write the song in the first place? To make money. I don't say that I write because I'm inspired - it's my living. I don't walk around wearing silly hats and do certain things to make you think I'm serious. If I don't make a good song people won't buy it."

Despite his success, many criticise Pete Waterman for stifling creativity. His domination of the charts in the 80's led to accusations of 'conveyor-belt' music, which is 'made' rather than creatively produced. But he resists criticism that his music is formulaic.

"I wish there was a formula, I'd be billionaire instead of a millionaire. It's not an exact science, it's a feeling. It's getting goose bumps and its knowing how to read those goose bumps." Goose bumps? Feelings? I wonder how these distinctly personal attributes which fit in with Pete's blunt reduction of music to money.

Waterman's career really took off when he signed up Kylie Minogue. In later years, Pete was to claim that promoting Kylie was as risky as Malcolm McLaren launching the Sex Pistols. It's a bizarre comparison. Kylie embarked on her career with the support of sixteen million viewers who watched her, every day, on television acting out the tedious daily life of Charlene in *Neighbours*. Was he actually serious about the comparison or was it just a throwaway comment?

"I did a lot of work with McLaren. I'm a big punk fan. Same as I love techno. I love things that are wild and anti-establishment." But surely, I say forced to interrupt with sheer incredulity at what he's saying, *I should be so lucky*, isn't even approaching anti-es-

"It's not an exact science, it's a feeling. It's getting goose bumps and its knowing how to read them"

tablishment? "Actually you're wrong. What is anti-establishment? Here is a girl from a soap opera. I couldn't get a record deal for that girl and I was looking for £1,500 quid. So if it was that obvious - why didn't I get a deal? If it was such a hit why did no one put it out?"

"What we did was groundbreaking. I remember putting Kylie on tour and for a pound you got to see her, a free hamburger and a bottle of coke. We went up to Stoke one night and had numbers one to nine in the pop charts on stage. Those kids just paid a pound and they got *Top of the Pops* live."

Although extraordinarily successful in the charts Pete was routinely panned by the music press. His diagnosis for the reason that lay behind their opprobrium is characteristically straightforward: "It's simple, we don't shout about it as if we were geniuses. We said anyone can do it, it's not special. The musical press want to tell you how difficult it is. We

to read and write. Cynical - me? I'd love to be intelligent enough to be cynical!"

Despite the undoubted success everyone also has failures. His seemingly unstoppable run of form came to an abrupt end with a band called One True Voice. The group was selected by a television audience and acrimoniously parted

"Experts are like arseholes - everyone has one."

company with Waterman following poor record sales.

Fearing this might be a raw nerve, I broach the subject gently; was it their fault or yours? "they did not pay credit to the people who voted for them. That's one of the dangers of these shows. They make people think they're more important than they actually are. They'd just had a number two record and they started to tell the public that they knew more than them. Away you go lads, I said, and where are their records since?" Indeed.

The band complained of Pete's fixation with 80's inspired pop music and that he was completely out of touch. It remains a sore subject. "I'm still a millionaire. They're not. And they're still looking for my second cheque which won't be sent because they didn't complete the contract. Naively, I thought you could pick people with talent who could sing. The problem is, a couple of those kids thought they knew all the answers. Now and again you get it wrong."

In the fickle world of popular music, Pete definitely believes that his experience counts. Yet, as he has discovered his experience does not always engender respect; "everybody, now is an expert. They all know better than me. Experts are like arseholes - everyone has one. When these five kids are telling me how to run their careers after five weeks on the TV - nah, get lost."

For those for whom the eighties was more about kindergarten than Kylie Waterman is perhaps best known for his role as a judge on *Pop Idol*, which spawned both Will Young and Gareth Gates. His harsh assessment of the performers recently landed him in trouble with a group of MP's.

In one critique, Pete suggested that the performer in question was too overweight to make it in the pop world. Does he regret being so frank?

"I'm never going to be a supermodel, you're never going to be Michael Schumacher and we have to accept that. Michelle and Kim are never going to be Pop Idols - that's a fact. If the public vote for them then, that doesn't change the fact that neither will ever be Pop Idols."

Political correctness for me has gone bananas. Who says we shouldn't be telling people the truth?" For him it's a case of recognising our own abilities, and if the truth hurts so be it.

Opinionated, arrogant and fiercely defensive of his career,

"Political correctness for me has gone bananas. Who says we shouldn't be telling people the truth?"

how will he be remembered? "not at all with any hope. I don't care to be honest."

Having prepared myself for a lengthy answer, I was left unprepared for the direct nature of his response. In an industry forever chasing the tail of consumer trends to talk to Pete is actually quite refreshing. In fact, honest is probably the best word to describe him.



said, nah, it's not difficult. If you're a band who's spent ages telling people how clever your music is you have your own market, the student market, which is all angst and miserable. We found a market which is youthful, bright and full of hope. I'm not full of despair. Songs can at least brighten the situation even if they cannot change it in any way."

He may be onto something. Thinking back to secondary school, there was definitely a point when music tastes seemed to change. Perhaps we lose our youthful optimism when the national curriculum really kicks in.

So could he write for Radiohead? "No. Simple as that. I'm not that morbid. I'm not that cynical. These are cynical songs. I've worked in a coal mine. I left school at 14 unable

The Ordinary

ISSUE NINE: Jean-Marie Le Penultimate

CHRISTMAS TIME, THE ORD IS SO FINE, CHILDREN DOING WHAT?

XMAS!

Ho, ho, chuffing ho.

The year that was *The Ord's definitive round-up of 2003*

This time last year 2003 hadn't started yet. Even today it hasn't quite finished. That's the kind of year it's been. *The Ord's* remaining team of writers guides you through the headline-grabbing news of the last 12 months...

JANUARY

2003 gets going with its unprecedented arrangement of a two, two zeroes and a three. Martin's birthday.

FEBRUARY

Martin and Will's combined valentine card count reaches single figures for second year running. New district of Hull discovered.

MARCH

War on Iraq kicks right off. Martin and Will refuse to make any jokes about anything as a mark of respect.

APRIL

Showers fail to emerge. Martin diagnosed with Eustachian tube dysfunction in his ears. A funny joke about the Iraqi information minister yet to emerge. New sexed-up Easter proves popular.

MAY

Rest of world stops as revision sets in. Quiet Period begins in Kelsey Kerridge

College with a carpet ban on petting in the swimming pool. Beards are also prohibited. Martin and Will have an idea. Varsity editor reluctantly agrees to it. What war?

JUNE

Will misses exam after being distracted by a colourful piece of graffiti on the route there. Martin has record three wees during one exam. May Ball 2003 takes place: theme of 'Norfolk Cranes' proves popular with the students, bless 'em. Martin has his second – and final – toke of evil weed.

JULY

Immensely interesting things happen in Cambridge. No one's there to record them – it's empty, like. Martin and Will commence their tour of historic English mill towns.

AUGUST

Ditto. Will's 21st birthday. He is given the keys to Ipswich as a present.

SEPTEMBER

Sells keys on eBay for a fiver. The 11th is somewhat of an anticlimax – turned out to be just a couple of seagulls flying behind the UL. Will gets a new chatroom girlfriend, cyber_chick69, only for MSN



Clockwise from top-left: Awesome publication; dirty incontinent girl; their loss; pride

to bloody shut it down.

OCTOBER

Rumours of a new student newspaper circulate. Martin reaches puberty, Will gets an extension to his visa: *The Ordinary* is born. Four people are reported to have laughed out loud. Rachel from King's wets herself while wearing her best mate's kecks.

NOVEMBER

Cambridge students 16% less unhappy thanks to new rag. *The Ord* translated into 7 different countries. Substandard "satirical" publication *Private Eye* refuses Martin and Will work experience.

DECEMBER

Private Eye ceases to exist after no one buys their bumper Christmas issue.

COLLEGE SHORTS

WHOOOP

From the Dean: 2003 has been a great year for us. Arrests were down 12%, and domestic violence was restricted to Tarquin and Penny on P staircase. Our new "pipe down, accept it" policy has led to a huge reduction in student complaints at the quality of hall food and ale consumption in the bar was also up by a third. Well done everyone!

