

VARSITY



GENERAL ELECTION 2005

- *Varsity* meets all your parliamentary candidates -PAGES 4 & 5
- Your Vote: Comment & Analysis -PAGES 5, 10, 18
- Howard Flight, Tessa Jowell & Lord McNally -PAGES 4 & 5

No. 619

The Independent Cambridge Student Newspaper since 1947

Friday April 29, 2005

Six undergraduates arrested over “serious sexual assault” in Girton

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

Varsity News Reporter

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 bop 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 ques-

tioned by the police. They have since been released on bail pending further questioning at a later date.”

The 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 McIlreavy

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 been 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 message 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

KEEP YOUR TROUSERS ON PAGE 2 AWARD WINNING WC PAGE 3 TAKING FLIGHT PAGE 8 ARCHIE BLAND PAGE 10
MAY BALL PREVIEWS PAGE 14 VARSITY FOOTBALL REPORT PAGE 31 OTHER RACE OTHER PLACE PAGE 32

News In Brief

LITERARY FESTIVAL

Two of the University's literary authors joined a wealth of other literary talent at the cambridgewordfest, an annual literary festival which took place in last weekend.

Clare Fellow John Guy, who won the Whitbread Biography of the Year for his *My Heart Is My Own: The Life of Mary Queen of Scots* appeared at the festival alongside the author of the critically-acclaimed *The Icarus Girl*, Helen Oyeyemi, an SPS student at Corpus Christi college.

Other literary figures who appeared at the festival included the Poet Laureate Andrew Motion, writer Fergal Keane and novelists Graham Swift and Hilary Mantel.

COCO'S REVAMP

Coco's nightclub is about to embark on a major project of 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 during the day. 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 at www.srcc.ucam.org/mongolia.

CAMBRIDGE SECOND PLACE

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 dramatic new figures showing large-scale ozone losses over the Atlantic in the past winter. 50% of the ozone was destroyed at altitudes of around 18km. These are the lowest levels since records began.

Hughes Hall transforms Fenner's

Lucy Barwell



Alison Richard on a visit to the £9 million new addition to Hughes Hall's residential buildings, which opened this week.

Animal rights

Chine Mbubaegbu

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 abuses discovered during this undercover investigation included monkeys who had had

strokes induced, the tops of their skulls sawn off and had been left unattended 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 conducted 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 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 while scientists and medical researchers aim to reduce work involving animals to a minimum, some of this work must continue if we are to make essential life-saving advances in medicine.'

NUS financial crisis

Natasha Anders

THE NATIONAL Union of Students is experiencing a massive 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 an NUS Extra card, costing ten pounds, which will entitle students to better discounts on travel, shops etc. Mr Ings, 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 debt 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 headquarters 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 the move to Manchester and the extra costs of rent in London after the relocation was postponed for a year. For the 2005-

Graduation kilt ban

Joe Gosden

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.'

The move met with cross-party condemnation from north of the border; the Scottish Conservative MP for Glasgow describing the move as 'total and utter nonsense' and the SNP Home Affairs spokesman Kenny MacAskill calling it 'petty and very narrow-minded.'

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, take 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'.

Cam bands busk

Niccie Simpson

A MASS busk took place Saturday to help promote the cambridgebands.com CD launch.

Busking began at 12.45 in various locations around Cambridge, including Parker's Piece and the Grafton Centre, and later culminated in a main 'jam' involving all the bands outside the Guildhall. Bands that played included Badwell Ash, Modal Monks, Free hope, Logan and The Shivers.

The day was organised by Phil Pethybridge, of local music promotions company Hope Street Music, and Joel Clayton of cambridgebands.com. Pethybridge described the day as a 'success', with up to 150 people watching the main busk.

Cambridgebands.com is an organisation which aims to provide the already thriving music scene of Cambridge with an online facility through which local bands can meet and pro-



Buskers outside the Guildhall in Cambridge centre.

mote themselves. It hopes to be the first place on the web to which Cambridge bands will go for advice and contacts, and also provides information for local promoters and venues. There are currently 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 Junction, and it is available to buy through the website cambridgebands.com.

Oxford Ltd

Charlotte Keane

OXFORD UNIVERSITY has found a novel way to make money: merchandising. It is hoping to find a ready market for a wide range of products that will bear the Oxford name; ranging from scientific toys and games to champagne and baby clothes.

Oxford trademarked its crest in 1993 and currently makes £400,000 annually from licensing its use. It is hoped that this will rise to around £5 million per annum within five years under the new scheme. Oxford Limited has been set up as a subsidiary and its stated aim is to exploit commercially 'the knowledge, skills and crest of the University of Oxford'. Mike

Davis, managing director of Oxford Limited, said: 'A little while ago commercial was in the same part of the Oxford English Dictionary as prostitution at this university.' The university is now courting companies by sending them brand licensing packs that allow them to 'exploit the quintessential British heritage of the university arms.' The university's departments will be brought in to use their expertise developing products but sceptics are not convinced. John Williamson, of brand consultants Wolff Olins, said: 'Is flogging academic toys an appropriate action for an august institution of this nature? This should be one of the most exclusive brands in the world. I think it's absolute rubbish.'

Israeli uni boycott Sex and the Union

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 colluding in a system of 'apartheid' 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 'Israeli 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 will 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 the principles behind any boycott of Israeli academics. International academics have a lot to offer education in the UK and a boycott of this specific country is neither helpful nor justified, and extremely worrying. We've expressed our concerns to the AUT and we are awaiting clarification from them on the exact nature of this policy and its potential impact on the academic community.' Some British academics have already withdrawn their AUT membership and the union may face a legal challenge over the boycott because of racial and religious discrimination laws in place in British universities. The Israeli ambassador described himself as 'amazed and disturbed' by developments.

The AUT is not a recognized union within Cambridge University.



Lucy Barwell

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 Q&A session was hosted by the Union's Senior Officer, Sarah Pobereskin, 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 Cattrall 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 stance on euthanasia.

The Liverpool-born star admitted that she twice turned

down the SATC role because she thought that she was too old.

Ms Cattrall also declared 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 given 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 pissoirs on Parker's Piece



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 Cllr John Hipkin has praised the flair 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 in King's Parade and the Millennium Garden in Norfolk Street.

Oliver Tilley

New development at Girton library

Emily Newman

LAST SATURDAY saw the opening of a £2.5 million addition to the Girton College library, the Duke Building. The college has an extensive collection of records and personal papers documenting the changes in the status of women over the centuries. In addition to the college

archives, the extension also houses specialist book collections including the private library of Mary Somerville.

The material relates to debates and events associated with the increasing access of women to university life. Senior Tutor Alison Duke gave a significant donation to the project.

During the opening the University's VC Professor Alison Richard, spoke of the importance of such libraries in "the transmission of knowledge between the generations". She emphasised the role the development would play in allowing cross-talk between "mathematicians and musicians, physicists and philosophers at every level."

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 £49 each way, with a £5 reduction for stu-

dents, and will operate a free shuttle bus between the airports and the centre of the towns, totalling a 70 minute journey.

Hailed as the next Richard Branson, Halstead is still training to become a commercial pilot.

Alpha 1 will operate two return flights each day between the cities' local airfields using four eight-seater planes. With the venture's expected success and £1 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 - seven people opting to drive rather than fly would use over 50% more fuel.

The company has encountered "teething problems" with the online booking system, and so the expected launch date of 18 April has been pushed back to the end of May. (see www.flyalpha1.com)

Anne Campbell Labour



Age: 65
Family: Married, 3 children, 5 grandchildren
Education: Penastone Grammar School, Sheffield; Newnham College, Cambridge
Employment: MP; Head of Statistics and Data Processing at the National Institute of Agricultural Botany in Cambridge; 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
Most admired political figure(s): Patricia Hewitt, Robin Cook
If your party did not exist, who would you vote for? Greens

Cambridge student vote manifesto: "I've taken a great interest in student issues over the years and I've successfully fought for more money into the science budget. I've spent around 200 hours during my time in Parliament studying and lobbying on issues of higher education."

Is it 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 £1 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 now; £50 to £100. I paid it off quite quickly.

Favourite Cambridge pub: The Carlton in Arbury

How many Cambridge colleges are there? 28 or 29

Blair or Brown: "Tony Blair has done a lot of good things.....but I am a great admirer of Brown and think Blair should now make way for him."

Is Blair a liability to the Labour party's campaign? "All lead politicians have to take a lot of flack and I don't think he is any more unpopular than most prime ministers after two terms in government."

Lucy Phillips

Ian Lyon Conservative



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, philately (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 top-up 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 beginning, wherever that may be, to the end of your first degree."

Is it inevitable that Oxford and Cambridge will follow the American system and become privatised? "No. No it isn't inevitable. It's only inevitable if the current government join in the US's trend to try to fund universities from other sources than from the state."

Did you come out of university with debt? "I've still got it. I left university in 1985 with a debt of £6500, and I've run an overdraft ever since."

Favourite Cambridge pub: The Eagle

How many Cambridge colleges are there? 28

Do you think that the dismissal of Howard Flight was justified, and if so why? "Yes. He had been reminded on numerous occasions that his views, although legitimate in their own right, were not the political mainstream views of the Conservative party, and it is wrong to represent them as anything other than his own."
Is the Conservative election campaign being fought on the faults of Tony Blair, rather than the merits of Michael Howard? "It's a positive campaign based on the realisation of the faults of the way in which things are being run at the moment."

Niccie Simpson

David Howarth Lib Dem



Age: 47
Family: Married with two teenage sons

Education: Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall; Clare College, Cambridge; Yale Law

Employment: Law and Economics lecturer at Cambridge University and Fellow of Clare

Hobbies: Squash and running. Member of Amnesty International and Friends of the Earth.

Describe yourself in 3 words: "I can't. When you get to my age, three words isn't enough. Or it's also too much."

Teenage role model: Max Weber, John Stuart Mill – "I started off as a Millian liberal."

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 education than Labour. Inherently, students would be better off under our system. Debts would be lower, and lower income students will be best off of all. We think that higher earners should pay for it. The money will come from a higher rate of tax – 50% on all income over £100,000. 82% of higher income tax payers went to university, so I don't think they 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 multiple methods of funding – some of which will be state and some of which will be non-state. In Britain, up until now, we've had a commitment to free education and because of that the state should always be a major source of funding of teaching."

Did you come out of university with debt? "No. The culture that I grew up in was so afraid of debt that I would have been discouraged from coming here and guided towards a different future."

Favourite Cambridge pub: "I have just discovered the Boat House. For ten years, I represented Castle Ward on the City Council and so pub on Castle Hill are also good and have got better over the years."

How many Cambridge colleges are there? 30

Chine Mbubaegbu

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 Haydan-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 parties that we should do more in

tackling issues which the Greens represent. There's no such thing as a wasted vote. You should vote for who you believe in."

Is it inevitable that Oxford and Cambridge will follow the American system and become privatised?: "It's not inevitable. I think there's still a public services based ethos at Cambridge. But I think the top-up fees issue will have an impact. Oxford and Cambridge are already clamouring for the £3,000 cap to be raised 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 reached 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 closing down soon, which is a real shame."

How many Cambridge colleges are there? "31."

Do you think that if the green party had a more conventional party structure (with a clear hierarchy and defined leader) it would be better placed to gain more votes?: "There has been a lot of debate about this in the Green party. Personally I don't really care, I think the issues and campaigning on the ground are the main issues."

Oliver Tilley

Tom Woodcock Respect



Age: 29 ('Frightening. I feel about fifteen')

Education: state school in Cambridge, communications and film studies at University of East London

Employment: has taught in Cambridge 'across the education system', college governor.

Hobbies: film fanatic (has managed a cinema, worked as a projectionist and in production), football, building, gardening, eating and talking

Describe yourself in 3 words: optimistic, idealistic, 'sad' (I'm not really a pub person any more)

Teenage role model: Keith Moon from The Who

Most admired political figure(s): Chavez (President of Venezuela)

If your party did not exist, who would you vote for? Martin Lucas Smith (Green)

Why should the average Cambridge student vote for you?: I don't think there's such a

thing as the average Cambridge student. But I think there's a lot of people here who agree with us that there's something drastically wrong with the political system and the free market economics that we've got in this country.

Is it inevitable that Oxford and Cambridge will follow the American system and become privatised? If things keep going the way they are. But I really don't want to see it as an inevitability.

Did you come out of university with debt? Yes, £6000, although I worked all the way through.

Favourite Cambridge pub: The Flying Pig

How many Cambridge colleges are there? 42?

On his opponents in Cambridge: Sharing a platform with them is like sitting in a children's playroom when they're throwing toys at each other

On the general election: The media's set a ridiculous agenda in order to disguise the real issues, when it should have been about poverty at home and abroad and holding the government to account.

On the main parties: They're effectively a coalition. The Tories aren't really fussed as they've got their own Prime Minister in Blair.

On exams: I don't believe in them, full stop

Cambridge credentials: Used to DJ in Po Na Na and worked in the catering department at Clare.

Amy Goodwin

Helene Davis UKIP



Age: 57
Family: separated, 3 children
Education: St Thomas Secondary Modern, Exeter; Exeter Technical College; Exeter College of Art

Employment: Clinical coder at Addenbrookes Hospital

Hobbies: amateur mycology (leader of fungus study group Melbourn Mushroom Club), folk singing and rock climbing.

Describe yourself in 3 words: adventurous, idealistic, patriotic

If your party did not exist, who would you vote for? The Conservatives

Teenage role model: The Beatles

Most admired political figure(s): Tony Benn, Lord Pearson of Rannoch

Cambridge student manifesto: "UKIP strongly opposes plans for an elected East of England Regional Assembly

and against joining an EU Constitution; the government has already relinquished control of our institutions to an undemocratic association, namely the EU.....It is being driven by politicians eager for more power and more money..... When the power has been lost it will never come back."

Is it inevitable that Oxford and Cambridge will follow the American system and become privatised? "I hope not. I hope they keep their independence. Privatisation doesn't help anyone. Big businesses taking over our universities would be very dangerous."

Favourite Cambridge pub: "As a non-smoker I like The Free Press."

How many Cambridge colleges are there? "I don't know." Agent says 34 (correct answer)

On the Euro: "A clause within the draft Constitution states that the currency of Europe shall be the euro'. If we join the Constitution, we are therefore agreeing to adopt the euro."

On the BNP: "There is a wide misconception that UKIP is like the BNP, but we stand for completely different things; we are not racist."

On the war: "We should never have gone to war, it was all to do with oil."

Helene rides a Honda 125cc. She admits to stopping to rescue hedgehogs, toads and frogs in the road.

LP

Graham Wilkinson INDEPENDENT



Age: 38
Family: married, 2 cats
Education: Langleybury School, Hunton Bridge; Kent University
Employment: software engineer, ARM Limited
Hobbies: fish-keeping, motor-

bikes, computing, fixing cars, playing guitar.

Describe yourself in 3 words: optimistic, busy, perceptive

Teenage role model: Steve McQueen

Most admired political figure: Ghandi

If you could not run as an independent candidate, who would you vote for? "The Greens. I don't like globalisation. I couldn't vote for any of the big parties and at the moment I find the Conservatives more irritating than Labour. UKIP have fairly similar views to me but I don't like the name."

Cambridge student manifesto: "As an independent I can vote in parliament without a chief whip

telling me what to do...a universal benefits scheme which is not means tested...simplifying our tax system. I don't like material wealth. I don't believe in inheritance tax. I am unhappy about the billions spent on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq."

Did you come out of university with debt? "No, but I still couldn't afford a house until I was 25. I don't think going to university has made me any richer."

Favourite Cambridge pub: Wetherspoons

How many Cambridge colleges are there? "I can name 7 (including 'King's Hall'), but there are probably 9." LP

Suzon Forscey-Moore INDEPENDENT



Age: 66
Family: 3 sons
Education: James town high School, New York; Pitzer College, Claremont; De Montfort, Leicester

Employment: campaigner and researcher 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 independent candidate, which party would you vote for? Greens

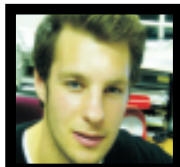
Cambridge student manifesto: "I would like every person in this country to be important to the people in power everyday, not just once every four years." On Oxbridge

privatisation: "I've already seen a lot of Americanisation take place in this country and it is difficult to see it coming to a halt. Unfortunately bad American ideas seem to travel better than good ones."

Did you come out of university with any debt? "Yes. When I left Pitzer I had around £15 000 which I paid off but right now I have more than £50 000 accumulated from my Masters degree in law."

Favourite pub in Cambridge: The Free Press

How many Cambridge colleges are there? 30 LP



ELECTION 2005 COMMENT JAMES DACRE

At the ballot box



"Please sit down, you can talk to Mr Blair afterwards," repeated a surprised Jonathan Dimbleby as the voice of student Britain refused to let him end the PM's interrogation on Question Time last night. The 2001 elections saw only 39 percent of a politically apathetic student population voting. The defining protests of this past Labour term have been student dominated: the marches against top-up fees, the Countryside Alliance and the Stop the War events witnessing heavy student involvement. Psephologists and bookies are now predicting a dramatic rise in the number of student votes; we students are officially no longer indifferent and are looking to protest.



Charles Bradley, 19, Catz
"Green. The environment is the most important political issue at the moment. The major parties give it nothing but lip-service. I'm not voting for them because of the war and because they seem to be engaged in an ideologically empty competition over who can provide the best public services."

The sorry truth is that many see their vote as a negative vote. A small, but important means of preventing a sizeable Labour majority. The party divide used to be a class divide, but as social boundaries have disintegrated, so too have such easy explanations. Traditionally, Cambridge students have been more socialist than liberal and more liberal than conservative. New Labour has only really demonstrated a student-friendly socialism through media-pleasers such as banning foxhunting and lowering the age of gay consent. When Tony Blair announced the emergence of "a very nasty right-wing campaign," in the Conservative party, it didn't take long for most students to retort that he leads a nasty, right wing party himself. Whilst the *Cambridge University Conservative Association* (CUCA) appears the

best-run and most impressive of the student political parties, it has never been fashionable to be a student and to be overtly Conservative. And even the most loyal Conservatives can appreciate the arguments for looking elsewhere in Cambridge; for Ian Lyon, the Conservative candidate is something of a no-hoper, whilst other party candidates (well, actually, only the Liberal Democrat

"I felt more inspired by the last pizza leaflet that I received. And they can be guaranteed to deliver"

David Howarth) can realistically topple Labour's Anne Campbell from her eight-year reign.

There are 21, 000 full time students in Cambridge: 16,500 here and 5,000 at Anglia Polytechnic. Around a quarter of the voting electorate is comprised of a student body. For most of us, our only experience of Cambridge is as students, and there is nothing hypocritical about using our vote to say something about our time here as students, even if it means voting for a party that we wouldn't support if we were voting from 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. Individuals want to know which party will guarantee them the best deal. For us, this is a student deal. So what do our candidates know about us? Worryingly, only one of our eight candidates knows how many colleges there are at Cambridge. Almost all say that they would vote Green if their party didn't exist. The independent candidates – well, what can I say about them apart from commenting upon their self-indulgence in making the unfortunate mistake of thinking that politics is just about their personal views.

