Mark’s Mountain

- Six-year low turnout “frankly appalling”
- HE Funding Officer’s re-election rejected
- Biggest JCR disaffiliates on the same night

Raj Bavishi

LESS THAN 16 percent of Cambridge’s 18,000 students cast their vote on Wednesday to narrowly elect Mark Ferguson as the next CUSU President. HE Funding Officer, Dan Swain, the only member of the current Exec running for re-election was comprehensively beaten by Lianna Wood who received nearly twice the number of Swain’s votes. In a further indictment of this Exec’s perceived failings, Trinity College Student Union (TCSU), the University’s largest undergraduate common room, voted to disaffiliate from CUSU on the same day.

After the first round count of the 2893 votes, Ferguson trailed Dave Smith by 20 votes on 816. But after the distribution of Nadia Khan and RON’s votes, Ferguson came out on top with 1065 to 1001 votes. When asked whether the 4.5 percent of Cambridge students that his 816 first preference votes represented gave him a mandate, he simply responded “the low turnout presents us with a challenge.”

Cllr Colin Rosenthal, who aided the count, labelled the turnout, “frankly appalling” with Jacob Bard-Rosenberg saying, “it’s fucking disgraceful.”

King’s College had the highest proportion of voters with 40.1 percent turning out. However, the average was between 11 and 14 percent with only 3 votes cast at St John’s.

President-elect Ferguson told Varsity, “I’m really looking forward to working with the new team, though of course I don’t want to see as the CUSU President while there is already one who is still serving.”

Current President Laura Walsh said, “he’ll be great – Ferg will fix [CUSU].” But Vicki Mann confirmed to Varsity, “I wept when I heard the election results.”

Whilst Emmanuel College’s referendum regarding CUSU affiliation was inoprate and invalid, TCSU voted to disaffiliate by a narrow margin of six students. Gavin Johnstone, TCSU President said he felt “Trinity students chose to disaffiliate in the hope that it would send a message to CUSU to improve the way it runs itself, something which will hopefully benefit students at all Cambridge Colleges.”

Upon hearing news of the disaffiliation, Ferguson immediately sent an email to Johnstone expressing his sadness at TCSU’s decision. He told Varsity, “I’m not surprised that so many students feel alienated but we need to convince Trinity students that disaffiliation is not the answer.”

Issues of CUSU council voting rights and affiliation fees are yet to be clarified. Although entitled to services provided by CUSU, at last night’s Exec meeting, Mann stated, “why should I waste my time on people who aren’t paying my wages.”

St John’s and Jesus JCRs are also planning to hold referenda on whether to remain affiliated to CUSU.

>>Editorial page 13

A cultural college crawl

Our Arts reviewers try out the collegiate arts trail

Chavez, Morales & Bush

The rising South American Left debated

Not just paper dolls

Lifestyle ventures into the delicate world of paper dolls, crumpling into paper dresses and accessorising with translucent orange shoes. And still finds time for dinner. Welcome to the fold.

>> pages 14 & 15

A private moment

Jan Hislop, editor of Private Eye and Have I Got News For You stalwart, tells us how satirists deal with the serious, and how “cowardice” prevented him from printing the Muhammad cartoons.

>> page 9

The Hermes legend

Untangling the wires of our online lives

>>

A cultural college crawl

>>

Chavez, Morales & Bush

>>

Messing about on the river - Lent Bumps crowd the Cam as the Boat Race buildup begins

Slack students still being burgled

Rachel Cooper & Jamie Munk

A ROBBERY at Queens’ College on Wednesday night brings a number of thefts from central Cambridge college rooms reported in the last fortnight to a total of seven. In all cases, there was no evidence of forced entry, with thieves climbing through open windows and walking through unlocked doors.

In response, Varsity has this week conducted an investigation into all areas of college security, highlighting the ease with which intruders can access college facilities and students’ property. In nine out of thirteen central colleges, we gained access to private areas, including student sets, a laundry room, and cooking facilities.

In the recent spate of thefts, rooms at Sidney Sussex, King’s, Queen’s, Pembroke and Caius were targeted, with the loss of thousands of pounds worth of property. At Pembroke, two adjacent rooms were burgled within a week.

A first-year student lost his computer, iPod and cash when a thief entered through an open window whilst his neighbour lost a laptop. On March 3, a laptop and games console were taken from a ground floor room in Rodley’s Court at King’s, and two days later, a laptop and violin were stolen from a ground floor room in Bodley’s Court at Trinity.

Detective Sergeant Sam Kerr of Cambridgeshire Police told Varsity, “a fairly common trend is emerging whereby windows and doors were left insecure and property on view.” Police believe that one individual or a small group could be carrying out the crimes.

PC Carole Langton added that because entry was unforced, the thieves left very few fingerprints, making it difficult for police to apprehend the perpetrators.

>>continued on page 2

RACHELCOOPER

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No. 637, 10th March, 2006
College security continued

Continued from front page

She noted, “it makes our life much more difficult when students leave their doors open.”

Last term, Varsity investigated the ease with which student households were broken into, and revealed a shocking level of complacency amongst the residents, with windows left unlatched and doors unlocked. The recent rash of burglaries demonstrates that these problems remain, and this week’s investigation highlights the issue of inadequate security within colleges. Sidney porters claim that their security is strong, with combination locks on outer staircase doors, but Varsity was able to access a ‘locked’ staircase as a bedder had propped open the door with a laundry bag, and we managed to enter into a third-floor set. A King’s porter pointed out the problems of the college being a thoroughfare, stating students were too ‘stubborn’ to discuss security issues, and if you see somebody in the buildings, ask if you can help them. A Queens’ porter admitted “you can’t challenge everybody.”

The Domestic Bursar at Pembroke stressed that, regarding security, there must be “a balance between college and students”. He added that the two recent Pembroke break-ins were a long period without any problems, and expressed concern about further tightening security, turning through the college into “something that resembled a far stricter institution.” At King’s and Queens’, Varsity walked unchallenged into undergraduate rooms, and our reporters found lockable wardrobes, a few worth of electrical equipment, including expensive laptops, hi-fi systems and a TV-video combo. Even with negligible results in the staircases, we had ample time to search through the occupants’ belongings.

Despite the recent break-in at Ridley’s, students in the court continue to leave their rooms unlocked. We accessed a top-floor set on T staircase to the spite of the visible presence of other students in the vicinity. At Queens’, the in/out board on M staircase in Friars’ Court indicated which rooms were empty. The occupier of one bed had made his absence known, yet had neglected to lock his door. Varsity found a top-of-the-range laptop left exposed on the desk.

Our infiltration of sets and Casuarina and Trinity also demonstrated that the presence of the occupants does not serve as a barrier to theft. We entered two sets in Whewell’s and St. John’s, but could not enter the set occupancies protected by either student working in their study.

The porters also highlight the lack of privacy enjoyed by students living on college sites. Pigeon-holes at Trinity, Cairns and Emmanuel are open to anyone walking past, out of sight of college porters, although porters at both colleges argued that the mail room is protected by closed-circuit television. At Corpus and Sidney, the mail room is accessible by key only.

Although colleges aim to provide a secluded, university-like environment for their residents, Varsity was able to further intrude on student privacy. We were able to carry out a number of everyday activities without detection. At Pembroke, having tailed a student into the college, the gate had been locked, we brewed up and drank a cup of tea in a gym room in New Court. At St. Catharine’s, Varsity ran a bubble bath courtesy of students of J staircase, Sherlock Court. A free-to-use laundry room at St Michael’s Court, Casius, was accessed, as was the presumably summarily only library at King’s.

Having taken a break to read the morning papers in Caius JCR, Varsity rounded off the investigation with a buffet lunch at Clare. A number of students questioned “Are you from Clare? I don’t think I’ve seen you before.” Yet she was still willing to serve us our food. As community prepared to go to action in short of a strike.

The Graduate Union is pushing for a student-focused enforcement of contractual duties, relations with college porters under the FIA. Broadbent outlined the student’s approach to security with a “You’ve been Targeted,” and if you see somebody they don’t recognise, “Are you a porter? I don’t think so.” The University has warned its membership that such theft can cause. Sergeant Rycarte described victims of theft as “extremely draconian” by union members. A letter sent from the Personnel Division to all academic and academic-related staff stated that “partial performance of contractual duties (action short of a strike) should not be accepted and that pay should be withheld for the whole week.” In the same way, it would be if an individual were on strike.

Cambridge AUT President Mike Clark said, “the AUT believes that the action on the part of the University is provocative and unnecessary and aimed at bullying members into breaking the action. In these circumstances the AUT has decided not to accept any proposals that they hope would satisfy their demands to the assessment process. The AUT will continue to try and withhold payment to staff that is owed to them.”

Hunt also voiced concern about the University’s continuing plans to deal with the threat to examinations posed by the action short of a strike. On Wednesday, the University Council outlined plans to “accept and publish a list of successful candidates in examinations that have been taken by the majority but not all of the Examiners.” Examiners may include all candidates on whom no decision has yet been reached because of insufficient evidence. Hunt criticised the plans, saying, “no Cambridge student should be placed in a position where their degree is called into question.”

But the Council hope that it will not be necessary to use the emergency powers and think it a reasonable precaution to ensure that such powers are available.

Lecturers down tools

Academic staff picket the entrance to the Downing site

Gabriel Byng

CAMBRIDGE LECTURERS who took to the picket lines on Tuesday as part of a nationwide strike to campaign for pay increases have reacted with anger to the University’s proposal to withhold pay from those who participate in ‘action short of a strike’.

Lecturers, who are members of the University and Colleges Academic Trade Union (UCAT), on the picket line on Tuesday. Lecturers say they will not be paid for refraining from participating in action short of a strike.

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Brief Encounter with a Pretty Woman

- Varsity reunites Wolfson messenger with Emma belle after cinema sighting

Jamie Munk

A LOVE-STRUCK Wolfson student this week found a novel way of expressing his amorous feelings for an Emma heartthrob. After spotting the Emmanuel belle sitting a few seats from him at last Thursday’s showing of Good Night, and Good Luck at the Arts Picturehouse, he approached to seek her out by blanket pigeon-holing students at the college, which he saw her entering after the film.

Varsity successfully tracked down the girl in question, and exactly one week on from their first fateful meeting, arranged for the couple to reunite, in the same setting that originally sparked the affair, the Arts Picturehouse cinema.

In the 752flyers, delivered on Saturday, the Wolfson student wrote: “Will it have said that night was something silly like “fancy going to the cinema together on our own’s, again? If you would, you can reach me at yes_it_was_me_at_the_cinema@hotmail.com”

Students have received no reply to his message.

Ben was keen to express his purely innocent intentions in following up on the cinematic encounter. He told Varsity: “I am keen to get in touch with her, of course, but my overall objective was to let someone that they knew they touched someone else’s life a little. She did indeed make me smile and I felt moved enough to let her know.”

Emma potter’s response in good-humoured way to the mass pigeon-holing. One comment was: “We don’t like people in cafés”, which in the particular case of Ben’s gesture, added “good for him”.

Students at Emma learnt in the epistle that Ben sat just a few seats away from his sweet-heart in row D at the film. They read of how he “was kicking himself that night and next day for being so late after he just let you walk into Emma without saying anything at all”. The message was quite the talk of the college at brunch on Sunday, where speculation was rife as to the identity of the girl. One second year noted that “hall thought it was really sweet, and half that it was a little creepy”.

But the girl’s identity did not remain a secret for long. Her name, Stephanie Saffid, had soon appeared on the RAG ‘Web of Love’ in Emma bar, linked to “Cinema note girl”.

Steph Saffid and Ben Carrington share a joke at the Arts Picturehouse bar last night on their date, arranged by Varsity

Steph expressed both feeling surprised and touched by the message from her admirer. She didn’t actually see the note in her pigeon-hole, and only found out about it when friends burst into her room with the message on Sunday morning. She modestly commented “I’m not sure what to make of his attention”. She was impressed by such a grand gesture as Ben’s, saying “it takes a lot of courage and a certain poetic sensibility”.

But the approached Varsity’s arranged meeting at the Arts Picturehouse last night with a certain degree of trepidation. She confessed to Varsity “I did a good job of avoiding you”, adding “it’s all very embarrassing.” She admitted “I didn’t even tell you the story itself - my reservation is that it’s a one night”.

Ben was grateful for the part played by Varsity in his quest to seek out his partner. “I’m glad, it’s essentially what I wanted to achieve in the first place and you’ve made it easier for me, he commented, adding “I’m chuffed”.

The couple were keen to enjoy their drinks in the cinema bar, and last night Steph penned Varsity to let us know “he was really nice, I had a really good time”. The couple stayed at the bar until closing time at 1pm, when Ben walked Steph back to Emma. The only advice now left to give the couple is Good Night, and Good Luck.

John Walker

LAST SATURDAY, the Gonville and Caius Boat Club was declared the winner of this year’s Lent Bumps, completing a five-year run of wins, or “headships”. According to a long-standing, unofficial tradition, if the river is high, they are now permitted to build a clock tower on their boat house.

Within Caius, there is great support for the team’s efforts. The college flag was flown earlier this week to celebrate the victory. In an email to the squad, Jack McDonald, the Senior Treasurer of the Caius boathouse confirmed that “meetings had taken place “to press ahead with plans for the extension and improvement of the boathouse”.

The Caius’ First Eight on the Charles River in Boston, MA

Clock tower for Caius boaties

No back doors have been opened and made available to us. “

As per the validity of the clock tower tradition, Calvert responded, “as a crew we would settle for a watch catcher to the boat club wall”. The Bumps are a rowing tournament dating back to the 1820s in Cambridge in which the object of the competition is to touch, or “bump” the boat, oarsmen or blades of the boat in front. If one team manages to bump another, the boats leave their particular race, starting the next day’s event with their places swapped around. The Bumps races are continuous, meaning each team’s place carries over to the next year, and much prestige surrounds a team’s place in the event. Caius’ dominance on the river is striking. Of the last 30 headships awarded, Caius Boat Club lead with 17, followed by Emma with 6.

The tradition of the clock tower is not the only custom in Cambridge boating that may seem unusual to some. If a boat is bumped every day the team making the “achievement” is awarded “spoons” where each member receives a decorative wooden spoon. Another long standing tradition has been for the team that finishes Head of the River, or overall highest place in the Bumps, to burn a boat back at their college in celebration of the victory.

May Balls-up for Clare tickets

Rebecca Greig

HUNDREDS OF people have been left disappointed and angry after Clare May Ball tickets sold out within college for “the first time on record”, leaving non-college applicants unfurnished, and on a lengthy waiting list with no guarantee of entry. Clare first-year Joe Braidwood, who has been waiting for months, has expressed his frustration.

Asked about the validity of claims the Clare Ball Committee had been given more tickets than they actually had, Ed Carver, the Clare Ball Committee member responsible for logistics, informed Sharp that his application had been deleted and wrote that he took “great pleasure in not reading [his] email”. When asked to return his cheque, so that he could “destroy” it himself, Carver told Sharp “Tough luck - I’m afraid we can’t do that”. He also informed Sharp that his application had been deleted and that his was the “only point of contact was holding the door open for me after the cinema”, adding “we never spoke”.

The American postgraduate historian, Steph, explained how she had gone to see the film on her own, as friends of hers had already seen it but she was keen to go. She had noticed Ben sitting alone a few seats away from her, and was keen to get in touch with the girl on the email, “as Ben was keen to express his purely innocent intentions in following up on the cinematic encounter.”

Students have received no reply to his message.

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On Campus

Pembroke Pukers

A spat of student sickness seems to have engulfed Pembroke College. Cleaners have found vomit in the ladies’ Parliament Hall on Monday morning, another day this week, with sick also appearing on the paths in By Cloister. The JP Committee has had to clean up the mess and is no longer prepared to do so. In an email to students, Julia Renier, JP President, said, “we were expected to do a job, not do your job.” Adding: “this is NOT acceptable”.

The art of academia

Churchill College is playing host to an exhibition of academics and artists. The exhibition will highlight the importance of the process of drawing to the process of academic research and teaching. A diverse range of disciplines, maps, drawings from 91 academics will be on display at the college until March 21st, from 9am-4pm daily. Admission is free.

Fairtrade fortnight

A diverse range of events have been organised in Cambridge as part of this year’s Fairtrade Fortnight, which is running from March 6-17. The Corporation is showing tonight at 7pm at the Mcr, the Corpus Christi and a Cafe Crawl is set to sample Fairtrade coffee.

Cross Campus

‘Racist’ Leeds prof criticised

Leeds University is investigating the views of a “unrepentant Powellite” lecturer after more than 500 students signed a petition calling for him to be sacked. Dr Frank Ellis, a Russian tutor, has defended his views. Ellis said that his views were “abhorrent” but there was no evidence he had discriminated against students. Leeds University Secretary Roger Gair said, “Dr Ellis has a right to his personal opinions, but he does not have the right to treat students or colleagues in a prejudicial or discriminatory manner.”

Aliens at Sheffield?

It has been suggested that red fluid held at Sheffield University’s microbiology laboratory which fell as ‘red rain’ in India in 2001 may contain alien bacteria. Early investigations suggested that the rain was a result of a failure at the laboratory but it had mixed with dust from Arabia. