Six undergraduates arrested over “serious sexual assault” in Girton

Varsity exclusively reveals allegations of student attack during the early hours of March 17th

POLICE OFFICERS are investigating a report of a very serious sexual assault alleged to have taken place in Girton College during the early hours of Thursday March 17th.

The incident is described as having occurred in an undergraduate room following an end-of-term hop with the title of “Rumble in the Jungle”, organised on March 16th by the Girton College JCR. Varsity has chosen not to disclose the names of the undergraduate victim or those of his six alleged male attackers. Three 18-year-olds, two 19-year-olds and a 20-year-old, were arrested in connection with the incident on the morning of the 17th and have now been released on bail.

The individuals accused were seen returning to Girton during the early hours of the 17th wearing police overalls, creating speculation that their clothes had been confiscated for forensic examination. Reports describe a very heavy police presence, with up to 3 police cars arriving at the crime scene. The incident is alleged to have occurred during the early hours in central Girton College accommodation. Neighbouring students were particularly shocked at the fact that the event is said to have occurred in a room on a busy corridor. Girton College and the University Press Office have been careful to keep the incident discreet. No announcement of the event has yet been made to Girton students.

Cambridge University Press Office confirmed that Cambridgeshire police were called to an alleged incident at Girton College in the early hours of Thursday 17th March. A number of students were arrested and were questioned by the police. They have since been released on bail pending further questioning at a later date.

Six male individuals have been bailed to return to Parkside Police Station on Thursday May 5th. In the meantime they have returned to continue studies at Girton. The police investigation continues.

Liberal Democrat leader Charles Kennedy visits Cambridge - Editorial p.11

RAG auction to make history

Anna McIlreavey

CAMBRIDGE RAG is set to make history this term with the biggest RAG event ever to take place in the city. A one-off charity auction is scheduled to break fundraising records when it takes place at the Union on 28 May.

Auction Organiser Chris Griffiths explained, “RAG wanted to create an event that raises donations, but also gives something back to all the supporters. An outstanding list of items up for auction will ensure that there is ‘something for everyone’ at the event. Items up for auction can be viewed, and bid for in advance, at the RAG website.

Sought-after items will include pairs of tickets to various Cambridge May Balls such as the elusive Trinity, Magdalene and John’s doubles. Other items set to cause a stir include the Christie’s leather-bound Princess Diana catalogue, one of only 250 copies worldwide. In the past this has sold for up to £100,000. Chris Griffiths predicted that the highest-selling item would be a signed US Open flag. ’This is a collectible item," he said, “it is a piece of history – it has been signed by every US champion for the last 38 years.” Signed albums, signed football shirts and massage sessions are also up for grabs.

RAG are trying to involve the entire university in this massive event. Special guests yet to be announced, along with famous alumni and local MPs, will be present. This year Cambridge RAG hopes to raise up to £120,000, exceeding all previous years. Cambridge’s Vice-Chancellor has expressed support, saying that “Cambridge University excels in a far broader range of ways than it is often credited with. For this reason, when I was told that the students were organising the largest charity auction that there has ever been in the city, I wanted to write this message encouraging everybody involved with Cambridge to offer their support.” Come and join in the auction action at the Union on 28 May, or look on the website for previews and to place bids.

www.cambridgeauction.co.uk
Hughes Hall transforms Fenner's

LAST MONTH the University banned the wearing of kilts at graduation ceremonies. The move has angered many, including the Scottish Deputy First Minister and Cambridge graduate Jim Wallace, who condemned the ban, saying ‘instead of clamping down they should be more flexible.’

Cambridge defended its decision, saying the dress code had always existed – stipulating trousers and ties for men and dresses or suits for women – but that it had never been fully enforced before.

The tightening of regulations extends to prohibit all forms of national dress as well as military uniforms, although exemptions are made for religious dress. According to a spokesman the Praelectors found that recently the breaches of their regulations had become more prolific and extreme and asked if they could allow [the regulations] to be enforced.

The move is ‘not an outright ban’ and the University explained that it ‘remained the responsibility of each college’s Praelector when presenting students for graduation to ensure that all students are presented correctly’.

A spokesman went on to say that inappropriately attired students ‘wouldn’t necessarily be turned away, but it would be traditional for some sort of fine to be imposed on the Praelector of their college.’

The underlying reason for the graduation ceremony is that you become a member of Cambridge University, whether you are a Scottish member, a New Zealand member or an Army one, you are all members of Cambridge University.

Despite these reassurances, anger remained rife amongst members of Cambridge’s Scottish student population, some even stating that they would rather arrive in a kilt and be turned away than graduate wearing trousers and a tie.

Cambridge’s new stance on the correct attire for graduation is paralleled by the University of Oxford where no allowance is made for the wearing of national dress. Durham, however, takes the opposite view and allow the ‘substitution of an HM Armed Forces uniform or national dress’ as long as it remains appropriate for the occasion.

NEWS

Chine Mbuaebugu

THE LEGALITY of animal experimentation by Cambridge University is now allowed to be scrutinised by anti-vivisectionists. The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) gained permission to seek a judicial review against the University’s experimentation after a hearing.

The recent hearing was presided over by Mr Justice Stanley Burnton at London’s High Court, who granted the animal rights group the go-ahead. During the course of an undercover investigation lasting 10 months, BUAV acquired a number of secret documents which revealed that animal rights laws put in place to protect animals in the University’s laboratories were not being implemented properly. Animal rights activists discovered during this undercover investigation included monkeys that had strokes induced, the tops of their skulls sawn off and had been left untreated for a period of up to 15 hours.

Justice Burnton’s decision granted BUAV the permission to question the legal standing of a government verdict two years ago. This verdict had accepted a report compiled by the Chief Inspector of Animals, Dr Jon Richmond, which had gone in the University’s favour.

BUAV’s success, however, was tempered by the judge’s decision to accept only three of the anti-vivisection group’s three claims, whilst rejecting three further claims of animal cruelty.

A University spokesperson responded to the verdict of the hearing, saying ‘Research methods are continually evolving and whilst scientists and medical researchers aim to work involving animals to a minimum, some of this work must continue if we are to make essential life-saving advances in medicine.’

Chimpanzees bus bands

Cambridge has slipped to second place behind Oxford in the Guardian’s annual University League Table published this month. Cambridge faculties which came top of their categories included Engineering, Classics, Modern Languages and Architecture.

OZONE DANGER

Cambridge scientists have released a dramatic new figure showing large-scale ozone losses over the Atlantic, which they state proves that 50% of the ozone was destroyed at altitudes of around 20km above the Earth’s surface, with the lowest levels since records began.

THE NATIONAL Union of Students is experiencing a mass financial crisis, standing at nearly £700,000 in the red.

The NUS is currently trying to develop a ‘rescue package’ to help reduce this debt and a money-making scheme involving current NUS discount cards will also be introduced. At the moment, all students receive this card for free which can be used to obtain discounts; the new card will be as the NUS Extra card, costing ten pounds, which will entitle students to better discounts on travel, shops etc. Mr. Ing, treasurer of the NUS, defends the costs of such a card. ‘It would help us to address a lot of the problems we already have. It’s the one [plan] I’ve been pushing.’

It is possible to view the union accounts online before the NUS conference next week in Blackpool. Last year, the union ended the financial year with a deficit of £491,000. In light of this, it was forced to introduce a major overhaul which involved scaling down its annual conference, selling its London head quarters and moving the bulk of its operations to Manchester.

This financial year the union now faces a deficit of £677,000, which includes £210,000 spent on travel to the conference and the extra costs of rent in London after the relocation was postponed for a year. For the 2005-06 financial year, it predicts a deficit of £518,000.

Martin Ingcls believes the problem stems from students spending less in the union when they go out, leaving the unions struggling to pay their fees. ‘Students aren’t spending as much money as they used to, or do you have the time to go out as much… When students are struggling they have to cut back costs, and that’s their affiliation cost.’

The conference held in Oxford this week also include the NUS elections, running from Tuesday to Thursday next week. In total, the union 249 bands in the data-base, although only 20 of these feature on the CD. The official launch of the CD took place last night at the Guildhall. Bands that appeared at the festival included the Poet Laureate Andrew Motion, writer Patrice Peck, and novelist Graham Swift and Hilary Mantel.

COCO’S REVAMP

Coco’s nightclub is about to embark on a major refurbishment, following a change of management. The new interior will include a stage for live music and an extension of the second floor balcony. The ground floor will be transformed into a spacious ‘lounge bar’ for use in the evening. A new indie night is also expected to be in the offing.

MONGOLIA TRIP

President of the Cambridge University Mountaineering Club Alan Dickinson is planning a seven-week expedition to Mongolia this summer, with the intention of climbing the country’s highest peak before attempting several first ascents of previously unclimbed mountains.

More details and information on sponsorship on the web at www.ucam.org/montgolds.

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**Israeli uni boycott**

Amy Goodwin

THE ASSOCIATION of University Teachers has faced sharp criticism over the last week after its members voted in favour of a boycott of Israeli universities in protest at their alleged involvement in the government's policy towards Palestinians. The motion passed against the wishes of the AUT executive and effects the severing of links with two universities, Haifa and Bar Ilan. These institutions have been accused of activities which persecutes both Palestinians and those who oppose the Israeli state.

Sue Blackwell, an English lecturer at Birmingham University who was one of the delegates most involved in pushing for the boycott, stated that 'Israel academics are routinely implicated in racist discourses against Arab students and Arabs in general. You cannot talk about academic freedom and free debate in Israel in the same way you can talk about it in the UK or in almost any other country in the world'. The boycott aims to 'add to the pressure on the country’s economy and dent its international prestige', to send a ‘message of support to students and colleagues in Palestine’, and to act as ‘consciousness-raising’ for British academics. These aims have been described by Danny Stone of the Union of Jewish Students as ‘hugely offensive to Israel’s pride’. He claimed that the boycott endangers the ‘major part’ that Israeli academics currently have in world scientific research and would encourage a ‘wider rift’.

The potentially ‘racist and discriminatory’ nature of the boycott was also noted by Stone. NUS President Kat Fletcher stated that the NUS ‘in no way supports British academics. These aims have been described by Danny Stone of the Union of Jewish Students as “hugely offensive to Israel’s pride”.

Mr Carrrall stated that she is not scared of being typecast as a strong, sexy and confident woman: the star of ‘Porky’s’, ‘Mannequin’ and ‘Police Academy’, regards the open expression of sexuality and the pride and confidence of one’s own, as extremely important. She explores both in a documentary (broadcast in June on Channel 4) and book (out September), both entitled “Sexual Intelligence.”

**Top position for Rees**

Lucy Phillips

SIR MARTIN Rees, Master of Trinity College and Professor of Cosmology and Astrophysics, has been nominated as the new President of the Royal Society. It will be the first time in the academy’s 100 year history that an astronomer takes the top job. Sir Martin, who is 62, is expected to succeed Lord May of Oxford who completes his 5 year term on 30 November this year. The appointment will be confirmed by the 1,250 strong council of fellows in mid July.

Sir Martin, has received several awards in the UK and abroad and has been English Astronomer royal since 1995. Last year he was awarded the Royal Society’s Michael Faraday prize for science communication and this year he was awarded the Royal Swedish Academy’s Crafoord prize, which is the equivalent of the Nobel prize in astronomy.

A spokesperson for the Royal Society paid tribute to the status: “Effectively being president makes you the leader of the UK scientific community. Becoming a fellow of the royal society is like a scientific knighthood and becoming president is the leading individual within that scientific community.”

There have been 58 presidents of the Royal society since it was founded in 1660, include Christopher Wren, Samuel Pepys, Isaac Newton, Joseph Banks, Humphry Davy, Ernest Rutherford and William Bragg.

**Prize-winning pissos on Parker’s Place**

Emily Newman

NEW public toilets built at Gonville Place in Cambridge have been awarded a top architectural prize. The flight will cost £49 each way, with a £5 reduction for students, and will operate a free shuttle bus between the airports and the centre of the towns, totalling a 70 minute journey. Hailed as the nest Richard Branson, Hestia is still training to become a commercial pilot. Alpha 1 will operate two return flights each day between the cities’ local air-fields using four eight-seater planes. With the venture’s expected success and £4 million of investment, he plans to expand and operate the service more frequently, with increased destinations or with larger planes.

The airline is aimed at academics, businessmen and students who travel regularly between the two cities as well as tourists. The environmental benefits are considerable. By 2000, over 50% more fuel would be used than the expected launch date of 18 April has been pushed back to the end of May. (see www.flyalpha1.com)

**Sex and the Union**

Andrew Poole

KIM CATTRALL, best known for her portrayal of the character Samantha in TV series ‘Sex in the City’, came to the Cambridge Union on Wednesday. She answered questions on her life and career to a mainly female audience. The QA session was hosted by the Union’s Senior Officer, Sarah Poberezinski, and was also broadcast to the overflow of punters in the Union bar.

The 48 year old discussed her current critically acclaimed role as a quadriplegic in her West End debut ‘Whose Life Is It Anyway’, which ends its successful run this week. Although the part was originally scripted for a man, Ms Carrrall welcomed the chance to play an astute, full-blooded and resilient woman, able to express herself only from her bed. Explicit in her belief that women had the ‘right to choose’, she also supported the play’s stand on euthanasia.