GRITTY

From the computer officer: Could students please refrain from emailing their pubes to the Queen as an anti-war protest. I can't get the stains off the scanner.



Sticky screen

PISS OFF

From the bursar: Make sure you have already left your room for the Christmas vacation or I'll set the dogs on you. Shame.

SEMI-AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL

From the fellow next door: Leave your dirty football boots outside your room, will you? If I didn't have confidence issues I'd go to the dean.

TIME TRAVEL CLUB

The Cambridge University Time-Travel Club met tomorrow. If you missed the meeting last week, you still can go, but make sure you don't change the result of the vote on chutney bathing, otherwise I'll get cross.



'Watch' this space

TRAMP

From your RAG reps: Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat. A penny in the old man's hat? You stingy git.

Cor! It's 2004 *Electricity, metal, plastic and human agency combine to predict best year yet*



Future Shocker
Claire Voyant

A crack team from the Cambridge Faculty of Fate and Happenstance were speaking louder than the general hubbub this week after results splurged out of a computer that had been left running since June.

"I was sure I'd logged off," Cressida Finer, a researcher in future studies, told the award-winning *Ord*. "Darned 'Brecon Beacons by night' screensaver."

No of course that in itself is not the news. This is though: these recently splurged results are from a computerised model created by a man with sandals and some fungal inflammation, which

attempts to predict the quality of life of the average Cambridge student. And the news is good. According to Rumpole Storey, 37, head of the forgotten-about-until-recently project, 2004 is set to be the best year ever in all history.

"Well, probably," said Storey. "It's unlikely to surpass 1726 for obvious reasons."

"That Jonny Wilkinson-Sword fellow – he's amazing isn't he?" he later clarified.

Using confidential data, the model (or Greg, as someone has written in security pen on the top of the monitor) has measured trends in students' shoe-sizes, calorific intake, mullet-frequency and fishfinger habits. Impossibly complex calculations using a technique known as 'long division' were then carried out to predict the greatness of 2004.

So what can we expect in this new year?

"Firstly, at least one of everyone's supervisors will die," revealed Finer. "This will be sad, unless it's Dr. Muffduster, but you won't have to write that essay on plumbing by-laws."

Secondly, Greg can guarantee that you will become more attractive to one of the opposite sexes, resulting in an associated improvement of bedroom activity and explosive sexual performance. "I for one can't wait," added Storey.

Finer takes up the thread: "Also, that incident with the banana and the Eskimo that perpetually haunts your dreams, and has you waking up covered in sweat and blood, screaming, and that your psychotherapist can do nothing about... well, that won't materialise in reality in 2004. There's always 2005, though."

"We are also 93% sure that you'll get a first class degree next year," commented Storey. "And if you're a finalist you're almost certain to walk into a 30 grand a year job in the City, you soulless rankster."

"We at the faculty, however, cannot guarantee that that strange scarring on your inner thigh will have cleared up by this time next year," warned Finer.

Well, there you go. No point making any resolutions in the New Year, 2004's gonna be great. Let's party like it's nearly the preceding December.



TOP BANANA: Yes, 2004, in certain circumstances, will float your boat

Season's Greetings



Stylists: Nicole & Daisy
Photographer: Ria Cooke

Left to right: Aisha: Black Dress £250 Bowns, Fur Gilet £40 Dixi's Market Stall. Naomi: Silver Halterneck £10 Dixi's. White Gloves £10.99 Robert Sayle. Kirty: Dress £125 Reiss, Scarf £1 Oxfam, Pink Gloves £11.99 Robert Sayle. Elaine: Headscarf £4.99 Accessorise, Black Dress £15 Save the Children, Necklace £45 Nomad. Ed: Jacket £10 Oxfam, Yellow Scarf £10 Marks and Spencer. Sam: Trilby £22 Market, Shirt £79 Reiss, Black Jacket (part of suit) £395 Reiss, Cords £69 Reiss. Oscar: Levi Cut Offs £20 Market, Jacket designed by Jess, Scarf £1 Oxfam, Trilby £18 Market, Fan £12 Ebay. Lizzie: Dress designed by Jess, Hat £30 Robert Sayle, Gloves £10.99 Robert Sayle.

VARSlTY ARTS

Remote controlled

Varsity reminds you of the delights of TV

Thankfully, the whole academic ethos of Cambridge should have already thoroughly dismissed the notion that you learn about life by actually experiencing it. 'Bollocks!' says your DOS, 'You learn about things by sitting alone in your pit reading books about *The Underlying Theory of Things* written by me, twenty years ago when I was a clueless grad sitting in my pit'. Hence, it shouldn't be too much of a painful ideological stretch to accept the central principle of this article - the three most profound lessons life has to teach us can only be learned by watching daytime television.

1. All Good Things Must Come to an End

While Aristotle was banging on about the need to accept change as far back as the fourth century BC, nothing really brings home the message with such depressing clarity as watching re-runs of once great sitcoms in their umpteenth series. Otherwise known as 'Fourth Series Syndrome,' this is the creeping sensation of stagnancy experienced in all areas of life when you finally realise the heyday is over, all the original heroes are dead or moved on, and all that's left behind is you and a bunch of starbuckaneering young upstarts locked in a groundhog day of doomed attempts at recreating the past. Is there any more potent symbol of the miserable depths into which humanity can sink than the freakishly overgrown Screech still frolicking round the Bayside locker room in series 473 of *Saved By The Bell*? No there isn't.

Many college JCRs have had Digital for some time now. The broadcast revolution has finally arrived and we are at last at liberty to watch The God Channel or Men and Motors until we finish that dissertation about popular culture. There is even the occasional set-top box in students' rooms these days; generally it is Freeview, which as we all know is: "a new service from the BBC allowing you to receive six new BBC channels, amongst others, for a one of payment of around £90" and also apparently allows

2. Nothing is Really Real.

I recently discovered a great show called *Prime Minister's Question Time* on the Parliament channel. From what I can tell it's some kind of reality TV show, but instead of attractive twenty-somethings in an Ikea-furnished bungalow, the programme makers have rounded up a bunch of pissed old tramps from local pubs, put them in a World Of Leather show-

room and asked them to 'debate' current affairs. It's such a hilarious show that they sometimes show clips of the funniest bits on the 6 o'clock News. You must have seen it. Occasionally one tramp will wake suddenly from his drunken slumber shout an incomprehensible insult at no one in particular. This instigates a low football hooligan rumbling of 'Oi Oi' etc that gradually builds into full scale laugh-

ter. It's the guffawing that gives the game away. That's how you can tell they don't really care about what they're talking about and as soon as they're back in the pub, they'll all be mates again. Great TV.

3. Ugly People Have Sex Too

I learnt this from watching *Trisha*. Apparently they also do it lots and they do it dirrrrrty. I'm sure there's also a lesson in there somewhere about gaining some per-

spective with regards to your own pathetic little problems. In fact, the programme should properly be titled 'Trisha: (I Know I'm Gonna Flunk Out Of University Cos I Watch Too Much TV, But Thank God I'm not that Uggers!!!)'. This is either a message of hope or a source of early morning nausea, depending on whether you happen to be ugly or not.

Ellen E. Jones



Grace Ofori-Attah

you to morph into John Simpson or Richard Blackwood. But for those of us who are not so fortunate, those of who are stuck with a merely 'terrestrial' service of four and a bit channels, for us Christmas has come early, and it's on BBC 2.

All I want for Christmas is to be on *Time Commanders*, the "exciting new history show... which attempts to overturn the past with the aid of the latest technology". Finally they have put something on normal telly which should never have left the ethereal plane of mid afternoon BBC 3. Think

of a *Robot Wars* for people who played too much *Warhammer*. Last Monday it was the turn of a team of lib-dem councillors from Milton-Keynes led by the indomitable Rex. They pitted their wits against a piece of "incredibly sophisticated military programming" in a replay of the battle of Adrianople (397 AD). The presenter, Eddie Mair, is what passes for eye-candy in this show, and as he self-assuredly struts around the enormous map of the battlefield we are reminded of John Leslie in his prime. He entreats the team to pay close attention to the "massive, specially built screen" which uses

"amazingly realistic computer generated imagery". Our heroes are in command of the very poorly animated Roman army of Flavius Valens and must face the equally badly animated army of the Goth lord Tertigger. The tension mounts as Rex's simple yet brilliant plan is thwarted by the incompetency of his lieutenants, "bring the archers forward, why are the cavalry so far to the left?" he cries ineffectually as legion after legion are mercilessly cut down by the fury of the amazingly realistic computer generated Goth arms. Eddie sidles up and laconically inquires as to whether this

was all part of the plan just as the light Gothic cavalry ambush from the bushes, they head for the Roman flank with all the subtlety of Kat Slater's stylist and it is all over.