Anne Campell 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 allegiance to Tony Blair, she is an obsessive Labour moderniser, besotted by proportional representation, foundation hospitals and the 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 term, and 2 out of 896 votes in the previous term. Born and bred in Cambridge, she is clearly hard working and committed. She has rung the Varsity 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 £20, 000 in debt.

Exactly a year ago, Campbell was accused of a "spectacular U-turn," and her face emblazoned upon the side of Warhol soup-can as *Varsity's* "Campbell's dupe" front page following her failure to vote against the top-up fees that she had promised to fight against. Her decision was described at the time by the Guardian as a "crucial turning point," in thwarting a backbench amendment that proposed to remove variable fees.



Gemma Edgcombe, 22, New Hall
"I'm voting Lib Dem, primarily over the War on Iraq, not just because I opposed military action, but also the undemocratic and presidential way in which the decision to invade was taken. I also strongly believe in raising tax for top income earners."

The irony is that this is an election where I suspect the Cambridge student almost certainly knows where not to vote but has great difficulty in deciding where to positively put his cross. Public services are increasingly centralised, costing more and yet delivering less efficiently. Party policies become more about spin

and less about delivery as we realise that many politicians are all glossy talk without the walk. It has become a given that all political promises will have a catch, that Paxman will highlight them, that the mass media will savage them, and that the public will become cynical and apathetic about democracy. The universal currency of this democracy is a grievance against the government. To counter this, politicians increasingly resort to inciting fear and loathing to lobby voter interest.

In health, fear of the MRSA bug, in education, fear of top-up fees, in the economy, fear of tax-increases, in Parliament, a fear of principle and, everywhere, a fear of terrorism. Rivers of ink have drenched the country with fear over asylum. We are not a country at the moment that believes in the positive power of politics to enhance people's lives. Trust has evaporated. Callaghan and even Major were economical with the truth. Yet they were described as making compromises, or even as "realists," but rarely as liars. The bitter truth is that the factors that made New Labour so electable in 1997 – her ruthless will in controlling party and the news agenda, her inability to slough off her opposition mindset and think as long-term governors with a huge mandate – have weakened her ability to gain respect for ruling effectively. And behind it all is her

Inciting fear and loathing to lobby voter interest

addiction to spin doctoring. But spin doctoring operates according to laws of demand and return. The more that you promise, the less that people believe you, the greater you try to control the media, the more viciously they will turn on you in the end: the result is a frustrated electorate that believes that all politicians are as cynical as each other.

This is an election more about publicity than principles; no better demonstrated than here in Cambridge. John Lancaster attacked New Labour in *The London Review of Books* for doing "everything necessary to win power and then, once in office, to do as much as possible of

the stuff it wanted to do consistent with not frightening the electorate and losing the next election." Back in 1995, Anne Campbell was the first MP to have her own website; today her party (alongside the Conservatives) uses ultra-modern advertising techniques, such as sending us bespoke publicity leaflets tailored to what the party expects us to find important,



Sam Bostock, 20, Catz
"Labour. Iraq isn't a major issue for me: it may turn out to be a good decision, even if taken on flaky evidence. I support top-up fees – it's better that students pay more and not burden the general taxpayer. Campbell's a good local MP she's been victimised for abstaining in the top-up fees vote."

according to our different situations. Dozens of politicians have swarmed like flies through Cambridge, secreting party policies into interviews and speeches before migrating to their next stop on the campaign trail. When I asked where Baroness Amos had been campaigning, Mark Davies, her political aide, told me "we do what we're told...tomorrow morning, we'll go wherever we are most needed." This political rent-a-celebrity parade filled Market Square to capacity with supporters queuing to see Charles Kennedy. Once having arrived (late, with his chauffeur almost killing four St Cats undergraduates: Mr Kennedy made peace by presenting them with his autograph), Kennedy received a rapturous welcome. "He bussed in supporters from around the country; I see the same faces everywhere," claimed a local Labour aide.

Campbell's publicity leaflets show pictures of her alongside the chancellor, but they notably omit any references to the Prime Minister. Ian Lyon strangely neglects to mention university education, as if a third of his electorate don't exist. I have received 4 letters from Charles Kennedy, each telling me

four times about the birth of his son. Making his baby the nation's godson is, by God-given opportunity (heaven forbid that it was a planned pregnancy), an attempt to remind students that the Liberal Democrats are a party for our gen-

Cynical and apathetic about democracy

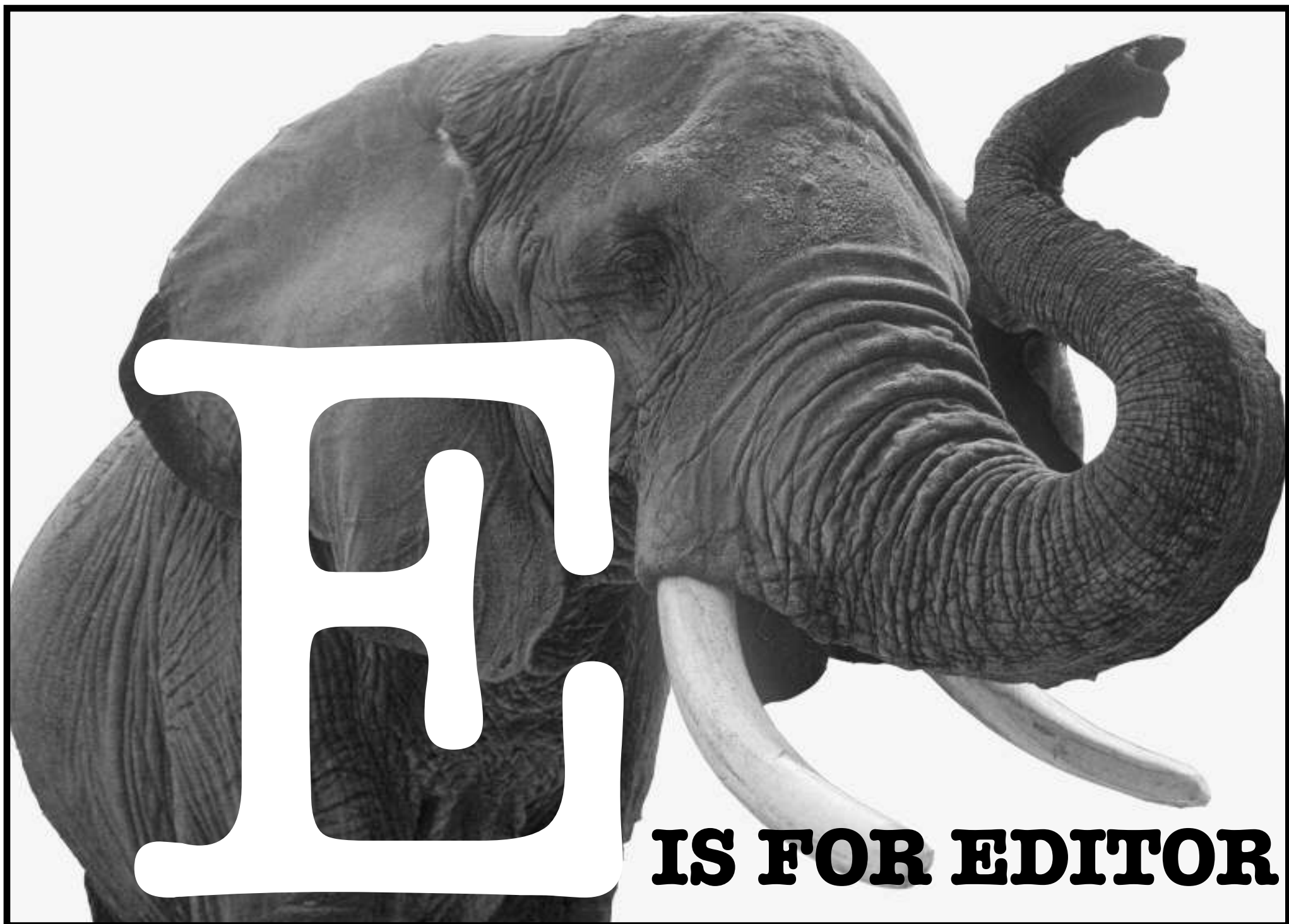
eration. I felt more inspired by the last pizza leaflet that I received. And they can be guaranteed to deliver.

The Liberal Democrats recognise the importance of the student vote. They paid £1000 for a full-colour advert in the *Leeds Student* and have since paid more for a *Varsity* advert. Labour were soon to follow, guaranteeing us an interview with Tony Blair (who wrote a letter published in the *Leeds Student*). Upon receiving *Varsity's* somewhat stringent 20 questions, a Labour party apparatchik replied, "unfortunately, the Prime Minister will not be able to answer these questions." So what happened to the great spin machine?

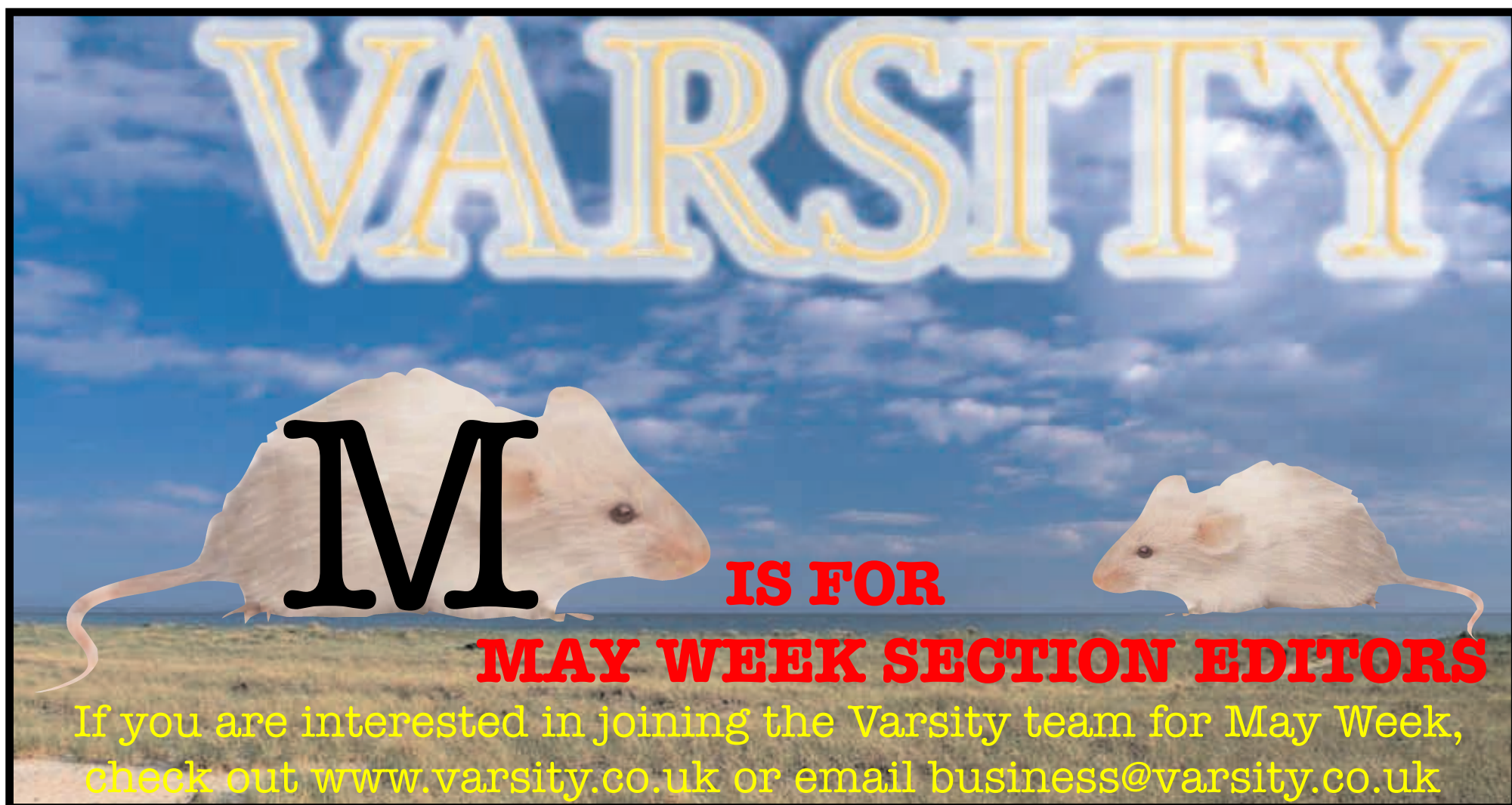
To be political is to make a decision. Friends have tried online voting guides. By trawling through a list of multiple choice questions, these numerous sites then place you on the political compass. Publicwhip.com tells me that I'm a Liberal Democrat, politcalsurvey2005.com that I'm New Labour and whoshouldyouvote-for.com that, well, you guessed it. I failed my driving theory test twice, so maybe I just can't do multiple choice. Or maybe I need to make my own decisions.



Ruth McCauley, 21, Peterhouse
"Lib Dem. While I don't believe that they will form the next government, neither Labour nor Conservatives offer a viable alternative. Votes for Lib Dems send Labour a clear message that they can't continue to move away from what was their core support for many years- those attracted by their socialism".



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.



Churchill crowned the green king

Rachel Willcock 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 for inaccuracy, but looks certain to raise students' awareness of green issues.

This report 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 particular and differing situations of Cambridge colleges and the initiatives they have in place. Each category of the survey was examined in terms of the resources used, the extent of recycling and waste reduction and any policies that encouraged better practice. Weightings 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 loud and clear: a push to make people in Cambridge aware and accountable for their environmental policy (or lack of one.)

Martin Whiteland, 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 sustainable practices to reduce the environmental impact associated with college activities. The survey has highlighted a number of key areas where student involvement 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 communicating the environmental friendliness of institutions in our daily lives. Hopefully it

will also inspire staff and students to actively improve their college's standing, thereby having a positive and tangible impact on our sustainability."

College green officers also responded positively to the survey. Roxanna Hastings of Fitzwilliam said, "It's challenging with high apathy levels amongst students and negative attitudes from college staff. But it's important, and attitudes do change if you persevere." Higher up the table, Ben Kerr-Shaw of Clare said that "Most Clare 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 concerns were raised about the reliability 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 therefore it is inaccurate as far as Darwin is concerned." He pointed to the fact that, while the survey criticised Darwin's heating initiatives, a DTI study 14 months ago commended the college with flying colours. Brindle argued that, "They have got it wrong as far as Darwin is concerned, and I suspect that the same goes for other colleges as well."



Lucy Barwell

Churchill: Cambridge's top green college, according to CUECS's study (below)

CUECS environmental top ten, 2004-2005

		Lighting	Commitment Waste	Bedders	Kitchens	Offices & libs	Gardens	Heating	Overall	Rank	
1	Churchill	68%	43%	89%	37%	76%	78%	42%	39%	60.2%	2nd
2	Trinity Hall	84%	32%	78%	57%	83%	75%	42%	39%	59.1%	5th
3	Jesus	58%	64%	50%	56%	69%	50%	87%	56%	58.0%	1st
4	Downing	90%	34%	94%	37%	64%	68%	42%	36%	56.6%	17th
5	Trinity	58%	24%	78%	25%	71%	75%	87%	41%	56.0%	21st
6	Clare	68%	6%	78%	58%	43%	58%	87%	62%	53.2%	n/a
7	Wolfson	47%	15%	50%	34%	44%	71%	72%	62%	51.1%	23rd
8	Robinson	37%	34%	83%	71%	48%	60%	42%	36%	51.1%	12th
9	St. John's	47%	14%	78%	19%	54%	59%	58%	55%	49.5%	22nd
10	Selwyn	42%	27%	50%	43%	58%	60%	42%	36%	47.8%	n/a



Karen Halls
President,
CUECS

How to be green but not mean

Cambridge colleges are big consumers of energy and resources, and subsequently produce a huge amount of waste. Students are perhaps more lax than at home with heating, lighting and water as bills are not metered. Furthermore, the collegiate structure of our university means that it is difficult to have a consistent university policy - colleges can get away 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 people 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 the effect they have on the environment. We need to take stock of where we are and think how we can make changes to counter the presently inevitable slide towards environmental destruction.

Of course the survey could not

be perfect especially in a university where there is such disparity between the situations of different 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 outweigh the subsequent reduction in environmental impact. Some

"Colleges mustn't get away with bad green practice."

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 issue sin our university community. Environmental issues are being held as increasingly 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 towards change. Real improvement relies on every individual playing a part and taking responsibility. The problem with implementing these kind of changes in

Cambridge is that busy individuals are unwilling to make the small sacrifices that are needed. It is easy to be impatient with endeavours to be greener, for the results are not immediately noticeable.

There are positive results that can be seen from the survey. It is apparent that sustainable methods 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 movements to form committees to discuss 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 is that in raising the issues further will foster greater discussion both within and between the colleges.

If people are made to think about their behaviour and question a colleges' current practice then we are moving forward. Students must get involved to encourage or force these improvements. If attitudes change and plans are implemented then maybe we can look forward to a sustainable future.

Bored of the Year Abroad?

Sam Richardson

A Varsity investigation has shown that, despite criticisms over financial and organisational aspects of the languages Year Abroad, it remains popular and looks set to continue in its current form. Students responding to Varsity's survey of over 200 linguists, described experiences varying from 'fantastic' and 'the best year of my life' to 'miserable' and 'the worst year of my life.' Positive aspects cited included being away from Cambridge (55%), experiencing the culture (84%) and using the language (85%). Negative aspects included loneliness (31%), financial difficulties (20%), illness (11%) and missing loved ones ('the YA isn't easy on the heart').

Overall, 69% of students described their year abroad experience as 'very positive' and 29% as 'positive', which should encourage second year students as they pre-

pare to leave: Currently just 47% of current second year linguists are pleased about the year abroad taking place in their third year, compared to 81% of third year linguists. One worrying factor was that 17% of fourth years had suffered from sexual assault or harassment during their year abroad. In response to these worries, the Year Abroad Office and CUSU started a women-specific meeting last year. This year the number of reports of sexual harassment has halved, and 55% of respondents felt well prepared regarding safety, compared to just 17% in the previous year. Dr Martin Crowley, the Faculty's Year Abroad Officer, stated that 'In response to feedback, we took positive action and its effect has been beneficial.'

However, more than half of students still felt that the university did not provide adequate help in finding a placement and on the practicalities of living abroad. Dr Crowley responded that, 'We have

a massive array of resources available for students, and those who use it get a lot out of it. If we weren't here, the Year Abroad could not happen'.

Four-fifths of students complained that the half tuition fees paid during the Year Abroad are unreasonable. Varsity has learnt that of this money about £100 is given to pay for supervisions for the Year Abroad Project, while a further 40% goes to the MML faculty, to contribute towards fees for students who study at universities abroad, and to fund the Year Abroad Office.

Asked why Cambridge students are prohibited from taking 'menial' jobs, Dr Crowley replied that 'they have the ability to thrive in more challenging environments, and they do manage in the end to find more appropriate jobs than bar work.'

See www.varsity.co.uk for more.

Flight: Sacked for telling the truth?

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

UPPA/Photoshot



April 2005: Flight was sacked from his party after comments about Tory spending plans

Feeling 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 deselected 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 implied that billions more could be found but details were being deliberately hushed up to avoid losing votes in the election.