The Liverpool-born star admitted that she twice turned down the SATC role because she thought that she was too old.

**New development at Girton library**

Oliver Tilley

New public toilets built at Gonville Place in Cambridge have been awarded a top architectural prize at the city’s annual design awards.

The state-of-the-art buildings situated near Parker’s Piece, designed by Cambridge firm Freeland Rees Roberts received a prestigious design award at the David Urwin Design Awards, held at the Cambridge Forum for the Construction Industry annual dinner at King’s earlier this month.

The panel of judges described the building as ‘striking’, while Cliq John Hipkin has praised the firm with which [Freeland Rees Roberts Architects] have designed the public toilets. David Urwin Design Awards were also won by streetscape work carried out at Senate House Hill.

**Coming soon: Don Air**

Cassell Carter

AN 18 YEAR old entrepreneur has created an airline company to fly passengers between Cambridge and Oxford. The journey between the two cities currently takes two and a half hours by train, costing around £35, or two hours by car. Martin Halstead’s Alpha 1 Airways offers a journey of just 20 minutes, a possibility which has not been available since the 1930s. The flight will cost £69 each way, with a £5 reduction for students, and will operate a free shuttle bus between the airports and the centre of the towns, totalling a 70 minute journey.

Hailed as the nest Richard Branson, Halstead is still training to become a commercial pilot. Alpha 1 will operate two return flights each day between the cities’ local air-fields using four eight-seater planes. With the venture’s expected success and £4 million of investment, he plans to expand and operate the service more frequently, with increased destinations or with larger planes.
Anne Campbell

Labour

Age: 65
Family: Married, 3 children, 5 grandchildren
Education: Pensantone Grammar School, Shffield, Newham College, Cambridge
Employment: MP, Head of Statistics and Data Processing at the National Institute for Agricultural Botany in Cambridg, Secondary school mathematics teacher; Senior Lecturer in Statistics at Cambridgeshire College of Arts and Technology (now Anglia Polytechnic University)
Hobbies: tennis, gardening, walking, eating out
Describe yourself in 3 words: left, compassionate, green
Teenage role model: Barbara Castle
If your party did not exist, who would you vote for? Greens

I don’t think there’s such a thing as an average Cambridge student. But I think there’s a lot of people here who would agree with me that there’s something drastically wrong with the political system and the way the economics that we’ve got in this country. It is inevitable that Oxford and Cambridge will follow the American system and become privatised? If things go the way they’re going, yes. I don’t really want to see it as an inevitability. You can come out of university with debt. Yes, £6,000, although I worked all the way through.

Favourite Cambridge pub: The Flying Pig on Market Road. It’s close, it’s cheap and it’s got a good atmosphere. It’s a place where people can just come and relax.

Describe yourself in 3 words: optimistic, idealistic, left (I’m not really a public person any more)

Young role model: King George VI

At the moment we’re fighting an election based on the realisation of the facts of the way in which things are being run at the moment.

Niccie Simpson

Martin Lucas-Smith

Green

Age: 27
Education: State grammar school in Kingston, Surrey, then King’s College Cambridge
Employment: Website developer in the Geography department at Cambridge University
Hobbies: “Music. I am a keen cyclist. Going out! I suppose that’s not a hobby is it?”
Describe yourself in 3 words: “Can I have two? A pragmatic radical. I think extreme radicalism is too often alienating to the electorate.”

Teenage role model: Andrew Haydon-Smith.
Most admired political figure(s): “Can I have two? George Monbiot and Peter Tatchell.”
If your party did not exist, who would you vote for? Either the Lib Dems or one of the smaller left-wing parties like Respect.

Cambridge student vote manifesto: “A vote for the Greens sends a message to the larger par- ties that we should do more in tackling issues which the Greens represent. There’s no such thing as an average Cambridge student vote, what you would vote for who believe in.”

Is it inevitable that Oxford and Cambridge will follow American system and become privatised? It’s not inevitable. I think there’s a lot of public services based ethos at Cambridge. But I think the tuition fees issue is going to have an impact. Oxford and Cambridge are already clamouring to raise fees and I think in 5 to 10 years it will be.”

Did you come out of university with debt? Yes and no. I’ve only just made a salary where I have to pay anything. It’s about £6,000 – luckily I was in the last year cohort that still had maintenance grants and didn’t have to pay tuition fees.

Favourite Cambridge pub: “The Rose and Crown, a gay pub on Market Road. It’s close, it’s cheap and it’s got a good atmosphere. It’s a place where people can just come and relax.”

Describe yourself in 3 words: “Optimistic, idealistic, left (I’m not really a public person any more)”

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Niccie Simpson

Tom Woodcock

Conservativ

Age: 42
Family: Married, a seven year old daughter
Education: Music Scholar at Charterhouse; Choral Scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge
Employment: MP, currently runs own business for professional classical concert and opera singers; worked in the Financial Services industry
Hobbies: word games, cross-words, classical music, opera, balletically (stamp-collecting)
Describe yourself in 3 words: confident, personable, good-looking

Teenage role model: My Father
Most admired political figure(s): Margaret Thatcher, because “she broke a mould.”
If your party did not exist, who would you vote for? I would go to the polling station and vote “None of the above.”

Cambridge student vote manifesto: “I represent a party which is determined to abolish all fees and tuition fees, with a positive plan of what to replace it with... and we essentially believe that education should be free at the point of delivery from the beatrice that may be, to the end of your first degree.”

It is inevitable that Oxford and Cambridge will follow the American system and become privatised? ‘I very much hope not. If we hadn’t put a new financial structure in place – the Higher Education Act gave £3 billion to universities – that may have been the case. Oxford would have been first and Cambridge might have been forced to follow.”

Did you come out of university with debt? Yes, but it would seem small if you go from £50 to £100. I paid it off quite quickly.

Favourite Cambridge pub: Earlham in Market Road.
How many Cambridge colleges are there? 28 or 29
How many Bruce or Brown colleges does Blair have done a lot of good things…..but I am a great admirer of Bruce. Blair should now make way for him.

Is there a liability to the Labour party’s campaigning? “All lead politicians have to take a back seat and I don’t think he is any more unpopular than most prime ministers after two terms in government.”

Lucy Phillips

Ian Campbell

Conservative

Age: 47
Family: Married, two teenage sons
Describe yourself in 3 words: I can’t. When you get to my age, three words isn’t enough. Or it’s too much too much.”

Teenage role model: Max Weber, John Stuart Mill – “I stormed off from Mill”

Most admired political figure: Garibaldi, Lloyd George, Gladstone, Nelson Mandela and Jesse Jackson “Very few British politicians. If your party did not exist, who would you vote for?”

The Greens Cambridge student manifesto: “We would abolish all fees and reintroduce grants of up to £2,000. Under our system, more money goes towards higher edu- cation than Labour. Inherently, students are better off under our system. Debts would be lower, and lower income students will be better off. I think that higher earners should pay for it. The money will come from a higher rate of tax – 50% on all higher income tax payers want to understand how we can complain.”

Is it inevitable that Oxford and Cambridge will follow the American system and become privatised? No, it’s not inevitable. I’m not a fan of the idea that what happens in America must happen in Britain. All universities need to find mult- ple methods of funding – some of which will be state and some of which will be non-state. In Britain, until now, we’ve had a system of state funding and because of that the state should always be a major source of funding.”

By the way, would you vote for? No. The culture of the Left in Labour is that I would have been discour- aged from coming here and gaud- ed out of coming here.”

Favourite Cambridge pub: “I have just discovered the Boat House, I represent the Castle Ward on the City Council and so haven’t really got time to go over the years.”

How many Cambridge colleges are there? 47

Chine Mbuamba

David Howarth Lib Dem

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Chine Mbuamba
ELECTION SPECIAL

At the ballot box

Suzon Forscey-Moore

INDEPENDENT

Employment: campaigner in law
Describe yourself in 3 words: principled, dedicated, egalitarian
Teen role model: Elena Roosevelt
Most admired political figure: Franklin D Roosevelt
If you could not stand as an MP what would you do instead? I would teach
Hobbies: reading, walking, listening to music

Graham Wilkinson

INDEPENDENT

Describe yourself in 3 words: optimistic, businessminded, role model
Teen role model: Steve McQueen
Most admired political figure: Winston Churchill
If you could not run as an independent candidate, who would you support? Green Party
Hobbies: playing guitar, reading

ELECTION 2005

COMMENT
JAMES Dacre

The irony is that this is an election more about spin than substance. It is an election in which the decision to privatise the NHS was made New Labour so electable in 1997 – her ruthless will in controlling party and the news agencies, her inability to slough off her opposition and think as long-term governors with a huge mandate – had weakened her ability to gain respect for ruling effectively. And behind it all is her inciting fear and loathing to lobby voter interest.

There are 21,000 full time students at Cambridge: 16,500 here and 5,000 at Anglia Polytechnic. Around a quarter of the voting electorate is comprised of a student body. For many of us, our only experience of Cambridge is as students and there is nothing hypocrisy about using something about our time here as students, even if it means voting against the majority or the part of our past when we were voting for home. That said, I don’t think that it is contrary to suggest that most students, and especially Cambridge students, would consider the importance of national politics above that of local politics in forming their party allegiances. Yet in an election where all political parties are preaching from the same hymn-sheet, I would suggest that for most students, the approach is far more consumerist. The student vote is and always will be a party will guarantee them the best deal. For us, this is a student deal. So what do our college friends know about us? Worryingly, only one of our eight candidates knows how to rain check an interview at Cambridge. Almost all say that they would vote Green if their party didn’t exist, or their independent candidates – well, what can I say about them apart from consistence, upon their candidates. Anne Campbell won the Cambridge seat from the Tories in 2002 and has held it since, returning with a 20% majority at the last election. Often cited for her allure, and because they seem to be obsessed with Labour moderniser, besotted by proportional representation, with their electoral single currency, but notably (and unequivocally) opposed to military occupation in Iraq. Her party allegiance is best illustrated by the fact that she has only voted against her government in parliament an astonishingly low 12 out of 1020 times in the past Labour terms, and 2 out of 98 votes in her previous term. Born and bred in Cambridge, she is clearly hard working and committed. She has rung the Varisty office many times after midnight to comment on news stories. Yet for many students, the problem with Anne Campbell is that with her government, they will be leaving university with £420,000 in debt.

Election Special

ELECTION 2005

1st three sons: Education: James town high School, New York, Pirzer College: Claremont; De Montfort, Leicester
Age: 66

At the ballot box

Suzon Forscey-Moore

INDEPENDENT

Employment: campaigner in law
Describe yourself in 3 words: principled, dedicated, egalitarian
Teen role model: Elena Roosevelt
Most admired political figure: Franklin D Roosevelt
If you could not stand as an MP what would you do instead? I would teach
Hobbies: reading, walking, listening to music

Graham Wilkinson

INDEPENDENT

Describe yourself in 3 words: optimistic, businessminded, role model
Teen role model: Steve McQueen
Most admired political figure: Winston Churchill
If you could not run as an independent candidate, who would you support? Green Party
Hobbies: playing guitar, reading

ELECTION 2005

COMMENT
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Applications are now open for the Varsity Michaelmas 2005 Editorial Team. For more details see www.varsity.co.uk.

Deadlines: Editor 4th May; Section Editor 20th May.

If you are interested in joining the Varsity team for May Week, check out www.varsity.co.uk or email business@varsity.co.uk.
Churchill crowned the green king

Rachel Willock and Sam Richardson

Churchill is Cambridge’s greenest college, according to a new study revealed in today’s Varsity. The report, by the student-run Cambridge University Environmental Consulting Society, has been criticised from some quarters as too one-sided, but looks certain to raise student awareness of green issues.

This follows a previous league table produced in May 2002 in which 25 colleges participated, at that time Jesus College ranked at the top of the table. The questionnaire was distributed in December and the results were accrued during Lent term. The categories on which questions were asked aimed to cover all aspects of college life, including kitchens, offices and libraries, gardens, heating and insulation, lighting, waste, college commitment and housekeeping.

The ranking system used was one developed by CUECS members in previous years to appropriately take into consideration the specific and different situations of Cambridge colleges and the initiatives they have in place. Because of the survey’s nature the survey was examined in terms of the resources used, the extent of recycling, waste reduction, and any policies that encouraged better practice. Weights given for individual questions were based on their impact on the environment; basically each weighting was calculated by working out a sustainability factor and an impact factor for that practice and multiplying the two together. Though the calculations used by the League may not be immediately accessible or comprehensible, the message of the scheme is clear and direct: “push to make people in Cambridge aware and account- able for their environmental pol- icy (or lack of one).”

Martin Whitehead, the "The message is loud and clear: Be aware.”

University Environmental Officer, said of the report that “This is an excellent initiative to raise awareness of environmental issues and to promote more sus- tainable practices to reduce the environmental impact associated with college activities. The sur- vey highlights significant differ- ences between the situations of differ- ent colleges in terms of building, students, population and budget.”

Some of the questions have a significant impact and can be expected to result in significant improvements.

Dr Ian Kelman, Deputy Director of the Cambridge University Centre for Risk in the Built Environment, commented, “This League Table is extremely useful for communi- cating the environmental friendliness of institutions in our daily lives. Hopefully it will also inspire staff and stu- dents to actively improve their college’s standing, thereby having a positive and tangible impact on our sustainability.”

