Varsity can today unveil the most powerful people in Cambridge. The most talented, innovative and influential people attached to the University have been scouted out and are exposed in our exclusive four page supplement.

The internationally acclaimed Ross Anderson sits at the top of the list. He is renowned for his work in international security systems covering a vast range from banking and ATM security to patient confidentiality and involvement with nuclear weapons. The fact that Anderson is top reflects the importance of computing and security in an increasingly insecure world.

From James Crawford, President of International Law Commission, to the ‘almost famous’ Sarah Solemani, a West End performer, the list comprises a cross section of fellows, academics and students, all of whose credentials had to undergo rigorous analysis in order to be kept on the list. The list includes Nobel Laureates and Fields Gold Medalists. Cambridge is stuffed with people whose positions are internationally recognised even if their faces and names aren’t. Lord Wilson, who ranks fourth place in the list, is former head of the civil service and sits on the Board of BskyB.

The list was researched in a number of ways, both through an open appeal to candidates and through investigation into the brightest and brightest stars in our bubble. It was a project that began in summer 2003, and has been constantly in flux, with updates as to who was achieving what up to the moment we went to press. As compilers of the list, we were keen to include a wide cross section, but there was no criteria or statistics to fill other than needing to be powerful. This is a list that is subject to no quotas or external agendas. This resulted in women comprising just ten percent of the top 20 positions and 15 percent of the whole list. In terms of students, which comprise 47 percent of the total, women comprise 23.4 percent of those.

This list reinforces Cambridge’s reputation as premier scientific institution, with 20% of the list made up of scientists, with seven of these Nobel Laureates.

Student-wise, we have Entrepreneurs such as Azim Mumtaz, who is hoping to secure easy to use solar energy systems for third world countries. These could potentially be used by any household to secure electricity and would alleviate the plight of millions of people.

With a host of talent such as this within City’s boundaries, Cambridge cannot fail to continue to attract the finest minds of the future.
Going over the top-up

Anmol Rajan
Cambridge Vice-Chancellor: Clarke's proposals are not enough

Alison Richard has said that the government's proposed Higher Education Bill does not go far enough in addressing the funding crisis of Britain's Universities.

Writing in The Guardian, the University's Vice-Chancellor said that, "without a significant and rapid increase in our income, our position in the first rank of world universities will be in peril... teaching is underfunded by at least £24m per annum".

Her comments reflect personal opinion rather than the university's official policy. Officially, the university continues to believe that the introduction of top-up fees will deter students from poorer backgrounds.

Richard's article, published on Tuesday, comes in the wake of a frenzied national debate over top-up fees. In a bid to appease Labour rebels, Charles Clarke last week amended his initial proposals to offer students from poorer families up to £3,000 a year, to cover the cost of their higher education.

Students from homes earning under £15,000 a year will be given a £1,200 fees subsidy and a £1,500 means-tested grant from the government for each year of their higher education. They will also be eligible for annual £300 bursaries from their universities. Student loans will rise by £110. All outstanding debt shall be written off after 25 years.

The Education Secretary claims that with these amendments no poor student would be worse off as a result of the Bill's introduction.

Meanwhile, Varsity has learnt that Cambridge's proposals to introduce bursaries of £4,000 for students from poorer families will be unaffacted by Mr Clarke's changes. This could mean students have up to £7,000 a year whilst at Cambridge, and no fees to pay before graduation.

CUSU President Ben Brinded says that his opposition to top-up fees is undiminished. He believes that Mr. Clarke's ultimatum to Labour MPs amounts to "emotional blackmail".

CUSU in conjuction with Cambridge MP and top-up rebel Anne Campbell have also launched an on-line survey to find out what students really think about fees.

See varsity.co.uk for the survey.

Bursaries assume Uni remains elitist

Tim Moreton
A Varsity investigation has suggested that Cambridge University's scheme of maintenance bursaries, will rapidly become unaffordable if it actually succeeds in improving access.

The scheme, predicated on the university charging the full £3,000 fee, plans to provide annual grants of £4,000 to the poorest students, with support on a sliding scale for students with parental incomes less than £40,000. Cambridge estimates that the cost will be around £0m per year, paid for out of the £12m additional income it stands to receive from top-up fees.

However, the university's figures assume that the undergraduate body's make-up remains as it is at present, where only 10% of students' parents earn less than £15,000, the lowest proportion of any university in the country except London.

Cambridge's bursary scheme will provide assistance to students with parental incomes of up to £35,000 – a group who make up a third of Cambridge students but two-thirds of undergraduates nationally.

If Cambridge's intake became representative of the national student population, the bursaries would cost the university more than £17m per year – virtually all of the extra funding that top-up fees were meant to provide.

Cambridge is unlikely to be able to sustain such a cost. Last year it made a loss of £4m and several of its colleges are running annual deficits of more than £1m.

Its other options would be to scale back the bursary scheme, or push the Government to increase tuition fees. Although Charles Clarke has ruled out any increase in this Parliament, fees of just over £4,000 would allow Cambridge to follow its original plan and receive around £12m additional income from the cost of the bursaries.

CUSU President Ben Brinded, who played a part in formulating the bursaries scheme, was disappointed when Varsity approached him with its analysis, but emphasised the importance of maintaining bursaries for poor students.

He said: “This issue highlights that if the university is going to meet the requirements of the Office for Fair Access, and charge higher fees, it needs to maintain its commitment to widen participation.”

Charging the full £3,000 top-up fee will give the university a significant windfall for the first few years, but the bursaries financial continuation depends, perversely, on Cambridge failing to reform its image as an elitist institution.

Downing deny bullying

Archie Bland
An Oxford University admissions tutor has claimed that her daughter was “bullied” and “intimidated” in a Downing College interview. But Downing is to hit back in a strongly worded letter to the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) which has been shown to Varsity.

Dr Dawn Chatty directs a masters degrees course in the science of forced migration. She told Varsity that her daughter had been left “distraught” by the interview, and added that neither Oxford nor Cambridge had gone far enough in interview training.

She asserted that Cambridge’s current half day programme was “not sufficient”, and that the whole system needed to be "much more transparent".

It is the latest in a series of such complaints about Oxbridge admissions, the best known of which came from Laura Spence.

Downing’s robust response, signed by the master, the senior tutor, and the admissions tutor, called Dr Chatty’s account of events “thoroughly distorted,” “ineccusable,” and “disturbing”. They accused her of “inflating her daughter’s alleged experience into an attack on the whole Cambridge system of interviewing”. In a break from normal practice, the letter discuses specific details of the interview. Dr Chatty alleged that her daughter had been cut off mid sentence to be told she was wrong; Downing denies this. She also described her daughter watching while, in “a final humiliation”, “one interviewer cuts short the other mid-question to announce that he thought that was enough and the interview was over.”

Downing says “neither interviewer recalls doing so”, but that if they did, it was to “avoid disadvantaging the following candidate through a shortened interview.”

The authors also pointed out that both tutors present at the interview had undergone training in the past year. But Richard Wakeford, who devises and organises Cambridge’s interview training scheme, said that the present training scheme is “quite modest... As providers of training we should try and learn from all incidents like this”. There is not yet a central university policy on training for interviewers.
£400k deal for first year novelist

Benjamin Bland

One of Cambridge’s rising literary stars, Helen Oyeyemi, has signed a lucrative two-book deal worth almost £400,000.

Oyeyemi finished writing her first book ‘The Icarus Girl’ between her A level exams, and as soon as Bloomsbury, the publishers behind Harry Potter, read the manuscript they offered her the contract, which will put her among Britain’s highest-paid novelists.

“‘But,” she says “my parents didn’t know I was writing the book until the contract was signed and I don’t think they knew that I basically put my homework on hold for 3 months. In fact, they only got to read the book this week.”’

The 18-year-old Nigerian-born author’s inspiration for her first book came from a short story she wrote: “I read it back and thought ‘yay! This is the best thing that I’ve ever written.’” Her book tells the story of a girl who visits Nigeria where she meets a friend that only she can see.

An agent rapidly snapped her up and she is now penning her second book, provisionally titled ‘Peaces’.

A first-year SPs student at Corpus Christi, Oyeyemi has found herself swept up in a whirlwind of publicity, yet she has not let it go to her head: “In an ideal world, of course I’d love to be a full-time writer but it’s difficult to make a living out of it. To do that you need to have the talents of J.K. Rowling and plenty of luck.”

Meanwhile, Cambridge police continue to “ask staff, students and residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious incidents to the police”.

• A bomb threat at the end of last term caused widespread disruption before it was confirmed as a hoax. It came amid concerns that animal rights groups may try to disrupt the university.

OBE (hons.)

Cantab

Matthew Bennett and Abby O’Reilly

Amid cries of ‘snobbery’, this New Year’s Honours list again rewarded many members of Britain’s elite including many Cambridge dons.

The University, which does not openly nominate academics for honours, was “delighted” at the recognition of the dons rewarded in this year’s honours list for their academic achievements and public service.

Professor Bob Hepple, QC, Emeritus Professor of Law and a former Master of Clare is to be knighted.

The Master of Sidney Sussex and Director of the Judge Institute, Professor Sandra Dawson was made a Dame.

Professor Margaret Stanley, a fellow at Christ’s and head of the Stanley group which conducts research into cervical cancer, was appointed OBE.

Professor Alan Dashwood has been created CBE for his contribution to European Law and for his work on the European Union’s Convention. In recognition of over thirty years of work at Homerton, Emeritus Professor John Murrell, has been appointed MBE.

Professor David Farrington and Dr Marjorie Chibnall have also been appointed the OBE.

Amid the spate of awards and honours to Cambridge dons there was also the rumour that one of the dons who was offered an honour was a refuse man. The University was however, unable to confirm.
**Gardies lease terminated**

Bryan Coll

The moment that Vas Anstasiou and thousands of Cambridge students and staff had been dreading has finally arrived. Just one week before Christmas, Gardies received a letter confirming the termination of its lease. This may well be the final chapter in the Gardies story - a saga that has captured Cambridge students and staff from across the world up in arms.

The letter was a crushing blow to Mr Anstasiou who believes that its timing was malicious. He described the decision to deliver the letter a week before Christmas as a “heartless one”. Caius and property agent Bidwells both informed The Gardia of their intention to terminate the property’s lease back in September. They claimed the late arrival of the letters was due to a “legal technicality.”

The letter was written in detailed legal language and was accompanied by a simple photocopy of the Landlord and Tenants Act. Mr Anstasiou now has a period of one month in which to challenge Caius in court. However, he insisted, “It is against my family values to go to court. All I want to do is to talk face to face with the bursar.”

Mr Anstasiou claims that he has constantly been refused meetings by the Caius bursar Barry Hedley. However, Mr Hedley claimed to have had several meetings with Mr Anstasiou and to have considered his position at length.

One particularly thorny area is the matter of financial compensation. In statements released by the bursary and in conversation with Varsity, Mr Hedley stated that The Gardenia would receive “substantial” compensation from Cambridge.

Nabilah Sadiq

Students at King’s College began the term with more pennies in the piggy bank after the college agreed to revise its rent policy in line with student demands.

The King’s rent strike which began on the 22nd October last year, with support from the King’s College Student Union as well as CUSSU, reached its conclusion on the 28th November. The College Council finally acceded to the student demands to temper rent increases which had been estimated at 27% since 1999. Undergraduate representatives presented a paper prepared by the rent-strike co-ordinating committee, to the College Council, which accepted most of its recommendations.

KCSU co-ordinator Stacy Gregg stated that the “KCSU has succeeded in what it set out to do, and on the whole has behaved efficiently, democratically and with integrity”. She confirmed that all of the 90 or so strikers had paid their bills and no one intended to continue striking.

One of the main objectives of direct action had been to oppose further rent increases which may deter candidates from disadvantaged backgrounds from applying to King’s. As such, the KCSU has stated that national press coverage would be used responsibly. However, despite this the strike still continued generated coverage in the BBC and in national newspapers.

Senior Tutor Dr J A Laidlaw pointed out that King’s students still paid less than students at other universities and proposed rent increase which would allow the college to increase its revenues 6.5% above inflation, every year until 2007/08.

Sarah Donachy, last term’s KCSU co-ordinator remarked, “I am really proud of our achievements last term, and I know that we have a really good deal now.”

Although the news has been welcomed by students, the final agreement seemed a far cry from the initial KCSU demands. These included abolishing KFC, a statement of the colleges’ opposition to top up fees and inflation-only rent rises for 2004–05. Nevertheless, Donachy maintained that the college bill will lessen for current first years, by the time they are in their third year. She also commended the fellows of Kings College for having “taken a radical and appreciated step towards making Cambridge affordable for all who meritocratically deserve a place”.

Prof argues ‘Trust in lust’

Jonathan Wood

Picking up in Cindy’s or getting your end away in fresher’s week needn’t be something to feel guilty about for much longer if a Cambridge academic has his wicked way.

Lust it seems really is a good thing according to a professor’s new appraisal of the deadly sin. Sexual desire is, apparently, a life-affirming virtue and should no longer be thought of as a vice.

Professor Simon Blackburn, a fellow at Trinity College and author of the popular philosophy best seller Think, is attempting to “rescue” lust, arguing that it has been wrongly condemned for centuries. Sex is fun, he argues, and needs to be “reclaimed for humanity”. He is writing as part of an Oxford University Press, OUP, publishing project to determine the relevance of the seven deadly sins to the twenty-first century.

Professor Blackburn spent three months thinking about lust before deciding to back its rehabilitation and carefully defining it as “the enthusiastic desire for sexual activity and its pleasures for its own sake”. If reciprocated, he argues, then lust leads to pleasure and “best flourishes when unencumbered by bad philosophy and ideology… which prevent its freedom of flow.”

Pope Gregory the Great drew up the original list of seven deadly sins in the sixth century, identifying lust, anger, pride, envy, sloth, gluttony and greed as the list of those sins that were fatal to spiritual progress. For Blackburn it is the “old men of the deserts”, Christian thinkers such as St. Augustine, St. Jerome, and St. Thomas Aquinas, who are to be blamed for the creation of a moral atmosphere in which people automatically feel guilty for wanting sex.

Edwina Currie, the former Conservative minister who enjoyed an affair with John Major, the former prime minister, was quoted in the Sunday Times as welcoming Professor Blackburn’s views, “Oh yes, I’m all in favour of lust. I’m not sure it’s a vice - if it’s a natural part of healthy human life,” she said.

OUP has commissioned seven writers to analyse each of the deadly sins. Francine Prose, a scholar who has written on gluttony, believes we should be more relaxed about what we eat. The American playwright, Wendy Wasserstein, believes sloth should be encouraged on account of our increasingly busy lives.

Lecturers strike

Last Tuesday, the Association of University Teachers opened a month-long ballot among its members on whether to take strike action against proposed changes to pay structure. If the motion is passed, a number of lecturers and academic staff at Cambridge would be involved, and the union said it could cause widespread chaos. A result is expected in early February.

Seeing triple

A set of triplets have, for the first time, been offered places to study at Cambridge. Lil, Helen and Kate Armstrong, 18 from Truro, Cornwall received conditional offers from Selwyn, Corpus Christi and Trinity Halls. The sisters say it was a coincidence they all applied to Cambridge.

Chlamydia Test

After five years and £3m pounds of research, a team from Cambridge has created a cheap and efficient test for diagnosing Chlamydia. Research leader Dr Helen Lee, says, “Chlamydia is a major problem in the west as well as the developing world” and hopes that the instant 50p test will mean that less women who contract the disease will become infertile.

Yorkshire bombed

Cambridge Students Against the War have voiced their criticism over an incident involving a US Air Force Fighter Jet accidentally dropping a bomb over Yorkshire. The plane, based at RAF Lakenheath, was on a training mission when the bombing occurred on January 8.

HIV Burglary

A drug addict who broke into Jesus College accommodation and threatened a student with what he claimed was an HIV infected needle last year has been sentenced to six years in jail. The burglary occurred in May 2003, when Matthew Scarisbrick, a Jesus student, was in his flat on Jesus Lane. At the hearing on December 15th the drug addict claimed he was sorry for his behaviour. RM
We would like to invite female penultimate year students interested in finding out more about CSFB and the summer internship opportunities to an informational dinner in Cambridge.

**Wednesday 21 January**

at 6.30pm

To register for this event, please e-mail luyi.senabulya@csfb.com by 12pm, Tuesday 20 January, stating your areas of interest and degree discipline.

We look for penultimate year students who, like us, question, innovate, spot opportunities and look beyond the obvious. Naturally you'll be gifted academically but it's your ability to think creatively and responsibly, and to make things happen, that will add value to our clients and enable them to take advantage of change.
A big push to stop pulling, please

Ben Hadley asks for a return to the days of true romance

Friday night is drawing nigh. All across Britain eager youths shiver with anticipation at the thought of finding a member of the opposite sex intoxicated enough to willingly exchange saliva with them.

The girls (it is difficult to call them ‘women’) don their shortest skirt and highest heels and plaster several inches of makeup to their faces. The boys (it is even more difficult to call them ‘men’), worried that a collapse of the deodorant industry might lead, in a butterfly-effect-like fashion, to global economic recession, spray themselves till they are dripping with virility.

Without further ado, all spread their wings and take off in the direction of the nearest club, hopeful that they might later take off their clothes and be spreading their thighs in the direction of whoever it is they might have enticed / drugged / dragged home (delete as appropriate). For what could be more pleasant to the senses and stimulating to the mind than an evening of tonguey delights? It seems to be the general consensus that there is little that could rival such a prospect, yet it is difficult to put one’s finger on what exactly is so attractive about the institution of ‘pulling’.

The act itself cannot be said to be particularly pleasant. Don’t get me wrong, I’m all for a passionate embrace, but some random person slobbering all over my face isn’t exactly my idea of a good time. Maybe I’m doing something wrong, but walking into a club and having some trollish troglodyte come up to me to try to stick her tongue down my throat is more frightening than anything else. If pulling were a necessary evil that you had to go through in the process of getting someone to sleep with you, the whole thing might be understandable, but this simply isn’t the case.

People go out to pull without any intention of sleeping with the “pullee”, but see pulling as something exciting in itself. This is what is most puzzling. What do they find attractive about pulling itself? Surely it can’t be the prospect of finding digested and regurgitated morsels lurking in the dark recesses of the pullee’s mouth.

Nor can it be the (very real) possibility of getting sprayed with vomit during the pull that turns them on. In fact, I cannot see why anyone would want to be groped and rubbed against by dribbling, sweaty stranger who, in any normal state of soveness, they wouldn’t go near.

The sad truth is that the only real pleasure in pulling is being able to say to oneself “Yeah baby! Yeah! You’re so groovy, you sexy beast, you! You managed to pull!”, or something to that effect. What we get out of pulling is the psychological comfort of knowing that we are not poor sad bastards who aren’t even able to pull. I see no other explanation. We should be holding in greater contempt the “pullers” than those whom everybody finds too repulsive to pull.

What are we made of?

The best way to find out is to attend the JPMorgan ‘Spring Week’. For first-year students like you, it’s the ideal opportunity to see investment banking in action well before everybody else. It will also give you an early taste of the 360° career. This is our all-round career opportunity for bright, ambitious graduates who want it all - intellectual challenge, professional achievement, excellent salary, everything.

You’ll experience a day with each of our five business areas, giving you a real insight into how the whole bank operates. (We know there are a lot of preconceptions about this industry, so we want to separate the facts from the fiction.)

Wherever and whatever you’re studying, this could be the chance to show what you’re made of. Please take a look at 360career.com and apply online by February 6, 2004.
SPEAC protesters can’t see the wood for the trees

Almost immediately after September 11th 2001 George W. Bush decided he had no choice but to invade Iraq. To convince the international community of the necessity of this was to be the great challenge of his first term in office. Bush comprehensive-ly failed in this task. As Robin Cook said in his resignation speech, “History will be aston-ished at the diplomatic miscal-culations that led so quickly to the disintegration of a powerful [post 9/11] coalition”.

The task of sustaining that coalition would have been much simpler had Bush known, back then, that the invasion would have a very funny ending. He could not have known the comedy value that a dictator’s capture could provide. In retrospect, he ought to have promised his fel-low students what, back then, he did not know he would deliver: History’s Greatest Puppet Show, starring Saddam Hussein.

There are three aspects of the cap-ture and subsequent treatment of Saddam that are particularly hilari-ous. Firstly, the ignominy of his fi-nal abode, compared to the pres-idential palaces he always lived in. A hole with little natural light or fresh air – underground, squallid, claustrophobic, and crucially, inside Iraq. That final point indicates his fear of attempting to break American bor-der security forces. He was too scared to move.

Secondly, the dental inspection.

The ‘oral hygienist’, as he has come to be known, simultaneously check-ing for gum infections, functioning incisors, and taking a DNA sample, will resurface regularly in the annals of history. His inspection implied humanity: ‘we’ve fought a war to find you, but we need to check your teeth.’ Colgate please, Colonel. All the while the tyrant’s upturned face resembled a toddler on his first trip to the dentist. No scriptwriter could have conjured an image as succinct or as skilful in capturing the hu-manity of a beast or the reduction to subservience of a despot. The glory of the footage was this: when the dentist is at us, all humanity, in-cluding Saddam, has now to do but look skyward and await the verdict. The great oppressor looked like a sile-nced lamb.

If Bush had listened to protesters... Saddam would still be running Iraq

Thirdly, most subtle, and least dis-cussed, the disappeared beard. As we were getting used to the images that Paul Bremer displayed at his press conference, and the sight of a beard Saddam (ho ho ho), sud-denly there was an abrupt change, and the next image showed he’d been given a shave. Not so much bizarre as, well, hilarious. The American’s wage a full-scale inva-sion of a country to oust a dictator, spend months on his trail, invest bil-lions of dollars and political capital in his pursuit and then, when he’s fi-nally found in a hobbit-hole, decide he looks a bit rough. So they give him a spot of dental floss and a Mach-3. Though principally a means of confirming his identity, the US poli-cy of shave first, interrogate second, hinted at a genuine desire for the man to look presentable. He was going out all over the US, after all.

The consequences of Saddam’s capture will be felt most strongly in the US. Bush is all but guaranteed re-election this year against a divid-ed Democrat party. The measure of his first term is this: his critics have now the US. Bush is all but guaranteed re-election this year against a divid-ed Democrat party. The measure of his first term is this: his critics have now labelled him dangerous. Like Clinton and Reagan before him, Bush will become more hardline in his second term, knowing it’s his last. Opposition to his policies will there-fore increase, and in 2008 the 50-50 nation may finally decide it’s had enough. Al Gore and Hilary Clinton will re-emerge only then.

All those who opposed the war are now faced with a difficult and valid proposition. If Blair and Bush had listened to the anti-war protest-ers, and adopted a policy of non-in-tervention, Saddam would still be running Iraq. The case against war was strong, but the international Left have been hushed by Saddam’s cap-ture. Now, facing 5 more years of Bush, they need to re-assess them-selves. Failure to do so would sug-gest capitulation.

With Saddam’s capture America’s leaders and people have become convinced that their global project is succeeding. Well might it be, and, in the short-term, American unilateralism will con-continue. America’s greatest culpabili-ty is her ignorance; her greatest strength lies in not knowing it.
New list: who win?

Ordinary editors take top honour in ‘Poo 100’

Martin and Will the “Are they? Aren’t they!” editors of the Varsity ‘satire’ page The Ordinary have been voted joint number one in the latest arbitrary and pointless poll aimed at showing who’s the best at something.

The Poo 100, which was set up by someone, has been described as the “probably definitive” list of the 100 people in Cambridge most likely to do raff with all their lives.

A highly democratic system of self-promotion and Pokemon card exchange and was used to identify the victors.

The chair of the judges (who can’t be identified because he doesn’t have a name) praised Will and Martin for their “complete lack of anything going for them,” their “disadvantaging physical appearance” and their “complete failure at everything they do despite them trying so hard that they nearly popped a boysick.”

Martin and Will were said to be “somewhere near the moon” on hearing the news, which is more than we can say for that Jeremy Beadle 2 thing. And, look, here they come now: “Yes, we’re always happy to win things,” said Martin and Will at exactly the same time in a spooky stereo sound effect. “Obviously it’s not something that we’ve very used to because we’re quite shit at almost everything.”

Runners-up include the lead goblin in CITV’s classic series Knightmare (Casau), one postgraduate Chuckle brother and Willy Wonka. Competition was so fierce and Martin and Will can be considered very lucky to top a list that won’t have any consequence anywhere.

Martin was born Martin to parents in a hospital in a Home County in the 1980s. Little is known about “Will,” with some even speculating that he may be some kind of dinosaur or the Ghost of Easter Past.

Win fun!

Yes, it’s competition time with the ever-generous Ordinary

If Danny really was Champion of the World do you think he took nandrolone? That was the question on everybody’s dirty lips as it was revealed last week that another top sportsman in the UK has been putting more than a straw into his Robinson’s squash.

These days I haven’t even watched the darts in case one of them is under the influence. Next they’ll be telling me Atlas was on performance enhancing drugs…after all, the sky isn’t light fella. Sport in the UK has gone downhill since the halcyon days of Jeremy Goss and Nigel Short. In the past everybody used to cheat with a smile on their face, now it’s all serious — as if imagining really is that important. Which of course it is. I had a £300 bet on Liverpool beating Yeovil 2-0, so imagine my delight when Kewell took that tumble. The distraught faces of the Yeovil team as they knew that they’d now go home penniless, with houses repossessed and wives leaving them were just an unexpected bonus. Hopefully their new ground will soon burn down.

So, in a bid to clean up the image of British sport, I entered myself for Sports Personality of the Year. Under a strict diet and drugs regime I turned up at BBC Television Centre moshed out of my tree in a bid to raise the profile of my preferred sport — granite bashing. Unfortunately the granny I’d brought along with me stopped breathing on the train down so I had to give my spare ticket to Jonny Wilkinson who was hanging around outside. I didn’t win — I didn’t expect to — but it made them think.

Sports great though isn’t it? Seriously, isn’t it? Quick injection in the toilets with is’t it? It’s not in your ‘pants’, my second is ‘in your hands’.

Pies, chicken nuggets, Werther’s Originals. They’re all legal in sport. Drugs aren’t.

COMMENT

Young? Join our natty new grooming service. Email: theordinary@varsity.co.uk

Win fun!

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Pies, chicken nuggets, Werther’s Originals. They’re all legal in sport. Drugs aren’t.
Get the Lowdown on the Law

Are you interested in a legal career? How about working for one of the biggest, most innovative firms in the world?

How about a drink?

Eversheds is holding an informal reception for students of all disciplines who are considering law as a career. It’s your opportunity to meet Eversheds lawyers and trainees who will give you an insight into an exciting and challenging profession. The evening will be a relaxed affair that will hopefully help you make your mind up about your future.

Book your place now to avoid disappointment

Monday 19 January
From 6.30pm The River Bar and Kitchen
Contact Mandy Fish
mandyfish@eversheds.com
The Cambridge Power 100

Everyone will know someone who they think should have been in the Cambridge Power 100 that resides in the centre of your university and that, perhaps, is the most amazing thing.

To an extent that is the point. We aim to get people talking, looking at the people around them, looking at the potential they have and the diversity we can all see in this exceptional town. There is no way we could find every brilliant person who is member of this university and that, perhaps, is the most amazing thing.

The Cambridge Power 100 is Varsity’s attempt to shed some light on the movers and shakers within Cambridge, those who are immensely influential in the outside world and those who look like they might be going somewhere in the future. There is no way we can produce a definitive list, we’ve undoubtedly missed some potential stars of the future but hopefully not too many that shine brightly right now. But with the hours of research that have gone into this, with Jo Hartley and Daud Khan working hard to make sure the list is as accurate as possible, you can rest assured this is one of the most comprehensive surveys of the stars and future stars of Cambridge ever compiled.

If you do have a stint as President of Mongolia on your CV we apologise for overlooking you and hope that, as compensation, you get that strategy con-

The details of what happened in the interview are impossible for anyone who was not present to hold an opinion on, and it has become a matter of her word against theirs, which is of little wider significance. But some important questions arise from this case. Is Cambridge’s interviewer training scheme sufficient? How can serious complaints like this be reasonably arbitr- itated when no-one of a neutral standpoint is present?

Too many interviewers are untrained. To attend a single morning’s seminar – which is absurdly limited anyway – does not mean selling your soul, and the university ought have no truck with dons who behave as if this is the case. Whilst college autonomy is in most matters a real strength of the system, in this case there is too much at stake to let the churlish whims of an individual academic devalue a useful tool. The best and the brightest must not slip through the net because they are bullied.

The Professor of Lust gets deeply philosophical

Michael Howard once again uses his ‘humble’ roots to score political points

“We’ve met Paul Lewis. Three times.”

The Ordinary’s reason for thinking they should feature in the Power 100. And how right they were.

“Peasants were cartwheeling dead out of the sky.”

The Chancellor, Prince Philip, goes out to hunt again

“A strike at Gardies is a strike at the heart.”

One inconsiderable student laments the possible loss of Cambridge’s finest eating establishment

“I think one editorship is enough”

Tom Ebbutt signs off on his last issue

The week in words

“If we had to pay £3,000 fees for all three of them, it would crucify us. We just couldn’t do it.”

Tim Armstrong, father of the triplets offered places at Cambridge

“I am clear that without a significant and rapid increase in our income, our position in the first rank of world universities will be in peril. I didn’t return to Cambridge to witness its decline and we will not allow it to happen.”

Alison Richard hopes top-up fees will top up her income

“Other Simon Blackburns are either elsewhere in cyberspace, or nowhere in cyberspace, although presumably somewhere in ordinary space.”

The week Anne Campbell MP, in conjunction with CUSU, will be launching a consultation exercise aiming to find out what the real views of students are on the Government’s Higher Education bill. This is a valuable exercise in participative democracy, and we encourage all Cambridge students to take part, but be wary.

Our MP is feeling the pressure. The Education Secretary and Prime Minister are bullying the ‘rebel’ MPs – Campbell among them – into choosing between what stands and what the government have proposed. They say the package must be taken as a whole. But the issue is whether it is better than the alternatives, and that is the question that has been continually avoided by Blair. ‘Let his head- strong executive are still trying to push it through, calling the Labour party’s bluff by threatening their re-election. But Anne can vote “no” without endan-

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Ah Heh Heh Heh! "Most powerful man in Cambridge!"
Letters

Thinking of Caius: an analogy springs to mind

Dear Editor,

I was reading “Varsity” when Jeremy Paxman was the editor and I have been a Cambridge socialist and personality for over 35 years - so I am not the sort who is easily shocked!!

But I AM shocked by the disgusting behaviour of Gonville and Caius College in sending the closure notice to the Gardenia just before Christmas - when they knew you were all away!!

The analogy which springs to mind is with that dreadful Gardenias. Shame on Caius.

Sincerely,

William Hutton

Gardies still remembered

Dear Varsity,

I have just become aware of the terribly sad decision to force Gardenias to shut and to end a great Cambridge tradition. If it is really too late to save it, it is a great pity.

Last summer a friend and I returned there after an absence of 10 years, and the guys still remembered us!! This may partly reflect too many late nights at the college bar, but I think it says more about the wonderful service and atmosphere of Gardenias. Shame on Caius.

Best regards

Gareth Williams

Pembroke, 1990

European Strategist
Lehman Brothers

Mine’s a bacon burger

Dear Sir,

I was shocked to hear of Caius’ plans to close down Gardies - it is nothing short of an outrage. Have the college authorities no respect for tradition let alone their students’ welfare? Without Ladles, Tabs will be faced with the unpalatable choice between the vans of Life and Death.

Good Luck Varsity in your campaign

Mine’s a Bacon Burger!

Frank Churchill

Pete Waterman is talking complete shit

Dear Editor,

Pete Waterman talks a load of shit. Your writer, Magnus Gittins (in Varsity, 28th November), describes him as being ‘honest’, in ignorance of the fact that Mr Waterman has always inflated his (recording) success.

As a child, I used to write down the weekly singles chart (needy, I know) and I can’t ever recall there being more than four or five Waterman productions in the top ten at any one point; rather at odds with his claim of having ‘numbers one to nine in the pop charts’. The total UK sales of all of the ‘artists’ that he produced would not amount to Madonna’s. Moreover, internationally, he has been far less commercially successful, particularly in the US (ironically, the home of production-line ‘pop’, admittedly produced with a far greater array of talent than Waterman could ever hope to assemble). Yet his bullying personality means that his comments about Bob Dylan’s concern for financial reward are risible. Though Dylan expected to be paid for booked concerts, Dylan has given freely of his time - for benefits and protests - across four decades. Endeavour that Waterman no doubt views with contempt, and can never understand.

Yours, Anonymous

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
Resigned to ethics
Paul Lewis meets Robin Cook - and finds him ethical

In a few days time a report will be published that has the potential to destroy the Prime Minister’s political career.

When the Hutton Report is released one of the key protagonists will be the Prime Minister – or perhaps even reject – will be a man who was once one of his closest political allies.

It was the fact that he had personal conversations with Tony Blair that made Robin Cook’s diary revelations – that the Prime Minister deliberately and knowingly exaggerated Saddam’s weapons capabilities – so credible.

“She shouldn’t be more than five minutes,” his secretary said, as she left to make me a cup of tea next door.

I sat in the corner of Robin Cook’s smallish office, thinking I was alone. It was a mess. Books, awards, pictures and important stacks of paper were scattered around in unorganised piles.

Of course, realised, he’s only recently moved in.

Then I saw it. Right in the centre of this unseated desk, emerging from a habitat of rumpled papers, stood a stuffed ginger ferret.

At first I thought it might be alive. It was cute at me.

Robin Cook had been likened to furry animals on several occasions. And this particular furry animal did bare a striking resemblance to its owner.

He’s got a sense of humour, I thought. Robin Cook, often caricatured as a pompous rodent look-a-like, actually has the ability to laugh at himself.

How refreshing. I mean I’d doubt if Tony Blair has a stuffed poodle on his mantelpiece.

This wouldn’t be the first time I felt I was speaking to, perhaps surprisingly given Cook’s reputation, a rare breed of politician.

Cook (the man) scurried into his office and hopped onto his swivelling chair. He is a small and unimposing man who doesn’t carry the awe you’d expect of a one-time Secretary of State. But like many successful politicians, he has a warm affablility about him that makes him instantly likeable.

He was smiling too.

And he deserves to smile. Robin Cook has made resignation seem like promotion. From the relative political obscurity for someone of his stature of Leader of the House, Cook became the symbolic leader of the anti-war movement almost overnight.

His recently published diaries, Point of Departure, are selling well, and he’s fast becoming one of the few popular politicians left in the Labour Party.

The transition was made all the more glorious with one of the most memorable resignation speeches of all time.

He opened that speech with a confession: he had forgotten how much better the view looked from the back-benches.

“I suppose I’m recapturing my youth as it were,” he told me, “it’s a terrific relief and liberation to be able to talk more frankly.”

And from that landmark speech onwards, Robin Cook has made a career out of talking frankly, especially when it comes to Iraq.

“With every passing week we can see that those of us who were deeply concerned about the decision to go to war were right to be concerned. Saddam was not a threat. There were no weapons of mass destruction. And Washington had not a clue of what we were going to do next after we’d knocked Saddam out of the picture.”

Cook is not just critical of the war. He is deeply critical of the one man outside of the US administration he thinks could have stopped it.

“Perhaps most fascinating of all,” he says, building up to a crescendo, “is if Britain had said no, and if Blair had refused to take this road.”

The problem with the September dossier was that it was written as a propaganda document.

any part in it, it is not immediately clear if Bush could have carried his own public opinion with him.”

Tony Lewis understood and grasped the sea change in American public opinion about military intervention.

“But he became convinced that the Bush administration were going to do it anyway, and persuaded himself – and this is where he and I parted company – that if America was going to do it, it would be better for Britain to be part of it than not to be part of it.”

On the issue of the allegations that the Prime Minister deliberately deceived the country and Parliament, Cook is unflinching.

Not only was Blair aware, two whole weeks before the war started, that Saddam did not have weapons of mass destruction usable against distant civilian targets within 45 minutes, but he repeatedly tried to link Al Qaeda with Saddam Hussein in the public’s mind.

“In his last broadcast before the war, he put both Al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein in the final sentence, “he points out.

Lowering the tone of his voice, so it came out in his hallmark husky yet high-pitched grunt, he added, “But there was not a shred of evidence to stand it up.”

Saddam Hussein had nothing to do with September 11th and nothing to do with Al Qaeda. Saddam was an evil psychopath. He was a brutal tyrant. But his ideology was secular, he was not a fundamentalist, and he knew perfectly well that Al Qaeda was just as likely to assassinate him as any Western leader.”

Robin Cook, of course, knows what he’s talking about. During his time as Foreign Secretary he would have received countless and constant briefings on Iraq from the secret services. Which is the main reason why he will be such a pivotal figure when Hutton finally reports.

“I used to see a lot of intelligence assessments as Foreign Secretary and universally they would be very even handed. They would give you the intelligence that pointed in both directions of the question,” he explained.

“Frankly, what was wrong with the September dossier was that it was written as a propaganda document.”

During his reign as Foreign Secretary Robin Cook attempted to introduce ‘ethics’ into foreign policy, a move that his cynical critics thought was laughable. It is fair to say he did struggle here and there to implement the ethical ideal – what with selling arms to nasty regimes and all that.

But in resigning that Cook most successfully expressed the point that ethics matters in politics. It is almost a political fairy tale that the man once mocked for failing to combine ethics with foreign policy still managed to do so with his last, resigning gasps of breath.

And in a few days time, when the Hutton Report is published, the media look for the most authoritative and high-profile Blair-critic they can find, Cook will resume the noble position of national spokesperson for ethical foreign policy.

Or is this just all too good to be true?

Robin Cook recently declared a £50,000-a-year consultancy with Middle East oil construction company Consolidated Contractors International – who specialise in building oil plants and pipelines around the Middle East and former Soviet Republics.

Not only is the company building the highly controversial and environmentally hazardous Baku-Ceyhan oil pipeline, it will now be involved in the reconstruction of Iraq. It is a company that aims to make money out of the occupation Cook opposes so voraciously.

It was a consultancy Cook eventually dropped after criticism in the press, but clearly it was a possibility he had contemplated to the extent of officially declaring it to the House of Commons as forthcoming income.

So what did Cook have to say about the ethical nature of selling this oil company his expert foreign policy? Not much.

“The first thing is: I have no consultancy. So we can put all that to one side.”

I pressed a little harder on his position on a company that, lets face it, intends to extract profits from war-torn Iraq.

“They approached me and we had a discussion, but I’ve made no financial benefit out of them, I have no continuing consultancy with them, I have no financial interest in it. So all that can be put to one side.”

I was getting the impression that this was something, unlike America’s profiteering out of Iraq, that Cook thought ought to be ‘put to one side’.

But hold on a minute. ‘No continuing contract’ – does that not imply he had a contract at some stage in the first place? Surely his involvement was more than a ‘discussion’ if he felt it necessary to declare the £50,000 sum as earnings?

“As I say there was a discussion between us and at that stage, perfectly properly, I registered. But we decided not to proceed with it. So there is no consultancy.”

So what was the reason for not proceeding with the consultancy?

“I would say that it became plain to me that any association with me was only going to bring additional publicity to the company in ways that would not be of interest or of value to the company, or to me.”

But on a personal level, is it something that he would refuse to do on ethical grounds?

“Well I’m not doing it. I really don’t see why I should have to explain why I would or wouldn’t do it. I’m not doing it. End of story.”

End of story.

Perhaps Cook’s previous assertion, that it’s a ‘terrific relief and liberation to be able to talk more frankly’ on the back-benches, was a little premature.

After all, backbencher politicians are still politicians.

But he is nevertheless right. He didn’t do it. Or at least he backed off. Robin Cook had a reverse gear. Perhaps that exemplifies the difference between Cook and our own MP Anne Campbell, from other Labour MPs who supported the war.

As both his resignation and his decision not to pursue the Iraqi oil consultancy reveal, Robin Cook is principled enough – unlike our Prime Minister – to reverse when he realises he is going in the wrong direction.
Computing genius, and one of the world’s leading security experts. Described as looking like a Viking, Dr Anderson comes from the world of banking having worked for Standard Chartered and Barclays. He now heads the University Computer Laboratory’s Security Group, infamous for its work in uncovering a major flaw in a national encryption system which provides the security for most of the country’s ATM machines. He has made profound waves in local, national and international policy in and around his area of expertise - security engineering.

He championed the Campaign for Cambridge Freedoms, a body attempting to stop the University automatically owning all the intellectual property generated by its faculty members. He is also responsible for establishing The Foundation for Information Policy Research (FIPR) Britain’s leading IT think-tank which has recently lobbied against the high profile EU Draft IRP Enforcement directive.

An academic of considerable prowess with a wealth of real world knowledge from ATM machines, phone systems and smart cards to trusted computing, government intelligence systems, medical information confidentiality and nuclear weapons control. He is also one of the most prominent and vocal members of Cambridge’s University Council.

The breadth of Dr Anderson’s influence and power in an increasingly wired world is truly outstanding. There was only ever one name to top this list.
Welcome to the Cambridge Power100

As we all know, Cambridge University is a place of unmatched achievement. It is brimming with clever, interesting people. Many, in fact probably most, choose not to enter into the game of climbing the University’s social, intellectual and hierarchical ladders that would result in reaching the pages of this supplement.

In order to begin compiling this list we had to determine what our definition of power was going to be. Power is influence, whether that is in Cambridge or internationally. Power is being in a position of responsibility that gets things done or changed. Power is knowledge and fame for what one either owns or controls.

It was important for us when compiling this list not to confuse power with success. Everyone at this University has achieved success; from those who worked in a factory all summer to save for college to those who were interns at Goldman Sachs. Less so with power. What determined our criteria for those who are the most powerful from those that aren’t was only partly success, as one might hold a lot of potential or real power without necessarily using that power to success. Others could be successful in the field they have chosen without wielding any power at all.

Cambridge is unique amongst British universities in the links it has sought to create with national and international industries. The Judge Institute prides itself in being able to attract the biggest names and these are reflected in this list – whether that be Sandra Dawson or Lord Wilson, former head of the Civil Service.

We hope to have included a diverse range of people: from Alison Richard, the new Vice-Chancellor, to the Anti Capitalist Action group, and only claim to be crediting them with one quality: power. One of our priorities in determining the ranking was to acknowledge the relative power an individual may have over a small group in contrast to the diffused power another individual may have over a greater quantity of people.

Although we could not include every person we have included justification of our choices, and some, although obvious choices, had to go in to avoid risking peculiarity. Whether it is because they hold remarkable power in the area that they claim to be powerful in or because they are unexpectedly powerful in a way they did not intend, everyone who made it inside these pages has ‘made it’ in many senses.

Congratulations to you all.

Daud Khan and Jo Hartley

2 Professor Alison Richard

The new University Vice-Chancellor and as such its Chief Executive running the University on both the academic and administrative front. Bringing with her a remarkable reputation from her time in the United States as Provost of Yale University, Professor Richard will hope to work the same wonders on increasing minority admissions and tackling the university’s financial issues as she did across the Atlantic. She was famous for left wing activities in her youth having on one occasion leaped on Prime Minister Harold Wilson’s car. Her acceptance of top-up fees would suggest that she has cast aside her left wing affiliations but is keen to further bursaries to avoid any detrimental effect upon admissions. An anthropologist by profession, the new VC hopes to tackle head-on the present brain drain from Cambridge. Is she the saviour the university has been waiting for?

3 Professor James Crawford

President of International Law Commission, Chairman of Law Faculty, leading public international lawyer. Most influential in establishing Cambridge’s international law reputation, Professor Crawford is perhaps the biggest name in international law at present. His opinion is regularly sought by international tribunals and he regularly appears before the International Court of Justice.

4 Lord Wilson of Dinton

Master of Emmanuel College, former Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service Lord Wilson retired from the civil service in August 2002. Lord Wilson held the post for 4 years prior to which he was Permanent Under-Secretary at the Home Office from 1994-98. Sits on the board of BSkyB.

5 Lord Mustill

Retired Law Lord. The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mustill, QC, MA, LLD, and a founding member of Essex Court chambers is the Arthur Goodhart Visiting Professor in Legal Science at Cambridge University. He is also the honorary president of the Cambridge University Law Society.

6 Sandra Dawson

Director of the Judge Institute of Management. KPMG Professor of Management Studies Master of Sidney Sussex College. Non-Executive Director of Barclays plc (from 2003); Cambridge Econometrics (from 1996); JP Morgan Fleming Claverhouse Investment Trust. Has been headed numerous public policy research groups and been intimately involved with work in the upper echelons of government.

7 Professor Stephen Hawking

Lucasian Professor of Mathematics. Stephen Hawking has worked on the basic laws which govern the universe. His early work showed that it was necessary to unify General Relativity with Quantum Theory. Famous for popularising physics with his international best-seller A Brief History of Time. Professor Hawking in one of the most recognisable physicists in the world and is the recipient of a plethora of awards, medals and prizes and is a Fellow of The Royal Society and a Member of the US Academy of Sciences. Despite his disability he continues to combine family life and his research into theoretical physics together with an extensive programme of travel and public lectures.

8 Sir John Sulston

Director Sanger Project. Made a Nobel Laureate of Medicine 2002. Sir John is one of the university’s most acclaimed scientists. Famous for his work with nematode worms for which he won his Nobel Prize but also hugely acclaimed for his groundbreaking work with the human genome project.

9 Professor A.K. Sen

Outgoing Master of Trinity and Winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1998 for his work on human rights, poverty, and famine. Professor Sen’s work on the causes of famine have shown that disastrous famines are not simply the consequence of nature, but are also avoidable economic and political catastrophes. One of the world’s most recognisable economists, Professor Sen is most famous for the very human element he has brought to his area of expertise, having received awards in the early 1990’s for his work on understanding and preventing World hunger. Worryingly for the university, Professor Sen is the most significant brain to be leaving Cambridge for a more lucrative seat in the United States at Harvard University.

10 Tim Mead

Registrary. Number one administrative officer of the University. If the university administrative staff is made up of a plethora of cogs, Mr Mead is its largest and most influential.
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**  
One of the year’s most talked about recent US indies presents Maggie Gyllenhaal and James Spader in an unorthodox view of office romance and a stylized hyper reality. Late shows on at the Arts Picture House on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th at 11pm.

**L I T**  
Jacqueline Wilson, children’s author with more books in the BBC’s Big Read than any other author. See her talk in the Ramsden Room, Catz, Thursday 22nd January. Talk starts at 7.30pm and there’s free wine so erm, get there pronto.

**M U S I C**  
Synths, Casio bleeps and some good ol’ fun rockin’ minus any Electroclash poncing around. New kids on the block, Bristol band Chikinki bring their messed-up Beta Band and Beck-inspired sonic sounds to the Boat Race on Tuesday 20th January. £6/£5 in advance.

**T H E A T R E**  
The ADC lateshow next week (Wed-Sat, 11pm) features two of Chekhov’s one-act vaudevilles, *The Proposal* and *The Bear*. The latter will be in English, but the former will be performed in Russian with English captions: nice.

**V. A R T S**  
Immaterial - Brancusi, Gabo, Moholy-Nagy on at Kettle’s Yard until 14th March. An exhibition of three European sculptors’ various aspirations to transcend the solid materials of sculpture making light, space, time and movement their media.

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**SWIPE FILMS**

London-Based Movie Production Company Has Work Placements Available

Have you a passion for film and a go-getting personality with a “nothing isimpossible” attitude? If so, Swipe Films has work for you.

Swipe is the producer of Johnny Knoxville’s new movie, Grand Theft Parsons, and was behind the forthcoming Golden Globe nominated film, Osama.

You will learn all aspects of script development, film production and distribution.

You must be prepared to work hard, learn fast and be entrepreneurial.

To apply for a work experience placement, send a one page CV, list 3 of the most recent films you went to see at the cinema and one paragraph explaining why you feel you have what it takes to work in the film business and setting out your film tastes.

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**Varsity is looking for new sub-editors, photographers and columnists. Email editor@varsity.co.uk for details**
**Sunday**
- Christ's Films: City of God (Cidade de Deus).
- Christ's College, New Court Theatre. 7.30pm, 10.30pm. £2.
- St John's College, Fisher Building. 7pm, 10pm. £2.

**Tuesday**
- St John's Films: The Theatre. 7:30pm, 10:30pm. £2.
- Christs College, New Court Auditorium. 8pm.

**Thursday**
- Christ's Films: Stand By Me.
- Christs College, New Court Theatre. 10pm. £2.
- St John's Films: Confidence - D. Hoffman as a crime-boss entangled in cons and counter-cons. St John's College, Fisher Building. 9pm. £2.

**Friday**
- Clare Hall: Art Exhibition by Douglas Jeal. All welcome.
- Clare Hall.
- Caius Hall: Jewish Cambridge's unmissable weekly social. eat, drink and be merry!
- The Caius Centre, 33a Bridge St, between Oxfam and The Galleria. 10pm.

**Saturday**
- CASS (Cambridge Solidarity with Iraq):
  - Letter-writing, asking for cancellation of Iraqi debt.
  - Queens' College, Armitage Room. 1pm.

**Sunday**
- CASS (Cambridge Solidarity with Iraq):
  - Art Exhibition by Douglas Jeal. All welcome.
  - Clare Hall.
- C.U. Tai Chi Chuan Society:
  - Tai Chi Chuan Society: Tai Chi Chuan: Hand-form; Self-defence; Pushing-hands; Weapons; Nei Kung.
  - Fitzwilliam College, Reddaway Room. 7pm. £2/3.

**Monday**
- Buddhist Meditation: Samantha Trust.
  - Thai breath meditation.
  - rmh1001@cam.ac.uk.
  - www.samantha.org

**Wednesday**
- Clare Hall: Art Exhibition by Douglas Jeal. All welcome.
- Clare Hall.

**Thursday**
- Clare Hall: Art Exhibition by Douglas Jeal. All welcome.
- Clare Hall.
- CU Ballet Club:
  - Beginners ballet, all welcome! (1hr). Queens' College, Bowett Room. 6pm. £1.

**Saturday**
- GCMS:
  - Jo Richardson (viola), Ben Flowman (piano). JS. Bach, Hindemith, Teleman.
  - Caius College, Bateman Auditorium. 1:10pm.

**Good Times**
- House music. With resident DJs James Barrie, Patrick Cavalieri.
- The Junction. 10pm. £6/£8.

**MAYS 12**

**Preview Party at La Raza from eight on Monday the 19th**

Mays 12 invite submissions for poetry, prose, and documentary photos. Copies sent to most agents and publishers across the country.

**Deadline 23rd January. Max 5000 words.**

E-mail to mays@varsity.co.uk

**decisions, decisions.**

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THEATRE

Friday
ETC: MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING - Shakespearean comedy, fresh from a European tour. ADC Theatre. 7:45pm. £5 - £7.50.

Comito Productions: THE LIFE OF DEATH - the Horsemens of the Apocalypse meet This is your Life. ADC Theatre. 11pm. £4.

Saturday
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Prometheus Unbound in association with the ADC: Prometheus Unbound in European tour. Good and Madhouse: Oscar Wilde’s ‘Lady Windermere’s Fan’. Churchill College, Wolfson Hall. 8pm. £3/£4.

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Sunday
Newnham Ents: MYSTERY JETS + support. Great London-based bands. FREE ENTRY. Newnham College, Bar. 8:30pm.

Queens’ Ents: GOLD! Return to the 80s! Queen's College, Fitzpatrick Hall. 9pm. £4.

Sunday
GCMS Kevin Weaver: exciting violin music. Caius College, Babtem auditorium. 8:30pm.

Selwyn College Orchestra and Chapel Choir. Selwyn College, The Hall. 8:30pm. £3 full/£6 Friends of the UL/£4 CMS (£2.50 students/SCMS).

Monday
ANIMALS, PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT: THE HUMAN COST OF ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS. Speaker: KATHY ARCHIBALD. The Bath House, Cwydir Street, Cambridge. All Welcome. For more info phone Joa 01223 311828. 8pm. £2.

Tuesday
Churchill College: Mr. Watanabe, Chairman of JETRO, will talk about Japanese economy. Moller Centre Lecture Theatre, Churchill College site, Storeys Way, Cambridge. 5pm.

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LEBENStraum Theatre Company: THE CHILD-KILLER: Terrifying true story fresh from the Fringe. The Playroom. 7pm. £5.50 (£4).


Forum Moderator Needed

Looking for a self-disciplined and motivated individual with good local knowledge to finish setting up and to administer a new Cambridge web forum.

Successful candidate must have:
- Basic HTML skills
- Good local knowledge
- Their own computer and internet connection
- Experience with using web forums

This job is perfect for a student or anyone with a bit of free time. Payment will be based on a share of the site’s advertising income.

If you think this is something that suits you please email atm24@gmail.com

with ‘Moderator Position’ as the subject.

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EDINBURGH FESTIVAL 2004
Solve your accommodation problems by calling Carole Smith / Anne Goring on 01620 810620
e-mail address: festivalflats@aol.com
or write to Festival Flats, 3 Linkyea Cottages, Gifford, East Lothian, EH41 4PE

HUIS CLOS.
By Jean-Paul Sartre
‘Heli... other people’
Lady Margaret Players, Late Show Corpus Playroom, Week 6 AUDITIONS for TWO MALE and TWO FEMALE parts
Saturday, 17th January, 2-6pm, Sunday, 18th January, 2-6pm
St John’s College, School of Pythagoras
Info: Sebastian (gsr22)

BATS Announce Auditions For;
Week 5 Mainshow Kenneth Lonergan’s ‘This is our youth’
at 17th-26th, Erasmus Room, Queens’
time: 1pm & 2pm, Friday/Stage, Queens’
For details contact fab (07979442279)
to be performed in American accents
Week 5 Lateshow Eamon Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes and the speckled band
Sat 17th, 2-5, Hatrick Stage, Queens’
time: 1-2, 5, Old Kitchen, Queens’
For details contact gjs01
Week 7 Mainshow Shakespeare’s ‘Henry V’
at 17th-26th, Erasmus Room, Queens’,
time: 10am & 2pm, Erasmus Room, Queens’
For details contact rv21
Week 7 Lateshow Natsrohe Inspired New Writing,
‘How to philosophize with a hammer’
at 17th & Sun 18th, 12-4, Anger Room, Queens’
For details contact q247

Bright Faces Stage Company
announces auditions for their production of
‘The Two Gentlemen of Verona’
by William Shakespeare
at the Edinburgh Festival 2004. For details please contact
Martin (mkb22)

Yeomen of the Guard
professionally designed and directed for the Arts Theatre 9-13th March 2004
Are still looking for MEN (heads and chorus) and ALTOS (lead)
Please contact the director Debbie Grossman
grossman@varisty.co.uk
For more information or to arrange an audition

BATS Announces Auditions For;
Week 5 Mainshow Kenneth Lonergan’s ‘This is our youth’ at 17th-26th, Erasmus Room, Queens’
Wednesday, 16th January, 10-5pm
St John’s College, School of Pythagoras
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Martin (mkb22)
11) Ben Brinded  
C USU President and former leg- 
endary Cauis JCR President. The 
face of the University’s student 
body for the outside world.

12) Professor King  
Government’s chief scientific advis-
or. Former Master of Downing 
College and is presently an hon-
orary fellow of the college. He is 
the Chief Scientific Advisor to the 
Government and reports directly 
to the Secretary of State and the 
Prime Miniser.

13) Richard Evans  
Chairman of History Faculty 
Board, Nazi specialist.

14) Professor Lord Eastwell  
Set up the Institute for Public 
Policy Research, which has now es-
stablished itself as one of Britain’s 
leading think-tanks. Chairman of 
the Board of Trustees. Director of 
Cambridge Endowment for 
Research in Finance. Professor of 
Financial Policy.

15) Tim Gowers  
Chairman of Board of Scrutiny en-
sures accountability of University 
Council to Regent House.

16) Jack Beaton  
Chairman of Law Faculty. High 
Court Judge. The Raushball 
Professor in the Law Faculty. 
The top Professor in the Faculty.

17) Dr Forsyth  
Chairman of Board of Scrutiny en-
sures accountability of University 
Council to Regent House.

18) Kevin Roberts  
CEO Saatchi & Saatchi 
Worldwide, as our current CEO in 
Residence at the Judge Institute of 
Management.

19) John Daugman  
Developer of iris recognition soft-
ware for security in banks and on 
ID cards. Johann Bemoulli 
Professor of maths.

20) Quentin Skinner  
World expert in political thought. 
Taught President of Italy about 
Machiavelli.

21) Simon Blackburn  
Popularem of philosophy. Wrote 
the book Think.

22) Professor Dashboard  
University Lecturer, Renowned 
Expert on EU and EU Constitution.

23) Chris Bayly  
Most influential historian of British 
Empire.

24) Professor Brading  
Greatest historian of Latin 
America, awarded the Aztec eagle 
- highest award granted to a for-
eign citizen by Mexican govern-
ment.

25) Paul Lewis  
Won a landslide victory in the 
Students’ Union presidential 
elections in summer 2002. Prior to that, 
he shot to political power at 
King’s, becoming King’s JCR pres-
ident by the end of his first term. 
Ex-interviews editor for Varsity. 
Brought about Thursday’s at Coco 
and Diablo nightclub ents. Got the 
university governing council to 
change their policy and express 
concern for top-up fees in 2002.

26) Professor Josephson  

27) Professor Lauterpaht  
Emeritus Director of the 
Lauterpacht Research Centre for 
International Law and Honorary 
Professor of International Law.

28) Dame Judith Mayhew  
Provost of Kings.

29) Professor Baker  
Fields Medalist.

30) Professor Thompson  
Fields Medalist.

31) Lord Sainsbury  
Architect of the Monkey Labs and 
the man behind Alec Broers. Will 
be retain the same influence?

32) Christopher Andrew  
Reportedly found the ‘5th man.’ 
M15 spying links.

33) Oly Duff  
Ex Varsity editor and ex TCS editor.

34) Will Gallagher  
Michaelmas 2003 Union President, 
ex CUCA President. Involved with 
C-Change conservative think 
tank. Ex president Union Society. 
He is a youth executive of ‘Policy 
Exchange,’ a think tank. He is no-
toriously fickle about his degree 
though; in three years he has 
moved from studying law to SPS 
to management.

35) Martin Rees  
Professor of Astronomy and 
Cosmology and, from 2004, Master 
of Trinity College, Cambridge.

36) Dame Judith Mayhew  
Astronomical Society of the Pacific, 
the Heineen Prize for Astrophysics (AAS/AIP), the 
Bower Award for Science of the 
Franklin Institute, the Cosmology 
Prize of the Peter Gruber 
Foundation and the Einstein 
Award of the World Cultural 
Council. 

37) Sam Gallagher  
Varty Business Manager. Former 
President of the Asparagus club.

38) Dave Maher  
CUSU business manager.

39) Timothy Winter  
Sheikh Zayed Lecturer in Islamic 
Studies. The Faculty’s first ever 
lector in Islam, also the Deputy 
Muslim Chaplain to the University,

40) Sir James Mirrlees  
Emeritus Professor: Nobel 
Laureate.

41) Tim Hunt  

42) Professor Hopper  
Head of laboratory for 
Communications Engineering.

43) Keith Collantine  
C USU services officer.

44) Dr Zimmer  
Director, Public Health Genetics 
Unit.

45) Professor Welland  
Head of Institute of Nano-Tech, 
Head of IRC.

46) David Livesey  
Head of MIT Institute.

47) Geoffrey Skelsey 
Assistant to Vice Chancellor.

11) Ben Brinded  
President of Queens’ College 
1985 -1992 served as economic ad-
viser to Neil Kinnock, the leader of 
the British Labour Party. 1992 en-
tered the House of Lords, and from 
1992 to 1997 was Principal 
Opposition Speaker on 
Treasury and Economic Affairs. 
1988- set up the Institute for Public 
Policy Research. Chairman of the 
Board of Trustees. 1997-joined the Board of Securities 
and Futures Authority. Britain’s sec-
curities markets regulator. member 
of the Board of Directors of the 
Royal Opera House, Covent 
Garden, with particular responsi-
bility for the Royal Ballet. He is 
also chairman of the Commercial 
Radio Companies Association and 
the British Library. 
Taught economics at Cambridge 
since 1970, and became President 
of Queens’ College, Cambridge in 
1997. 1985-1989 Professor in the 
Graduate Faculty of the New 
School for Social Research, New 
York. Visiting Professor at 
Columbia University, New York, 
the University of Massachusetts, 
Amherst, and the University of 
Amsterdam.

15) Tim Gowers  
Fields Medalist (maths prize 
awarded every 5 years). Tipped as 
next Master of Trinity.

21) Simon Blackburn  
Professor of Astronomy and 
Cosmology and, from 2004, Master 
of Trinity College, Cambridge.
55) Professor Amaratunga
Leads the Cambridge Solar Electronics Team.

56) Edward Craig
Knightbridge Professor of Philosophy. Fellow of the British Academy; General Editor of the 10-volume Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy, now the leading encyclopedia of philosophy in English.

57) Jeremiah Ostriker
Astrophysicist. Awarded the National Medal of Science by Bill Clinton in 2000.

58) Professor Newland
Former Head of Engineering Department

59) Brian Little
Tipped to be a future Fleet Street editor.

60) Katy Long
Former editor of Varsity. KSUC Governing Body Representative.

61) Reggie Vettasseri
Next co-editor of Varsity. Presently Varsity Chief News Editor. Senior Officer at Union – smoked spliff with Howard Marks in Union Chamber, Director of Schools Debating Competition.

62) Edward Cumming
Ex-chairman of CUCA (Cambridge University Conservative Association). Ex-ents officer at the Union and ex-Union president. Student representative for VOTE 2004, a lobby group pushing for a referendum on the European Constitution.

63) James Osborne
Organised first ever Cambridge University Ball with Frank Walding. Arranger of the Fashion Show in Lent 2003. James has appeared in The Guardian as a Bright Young Thing. He arranges charity events and is rumoured to be a self-made millionaire through the sale of freezer meals.

64) Laura-Jane Foley
Next co-editor of Varsity. Former Union under secretary. Captained ‘University Challenge’ team.

65) Jessica Childs
Academic Affairs Officer CUSU. Women’s Officer on KCSU. Raised considerable funds for Camfed (charity furthering girls’ education in Africa).

66) Wes Streeting
CUSU Higher Education Officer, tipped to be next CUSU President.

67) Suzie Butler
Access Officer.

68) Jo Read
CUSU Women’s Officer.

69) Luke Layfield
Former editor of both Varsity and TCS. Luke and co-editor Oly Duff were the first in history to edit both Cambridge papers successively. During his time as editor of Varsity Luke interviewed Ariel Sharon. Resigned from TCS to spend more time with his girlfriend.

70) Stephen Parkinson
President of the Union.

71) Eve Williams
Former TCS editor. Director of TCS.

72) Ferguson Gladstone
Double first in economics for both part 1 & part II.A. Goldman Sachs Global Leader. attended their exclusive programme in New York. Signed to Goldman Sachs, Investment Banking division.

73) Michael Nabarro

74) Nayemul Chowdhury
Involved with CamSaw, organised a year out in order to row in the Athens Olympics.

75) Alan Mendoza
Arranged for Ted Heath, the French Ambassador, and Henry Kissenger to attend Dzauzian Society of which he is President. This is a privately organised clique who run right-wing dinner parties. Ex-chairman of CULCA.

76) Fiona Brenner
Overturned King’s Colleges’ decision to expel the ‘Anti Capitalist Action Four’ and halted their rustication.

77) Caleb Ward

78) Frank Walding
Promoter of ‘Fresh as Snow’ and ‘Funky Monkey’. Looks set to take over in Cambridge ents when Fergus Gladstone leaves next year. Former Andersen scholar, in the year of their monumental collapse.

79) Wu-Meng Tan
Winner of World Debating Championships. Ranked best Speaker in the World. Ex Union President.

80) Sarah Solemani
Lead roles in two West End productions. Played the young Mrs. Robinson in The Graduate and the lead in Mrs Brown. Writes the Spring Review. Role as ‘Ayeshia’ in Royal National Theatre production of ‘Sanctuary’. On TV was guest lead as ‘Gillian Jennings’ in BBC’s Red Cap.

81) Pete Morle-Fletcher
Pitt Club President.

82) Kate Merriam
ADC President. Involved with over 25 ADC performances.

83) Ashley Grote
Organ scholar at King’s college. Heavily involved with Cambridge University Musical Society.

84) Rowland Moseley
Academic scholar at King’s College. Received a starred first. Awarded the Donald Wort Prize from Music Department.

85) Russ Abel
Hawks president. Co-promoter of ‘Rumboogie’.

86) Tom Stammers
Co-editor of TCS.

87) Tim Stanley
Cambridge University Labour Association President.

88) Tom James
Rowed for University boat team. Aged 18 in first year. Presently taking a year out in order to row in the Athens Olympics.

89) Ben Ramm
Leader of Cambridge Liberal Democrat Student Party.

90) Helen Ooyeyemi
Faculty for greatest proficiency in IA Music. Principal Composer of National Youth Orchestra. His Orchestral work premiered in Paris in 2002 and his chamber work premiered at the Royal Institution in July 2002. Was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 later in the same year.

91) Dan Mayer
Member of SWSS (socialist worker student society) and Cambridge’s most prominent protest organiser. Involved with CamSaw, organised an occupation of Senate House and the Le-pen and Nick Griffin protests at the Union.

92) Anti Capitalist Action 4, Craig McDowell, Matt MacDonald, Morwenna Mckechnie, Ricardo Vetalez. Famously made King’s look illiberal – last Michaelmas term when the group were rusticated by the college over a squat they had allegedly trashed. They successfully overturned King’s decision to send the students down and caused an about turn in the upper echelons of the college.

93) Tom Tilley
Footlights Review Writer. Writer of the Spring Review and Christmas pantomime at Footlights. Performed at the comedy store gong show several times. Appeared on ITV’s take the mic stand up show. Going to MIT, Princeton, Cornell next year as part of an American college comedy tour organised by a US comedy troupe. Fined £150 in his first May week for streaking Trinity Great Court.

94) Edward Riches
Footlights President

95) Simon Radford
Former President of Lib Dems. , Union Hack, An Old Etonian.

96) Ronnojoy Dam
Socialite, A-lister of the future, former Varsity Arts editor and next Varsity Fashion Editor.

97) Jamie Parker
Double blue and son of former England Cricket international. Described as one of the University’s most naturally talented sportmen.

98) James Livingston
Rowed against his twin brother in last year’s boat race.

99) Martin Hemming and Will Mott
Editors of the Ordinary. Have met Paul Lewis. Three times.

100) Kirsten Barker
OSpreys President
When the money dries up... hit Mill Rd!

So you have worn a hole in your pocket?
But that's never stopped us shopping!
Head to Mill Road for some Post-Christmas bargains!

Q&A

Style talks to Simon Fujiwara, student at Magdelen and Design Producer for The Magic Flute at the ADC

How did you get involved in this project?
It began in June when I was asked by the director Max to be involved. I met the rest of the team and saw that this was going to be something special; everyone was very engaged and full of energy. It's not everyday a student body takes on The Magic Flute! I have also been keen to design for opera for a long time.

How has being an architecture student affected the design process?
Some of the questions I have asked myself have been very architectural and others not. Architecture needs to answer more questions about the way we live. Opera design is very sensual it grows out of music, there is an immediacy to designing music as a space or colour that is less of an intellectual game.

What has been the most interesting part of designing?
Getting the materials. It is often very laborious and time consuming, but the range of characters you meet! Can you imagine what being a dealer in chinese horse hair all your life must do to you?

What inspires you?
Matthew Barney, Wagner, Peter Doig, John Galliano, Bill Viola, the sausage maker at Pinner Farm, McQueen, various skips, Amanda My costumes saviour, Jean Cocteau and taxidermy (all varieties).

Is this what we can expect, then!??
Yes and no. Designing this has been an ongoing dialogue between Max, George (Musical director) and I, things change constantly, but you can be sure of one thing, an evening of spectacle and beautiful, beautiful music!

The Magic Flute is on at the ADC from the 27th to the 31st of January.
Box office: 01223 503333

Here are some of the best in Cambridge:

Oxfam
28, Sidney St

Sainsbury Research UK
12, Regent St

Oxfam
34, Broad St

Sue Ryder
19a, Mill Rd

RSPCA
18, Mill Rd

Salvation Army
44a, Mill Rd

Cup Precinct
172, Mill Rd

British Red Cross
26, Broad St

The Hospices Shop
30, Regent St

British Red Cross
141, Gilton Rd

Save The Children
21, Magdalen St

British Heart Foundation
13, Burleigh St

East Anglia’s Children’s Hospices
174, Mill Rd

Our final page is dedicated to the one we love...Van Walters. You are our one and only and no one can take you away from us!!

Matthew Barney, Wagner, Peter Doig, John Galliano, Bill Viola, the sausage maker at Pinner Farm, McQueen, various skips, Amanda my costumes saviour, Jean Cocteau and taxidermy (all varieties).

Is this what we can expect, then!??
Yes and no. Designing this has been an ongoing dialogue between Max, George (Musical director) and I, things change constantly, but you can be sure of one thing, an evening of spectacle and beautiful, beautiful music!
Want to escape? Go here
Varsity’s guide to places that other newspapers don’t know exist

1. Pelee Island, Canada

With a knowledge of lakes limited to paddly duck ponds and filled-in gravel pits, any lake which you can’t see the other side of appears as some kind of strange landlocked sea.

The Great Lakes truly are great - no swimming trolleys or many ducks here.

Pelee island is in Lake Erie. Erie’s more manageable size means that it reaches a good temperature in the summer for swimming, whilst in winter it can freeze over. A village store, winery, bar - every need is catered for. Buy fresh worms for fishing, rent out tandems for hilarious cycling fun, or enjoy one of the beaches.

It’s sandy, it’s serene, take your bucket and spade and you can pretend you’re at the sea side.

James Pallister

2. Cozumel, Mexico

If you’re looking for a whirlwind city break with plenty of shopping, sophisticated culture and luxurious hotels, Cozumel is not the place to go. It’s a relaxed little island off the coast of Mexico near to Playa del Carmen, and at around 20 miles long it is the largest offshore Mexican land mass, yet maintains a definite Carribean island feeling.

There’s something unmistakable about that scorching sun, those azure blue skies stretching out above you, the hot white sands and the smell of sea salt that clings to the skin. Cozumel has become famous for its amazing coral reef formations and is a favourite with divers, but it also offers the most beautiful beaches I have ever seen, with miles of uninterrupted white powder sand, palm trees and perfectly clear turquoise waters.

Thankfully the island will never become an enormous tourist hub due to it’s lack of potable water and efforts to preserve its delicate ecosystem, but for those lucky enough to spend some time there, there is plenty to discover beyond the façade offered to tourists. From the magic of the Mayan ruins scattered in the tropical forests, to the incredible marine life in those deep blue waters, Cozumel has something for nearly everyone.

Danae Hadjili-Baratt

3. Kongjian, Laos/Thailand

Asia is a vast and heterogeneous continent; if you visit the packed metropoles of Bangkok or Tokyo, you won’t experience the westemless village life, if you spend a week by the beach, you won’t be able to sample the mountain air.

There’s no way to escape the travellers’ curiosity without putting some real effort in, but there are ways of gaining an inner Asian perspective, and that’s through comparing life along the border lines, and why not in a hidden sparkle on a gem of civilised-yet-untrodden nature in the Kongjian provide of Thailand?

The green Mekong river flows into the yellowy Makong, and outdoor four-poster beds of a luxurious but laughably cheap hotel resort provide a view over the rivers and onto the Laos border mountains. These mountains completely obliterate the man-made villages which lie against the water with no electricity, but plenty of Laos whiskey, moulting chickens and smells of fried, salty river fish.

You can enjoy Thai massage, Laos soup, hotel luxury, village poverty, river kayaking, golf, steamboats, rowing, dirt-road and mountain biking, all on a small bit of land and water, dividing the opulent Thailand and primitive Laos, in comparison.

4. Tendaba Camp, The Gambia

The jetty looks set to fall apart with your first step onto it and the resident crocodile can come as a surprise as you look into its pen on your way back to your room at night. The concept of health and safety may never have reached The Tendaba Camp, but that’s not surprising.

With every kilometre the bus travels the potholes seem to grow bigger until the bus is driving on the dirt to avoid the road, and then it takes a further 5km walk from the bus stop at Kwinella to your journey’s end. But this bungalow-village needs such a journey in order to achieve the feeling of isolation it provides.

An evening watching the sun sink into the River Gambia, surrounded by little else but the pelicans fishing beneath the baobab tree as you dance your leg over the edge of the jetty and sip Jul brewe (Gambia’s answer to own brand lager) is what escapism is all about; far away from the bustle of the capital and about as near to complete calm as you are ever likely to be.

Jenny Shaw

5. Ohrid, Macedonia

Head through the Vardar Valley from Skopje, and the beautiful green mountains are studded with man-made blemishes. Gostivar, Tetovo; litter-strewn concrete abominations, hideous car-buncles on a lovely new-found friend and an aspect on Macedonia’s impoverished Albanian community.

South, though, lies Ohrid, its Unesco-listed old town tumbling down a steep hillside to meet a lake of the same name - a perfect marriage of man and nature. While popular with former Yugoslavs and Macedonian-Australians, the rest of the world appears to have passed by historic Ohrid. Macedonia was barely affected by the post-Yugoslav conflict, yet its location at the heart of the turbulent Balkans fools many a tourist into steering clear. All the better for the rest of us.

The Cyrillic alphabet was devised here by the eponymous saint, and the town has been part of the Greek, Bulgarian, Ottoman and Serbian empires at various times, leading to eclectic culture and cuisine

Strolling the winding lanes from church to church, swimming in the wonderfully warm lake as the bells of Sveti Pantelejmon provide a resonant bassline to the muezzin’s howling, gazing across to the blue mountains of Albania – such are the delights of Ohrid. In the evening, take the evening korzo (promenade), enjoyed by young and old alike, stopping for an amino-acid injection at the open air grills (mind the chillies – I nearly passed out) and party the night away with the effervescent and polyglot Macedonians. Don’t miss this, the jewel of a much-maligned Balkan crown.

Andy MacDowall

6. Arisaig, Scotland

Arisaig is an ideal base for hill walking, or cruising expeditions to explore the nearby islands. There are numerous tracks and paths for walkers of all abilities throughout the surrounding countryside and seashores.

The remains of a vitriified fort can be found nearby. Red deer, golden eagles or seals can sometimes be seen along the rugged coastline.

There are daily sailings to the small isles of Eigg and Muck from Arisaig, with frequent sightings of whales, porpoises, and dolphins.

For golf enthusiasts, arguably the most scenic nine hole course in Britain is to be found at Traigh.

Alasdair Ross
'And we give these awards meaning, But we end up with no voice.'

Thus spake Benjamin Zephaniah in his poem Bought and Sold, exposing what he sees as the compromise of artistic integrity and political autonomy in the acceptance of accolades awarded by the Establishment’s annual awards system.

Last month’s Whitehall leak of more than 300 names who have refused various Royal honours is particularly striking considering how many of those are fundamental figures in this country’s artistic make-up over the last century. These names include British cultural icons such as David Bowie, Graham Greene, David Hockney and Francis Bacon. The large number of high profile artists refusing awards is testament to the gulf between the Establishment and these luminaries, which the government has previously refrained from publicizing.

Benjamin Zephaniah, in his own words, is ‘an angry, uneducated, ex-hustler, rebellious Rastafarian’ and one of the country’s leading poets. The maverick Zephaniah, who has spent time in jail as well as being nominated for Cambridge and Oxford Fellowships, has always viewed himself as a spokesperson for the common man and his struggle against government injustice. Zephaniah’s poetry has been consistently eager to represent the “wanderers and workers - the heroes of the street” and modern urban life. His shun of an OBE last November has been another shot in the arm for the Labour Government’s Cool Britannia project, which he and others have distanced themselves from as a forced charade superficially giving the impression of being inclusive. Zephaniah’s actions echo those of others in the past who have seen the acceptance of such honours as compromising themselves as artists. ‘The truth is I think OBEs compromise writers and poets, and laureates suddenly go soft,’ Zephaniah says, “I want to reach as many people as possible without compromising the content of my work... I do not write poems to win awards or to get OBEs or laureateships. I write for people. I write to connect with myself and to connect with people’. The non-acceptance of such awards by the likes of J.G Ballard and Ken Loach are a political statement in their own right. "Thousands of medals are given out in the name of a non-existent empire,” said J.G. Ballard, who rejected a knighthood, “I can’t take it seriously”. Like Ballard, Zephaniah views the Queen’s birthday honours as emblematic of a history of slavery ultimately sanctioned by the monarchy however much has changed since then. Zephaniah’s rebuttal, rather than solely harking on the negative legacy of the former British Empire, is that of a progressive and more concerned with the need for change. ‘I am not one of those who are obsessed with their roots,’ he asserts, “And I’m certainly not suffering from a crisis of identity, my obsession is about the future and the political rights of all people’. As well as being engaged in a number of local community projects and a tireless campaigner for the rights of those wrongfully jailed, Zephaniah does much work for the state-run British Council, representing the Britain he cherishes: “It is about what happens in the streets of our country and not in the Palace or at Number Ten.” Some however are prepared to undermine what they have previously stood firm against in their creative output. The Rolling Stones are a case in point. The Stones were once counterculture heroes for a generation, epitomizing youthful anti-establishment rebellion. In the song ‘Street Fighting Man’, Jagger sang with intent, Think the time is right for a Palace Revolution”. Think again. It seems the ‘game of Compromise Solution’ got him in the end. Keith Richards, guitarist for the band, criticized Jagger’s acceptance as a sell out entering into a world he railed against as a young man. There is something inherently farcical and ridiculous in the irony surrounding such artists being offered these honours and even more so in their acceptance.

Why has what seems like a roll call of British cultural figures chosen not to accept awards from Buckingham Palace? Does this 700-year old system still function as a credible way of recognizing artistic achievement and can it legitimately do so when that work is of a nature that is subversive and critical of the Government that offers it? As the bamboozled Zephaniah pointed out, ‘Me, OBE? Whoever is behind this offer can never have read any of my work.’
This Is Not A Mingle
King's Mingle Thursday Dec 4th

Another term, and another King’s mingle. THIS IS NOT A MINGLE claim the posters, but this one did exactly what the Mingle does best: combining cheap drinks with some great music.

There’s always that weird school disco feel that seems to dog college ents (partitions apparently made of bed-sheets, drinking from plastic cups), but if you can handle that then the Mingle has the makings of a great night out. The music was typically diverse, with each of the four rooms playing different stuff. Kung Fu regular Mystro headlined the hip-hop Room while the bar line up included every thing from Funky house to funkier electro with a little bit of plain old funk thrown in for variety.

Personal favourites were the awesome drum ‘n’ bass room featuring 1Xtra’s Bailey and Hektic and Tappa, and the indie in the cabinets run by CUR where they even got people to dance to at The Drive-in. The good thing about the Mingle is that it’s small enough to always look crowded – this means a good atmosphere but it’s also useful for hiding from people you don’t want to talk to, or disguising your silly dancing in the Hip Hop room. The bar involved fighting your way past impressively trendy types for a cheap vodka off the THIS IS NOT A PRICE LIST price list (it only fooled me once), and some electro courtesy of Get The Wow and Jollyboy Ram.

At £10 a ticket it isn’t the cheapest night out, but if you’ve got the spare cash at the end of the term, then the Mingle is the place to spend it. This is one college ent that never fails to deliver. Edwin Lane

The Akira Guide To Student Bands

In the very first issue of this edition, Varsity Music ran an article entitled ‘Cambridge Music Scene? What Music Scene?’ This final week, in a rather triumphant example of cause (and long overdue) effect, Varsity introduces an occasional series interviewing student and local bands. If the scene exists, we’re damn sure gonna find it. This week Ellen E. Jones speaks to King’s based post-rockers Akira, and picks up some tips on how to rock out – under-grade style.

1) Practice Self Mythologising
Gbenga: It wasn’t the first time I met Joel, but in my mental rewriting of history, the first time I met Joel he was walking around the bar asking people if they liked Godspeed You Black Emperor and I was the last person he was going to ask before he started just talking to himself.
Varsity: Would you like to explain the origin of the name Akira again, please?
[Gbenga starts to explain]

2) Keep Your Press Simple
Varsity: Can you describe the Akira sound in… er… eight words?
Sarah: Loud, loud, loud, loud, loud, loud. Can we have nine?
Varsity: Yeah, go on then.
Sarah: Loud.
Gbenga: Basically we’re of the opinion that when people hear about us and hear our music, they’ll think we’re good.

3) Be Your Own Publicity Machine
Varsity: Is your DIY approach to publicity part of the Akira ethos?
Sarah: It’s just because we haven’t been signed yet. As soon as someone gives us money, we’ll get someone else to do it.
Joel: No, no, no! I’d like to keep a hand in.

4) Pick a Genre And Stick To It
Sarah: Well it started off as ‘yeah maan, we’re post rock’, but it turns out that we all secretly want to be pop stars.
Joel: We’re actually getting more ‘poppy’ sounding.
Sarah: I think we’re just getting better at writing structured songs. When we first started writing, our songs were just barren landscapes of post-rock with the odd twinkle here and there.
Gbenga: That’s kind of a harsh assessment. We did have a lot of songs where we were trying to marry punk and post rock.
Joel: It wasn’t a marriage. It was more like sexual harassment.
Gbenga: We were trying to bullyram post-rock.
The Akira EP Selections in Modern Music is probably available from their very impressive website www.akira-band.com
You can see Akira for yourself at Clare College, 30th January, and the Portland Arms on the 16th Feb.

5) I’ve got a bad habit of judging people by their taste in music. But last year I met some quite nice Coldplay fans (“Julian Rittori, 1st Year French and German”)

6) “I’m going to stop writing song-lyrics on my folder and trainers” (Bhavin Upadhaya, 3rd Year Law)

RESOLUTIONS 2004

1) “I’m going to try and stop secretly listening to Heart FM” (Lily Scott, 2nd Year History)
2) “I should probably stop pretending I’m a DJ” (Gareth Hilton, 1st Year Natural Sciences)
3) “This year I’m giving up making mix tapes and burning CDs in order to impress people. They never appreciate it” (Gemma Corbett, 1st Year English)
4) “I’ve got a bad habit of judging people by their taste in music. But last year I met some quite nice Coldplay fans” (“Julian Rittori, 1st Year French and German”)
5) “I’ve got to stop writing song-lyrics on my folder and trainers” (Bhavin Upadhaya, 3rd Year Law)
6) “I’m going to memorise the lyrics to every single track on The Blueprint [seminal Jay-Z album]” (Joe Baker, 2nd Year Maths)

REVIEWS

Gary Jules, Trading Snakeoil For Wolf tickets Jan 19th Adventure/ Sanctuary
Michael Andrews, Donnie Darko Jan 19th Adventure/Sanctuary (Albums)

Two albums, one song. This week Gary ‘Mad World’ Jules tries to capitalise on his Donnie Darko-induced success by releasing his album Trading Snakeoil For Wolf tickets, which sounds like Simon & Garfunkel playing acoustic country music (and not in a good way.), but with Mad World stuck on the end. This track is also the only recognisable song featured on the Donnie Darko ‘music from the motion picture’ CD, which has none of the classic 80s tracks (Joy Division, The Smiths) that made the film so cool, but has all the scary atmospheric background music instead. Edwin Lane

Kellis, Tasty Jan 19th Virgin (Album)
Mr and Mrs Nas would like us all to know they’re having loads of bloody great sex. The vengeful screeches of Caught Out There have been replaced by the booo-shaking, lollipop-licking, orgasmic moaning of a newly sexualised Kelis. Clearly Nas ain’t the jealous type because aside from his contribution to In Public, the album includes flirtations with Hi Hop’s most eligible bachelors. The Neptunes get an unsurprising 5 production credits (none of which top the naughty-but-nice MilliBucks) while on Millauer Andre’s ‘God’ 800 uses drifting DrDoBeats to demonstrate the proper conjugation of hip-hop verbs (“I am rich, he is rich, she is rich, we is rich”). The closest anyone not in Outkast has come to making progressive RnB. Lately. Ellen E. Jones

Joss Stone, Fell In Love With A Boy 26th Jan Virgin (Single)
Covers aren’t what they used to be. In the old days, whenever anyone gave favourable mention to, say, Soft Cell’s Tainted Love, we’d all snag a for a while and then, with the kind of wisdom that only comes accompanied by a 6ft pile of NME back issues, we’d murmer “ahh, but have you heard the original?” In these days of bootlegged, remixed, chuckle-brothered madness, five months after the release of the White Stripes original it’s already deemed ripe for a soulful re-working in the remarkably youthful hands of Joss Stone. She’s only about nine (alright, sixteen, whatever) and already so well-respected that her backing band includes Philadelphiusa’s finest, Angie Stone and The Roots. Makes you feel young, doesn’t it. Ellen E. Jones

Ryan Adams, So Alive Jan 19th Lost Highway Records (Single)
Most rock stars start off loud and angry and then mellow out in their old age. Ryan Adams seems to be doing the opposite. With this latest offering from his fourth solo album Rock ‘n Roll, he’s dropped the quiet country approach and gone all electric. So Alroe sounds like the kind of record an optimistic 19 year-old would make. It sounds a lot like The Smiths combined with JF2, and not at all like Ryan Adams. Some people would find it hard to switch styles so suddenly and completely, Adams’ secret is that he does it very well. Edwin Lane

MUSICAL RESOLUTIONS 2004

1) “I’m going to try and stop secretly listening to Heart FM” (Lily Scott, 2nd Year History)
2) “I should probably stop pretending I’m a DJ” (Gareth Hilton, 1st Year Natural Sciences)
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5) “I’ve got to stop writing song-lyrics on my folder and trainers” (Bhavin Upadhaya, 3rd Year Law)
Go ahead, punk: Rate My Ring

So, cool or crap? Our men take a look at the biggest thing since The Ord.

Judging by the hyperbole, this film was set to be an era-defining piece of art, the Star Wars of our generation: I am prone to react against this kind of ardent praise with cynical resistance and this was no exception.

Let us establish that, yes, the cinematography is awesome, the SFX and CGI groundwork and the battle sequences are excellently handled, this is beyond reasonable dispute. Jackson has rendered a seemingly intractable logistical pastiche from the Cambridge Footlights alumni. Confused? Be (a film) buff in 15 minutes with Varsity...

The Darkness really should have been Christmas Number One. Musical arguments aside, the fact remains that they have mastered the central element of much of the great art of the last few centuries: a sense of controlled ambiguity. It is dangerous to dismiss them as novelty, as the possibility remains that they are logically sincere.

Their credibility lies between reality and fantasy, in a manner that allows fully grown men with more piercings than a blind knife-thrower’s assistant to take off their shoe and play air guitar like the town drunk. Happily, Lord of the Rings also has this quality.

It is easy to pick holes: the dialogue is often facile (“I will not say: do not weep: for not all tears are an evil”), and there are enough pan-pipes to stock a decent-sized new age boutique. Yet Jackson has never quite been straight up, and I suspect he still isn’t.

The special effects may have improved since his early days, and the likes of Braindead (replete with rat-monkeys and zombie fornication), yet even the The Return of the King retains a whiff of the ridiculous (not least in the repeated failure to end the film, much to the horror of the primary school kids in the audience), and also a scent of the sublime.

Technically, Jackson et al must be admired for reducing 400+ odd pages of periphrastic pseudo-Biblical prose to a script that might stretch to 400 words, and furthermore for the camera work and impressively ponderous pauses that just about make it intelligible.

Unsurprisingly, battle scenes are wonderfully-executed, and New Zealand remains breath-takingly beautiful. Yet I suspect that, when it comes to the pompous, the heavily-styled, and lots of latex, it all depends on whether you are willing to believe, whether it be in Father Christmas, Gandalf or even in a thing called love.

A C Berwick
Can’t find something? Ask Varsity...

**Lost on me!**

I liked *Lost in Translation*. But that shouldn’t surprise you. It’s already been nominated for umpteen Golden Globes, and the New York Times couldn’t think of a bad thing to say about it. I can, but back to that in a minute.

Lost in Translation is the story of Bob (Bill Murray), an aging movie star in Tokyo filming a whisky commercial, and Charlotte (Scarlett Johansson), an American whose photographer husband is in town on business. They meet in the dreary bar at their equally dreary hotel, and make an immediate connection. That’s about it.

This is not to say that I object to movies where nothing happens. Quality entertainment doesn’t require explosions, set changes or even much of a plot. But the fundamental rule for story-telling is that the main character has to change. But he/she cannot be the same person that he/she was at the beginning. And neither Bob nor Charlotte undergoes a transformation, has an epiphany, or even makes a decision. This is a major flaw number one.

Major flaw number two is everyone–one else in the movie. No, not movie: ‘film’. *Lost in Translation* is definitely a film. And anything that takes itself that seriously should have more than two three-dimensional characters. But Charlotte’s husband is a phony, Bob’s wife a shrew. Anna Faris’ ditzy-starlet on the promotion circuit is very funny, but still a stereotype.

The film’s portrayal of the Japanese is even worse: each and every one is played for laughs, whether they be zany talk show hosts or overly exuberant prostitutes. By the end I felt ashamed to be watching what was not, as Roger Ebert called it, a “comedy of manners”, but rather something resembling Bernard Manning on speed.

I did like most of it. Bill Murray was as wonderful as always: understated and devastatingly endearing. I did not expect to be impressed by enginé-use-of-the-month Johansson, but I was. She was only seventeen when she started filming this movie, but exudes maturity. I can certainly see why the critics loved it. They watch so much drivel that anything without a car chase must seem like the nest Gnoblitz. But subtlety and restraint alone do not a great movie make.

Carrie English

**Dido he? Didn’t he?**

The set design was stylish and the music tremendous. It was a very accomplished production and hopefully it will encourage more students to take on the arduous but rewarding task of producing an opera in Cambridge.

Alice Fordham

**Blood, sweat, poetry**

Longer and stronger than your average ADC late show, *Bloody Poetry* is an age-old tale of sea-sides and suicides, wrapped around an even older boys-meets-girls motif.

Poet and asshole Lord Byron (Ollie Rickman) is a compelling figure, buoyed by brandy burps and bubbling with the yeasty energy of STDs. Percy Bysshe Shelley (Danny O’Conner) is Byron’s reserved but revolutionary friend. Christine Twite and Laura Stewart have a potent rapport as Claire Clairmont and Mary Shelley (née Godwin), the women imposed upon to bear these men’s poetry and their children, while Russell Bender and Jo Mortimer give capable performances in difficult smaller roles, Bender as a disgusting little man, and Mortimer as one of best Ophelias I’ve ever seen. Most prominently, there is sex; but there is also politics, poetry, philosophy and sailing. One high point is a spot of living room pot-boiling incorporating Plato, shadow puppetry and all the disturbing methodical-but-manic cruelty of a trio doctor scrawling willies on the foreheads of morphine-starved gut-shot marines.

Towards its end, the play fades a few hues into a familiar familial faâble about boys and their toys (liquor, ladies, revolution and the occasional transcendental game of chicken with a tempest) and the women suffering back home, kicking up a fuss about piles of laund- dry, or a couple of dead children. Previously, oft-times writhing his Mary Godwin has come across as the most powerful and sympathetic in- telligent on the stage, so it is slightly disappointing to see Mrs. Shelley become the pawn of a heavy-handed feminism. But the acting is still rich, and the new moral force interesting, especially as groupies, paparazzi and the commodification of revo- lution begin to intensify the sporadically modern feel.

The staging was sparse but carefully handled, with a lot of atmos- phere achieved by sound effects. Characters made plenty of mistakes, but the actors didn’t make any; *Bloody Poetry* is polished, clever and sexy, and well worth seeing.

Jow Lindsay

**“Whassup”**, went the catch-phrase from the memorable Budweiser advert of yesteryear, and it is a sentiment that I rather aptly when faced with a rain-forest-incineratingly awesome pile of flyers advertising college films for this term. Happily, Varsity is here to help.

Probably the most impressively balanced termcard belongs to Christ’s, who have some corkers. Therein I would include *Duck Soup* (5th Feb), *Stand by Me* (22nd Jan) and, in a canny move, *Casablanca* down for Valentine’s day smooching (12th Feb). It is *Calendar Girls*, however, which appears to be all over St. Valentine like a nasty old lady rash, making appearances at Queens’ and Caius on the 12th Feb, and John’s on the 8th.

Another certainly brilliant film to assume ubiquity is last year’s *City of God* which hits Christ’s first (Jan 18th) and then Caius and Queens’ on the same night (Feb 5th). However, it is not only the stars that are investing most in foreign talent, with *Open your Eyes* (5th Feb) and *The Time of the Wolf* (4th March) both showing their faces.

So, Christ’s and John’s form a nice partnership - Sir Clive Woodward and Jonny Wilkinson, if you will - whilst Robinson brings up the rear like, well, Kilroy. However, it must be said that it would be nice if we didn’t have so many clashes, and if one society could really stick its neck on the line, several cinematic landmarks – *Battlefield Potemkin* and the French New-Wave; for instance - are elided completely, whilst we get Grease twice. New Year’s Resolutions, anyone?

A C B

**Student opera is a rare beast, but a splendid example was sighted at the exotic habitat of the ADC theatre at the end of last term.**

Ideally suited to the late slot at the ADC, Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas* distils all the brimming, soap opera emotion of *Book of the Arden* into a wonderful tear-jerking sixty minutes in which we follow the fate of our heroine from love and foreboding to abandonment and death.

Andrew Ormerod’s deft production enraptured an audience who were perhaps, like me, a little jaded and week-blues-ish, and emerged all weepy and romantic into the night air.

The singing, I was assured by my chorister friend, was technically extremely impressive, especially given the youth of the performers. To me, although no chorister, the performances were breathtaking.

Clare Buckley as Belinda, Dido’s confidante, with whom the heroine duets, made very complex passages sound natural and flowing, and Andrew Davie’s representation of Purcell’s strutting Aeneas was a joy. Amy Carson as Dido was a deep, honey-sweet delight; her voice and performances evoked the deep, fear and deep emotion of Dido sympathetically. There were some other fine performances as foils to this talented trio; the shrieking witcher fine performances as foils to this fearful and deep emotion of Dido sym- patheticly.

Many of last year’s hits – *Pirates of the Carribean*, *Finding Nemo*, *Kill Bill: Volume 1* – get an outing, although surprisingly the critically-acclaimed *Merry* only gets one shot (*Christ’s*, Feb 29th), and the equally well-received *Adaptation* is similarly conspicuous by its absence, with its only appearance at (Robinson, February 12th) being the redeeming feature of a Robinson termcard that inexplicably includes both *American Wedding* (American Pie 3) and *Legally Blonde 2*. If you would like to see those, then look up the dates yourself.

A C B

**March – get an outing, al-**
Too hip to be square

“Dylan’s Visions Of Sin” by Christopher Ricks

“If a great song of Bob Dylan’s is not literature,” Christopher Ricks once remarked, “that is only because its medium is not words alone.” As a literary critic, albeit an ingenious one with a sensitive ear for the way Dylan sings his songs, Professor Ricks’s medium is words alone, and in this book Dylan’s songs are treated as literature, worthy of comparison with the King James Bible, and the poetry of Milton, Keats, Tennyson, and Eliot. The book will annoy (has annoyed) those who can’t dissociate Dylan’s words from his voice and music, and those who think he’s too hip to be subjected to this kind of close scrutiny. But it will excite those who have longed for a pioneering book-length attempt to justify the claims that have been made for Dylan’s lyrics, not to mention Ricks’s own fans (yes, he has them too).

Ricks bases his chapters on the seven deadly sins, considering how Dylan’s songs evoke them yet resist succumbing to them, and counters them with chapters on the four cardinal virtues and three heavenly graces. It’s a clever structuring principle, and is slain by a cane’ the cadence of the verses is broken: ‘something – a life – is cut short... and this without the song’s having to melodramatize it’. Ricks is also wonderfully attuned to Dylan’s ‘perpetual slight alteration of language’ (T. S. Eliot’s phrase). And then there’s the linguistic leg-deremian. At the end of Boots of Spanish Leather, for example, the woman is ‘asked to give [the man] the boots, having previously given him the boot’. Or, in the second line of Gotta Serve Somebody, we find ‘gambale’ making ‘its way smilingly across to “dance” on the arm of gambale’.

But not everyone is willing to gambol with Ricks, and asking them to do so is a gamble.

Sanctimonious reviewers have tut-tutted at his propensity for punning. Too intellectual for some, too frivolous for others – what a fix Ricks is in! This, a footnote to ‘Come gather ‘round people’, shows him at his most dexterous-ly playful: ‘absolutely imperative (given the absence of a comma before “people”), the apostrophe in “round”. [Square people, stay right where you are].’ It’s outra-gious, no question, especially stuck up in those square brackets. But it’s not gratuitous. The song does serve as a warning to square peo-ple who criticize what they can’t understand and who can’t accept the inevitability of change. If the pun doesn’t quite work it’s because it’s the square people who really ought to gather round and listen to what Dylan has to say, rather than those who are already well round-ed. But at least it reminds us that serious literary criticism can (even should) be fun.

One of the book’s endearing, if uncritical qualities is Ricks’s self-consciousness about seeming square. In fact, we learn a great deal about him: he doesn’t like people who sing along at concerts; he’s an atheist; he tries to be magnanimous about others discovering allusions before him (but also tries to better them). Above all, he is generous to-wards his subject – perhaps, in this case, too generous. One could be forgiven for suspecting that he prefers Dylan to the unquestionably great poets he has previously writ-ten on, so little does he criticize him.

In giving so much of his own per-sonality, Ricks has written a book that might better be read as his own artistic response to Bob Dylan than as a work of criticism.

Write to be read

James Purdon wants your attention

The Mays 12 shortlist

The Shortlist

Try it - you might like it

Catherine Murray-Browne is pleased by poetry

Unlike novels, poetry has got less and less important. Chaucer is pretty important. Shakespeare is very important. Milton, Keats and Coleridge are also important. Past Yeats and Eliot, we’re struggling slightly. Plath and Hughes are better known for their Hollywood tragedy than what they wrote (as if being suicidal made your verse interesting). Hence the Birthday Letters was Hughes’s best selling volume.

Try and sum up the ten shortlisted volumes in such little space is futile and all the works are unique. But they all include poetry of an excep-tionally high standard and do what good contemporary poetry should: transform a world we recognise into something ethereal, whether it’s Jean Sprackland’s jellyfish lying “like saints/unharnessed, luminous” or Jamie McKendrick’s reflec-tions in the Grand Canal, “fat oily squiggles straight from the tube.” All are worth reading (though I can’t resist making special recom-mendations of Don Paterson, Lavinia Greenlaw and Bernard O’Donoghue). Take this opportu-nity to open a previously closed book. And you might just like it.

The Shortlist

EDITOR: ELAINE TIERNEY
LITERATURE
Jan 16, 2004

VARSITY
www varsity co uk
Third division Christ’s caused the first major upset of this year’s Cuppers competition by beating first major upset of this year’s Third division Christ’s caused the marked Jez Moloney, who pro-
struck a defender and fell to the un-
Christ’s goalkeeper David they equalised in the second half.
were even more fortunate when Muttukumaru’s pace was some-
of the Darwin defence and shot low ‘Demon’ Muttukumaru broke free as Darwin failed to get to
Darwin refused to roll over,
Darwin though, as it was now up to
This year’s first round of Cuppers was treated to not just one, but two penalty shoot-outs. Emma were
Darwin in a nail biting penalty shoot-out. In blustry conditions, three of the four goals came when the re-
Darwin’s designated takers five times gained the advantage and Christ’s five times drew level.
But there was still a job to be done for Christ’s and first year substitute Simon Bulley made himself an instant hero by stroking the ball calmly into
Darwin refused to roll over, though, and nervous defending in the Christ’s penalty area allowed Geoff Battey in to equalise. With neither team taking any undue risks in the
This tense penalty shootout included a number of imitations of David Beckham against Turkey. Eventually, deep into sudden death with the
facing Portsmouth, at which point Christ’s five times drew level. In Jesus’ battling midfield, while Alex Mullen marshalled a defence which,
Darwin’s designated takers five times gained the advantage and Christ’s five times drew level. Suddenly death was upon us and it was hard to tell who was more tense, the players or the supporters. The pressure was to prove too much for Darwin though, as it was now up to the players who had not volunteered to take a penalty in the first place. The first man to step up for the grads could do nothing but stand and watch in horror as his kick ballooned Waddle-esque over the bar. But there was still a job to be done for Christ’s and first year substitute Simon Bulley made himself an instant hero by stroking the ball calmly into
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Varsity Ski Trip sees Cambridge lose

Elizabeth Blakeway and Chris Aylard

Skiing...snowy mountains, blue skies, mulled wine, cold beer and hot chocolate, yeah? Well, for a somewhat mad bunch, substitute Welwyn dry ski slope, rain and wind, cheap plonk and frequent curries for the aforementioned.

CUSSC, the Cambridge Ski and Snowboard Club, train weekly throughout term, with the aim of beating Oxford (and everyone else) in the various University league races throughout the year. However, the main aim of all Oxbridge sport is its Varsity competition, which, for skiing, is held annually during the second week of the Varsity Trip.

Some background first: the Varsity Ski Races (the oldest team races in the world) comprise two disciplines; Slalom and Giant Slalom. Both Cambridge and Oxford aim to have Ladies’ and Men’s first and second teams, each consisting of six members. Every team member tackles each discipline twice and is expected to complete both runs to gain an aggregate time. By the end of the event each team must have at least four aggregate times for both Slalom and Giant Slalom. A final time for each University team based on its fastest four finishers is then calculated to decide the outcome of the Varsity Ski Races.

So to this year... In early December, upon arrival of the Varsity Trip Committee, the ‘Ski Circus’ fondly known as Saalbach-Hinterglemm was looking more like the Pennines than an Austrian winter ski resort! However, trippers were being bussed to the nearby Kaprun glacier, where, thankfully, there was plenty of that white stuff to be had! The majority of Oxbridge race training took place there under fortuitously blue skies.

However, this was not to be for long. One flügerl-filled night the heavens opened and before we knew it we were in for a 48-hour dump of snow. The Varsity races were now ironically postponed and out came the snowboards as the resort rapidly veered ‘off piste’.

Finally, with the skies under control and pistes bathed, the Varsity Races commenced. Team trials took place on the crisp morning of Wednesday 17th December, with the respective captains looking for new talent. Oxford, having internationals in both Blues teams, left Cambridge’s prospects of a win looking bleak.

Sadly, Oxford took all the honours, with the exception of the Ladies 2nds competition where Cambridge’s girls fought their way to victory by the closest of margins.

Individual mentions should go to Jo Faurewalker and Chris Aylard for Cambridge’s best individual performances.

Ladies Blues: Elizabeth Blakeway - Newnham (c), Jo Faurewalker - Jesus, Pippa Hemmings - Fitzwilliam, Laura MacDonald - New Hall, Sarah Taylor - Girton, Judith Schleicher - St John’s.


The Blues skiers take time out from training in Saalbach-Hinterglemm, the venue of the 2003 Varsity Ski Trip

The Blues skiers take time out from training in Saalbach-Hinterglemm, the venue of the 2003 Varsity Ski Trip
**When drawing still leaves winners and losers**

Shanaz Musafer

As delighted as I was when Charlie Desmond dived over the Oxford line to bring the scores level in the Varsity rugby match, I could not help feeling a sense of hollowness as the final whistle went and Cambridge celebrated retaining the MMC Trophy.

Those of you unfamiliar with the rules and regulations of the Varsity match may be a little confused. The teams drew yet Cambridge went home with the trophy? Surely that doesn’t make sense.

Allow me to clarify things for you. In the event of a draw, the winning team from the previous year retains the trophy. Hence it was awarded to Cambridge, who triumphed 15-13 in last year’s fixture.

I am sure that I am not the only person who thinks that this ridiculous rule for a Varsity match. Now, I am not saying that the rule itself is absurd, merely that there is a time and a place for it.

Nobody would argue that a series of test cricket ending in a draw needs some way of deciding who should go home with the spoils. If two teams cannot be separated after a series of five, six or even seven matches, then it is probably right to go back to their last encounter in order to award the trophy at stake. This does mean that in the unlikely event of England somehow managing to scrape a draw against Australia we still wouldn’t be able to get our hands on the Ashes but so be it.

But a series of tests and a one-off match are two very different things, and the Varsity match falls into the latter category. It is a showpiece event and is all about who is the better team on the day. If at the end of the game the two teams are tied, then either they should both go home satisfied or, if there is a trophy to play for, there should be some other means of settling the match there and then.

Imagine the controversy that would have been caused if, following Elton Flatley’s equalising penalty in normal time of the World Cup final, Australia had been crowned champions on account of the fact that they were the current holders!

Of course I am not comparing the Varsity match to the World Cup, but the principle is the same. All that is needed is to introduce extra time and then, if necessary, some kind of kick off or penalty shootout, depending on the sport.

I am sure that players would rather win or lose outright on the pitch, rather than come away unharmed yet still feeling as if they have lost. Even the most ardent Cambridge fan would find it hard not to sympathise with Oxford, who had played their hearts out and probably deserved to win the game.

Both the Oxford coach and captain drew attention to Oxford’s open play, with Captain John Allen saying, “We went out there to play in a certain style and we did. I am proud of that.”

Even though the final score was a draw, the upshot of the day is that Cambridge return to Grange Road with the MMC Trophy once more. Until this out of place rule is removed, one can only look at the reactions of the respective teams to the outcome – sheer jubilation for Cambridge; utter disappointment for the Oxford camp. Despite the fact that things finished all square.

**Downing clinch the double**

On Sunday 23rd November, CUJC made a trip to the Ipswich Judo Club. A relay open to all members of the University on Sunday 18th January, start 12pm. Teams of four, each person running a short and scenic 2 mile course starting in the centre of town. Turn up and run for a college prize. The occasion was the end of term one headship in the Lent Bumps.

Downing had most cause to celebrate. If Downing were the force to be reckoned with in the senior divisions, then Queens’ took on a similar role in the novice races. There was a slight sense of confusion surrounding the results of the men’s novice division as Queens’ second boat emerged as the fastest crew. Due to the strong winds bringing the elements on the river Cam, Downing achieved a unique double by rowing to victory in the women’s division. Their first ladies crossed the finishing line after 17.17 minutes of solid and controlled rowing, Caius beat Jesus into second place with a time of 17.25 minutes. They have established themselves in 2003 as the club to beat on the Cam and will undoubtedly be looking to consolidate their Fairbairns victories with at least one headship in the Lent Bumps.

When drawing still leaves...
Cambridge Under 21s mauled by old enemy

Cambridge Under 21s were played off the park in the curtain-raiser to the main Varsity rugby match, losing 22-0 to the old enemy Oxford.

Oxford ran in three tries and could have scored more as they exhibited a display of total class and dominance.

Any latecomers would have missed the first points of the day as Oxford scored a penalty to go 3-0 up in the opening ten minutes. Their first try came shortly afterwards as a series of scrums led to a superb passing move finished off by fullback Cuff.

Cambridge then entered what was to be their best period of the game. Dave Akinlua, rather confusingly wearing no. 11 but playing on the right wing, sprinted clear down the touchline but was called back for an earlier Cambridge knock on. For the only time in the match, Cambridge were able to apply sustained pressure on the Oxford defence, gaining territory in their opponents’ half.

They were let down by their kicking though, as scrum half Henderson had a game he would rather forget. With the chance to put the first points on the board for Cambridge he missed a penalty from in front of the posts. The Oxford crowd howled with glee at the glaring miss.

Their crowing grew louder as the rout and the Light Blues’ misery. Henry Nwume, who made a diagonal run and dived over with aplomb to take them within one point of Cambridge.

Oxford mere scored one penalty at any given opportunity. However, neither side were prepared to go for broke. After all, no one wants to be known as the player who lost the Varsity Match.

Cambridge in particular were happy to settle for the draw, knowing that, as holders, they would retain the MMC Trophy. Indeed, at the final whistle the Dark Blues merely scored one penalty in the second half.

It is often said that it only takes one moment of brilliance to turn a match around, and with time running out the Cambridge faithful were grateful that Aki Abiola and Charlie Desmond were on hand to provide one. In Cambridge’s first real attack of the second half—coming after 73 minutes—Abiola, on as a second half substitute for Neil Toy, played scrum half at the ruck. Picking the ball up in the middle of the park, he got his first chance to run at the Oxford defence and headed for the right hand corner, before passing out wide to Desmond. The young wing coolly sidestepped O’Mahoney to touch down in the corner and send the Light Blue fans into ecstasy.

All of a sudden Cambridge looked like a different side. With the crowd having found their voices again, Eru pushed his men forward. However, neither side were prepared to go for broke. After all, no one wants to be known as the player who lost the Varsity Match. Cambridge in particular were happy to settle for the draw, knowing that, as holders, they would retain the MMC Trophy. Indeed, at the final whistle, the Light Blues celebrated as if they had won whilst the Dark Blues hung their heads in misery. And it was Cambridge who got to take it home with them.

### UNDER 21’S VARSITY RUGBY

Shanaz Musafar

Oxford U21s

Cambridge U21s

Cambridge Under 21s were played off the park in the curtain-raiser to the main Varsity rugby match, losing 22-0 to the old enemy Oxford.
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