Mr Flight has since maintained that his words had been misinterpreted and he said nothing outside Tory policy.

I arrived at the family home in Westminster as Mr Flight was finishing a leisurely lunch with his wife and secretary. They kindly offered me a boiled egg, but having just eaten, I promptly opted for a glass of red wine instead. After the initial niceties and lunch was cleared up, we

headed up to the drawing room. Full of antiques, pictures and photographs – Lord Reith lived in the property during the 1920s – it took me a few moments to decide *which* chaise longue I should sit on.

Interestingly, Mr Flight, renowned for his 40-a-day smoking habit, has just given up. Consequently, I watched him chew gum throughout our interview but coolly chose not to make comment on the piece of stale, hard nicotine gum stuck to the drinks coaster adjacent to me: I sincerely hope his wife does not think me the culprit.

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 unequivocal: "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 sieved to arrive at what was politically doable and acceptable. We have no hidden agenda."

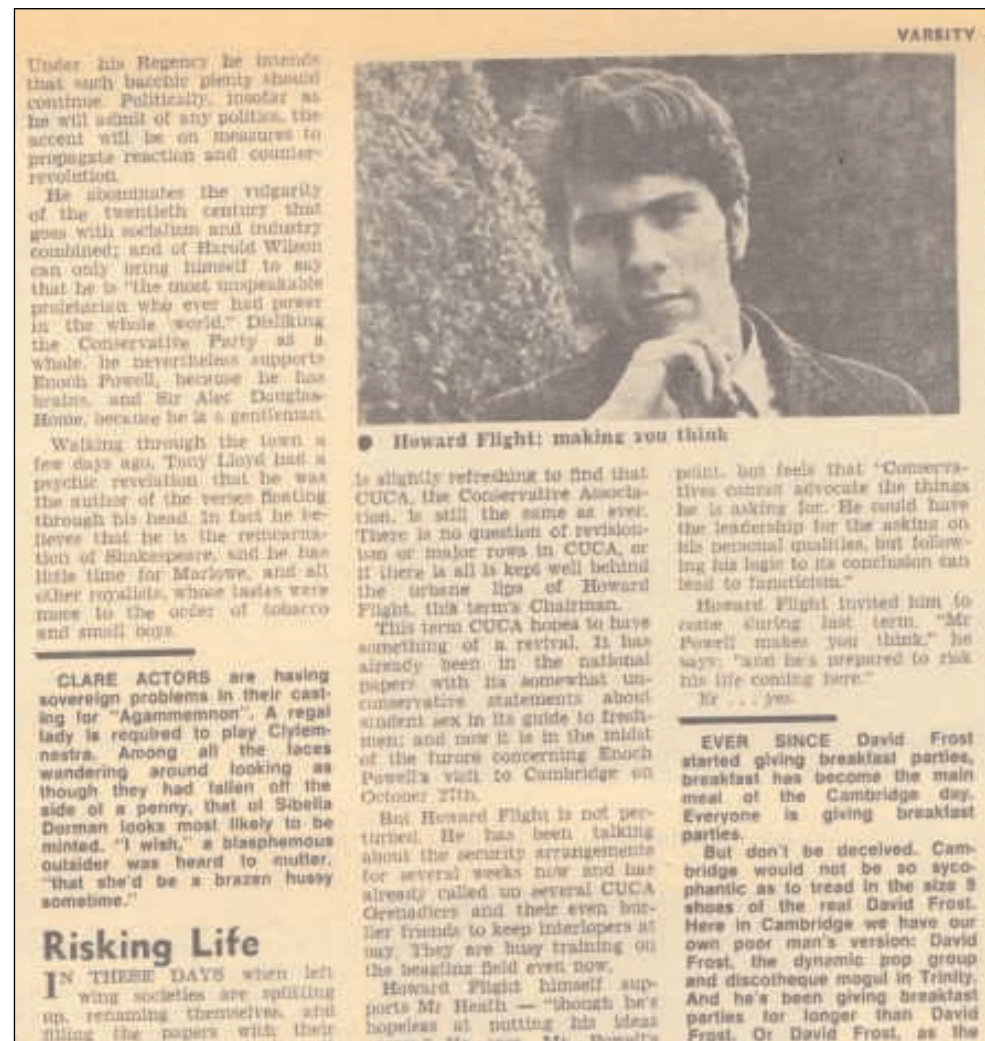
Mr Flight went on to tell me that during the course of the

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 save 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 itit 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 "exceedingly 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



October 1968: Flight is profiled in *Varsity* as President of the University's Conservative Association

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 took the somewhat official line: "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] about 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 MP's [sic] election, although there was clearly abuse of postal voting, it didn't seem to affect the net result." Naturally he conceded that any misuse would "probably benefit the Labour party most."

If it came to the crunch, Mr Flight said he would choose Blair over Brown, "even though he's come across as a shyster and definitely misled the country over Iraq." I took this opportunity to ask him about the war: "I supported the war and still do. In eight years the two really good House of Commons' debates and occasions were the debate on Iraq where both Cook and Blair were brilliant, and secondly the whole

debate over the Home Secretary locking people up without a judge. They were two really quite moving and democratic debates."

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 well but since 2000 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 whom 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 shallow stuff, whereas O-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 much higher proportion of privileged, ex-public school students in Cambridge than in my day and the very privileged all have guilt complexes 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. Lincoln was great and I actually have a lot of time for Ghandi." What about Bush? "I don't knowyou know where you stand with him. I think that maybe he's much more of a man of principle than people realise and increasingly he seems to be scoring over those trying to bury him as some dumb-o."

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 fidgeting," he abruptly replied.



Lord Tom McNally on a visit to Cambridge earlier this week

Did you see the Liberal Democrats' party political broadcast on Sunday? It says as much about them as it does about the state of public life in Britain. In it, Charles Kennedy, new father, is profiled as a seasoned political veteran, a man who joined Parliament in 1983 as its youngest ever member and has since grown into a mature thinker with an avuncular, affable, and irrepressibly ginger disposition.

When Kennedy visited Cambridge on Tuesday it was more of the same: intensely Charles, intensely personal. Banners and posters across the town projected his sturdy, Scottish features onto the lives of students and local residents alike. The game plan was obvious: Kennedy is consistently vilified for carrying none of the gravitas of Tony Blair or Michael Howard, and portrayed as the likeable bloke-next-door who'll never be PM. The advertising angle of the Lib Dem campaign is largely about deflecting these sorts of criticisms.

This is the politics of personality, and though it is hardly a new invention its grip on public life has accelerated rapidly under New Labour. Not that it's entirely their fault: when, in 1997, the

Conservative Party portrayed Tony Blair with the eyes of a demon they instigated a paradigm shift in British public life. Though they didn't know it then, the Conservatives began the process whereby personality tests and intrusion into the private lives of political leaders would take precedence over a serious interrogation of party policy as the mechanism whereby voters choose whom to put their faith in. 'Trust', thrust into even greater prominence with the Iraq war, has become the issue of the day.

"Aspects of Tuesday's *Newsnight* represented a prostitution of our political system"

The presence, therefore, of men like Lord Tom McNally is of considerable satisfaction to people of all political persuasions who hold on to a romantic conception of politics as something more than trial-by-telly. McNally, aged 62, is part of a dying breed. The vogue for dynamic, youthful faces is a more significant feature of the Lib Dems and Labour than it is of the Conservatives, and the type of

politician that McNally typifies – a respected liberal reformist, radical on civil liberties and education policy – is evaporating as a result. He was the late Jim Callaghan's adviser on foreign affairs and then, when Callaghan became Prime Minister in 1976, was put in charge of Callaghan's office in Number 10. He was elected a Labour MP in 1979 but defected to the newly formed Social Democratic Party when it formed in 1981. Baroness Williams, whom McNally is replacing as the Lib Dems' leader in the House of Lords, and Menzies Campbell, the revered Deputy Leader of the Lib Dems, are two notable members of that category of politician to which McNally belongs.

But why has personality politics taken such a grip on Britain's public space? "70% of people get their politics from TV or radio now", says McNally, "and that has been the starting point of the New Labour project." The declining sales of newspapers has led to a different method of engagement with the public, McNally says, in which soundbites and imagery play an increasing role. "The spin, rapid rebuttal, and aggressive campaigning of New Labour is largely imported from America.

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".

I'm conscious through all this that McNally's attack on the media is, by implication, an attack on those of us who consider ourselves journalists. If the media is to blame for all this, what's it doing now that it didn't do before? "The media has trivialised and made cynical our public life. The media needs democracy itself; it needs to be held to account and be as transparent and independent as is possible. This is one of the reasons why the Lib Dems have fought so hard for the BBC; we believe it can work as an iron rule which keeps the rest of the media honest."

It's easy for politicians to criticise the media without accepting responsibility for the culture that they themselves have helped to institute. McNally, to his credit, stops short of this; but he does go on to make a sustained attack on Rupert Murdoch, whom he thinks holds considerable responsibility not only for the changing political climate in Britain, but also for the increasing personalisation of political discourse.

"The day Murdoch took control of The Sun he proved that you could go downmarket and still have popular appeal," says McNally. I put it to him that newspapers are businesses, and must sell to survive. "Indeed, as Murdoch would argue that his first responsibility is to his shareholders. But, nevertheless, I think it's deeply regrettable that his conduct has helped make a culture of fear such a big part of today's political climate."

There is something heartening in the compassion with which McNally speaks. His voice exudes the sort of mellifluous hum that one imagines Disraeli or Gladstone would have spoken with. He combines an almost Sir Humphreyesque pragmatism with the deep conviction that things can be done better, that Murdoch's empire is not inviolable, that the Lib Dems offer a different conception of politics – one that is

essentially positive, optimistic, and – McNally's favourite word – "aspirational". This, I keep feeling, is proper personality-politics; a man with decades of experience in the political game, one of the voices of British liberalism, little known by the wider public, divorced from our current, contemptible obsession with celebrity, and yet engaged on a personal, intellectual level with the affairs of state.

It is on the issue of fear culture that this compassion is most forceful and most cogent: "the politics of hope is the best antidote to the politics of fear" he says, highlighting the role of fear in American politics. "Look at Washington and New York. These two places are the most likely in the whole of the USA to be attacked by terror-

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

ists. But both voted Democrat, whereas, despite 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 discussing the domestic scene in America.

"Voters in the midwest asked for draconian laws on all manner of issues, from gun laws to civil liberties. But they voted, at least, and it is 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-culture in Britain. I ask him how, if not through fear, he would seek to combat apathy.

"I understand and accept the point about apathy. Of course turnout at the last election was disappointing. But we must remember that, across the land, hundreds and 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 subtly different sister-ill, disengagement – is an inevitable product of an age of material plenty. The New Labour 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 waiting lists, Their schools, 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 Jeremy Paxman had a conversation with Michael Howard about how many times he washed his hands in a hospital, which stemmed from the Conservative's recent attempt to elevate MRSA to the top of the political agenda.

"I was appalled by that display. It represents a prostitution of our political system. I want politics to be more positive, to be aspirational. If you haven't got optimism, you wouldn't be a Lib Dem."



"The residents of this city came out in force to engage and interact with the democratic process"

When RON's not an option, who are we going to vote for?

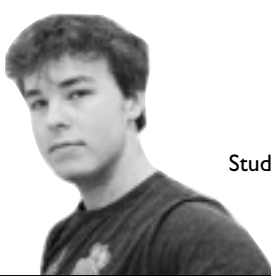
Until they launch the Archie Party, one of these three will have to do

Because I'm 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. Lib Dem Mark Gettleson held forth in the classic historian-patrician-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 fisticuffs 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 Tory, 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 Scotch Bastards!* (He didn't say the last one, obviously, so I'm being pretty seriously unfair, but you see what I mean.)

These differences were clear from the off, and I settled back in one of the inordinately large and comfortable Peterhouse-provided chairs (clearly designed to remind us that Cambridge student politics isn't just any old student politics) in mouthwatering anticipation of a right old set-to. But, sad

"Politicians aren't all idealists, because being idealistic isn't easy when there's an election to win"



Archie Bland

Student Columnist of the Year

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 parties had made a pig's ear of policy, and so the banter was cut somewhat short. Everyone looked especially disappointed when Goodhead admitted he wasn't really thinking what the Conservatives were thinking over

Cambridge student politics isn't just any student politics

immigration, or at least, he qualified, what they say they're thinking to get elected. There was a sort of mini-fracas then 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 Paxman 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 students: 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 student ever knows the apathy thing is by and large utter bullshit), but that there just isn't a party they feel properly attached to. Some lean towards the Lib Dems but worry that their policies are the easy opposition of a party which knows it won't get elected; others would give the Tories a whirl if it weren't for all this nonsense about travellers and asylum seekers; still more wish they could vote Labour, but are angry enough about Iraq in particular and disillusioned enough with the New Labour project in general to wonder whether they really want to put a cross next to Anne Campbell's name. More and more, Cambridge students sound like they wish there was a RON on the national ballot.

I sympathise, I really do. I've been seriously considering staying at home, and I can't help but feel nostalgic for Kerry-Bush, which seemed much more satisfyingly drawn along Luke Skywalker-Darth Vader lines. And, as I thought on the way home from Wednesday's knees-up, why can't more politicians be like their student representatives, capable of defining an

individual position without reference to their Chief-Whip-issued pager?

Well, it's a bugger, but the salient facts, given the election is next week and thus a matter of some urgency, are these: RON isn't an option. There isn't a Dubya to loathe. And, guess what? Politicians aren't all idealists, because being idealistic isn't easy when there's an election to win. If you'd replaced Arrowsmith, Goodhead and Gettleson with Blair, Howard and Kennedy, you'd have had a much more vigorous debate, but you'd also have had a lot more economy with the truth.

I'd like to support a party that does more to bring the environment up the agenda. I'd like to support a party that dares to change the terms of the debate on crime and punishment. In fact, I'd like to support a party that calls itself the Archie Is Right About Everything And So We're Basing Our Manifesto On A Combination Of His Columns And What He Said Down The Pub The Other Night Party. I expect, if you could change the first word of its moniker to your own, that's a party you'd support to. But the fact is: that party doesn't exist, and the odds are, it never will. Shame, eh? But I think, with less than a week until the day we choose who's going to govern us, that it's time we all got over it; and, like Mark, Martin, and Tom, recognise that sitting in the pub longing for A Better World is a sight less effective than getting involved in trying to make the best of the one we actually live in. In a few years' time, if we really want to, we can try to do that by running the place; in the meantime, the vote will have to do, and I think it's pretty important that we use it.

Varsity

 11-12 Trumpington Street
 Cambridge CB2 1QA
 01223 353422

Editor	Amol Rajan <i>editor@varsity.co.uk</i>
Deputy Editors	Henry Bowen James Dacre <i>deputy@varsity.co.uk</i>
Online Editor	Sarah Marsh <i>webeditor@varsity.co.uk</i>
Deputy Web Editor	Adam Edershain
Arts Editor	Jessica Holland <i>arts@varsity.co.uk</i>
Chief Photos Editor	Lucy Barwell <i>photos@varsity.co.uk</i>
Photos Editor	Albert Mockel-Von-Dem-Bussche
Chief News Editors	Chine Mbubaegbu Lucy Phillips <i>news@varsity.co.uk</i>
News Editors	Amy Goodwin Oliver Tilley <i>news@varsity.co.uk</i>
Chief Analyst	Sam Richardson <i>analysis@varsity.co.uk</i>
News Analysts	Rachel Willcock Kate Ward
Comment Editor	Ned Beauman <i>comment@varsity.co.uk</i>
Interviews and Letters Editor	Mungo Woodfield <i>interviews@varsity.co.uk</i>
Features Editors	Jenna Goldberg Sarah Sackman <i>features@varsity.co.uk</i>
Science Editors	Krystyna Larkham Zoe Smeaton <i>science@varsity.co.uk</i>
Travel Editor	Oliver Batham <i>travel@varsity.co.uk</i>
Theatre Editor	Allegra Galvin <i>theatre@varsity.co.uk</i>
Music Editors	Nicola Simpson Jon Swaine Was Yaqoob <i>music@varsity.co.uk</i>
Satire Editors	Jonny Sweet Zack Simons <i>satire@varsity.co.uk</i>
Film Editor	Emma Paterson <i>film@varsity.co.uk</i>
Literature Editor	Benjamin King <i>literature@varsity.co.uk</i>
Visual Arts Editor	Johanna Z-Sharp <i>visual@varsity.co.uk</i>
Fashion Editors	Agata Belcen Lucy Styles <i>fashion@varsity.co.uk</i>
Sports Editors	Adam Edershain Tom Burrell Ben Myers <i>sport@varsity.co.uk</i>
Production Managers	Ifti Qurashi David Wyatt <i>production@varsity.co.uk</i>
Production	Alastair Currie
Business Manager	Sarah Keen Eve Williams <i>business@varsity.co.uk</i>
Chief Sub-Editor	Anna McIlreavy

Email the business manager to enquire about placing adverts. Letters for publication should be emailed or posted to the editor.

To get involved in a section, email the relevant section editor listed above, and come along to a meeting. No experience necessary.

Varsity is published by Varsity Productions Ltd, and printed by Cambridge Evening News. All copyright is the exclusive property of Varsity Publications Ltd. No part of this publication is to be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, without prior permission of the publisher.

Varsity

Students decide

There was a moment on Tuesday when Sir Menzies Campbell, the revered Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats, was being heckled by Labour supporters from the crowd at Market Square that he was addressing. "Look", he said to them, "I'll do a deal with you. You stop telling lies about us and we'll stop telling the truth about you". The crowd cheered, and in an instant Campbell, already a popular figure across the country, crystallised his popular reputation within the city.

One does not have to be convinced of the arguments proposed by the Liberal Democrats to understand why Tuesday's visit, and the scenes in Market Square that evening, were of significance. Cambridge is one of the Liberal Democrat's target seats; they need only a 10% swing on the 2001 result, and are hoping that the student vote, propelled by the Iraq war, might displace Labour's Anne Campbell MP in favour of David Howarth, a fellow at Clare.

For one night only Cambridge became the focus of much national attention. But it became more too. It became political. The urgency and dynamism simmering amongst the crowd queuing around Market Square invoked Dickensian scenes of public solidarity. This was People Politics with two capital P's, the residents of a city coming out in force to engage and interact with the democratic process. For all the endless talk of student apathy and disenchantment, the message from Cambridge was clear: we care, and we want something to vote for.

As James Dacre (page 5) and Archie Bland (opposite) write today, there is little consensus on what precisely students should vote for. This needn't be a bad thing: the absence of consensus can fuel political debate. Students across the city have a responsibility to participate positively in this debate and ought, really, to vote on May 5th. Whether the immediate political future of Cambridge is on the verge of major upheaval is a matter fit only for conjecture; but that the student vote will be decisive in influencing the outcome is a cause for celebration.

All this carries overtures, of course, of another era. In the late 60's and early 70's, student activism played a more influential role in the development of Western culture than it ever has done before. Today's students should seek to play an equally active role. This needn't require extremist or fashionable causes; rather it requires basic compassion, the suspension of ignorance, and a touch of common sense. The last of these at least our student populace ought to consider both desirable.