Collegiate green officers also responded positively to the survey. Ronantaia Hastings of Fitzwilliam said, “It’s challeng- ing with high apathy levels amongst students and negative attitudes from college staff. But it’s important, and attitudes do change.” Higher up the table, Ben Kerr-Shaw of Clare said that “students don’t make a huge deal out of green issues; they simply get on with it and to the basic things right.”

However, a number of con- cerns were raised about the relia- bility of the survey, most notably from Darwin. Peter Brindle, the Bursar of the graduate college (which was ranked towards the bottom of the table), said that “The survey is completely wrong. The person in charge of collecting the data did not come to me, and there’s a number of areas where I feel that the survey is inaccurate. He pointed to the fact that, while the college is concerned about Darwin’s heating initiatives, a DTI study 14 months ago com- mented on the college with three colours. Brindle argued that “they have got it wrong as far as Darwin is concerned. I think the point he’s trying to make is that the same goes for other colleges as well.”

Cambridge colleges are big con- sumers of energy and resources, and so must produce a huge amount of waste. Students are perhaps more lax than at home with their lighting and water as bills are not metered. Furthermore, the collegiate structure means that it is difficult to have a consistent university policy – colleges can end up with bad environmental practice without any action brought against them. This is what our survey seeks to change.

Environmental issues cannot continue to be a low priority. It is well known that our current way of life is unsustainable and it is our generation that will suffer. However, in order to improve our current situation people need to be made accountable. The Environmental League Table is one way of trying to make colleges more aware of green issue in Cambridge. However, it can only be successful if it causes individuals, Cambridge colleges and departments, think about their actions and consequences they have on the environment. We need to take stock of where we are and think hard about what we have to do to counter the presently inevitable slide towards environ- mental destruction.

Of course the survey could not be perfect especially in a university where there is such disparity between the situations of differ- ent colleges in terms of buildings, population and budget.

Some of the questions have a defined situation where it may not be feasible or beneficial to the environment to bring about these changes. For example, the amount of waste associated with some building work may over- weight the subsequent reduction in environmental impact. Some of the colleges also have listed building which makes there are restrictions on certain modifications.

The League table is vital for increasing awareness of these important issues and in universities’ community. Environmental issues are being held as increas- ingly important on the world political stage and it is time that Cambridge started to change with the times. Nevertheless awareness is only the first step. Colleges change must rely on every individual playing a part in making con- tributions. The problems with imple- menting these kind of changes in Cambridge is that busy individu- als are unwilling to make the small sacrifices that are needed. It is easy to be impatient with endeavours to be greener, for the results do not immediately noticeable.

There are positive results that can be seen from the survey. It is apparent that sustainable meth- ods of living are being introduced and hopefully this will continue. The highest scoring section across all colleges was the ‘College Commitment to Environmental Issues’, therefore it is evident that most are keen to start implementing environmental policies. There are also move- ments to form committees to dis- cuss issues and some college have green travel plans. It is reassuring to know that this subject is becoming part of the university agenda and the aim of the League Table is that this year further will foster greater discus- sion both within and between the colleges.

If people are made to think about their behaviour and ques- tion their actions, college life will change and plans are implement- ed then maybe we can look for- ward to a sustainable future.

Karen Hans President, CUECS

How to be green but not mean

Cambridge colleges are big consumers of energy and resources, and so must produce a huge amount of waste. Students are perhaps more lax than at home with their lighting and water as bills are not metered. Furthermore, the collegiate structure means that it is difficult to have a consistent university policy – colleges can end up with bad environmental practice without any action brought against them. This is what our survey seeks to change.

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Flight: Sacked for telling the truth?

Former Tory MP Howard Flight defends his political stance to Lucy Phillips

F

April 2003: Flight was sacked from his party after comments about Tony's spending plans

Facing disillusioned by the various campaign trails in the run up to the general election, I decided Howard Flight, a former Cambridge undergraduate – he studied Part I History and Part II Economics at Magdalene in the late sixties – might have something more original, and perhaps, more honest, to say.

Mr Flight came into the spotlight at the end of March when he was sacked as Deputy Chairman of the Conservative party and dejected from his seat in the Commons by Michael Howard, following the taping and release of his comments about secret plans to slash government spending.

Mr Flight was responsible for setting up the James review into public spending, which identified £35 billion savings and is one of the Tories' flagship policies in the election. However he told a right-wing Tory audience: “The potential for getting better taxpayer value is a good bit greater than the James findings.” He further added, “I'm sorting myself out. I don't think he's the best we've got right now and I think he does have integrity.” I suggested that many people were not convinced by Mr Howard, to which he said: “They may not like him but I think they think he's able.” He refused to comment on who might be the next Tory leader.

On the result of the election, Mr Flight went on to tell me “It is much more marginal than it appears.” He added, “Since December I have thought that there is a good chance it will be like 1970 and that we will win by a majority of 20. Governments lose when they have run out of steam, this lot have run out of steam. Blair has lost trust.” I then put it to him that the election itself might have lost trust after the recent postal voting fraud revelations, to which he said, “It is very clear there is scope to abuse the system. The irony was that both the referendum in the north on regional government and even the (pause) EU EP election, although there was clearly abuse of postal voting, it didn't seem to affect the results. It is only when a major country is concerned that any misuse would 'probably benefit the Labour party most.'”

I asked him if the run up to the election had to be like 1970 and that we will win by a majority of 20. Government lose if they have run out of steam, this lot have run out of steam. Blair has lost trust.

Michael Howard: ‘I think he's the best we've got right now.’

My first questions were as inevitable as the sacked MP's answers: Mr Flight feels his now famous comments about public spending were taken out of context and that his sacking was “unfair and not good for the party.” I put it to him that the Tories have some kind of ‘hidden agenda,’ but his response was unperturbed: “All I was saying is that a Conservative government would need to review the situation once elected … in terms of sorting out what we are going to be committed to in the James review it was discussed, agreed and signed to arrive at what was politically doable and acceptable. We have no hidden agenda.”

Mr Flight went on to tell me that during the course of the meeting in question, he believes he “was defending Conservative Party policy from criticisms that they were not being more radical.” Typically he accused New Labour of political spin and reiterated that, under a Tory government, there would be no cuts in front line services as suggested by the media “It was a half baked story, on a day that there was little other news … the only way to kill it off was my sacking.”

Mr Flight further dominated the news in his attempt to secure his seat and political career, but eventually conceded that this was not in his or the Tory’s interest: “The only thing I could have done was to have stood as an independent candidate … I didn't want to do it … it would have kept the story public which would have been damaging to us, and the probability is that I wouldn't have won and I might even have let the Liberal (candidate) in, I would have wrecked my local Association.”

I sensed that he was tiring of the subject so I turned the conversation to his present situation: “I'm sorting myself out. I don't know about the future yet … but I certainly haven't given up intentions to be involved in politics.” He later added, “I'm a treasury creature by skill, nature and background.”

I was eager to find out what Mr Flight really thought of Michael Howard but he loyally described his former boss as “extremely bright and able, politically sharp and very cautious – he doesn't like mistakes.” But could he win the election? “I think he's the best we've got right now and I think he does have integrity.” I suggested that many people were not convinced by Mr Howard, to which he said: “They may not like him but I think they think he's able.” He refused to comment on who might be the next Tory leader.

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I asked him if the run up to the election had to be like 1970 and that we will win by a majority of 20. Government lose if they have run out of steam, this lot have run out of steam. Blair has lost trust.

Mr Flight had already admitted to having a preference for a Blair government so why does he dislike the current Chancellor so much? “I think he's dangerous and a bully.” He continued, “He doesn't understand how the economy works. He started but was not entitled to do what he did, he has been imprudent and irresponsible.”

Gordon Brown: ‘I think he's dangerous and a bully.’

In the hope of avoiding further back-biting I turned the topic of conversation to matters of education. Mr Flight is a governor of his old school, Brentwood, in Essex, and has four children, two of which are currently in higher education. He told me: “O-levels and GCSEs have gone off the rails. There is quite a strong case for the Baccalaureate…. but it’s rather a pity because it’s admitting that you’re not achieving the sort of general levels of education that we managed to receive in the past.” GCSEs are pretty shoddy, whereas A-levels were quite a significant level of achievement.

Despite his public school manner and penchant for pin striped suits I felt Mr Flight seemed in touch on matters of education. He continued: “I have always believed passionately that there should be lots of places at ease for bright people from any background to go to good established schools. Segregation on ability to pay is quite wrong and bad culturally for the future. Bright people from all walks of life should be able to go to good schools.”

Next I asked him why the Conservatives had done so badly in Cambridge over recent years, to which he replied: “There is a core set of Tory voters, who are economically unprivileged, ex-public school students in Cambridge than in my day and the very privileged all have got complete and are quite understandably of that kind of political persuasion when they're young. In general young people are much more realistic nowadays and they're more realistic at places other than Cambridge.”

He went on to describe the Tories as a “Practical, commercial, economically more sensible party that is not idealist; and idealist things are going to attract young people particularly from a privileged background.”

As our time was almost up I wanted to find out who are his political idols: “I liked Reagan very much, Churchill was wonderful, Thatcher was wonderful. Lutonians, and actuaries actually have a lot of time for Gandhi.”

What about Bush? “I don't know … you know where you stand with him. I think that maybe he's more much of a man of principle than people realise and increasingly he seems to be scor- ing over those trying to bury him as some dummy.”

For my final question, I returned to his smoking habits and asked how he was feeling “I have given up now for 10 days. It's going very well, I'm not fidget- ing,” he abruptly replied.
**Back to basics: Why the Lib Dems’ elder statesmen is calling for a change in British politics**

Amol Rajan talks to Lord Tom McNally, the next leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords

Blair’s presidential style has been based on a manipulation of the media for selfish purposes. It’s hard to think of any other politician who has been as skilled at controlling the media as Blair. The reason for this is that the media has become a central player in our political system. The media has a powerful influence on public opinion and it is important to understand how this influence works.

In recent years, there has been a trend towards more negative and controversial political campaigns. This has led to a reduction in the amount of information that is available to voters, which has made it more difficult for them to make informed decisions.

The role of the media in politics is essential, as it shapes public opinion and influences the way that politicians behave. The media can be a powerful tool for changing public opinion and it is important for politicians to understand how to use this tool effectively.

There are several ways in which the media can influence politics. One of the most important is through the way that they report news. This can affect public opinion and influence the way that politicians behave.

It is important for politicians to be aware of the role that the media plays in politics and to understand how it can be used to their advantage. By doing this, they can ensure that they are able to influence public opinion and shape the political agenda.

My name is Amol Rajan and I am a senior political correspondent for the Guardian. I have covered politics for over a decade and have written extensively on the role of the media in politics. I have also written several books on the subject, including "The Media and Politics: A Guide for the Newly Elected" and "The Politics of the Personal".

In my conversation with Lord Tom McNally, we discuss the importance of the media in politics, the role of the media in shaping public opinion, and the impact of the media on political campaigns. We also explore the role of the media in influencing the behaviour of politicians.

Lord Tom McNally has a long and distinguished career in British politics. He has served as a Member of Parliament for many years and has held a number of important positions in government. He is a respected figure in the Liberal Democrats and has been a vocal critic of the Conservative Party.

In our conversation, we discuss the importance of the media in politics, the role of the media in shaping public opinion, and the impact of the media on political campaigns. We also explore the role of the media in influencing the behaviour of politicians.

**Politics cannot and should not be reduced to different marketing techniques, or trivial discussions of how many times you wash your hands**

But both voted Democrat, whereas being far removed from any international terrorist threat, voters in the midwest voted for Bush, partly because they trusted him to protect them from these threats. This strikes me as a salient point, and McNally, reflecting his long-held interest in international affairs – whilst working for Callaghan he met American presidents Ford and Carter, as well as such diplomatic giants as Kissinger and Brezhnev – finds his rhythm when it comes to engaging in the domestic scene in America.

Voters in the midwest asked for discursive laws on all manner of issues, from gun laws to civil liberties. But they voted, at least, and it was important to recognise the role that fear can play in encouraging people to come out and vote. Fear can destroy apathy and cultivate engagement. He is keen to emphasise the fact that this needn’t be an endorsement of fear in Britain. I ask him how, if not through fear, he would seek to connect.

“I understand and accept the point about apathy. Of course we want turnout at the last election was disappointing. But we must do more. There are hundreds, thousands of people are out distributing leaflets, engaging with the public, canvassing on issues that they really feel does matter.”

Of course that’s true, I acknowledge. Many of their jobs depend on what happens on May 5th; many of them are fiercely intelligent people who lead politically active lives, with a keen sense of their public roles. But I put to McNally the proposition that apathy – or its slightly younger and oddly different sister-ill, disengagement – is an inevitable product of an age of material pluralism. The method of engaging with the public, I suggest, is about reducing politics from a Big Idea to localised micro-management, relating to voters by talking about Their washng, Then school’s, their local crime rates.

“I agree that this sort of managerial style is an aspect of the New Labour style. Politics cannot and should not be reduced to different marketing techniques, or trivial discussions of how many times you wash your hands.” McNally stops at this point to put that comment into context. He says he is referring to a discussion on Tuesday’s Newsnight, in which...
When RON’s not an option, who are we going to vote for?