I am left emotionally drained, the excitement of the previous half hour coursing through my body, I can almost hear amazingly realistic computer generated war drums ringing in my ears. I don't need Digital television, I can wait for *Fight Box* to appear on terrestrial, I have all the excitement I need after *The Fresh Prince* on a Monday. See you in the JCR.

Will Dunbar

Rare? Medium Rare? Well Done.

Forget NatSci vs Mathmo, Trinity vs John's: This beef's for real...

Eminem has last week been accused of racism by US hip-hop magazine *The Source*, who have discovered a recording allegedly made in his early teens. In a press conference *Source* co-editor Ray Scott played two tapes, in which a rapper describing himself as Eminem denigrates black women. The first, was only a few lines long, but the second, consists of Eminem freestyling for several minutes about an unhappy experience with a girlfriend who was black, including lines such as "black girls only want your money 'cos they're dumb chicks".

Eminem has apologised, explaining that it was just "foolishness" from an "angry, stupid kid". *The Source*, however, doesn't seem to accept that; Scott has said "Don't make this into a double standard... he needs to be accountable."

But what's that smell? Dig a little deeper and you'll recognise it: hip-hop's favourite publicity fuel - beef. Ray Scott also raps under the name Benzino, and has a longstanding feud with Eminem, previously calling him "2003 Vanilla Ice" (surely not a bad thing?) and slightly more offensively, "the rap Hitler". It seems that Benzino perceives that Eminem's success is a direct result of his skin colour, that he gets away with behaviour that would be unacceptable for a black rapper, and that he is generally wack. Eminem, on his part, has

retaliated in the way every self-respecting emcee should: dissed Benzino on his records. On two recent tracks he calls him "the softest, fakest, wanna-be ganster in New York" and even accuses him of pimping his son. But is this a genuine feud, or just a publicity stunt?

There's no doubt that this kind of rivalry increases the public profile of the rappers involved, and probably helps to sell more records. But 'beef' is also an integral part of hip-hop, as old as the movement itself. Many emcees only get early recognition by defeating others in battles on the mic, which inevitably involve insulting their opponent as harshly as possible. The importance of proving yourself the best has frequently led to bitter disputes between rival artists. When otherwise rappers might churn out another tune about 40s, blunts and bitches, a good beef can inspire them to innovate with their flow and their insults: the famous *Yo Momma* jokes (see caption) display some of the most cutting wit since Oscar Wilde.

Many high-profile rappers have engaged in bitter rivalries, from MC Shan and KRS-One right up until the current war between Jay-Z and Nas. The beef between Biggie and Tupac was particularly bitter: Tupac even alleged that he had been having sexual relations with Biggie's wife: "So I fucked yo' bitch, you fat motherfucker!". Tragically, they were both shot dead, and neither crime has

been solved. Concern about the Ja Rule/50 Cent beef is such that Louis Farrakhan has decided to intervene and dispense advice, seemingly based on his days as a Calypso singer (naturally).

Benzino and Eminem are clearly engaged in such a beef, so should we treat the allegations as serious accusations of racism, or just a political stunt as part of an on-going feud? Most of the hip-hop community seems to accept Eminem's apology, and rightly so. Those recordings were made when he was very young, long before he was a big star with huge influence over his listen-

ers. His present remorse for his previous behaviour is enough to satisfy most accusers. But Benzino seems to want more: more uproar, more publicity, and of course, more record sales. Let's hope he fades into insignificance even faster than his allegations will.

Henry Bowen

Agree? Disagree? If you have some beef of your own with Varsity's Hip Hop opinions or anything else, email music@varsity.co.uk and we'll be more than happy to diss your mum in return.



"Oh my God! Your lines are, like, sooo wack!" or words to that effect...

Dear Cat Power,

Oh Chan. Poor, defenceless Chan. Bill Callaghan (allegedly) left you reeling; the dreams of a thousand boys in thick-rimmed specs sent over-optimistic sparks of unrequited affection flying once again. 'Nobody, oh nobody knows my pain', you whisper. They feel every shred of your cello-drenched agony, you fool. Your Danelectro wears all the scars of the heartbroken laments with which it is punished, hanging as a battered dead-weight from those burdened shoulders. There is no fringe on earth quite like yours, Chan, offering shelter to those sad, russet eyes left bleary from sleepless, whiskey-soaked weeks of anguish. The anti-Southern Belle, you fled the Bible Belt for the city, yet your garbled drawl, hipsters and boots will tie you to home forever more. You're as New York as I am, Chan, and you know it. Will the incessant cries of 'Pretentious!' ever end? Not as long as you continue to meltdown onstage, nor if there are any more covers left to come from the Stones'-*Satisfaction*-but with no chorus dynasty. But fuck 'em Chan, they'll just never understand. Nor will we ever quite grasp why Messrs Vedder and Grohl were allowed anywhere near *You Are Free*. But with a soul-choking 'I want you to be a good man', all is forgiven.

Cats of Love,
Jon Swaine
XX

Single Bells, Single Bells...

Edwin Lane keeps an eye on the race for Christmas

It may still be November, but already the race is on for the Christmas Number 1 single, when boy bands, novelty acts and fictional characters alike have a shot at a festive fifteen minutes of fame and fight it out for the top spot. This year's race is as hotly contested as ever, so get those obligatory sleigh bells a-ringin' as we take a look at the runners and riders aiming to cash in on the insanity that is a merry commercial-music Christmas.

Cliff Richard - Santa's List (12/1). After *Millenium Prayer* you thought you were safe, but no. He should have been tried for crimes against humanity long ago, but Sir Cliff keeps coming back with more. Don't be fooled by the title either - Jesus is bound to be involved somewhere.

The Darkness - (Christmas Time) Don't Let The Bells End (7/1) Rock buffoons The Darkness seize on the opportunity to do something hilariously 70s and ironic and release a Christmas single. Hilariously 70s and ironic people will buy it in

their droves. Worth a flutter.

Pop Idol Finalists - Merry Xmas (War Is Over) (8/13)

The traditional grab-all-the-money-you-can festive spirit courtesy of Simon Cowell's musical munchkins. Go on, make an obscenely rich man even richer and buy it. Extra immorality points for ripping off a murdered rock star. This is favourite to win.

Ozzy & Kelly Osbourne - Changes (40/1)

Foul-mouthed daughter teams up

with mental father for a Christmas song that 'reflects the changes in our relationship'. Merry f***ing Christmas.

Blue / Stevie Wonder / Angie Stone - Signed, Sealed, Delivered (25/1)

Honest, I'm not making it up. Stevie Wonder momentarily loses more sense than his sight and thinks it's a good idea to duet with ballad-monkeys Blue.

Edwin Lane



Artwork courtesy of Ellen E. Jones and some prittstick

Jeremy Warmesley and Simon Mastrantone

The Boatrace, 19th November

The phrase 'singer-songwriter' is enough to strike fear into the heart of any hardened muso hack, and usually the idea of student sub-Coldplays beating the life out of Jeff Buckley's legacy is enough to send this correspondent running to the Aphex Twin-curated hills. Thank heavens then for Jeremy Warmesley and Simon Mastrantone, who both featured on the bill of The Boat Race's monthly singer-songwriter night. Simon, sans his backing band, The Simon Mastrantone Cacophony, opened with an affecting blend of old-fashioned indie blues, his heartfelt songs of bitterness and love showcasing his virtuoso guitar talents and outstanding vocal artistry. His brooding charisma and presence provides a darker alternative in a student scene too often populated by puppyish, eager to please, Chris Martin-wannabes. No such platitudes from Jeremy Warmesley either. A genuine warmth shines through his sublime folksy indie-pop. *The Gray And The Green* would not sound out of place on Belle and Sebastian's latest release, while

the punchy *Treat You Like A Diamond* is an uber-glam stomp that I could have sworn had even the resident surly locals tapping their feet. The swinging set closer, *I Want To Celebrate You*, tops them all, the sound of a passionate and original talent banging on a record company's door with a hit of raw new wave spunk. These are two original and outstanding student songwriters that deserve your immediate attention.