Statutory last words

Permit me this final indulgence, will you? Archie had his, so I shall have mine. Thanks, everyone, for making *Varsity* much more than a newspaper. I sincerely believe there is no other institution in Cambridge in which students of such diversity, creativity, and exuberance come together to make a product of such widespread appeal, or to have so much fun; nor, as far as I know, is there any institution which I would rather have been involved in.

Enormous thanks to all those in the tabular column on page 10. But especially to: Eve, for her extraordinary generosity, energy, and patience; to Henry and James, for tempering their ferocious intellects with wonderful humour; to Lucy and Chine, for unstinting dedication and never complaining; to Ifti and David, without whose uncommon common sense and exceptional kindness this paper would not exist; and to Archie, for his honesty and compassion, and for being by some margin the finest writer and journalist I've ever worked with. To *TCS*, for being a sister paper rather than a rival, and for keeping us honest and on our toes with some outstanding journalism and innovation. Most of all, perhaps, thanks to the noble, adventurous, and incorrigible Boozehounds, who have been throughout this term and the past 3 years my greatest inspiration, and who brought to Cambridge a vitality and spirit it previously lacked.

Student journalism matters, you know. I've got to say it, because if I don't I'll forever regret not abusing this power sufficiently. We and *TCS* do more than launch careers and get names in print: we scare those who run the University, and keep them from lying to us. That we also review plays and rugby matches, amongst others things, makes our contribution to Cambridge irreplaceable.

Read on, dear reader. Without you we are nothing, hackneyed though that phrase is. Talking of which: see page 6 again for how to become a part of this wonderful institution. You can't have missed it: I'm the elephant blowing his own trumpet.

On 4 March *Varsity* published a report on the appointment of a new Senior Tutor at King's, which included allegations about Dr Moggridge. We would like to reiterate that the allegations of improper conduct and verbal abuse have been strongly denied, and acknowledge that there has been no complaint of either improper conduct or verbal abuse made against Dr Moggridge. Dr Moggridge's statements and publications concerning the admissions system were intended as contributions towards its continuing improvement. We apologise for any distress this may have caused.

Letters

letters@varsity.co.uk

Letters may be edited for space or style

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 yes, look at this, it's great!' I'm referring to Adam Edelshain's excellent article 'Are students too lazy to watch football?' which compelled me to write in 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, watching the away fans pick their way through mud in winter and cows in summer on the way to the ground is funny, the player's haircuts are funny, the song played after a victory is funny (It's 'I've got a lovely bunch of coconuts' incase you're interested), the children reading out the raffle are funny, the half time entertainment is funny, watching our captain get into a punch up with his own teammate is pure comedy.

Funniest of all is Danny Webb, the worst striker I've ever seen (and I've seen many). 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 United is as much a prestigious institution as Cambridge University only with more personality. Nick Hornby raved about them in his book 'Fever pitch' and put us on the literary map. Dion Dublin, Steve Claridge, Danny Granville and Jody Craddock have all played in the premiership and all played for Cambridge Utd.

Our goalie 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 keep hold of the Maccelsfield Psalter but which will do nothing to stop our professional football team disintegrating 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 Habbin Stand season-ticket holder.

Corrective

Sir,

Apostrophe. Front page; number 618. No.

Etc,

Peter Parkes
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, school discipline blah blah but on what 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 his spray-tan riposte? 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 ginto the hands of those who charge him with having sold the Iraq war to the British public with all the candour of a second hand car salesman. Whilst the big two fight for skin tone supremacy, don't forget the single malt ruddiness of Charlie Kennedy.

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

Yours cosmetically,

Martin van Jaarsveld
Rotterdam

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 they will not gain re-election here.

Given all that has happened over the past 8 years, we feel a duty to highlight the record of our MP, the promises she has made, and the manner in which her actions have directly contradicted these.

Re-elected in 1997 with a huge swing, declaring that 'Labour will not allow universities to introduce tuition fees', Anne Campbell then proceeded to vote for their introduction within the year.

Perhaps in part due to her duplicity over the fees issue, Cambridge saw one of the largest swings against Labour anywhere in the country in 2001. 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 declared 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 specifics of the massive changes this government has made to higher education policy, the fact remains that despite attempts at 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 all students cast their votes next Thursday and that they do so in Cambridge. Let's make ourselves heard.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Brinded,
(Former CUSU President)
Dave Chapman,
(Former President, King's JCR)
Dom Clarke,
(Former President, Trinity JCR)
Tom Clarke,
(Former Chair, CUSU LBGT)
Dave Hall,
(Former President, Clare JCR)
John Hayward,
(Former CUSU Education Officer)

A call to action (x2)

Dear Editor and Electorate,

A large and misinformed proportion of voters think that the Lib Dems would make the best government but are not planning on voting for them. A recent poll conducted by ICM suggested that 39% of the electorate would vote Lib Dem if they thought that the Lib Dems could win in their constituency (ICM 19th April).

In reality, the Lib Dem vote is more likely to be around 21% and they will continue to be the third party in British politics. Why do these crucial 18% think and act in this way? And are

they right to do so?

Firstly, the Labour government have succeeded in manipulating and capitalising on the fear that a vote for Lib Dems will let the Tories back in. In fact, the opposite is true since 70 of the Lib Dems top 100 target seats are held by Tories and only 24 by Labour (bbc.co.uk).

Secondly, people think that the Lib Dems are irrelevant since they 'can't win anyway'. Again wrong. Even if the Lib Dems were to just equal the Tories, there would be real policy impacts.

New Labour is currently drawn to the right by the Tory threat, as evident in the battle to be 'tough on immigration'. With a Lib Dem challenge their policies would swing left, closer to the preferences of the electorate if the above poll is correct.

Go out and tell your friends...

Matthew Bolton

Shades of Green

Dear Sir,

I was extremely disappointed to see the baseless claims of a few radical environmentalists given such prominence in your last issue.

Any serious discussion of so called "climate change" must acknowledge just how ephemeral the alleged change is and how fanciful the propositions to reverse or halt this alleged change truly are.

Given the multitude of problems facing the world today it seems overly indulgent 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 only think exists 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 caveats and controversy, no one could deny that millions starve, millions more are forced to choose between shelter and food and millions more between housing and education. These are the global issues that we should devote ourselves too, not the nebulous fears of environmentalists.

Yours sincerely

Mark Moredim

Fly away to enlightenment



Jessica Holland

So what are you up to over the summer? Prepare yourself, it's a question that will become increasingly frequent over the coming weeks, a welcome (if predictable) alternative to 'Shit – was it Nagel or Block who came up with the 'pleasure machine' counter-example to a single, hedonistic criterion of value for ethical theories?' But think carefully before you answer, (the first question that is, although answers on a postcard to the second are also welcome) you're revealing more than you think.

We're the generation for whom travel is the only rebirth left: the only remaining apocalypse that will give our lives meaning, and that will never, ever let us down. Bridget Jones aside, we shared-custody children don't expect our spiritual culmination to occur once we find Mr. Darcy and settle down in the suburbs. We know that sex is all about serotonin and evolution and that it will all end in tears. And, while the days of finding a deeper level to our existence in religion are long gone for the majority of us, we're still far too sensible to spend our mornings wrapped in a duvet, listening to Portishead, coming down from whatever chemicals let the universe reveal itself as benev-

olence and light the night before.

Travel is easy. It won't hurt you (as long as you insure your iPod, get the right jabs, and carry a rape alarm); you won't find out that it doesn't exist, that it slept with someone else, or that it fucked up your short-term memory. You don't need to invest emotionally in it, or make any kind of pro-active contribution that doesn't involve travellers' cheques. But it fills that pesky modern-life-is-rubbish hole by making you feel simultaneously anonymous enough that nothing really matters, and more vibrantly substantial.

Richard Linklater's 1994 film *Before Sunrise* captures perfectly the feeling of stepping off a train with the heady feeling that you can be anyone, do anything, say anything. It cons you into thinking the headrush is about love; but we all know from our GCSE knowledge of Romeo and Juliet, that heady, doomed romance doesn't translate into the real world of schedules and monotony. When you're sun-

We all know that sex will end in tears

kissed and carefree in sandals with one thumb holding your place in a battered copy of *On The Road* it's easy to think that every bum you sit next to is some kind of a soul-mate. You're in love with the version of yourself that these strangers see: without past or future. You're in love with the romance of travel, the reinven-



Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy in *Before Sunrise*, the sequel to *Before Sunrise*

tion that it allows.

People are now wise to the fact that Ikea sells you a lifestyle dream as well as mere furniture. You buy Haagen-daaazs because the people who eat it on the advert have sex, and Staples stationary because it promises you order in your life, and shoes for sex, and beer in a glass bottle because of, um, sex. But travel, an industry that's booming like never before, is still seen as a genuinely spiritual investment. (Getting laid is just an added bonus.) It's the perfect consumer good for a difficult niche: the idealistic 'Kill-Your-

TV' young, who smirk at their parents' transparent materialism in favour of a languid process of self-realisation that

You're in love with the version of yourself that strangers see

contributes relatively little to the economy, except from the proceeds of the odd Sonic Youth record or copy of Adbusters.

But hey, we've all got to find a buzz somehow, and nothing comes for free. Before

embarking on a voyage of self-discovery in Peru, you could try taking a look for yourself in a local park – with dark enough sunglasses and someone spinning poi in your face you might just be able to fool yourself – but we all know that for an apocalypse now there's nothing like getting off a train somewhere far, far away. Select your destination carefully; because next the next time someone asks you where you're going for the summer, you'll know that they don't want an itinerary, but a glimpse of your own private religion.

The Pope must do more to stop AIDS



Tom Ebbutt

Though the white smoke rising from the Sistine Chapel is meant to symbolise the bringing in of the new, Pope Benedict XVI threatens to mirror all that was most conservative about the papacy that preceded him. Though steadfastness in the face of the winds of fashion is for many what they respect the most about the Catholic Church, there is one issue where change has to occur. From within the comfortable corridors of the Vatican it may seem that this can wait. The reality on the ground is very different.

How much can numbers ever illustrate the true scale of a tragedy? Approximately 25 million people in Africa are presently infected with HIV/AIDS, two-thirds of all those infected around the world. During 2003 the continent bore the weight of an esti-

mate two and a half million AIDS related deaths. Infection rates are increasing rather than levelling off, in 2003 there were approximately three million new infections.

While there are other means of infection the vast majority occur through sexual intercourse. When sexual intercourse occurs there is only one means that provides almost certain protection from HIV/AIDS infection and that is the use of condoms. The Catholic Church, not believing in either sex before marriage or the prevention of conception, believes condoms should not be offered as a means of preventing HIV/AIDS. It believes that abstinence before marriage should 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 aid agency CAFOD, which has partial autonomy from the Church itself, has begun to recognise that this is the case and has adopted the internationally recognised ABC method – Abstain, Be faithful, use a

Condom – in its work. The ABC method, used by AIDS education organisation throughout Africa, recognises that there are many instances in which the promotion of condom use is not appropriate. It is far from the aims of these organisations to encourage sexual activity: putting aside any moral agenda, though a condom might be used from the first to the tenth time, if it is not on the eleventh, due to lack of

The cycle of ignorance, misinformation and death

availability or for whatever reason, it gives the same chance of infection as if it was not used in the first place. Therefore information on prevention is provided following the idea that you should A, and if you can't do A do B and if you can't do B do C. If you don't do C then you live with the threat of D.

Though CAFOD's stance is progress, the majority of the harm caused by the Catholic Church's stance continues to be done. In Kenya priests tell their congregations a whole number

of outright lies in order to turn them away from condom use. They say that condoms have holes in them that let through the HIV/AIDS virus. They say that condoms make you infertile, that if you use them you are not a man. They say that the West sends second-class condoms to Africa which are likely to break if you use them. The most subtle method I heard of was a priest who told his congregation to go home, blow up a condom and put it in a locked cupboard for a week. When you open the cupboard the condom will have gone down, thus, he said, proving that it has holes in it (rather than that no knot is 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, this is the reality of what it is preaching there.

Though it is correct that, as the Church argues, the use of condoms prevents the possibility of life, their absence, in countries where antiretrovirals are almost entirely absent, produces

a Russian roulette where if you lose you face almost certain death. It is very difficult to conceive of how the Catholic church, particularly with the new Pope's forceful views on moral relativism, cannot see the saving of life already existing as equally worthy of protection as the creation of new life.

Any continuation of this position seems certain to increase the drift towards secularisation that is occurring in Europe, the Church's traditional heart. Perhaps it does not see this as a problem. However without a change in what it preaches in Africa the cycle 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.

Tom Ebbutt is a former editor of Varsity. He helps to run a HIV/AIDS education project for a charity which works in south-west Kenya. The views expressed within the article are his own. The statistics in the article are from the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS.

B a b b l e s h o p

Ned Beauman

Apparently the Haribo Truck is to visit the Oxford Union this term. It's not coming to Cambridge. The news makes me very bitter. I would await the arrival of the Haribo Truck with more excitement than most Christians await the Second Coming of Christ. Still, all is not lost, because I recently discovered the Regent Street Convenience Store (67 Regent Street, opposite the Light Bar), the best place in Cambridge (in the world?) to buy Haribo. They stock twenty-one different types of Haribo, including some of the most rare and esoteric varieties such as Strawbs and Magic Mix, and, thrillingly, they're open until 11 at night, later than Sainsbury's. They also have lots of Maynards and Rowntree products, as well as (an increasingly rare sight these days) loose tubs of snakes and cola bottles for a few pence each.

I interviewed Iftikhar, the very friendly manager of the store. Do people come to the shop just to buy sweets? 'That is the whole idea. If somebody wants sweets, they know where to come.' Sweets are popular among all ages, he says, proving the famous old aphorism about Haribo. Did the recent acquisition by Maynards of Midget Gems and (the connoisseur's choice) Sports Mixture, formerly manufactured by the Lions, affect his business? 'No.' (To be honest, that very much surprises me. It's surely the biggest thing in the sweets industry since Trebor Bassett took over Maynards in 1990.)

I ask him what his highest-selling variety is. 'Tangfastics.' I smile ruefully at this. In my younger days, I could gulp down a postprandial packet of Tangfastics as easily as if they were those sickeningly bland health-food shop 'sweets' made out of fennel and acorns and guava, but I'm getting old now, and when I eat a packet I know I won't be able to taste my food for days. That doesn't always stop me, of course. In fact, I often have visions of myself in ten years' time: a beautiful, tear-soggy woman tries to tear a tub of Haribo from my hands. 'Please, Ned, no more! Unless you sell another story soon we won't be able to pay the gas bill!' 'Get away from me, Zelda, you loveless hag!' I end up stuffing Kiddie Mix down her delicate, bird-like throat, my vision blurring from tears and from sugar overdose. She gets a divorce, and her lawyers steal away all the royalties from my brilliant first novel. I die alone... Alone but for my sweets...

But I digress. The only serious alternative to the Regent Street Convenience Store is Reynold's Sweets on the corner of the market. You'll pay higher prices there, but it's often worth it, because they painstakingly separate the individual sweets into different types and put them in little plastic wraps. In Paris, you can buy whole packets of Haribo Crocodiles (my personal favourite) from vending machines on the Metro (damn the French!), but in this country you have to bootleg them. Anyway, I know how I'll be surviving exam term.

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 in demand. Unfairly 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 the current political climate.

'I don't think its apathy' for apathy is 'passive disengagement': but in this election she feels the public are merely demonstrating their desire for a change from 'traditional politics.' Jowell infers that a transformation of British politics has and is taking place, and now politics is something more exciting, more relevant and more in tune with what people care about.

Jowell remains defiant insisting the 'big idea is still

public services' but admitting that local issues carry more weight and 'translate more meaningfully' than numbers, statistics and national wrangling. '£700 million investment in the NHS means less than the personal guarantee that you know you won't have to wait two weeks to see a breast cancer specialist.'

There seems a genuine desire to renegotiate the realms of what politics can be, and make a specific effort to demonstrate how it can be relevant to the lives of the electorate. Party politics seems in Jowell's vision to be if not secondary, then not necessarily the most important factor in modern politics, engagement and emphasis on the personal interests of the electorate the main project of the politicians of the future.

But there appear to be dangers in this new spirit of personal politics. Because, as Jowell points out there is a fundamental 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, Veritas, BNP and Respect all deserve note for their strong leaders.

Does the success of small parties represent more evidence of the importance of

the individual or rather the increasing engagement of people in localised and marginal issues?

Jowell sees the success of small parties as part of the culture of local politics, she reiterated her belief that in modern politics 'regional identity is more important' but she is quick to note that 'UKIP, BNP, Veritas all trade in one thing... people's sense of grievance.' Do these marginal parties serve any direct purpose in the British political system? Jowell is resolute 'the fact is that small parties engage and pressure in what can be a rather sectarian way...that's fine, democracy can and should withstand that kind of debate.'

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 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.

This is made even more true in the 'culture of openness' fostered by the Freedom



Culture Secretary Jowell is tipped for a leading post in the next Blair cabinet, if Labour win on 5 May

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,

As Jowell points out, there is a difference between personal politics and the increasing representation of politicians as individuals rather than party members

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.



Varsity Archive

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, crêpes 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 our 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.

Jesus May Ball: Xanadu

Monday 20 June
 £85 Single Non Dining; £120 Single Dining
www.jesusmayball.com

The Jesus May Ball is the third biggest annual May Week event and this year will continue the tradition of also being one of the best value and most fun balls, set in some of the most beautiful and extensive surroundings in Cambridge, which date from the 12th Century.

Themed after Xanadu – Kubla Khan, a poem written after an opium-induced trip by Jesuan alumnus Coleridge, the 2005 Jesus College May Ball will itself be a dream world, emulating the 'state-ly pleasure-dome' described in the poem, with strong influences from the far-East.

The food and drink will suit every palate, from fresh luxury crepes to specialist cheese selection together with the highlights of Pimms, Sloe gin, cocktails, Whisky in the Gentlemen's Club and Bailey's in the Ladies' Powder Room. Chill out with green tea in the massage marquee and finish the extravaganza with a comprehensive breakfast, both of the traditional cooked and freshly baked continental varieties.

Entertainment will as usual be first class. We have again planned a crowd-pleasing variety of performances and activities to top last year's acts, New Zealand superstar Bic Runga and MOBO award winner Lynden David Hall. There will be four ents marquees with acrobatics, comedy, dance instruction, classical, jazz, close harmony, a disco, a casino and more. These and a dedicated fun-fair area will certainly prevent guests from getting bored.



Varsity Archive

Pembroke June Event: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Wednesday 22nd June
 £48

Continuing the tradition of hosting the highest quality event in Cambridge, Pembroke June Event is preparing for the biggest crowd yet.

This year, Pembroke invites you to celebrate the ancient festival of Midsummer with them. The journey will take you straight into the world of this all-time favourite Shakespeare comedy. Set in the beautiful grounds of Pembroke, it's promising to be an exciting night – so exciting you won't notice the time fly by as you are having the time of your life!

Along the way, indulge in a variety of foods and drink to suit every taste. Dance the night away with some of the best up-and-coming acts, or take a few moments to enjoy one of our shows.