Becoming a guy who knows how to party, on Wednesday night I went to an event put on by the Peterhouse and Trinity Politics society. (And you know what madness it is when those guys get together.) The idea was, get the leaders of the student Labour, Liberal Democrat, and Conservative parties, and put them in a room and have them make persuasive speeches and then answer a bunch of questions.

The three representatives had markedly distinct styles. Lab Dem Mark Gettleson held forth in the classic historian-patronian-of-course-it’s-all-about-Conrad-Russell-style, and displayed a cheering fondness for the phrase Abjectly Bad; Martin Arrowsmith played it straight, leaving the verbal fistsfics to his rivals in the manner of a Labour supporter who knew this election’s been a foregone conclusion since the day after the last one; Tom Goodhead wore the bruised, defiant expression one would expect to see on the face of a student Tony, playing the he-who-dares-to-speak-truth-into-power card, saying things like France Is Worse Than A Banana Republic, and Of Course We Shouldn’t Be Bound By International Law, and Let’s Bomb The Hell Out Of Those Scoot Bastards! (He didn’t say the last one, obviously, so I’m pretty seri-

meanings are for the sake of it. Cambridge student politics isn’t just any old student politics) in mouthwatering anticipa-

tion of a right old set-to. But, sad
to say, it didn’t really happen. On some of the most contentious issues of the night – immigration, Iraq, faith schools – the three politicians confessed that they thought their respective par-
ties had made a peg’s ear of policy, and so the banter was cut somewhat short. Everyone looked especially dis-

pointed when Goodhead admitted he wasn’t really thinking what the Conservatives were thinking over immigration, or at least, he qualified, what they say they’re thinking to get elected. There was a sort of mini-frac-
taus over whether it was alright to pursue the bigot vote, but it didn’t really set the pulse racing in the way seeing a ding-dong between Pannin and Blair, Howard or Kennedy can.

On May 5, most of us will go and vote, and for many of us it will be the first time. By and large, though, it will be with a sense of disappointment, and I think that has something to do with what we see in these three stu-
dents’ even the party representatives can’t get with the programme. Everyone I talk to is saying the same thing – that they do care about this stuff (anyone who’s talked to any stu-
dent ever knows the apathy thing is by and large utter bullshit), but that there isn’t a party they feel properly attached to. Some lean towards the Lib Dems but worry that their policies are the easy option of a party which knows it won’t get elected; oth-

ers would give the Tories a whirl if it weren’t for all this nonsense about travellers and asylum seekers; still

aren’t for all this nonsense about

stuff (anyone who’s talked to any stu-
dents sound like they wish there

was a RON on the national ballot.

In a few years’ time, if we real-

lise that sitting in the pub longing for

Archie Bland

Student Columnist of the Year

to their Chief-Whip-issued pager?

I’d like to support a party that

does more economy with the truth.

Politicians aren’t all idealists, because

I’d like to support a party that

doesn’t exist, and the

ABetter World is a sight less effective

than the idea of a Green Party. Until they launch the Archie Party, one of these three will have to do.
Letters

Up the U's

Dear Sir,

For the first time ever whilst working for Cambridge University, I found myself running round the office brandishing a copy of Varsity and screaming ‘Yes you, look at this’! It’s got a lovely front cover by Adam Edelshain’s excellent article ‘Are students to watch football?’ which compelled me to write expressing my agreement.

I would however urge students to watch Cambridge United (and probably also City and Histon) not for moral or altruistic reasons but because it’s entertaining. I’m using that word in the literal sense mind you, not the footballing one.

The droll, old men on the terraces are funny, their comments are funny, the sarcastic songs form the North-Stand are funny, the away fans pick their way through mud in winter and crows in summer on the pitch are funny, the way the player’s haircuts are funny, the song played after a victory is funny (‘It’s great to let your hair down’), the smell of tobacco, the time entertainment is funny, in fact the only way to get into a punch up with your own team-mate is pure comedy.

Funnest of all is Danny Webb, the worst striker I’ve ever seen. If you want a good laugh and 90 minutes watching real people do real things then you’ll love it.

I firmly believe that Cambridge University should be a prestigious institution as Cambridge University only is a prestige institution. Steve Claridge, Danny Granville and Jody Craddock have all played in the premier league and all played for Cambridge Utd.

Our goal John Ruddy, who came through the youth team is poised to join Everton. And I’ll bet you’ll all be queuing up to buy tickets for that forthcoming friendly.

I am ashamed to be part of a city which will contribute towards the 1.7 million pounds needed to buy the Macclesfield Pulter but which will do nothing to stop our pro- testing and demonstrating against entering into nothing more than a plot of earth to build houses on - there are far too many people living in Cambridge anyway.

See you at Wycombe hopefully, before it’s too late.

Yours Sincerely,
Gail Pearson
Secretary

Disability Resource Centre and Hall of Fame season-ticket holder.

Corrective


Peter

Emmanuel College Student Union President

Facial Focus

Dear Editor,

In what must be recognised as a rather turgid election campaign, one issue has loomed large above the rest in its importance.

Clearly the big question does not centre on taxation, immigration or the NHS, but rather on how we want our Prime Minister to look like.

The battleground has been pitched firmly on the faces of our party leaders. With Tony being accused of having a ‘smug smirk’, what better countermeasure than to enhance his appearance? Presumably his now wholesome complexion will warm him to the voting public, in contrast with the sallow pallor of spooky Michael Howard.

On the other hand, a little bit too much of the David Dickinson and Tony will be playing into the hands of those who charge him with having sold the Iraq war to the British public with all the candour of a cheap car salesmen. Whilst the big two fight for skin tone supremacy, don’t forget the single malt bitterness of Charlie Kennedy.

Never mind tuition fees and an anti-war stance, the Lib Dems are going for the student vote through the flush of Charlie’s cheeks.

Yours cosmetically,

Martin van Jaarsveld
Rottterdam

A call to action

Dear Sir,

The coming general election is of huge significance to all of us as Cambridge constituents. This seat is likely to be one of the closest fights Labour face in the country and there is a real chance that they will not gain an election here.

Given that all has happened over the past 8 years, we feel a duty to highlight the record of the Lib Dems. The promises they have made, and the manner in which their actions have directly contradicted these.

Re-elected in 1997 with a huge swing, declaring that ‘the Labour will not allow universities to introduce tuition fees’, and promising that the party would vote for their introduction within the year.

Perhaps in part due to her duplicity over the fees issue, Cambridge was one of the largest swings against Labour anywhere in the country. At that election, the Labour manifesto declared that they would ‘not introduce top-up fees and have legislated to prevent them’ – and as late as 2003, our MP declaimed herself to be ‘a long-standing opponent of top-up fees’. Despite constant assurances to CUSU and countless other constituents, in spring 2004, Anne Campbell voted for top-up fees.

We believe that such actions undermine the very essence of parliamentary representation. Wherever you may stand on the removal of the cap on fees, it is surely in the interests of society as a whole that the government has made to higher education policy, the fact the way to this is through a consultation process, Anne Campbell ignored her constituents, when they told her what she didn’t want to hear.

It is a cruel irony of our electoral system that the votes of students are too often dissipated across the country for us to make any real difference in an election. In Cambridge however, where we make up 26% of the population, we can make a real difference.

We hope above all that students are too often disillusioned on Thursday and that they so do in Cambridge. Let’s make ourselves heard.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Bolton
Shades of Green

Dear Sir,

I was extremely disappoint-

ed to see the baseless claims of a few radical environment- alists given such prominence in your last issue.

Any serious discussion of so-called ‘climate change’ must acknowledge just how ephemeral the issue of climate change is and how fanciful the propo-

sitions to reverse or halt this alleged change truly are.

Given the multitude of problems facing the world today it seems overly indulg-

gent of developed nations and their citizens to concentrate so much time and energy on the issue of global warming.

It is unconscionable to devote resources to fighting a problem we ourselves bear witness to, schools and communities exist with weapons we only think will work. Global poverty and hunger are much more worthy foes.

While the evidence for global warming is cloaked in uncertainty and controversy, no one could deny that millions starve, millions more are currently forced to choose between shelter and food and millions more between housing and education, issues that are glob-

ally and domestically are that we should devote ourselves too, not the glib theories of environmental- ists.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Moredim

On 4 March Varsity published a report on the appointment of a new Senior Tutor at King’s, which included allegations about Dr Moggridge’s statements and publications concerning the admissions system were intended as contributions towards its continuing reform. We apologise for any distress this may have caused.
The Pope must do more to stop AIDS

Tom Ebbutt

Through the white smoke rising from the Sistine Chapel, it is meant to symbolise the bringing in of the new, Pope Benedict XVI threatens to open the door to a new age of hope for many who respect the most about the Catholic Church, there is one postprandial packet of Tangfastics (the connoisseur’s choice) Sports Mixture, formerly manufactured by the Lions, affect his business? (To be honest, that very bitter. I would await the arrival of the Haribo Truck with much surprises me. It’s surely the case that condoms can be used to prevent the spread of the virus. In the real world, for many, though not all people, the idea of a complete abstinence from sexual activity for a sustained period of time is an unrealistic fantasy.

The Catholic Church has a massive degree of moral leadership in many African countries; where it leads others churches and influential organisations follow. Though the Church in Rome may not intend its doctrine to be translated in Africa in this way, the interplay of ignorance, misinformation and death will continue. This will be a tragedy of enormous consequences for which the Church will have to bear at least part of the responsibility. It is a tragedy at the moment which it is still within our power to prevent.

The Catholic Church argues, the use of condoms prevents the possibility of death. It is very difficult to conceive of how the Catholic Church, particularly in its recent acquisition by the new Pope’s forceful views on the evangelicalism that is occurring in Africa the cycle of death will continue. This will be an entirely airtight). The Catholic Church has a massive degree of moral leadership in many African countries; where it leads others churches and influential organisations follow. Though the Church in Rome may not intend its doctrine to be translated in Africa in this way, the interplay of ignorance, misinformation and death will continue. This will be a tragedy of enormous consequences for which the Church will have to bear at least part of the responsibility. It is a tragedy at the moment which it is still within our power to prevent.

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Jowell’s culture shock: public apathy is partly the politicians’ fault

Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell talks to Kate Ward about the health of British democracy and the fight against apathy

Tessa Jowell fits in a quick chat with Varsity between a visit to her south London constituency and a meeting in Labour election HQ. She admits the election is ‘quite fun, but busy’. And certainly you get the impression Jowell is a woman on a mission. Lightning voted the ‘most obsequious’ minister in the Labour government, it appears Jowell’s charm and ability to really engage with people make her the figure of choice for pushing the New Labour policy in all fields, above and beyond her own of culture, media and sport. Not so much the nanny state, more of the mother duck of British politics.

The importance of a central lead figure is nowhere more evident than in the proliferation of small parties that we have seen in the past government term

In a bid to escape being embroiled in the election fever, my opening gambit is an issue close to my own heart (and mind) - the question of apathy. Commentators have likened this election to 1992 and are calling it the most boring election in recent history. Jowell however sees things slightly differently. She argues that the label of apathy does not sit well with democracy and the fight against apathy is partly the need for financial investment in the public services as she does for intellectual and ideological investment in public life and politics.

The importance of smaller political parties insists Jowell is that they force us to re-examine what politicians can and should discuss. By engaging with issues such as immigration, and in debates and press coverage of the war in Iraq it leads according to Jowell to a more representative and open political system. ‘At no point can people say we [politicians] do not listen… there are no issues we should be afraid to engage with.’ Jowell makes her point strongly and well, if all we can thank Robert Kilroy Silk, George Galloway et al for is that they have forced the political hand and in politics today no topic is off limits.

Above all she is passionate, exciting, and truly believes as much in the need for financial investment in the public services as she does for intellectual and ideological investment in public life and politics.

As Jowell points out, there is a difference between personal politics and the increasing representation of politicians as individuals rather than party representatives. The value of personality in politics, specifically on questions of integrity, has fostered according to some, a blurring of the distinction of our public life and private world.

According to Jowell however this is not the fault of the politician, more of their representation. She does not go so far as to say that it is the culture of the British public and product of the press, but this concern is present in her comments. There is a danger Jowell asserted of ‘integrity rather than issues taking precedence... in a sense political debate becomes Hello’.

The importance of a central lead figure is nowhere more evident than in the proliferation of small parties that we have seen in the past government term. UKIP, BNP, Veritas and Respect all deserve strong and well, if all we can thank Robert Kilroy Silk, George Galloway et al for is that they have forced the political hand and in politics today no topic is off limits. This is made even more true in the ‘culture of openness’ fostered by the Freedom of Information Act (FOI). Jowell again is resolute arguing that the FOI has put government accountability at the centre of democracy. Access to information, she says, ‘is an important issue. And I’m glad its an important issue.’

Is British politics in a good state? From speaking to Jowell my feeling is yes. Her willingness to deal with real political issues: democracy, accountability, celebrity aside from party politics makes her a rare breed, especially only a week away from a general election. Most of all Jowell leaves me optimistic, for above all she is passionate, exciting and truly believes as much in the need for financial investment in the public services as she does for intellectual and ideological investment in public life and politics.
The First and Third Trinity Boat Club May Ball

Monday 20 June
£215 Double Non Dining: £294 Double Dining
www.trinityball.co.uk

The 139th First and Third Trinity Boat Club May Ball takes place on 20th June in the spectacular surroundings of Trinity College with the kind permission of the Masters and Fellows. Renowned for its reputation as one of the biggest events in the Oxbridge Calendar the 2005 Trinity Ball brings top quality champagne, the finest oysters and a plethora of entertainment with something to suit everyone.

Food and drink is supplied throughout the night, with traditional pig roasts, crepes and cocktails, to new surprises in our main food tent and a wide range of non-alcoholic drinks. A limited number of guests can enjoy a champagne reception prior to a feast in the Great Hall before joining the rest of the Ball goers for the fireworks.

Our world class fireworks are the official opening to the Ball, and mark the start of the main stage, which in the past has been host to Quantic Soul Orchestra, Supergrass and even the Beatles! However Trinity Ball is not just about the main stage, there is something for everyone, whether it is classical music, comedy or jazz, or whether you would rather simply relax and enjoy the glorious backdrop that the College provides.

The first Ball held in 1866 was to celebrate the Trinity Boat Club winning the Bumps, and has since continued to provide celebrations for the end of exams, May Bumps and for some the end of their time in Cambridge.

Darwin May Ball

Friday 24th June
£70
www.darwinmayball.com

This year Darwin invites you to Paris at the turn of the century. The time of bohemian love and beauty, riches and dancing girls at the Moulin Rouge.

Traditionally held on the last night of May Week, the ball promises to present the perfect finale to the May Week celebrations. The college becomes the stage: the grounds, the river and the unique islands set the scene for your May Ball experience. They invite you to a night of feasting and frolicking, with food, drink and music to match your every mood until the sun comes up and the curtain goes down.

Emma May Ball: Monopoly

On Monday 20th June, the Emmanuel College May Ball Committee is bringing the world’s favourite board game to life! Fresh from the success of 2003’s acclaimed ‘Wonderland’ Ball and last year’s fantastic June Event ‘Revive’, Emma is putting its own unique spin on the Cambridge May Ball by inviting its guests to ‘Pass Go’ and join in the magic of ‘Monopoly’.

Those lucky enough to get their hands on tickets, which are now sold out, will be treated to a fabulous night. Combining the splendour of Emmanuel College with the excitement of a life-size trip around the Monopoly board, the Emma May Ball 2005 promises to be spectacular!

Guests will be able to visit Mayfair, the jewel in the Monopoly crown, before stopping off on the Old Kent Road for a flutter. Maybe the bright sparks in the Electric Company beckon? The Angel, Islington will be open all hours if you can get out of Jail! Try
MAY WEEK PREVIEW

St John’s May Ball
Date: Tuesday 21 June
Tickets: Double £27.5; Double Dining £28.90; Double Dining 8.30pm £300
Website: www.stjohnsmaryball.com

Following the success of last year’s ball, the committee have once again faced the formidable task of exceeding people’s high expectations of the May Ball experience. The ambience of the 2005 Ball will evoke our illustrious past, making full use of the college’s stunning architecture. This year’s Ball will see a number of changes to what has become a familiar formula, with entry arrangements and court plans imaginatively re-considered. Certainly, guests can be sure to expect a number of pleasant surprises.

Despite these transformations, The May Ball 2005 will strive to fulfill its perennial aim to be the biggest and best. Guests will, as always, be treated to food and drink of great quality. And this year, more than any other, there will be univalled variety to keep appetites awake until the early hours.

The backs, under New Court’s imposing gates, will be treated to a new emphasis with entertainments promising to be spectacular. Similarly, the calibres of our musical and comedy acts in 2005 will be unquestionable. The May Ball committee look forward to surpassing your expectations again this summer. Although tickets sold out on the day they were released, one final pair will be auctioned off in the RAG Charity Auction.

Hughes Hall Ball
Wednesday 22nd June
£65 Single Non-Dining, £130 Double Non-Dining
£ 80 Single Dining, £160 Double Dining
www.hughes.cam.ac.uk/mayball

Hughes Hall is transforming itself into a Gangster’s Paradise with an event bursting at the seams with flappers and saloons. Apparently the 1920s wasn’t an era that rocked but one that roared. They’ve announced a line up of entertainment including the Piccadilly Dance Orchestra and The Groove Fandango. Play Gigant Twister, Jenga or Connect Four with your pals in our gardens or visit the Saloon to hear your Fortune told. Release your inner gangster on the Rodeo Bull or challenge your buddy to Giant Sumo Wrestling. Visit our Massage Parlour when the heat gets too much! Stroll around our illuminated gardens to discover a host of 1920s characters and diversions, meet Al Capone and his molls, or roll a dice in our professional Casino, there are great prizes to be won!

Robinson College May Ball: Express
Friday 17th June
£107 Dining, £80 Non-Dining
www.robinsonmayball.co.uk

Kicking off May Week in traditional exuberant style, this year’s Robinson College May Ball invites you to step aboard the Orient Express in order to sample the cosmopolitan delights of early twentieth century Europe. As you sight at destinations along the route, indulge in Parisian chic, admire Venetian poise and marvel at the mysticism of the Turkish Bazaar.

Building on the success of last year’s ‘Mutiny’, which delivered ’true hours of pure escapism’, this year’s committee is looking to consolidate Robinson’s reputation for hosting a first-class, value-for-money Ball. Famous for ‘great music’, past headliners include Athlete, Har Mar Superstar, N’Tance, and the James Taylor Quartet. ‘Express’ will uphold Robinson’s first-rate Ents line-up while also providing mouth-watering wines alongside the vodka luge and professional cocktail bar.

Regular May Ball attractions can also be found at Robinson; the RAG Charity Auction. Despite these transformations, The May Ball 2005 will strive to fulfill its perennial aim to be the biggest and best. Guests will, as always, be treated to food and drink of great quality. And this year, more than any other, there will be univalled variety to keep appetites awake until the early hours.

The backs, under New Court’s imposing gates, will be treated to a new emphasis with entertainments promising to be spectacular. Similarly, the calibres of our musical and comedy acts in 2005 will be unquestionable. The May Ball committee look forward to surpassing your expectations again this summer. Although tickets sold out on the day they were released, one final pair will be auctioned off in the RAG Charity Auction.

King’s Affair
Wednesday 22nd June
www.kingsaffair.com

Never before has a King’s event been so magnificent. King’s Affair promises to combine the fun and fun of past June Events with something special, something more sumptuous, something more, well magical!

Join us for a night that will truly fuse the grandeur of Cambridge with the passions of its students. Enter the finery with cellils danc- ing, salsa lessons and samba beats to blow your mind. Place your bets at the poker table or run the labyrinth in search of the white rabbit. With free hair cuts, makeovers, massages and henna tattoos you can’t fail to look your best but then again, who cares? Inhale deeply, sinking into a haze of shisha smoke. Comedians, jazz singers, a hyp- notist and entertainers appear like visions in the mist around you. Music reverberates from room to room; drum and bass, R’ n’ B, hop, hop, Bhangra, indie, ska, cheese and funk- you cannot help but move your feet. The line-up includes THE DEPARTURE, DJ MARKY, PORTRAYAL, BRADLEY Dowe, South DJ, Sons of the Tribe, Swover Bad Science and Hiphopratives, plus loads of homegrown Cambridge stars and many others to be confirmed.

Magdalene May Ball: White Tie
Wednesday 22nd June
£320 double dining, £240 double non dining
www.magdalenemayball.com

On Wednesday 22nd June 2005 Magdalene College is proud to host its biennial May Ball, the only Oxbridge Ball to remain true to its origins insisting on white tie for all guests and providing free-flowing champagne all night. Traditionally an exclusively dining event, there will be for the first time in its history a limited number of non-dining tickets available this year. Diners will be treated to a sumptuous banquet designed by Marco Pierre-White early in the evening on the banks of the Cam, whilst non-diners will delight in the choice of fine cuisine throughout the Ball with breakfast available all to early in the morning. Decorated in a fin-de-siecle style, guests will be able to enjoy music and entertainments in one of the finest and most attractive locations in Cambridge. Previously voted “best of its kind” by Harpers and Queen, Magdalene May Ball will be a fitting end to the academic year and a glorious celebration of the start of summer, living up to our reputation as a “singularly good thrower of parties” as Prince Charles described it.

Decadence, sumptuous extravagance and exquisite elegance: the Ball promises to be all of these and a damn fine piss-up as well...

Trinity Hall Event
Wednesday 22 June
£49
www.thjuneevent.com

Renowned throughout Cambridge as one of the best events in May Week. With excellent value for money it is rumoured you’re never more than 5 meters from alcohol. Last year The Bluetones head- lined the event with a rapturous response from a very satisfied audi- ence.

Their website gives you a taste of the Beast like theme; “Witness Cambridge’s hallowed skies engulfed by darkness, feel the pulsing thrumb of drums, the howls of your trine. Cast off the tattered rags of academe and submit to nature. For one night a Beast is loosed...And it’s calling you”.

The tickets always sell out quickly. It’s the perfect end week event once you’re getting tired of balls and oysters and would rather a night of dancing in jeans while sipping cocktails and lounging tequilas. While the theme provides some sort of structure to the event, it’s always pulled off with the same consistent sense of style. They work to a template every year which fits the demands of their clientele perfectly: one of May Week jeryous and raucous fun.
| **FRIDAY 29** | **QUEENS’ UNION** | **Greasie and Pirates of the Caribbean bop** | **SUPPER** 19:30 Cambridge University Jewish Society @ Student Centre, Thompsons Lane CULANU presents ONEG @ CULANU Centre |
| **SATURDAY 30** | **DEBATE** 20:30 TrinPol and Queens’ Political Society Election Debate David Howarth Lib Dem PPC vs Ian Lyons, Conservative PPC @ Trinity College Old Combination Room |
| **SUNDAY 1** | **YOGA** 17:30 Weekly yoga - Hatha Martin Bond @ Fitzwilliam Reddaway Room |
| **MONDAY 2** | **SUPPER 19:30 Cambridge University Jewish Society @ Student Centre, Thompsons Lane CULANU presents ONEG @ CULANU Centre** |
| **TUESDAY 3** | **CLASSICAL13:15 Russian Music Festival @ Clare Chapel** |
| **WEDNESDAY 4** | **CLASSICAL20:00 Festival Opening Concert @ Clare Chapel** |
| **THURSDAY 5** | **CLASSICAL13:15 Russian Music Festival @ Clare Chapel** |

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From Monday 4 April we will be moving to new premises at 23 Market Street, Cambridge

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1-3 Adder’s Yard

Off Live Cambridge Circus 1 N0

T: 01223 265 471

www.dojonoodlebar.co.uk

**Opening Times**

Mon - Thurs 11:30am - 5:30pm & 5:30 - 11pm

Fri - Sat 11:30am - 5:30pm & 5:30 - 11pm

We serve a delicious and healthy menu with a variety of noodle dishes suitable for all tastes.
Own a PC?

Why not put it to work?
Up to £1,000–£2,500 pm
Up to £1,000–£2,500 pm

Auditions for this diverse and colourful Pembroke Players Mayweek production will be held from 12–4pm, Saturday 30th April and Sunday 1st May at the Stephen Glanville Fund, which this year has £1300 to donate for any ‘charitable or educational purpose within the College, or University or City of Cambridge’.

The fund is in memory of a former Professor of Egyptology and Provost of the College.

For further details, please see http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/news/glanvilleDetails.html


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Health checking the General Election

You are what you eat, but ultimately your health depends on your vote

A s May 5th approaches, and the fight to pro-duce manifestos and win support continues, health and health-related topics have emerged as key issues in election debate, to many Britons. 20% of respondents in an ICM poll this month (for the Sunday Telegraph) rated health as ‘the most important issue to them in making their voting decision for this election’ – a higher proportion of voters than chose any other issue.

In March, following the suc-cess of his Channel 4 series Jamie's School Dinners, quietly conservative celebrity chef Jamie Oliver captured the nation’s interest in health con-cerns, presenting the Prime Minister with a petition signed by over 271,000 individuals to halt his Feed Me campaign. He has highlighted the health issues faced by over one in 20 children in the UK through his campaign to persuade all schools to replace ready-made food with more nutritious options purchased from scratch.

Despite various ‘turkey twiz-lers’ seeming to have forced its reclamation and over-processed way into every election maniфesto, Labour has pledged an extra £280m to improve school meals and catering staff training, and to provide an independent School Food Trust to advise schools on healthier eating for pupils, whilst the Conservatives have also promised to promote health amongst children by improving opportunities for sports and exercise as part of a nationwide ‘Club ‘School’ scheme. This initiative gives every child the right to choose two hours of after-school sport with qualified coaches, winning the party support from the experts in the fight against obesity. The Liberal Democrats similarly intend to increase children’s physical activity levels, through encouraging safe walking and cycling to school via supervised ‘Safe Routes to School’.

Whilst the promotion of children’s health has a position in each of the three main par-ties’ manifestos, the whole country is facing a healthcare crisis. As a result, politicians are promising to improve the health of the entire nation, young and old, by offering a variety of solutions to the crumbling NHS.

One issue taking centre stage in the health debate is the age-old problem of smoking. Patients across Britain are again demanding reduced delays in receiving treatment and operations, despite Government figures showing an improving of the situation in recent years. Department of Health figures reveal that at the end of January 2005, 861,900 people in England were awaiting treatment, compared with 969,400 at the same time in 2004. Labour believe this trend would continue under their leadership, with the goal that by 2010 there should be ‘no one waiting more than 18 weeks’ from referral to treatment.

For many, however, this progress ‘is still not good enough’. Department of Health figures in Clinical Oncology in 2004 (by Ash, Barrett, Hinks and Square) identified that 26% of cancer patients who required a national audit was carried out of cancer diagnosis, offering radiotherapy treatment to cancer patients in the UK, and the results showed that a third of patients were being treated within the time limits set by the JCCO (Joint College Council for Oncology) as standards for treatment.

On top of evidence from such individual case studies, the Liberal Democrats claim that the Government’s waiting list figures are deceptive as they do not include people awaiting tests and scans to enable doctors to confirm their need for treatment. They say that ‘under Labour, waiting times target for hospitals. They say that ‘under Labour, waiting times target for hospitals. They say that ‘under Labour, waiting times target for hospitals. They say that ‘under Labour, waiting times target for hospitals.

But for some voters, it is not the waiting list which poses a lethal threat, but the hospitals themselves. Hospital acquired infection, particularly the MRSAs (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) ‘super bug’, has become a headline issue in recent months, pushed to the foreground by high pro-file deaths such as that of 36-year-old baby Luke Day in February.

The Conservative manifesto states that ‘rates of the super bug MRSAs have doubled since 1997’, and the Labour manifesto ‘argue over where the blame is’. Right at the start of the 2005 election campaign, the Conservative manifesto claimed that ‘MRSA is a major health problem, but whatever voters’ opinions of both parties are, it is clear that the NHS is in crisis. The only thing left to ask is whether the Conservative or the Labour party is the best choice to run the NHS.

Labour has promised to tackle superbugs by signing up with the experts in the fight against ‘scraper’ political parties which hamper the fight against infection. It is difficult to be sure which strategy would be most effective at solving the MRSAs problem, but whatever voters’ opinions of each of these parties is, it is clear that the NHS is in crisis.

Politicians & Paedophiles

As the release of Jonathan King in March after a jail sentence for committing sexual offences on boys aged 14 and 15, protesting his innocence and even going to the House of Lords to ask for time to be granted, there are a number of recent cases of men convicted of paedophilia. The most recent is that of a group of psychiatric disorders known as ‘paedophiles’, which encompass exhibitionism and necrophilia. Paedophiles are a controversial topic in both legal and political terms, yet it appears to have faded from political focus in the run-up to the election. This is all the more surprising given how widespread the issue appears to have become - in Britain, a recent poll estimated that 12% of girls and 8% of boys are subject to sexual abuse, and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children estimates that 1 in 4 children is at risk. The most notable case of paedophilia in recent years is that of a group of psychiatric disorders known as ‘paedophiles’, which encompass exhibitionism and necrophilia.

Two boys, aged 14 and 15, protesting his innocence and even going to the House of Lords to ask for time to be granted, there are a number of recent cases of men convicted of paedophilia. The most recent is that of a group of psychiatric disorders known as ‘paedophiles’, which encompass exhibitionism and necrophilia. Paedophiles are a controversial topic in both legal and political terms, yet it appears to have faded from political focus in the run-up to the election. This is all the more surprising given how widespread the issue appears to have become - in Britain, a recent poll estimated that 12% of girls and 8% of boys are subject to sexual abuse, and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children estimates that 1 in 4 children is at risk. The most notable case of paedophilia in recent years is that of a group of psychiatric disorders known as ‘paedophiles’, which encompass exhibitionism and necrophilia.

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**pick of the week**

**Music:** Wiley + Ruff Squad Clare Cellars, Fri 29th, 21:00

Don’t pass up this chance to see the grime MC who's stepping out from Dizzee Rascal’s shadow to make a name for himself as one of Britain’s finest young talents.

**Film:** Hitchiker’s Guide to the Galaxy Arts Picturehouse, from Friday

See how Cambridge alumnus Douglas Adam’s chaotic sci-fi comedy translates onto the big screen. Just don’t expect a sensible answer to the meaning of life.

**Art:** Images on Mass 6

An exhibition by Bethe Bronson, to include alternative photographic techniques: pinhole, gum bichromate, cyanotype and digital.

**Theatre:** A Delicate Balance ADC Theatre, 3rd-7th May, 19:45

Albee’s Pulitzer Prize-winning play, set in the heart of middle class suburban America promises to be both horrifically tragic and wonderfully funny.

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**Ouga Saga**

Sarah Jones is enchanted by Africa’s biggest film festival

**The end result:** the grand prize was a car, unfortunately its owner was not a woman.

**These films are rendered all the more brilliant for their triumph against the difficulties of producing films in Africa:** lack of funding, hostile audiences, etc. mean that the films that do get made involve deep dedication and belief. However, many achieve top production values, South Africa in particular (which often receives external funding) - with surreal musical numbers thrown in.

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The Cambridge African Film Festival was held biannually in the capital of Burkina Faso, a small country north of Ghana, with the main event held in Ouagadougou, the capital. The festival pass (laminated plastic card) meant that the films that do get made involve deep dedication and belief. The festival was established in 1995 and has become the biggest film festival in Africa, attracting over 40,000 people over the four-day event. The festival is renowned for its role in promoting African cinema, and for its ability to bring together filmmakers, actors, and film enthusiasts from across the continent.

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**The Cambridge African Film Festival**

4th to 14th May at the Arts Picturehouse, brings you the finest of FESPACO’s films. Opening event: Archipelago, 4th May (Kamper, featuring Up and down troupes 65 (12 with festival pass). Diaporia video in association with Clare Pooley, 15th May, Clare cellars (7pm, £3). Auditors Forum with Ken Wain and Tsitsi Dangarembga: Living Memory in African Film and Literature.

See www.cambridgeafricanfilmfestival.co.uk for more details.
NEW IN 2005

The Hives

Corn Belt – 26 April
Review by Arthur House

Not strictly a new artist, having released their debut Harvest another year, surely this one will be better than the last for the inexorable march of progres... last August, Youssou N'Dour's Soundtrack Strategie's word limit mocking moniker and song titles suggest a potential for po-faced quiet-rock a la A Silver Mr. Zien. But any band mixing disorienting tempo changes, a capella breaks, soaring harmonies and face-smashing riffs into achinessphere: yet coherent blasts, can brush off accusations of pretension and wankery with ease. Kicking up a low-key fuss consonant with their impeccably underdressed credo of recent single One showcases them at their wildly creative best, and in a major blow for lazy exam-term journalism, defies easy categorisation. This and their debut EP alone pack enough energy, inventiveness and emotive power to defuse infantile all over and ignorance about band's oeuvre. Probably

Woo Yaqoub
www.youssou.net.uk

Howlin' Pelle Almqvist: someone get that man a razor.

Piss Up Look Sharp
The Revolution – 11 March

Ad or so it came to a close – Piss Up Look Sharp haven't out at the end of Lent Terrace for some time. Piss Up Look Sharp have a penchant for incident. Never more than when they provided an oddly effective venue for the evening's proceedings.

Duties at the DJ booth (ok - table) were met once again by Tarantulasaurus, Ellen the Enchantress & the White Bitch, and Jollyboy Ram & Zanzar the Great – all of whom, it should be made clear, have links with Varsity. In terms of technical ability, they did indeed regularly fall short.

And, there are occasions when glitches become cringeworthy, and the harm to momentum irritating. But the songs they play - mixing Blue Party with Dizzee Rascal, Madonna simplicity aren't played elsewhere, whereas - perhaps tightly - provide them with a gratifying audience willing to overlook the night's bashful failures. Piss Up Look Sharp filled a simple niche: supplying danceable, alternative music to the crowd for whom The Fea's Fat Poppadaddy's night is ok, but inexplicably repetitive, and horrible when that all crap chart drum 'o bass comes on at about 1am.

Whatever the opinions of its critics, it seems practically undeniable that this has been one of those rarest of things in the realm of Cambridge student events - a success whose popular appeal has adrift its continuation, let alone demanded it. For that it should be applauded, as its downsides would be far more tolerable than any 'Smiths-sound-tracked, tipsy haze.'

14 or 40 year olds, with some new songs could have been achieved without its continuation, none of this music, and without any facts of the situation I'm not endorsing the album, named after her father, has played its part, none of this wouldn't have been achieved without out fantastic content. A Certain Trigger is a suitable revelation: singles 'Apply Some Pressure' and 'Graffiti' are easily matched, which goes without saying, the cases advocate genocide of the genre's further slip into obsolescence. But while Maximo Park have a penchant for incident. Never more than when they provided an oddly effective venue for the evening's proceedings.

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Politics and Pretention
Was Yaqoob on the enigma that is post-rock

I have a friend, one other than Hanibo, Kleenex and my trusty right hand. He asks me why I waste time listening to ‘post-rock’. Why wade through 25 minutes of murmuring and reverberating cowbells to hear a single chord change with the all the dramatic impact of a bored sigh? What does ‘post-rock’ even mean?

Unfortunately, of all the fuzzily-defined musical genres that multiplied after the fall of punk, few defy clarification more. The most obvious characteristics of ‘classic’ post-rock bands such as Mogwai and Labradford, however, are their departures from rock conventions—no frontmen, unconventional song structures and varied instrumentation go alongside receptiveness to jazz and electronica influences.

For example, the Canadian collective Godspeed You Black Emperor! forge the music of hallucinogenic nightmares set in post-apocalyptic landscapes. Building intense, dynamic walls of sound, their best work makes building unconventional song structures unconventional song structures and varied instrumentation go alongside receptiveness to jazz and electronica influences.

A visit to www.godspeedyoublackemperor.com, home to all three bands makes clear that their vision of rock envies support for label inde- pendence, openly critical political stances, and bands-as-democratic collectives. This constitutes a stand against the commodification and fetishising of increas- ingly trite rock/punk idioms that could be outlets for intelligent expressions of political dissent. So post-rock is like, political, man.

Given this diversity it seems easier to define what post-rock reacts against rather than what it is. Admittedly, using easy targets like The Others or Kasabian as an example is like attacking a sleeping toddler, from behind, with a cruise missile.

What does ‘post-rock’ even mean?

Unfortunately, issues emerge in the artist-audience relationship that compromise the undoubtedly worthy aims of such bands. Furthermore, while band member Efrim Menuck has asserted enough to rule Godspeed’s hyperopia in agitat- ing about corporations while signed to a subsidiary of EMI, he also admitted Godspeed’s own shortcomings in choosing to make music rather than engage in direct action.

‘I think that global capitalism is just one inch from being everywhere. I think that now is not the time to be frittering away playing in a silly-assed post-rock band’.

We are rarely influenced into action by political post-rock, let alone of the sort the artists would approve of. Often I’m more appreciative of the hope that the indie girl in my lectures might hear snatches of patience, but righteous 43 minute white-noise interlude playing in my head-phones, and infer that in bed, I’m just as uncompromising and innovative as my favourite post- rock band.

Their fanbases fetishise and commodify these bands just as much as we do to others, even if they do it because of the attraction of their philosophy rather than because says; they are hot in Camden right now. Hence I own a Godspeed t-shirt, which would probably make Efrim Menuck want to shit on my head. Sensetionship and pretensions are unpalatable but often inseparable aspects of post-rock fandom.

So perhaps I ought to admit to my friend that the political aspect of these bands is little more than a skin-deep aspect and from the audience perspective. I like ‘post-rock because of its ability to forge a link to the whole process of being a complete listener experience in itself.

Godspeed side-project A Silver Mt. Zion prefer to create a more restrained vista, dominat- ed by subtle orchestration - sparse, hymnal organs and plucked cellos punctuated by static. Labelmates ‘Do Make Say Think’ provides a less somnolent, more euphoric sound.

See www.varsity.co.uk for articles on Robert Downey Jr’s latest release on Sony Classical and Radiohead guitarist Jonny Greenwood’s foray into classical music with the London Sinfonietta

Summer Songs: everyone has one, here’s our top 5

1) California Dreamin’
Any of the versions, but preferably Bobby Womack’s.

2) Sunday Shining
Finley Quaye’s finest hour - Jo Whiley’s Live Lounge performance was top-notch.

3) Golden Brown
The Stranglers - no explanation needed for this one.

4) Under the Bridge
Definitely NOT the All Saints version - no one can touch the Chillus on this masterpiece.

5) Vivaldi’s Four Seasons
‘Spring’ and ‘Summer’, for obvious reasons - we recommend the Academy of Ancient Music’s (led by Christopher Hogwood) 1982 recording.

General Election Blues
Jon Swaine on musical manifestos

‘Did you lie to us, Tony? We thought you were different; now you know we’re not so sure’

growls a desperate Thom Yorke in Radiohead’s ‘Follow Me Around’. Coming from someone with such a penchant for lyrical opacity, the bluntness of his rhet- oric is telling. It was all so differ- ent back in 1997 - for one, blissful moment, it seemed a youthful British government was firmly united with a youthful British culture. This was the dawn of a new era, make no mistake.

But Cool Britannia and cock- tails at Number 10 just couldn’t last. Blair’s output began to remind everyone a little too much of the Thuncheerish that had been the bane of the young and hip for so long, and before you could say ‘Chumbawamba’, John Prescott had been drenched at the Brits and Blair became ‘Blair’.

But perhaps we should be relieved. As every healthy self- righteous student knows, music should be the voice of sceptical youth, not the fise-gras-fatemed bedfellow of establishment. Politicians’ dalliances with pop music seem to fail in a cringewor- thy mess of ‘Sad Daf’ ignominy.

Both Blair and Kerry played in bands during their University days, but this does nothing to dis- suade me that both don’t secretly think the Middle-East peace process could be wound up a whole lot quicker if they just all spark up a J and put on some Zeppelin, man.

Strictly old reactionaries they may be, but at least the Right’s preferred life soundtracks are unabashedly uncool. Michael Howard’s Desert Island Dicks choices included ‘Old Man Music’ classics like Mozart’s 21st Piano Concerto, while George Bush’s iPod playlist is dominated by traditional coun- try singers like Kenny Chesney.

‘It’s safe, it’s reliable, it’s lov- ing...the Sex Pistols it’s not’, remarked one aide. Forced to choose between ‘Anarchy in the UK’ and a sensible man in a suit, I know which I’d prefer.
**Easter Term Previews**

**Varsity compares these to a summer’s play**

**Mr. & Mrs. Andrews**

*Pythagoras*, 10th-14th, 8pm

This long-anticipated second play from young American writer Noah Charney charts the relationship of an upper-crust couple who believe that “two’s company”. Mr and Mrs Andrews are engaged in a long-running battle of wits, teasing one another with half-kept secrets about their sex lives... with the same three; these names are determined to keep “sex and love far apart”, but below the fun, frolics and philosophising lurks a question: when the temperature rises and the rules of engagement start to change, is the female really deadlier than the male?

**La Passion d’Alexis**

*AdC, 10th-14th, 7.45pm*

FaCE (France and Cambridge Exchange) is a society whose first objective is to widen the horizons of Cambridge drama, through a shared experience of plays in Paris and Lyon. In some respects FaCE will resemble ETFG or CAST, but it will provide access to almost professional calibre, and an audience comprised of journalists and theatre professionals.

This exchange will not only enable Cambridge productions to tour in France, but will also give us the opportunity to discover (or rediscover) the great French classics in the original, played by French actors. It is therefore a great excitement that we welcome the professional touring production of Jean Genet’s “La Passion d’Alexis” from Le Théâtre de l’Épopee, who will be performing La Passion d’Alexis” by Jean Genet. Performed in French with surtitles.

**A Delicate Balance**

*Emily Mansfield, ADC, 3rd - 7th, 7.45pm*

A Delicate Balance paints a devastatingly honest picture of the dysfunctional relationships in suburban America, and won Edward Albee his first Pulitzer Prize, in 1967. Quieter but no less intense than Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, written four years earlier, A Delicate Balance holds a mirror up to society as Albee makes “a stand against the fiction that everything in this sprawling land of ours is peachy-keen”. While there are no violent break-downs of relationships or abusive slanging-matches as in his earlier play, the perpetual smoothing over of evasion of climaxes in A Delicate Balance is even more disturbing. The psychological abyss of self-delusions against a backdrop of sexual infatuation carries parallels America’s reluctance to examine the increasingly hollow shell of its cultural ideals at the height of the Cold War. A Delicate Balance has been described as a “great play with great excitement” for subsequent American drama, and with the characters’ cautious humour and their terrible avoidance of truth and change, this should be a fascinating production. Simon Evans’s character-based direction aims to make the most of Albee’s psychological acuteness, creating a gripping portrayal of a balancing act performed with no safety net.

**Age of Consent**

*Abigail Rokison, ADC, 3rd-7th May, 7.45pm*

Can a child ever give their consent to be judged and treated as an adult?

In 2001 the child killers Jon Venables and Robert Thompson, responsible for the murder of James Bulger, were released from detention amid protests led by the tabloid newspapers, and whilst unwittingly subjecting her to the scrutiny of the world, the former became the best for her 6 year old daughter, whilst unwittingly subjecting her to the scrutiny of the world. The Age of Consent, is a chilling and powerful play which delves into the mind of a child killer – Timmy, shortly before his release and murder sentence. Set against Timmy’s story is that of Stephanie, a parental figure that is doing the best for her 6 year old daughter, whilst unwittingly subjecting her to the scrutiny of the world. Hard-hitting yet dully humorous, the play forces us to consider issues of responsibility and blame in modern society. A hilariously developed piece that begins by making you laugh and ends by making you shudder. The Telegraph: “The writer Peter Morris will be attending the performance on Friday evening.”

**Arsenic and Old Lace**

*Shantelle David, ADC, 17th-21st May, 7.45pm*

Abby and Martha Brewster enjoy all the knavish puns of the respectable old lady, tea parties, church, crocheting and basin-pot to mention only one, if one has the time. Set in 1940s Brooklyn in the elegant household of two respectable old ladies, where all seems perfectly innocent until, we find out that they poison their lodgers in an act of charity to save them from their sorrows. This gory black comedy is as witty as it is unsettling.

**Demonic Dangerous Corner**

*Sam Wring, School of Pythagoras (John’s), 4th-7th May, 8pm*

They have the world at their feet. Then dangerous secrets are painfully exposed. Their perfect lives begin to crumble… At their stylish country retreat, the Caplans host a dinner party for their colleagues and friends. An intimate group, young and successful, their lives are seemingly perfect. Then a chance remark sparks off a relentless series of revelations, and plunges the guests into a re-examination of the mysterious events surrounding the recent death of young Martin Caplan. Suddenly, coming crashing out of the closet in more ways than one. Life will never be the same again… or will it? To let sleeping dogs lie or not, that is the question? Should you really tell your friends about your miscarriage?... It’s the perfect way to have a break from the formality of the play. Directed, acted and crewed by freshers of St John’s College, an evening with the Caplans proves to be the perfect way to have a break from that revision.
Martha & Veronica

Kate Ward

“The future for Footlighters after Cambridge can be uncertain,” Sarah Solemani told Varsity last week. Experience has taught her the risks of taking performances out of the ADC and appealing to wider audiences.

Occasionally though, it’s the start of something big. This year, vice-president Solemani takes her debut two woman play Pray for the souls of Martha and Veronica to the Edinburgh Fringe. Luckily for Solemani the future seems to be far from uncertain, “The future for Footlighters to be missed” and acclaimed theatre director Emma Stuart is direct the play.

The team behind Martha and Veronica have an infectious energy. Having met producers Lili Double and Phoebe Strickland, the pair who bought The Vagina Monologues from America to the UK, the energy was certainly infectious. “We saw Sarah perform The Vagina Monologues in London and knew we had to work together. We read the script for Martha and Veronica and got instantly excited. This is special - it’s going to shock,” says Solemani. “I want to give you a show that challenges all the hollocks - it’s political, it’s passionate, it’s pretty disturbing but more importantly - it’s truthful. These girls are thrill seekers, one’s a revolutionary the other falls in love - both want to change the world. They are curious and frustrated and capable of causing a lot of trouble. The token girl thing needs to be over - the revolution is coming - I hope it starts with women in comedy.”

If you’re in London or Edinburgh this summer – make an effort to catch Pray for the souls of Martha and Veronica. Not only is this an opportunity to see the women of Cambridge in action, but also a chance to catch the Cambridge talent before quite simply they become a lot more expensive.

Previewing in London at the Etcetera Theatre in Camden on the 22nd and 23rd of July and then the Komedia’s Roman Eagle Lodge, Edinburgh from 3rd to the 28th of August.

Not so insignificant

Allegre Galvin

Summer 1953, Marilyn Monroe and Albert Einstein are leaning out of a hotel room window contemplating a billboard with her curvaceous figure plastered across it under the limitless night sky. Or is it limitless? What shape is it anyway? And what would those two icons have to say to each other about it? Monroe is afraid to look up because it reminds her of how small and lonely she is. Einstein believes that, although, when we look at the stars, smallness and loneliness do occur, “The real miracle is that insignificance does not”. Terry Johnson’s Insignificance places four cultural icons together in a room for one night. They remain unnamed, but entirely identifiable. Each character wants something: Joe DiMaggio wants a child and Monroe is afraid of the token girl thing needs to be over - the revolution is coming - I hope it starts with women in comedy.”

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Penn vs. Penn

The Assassination of Richard Nixon/ The Interpreter
Review by Emma Paterson

Sean Penn can do no wrong. He’s been hailed as the best actor of his generation. He’s an Oscar winner. He acts across the board on the big screen in Gerald’s Game. With all this in mind – and a personal fetish for the man – I decided to test a bullet-proof theory and take in his two new films, The Assassination of Richard Nixon and The Interpreter. Yet as I sat, waiting for the first to begin, the last actor I could recall with more than one film on release at the same time was Jude Law. Needless to say, the worry set it. Penn, with The Assassination of Richard Nixon, assures us that this couldn’t be farther from the truth. The film, taking as its seed a real-life attempt to hijack a plane and fly it into the White House during the 1970s, follows Sam Bicke, a working-class salesman separated from his wife and children. Frustrated with his own anonymity, and disillusioned with children. Frustrated with his own anonymity, and disillusioned with the qualities of political dishonesty (the backdrop here is Nixon’s Watergate) and social inequality (see sporadic flashes of the Civil Rights Movement). Bicke decides that the answer is the death of the president. Following the blueprint laid by Arthur Miller, this is a tragedy of the everyman – the slow disintegration of an individual alienated by, and at odds with, society. It’s a somewhat hackneyed premise. De Niro did it in Taxi Driver. Michael Douglas sort of did it in Falling Down. And in all honesty, the entire picture hobbles us with clichés. But where they should frustrate, amuse or insult our intelligence, they manage to engage it. At the philosophical gravitas of Penn’s delivery, one point in the film, the camera closes in on a photograph of Bicke’s children pinned to the wall. We have seen him taking this photograph earlier in the film – his son and two daughters sit for the photo, impatient and reluctant as Penn stands, desperate, pleading with them to move into the frame. Now, on the wall, we see the result: his daughters’ heads cut out of frame, his son looking away. This is the cheapest of shots, a Hallmark moment soaked in sentimentality. Yet accompanied by the delicacy of Penn’s tormented face – the creases, the strains, the imperfections – it becomes painfully emotive. And similarly, when Penn’s voiceover, backed by an arrangement of strings, reflects ‘In the land of plenty, the plenty is only for the few’, these pseudo-poetic socially conscious contemplations are lent a weight of poignancy by the philosophical gravitas of Penn’s delivery.

But then we come to The Interpreter. Not even the work of a master could rescue this from the mire. Penn, a CIA agent, joins Nicole Kidman, a UN interpreter who, in one of the film’s many absurd contrivances, finds herself in the wrong place at the wrong time (a predicament, I feel, very akin to my own as I sat watching this claptrap in the cinema), and overhears an assassination plot. It’s painfully long, outrageously incoherent, and hideously mawkish. Think Kidman sitting in her apartment, playing a melancholic melody on the flute (yes, really). Then we come to The Interpreter. Not even the work of a master could rescue this from the mire when’s she not interpreting obscure African dialects, she moonlights as a florist,, as flashbacks of her life in Africa shoot across the screen. Or unveiling a troubled past and summing up the depths and complexities of racial tensions in the simple, yet beautiful, five words ‘the politics of my skin’.

And yet, Penn still acts well – though when he stares at the floor, anguished by the recent death of his wife, both he and the director seem fairly oblivious to the fact that no one gives a shit and would much rather go home. Towards the film’s close, a socialist leader comments on the work of the UN: ‘It’s just nothing’. If only the writers had possessed the self-awareness to recognise that such words would have been more useful as a tagline for their film.

Home movies

My Architect
Review by Olivia Humphreys

Out on DVD

World-famous architect Louis Kahn was a shadowy, elusive man, when he died alone in New York’s Penn Station in 1974, his body lay unclaimed in the morgue for three days because he had scratched out the home address in his identification. His obituary mentioned a wife and children but failed to acknowledge the two illegitimate children, the results of two separate affairs. Thirty years later, one of those children, Nathaniel Kahn, made this documentary about his father, and recalls the bitterness and humiliation of being an illegitimate child. There are some mesmerising shots of the buildings themselves, such as the Salk Institute in California and the astounding National Assembly in Bangladesh, and the film reveals the building’s importance to the people who live and work in them, eliciting some surprisingly emotional responses.

This gentle and involving film leaves us with a sense of Kahn as a complex, fascinating person, but it is also biography at its most realistic, acknowledging it does that Louis will remain something of a ghostly, unknowable character to both Nathaniel and his audience.

Penn gets political in The Assassination of Richard Nixon (top) and The Interpreter (above)

Summer Highlights

Turner Classic Movies short film competition, closing date September 1

For all budding filmmakers. The winning entry will be screened at this year’s London Film Festival. Visit www.tcmouline.co.uk/classicshorts

Cambridge African Film Festival, May 6-14 at Arts Picturehouse

Showing new African cinema, with talks from African directors and actors, this student-run event is a must.

Palindromes, from May 6

Catch Todd Solondz’s tale of a thirteen-year-old girl desperate to be a mother.

Inside Deep Threat, from June 10

More than 30 years after the controversial release of the pornographic Deep Threat, this documentary examines the legacy of its inspiration.
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**McKinsey&Company**
Modern times, modern manners

Is modernism more than a set of outdated conventions, asks Sophie Allen

The inclusion of Ulysses, James Joyce’s notorious yet impenetrable masterpiece, in a list of the nation’s 100 favourite novels, despite never having been turned into a BBC miniseries starring Colin Firth as a smouldering Leopold Bloom, seems to suggest that modernism has stood the test of time and remains relevant today. But just how many of the people who voted for it had actually managed to slog their way through its mammoth 267,000 words? Are we simply paying lip service to modernism in order to show our highbrow credentials, or is our continuing fascination with the genre proof of its lasting cultural impact?

Virginia Woolf’s famous statement that ‘in or about December 1910 human character changed’ may nearly express the modernists’ belief in the radical potential of their art. But critics of these writers would question whether human character has continued to evolve, moving further away from modernism’s grasp and making authors like Joyce and Woolf the literary equivalent of the royal family; an institution that, although it can’t be written off quite yet, has come to seem more than a little outdated.

Works that were seen as shockingly immoral when they were written seem fairly tame by today’s standards, so that, in our sex-saturated times, D. H. Lawrence’s overly earnest visions of simple rural life (one considered depraved enough to be banned) can seem almost twee to a contemporary reader. In fact, the conservative, elitist values held by many modernist writers is probably what today’s reader will find most irksome. There’s more than a hint of snobbery in modernism’s distaste for the masses, and anyone hoping for seri- ous political engagement should probably look elsewhere. Where the modernists were deeply conscious of the insecure times in which they lived, modernism has arguably done more than any other genre to separate art from political statement and to create a literary climate in which overtly political works are regarded as unfashionable and even embarrassing.

Despite this, there are works strongly resonant with modernism’s appeal to the modern reader. Joseph Conrad’s The Secret Agent, a self-styled ‘bodily’ novel, has a real-life demonstration to it, a sensationalist and even embarrassing.

Post-modernism has never created an identity away from modernism’s shadow

The post-modern writers’ agenda has largely been to acknowledge and to carry on the work of their predecessors in pushing back literary bound- aries, but post-modernists have also shown themselves to be eager to deconstruct modernism’s own conventions through the large doses of playfulness and irony they inject into their work. Modernists may have rejected what they saw as the inflexibility of Victorian realism, but was it not what they created any more real?

A scene in David Lodge’s 2001 novel Thérèse, in which a university lecturer’s attempts to put down a real-life stream of consciousness by tape recording his thought processes as they occur lead not to any inspired monologue but to a tedious mash-up of half-formed ideas, highlights a major criti- cism of modernism: its most imita-

dated technique – that far from being the natural way to record our inner reality it is as much a literary convention as anything the Victorians devised. For a new highly self-aware genera- tion of writers modernism is just one piece of a much larger literary jigsaw puzzle. But, although modernism’s gradual mainstream may have taken away its sting and made it a target for fresh acts of iconoclasm, post-modernism, the most important literary movement of the late twentieth century, has never been able to create an identity away from modernism’s shadow.

It is contradictions like this which have fuelled the debates that have kept modernism in the public consciousness.

The controversy that still surrounds modernism, not least in the fact something that seems so culturally ubiquitous is so often dismissed as pretensi- ous twaddle, has ensured that it hasn’t been quietly consigned to the realm of history. So there’s a good chance that in just under 50 years time there’ll be another Bloomsday anniversary celebration, offer- ing a new generation a chance to drink copious amounts of Guinness in honour of high art, but what remains to be seen is just how many will have actually managed to get all the way through Ulysses.

The man with heels of wind

Louise Woolf profiles prodigy Arthur Rimbaud

From Charleville his beloved birthplace to the intorra- cation of London and the disorder of Brussels, to the fevers of Aden in Abyssinia, the disorder of Brussels, to the wind of adventure stopped him, Rimbaud was impossibly young in a century that would have loved to suffo- cate him. No one could have foreseen the depthness of the silence he kept as he left on his first poem (1868) ‘my broken limbs by my long vagabondages’.

His work, a series of aban- doned collections never pub- lished, or victims of auto-da-fés, stands witness to his haste and exasperation. Modernism’s greatest influence, however, comes through style rather than content, with its bold, sty- listic innovation opening the way for the literary experimen- tation of writers such as Paul Auster and Salman Rushdie.

Jules Franck Mondoloni’s portrait of Arthur Rimbaud

By the time most others have only begun writing, after the circle of quarrels and torrents of his first poem (1871) in which a toy boat on a journey, an alleg- ory for a spiritual quest. But Rimbaud believes he will reach his life’s work, his heavy silence forms an enigma for the modernist’s own conventions that have kept modernism in the public consciousness. For a new highly self-aware genera- tion of writers modernism is just one piece of a much larger literary jigsaw puzzle. But, although modernism’s gradual mainstream may have taken away its sting and made it a target for fresh acts of iconoclasm, post-modernism, the most important literary movement of the late twentieth century, has never been able to create an identity away from modernism’s shadow.
Trust in Tony Blair fell massively with the news that weapons of mass destruction in Iraq did not exist. Lib Dem Shadow Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs, Sir Menzies Campbell said: “People have lost trust in Tony Blair — especially over the war in Iraq. As a result we have seen a big increase in Liberal Democrat support, membership and donations to the party. “At the very least we deserve a proper apology from Tony Blair,” he added.”

Do you think the Government should publish the full legal advice it received on whether going to war with Iraq was legal?

To vote, text ‘libdem publish yes’ or ‘libdem publish no’ to 60300. Texts cost 25p plus your standard operator SMS costs.

To be texted the current result of this poll, text ‘libdem publish’ to 60300.

WE OPPOSE:
SPIRALLING STUDENT DEBT

WE PROPOSE:
SCRAPPING TUITION FEES & TOP-UP FEES

for more information visit therealalternative.org

To help our campaign email: ldysadmin@libdems.org.uk  Liberal Democrat Youth & Students
Robyn wears t-shirt from Gap, trousers from Oxfam (Bridge Street), silver bow from the Fabric Shop, post it notes from WH Smith
Dispute over Fitzwilliam playing fields

STUDENTS AT Fitzwilliam are currently in negotiation with the college authorities over the future of their sport’s ground at Oxford Road.

The College has applied for planning permission to change the status of the grounds, which are presently designated as ‘Protected Open Space’, with the intent that they could be used for private housing development.

The College intends to relocate its sports field to a position “convenient for student use”, in the locality of Huntingdon Road and an agreement has been reached with the landowner to enable a new College sports field to be acquired.

Both students and the City Council are unhappy with the proposals. The Council maintain that the site is important for environmental as well as recreational reasons.

The site is currently in Omission for a six week public consultation period due to end on 16 May. The full inquiry is expected to be completed by the end of August.

Charlotte Bevan
Lucy Phillips
Oxford extend Blues' Varsity misery

SPORT

Andy Bell

DURING THE holidays, a crack squad of Oxbridge athletes, united under the Achilles banner, travelled to the US for a 2-week exhibition tour. Grossly impressive, the tour, which takes places every four years, is one of the historic Transatlantic Series of fixtures, a tradition pre-dating the modern Olympics with its origins in 1894.

Arriving in New York on Monday 28th March, the team kicked off their trip with a short period of training and skill-sharpening before the first of two tour matches against Pennsylvania and Cornell Universities. In spite of the treacherous weather conditions, a host of strong performances were displayed by the squad, which comprised a total of 24 Cambridge athletes and 26 from Oxford.

A particular highlight was the Men's 400m hurdles, in which Light Blue powerhouse Ben Carne and Dan Bray, both resuscitating after injury problems, snatched up a dominating 1-2 victory. The Women's Long and Triple Jumps were also ruled supreme by Cambridge, with Phyllis Agbo and Grace Clements out-jumping the Americans in the first of these, and Emma Perkins partnering Grace for another clean sweep in the second. Overall, the men achieved a consistent 10-30 draw, having been frustrated by a controversial High Jump decision, while the Ladies' team were defeated 12-6.

The following week Achilles squared up to the forces of Harvard and Yale. The team were again dominant in the Men's 400m and once more by virtue of Cambridge athletes, with Steve Green and Ben Carne blowing away the opposition to finish 1st and 2nd respectively. Grace Clements was astoundingly in the cows in all Cambridge competitive events, as she sheared a huge 6.5 seconds off her time from the previous match to take gold in 10.26, over a second inside the Blues standard. She went on to win the Triple Jump for a second time, improving on her pre-tour PB by 1.31m.

The overall scores fell in Oxford's favor, with the combined college with a 12-6 respectively. Lowly Hodge

PETEHOUSE/COXS and Churchill had already possessed the seniority in the ladies' event as the combined colleges coming away with a narrow win this occasion, so it was always going to be a gripping and tense encounter.

Cat MacDonald was all over the field in the first-half, and Churchill's tackling players behind the ball were happily soaking up the Petehouse/Cox pressure and getting the best of the attacking chances on the break. A lifted ball in the D created a short corner against the combined colleges and with no mistakes Churchill slotted the ball home over the line.

Petehouse/Cox continued to rally with Peterhouse captain Amanda Openshaw having the game of her Cambridge career in defence, amongst other things, to get the ball through the skilful Nicola Pyper to get the ball through the breakdown. Despite a couple of chances, Petehouse/Cox were unable to get free shots with their pressure not getting through anywhere, however, player Jenny Malick was close before the half-time and after the break, but with the well-kept defenders, Churchill's Hannah Galton cleared off the next corner. With the minutes ticking away the mass of Churchill supporters sensed victory the last chance from the end however, Petehouse/Cox won a controversial second-half goal, but with Churchill still threatening on the break the match was far from over. The deciding goal came from a free hit outside the D and was an All-Corpus affair, with hard-lipping Laura Gallagher striking the ball to the back post where Chloe Middleton was waiting to guide the ball in against the backboard.

Immediately Churchill responded and threatened the visiting Charity, however, the Blues responded with a short-corner. However the final whistle blew making the game over, the last chance from the match. Petehouse/Cox failed to clear and instead of being given a corner, a short corner was awarded to Churchill, which resulted in the evident relief of the Petehouse/Cox team and their numerous supporters.

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After three successive defeats in the Women’s Boat Race, Cambridge finally turned the tide to secure their first win since 2001. The Henley Boat Races event, which this year took place on Easter Saturday, was judged by fine weather and record crowds. Thousands travelled to watch the five Varsity races take place between Cambridge and Oxford over the 2000 metre Henley Reach.

In the penultimate race of the day, the Oxford Women’s Blue Boat had a strong start and took an early lead. Their gain was only temporary, however, as the stamina and rhythm of the Cambridge boat, stroked by Mathilde Pauls, proved too strong. By half way the Cambridge crew was in front and extended this lead to two and a halt lengths by the finish. Their power was relentless and once Oxford lost sight of their opposition they quickly faded.

Unfortunately, the Women’s Boat Race was the only victory for Cambridge on the day, ensuring Oxford’s only victory for Cambridge Varsity races take place this year due to the foundation of Stevie Smith, centre possession. Even Jesus’ inclusion of Paul in a gruelling semi-final which was only 10 – 9 on penalties, Jesus looked jaded at the start and Christ’s dominated the possession. Even Jesus’ inclusion of Stevie Smith, centre midfield for the Blues, failed to secure the ball, and Christ's looked the better side without looking dangerous.

However, after 20 minutes in which Christ’s had failed to convert two half chances, Jesus came back into the game. While Dave Sher’s movement and enthusiasm (allowing for comparisons with Paul Dickow) was contained by Atkinson and Corns at the back, Will Stevenson, who had started the game looking as potent as Ade Akinbiyi, started to find spaces to run into and drilled a 20 yard effort just past the post. The half petered out as both teams finally began to feel more comfortable on the ball, yet Jesus were in the ascendancy and their five-man midfield showed signs of the dominance that was to come in the second stage.

The game could still have gone both ways as a rush of players came out after the break, but while Jesus looked to have the firepower to recover from going a goal down, Christ’s didn’t appear to have the same potency in attack. This proved decisive as Jesus took the lead in a rather bizarre moment of genius from Stevenson. After a corner was cleared by the Christ’s defence, Jesus collected the ball on the left and flighted a ball beyond the far post where Stevenson was hounding, nearer the corner flag than the goal, totally unmarked and just outside. Controlling the ball quickly, he dribbled the ball back towards goal, cutting inside the box to finish with Chris Turnbull unable to cover in time. With half an hour still to play, Jesus took full control and Christ’s hardly managed to cross the half way line. Goals from Swain and a second for Stevenson were followed by a good finish from Brenig Jones to make it four. Stevenson earned a penalty with some quick feet in the area, capping off a brilliant second half and enabling him to take home the match ball.

A match between the two sides, NVanham then took on Jesus in the Women’s cup final. Having won the league title through the dominance that was to come in the second stage, the Cup was certainly won by the better team and Jesus College will be engraved on the trophy for the first time.

Nonetheless Lisa Grimes was a great achievement. The Lightweight crew were tipped to the line by the OÜWLC, following an earlier collision in the warm-up and a false start due to Cambridge equipment failure. Both guppy performanc- es highlighted the renewed quality of squad that the Boat Club now has to build on for next year.

This year’s squad was led by President Kate Hillier (Jesus) and Vice-President Osiris recorded at the Women’s Head three weeks previously – a great achievement. The Lightweight crew were tipped to the line by the OÜWLC, following an earlier collision in the warm-up and a false start due to Cambridge equipment failure. Both guppy performanc- es highlighted the renewed quality of squad that the Boat Club now has to build on for next year.

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