Sam Elliot

www.soundclick.com/jeremywarmesley,
www.smastrantone.cjb.net



Mike Senior courtesy of Sound on Sound

University of Cambridge Philharmonia

15th November, West Road

Oliver Seal's farewell to the UCP opened with the delightful *L'Italiana* overture. The pizzicato strings of the opening were distinct and confident, delicately handled by a conductor who distinguished himself with a direct interpretation that never approached flamboyance or egotism. The clear musical commitment at climactic moments, however, made for an exciting performance of a fine overture.

The concerto was competently handled – an accomplished soloist delivered a strong performance from memory, although vibrato was somewhat sentimental for my taste and definition suffered during rapid passages. However, the standard of musicianship of soloist and orchestra alike was generally very high, and a few awkward tunings were lost against a backdrop of fine music.

Beethoven Five is always an audience winner and the Philharmonia performed with genuine flair. The allegro was flowing and unindulgent – at times the players (especially during solo passages) strained somewhat at the leash but the conductor refused to be led. The andante perhaps warranted more sensitivity – at

times things were rather forthright and the delicate cadential motif suffered accordingly.

The final two movements were very well played once the orchestra had hit its stride. Top-notch playing came from across the orchestra (the timpanist, so often unmentioned, was spot-on throughout). But the overall impression? Tuning was occasionally unsettled – the French horn is a fickle instrument and jarred at times, whilst violins and wind lacked confidence in quieter passages. However, the orchestra was at its best at climactic, impassioned moments, and this was fine music indeed.

Daniel Francis



Fan Yang

REVIEWS

Good Charlotte, The Young and the Hopeless Dec 8th Sony

Shrewd social commentary from the 'nu-punk upstarts', or just more shit? Following the hilarious *Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous* (an 'airplay monster'), we have this double A-side effort. It's a slight improvement on its predecessor, but only slight - this is a repetitive, boring and unoriginal nu-metal mess, only separated from the mediocrity of the rest of the pack by an attempt to pick up on some hokey-sounding social issues. We've heard it all it before, again and again and again and again. Hopefully the band will be able to look back in a few years at this material and laugh with their apparently 'disparaging wit' So yes, the answer is, simply, shit. **Sam Bostock**



Turbonegro, Sell Your Body To the Night Dec 15th, Burning Heart

Turbonegro are scary. And not in a digestible, blood and guts everywhere, hammer horror kind of way. These peculiar Swedes lurk in odd makeup like the Childsnatcher from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, this song throbbing along behind them like a disgruntled troll. *Sell Your Body to the Night* sounds like a perverted Joy Division listening to half-speed Queen records and watching snuff films in Jamie Theakston's favourite deathsex dungeon. Furthermore, the lyrics have the eerie hue of genuine psychosis; the simple phrase 'Human flesh' is delivered with a dead-eyed gloom that shrivels fresh young student meat on contact. Absolutely thrilling.



Evanescence, My Immortal Out Now, Sony

Finally we become acquainted with another side of the Evanescence sound, a more emotional performance dedicated to a love gone wrong. *My Immortal* brings together the intensity of the previous releases' vocals with more sophisticated musical arrangements on the piano and on the backing strings. Although clearly the sound is typical of the band, its sentimentality evokes a more profound emotional response – as a proper ballad should. Dropping the heavy guitar riffs for this tune was definitely a step forward in terms of musical achievements. Not a milestone in modern music, but certainly a touching song that can be enjoyed.



Something has gone Amis

Catherine Murray-Browne extols the virtues of reading for fun

PURE TRASH

1. Anything by Jilly Cooper
The queen of trash, all aspiring sex-and-shopping novelists should learn from her masterpieces. Hilarious sex scenes.
2. *Summer Sisters*, Judy Blume
Most people will remember her as the author of amazing teen lit. This is her first (and to my knowledge, only) novel for adults but has all the same ingredients. Nineteen summers in the lives of two best friends...what could be better?
3. *Growing up Twice*, Rowan Coleman
The ultimate in thirty-somethings sorting out their lives. Makes the list just for the line, "he hovered above me..." during a sex scene.
4. *Hill Towns*, Anne Rivers Seddons
Thirty-something couples discover themselves on a trip to Italy.
5. Anything by Jenny Colgan
To my mind the best of the chick-lit crew, mainly because her books are intentionally funny and don't take themselves quite as seriously as other pastel-bound epics about "the struggle of women today."

Martin Amis apparently read *Middlemarch* in three days. Without making any assumptions about Amis' character, I think it's fair to say he was not the sort of Oxbridge student you want to find yourself sitting next to at formal hall (the fact that he worked fifteen hours a day for his finals affirms this). Neither would I want to make any assumptions about Amis' enjoyment or understanding of *Middlemarch*, but reading an eight hundred page novel in seventy-two hours smacks of the kind of joyless devouring of "great works of literature" that is so common in Cambridge. Another Penguin Classic consumed, another tick on the to-do list. Another step on the way to being a well-rounded person.

Unfortunately, in a pressured academic environment, it's difficult to escape those who have this attitude to literature and even more difficult for it not to affect you. There'll always be someone to help you forget why you enjoyed reading books in the first place: whether it's a posturing English student, or a NatSci desperate to prove that an arts degree is so easy they could do it alongside their own proper, grown-up work

(because all there is to an arts degree is reading. Obviously).

I would never suggest that the kinds of books that people plough through in order to appear well read are not enjoyable (*Middlemarch* is, as Amis puts it so concisely, "fucking good") and to see reading simply as a "leisure activity" is shortsighted. It's not the same as watching TV or going to the pub - it requires more stamina and concentration than that, but should never be a chore. Which is what it will invariably become if you approach books in the same spirit as you would the washing up. A way out is needed. And, with Christmas - the season of all things kitsch and frivo-

lous - upon us, why not leave off clocking up those intellectual brownie points, and indulge in some shockingly bad 'literature'?

But, I would never recommend any Cambridge student to delve into the murky world of trash without an adequate guide. Not all trash is good trash. And I, the expert, have compiled two reading lists to steer you away from trash that is frustrating and - the cardinal sin - boring. Trash should be so bad it's funny, not so bad it's not fun. Here are my personal favourites in trash and not-so-trash. All are fun; all are readable; none will earn you too many brownie points with the intellectual elite. Enjoy.



Santa's Little Helper

REDEEMING TRASH

1. *Story of My Life* by Jay MacInerney-and indeed anything else by him.
Fast-paced prose about fast-paced lives in New York. Lots of drugs and sex. Intensely readable and very funny.
2. *About a Boy/High Fidelity* by Nick Hornby.
Sweet and funny.
3. *Marabou Stork Nightmares* by Irvine Welsh
Better than and less well read than *Trainspotting* (although bleaker).
4. *Notes from a Scandal* by Zoë Heller
Nominated for the Man Booker Prize this year; manages that rare feat of being as compulsive and funny as it is accomplished and intelligent.
5. *Bridget Jones' Diary* and its sequel.
Sitting somewhere between lists one and two. Dubious from a feminist perspective; still, very funny.

Walking in a Winter Wonderland

Festive cheer at the ADC! Jonathan Lister promises that yule love it...

Pantomime's great when you're a kid. This fact was certainly born out by the thirty-something strong group of assembled schoolgirls from the Leys, who took up a large proportion of the raised seating at the rear of the ADC – they laughed in the right places, cheered in the right places, booed the bad guy, clapped along to bouncy songs – all the sorts of things you're supposed to do when you're eleven.

However, when you're twenty and somewhat more self-conscious, it takes a lot more than a glint of fairy dust and a busty dame to get you jumping in your seat. So, let me tell you right now that the 2003 Footlights Christmas panto, *Alice in Wonderland*, has just the perfect

mix of wit and electric joviality to warm even the most chilled of streetwise students.