And why not try your luck in the casino? You might even walk away with one of our fabulous prizes! Those fancying more action are invited to show their skill on the bucking bronco and have a play on the inflatable. If it's all getting a bit too much, take some time out and relax in our massage parlour. Let us take away all your stress so you feel refreshed and ready to roll on!

With all of this at only £48, it's the best value for money you'll find this May Week!

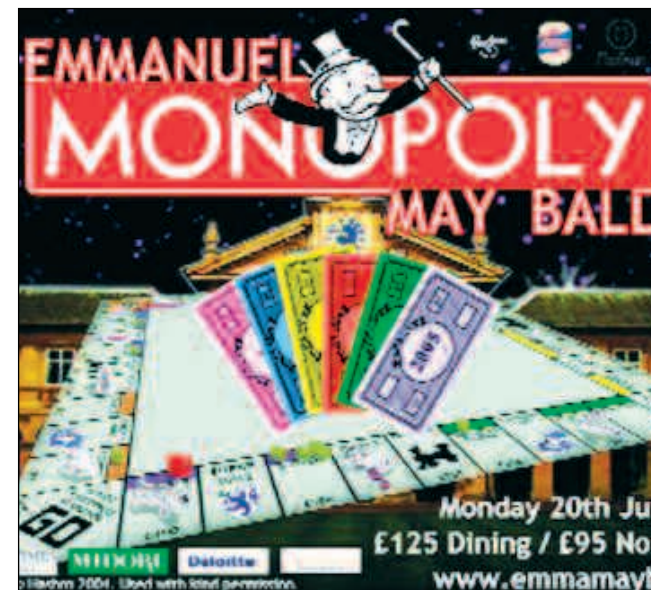
Emmanuel May Ball: Monopoly

Monday 20th June
 £95 Single Non Dining; £125 Single Dining
www.emmamayball.com

On Monday 20th June 2005, 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 round 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



traversing Trafalgar Square then run away to Piccadilly Circus! For one night only, Monopoly is the game where everyone wins.

Go Directly To Ball!



St John's May Ball

Date: Tuesday 21 June
Tickets: Double £215; Double Dining 11pm £280; Double Dining 8.30pm £300
Website: www.stjohnsmayball.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 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-conceived. Certainly, guests can be sure to expect a number of pleasant surprises.

Despite these transformations, The May Ball 2005 will strive to fulfil 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 unrivalled variety to keep appetites awake until the early hours.

The backs, under New Court's imposing gaze, will be treated to a new emphasis with entertainments promising to be spectacular. Similarly, the calibre of our musical and comedy acts in 2005 will be unquestionable. The May Ball committee looks 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
£53
www.kingsaffair.com

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

Join us for a night that will truly fuse the grandeur of Cambridge with the passions of its students. Enter the frenzy with ceilidh dancing, 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 cannot fail to look your best, but then again, who cares? Inhale deeply, sinking into a haze of shisha smoke. Comedians, jazz singers, a hypnotist and entertainers appear like visions in the mist around you. Music reverberates from room to room: drum and bass, R'n'B, hip hop, Bhangra, indie, ska, cheese and funk- you cannot help but move your feet. The line-up includes THE DEPARTURE, DJ MARKY, PORTISHEAD Andy Smith DJ, Scrub, Sons of the Tribe, Swerve, Bad Science and Hiphopratives, plus loads of homegrown Cambridge stars and many others to be confirmed.

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 Giant 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
Dining £107, Non-dining £80
www.robinsonmayball.co.uk

Kicking off May Week in traditionally 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 alight 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 'nine hours of pure escapism', this year's committee is looking to consolidate Robinson's reputation for hosting a first-class, value-for-money Ball. Infamous for 'great music', past headliners include Athlete, Har Mar Superstar, N-Trance, and the James Taylor Quartet. 'Express' will uphold Robinson's first-rate Ents line-up while also providing mouth-watering food and drink and 'fireworks... to rival the best of Cambridge balls'.

The scope of this year's theme allows for exciting gastronomic possibilities; we promise a fine selection of speciality food and drink unique to Europe's most tempting cities. The old favourites, including the all-night



Robinson May Ball

hog roast and full barbeque, will return along with new additions such as fine Italian ice-cream, luxury crepes, and the original chocolate fountain, made famous at London premieres. Drink served at the Ball will range from the fine to the fun, with a medley of vintage still and sparkling wines alongside the vodka luge and professional cocktail bar.

Regular May Ball attractions can also be found at Robinson; the Dodgems make a welcome return as do the swingboats, professional casino, makeovers and massage, films, plays, photographer, inflatables, and bucking bronco. There will be something for everyone at this year's Ball; innovative changes coupled with the regular attractions that we've always done best, will ensure that guests dance, drink and soak up the decadence until the 'Express' reaches its final destination.

Their website gives you a taster of the Beast like theme: "Witness Cambridge's hallowed spires engulfed by darkness, feel the pulsing throb of drums, the howls of your trine. Cast off the tattered rags of academe and submit to nature. For one night a Beast is loose...And it's calling you".

The tickets always sell out quickly. It's the perfect mid week event once you're getting tired of balls and oysters and would rather a night of dancing in jeans while sipping cocktails and swigging tequillas. 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 japey and raucous fun.

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 Ball, 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 to all 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...



Paul Troughton, www.occasionalphotography.co.uk

Queens' May Ball

Tuesday 21st June
Single £102; Double £204
www.queensball.com

Whether you wish to fill your stomachs with exquisite food and drink, or feed the soul with fine music and beautiful surroundings, Queens' May Ball will not disappoint. With its long running tradition for excellence, the 21st of June promises to be an unforgettable experience.

As the sun sets on the longest day of the year, sleep will be the last thing on the revellers' minds. Wandering through the scenic courts and cloisters they can choose to sample unforgettable food, enjoy the varied music and entertainment, party hard alongside the many bands and DJs, or simply absorb the atmosphere of elegance and class.

Guests will be overwhelmed by the choice of refreshments and activities, and the night will pass all too swiftly for those lucky enough to have got hold of a ticket to a hugely oversubscribed event.


Trinity Hall Event

Wednesday 22 June
£49
www.thjuneevent.com

Renowned throughout Cambridge as one of the best event's in May Week. With excellent value for money it is rumoured you're never more than 5 meters from alcohol. Last year The Bluetones headlined the event with a rapturous response from a very satisfied audience.

/ g u i d e	// s t a g e	/ m u s i c	/ t h e r e s t
FRIDAY 29		QUEENS' UNION Grease ent Pirates of the Carribean bop	SUPPER 19:30 Cambridge University Jewish Society @ Student Centre, Thompsons Lane BOOZE 22:00 CULANU presents ONEG @ Culanu Centre
SATURDAY 30			DEBATE 20:30 TrinPol and Queens' Political Society Election Debate: David Howarth Lib Dem PPC vs Ian Lyon, Conservative PPC @ Trinity College Old Combination Room
SUNDAY 1			YOGA 17:30 Weekly yoga - Hatha Martin Bond @ Fitzwilliam Reddaway Room
MONDAY 2	21:00 Corpus GODS present Noonday Demons	FEZ Fat Poppadaddys Funky and soulful sounds	YOGA 17:30 Weekly yoga - Hatha Martin Bond @ Fitzwilliam Reddaway Room CLASSICAL13:15 Russian Music Festival @ Clare Chapel CLASSICAL20:00 Festival Opening Concert @ Clare Chapel
TUESDAY 3	21:00 Corpus GODS present Noonday Demons 19.45 ADC ADC present A Delicate Balance 23.00 ADC Footlights Smoker	LIFE BALLARE Unique CUSU's lesbigay night FEZ Top Banana CUSU ents flagship night JUNCTION Ebonics Mix of hip hop, dancehall, reggae Mylo	YOGA 17:30 Weekly yoga - Hatha Martin Bond @ Darwin Common Room or Gardens YOGA 19:40 Iyengar Mark Singleton @ King's Chetwynd Room CLASSICAL13:15 Russian Music Festival @ Clare Chapel CLASSICAL20:00 Festival Opening Concert @ Clare Chapel
WEDNESDAY 4	21:00 Corpus GODS present Noonday Demons 19.45 ADC ADC present A Delicate Balance 23.00 ADC HATS present The Age of Consent	BALLARE Rumboogie Cheese FEZ Mi Casa Tu Casa International snight KING'S BAR Kieran Halpin Concert	CLASSICAL13:15 Russian Music Festival @ Clare Chapel CLASSICAL20:00 Festival Opening Concert @ Clare Chapel
THURSDAY 5	21:00 Corpus GODS present Noonday Demons 19.45 ADC ADC present A Delicate Balance 23.00 ADC HATS present The Age of Consent	FEZ Wild Style Award winning night of hip hop	

Divided by differing flavours Undivided passion for noodles




DOJO's new menu offers a bewildering range of noodle dishes from diverse cultures of the Far East.

Indulge in our array of exquisite new noodle dishes made from the freshest ingredients and with far-flung flavours originating from different corners of the Orient.

What's more, at **DOJO**, down the best imported beers that the Orient has to offer.

Thinking of Oriental nosh? Think **DOJO**

DOJO Noodle Bar
1-2 Millers Yard
Mill Lane Cambridge CB2 1AQ
T: 01223 363 471
www.dojonoodlebar.co.uk



Opening Times

Mon - Thurs	12 - 2:30pm & 5:30 - 11pm
Fri	12 - 4pm & 5:30 - 11pm
Sat - Sun	12 - 11pm

noodlessence

Own a PC?

Why not put it to work?

Up to £1,000-£2,500 pm
around existing schedule

www.heapofcash.co.uk

House to let, North
Cambridge, July, August.
Two bedrooms, garden,
quiet, light,
Good neighbourhood.
Bicycle to centre 15 min.
£ 775 p/m excluding bills.
01223 363761
rheaquien@aol.com

We have £1300 to give away!

King's College would like to encourage applicants for 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>

You are cordially invited to attend The Annual Semitic Philology Lecture

Semitic Languages in an
Afro-Asiatic Perspective

Professor Andrzej Zaborski
Jagiellonian University of Krakow
5.00pm, Tuesday 10th May, 2005
The Runcie Room, Faculty of
Divinity, West Road (Sidgwick Site)
Followed by a reception

The Semitic languages form a sub-group of a larger group of languages known as Afro-Asiatic. The lecture will take a broad look at this linguistic relationship and discuss, among other things, its implications for the reconstruction of prehistoric population movements, the light it casts on several issues of Semitic philology such as the background of the Hebrew verbal system and the question as to whether Arabic is the most archaic Semitic language.

ALL ARE WELCOME

S a m S m i l e y

68 Trumpington Street

Special Offer

Free Large Filter Coffee
or Tea with any filled
product before 10.30am.

available from 11.00am

Only £1.50

Pembroke Players

Applications to direct in
Michaelmas Term
Deadline 9th May @ 9am.
Information online at
www.pembrokeplayers.org
Or contact Ben Irving
(baji2)

Writinghawk TC announce
AUDITIONS FOR

"Relatively speaking"
by Mark Wainwright at the Hill Street
Theatre, Edinburgh 18-29 August

Parts: 2 male, early 20s
1 male and 1 female, approx 60

OCR, Trinity College
Saturday 30 April, 12-6pm

Contact: Alex Clay, 07946 351051

Cambridge Mummers announce AUDITIONS for their Edinburgh Fringe Tourshow rom.com

1-4pm Sat 30th Apr,
King's College Chetwynd Room
1-4pm Sun 1st May
King's College Keynes Hall

Various parts including male lead
Contact: sjm211



The Amateur Dramatic Club



The ADC and Footlights announce...

APPLICATIONS are now open to

(1) WRITE and (2) DIRECT

the 2005 ADC/Footlights Christmas Pantomime.

Please send your applications to Ben Deery (bpd23) and Simon Bird (sab77) by FRIDAY 13th MAY.

Interviews will be held on the 21st and 22nd of May.

For details about how to apply, please consult www.cuadc.org



WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE
AUDITIONS FOR

'The Lion the Witch and the
Wardrobe'

Adapted by Adrian Mitchell

Auditions for this diverse and colourful
Mayweek production will be held from
12-6pm, Sat 30th April and Sun 1st May at
Emmanuel College.



The Amateur Dramatic Club

The ADC Edinburgh
production of

ASTRAKHAN WINTER

is looking for a

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

For more info or to apply
contact: erew2

TWELFTH NIGHT

by William Shakespeare
20th-23rd June 2005

Audition times:
2-6pm, Peterhouse Music Room,
Sat 30th April & Sun 1st May

About the production:
Set amidst the high society of the 1920s, it will be smart, sexy and hilarious, but most of all, human. With an excellent team, including veterans of the ADC, Marlowe Society, Edinburgh Fringe, and a director who toured Vancouver in 2003 performing in Twelfth Night - this will be a great production! Interested in joining us? Come along to the friendly and fun auditions!

Further info: Any further questions?
Email Krystina on flyingnelly@hotmail.com for more details.

Produced by:
The Heywood Society, Peterhouse
Theatre & Film Society



BLOOD
PRESSURE
STUDY



EARN £15

1 hour visit performed in town centre for your
convenience.

Please contact Rachel Westcott

(Research Nurse) at: rw311@cam.ac.uk,

or tel: (01223) 586 852

Vascular Research Clinics, University of Cambridge

stressed?

Talk about it.

Most people need a little support during exam term.
But everyone seems too busy to talk to you...

Linkline, the Cambridge University and APU nightline, provides confidential, non-judgemental listening and information every night during full term. There's always a female and a male student available to talk to you about anything, at any time of the night. You can call us on the numbers below. Or you can drop by 17 St. Edward's Passage, just round the corner from HSBC on Market Square. Have a look at our website if you want a bit more information about us before calling.



linkline
01223 744444 / 01223 367575
7pm to 7am during full term
www.linkline.org.uk

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

2005

Solve your
accommodation
problems by calling
Carole Smith
/ Anne Goring
on 01620 810 620
email address:
festflats@aol.com
or write to Festival Flats,
3 Linkylea Cottages,
Gifford, East Lothian,
EH41 4PE
www.festivalflats.net



Domino's

The Pizza Delivery Experts

Great tasting, great
value pizza for
delivery
and collection

Dominos, Cambridge: 01223 355155
27 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1NW

Health-checking the General Election

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

Zoe Smeaton

As May 5th approaches, and the fight to promote manifestos and win support continues, health and health-related topics have emerged as the most important election issue 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 success of his Channel 4 series *Jamie's School Dinners*, quietly conservative celebrity chef Jamie Oliver captured the nation's interest in health concerns, presenting the Prime Minister with a petition signed

by over 271,000 individuals to support his Feed Me Better campaign. He has highlighted the health issues faced by schoolchildren and aims to persuade all schools to replace ready-made food with more nutritious options prepared from scratch.

The infamous 'turkey twizzler' seems to have forced its reclaimed and over-processed way into every election manifesto. Labour has pledged an extra £280m to improve school meal ingredients 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 'Club2School' scheme. This initiative gives every child 'the right to choose two hours of after-school sport with qualified coaches', winning the party brownie points with 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 major parties' 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 question of waiting times. Patients across Britain are again demanding reduced delays in receiving treatment and operations, despite Government figures showing an improvement 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 believes that this trend would continue under their leadership, with the goal that by 2008 there should be 'no one waiting more than 18 weeks from referral to treatment.'

For many, however, this 'progress' is still not good enough. A report published in *Clinical Oncology* in 2004 (by Ash, Barrett, Hinks and Squire) suggested that in fact the waiting times for certain treatments had increased between 1998 and 2003. A national audit was carried out of all centres offering radiotherapy treatment to cancer patients in the UK, and the results showed that in 2003 fewer patients were being treated within the time limits set by the JCCO (Joint



Allen Kerr

Collegiate Council for Oncology) as standards for good practice.

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 these 'hidden waiting lists' make waiting lists and times much larger in reality, putting public health at further risk.

But for some voters, it is not the waiting list which poses a lethal threat, but the hospitals themselves. Hospital acquired infection, particularly the MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) 'superbug', has become a headline issue in recent month, pushed

to the foreground by high profile deaths such as that of 36-hour-old baby Luke Day in February.

The Conservative manifesto states that 'rates of the superbug MRSA have doubled since 1997', and the Liberal Democrats believe this to be the fault of the Government's waiting time targets for hospitals. They say that 'under Labour, waiting time targets are more important than fighting superbugs' and 'almost half of hospital managers had said that Government targets caused conflicts with their efforts to control infections.'

Labour however places the blame for these problems on the Conservatives, whom they believe should have worked to destroy MRSA in the early 1990's but instead 'did not even keep records about the

incidence of MRSA.'

Whilst the parties continue to argue over where the blame should lie, they are all agreed that MRSA is a major health issue and needs to be tackled. Labour wants to 'consult on new laws to enforce higher hygiene standards,' the Conservatives plan to give Local Inspection Teams the powers to lead the fight, and the Liberal Democrats intend to 'scrap political targets which hamper the fight against infection.'

It is difficult to be sure which strategy would be most effective at solving the MRSA problem, but whatever voters' opinions on the parties' individual policies may be, it seems certain that their views on these and other health issues will play a major role in deciding the outcome of the next General Election.

Politicians & Paedophiles

Jamie Horder

The release of Jonathan King in March after a jail sentence for committing serious sexual offences on boys aged 14 and 15, protesting his innocence and likening himself to Oscar Wilde, brought paedophilia into the media spotlight once again.

Any mention of the issue, from the *Daily Mail* and TV's *Brass Eye* to the recent film *The Woodsman*, is guaranteed to garner a reaction, whether it is heated debate or targeting of suspected individuals with systematic hate campaigns.

Paedophilia is 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 NSPCC places the figure even higher, at one in five children.

Kinsey's famous survey of America in the 1950s revealed that 24% of women reported 'prepubescent sexual experience

with a postpubertal male' and another American study revealed that nearly two thirds of men fantasized about sex with young girls, with one in three enjoying the idea of adult rape. A frightening study of male col-

Paedophilia appears to have faded from political focus

lege students put the number of those attracted to young girls at 21%, with 7% saying they would act upon their impulses if they could do so without detection.

Whilst this data was collected in America, and so does not directly relate to the situation in Britain, the fact that these figures are likely to be underestimates should be a major cause for concern for police, social workers and politicians alike.

Perhaps the main problem in dealing with paedophilia arises from the stigma attached to the issue. Many people are understandably reluctant to admit an attraction to children and the attempt to discover what proportion of people experience sexual contact with adults as children is hindered by the fact

that most abuse goes unreported at the time.

With the right resources though, some attempt can be made at rehabilitation. Paedophilia is a mental health issue, with scope for detailed scientific research by psychologists. The condition is defined as a sexual attraction to pre-pubescent children and is one of a group of psychiatric disorders known as 'paraphilias', which encompass exhibitionism and necrophilia.

Victims, especially women, face an increased risk of psychiatric problems in later life including depression, eating disorders, and drug abuse.

But what of the abusers? The vast majority are male – just one in thirty is a woman – and most are attracted only to girls. Despite the popular image of a 'dodgy' stranger kidnapping children in the playground, only a small number of the victims of paedophiles are unknown to their assailants and the majority of child abusers already have a close relationship with their victims, with about half being their parents or step-parents.

Whilst some evidence seems to support the 'cycle of abuse' theory (victims going on to

become abusers) only about 10% of male victims of sexual abuse go on to commit abuse in future, and the majority of abusers were not previously victims.

It has been suggested that paedophiles have an impaired ability to control their sexual impulses as a result of certain forms of brain damage that may have origins in childhood experiences or genetics, and most paedophiles also suffer from other mental health problems. Factors as diverse as being the second or third male child in your family, hormonal imbalances, and suffering head injury as a child are all correlated with paedophilia. Various treatments are available which show some success, including counselling and drugs, but medical intervention is difficult when victims are too scared or too ashamed to come forward.

But alongside rehabilitation, some responsibility must be taken for the wider affects of sexual abuse. Whether it is for the abuser, the abused, or those incorrectly accused, appropriate help must be made available at a local and national level if the current situation is to improve. Surely it's time for the politicians to step in?

Cambridge scientists are still reaching for the skies!



BlueSci is Cambridge's only popular science magazine written and produced by members of the University, and has returned for a new issue, bigger and better than ever.

The Easter term edition, out today, boasts an extended 'Focus' section which explores the issues surrounding the Hubble Space Telescope and unmanned missions to the planets. Further exciting features investigate mobile phones, synaesthesia, quantum mechanics and even the Mediterranean Sea. All your favourite regulars return as Dr Hypothesis answers more of your burning

questions, Owain Vaughan spends a day on the arts-sciences frontline and Nerissa Hannink leaves the lab for the bright lights of Hollywood.

BlueSci is produced by CUSP (Cambridge University Scientific Productions), in association with *Varsity*, and copies are available alongside *Varsity*, in libraries and in common rooms. Point your browser at www.bluesci.org if you would prefer to read BlueSci Online, which is kept packed with up-to-date news and events listings, as well as all articles and PDFs of the print edition.

If you have a passion for communicating science, or simply want to try your hand at working as part of a magazine team, get in touch with us at enquiries@bluesci.org. If you're about to graduate and would like to keep up with the world of Cambridge science, why not take out a subscription to *BlueSci*? Visit our website for more information or email subscriptions@bluesci.org.

As far as science journalism in Cambridge is concerned, the future's bright, the future's Blue.

Jonathan Zwart, Editor

www.bluesci.org



Algerian film *Keltoum's daughter*, which will be showing at the Arts Picturehouse in May

Courtesy of the Cambridge African Film Festival

pick of the week



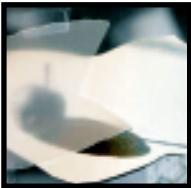
Music: Wiley + Ruff Squad
Clare Cellars, Fri 29th, 21.00

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: Hitchhiker'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 en Masse
CB2, throughout May

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 horribly tragic and wonderfully funny.

Twenty-ft reinforced metal gates were stopping me and several thousand others from getting in - all equally determined, pummelling our fists against the unbeatable barrier, half-scowling, half-pleading with the soldiers on the other side. However, not equally equipped, myself and my new South African friends possessed the festival pass (laminated plastic gold). Joan Legalamitlwa, afro-ed and sporting Jackie-O-on-acid sunglasses, shoved her pass through one of these gaps, nearly suffocating when a soldier yanked it through without realising it was round her neck. The gates opened and we were let in, along with a dozen others, the soldiers unable to stem the flow- tragically, two children died that day, and we witnessed some rather violent crowd control- but the excitement caused by the largest film festival in Africa taking place in the world's fifth poorest country is inevitable. And totally justified.

Inside, over 40,000 people were gathered to see some of West Africa's most famous musicians play for them, for free, in a spirit of inspiration and independence from a world of troubles. Rap lyrics reclaimed the right of Africa to dream, and frenetic beats excited the thousands into a frenzy of stand-hopping, hand-waving and general unchecked joy. FESPACO (Festival Pan Africain du Cinéma et de la Télévision de Ouagadougou) is held biannually in the capital of Burkina Faso, a small country north of Ghana, and as the circus rolls into town, as the pasty foreigners step off their air-conditioned aeroplanes into the heat and the glorious beats of West Africa, Ouagadougou opens its arms and throws the wildest, most surreal party many people will ever experience, everyone a friendly exotic stranger to everyone else, all united by a passion for Africa and a love of film. And a desire to leave the most impressive mark.

Watching four to five films a day fries the brain, especially when fully conscious of the fact that Africa, cool

Ouga Saga
 Sarah Jones is enchanted by Africa's biggest film festival

beers and blaring warm sweet music are awaiting outside. But everyday, two or three films would transport my mind elsewhere, into stories and allegories from across the continent- on all themes and in all styles. *Un Amour D'Enfant*, by Senegal's Ben Diogoye Beye, intimately portrayed the bitter-sweet confusion of first attraction, half-realised jealousy, and loss. *Kare Kare Zwako* (Mother's Day) is Zimbabwean writer Tsitsi Dangarembga's allegorical tale of a mother struggling to keep her spirit alive in the face of shocking (and wonderfully gruesome - you'll see what I mean if you watch this film) cruelty from her husband - with surreal musical numbers thrown in.

a frenzy of stand-hopping, hand-waving and general unchecked joy

These films are rendered all the more brilliant for their triumph against the difficulties of producing films in Africa- lack of funding, hostile authorities, 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 mixed results).

However, the two most inspiring films, in my opinion, were from Burkina. A piercingly sharp and darkly comic film about genocide in a nameless African State, *La Nuit de la Vérité*, centres upon a reconciliatory feast, but ends in the barbecuing of the rebel leader by the president's wife.

Tasuma- le feu possesses a similar comical genius, but in a completely different manner. An endearingly stubborn retired soldier cycles 50km to town every day to claim his pension, and is turned back every afternoon. His optimism gets the better of him, so he buys a corn grinder for the women of his village (on credit), resulting in a climactic tale of debt, female rebellion and riotously released frustrations (I wonder if it's the English in me that enjoyed the latter).

The end result: the grand prize went to a film about an anti-apartheid hero (who in real-life did *not* have an American accent). South Africa's Hollywood storyline and acting won the day (politics, politics) tarnishing what was an otherwise truly independent festival. Let's just hope that the originality and inspiration of films at FESPACO can continue and become a part of the cultural dialogue and mutual respect needed both inside Africa and in its relations with the rest of the world.

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 @Kambar, featuring DJs and live performers £5 (£3 with festival pass).

Diaspora Voices in association with Clare Poetry, 9th May, Clare cellars (7pm, £3). Academic Forum with Ken Wirwa and Tsitsi Dangarembga: Living Memory in African Film and Literature.

See www.cambridgeafricanfilmfestival.co.uk for more details.

NEW IN 2005

S-S-YM-S-S #6



Not strictly a new artist, having released their debut *Hurrah! Another year, surely this one will be better than the last; the inexorable march of progress...* last August, Youthmovie Soundtrack Strategies' word-limit mocking moniker and song titles suggest a penchant for po-faced quiet-rock à la A Silver Mt. Zion. But any band mixing disorienting tempo changes, a capella breaks, soaring harmonies and face-smashing riffs into schizophrenic yet coherent blasts, can brush off accusations of pretention and wankery with ease. Kicking up a low-key fuss consonant with their impeccably underground credentials, recent single *Ores* 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 defecate messily all over your favourite band's oeuvre. Probably

Was Yaqoob
www.ymss.org.uk

Terribly smorgas-bored

The Hives

Corn Ex - 26 April
 Review by Arthur House

As the Hives careered through an energetic set at the Corn Exchange on Saturday night, I found myself convinced that the Swedish five-some were reprising the same song again and again. Very little of their new album *Tyrannosaurus Hives* does anything to challenge the deep-seated judgment that brashness alone can't make up for a lack of song-writing ability.

Recent singles 'Walk Idiot Walk', 'Two Timing Touch and Broken Bones' and 'See Through Head' do exactly the same thing as old favourites 'Main Offender' and 'Hate To Say I Told You So', with guitar and bass parts anchored firmly around the root note and vocals relentlessly plugging that familiar old blues interval - the minor third.

By subscribing to the single punk currency of power chords whilst refusing to look beyond the blues for inspiration, the Hives are stuck in a hard place that's nowhere near a decent heavy rock. It's a limited formula that can be successful, (fellow Swedes Millencolin do it far better than them), but the Hives straitjacket themselves so tightly as to deny themselves any room to breathe the bracing

ing air of creativity.

The band's songs are supposedly penned by a mysterious svengali named Randy Fitzsimmons, a shrewd marketing ploy that lends a sheen

of enigma to what is otherwise obvious and predictable. If he was real, at least he'd be an eminence grise that the boys in noir et blanche would be able to replace.



Arthur House

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

However, for some reason, Hives fans still haven't got bored, as they showed with their rapturous reception on Saturday night. But the punters on display spoke volumes about the band's appeal; they consisted entirely of either 14 or 40 year olds, with some entire families (settled in the seating enclosure) boasting both categories. Shrieking teens in eyeliner taking their first tentative steps towards adolescent rebellion went home feeling safely anti-establishment, whilst balding dads were assured by the sharp suits and blues riffs that this wasn't just a band for their kids to enjoy. Unfortunately this polarised demographic attests to the Hives' lack of appeal for the likes of you and me, who are of course the only people that count at Varsity Towers.

But there are signs that the elusive Randy knows that his writing-by-numbers days are, well, numbered. New songs 'Love in Plaster' and 'No Pun Intended' betray (gasp!) melodic progressions, whilst 'Diabolic Scheme' is positively revolutionary with its plodding synth and replica strings parts. That this song is plainly against the dictat of the Hives faithful was amply demonstrated by Almqvist's request before its rendition that they employ "flexible thinking".

At least there was the solace of the band's live antics to liven up their musical blandness.

'Howlin' Pelle Almqvist more than lived up to his name - strutting, spitting and high-splitting his way through the set in a way that was eminently watchable, although his new moustache did get a bit sweaty.

Drummer Chris Dangerous did his best to make a variety of monolithic of rhythms look impressive, whilst the fat one and the bald one offered a certain amount of comedic value purely by being fat and bald.

The star of the show, however, was undoubtedly guitarist Nicolaus Arson, whose efforts to steal the limelight from Almqvist all evening were finally rewarded during the encore. Failing to pull off one of the most ambitious manoeuvres in rock, the swing-your-guitar-round-back-of-your-head-and-catch-it-again trick, the hapless Arson required the prolonged attention of a strap-untangling roadie, eventually resuming his Telecaster duties just as the song came crashing to an end.

The Hives have spent nearly a decade copying old bands and forgetting to write any tunes, but I left wondering whether this last stunt intentionally recalled not a great rock band but a great rock parody, Spinal Tap, with its immortal 'cocoon' set-piece. If so, the Hives are taking rip-offs to new levels whilst taking music nowhere.

www.hivesmusic.com

Pissed but sharp

Piss Up Look Sharp

The Union - 11 March

Review by Jon Swaine

And so it came to a close - Piss Up Look Sharp went out at the end of Lent Term in one final blaze of that infamous 'ostentatious amateurishness' that has so split opinions on the night since its inception last year.

Yes, the DJing wasn't as professional as it should or even could have been. Yes, there were a few too many pretty faces preferring to bar-prop and pout than indulge in any reckless abandon on the dancefloor. And yes, the music policy was fairly 'ridiculous'. But, it must be borne in mind that this really was the point all along.

To analyse the night on any deeper level would be futile and misguided. This was a £1-a-pint student party, not an attempt at recreating something like Nag Nag Nag in the Cambridge Union - which, by the way, provided an oddly effective venue for the evening's proceedings.

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

And, there are occasions when glitches become cringeworthy, and the harm to momentum irritating. But the songs they play - mixing Bloc Party with Dizzee Rascal with Madonna simply aren't played elsewhere, which - perhaps rightly - provides them with a grateful audience willing to overlook the night's bashful flaws.

Piss Up Look Sharp filled a simple, smart niche: supplying danceable, alternative music to the crowd for whom The Fez's Fat Poppadaddy's night is ok,

but inexplicably repetitive, and horrible when that all crap chart drum 'n' 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 ents - a success whose popularity has *allowed* its continuation, let alone demanded it. For that it should be applauded, while its downsides would be best forgotten in a Smiths-soundtracked, tipsy haze.



Piss Up Look Sharp's DJs relax by leaning against a wall



Maximo Park
A Certain Trigger

Paul Epworth might be the least-famous saviour of mainstream British music ever. Within ten months, under his production, debut albums by The Futureheads, Bloc Party and now Maximo Park have formed a spiky triumvirate of hope, soothing fears of the genre's further slip into obsolescence. But while his trademark treatments of clipped guitars, none-more-crisp drums and basslines to weep for has played its part, none of this could have been achieved without fantastic content. A Certain Trigger is a suitable revelation: singles 'Apply Some Pressure' and 'Graffiti' are easily matched by newer stock such as 'Limassol' and 'Acrobat', whose slow, spoken-word verses have no right to work as beautifully as they do. The perfect lean, carefully-crafted gift for a poor, defenceless Summer, helplessly awaiting the moral abomination of Oasis' latest bloated pub-rock disaster.

Jon Swaine

Released on May 16th
 through Warp



MIA
Arular

The first debate is whether MIA is 'for real'. I'm not going to delve into her history to decide whether she's justified to make these sounds, though it might be a different matter if I didn't like it. The second is horribly political: whether the album, named after her father, is somehow in support of the Tamil Tigers terrorists in Sri Lanka. This is not the struggle that is usually touched on in music, and without any facts of the situation I'm not endorsing stringing her as we're happy to do when her Dancehall influences advocate genocide of homosexuals. I'll let you decide for yourself - this album is vital, her voice is infectious, the tunes mesmerise. It comfortably sits alongside last year's *Le Tigre* and this year's *Lady Sovereign* albums. If it's eligible, expect MIA to be picking up the Mercury Prize come September.

Sam Blatherwick

Available now through XL
 Recordings



Vitalic
OK Cowboy

Vitalic's *Poney* EP, about the abuse of fairground ponies, is now four years old, but there's still songs from it here. Nothing changes: Vitalic is still all about throbbing basslines, soaring keyboard screams, thrashing guitars and wandering synths merging together - an awesome soundscape of pure noise-pop bliss. The vocals are either generic or are so far distorted you can't make out what is said. There's a sense of perfect timing in this record - sounds like nothing you've heard before sound like they've always been there. It's so obviously handmade, yet seems totally natural. Vitalic has come at precisely the right time, merging techno, rock and electropop into one emotion-packed block on which to gorge. Go on, try telling me you aren't spontaneously forced to hug yourself every time 'Poney Pt 1' kicks in. Sorry, but I won't believe you.

Sam Blatherwick

Available now through Pias
 Recordings

Politics and Pretension

Was Yaqoob on the enigma that is post-rock

I have a friend, one other than Haribo, 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 reverb-soaked 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 the transition from being the cliché of 'music to soundtrack a film' to being a complete filmic experience in itself.

Godspeed side project A Silver Mt Zion prefer to create more restrained vistas, dominated by subtler orchestration - sparse, hymnal organs and plucked cellos punctuated by static. Labelmates 'Do Make Say Think' provides a less somnolent, more euphoric sound.

A visit to www.cstrecords.com, home to all three bands makes clear that their vision of rock envisages support for label independence, openly critical political stances, and bands-as-democratic collectives. This constitutes a stand against the commodification and fetishising of increasingly 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 was astute enough to notice Radiohead's hypocrisy in agitating 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 headphones, 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 attractiveness of their philosophy rather than because say, 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. Scenestship and pretensions are unpalatable but often inescapable 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 side issue, and from the audience perspective. I like 'post-rock' because of its ability to forge beautiful, sometimes pretentious, but surprisingly emotional music that is often infinitely more rewarding and inspiring than other rock forms. And, much as I'd like to claim otherwise, I don't think I'd mind if even Cheney and Bush were behind it all.

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 Quay's finest hour - Jo Whaley'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 Chillis 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 rhetoric is telling. It was all so different 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 cocktails at Number 10 just couldn't last. Blair's output began to remind everyone a little too much of the Thatcherism that had been the bane of the young and hip for so long, and before you could say 'Chumbawumba', John Prescott had been drenched at the Brits

and Blair became 'Blair'.

But perhaps we should be relieved. As every healthily self-righteous student knows, music should be the voice of sceptical youth, not the foie-gras-fattened bedfellow of establishment. Politicians' dalliances with pop music seem to fail in a cringeworthy mess of 'Sad Dad' ignominy. Both Blair and Kerry played in bands during their University days, but this does nothing to dissuade me that both don't secretly think the Middle-East peace process could be wound up a whole lot quicker if they just all sparked up a J and put on some Zeppelin, man.

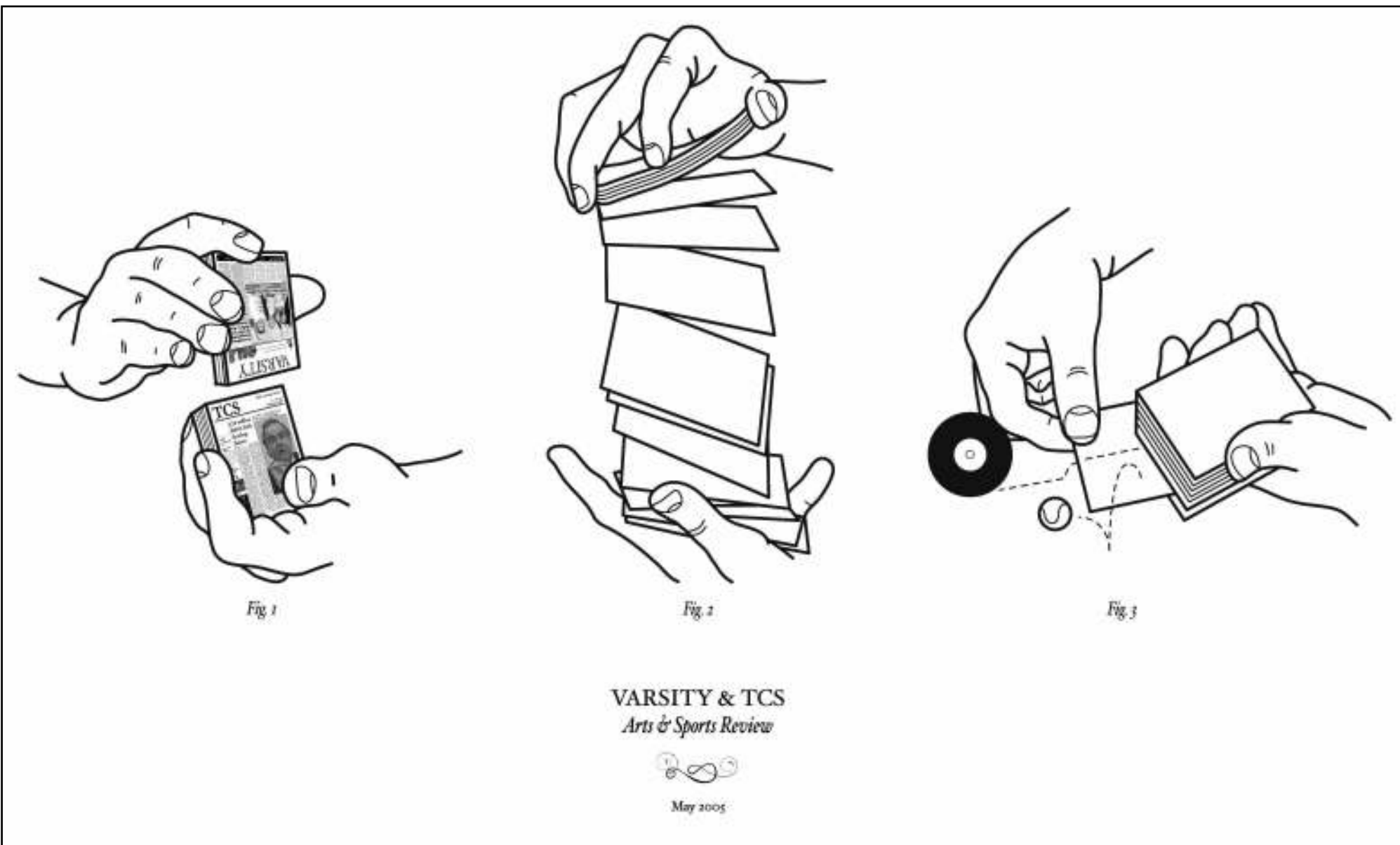
Stuffy old reactionaries they may be, but at least the Right's preferred life soundtracks are unabashedly uncool. Michael Howard's Desert Island Discs



"Oh, it just needs tuning..."

choices included 'Old Man Music' classics like Mozart's 21st Piano Concerto, while George Bush's iPod playlist is dominated by traditional country singers like Kenny Chesney. 'It's safe, it's reliable, it's loving...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.

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



Easter Term Previews

Varsity compares these to a summer's play

Noonday Demons

Playroom, 3rd-7th May, 11pm

In the 60s Peter Barnes was spoken of in the same breath as Pinter and Beckett, now he is almost unknown. This is probably due to the sheer difficulty of staging a lot of his work. At a time when others were writing claustrophobic two handers or compact kitchen sink drama Barnes thought nothing of writing plays for a cast of thirty set during the black death, the war of the roses or Columbus' discovery of the new world. The level of set, effects and costuming required is also formidable. Memorably his play about the wars of the Spanish Succession, "The Bewitched", begins with a prologue in which Prince Carlos is born. The actor who will play Carlos as an adult drops from under his mother's skirt and bursts his way out of a

membrane covered with mucous, blood and other bodily fluids. What must never be forgotten is the humour that is integral to all Barnes work. He was never one to lecture an audience po-faced when they could be made to laugh as well as think. A brilliant example of his work is Noonday Demons, the lateshow in the Corpus Playroom this coming week. St. Eusebius lives an ascetic existence in a cave in 4th Century Egypt, tormented by devils and demons. The arrival of the almost identical St. Prior makes matters worse. The cave really isn't big enough for the both of them. As they begin to behave in a most un-Christian manner towards each other Barnes explores the ideas of fundamentalism, how it warps faith and what happens when the trappings replace love at the heart of religious belief.

A Delicate Balance

Emily Mansfield

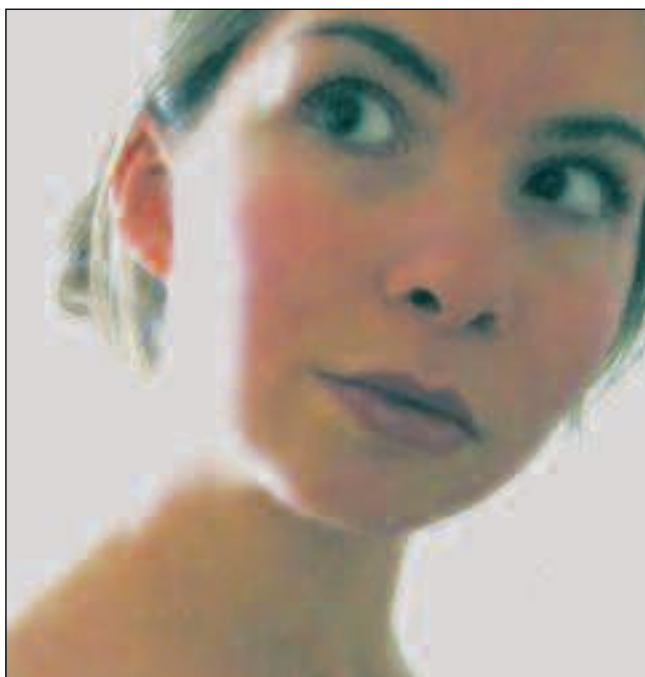
ADC, 3rd - 7th May, 7.45pm

A Delicate Balance paints a devastatingly honest picture of dysfunctional relationships in suburban America, and won Edward Albee his first of three Pulitzer Prizes, in 1967. Quieter but no less intense than *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, written four years ear-

"A perpetual smoothing over of cracks and evasion of climaxes"

lier, *A Delicate Balance* holds a mirror up to society as Albee makes "a stand against the fiction that everything in this slipping 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 cracks and evasion of climaxes in *A Delicate Balance* is even more disturbing. The characters' fostering of self-delusions against a backdrop of unnamed fear parallels America's reluctance to examine the increasingly hollow reality behind its cultural ideals at the height of the Cold War. *A Delicate Balance* has been highly influential for subsequent American drama, and with the characters' caustic 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.



"Sex is all anyone ever thinks about..." Jenny Scudamore as Mrs. A.

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", but three is much more fun... Flitting from the libertine town to the even-more-libertine country, 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 mistress. These three characters 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 May, 7.45pm

FaCE (France and Cambridge Exchange) is a society whose first objective is to widen the horizons of Cambridge drama, through an exchange programme with theatres in Paris and Lyon. In some respects FaCE will resemble ETG or CAST, but it will provide access to theatres of 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 with great excitement that we welcome the professional touring production of Jean Gillibert's 'La Passion d'Alexis' from Le Théâtre de l'Épopée, who will be performing La Passion d'Alexis by Jean Gillibert. Performed in French with surtitles.

1930: A child is murdered by his friends during a game in the school playground. It is a crime bathed in innocence, belonging to no-one. And yet, ten years later, as the former schoolmates and their fiancées meet again for a last party before the men leave for the front, they are consumed with guilt and remorse. As the body of Alexis lies forgotten, his spectral presence haunts the place, ready to take any form. He drags his old friends on a 'cops and robbers' game, fantastic and cruel.

Taking place in France during the 'phoney war' (the defeat in 1940 and the Armistice), La Passion d'Alexis is a powerful story which exerts a profound influence on those involved, both actors and audience. After a successful run in Paris the company behind it are keen to widen the impact of the play, and they promise to bring an emotional and engaging drama to the ADC stage.

For the first time in the history of Western Theatre, it is the innocent victim who is in control...

Age of Consent

Abigail Rokison

ADC, 3rd-7th May, 11pm

"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 abduction and murder of James Bulger, were released from detention amid protests led by the tabloid newspapers, and threats of attack from members of the public. Lord Woolf defended the decision stating "Children can do things when they are children that they would never do in their later life when they had matured and appreciated." *The Age of Consent*,

is a chilling and powerful play which delves into the mind of a child killer - Timmy, shortly before his release from prison. Set against Timmy's story is that of Stephanie, a pushy stage mother who believes that she is doing the best for her 6 year old daughter, whilst unwittingly subjecting her to child abuse.

Hard-hitting yet darkly humorous, the play forces us to consider issues of responsibility and blame in modern society. 'A brilliantly 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.

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. Skeletons come 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 the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

Directed, acted and crewed by fresher's of St John's College; an evening with the Caplans proves to be the perfect way to have a break from that revision.

Arsenic and Old Lace

Shantelle David

ADC, 17th-21st May, 7.45pm

Abby and Martha Brewster enjoy all the leisurely pursuits of the respectable old lady; tea parties, church, crocheting and biscuits - not to mention murder, if one has the time. Set in 1940s Brooklyn in the elegant household of two loveable old darlings, where it all seems perfectly innocent until, we find out that they poison their lodgers in an act of icharity to save them from their sorrows. This gory black

comedy is as witty as it is unsettling.

Arsenic and Old Lace initially graced the Broadway stage in 1941 for three years before its cinematic debut in 1944. Following the success of the Broadway production the script soon got into the hands of the director, Frank Capra, who cast Cary Grant and Priscilla Lane as the newlyweds Mortimer and Elaine alongside, Josephine Hull and Jean Adair as Mortimer's murdering aunts, Abby and Martha. The film was an

instant box-office smash despite Cary Grant disliking Capra's direction to play Mortimer - over the top.

In Betsy Vriend's version, the loving rapport between Mortimer and Elaine played by Luke Roberts and Laura Hallways is juxtaposed with the amusing and extraordinary behaviour of his aunts played by Katya Giller and Isobel Marshall. As if things couldn't get any worse, when Mortimer's Brother Jonathon (Frank Paul) and his friend Einstein (Philip Meyenburg) turn up to the

house the murdering antics spiral out of control and several truths are revealed.

At first glance the greatest challenge that the script presents to a director and cast seems to be the intricacy of the humour alongside a delicate balance of horror; but Betsy Vriend and Bethe Townsend have worked to produce a production that combines; old-fashioned elegance, subtle humour and shocking wickedness that will leave you so stunned - you will fear your own grandmother.



Martha & Veronica

Kate Ward

"The future for Footlights 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 the uncertainty she identified, for the show is attracting a buzz. Kathy Burke is sponsoring her after reading the script saying "This is true talent – not to be missed" and acclaimed theatre director Emma Stuart is taking time out of the RSC to direct the play.

For those who managed to catch Solemani's performances at the Footlights smokers or her satirical spoof at last year's fashion show will know her style – sassy, bold and very, very funny. The play features her and fellow Cambridge graduate Sarah Campbell, who became a double act on the Footlights stage, and tells the story of two girls on a quest for truth, world peace and a boyfriend.



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." "Stereotyping women in comedy is tedious and just not funny" says Solemani. "I want to give you a show that challenges all the bollocks – 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

Allegra 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 these 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 dreams of suburbia, Senator McCarthy needs Einstein's support in his paranoid crusade against crypto-Communists, Monroe wants Einstein to tell her the shape of the universe and Einstein just wants McCarthy to give him the freedom to live in peace.

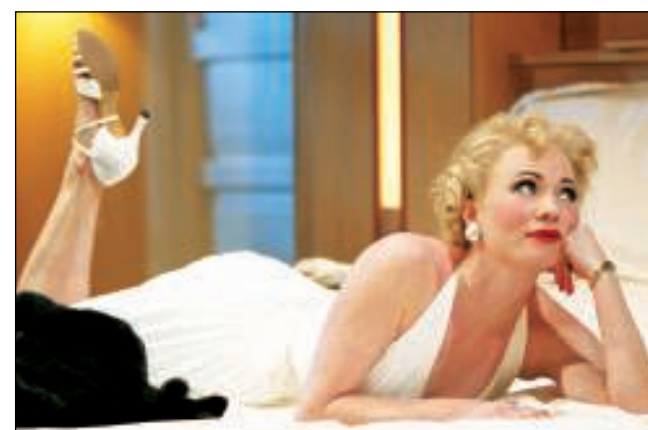
Insignificance has a quality of timelessness about it: "Tonight is a dog of night, and tomorrow will be a dog of a day", draws

the perspiring senator in the opening scene, swilling warm whisky and imposing his offensive bulk on the space around him. This play is self-conscious, but it manages not to alienate its audience because it is at ease in its own artifice: we are watching an event that is both unreal and real, people who are both paper-thin impersonations and yet no more flimsy than we are ourselves.

In a memorable scene, in stumbles a glimmering, delicate bombshell intent on demonstrating relativity to Einstein with the aid of two trains, torches, white balloons and a toy model of Charlie Chaplin. Among the other topics they go on to cover are the cause and responsibility for the

Holocaust, the goddamn shape of the son-of-a-bitch universe, who god is and why we swear by him, a solipsistic identity crisis and Schroedinger's cat, kept alive (or is it?) in the basket in the bathroom.

An exceptional set but poorly lit at times, sharp characterization and comic timing but an appalling array of accents: I had my complaints, but I was entertained and I wandered out into the night considering the fact that truth is a journey, not a destination, and that Einstein once said "Have you ever noticed how what-the-hell is always the right decision?" As the Cambridge theatre scene goes on a drastic diet over the summer term, let me recommend the delights on offer at the Arts Theatre.



Miscellanist Required

Ben Schott, the author of *Schott's Original Miscellany*, is searching for a talented typesetter / researcher to work on a range of exciting publishing projects.

You will have:

fluent QuarkXPress and Apple Mac skills
a nose for miscellaneous information
an eye for design and typography
absurd attention to detail

We will offer:

initial 6-month full-time contract from August 2005
a salary based upon skills and experience
office in Highbury, North London

To apply, please email a single side of A4 (as a PDF) showing us why you are right for the job, by May 26th.

job@benschott.com

The Editors of MAYS 13 are delighted to announce this year's Guest Editor, Robert Macfarlane, Winner of the Guardian First Book Award and the Somerset Maugham Award.

MAYS 13 publishes this year's best new writing from Oxford and Cambridge. On sale in June priced £6.99.

www.mayswriting.com

13

MAYS

ISSUE 3 OUT NOW

βluesci

Issue 3 Easter 2005 www.bluesci.org

Cambridge's Science Magazine

Read online at www.bluesci.org

Pick it up from your porters' lodge or department



Now accepting submissions for issue 4
submissions@bluesci.org

www.CUSP.ucam.org **VARISITY**



**HE WISHES A FRIEND
GOODNIGHT
IN THE SINUOUSLY FLOWING
TRANSLUCENT EFFERVESCENT GOLD
AS SEVERAL THOUSAND AND SEVEN
LAUGHING DECANTERS OF MAY WEEK
GLIMPSE A GIRL
UNDRESSING IN THE STREAMING SUN**

**MAGDALENE
MAY BALL 2005**
www.magdalenemayball.com

Feel...Breathe...Enjoy

At The Glassworks we have created a health club with atmosphere. A comfortable, relaxed haven where you can achieve your own health and fitness goals...whatever your starting point. Friendly, professional staff will develop your personalised fitness programme and keep you motivated. Discover your potential.

We can offer students great rates and flexible membership.

You will find its much more than a gym.



AVEDA. HEALTH + BEAUTY SPA
Body, Face, Hands, Feet, Nails - treatments to enjoy. Spa days available.

AVEDA. HAIR SALON
Explore the cuts and colours using the personalised service of our premier stylists.

Spa and Salon available to non-members.



STUDIO
Spinning, Power Yoga, Aerobics, Box-fit, Circuits...and the rest. Or try a calmer approach with Yoga or Pilates.



RIVER BAR
Overlooking the river and colleges. Enjoy dining in style or choose from over 100 cocktails.



SAUNA, STEAM, JACUZZI
Feel energised and rejuvenate body and mind, while taking in the view.

GYMNASIUM
Cardiovascular, resistance training and free weights area. Or be inspired with Personal Training - fitness designed for you. Breathe.



Designed by Conran & Partners, The Glassworks is the ideal environment in which to start enjoying a healthy lifestyle. Find out more today.

Cambridge's only Health Club in the heart of the city, at Quayside off Bridge Street. Drop by for a look around.

THE GLASSWORKS

HEALTH FITNESS + LIFE

MEMBERSHIP + INFORMATION Tel 01223 30 50 60
Email info@theglassworksgym.co.uk Web www.theglassworksgym.co.uk

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 acted Pacino off the screen in *Carlito's Way*. 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 in. Had quality and credibility made way for shameless ubiquity?

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 by political dishonesty (the backdrop here is Nixon and Watergate) and social inequality (cue 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 bombards 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,

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 flautist), 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



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

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 layers of language, signifying

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 obituaries mentioned a wife and daughter but failed to acknowledge his two illegitimate children, the results of two separate affairs. Thirty years later, one of those children, Nathaniel Kahn, made this documentary about his

attempts as an adult to understand the father he only knew from snatched and infrequent weekends when Louis could get away from his suspicious wife.

Nathaniel Kahn draws us in so that we are excited by every discovery he makes about Louis: his extraordinary passion for architecture, which bordered on obsession and certainly affected his family life; his love of India; his crazy projects, like the 'floating orchestra', a boat which he designed to travel the seas, docking in ports for performances; his undying antagonism of arch-enemy and town planner Ed Bacon. We also experience Nathaniel's disappointments, as he learns less palatable facts about

his father, and recalls the loneliness 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 buildings' 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 as it does that Louis will remain something of a ghostly, unknowable character to both Nathaniel and his audience.

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.tcmonline.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 Throat, from June 10

More than 30 years after the controversial release of the pornographic *Deep Throat*, this documentary examines the legacy of its inspiration.



PASSION WANTED

FOR A NEW EUROPE.

BE ON BOARD. EUROACADEMY 2005.

EuroAcademy. Athens, 6-9 October. McKinsey will bring together a diverse range of minds for a 3-day event where you will have the opportunity to debate the critical issues facing Europe today. Some of Europe's most inspiring business, academic and political leaders will join a group of outstanding students from universities across the UK, Ireland and mainland Europe to discuss and develop visions for the future of our continent.

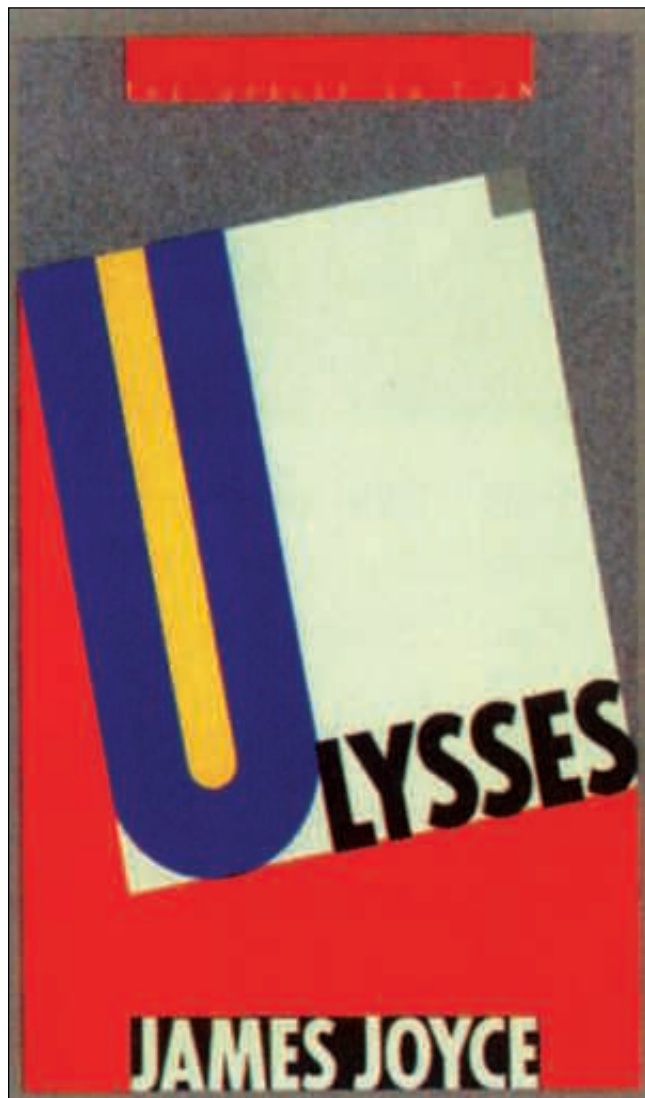
Join one of our international crews on the clear blue waters of the Mediterranean for a sailing trip where you will see that passion and teamwork are as important on board as they will be in the boardroom.

We are looking for penultimate year students to join us in Athens. If you have a strong academic record coupled with impressive extracurricular achievements, please apply online at www.passion-wanted.mckinsey.com by 1 July 2005.

McKinsey&Company

Modern times, modern manners

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



Ulysses: have you read it?

The inclusion of *Ulysses*, James Joyce's notoriously 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 neatly 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 sexual passion (once 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 unpalatable. There's more than a hint of snobbery in modernism's distaste for the masses, and anyone hoping for serious political engagement should probably look elsewhere. Although 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 that resonant strongly with the modern reader. Joseph Conrad's *The Secret Agent*, a self-styled 'simple tale' of anarchists, has a great deal to say about the supposedly modern phenomenon of terrorism, while the general sense of alienation that pervades modernist literature continues to tap into distinctly contemporary anxieties. Modernism's

greatest influence, however, comes through style rather than content, with its bold, stylistic innovation opening the way for the literary experimentation of writers such as Paul Auster and Salman Rushdie.

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 boundaries, 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 what they created any more real?

A scene in David Lodge's 2001 novel *Thinks...*, 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 mishmash of half-formed ideas, highlights a major criticism of modernism's most imi-

tated 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 generation of writers modernism is just one piece of a much larger literary jigsaw puzzle. But, although modernism's gradual move into the 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 pretentious twaddle, has ensured that it hasn't been quietly consigned to the realms of literary history. So there's a good chance that in just under 50 years time there'll be another Bloomsday anniversary celebration, offering 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 birthplace to the intoxication of London and the disorder of Brussels, to the fevers of Aden in Abyssinia, Arthur Rimbaud is the one Verlaine named 'the man with heels of wind.' Youthfully arrogant but brilliant, the visionary of *The Drunken Boat* never

"a long and well thought-out deregulation of the senses"

ceased to walk. Casting off his moorings, without a pre-planned route, the rascal of liberty was always in search of the 'out there', impatiently mad in a nineteenth century that would have loved to suffocate him. But no one could have foreseen the deepness of the silence he kept as he left on his furthest journey. This 'poète maudit' was destined to finish his life as soon as the wind of adventure stopped blowing into his sails, condemning him to immobility.

'On n'est pas sérieux quand on a dix-sept ans' resounds his famous adolescent poem: one can hear in this child the

impatience to grow up, the wish to see time accelerate, to be delivered of it; this watch exchanged for a train ticket. Slowness exasperates him, but time going by revolts him. All his life, Rimbaud was in a state of urgency. Don't imagine him other than on 'the white road that runs', 'the large road through all times'. As if pushed by an indefatigable demon, he always had to go, to come back, to see and travel to other places, racked by a thirst he tried vainly to quench. No rest; his shadow runs faster than him; in the sun, in the grass and in the sand, he must go where his shadow takes him

Rimbaud was impatiently mad in a century that would have loved to suffocate him

- even further! His destiny is to be somewhere else, until his own destruction prophesied in his first poem (1868) 'my broken limbs by my long vagabondages'.

His work, a series of abandoned collections never published, or victims of auto-da-

fes, stands witness to his haste and exasperation with the eternal rule of things, his rejection of a stifling family and bourgeoisie circle. *Lettre du Voyant* unveils how much he detested all these 'public amusers' who could not juggle between rhymes and half-verses. More ambitious than them, Rimbaud rearms poetry by demanding the impossible. Rimbaud believes he will reach the former by a few terms, through a new form of poetry in prose, in *Illuminations* (1886), a collection of prose poems that goes beyond the petits poèmes en prose of Baudelaire, and by making himself a voyant by a 'long and well thought-out deregulation of all the senses': herein lies the expression of his constant will to discover the unknown, to let oneself lose one's sense of direction and slip into the unfamiliar; the result being a dizziness like that emanating from poems such as 'Après le Déluge' or 'Vies'. For him, poets are beings contrary to men asleep or blind: they are capable of seeing, and of finding the quintessence of experience by whatever means. This is revealed in Rimbaud's best-

known work, *The Drunken Boat* (1871) in which he sends a toy boat on a journey, an allegory for a spiritual quest. But as Apollinaire asks, 'Who can put their hand on an illusion?'

Rimbaud is only nineteen in 1873 when *A Season in Hell* is published as one of the first works in free prose that

Precocious and wise, but diabolic and violent also

inspired the direction of a whole new generation of poetry. See the immense diffuse nebula that poetry is today; if you dig deep inside it, you will find Arthur Rimbaud. Rimbaud represents the first modern poet, as he is the first whose poetry is in constant progress, always in expansion, explosive - until disappearing. Prodigiously precocious, Rimbaud seems the eldest of his contemporaries older than him, like Théophile Gautier, Victor Hugo and George Sand. A precocity so remarkable in that Rimbaud fell silent at the age of 21, an age where most others have only begun writing, after the circle of quarrels and torments of his



Jules Franck Mondoloni's portrait of Arthur Rimbaud

relationship with Verlaine culminating in Verlaine's shooting of Rimbaud. Rimbaud chose silence and wanderings, two ways to disappear that never ceased to feed polemic and excite imaginations. With no such example of a young man abandoning and repudiating his life's work, his heavy

silence forms an enigma for every poet who presumes to talk in his turn.

Precocious and wise, but diabolic and violent also, Arthur Rimbaud with his angel's face and youth's profile, and a destiny at the same time luminous and dark, incarnates wonderfully the myth of the fallen angel.

BUSH SET TO COST BLAIR VOTES



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



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

PROMOTED BY CHRIS BENNARD ON BEHALF OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS, 4 COWLEY STREET, LONDON, SW1P 3NL

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

Charlotte Bevan



Lucy Phillips

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.

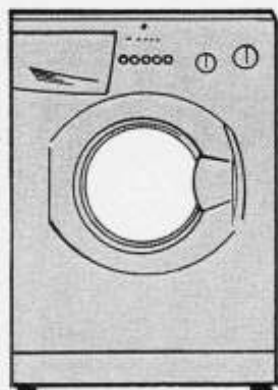
Both students and the City Council are unhappy with the proposals. The Council maintain that the site is important for environmental as well as recreational reasons.

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.

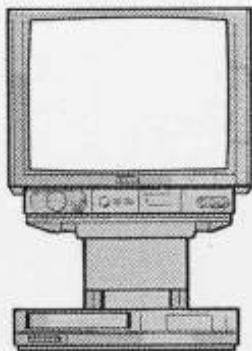
ANDREW McCULLOCH RENTAL CENTRE

RENT BY WEEK/MONTH/YEAR

YOU CAN RENT THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS AT GREAT PRICES



Televisions
Video recorders
DVD players and recorders
Washing machines
Tumble Dryers
Dishwashers



10% Student Discount

Off normal rates

To qualify bring this advert with you

www.andrew-mcculloch.co.uk

Andrew McCulloch
 20 Norfolk Street, Cambridge
 Tel (01223) 362879



Know-how to succeed

MSc Knowledge Management for Enterprise Development*



Working with leading organisations such as **SAP UK**, **BAE Systems**, **Cap Gemini** and **IBM**, the MSc Knowledge Management for Enterprise Development is designed to promote career development, enabling individuals to develop and deliver team-based innovation.

*Funding of up to £10,000 on offer

EPSRC bursaries are available, including a contribution to maintenance for UK applicants, to suitably qualified candidates from the EU. Competition for funding is high and awards are made at the discretion of the course director.

For more information please contact SIMS Enquiries quoting ref no: V29/04.

T: +44 (0) 1234 754086

E: sims.enquiries@cranfield.ac.uk

W: www.cranfield.ac.uk/sims/masters

Cranfield
UNIVERSITY

Oxford extend Blues' Varsity misery

Varsity Football

CAMBRIDGE 0
 OXFORD 1

Sam Richardson

CAMBRIDGE'S LAST Varsity football victory, five years ago, seems almost as distant as the days when 100,000 fans would fill Wembley to see the teams compete in Britain's oldest fixture. Instead, 826 fans littered the Abbey Stadium (a venue well-acquainted to home disappointment this season), and an indifferent match and disappointing 1-0 defeat did little to warm their spirits in the face of an icy wind.

With retrospect, coach Dave Robertson's prediction of 'the clinical and methodical destruction of the Oxford select eleven' smacks of hubris, but in fact he was a missed penalty away from surely being proved right. The Light Blues started strongly, spraying the ball in midfield and keeping a frenetic tempo as Oxford struggled to maintain possession in the Cambridge half.

The match turned on the half hour. A well-rehearsed short corner allowed Alex Mugan to draw a foul in the box. With skipper Jon Darby injured, the Girtonian stepped up himself, but his well struck



penalty was parried at full stretch by Oxford keeper Nick Baker. Although Baker, who appears on Championship Manager, was called into action five minutes later to deflect a scrambled effort from a combination of Adams and Turnbull, Cambridge never recovered from the missed opportunity.

Although the Light Blues held their own in midfield, with Steve Smith particularly impressive, they found themselves consistently struggling on the flanks against an Oxford attack said to be based

on the pincer tactics of Gulf War general Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf. Cambridge were not helped by muscular injuries which forced both full-backs out, and (along with an additional injury to centre-back Matt Clamp) called into question the quality of the side's warm up. But in reality it was the skill and blistering pace of the Oxford wingers that hurt Cambridge.

The Light Blues ignored two warning shots, first when left-winger Ricky Tavares cut inside and forced an acrobatic save

from Duncan Heath, and then when the bespectacled Jamie Forrest skinned Cambridge's left flank but dragged his shot across the face of goal. When, on the hour mark, Luther Sullivan picked up a (dubious) free-kick and cut in from the right wing to curl a clinical twenty-yard shot beyond Duncan Heath, it was no less than Oxford deserved. Indeed, they could have extended their lead shortly afterwards, when Heath did well to turn a James Perkins drive round the post.

Cambridge responded by

throwing bodies forward and hurling long centres into the Oxford box, but despite some frenetic scrambles they failed to carve out a clear-cut opening. The shrill of the final whistle signalled Cambridge's third successive Varsity defeat. Next season, nobody in the starting line-up will know the sweet taste of Varsity victory.

Surely there is now no better time for restructuring. The second team, the Falcons (who also lost 1-0 at home and missed a penalty), spend their season playing a combination of schoolboys and old men, while the third team, the Kestrels, who use up the already over-stretched finances, did not even manage to play their Varsity match this year. Putting the Falcons in BUSA, like the Oxford Centaurs, is surely the way to ensure the strength in depth and experience that CUAFC needs if it extricate itself from its current rut. A decent sponsorship deal would also not go amiss.

It is the standard line of unsuccessful Varsity sides to point to their otherwise successful season, and following last year's promotion the Blues have indeed performed solidly in BUSA. But, for better or for worse, the showpiece match is the defining moment of any sporting season in Cambridge, and a victory is long overdue.

Sport In Brief

BOXING

Cambridge smashed Oxford 9-0 to claim a historic Varsity boxing victory at the Guildhall. It marked the first time ever in its 98-year history that the contest has ended in a whitewash, the knockout punch coming from Huw Williams in the final bout to send the crowd, which included former world champion Chris Eubank, into scenes of jubilation. The win highlights the outstanding work achieved by Geoff Battye in this his first year as president.

CRICKET

Cambridge have got off to a fantastic start to the 2005 season, winning matches against Hampstead and Sparta CC 1888. Meanwhile the Crusaders have begun their fixtures on an equally successful note, defeating MCC and Bedford school.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

The University first and second teams will be holding an open skills day for footballers of all levels, aiming to promote women's football and women's sport in general. Please contact Elena Narozanski (ekn21) for more details.

Men's College Rugby League Division I

Place	Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pts
1	St. John's	10	9	0	1	420	56	364	37
2	Downing	10	8	0	2	200	115	85	34
3	Jesus	10	6	0	4	187	120	67	28
4	Girton	10	4	0	6	113	197	-84	20
5	St. Catharine's	10	3	0	7	105	227	-122	19
6	Trinity Hall	10	0	0	10	63	373	-310	10

www.crazyaboutsport.com

St. John's are champions; St. Catharine's and Trinity Hall are relegated

Men's College Football League Division I

Place	Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Fitzwilliam	9	9	0	0	41	8	33	27
2	Trinity	9	7	0	2	18	15	3	21
3	Churchill	9	5	2	2	18	15	3	17
4	Jesus	9	4	2	3	21	15	6	14
5	St. John's	9	3	2	4	14	12	2	11
6	St. Catharine's	9	3	1	5	11	19	-8	10
7	Darwin	9	2	3	4	14	18	-4	9
8	Caius	9	2	2	5	11	20	-9	8
9	Downing	9	2	0	7	15	26	-11	6
10	Girton	9	1	0	7	15	30	-15	6

Fitzwilliam are champions; Downing and Girton are relegated

Touring USA Plate result

Andy Bell

DURING THE holidays, a crack squad of Oxbridge athletes, united under the Achilles banner, travelled to the US for a 2-week sojourn of sporting extravagance. The tour, which takes places every four years, is part 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 terrible 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 powerhouses Ben Carne and Dan Bray, both resurfacing after injury problems, snapped 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 contentious 10-10 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 astounding in the corresponding ladies' event, as she sheared a huge 6 seconds off her time from the previous match to take gold in 1:02.16, over 3 seconds inside the Blues standard itself. 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 favour of Harvard and Yale, however, and the Americans ended up winning both the Men's and Ladies' matches, 13-7 and 12-6 respectively.

Lowly Hodge

PETERHOUSE/CORPUS and Churchill had already met this season in the league, the combined colleges coming away with a narrow win on that occasion, so it was always going to be a gripping and tense encounter.

Churchill's Cat MacDonald was all over the field in the first-half, and with Churchill packing players behind the ball they were happily soaking up the Peterhouse/Corpus pressure and getting the best of the attacking chances on the break. A lifted ball in the D conceded a short corner against the combined colleges and with no mistakes Churchill slotted the ball home to open the scoring.

Peterhouse/Corpus continued to rally with Peterhouse captain Alexandra Openshaw having the game of her Cambridge career in defence, limiting Churchill's attempts to get the ball through the skilful Nicola Pyper to MacDonald, a university full back being deployed up front. Peterhouse/Corpus were beginning to get frustrated with their pressure not getting them anywhere; university player Jenny Malicka went close before the half-time and after the break, but with the goalkeeper beaten, Churchill's

Hannah Galton cleared off the line. With the minutes ticking away the mass of Churchill supporters sensed victory. Ten minutes from the end however, Peterhouse/Corpus won a short corner that centre-midfield Lowly Hodge converted, making amends for several earlier mistakes and missed opportunities.

With the scores level Peterhouse/Corpus started to believe they could still win the game and went pushing for another 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-hitting Laura Gallagher striking the ball beautifully to the left post where Chloe Middleton was waiting to guide the ball in against the backboard.

Immediately Churchill responded and threatened the combined college with a short-corner. However the final whistle blew, making the corner the last move of the match. Peterhouse/Corpus failed to clear and instead conceded another, but the second time around Churchill were frustrated as Malicka cleared the ball wide to the evident relief of the Peterhouse/Corpus team and their numerous supporters.

Blues' coach left red-faced by Varsity defeat

Oxford runaway 1-0 victors at the Abbey Stadium page 31



Ladies row to Varsity victory

Jess Stanley

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 blessed 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 half 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 yet again walked away with the majority wins. Blondie managed to turn around a one minute difference between them and Osiris recorded at the Women's Head three weeks previously – a great achievement. The Lightweight crew were pipped to the line by the OUWLRC, following an earlier collision in the warm-up and a false start due to Cambridge equipment failure. Both gutsy performances 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 College) and Head Coaches Roger Silk and Ron Needs, who returned to CUWBC in 2003. The sea-



The girls celebrate their tremendous victory with the CUWBC coach after coming from behind to beat their great rivals comfortably

son has seen strong results posted throughout, with solid times in the Fours Head of the River Race and wins at Cambridge Autumn and Winter Head, Fairbairns and Head of the Trent. Just three weeks before the Boat Races, the Women's Blue Boat finished fifth overall at the Women's Eights Head of the River Race and won the university pennant, knocking Durham into second place and Oxford third. The year has been one of both consolidation and progression. Hard lessons were learnt at the 2004 Boat Races yet it was only possible to succeed this year due to the foundations laid by last year's President and coaching team. Undoubtedly one of the contributing factors to a win this year was the squad morale and mentality. President Kate Hillier led a group of individuals who not only were the best of friends, but never stopped wanting to cross the line first.

With elections for a new committee not far away, the last task for the season is BUSA Championships and laying the way for another successful summer Development Squad. In September the new President will begin to lead a squad through six months of gruelling training, hopefully towards three boat race wins.

Jesus complete cup double

Adam Edelhain

JESUS MANAGED to defy the odds by winning both the men's and women's football Cuppers trophies, but the manners in which the two were won could not have been more contrasting.

In the men's competition, Jesus met Christ's at Grange Road in what eventually proved to be a very one-sided encounter. Having beaten champions Fitz in a gruelling semi-final which was only resolved 10 – 9 on penalties, Jesus looked jaded at the start and Christ's dominated the possession. Even Jesus' inclusion of Stevie Smith, centre midfielder 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 Dickov) 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 the teams 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 hiding, nearer the corner flag than the goal, totally unmarked and just inside. 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 barely 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.

Though a 5-0 score line was perhaps a little harsh on Christ's especially given the competitive nature of the first half, the Cup was certainly won by the better team and Jesus College will be engraved on the trophy for the first time.

Newnham then took on Jesus in the Women's cup final. Having won the league match between the two sides, Newnham were slight favourites and took the lead in the first minute. Jenny Ward punished a sleepy Jesus back-line and Jesus took time to recover. However, with their passing becoming more assured and attacking instincts beginning to kick in, an equaliser looked a certainty.

Only Claire Hollingsworth's bravery at the heart of the Newnham defence and great keeping from stopper Lisa O'Dea prevented Jesus from running away with the tie.

Nonetheless Lisa Grimes found a way through and scored with ten minutes to go. Both sides played conservatively until the end of normal time, fearing a quick counter-attack that would leave them with no chance of a response and ultimately end their dreams of Cup success.

With neither side able to break through in extra time, the Cup came down to penalties and Rosie Snajdr saved Newnham's first spot kick, giving Jesus a great chance to take the trophy. However, an equally impressive save from O'Dea brought the scores level at 4-4, with sudden death to decide the result.

It was then that Snajdr made a second save and Anna Blackman made no mistake, placing the ball into the left corner to return to Jesus the trophy that they had won two years ago. The Newnham girls were inconsolable as they left the field, the ending cruel on a side who had matched their opponents throughout the fixture. For Jesus however there were scenes of joy, the win going some way to make up for the pain of missing out on the league title through goal difference.