Every good panto needs a satisfying fairy-tale plot and *Alice* does not fail on this score. Set seven years after Alice's first venture into Wonderland, we meet her as a frustrated sales assistant at the local Cop. Fortunately for Alice (and the audience), Alice's old friend the Cheshire Cat appears and whisks her off to save Wonderland from the clutches of the evil Jabberwock. From here on it's all silly songs, crazy costumes and more comic adlib than you could shake a Bandersnatch at.

The lead performances were truly noteworthy, with Zack Simmons' androgynous Queen of Hearts stealing the show as, frankly, every panto

dame should. The whole show plays in front of one of the most colourful and inventive sets I have seen on the Cambridge stage and the costume design is similarly enchanting.

The Footlights Christmas pantomime has a reputation for playing to sell-out audiences over its two-week run. Although the house was not quite packed on its opening night, if word-of-mouth is half as effective as it is made out to be, *Alice in Wonderland* will be attracting capacity audiences from the week-end onwards. Buy your ticket, go and see it and don't worry, there's not that much audience participation...

Alice runs at 7.45, every night until 6th December, except 30th November



A Pane-ful Twist in the Tale

The House With Twisty Windows depicts a group of British POWs incarcerated near Petrograd during WWII, in an atmosphere taut with fear and its essential denial.

James Roper is the archetypal British stoic, played with refreshing conviction by James Everest, burying his anxieties beneath the necessarily transparent veneer of optimism. The play provides powerful glimpses of psychological intensity, deepened by the

continuity of the scene in the intimate Pembroke Cellars, which effectively avoid becoming claustrophobic.

This stressed dynamic, fuelled by good individual performances (the volatility of Benjamin Deery's character demonstrating pleasing subtlety), is disturbed when the enigmatic Derrick Moore, whose capture would set the others free, is said to be found. This Irish fairy-teller, holding an unspoken wisdom (skilfully evoked by

Simon Calder's quietly expressive air) provokes both his inmates and the audience to explore the reconciliation of survival with human empathy.

This is not a play to watch if you want a bit of a giggle at closing time, but is something a little different from usual Cambridge drama.

Jonny Sweet

The House... runs at Pembroke, every night at 10.30, until Saturday

Simply too good to be true

Beware of superlative reviews – the reviewer may be a friend of the director, a lover or even just a sycophant afraid to damn the slack and inept. I am none of those things.

With this wonderful, life-affirming piece, superlatives are desperately needed but nonetheless fall short. This is a play about the minutiae of life and love, which makes its points with a gentle but powerful

touch and no small amount of grace.

Minghella touches upon both the empathetic nature of humanity and its callousness, and in her reading of the text director Saraïd Dodd has created a beautifully realised vision. Her actors are – in the briefest of descriptions – amazing and there is not one disappointing performance amongst them: these are the new professionals.

Above all things, this is a play about

noise and about silence, and like a great piece of music it has the beauty of notes on a blank page: the most simple and beautiful of contrasts.

I don't need to sing this play's praises; it speaks – and often doesn't speak – for itself. See it at all costs.

Mic Wright

Cigarettes and Chocolate is the ADC late show until Saturday

In search of...

The Shirley Players' production of Luigi Pirandello's Six Characters in Search of an Author is an impressive adaptation of an exciting and original script.

Six characters walk unannounced onto the set of a play and tell the director that they have been cruelly abandoned by their own author and creator. Unless they are given the opportunity to act out their already written roles, they have no purpose and are as good as dead. The director is finally persuaded and allows each of their individual dramas to be staged, but on the condition that he uses his own actors.

This complex and philosophical intertwining of truth and fiction, of reality and illusion, of being and becoming, is thoughtfully presented in a minimalist yet symmetrical manner: the six characters in black, a tableau on one side, versus the ca-

sually dressed actors and director on the other, with numerous blurred meetings in the middle.

Some outstanding performances dominate this production, most notably Michelle Beeson's portrayal of the strong but tragic stepdaughter. Mark Rodgers, who plays the well-meaning but pitifully weak father, is excellent but is sometimes rushed, as though the script is simply too much for him.

Considering the risk that is run when putting on such a difficult play, I feel that this production does do justice to the original work. If you think that this postmodernist extravaganza sounds complicated, imagine how confused I felt: I was at the dress rehearsal!

Giulia Miller

Six Characters runs at St. Chad's Octagon, 7.30, every night until Saturday

Prince Albert

The ADC was packed last Wednesday night for the freshers' late show, *Albert's Bridge*; it was a perfect play for post-formal revellers, with interesting characters, short snappy scenes, and plenty of funny bits.

Most of the parts, in fact, were cameo comedy roles, and actors including Dan Mansell (Fitch) and Sam Kitchener (Fraser) energetically played off of their audience's obvious appreciation. It was beautiful to be part of such a goodwill exchange.

Fresh out of university, Albert (Thomas Eccleshare) agrees to spend the next eight years painting a bridge. Over time his charming and amusing naïveté is torn to pieces by real life; the

world around him and the people in it inexorably drag him down. This would have been clearer had the production made a greater contrast between the realistic Albert and the symbolic caricatures around him. The lack of progression in his character became more apparent as the play focused on him, a shame after a cracking start.

The set was artistic as well as convincing and the technical team frequently and smoothly refocused attention to different parts of the stage. The creative staging and careful costume and prop choice helped emphasise the comedy and kept the audience entertained. An impressively slick production, but lacking soul.

Emma Rose McGlone

Truly Egg-ceptional

A Day in the Death of Joe Egg by Peter Nichols concerns the trials that Bri and his wife Sheila must endure in caring for their severely disabled daughter Joe. Described as a 'darkly comic masterpiece', the play definitely treads the thin line between tragedy and hilarity.



Chris Adams

Director Chris Adams has skilfully integrated emotive scenes with stand-up comedy, re-enactments and audience interaction. Special attention must go to Oliver Rickman as Bri, who through hilarious facial expressions, body language, and accents becomes an old incompetent doctor, German paediatrician and vicar all in one glorious sketch. Indeed, he almost steals the show.

Almost. The rest of the cast are, however, excellent. Lucy Bond as Sheila – Bri's long-suffering wife – balances the mix of comic and tragedy successfully, whereas Rickman is perhaps more suited to the comic aspects of the play.

Natalie Trangmar plays the chain-smoking, disapproving stuck up bitch Pam superbly – watch out especially for her *Daily Mail* monologue – whilst Richard J Thomas is animated as her husband, Freddie: the caring socialist failing miserably in his attempts to help Bri and Sheila.

Finally, credit should be given to Lucy Barwell as Joe, who sensitively portrays the crippled child having fits. With a week to go this play is already looking well worth seeing.

John D Mills

Joe Egg runs at the Playroom, 7.00, 2nd-6th December

All Dolled Up

Which ones are going to be big this Christmas?

A Doll's House, perhaps Ibsen's most famous play, is a masterwork of domestic drama, articulating the purpose of feminism and the evils posed by patriarchy. It is a work of real sophistication and importance and so it proves even more satisfying to see such a skilful representation of it by BATS.

The acting was almost exclusively commendable, with a pivotal performance by Alice Harper as Nora: she was able to command the stage and the script with a great authority. She was amply supported by Will James in the thrillingly patronising role of Torvald Helmer, her imperious husband, while the more peripheral characters held their scenes flawlessly.

The staging was effective, with an impressive use of disintegrating light helping to emphasise and parallel the decomposition of the characters

and their identities: by the end of the play we are left only with a white doorframe and a revealing spotlight as the illusion of the family's harmony dissolves, and the Doll's House is no longer viable.

In some areas a bit more risk-taking would have been welcome, perhaps in accentuating the sexual tension between Dr. Rank and Nora and making Torvald's lustful approaches to Nora more threatening in the final scenes. Moreover, in places Harper does not quite reach the desperate levels of anxiety necessary: some more melodrama could have worked well.

These are, though, quibbles about an altogether excellent production spiritedly acted.

Oliver Tilley

A Doll's House runs at Queens' Fitzpatrick Theatre, 7.45, until Saturday

Wasp all that about, then?

Don't get me wrong, I like experimental theatre. When I heard the Marlowe Society were staging John Kinsella's new piece, *The Wasps*, a 'fusion of dance, trance and poetry', I was excited. Sure enough, the individual elements are in there, but unfortunately, I saw no evidence of 'fusion'.

The play tells the story of couple Shirley and Bill (Stephanie Cohen



and Jeremy Jameson), whose house is infested with wasps. Through their fear, paranoia and eventual destruction, the play attempts to explore madness, sickness and human reactions to outsiders. The problem is, though, that nothing quite hangs together. The wasps, which should have been the play's thematic and visual focus, instead disappear into the background. Neither their dancing, nor their costumes, nor the couple's reactions to their presence created any real tension. I didn't believe that they were wasps, or that they posed a threat. Without this, it was impossible to be convinced by the story, or by the deeper ideas which it sought to explore.

A lot of the ideas did work in the-

ory: a stylish, minimalist set, contemporary dance and techno music, if well executed, could have made this an exciting, innovative piece of theatre. But I saw no evidence of any directorial cohesion uniting those ideas, let alone making any kind of statement.

The different approaches to dance and music suggested that the director had two completely different ideas of what wasps are like. This, a weak script and unconvincing acting make this a production where every element is, quite literally, out of synch.

Hazel Pearson

The Wasps runs at Queens' Theatre, Emma, 8, every night until Saturday

'Tis pity she's a Ho' Ho' Ho'

Incest, violence and suffering are always thrilling, and JCDS' production of John Ford's *Tis Pity She's A Whore* proved entertaining, to say the least. In a gruelling bloodbath of vice and revenge, the cast did their best to bring emotional depth to a play which can easily become wildly hysterical.

Ford's richly symbolic language thrived in the intense monologues delivered by lead Joe Marsh, whose brooding dissatisfaction with life and God took strength from the imposingly gothic backdrop of Jesus

Chapel. It is a strikingly atmospheric venue, but the acoustics at times worked against the actors when they were unfortunately drowned out by their own echoes.

In a work underscored with killings, there was a tendency towards clumsy death scenes which detracted somewhat from the ultimate impact. The cringe-inducingly messy demise of Hugh Sheppard's deliciously obnoxious fop, Soranzo, face first into a chocolate gateau, and some pretty toe-curling angina raised a smile, if not the roof.

The production itself is a mixed bag; the doomed but beautiful relationship is elegantly portrayed and lingers in the mind after the curtain falls, but Soranzo's destructive manservant is not nearly reptilian enough and the cardinal who hurriedly tidies up the affair is po-faced and rather stilted.

The action is energetic and enthusiastic, but the on-stage clattering was exhausting and leaves the audience thinking 'tis pity they didn't do it slightly differently.

Harriet Walker

Bardolicious. Well, not really...

If you are a Shakespearian purist, then *Troilus and Cressida*, performed this week by the Ariel Society and CADS at New Court Theatre, Christ's College, is not for you. The normally four-hour drama has been whittled down to a mere two, and transformed from a Trojan War tragedy into a WWI musical, complete with a show-stopping rendition of *It's a Long Way to Tipperary*.

That said, I can't remember ever having as much fun at a Shakespearian tragedy. The production was energetic, funny, and well-acted, in particular Jon Grossman's Pandarus. Between scenes, Rachel Grahame - a sultry Helen of Troy - sang Great War hits like *Over There*, accompanied by a talented pianist who frequently played in complete darkness.

Production designer Alex Pashby created an impressive set which managed to suggest trenches with only khaki-coloured backdrops and sandbags, and the authentic-seeming military costumes added credibility to the show.

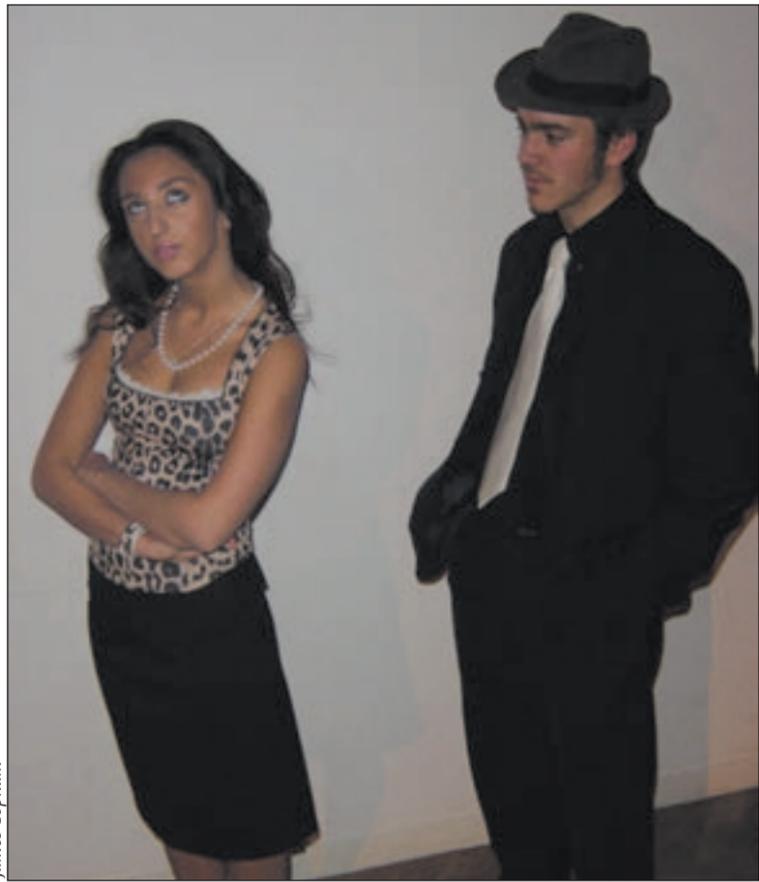
This is not to suggest that the production was perfect—far from it—but the show's biggest flaw was no one's fault but Shakespeare's. *Troilus*

and *Cressida* has no emotional impact. *Troilus* never confronts *Cressida* over her presumed infidelity, and thus the love story which forms the core of the play is unresolved and unsatisfying. But as long as you are not coming hoping to be reduced to tears, you will enjoy the

musical favourites and the surprisingly off-colour jokes. The cast have done a wonderful job and deserve a large audience.

Carrie English

Troilus and Cressida runs every night until Saturday, 9.15



James Topham

"Is that a gun in your pocket?..."

Guys and Dolls is one of the classic musicals, with a plot dark enough to escape schmaltz. Somehow a woman who can't get her man to marry her, a failing Salvation Army mission and illegal card games combine with bad puns and perfect songs to make a show that leaves you feeling happy.

Normally with musicals you have to wince through the dialogue and wake up with the songs; here the whole thing flows and fortunately this cast can act as well as they can sing. Okay, so some of them can act better than they can sing, but these are the kind of songs where delivering character delin-

ation is more important than an impressive range.

Roxana Adle is a flirtatious Adelaide and makes her *Lament* angry and needy and sassy all at the same time. Tim Rothwell's Sky Masterson, meanwhile, gives *Luck Be a Lady* the right sense of urgency. But the success of the musical is down to the energy and charm of the whole cast, rather than to individual performances.

This isn't the most professional or challenging piece on in town, but it might well be the most uplifting.

Ann Fielding

Guys and Dolls runs at Pembroke Cellars, 7.30, every night until Saturday



Duncan Barrett



Gavin Versi

Mid-season predictions and why Arsenal will win the Premiership

At the start of the season Arsenal could be backed at 2/1 to win the Premiership. Amazingly, despite them being top of the pile and remaining unbeaten having played their four main rivals, that price is still available.

It is indicative of bookmakers' and the media's misunderstanding of Arsenal's quality. The typical charge levelled at Arsene Wenger and Co is that they lack mettle and will ultimately falter. Witness their 2-2 draw at Bolton last term, or surrendering of points at Aston Villa (both of which would have probably won them the title) and that argument looks valid.

However, this term they have dis-

played a resolve seldom seen at Highbury since the infamous 1-0 wins of the George Graham era. To take 10 out of a possible 12 points against Man Utd, Liverpool, Newcastle and Chelsea is enough to suggest they should be favourites, but to do so with a depleted team is remarkable. The 3-0 win over Birmingham at the weekend - who erstwhile boasted the third best home defensive record in the Premiership - was achieved without the likes of Vieira, Wiltord, Lauren, Parlour and Keown.

This pours scorn on the argument that they lack strength in depth. Sure Chelskov may have twenty world-class players, but you can only field

eleven, and Arsenal predictably defeated them last month - again with players missing.

United's squad may be superior, but on the occasions they've rested players, it has often ended in disaster. Let me dispel the myth that Bolton's consecutive wins at Old Trafford were amongst the greatest successes in Premiership history: Alex Ferguson gave those points away by arrogantly fielding weakened teams. Wenger can't afford to do the same, which, paradoxically, is to his team's advantage.

A glance at their forthcoming fixtures, especially when compared to Man Utd and Chelsea's, makes me believe that the Gunners will be

at least three points clear at Christmas, by which time the talismanic Vieira will be back.

But the main reason why Arsenal are going to win the title is because they possess the world's best player. I have thought this for over a year now. Various described as "frightening", "awesome" and even "a freak", Thierry Henry is as good as it gets. His pace and power are breathtaking, whilst his vision and passing are similarly faultless. He's not a bad finisher either.

Though I don't think they'll win the Premiership, I believe Chelsea will take the Carling Cup. It's not the most daring prediction I know, but when

you can replace Hasselbaink and Gudjonsson with Crespo and Mutu, whilst their rivals field youth players, it's theirs for the taking.

In Europe, I fancy Juventus for the Champions League. I must admit, I backed Real at the start of the season. But seeing Seville tear them apart a fortnight ago (Los Meringues were 4-0 down at the break) reminded me of their defensive shortcomings - and they have no quality cover at the back whatsoever. Juventus unravelled them quite brilliantly last season, and I expect the Italian giants to make amends for last year's penalty shoot-out heartbreak by winning this year's edition of club football's premier competition.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Fencing

The Men's 1sts confirmed their position on top of the BUSA Premier League with demolitions of Oxford 131-90 and Aberystwyth 135-71 on Saturday. They still have two games in hand over second placed team University of London. Meanwhile the Women's 1sts began their season with a triangular match at the weekend. They easily dispatched of Bristol, Reading and UCL over the two days of competition. Both teams are now looking forward to their Winter Training Camp in Milan, Italy.

Cross Country Cuppers

Treacherous conditions underfoot, combined with England's win in the Rugby World Cup, didn't put off the competitors in Cross Country Cuppers. With Andy Bell and Alex McIntosh both finishing in the top ten, Queens' took the men's title with John's in second and Jesus third. The Caius' ladies proved victorious, closely followed by Newnham and Queens' Rowan Hooper won the men's race, finishing the six-mile course in a time of 33:33. Peterhouse's Ellen Leggatte dominated the women's race to win by nearly a minute.

College hockey

In hockey, Helen Gunn's Jesus took control of the women's league this weekend. The defending champions beat the hitherto-undefeated Catz side 2-0. In the men's league, Magdalene retained pole position after beating Catz 2-0. Elsewhere, Emma drew 2-2 with Sidney, and Caius beat Robinson 2-0. It was a poor week for Robinson, whose women's team laughably didn't turn up for their game against Jesus II because they didn't want to play in the rain. In men's Division Two, Christ's maintained their 100% record with a 5-0 victory over Fitz in the league and a 4-3 cuppers win over Downing.

Top Catz dog it out to lead table

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Mike Henson and Ben Reeve

Catz went top of the College football league with a 1-0 win over Downing, while John's continued their title push with a 2-0 victory against Trinity.

Just prior to kick off Downing closed ranks into a pre-match huddle, yet by the end of ninety tight, breathless minutes it was claret and blue knots of jubilant Catz players that dotted the pitch as their team moved top. Under a squally sky, on a converted rugby pitch, it was the close fought nature of the game, rather than a display of attractive football or individual skill, that enthralled.

Downing had the better of the opening exchanges, occasionally managing to find some composure in a pinball midfield. The solitary goal was the climax to a rare period of Catz pressure, as Abdur Modoni swept in a shot from the edge of the area.

Downing pressed forward in the second half, yet for all their possession and pressure there were few genuine opportunities to level. The lively midfield pair of Stokes and Dewhurst came as close as any, with a dipping long-range attempt and a sliced volley respectively. Indeed Catz could easily have been



Sam Richardson

John's James Bryan nods the ball back into Trinity's dangerzone

closing out the game in a more relaxed fashion as they found the gaps left at the back by an increasingly desperate Downing.

Ultimately however it was an unflinching combination of concentration and determination in defence, embodied in the combative, cajoling Mills, which pushed Catz into pole position.

In what was billed as "The biggest game of the league calendar" by Trinity Captain Rob Ogilvie, a confident display from fired-up John's left their arch-rivals still without a point in the top division.

Confident opening play from John's put the boys in blue on the back foot, and a mishit clearance 10 minutes in left John's striker Alex Starling with

a great opportunity, which he tucked away neatly from 10 yards.

Militant home support from the touchline berated the nervous looking Trinity side, who did well not to concede a second, as both Starling and Nick Pantelides came close.

Trinity started the second half positively and pinned John's deep into their own half, with Thomas Cheongvee testing the keeper. The home team sealed the fixture as Chris Griffiths' strike somehow found its way in via the post and keeper Jack Willis.

Pantelides could have made it three or four in the closing minutes, as John's reaffirmed their title ambitions, leaving Trinity badly needing points to secure their Division One status.

Men's Hockey - Div 1

	P	W	D	L	GFGA	Pts
Magdalene	4	4	0	0	14	28
Robinson	5	3	0	2	31	13
Caius	3	3	0	0	9	3
Emma	5	2	1	2	10	18
Jesus	3	2	0	1	13	4
St John's	2	2	0	0	10	4
Cam City	3	2	0	1	9	3
Sidney	3	1	1	1	6	7
Catz	5	1	0	4	8	15
Pembroke	3	0	0	3	2	11
Queens'	3	0	0	3	1	16
Downing	3	0	0	3	4	21

Women's Hockey - Div 1

	P	W	D	L	GFGA	Pts
Jesus	3	3	0	0	5	0
Caius	3	2	1	0	9	1
Catz	2	2	0	0	8	0
Trinity	4	1	2	1	4	3
Girton	3	1	1	1	2	4
Emma	2	1	0	1	2	2
New Hall	3	1	0	2	2	4
Queens'	3	0	2	1	1	2
Fitz	4	0	0	4	0	15

Men's Rugby - Div 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St John's	5	5	0	0	216	22	20
Jesus	5	4	0	1	131	45	17
Downing	4	2	0	2	77	58	10
P'house/Selwyn	5	1	0	4	43	166	8
Fitz	5	1	0	4	38	196	8
Catz	4	1	0	3	61	64	7

Women's Rugby - Div 1

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Trinity	2	2	0	0	+54	4
St John's	1	1	0	0	+38	2
Churchill	1	1	0	0	+15	2
Clare/Tit Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caius	1	0	0	1	-15	0
Emma	1	0	0	1	-22	0
Girton	1	0	0	1	-32	0
Queens'	1	0	0	1	-38	0

Men's Football - Div 1

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Catz	3	3	0	0	10	1	9
Girton	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Darwin	5	2	1	2	5	10	7
Downing	3	1	0	2	12	4	3
St John's	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
Fitz	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Jesus	2	1	0	1	1	4	3
Long Road	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trinity	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Pembroke	2	0	0	2	0	12	0

Should it all be about the money?

Andy Fifield

There are few sights more depressing than the Wilberforce Road sports complex when it is framed by leaden skies and saturated by scudding rain. The prospect of a drenching has made the faces of the Blues hockey squad, assembling for their game against Harleston last Saturday, as dark as the clouds. Only Jamie Parker, the team's inspirational midfielder, seemed to be relishing the monsoon-like conditions.

"What's that film?" he mused, out loud. "The Happy Gilmore?" His voice acquired a jockish twang as he plucked a quote from thin air. "I've been put on this world for one reason – to play hockey!"

Parker's passion for the sport is refreshing, and could yet lead him to commit to it full-time once he has completed his medical training, but he is one of a dying breed. Fewer and fewer of Cambridge's brightest sporting prospects are deciding to take their talents into the professional arena, opting instead for the financial security of jobs in the City.

Take Adrian Shankar. The Blues cricket captain spent last summer turning out for the Worcestershire second team and has been offered a contract by the county once he graduates at the end of this academic year. There is just one problem: lying next to it on the table are offers

from management consultancy firms offering around twice the money. It is an agonising choice, but his mind seems almost made up.

"The main factor affecting my situation is that the money you can

fondly about a sepia-tinted amateur past, but you can hardly blame him for being tempted. With most undergraduates amassing five-figure debts, a £30,000-plus starting salary is enough to get even the most firm-

because I can take a sabbatical after my training. That would give me a chance to pursue hockey."

Parker is lucky. Most of his fellow finalists will have only one chance to crack the world of professional sport,

– Northampton, Harlequins, Bath," says Aki Abiola, the Blues rugby winger. "I had a difficult decision because a lot of my friends were going off to play professional rugby and telling me that I should do the same. But I felt it was important to finish my studies and keep my options open."

Schoolboys of the future may not get that chance. This is now the age of academies, where talented young players are immersed in their sports from the moment they can kick, hit or throw a ball. Will it be all but impossible for university graduates to go into professional sport in the future?

"Definitely," replied Shankar. "Combining sport with studying is now an anachronism: the view seems to be that if you want youngsters to achieve Jonny Wilkinson-type perfection, then you need to make sport their lives from an early age. University won't come into it."

It is a dispiriting view, but it helps to explain why Cambridge is recruiting players from far-flung corners of the globe. The Blues rugby squad is littered with Antipodean talent, and the cricket club have worked hard to establish links with New Zealand. You only hope that the desire for immediate success will not blind sports administrators to the long-term consequences for Cambridge sport.

For more from Jamie Parker, Adrian Shankar and Aki Abiola, please visit www.varsity.co.uk/sport



earn playing county cricket simply isn't enough," he said. "For me, the only point of playing cricket is to get into the England team, so I have to judge whether or not I am good enough. It's a big decision."

Shankar's approach may be anathema to those who reminisce

and decision-time is looming. Pressure comes from all sides; parents, university careers advisers, employers and, of course, the clubs themselves, who are now urging youngsters to forgo university entirely.

"I can understand people being worried over the financial implications," he acknowledged. "I just don't think of it like that. However, I'm in an easier position than some

and decision-time is looming. Pressure comes from all sides; parents, university careers advisers, employers and, of course, the clubs themselves, who are now urging youngsters to forgo university entirely.

"After I finished school, I was offered deals by a few Premiership clubs

Canoe Club homeless as Caius Boat Club expands

Amanda Turner

The University Canoe Club is being made homeless. For the past 10 years the club has operated from two small sheds kindly lent to them by Caius College Boat Club. However with the expansion of the Caius Boat Club the Canoe Club has been asked to leave. The list of sports on offer at the University may be about to get shorter.

The Canoe Club was founded in 1970 and is an active and growing club. The club welcomes beginners and over 60 people have been learning to canoe each week this term. The current membership stands at around 200. You can find canoeists on the Cam every day of the week and the number of active members is more than equivalent to a college boat club. Just like a boat club the canoe club needs storage next to the river to function.

The club Commodore Andy

Milton says, "It is such a shame. The club has been going from strength to strength over the past few years. We've had a record intake this term on our beginners courses. People who took their first few strokes in a canoe from those sheds have been paddling with us in the French Alps. Caius has been very generous in accommodating us for 10 years. However we are now really stuck."

In the long term a solution on the

Upper Cam, above the Mill Pond, may be the way forward. Punting is the main activity on the Backs and rowing on the Lower River. To base canoeing on the Upper River would seem like the logical progression. However securing the land and the funding for such a project will be extremely difficult.

This situation highlights one of the problems of colleges being so central to sport in Cambridge. Whilst almost every college has access to a

custom built boathouse, the Canoe Club has no premises of its own and has to rely on generosity - something which can be withdrawn at very short notice. Will we ever see the day of co-ordinated sport for Cambridge students? Or does a sport need a 200-year tradition to survive in Cambridge? Time will tell.

If you know of anyone who may be able to help out the club then please contact their Commodore, Andy Milton, apfm2.

Lacrosse boys lose brutal encounter

BLUES LACROSSE

Adam Edelshain

BLUES 1
BUCKHURST HILL 12

I have never seen so many individuals sent off in a single game. One of the players hit his opposing number on the head with his stick several times and was back on the pitch only a minute later. What sort of a game would condone such brutal and unforgiving behaviour?

The answer is lacrosse and as the Blues lost comfortably to Buckhurst Hill, I was then told that in this particular game there were no "take outs". There is a rule where you can effectively knock your opponent completely off his feet, very similar to ice hockey. When added to the other legal moves, such as hitting your opponent anywhere with your stick (apart from the head) as long as it looks like you might be trying to hit their stick, I was horrified. I thought I might have discovered a sport to challenge ice hockey as one of the most brutal. And at least in ice hockey you get heavy padding.

A goal from Nick Gonzalez was little consolation for Cambridge's efforts as the opposition crept into double figures. The rain was lashing down and the pitch was a mud pit by half time. Those in the crowd that had come to support were a little distressed when they lost feeling in their hands only five minutes into the first quarter.

However, the game was certainly entertaining and after 80 minutes of smooth passing, wonderful moves from both teams and some incredibly brutal (and a few illegal) challenges, I decided that it was worth risking potential hypothermia to watch.

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:

Which former Cambridge Blue led England to victory in this year's Hong Kong sevens?

To enter e-mail sport@varsity.co.uk. Closing date: midnight Tuesday. Last week's winner: Stephanie Clarke.

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

CUP DREAM SWEEP AWAY

BLUES HOCKEY

Rajan Lakhani

BLUES 2

SURBITON 9

After another victory in the league, all eyes turned to the cup match against one of the country's top clubs, Surbiton. The rain was as heavy as the task that faced Cambridge, but credit to the players and supporters who braved the weather for this entertaining affair.

The match began frantically with Surbiton piling the pressure on the Cambridge goal and it was no shock when the first goal arrived. A well-worked short corner allowed Daly to fire home into the top corner. The Surbiton coach was pleased with the first goal but not at the amount of time it had taken to arrive. "We should be 4-0 up by now," he was heard to say.

The worry was that the floodgates would soon open but thankfully, no such thing happened for Cambridge dictated the play for the next 15 minutes. Chances went begging as Jamie Parker miss-hit

his signature reverse shot while Rob Fulford went agonisingly close with a drag-flick.

When the goal arrived, it was well worth waiting for. A quite stunning, one-touch sweeping move from one end of the pitch to the other allowed Rob Lancaster to score from close in.

Cambridge were not level for long though as Surbiton won a penalty flick against the run of play, which was dispatched nonchalantly by Steen. The Blues continued to show great eagerness though in closing down the opposition, putting pressure on every pass. Their deserved equaliser came when Fulford hammered the ball into the net with a reverse shot. At 2-2, maybe the cup fairytale was on?

Unfortunately, not so as Surbiton scored two late goals in the first half to all but end Cambridge's chances of progression. Both moves were well executed and the clinical finishing of Surbiton was something to behold. 4-2 down at half time to the club currently lying second in the National League Premiership, Cambridge were in need of a comeback of titanic proportions.

Enthusiasm and pressing can only take you a certain distance for the top teams inevitably pick such



Shamuz Musfer

Rob Fulford goes in for a challenge in what were atrocious conditions at Wilberforce Road on Sunday

sides off. That is exactly what happened in the second half, for Surbiton laid siege to the Cambridge goal, almost scoring at will. What may have been a fairytale soon descended into a nightmare of the worst proportions as

Surbiton found gaps all over the pitch, with the Cambridge defence chasing shadows and punished ruthlessly for their mistakes. The Blues rarely got out of their half as the all blacks of Surbiton took the second half 5-0, producing a final

score of 9-2.

It was hard on Cambridge who played some quite brilliant hockey in the first half. They must take the positive aspects of this game and not let the result affect their challenge for the league.

See inside for special Varsity rugby match pullout

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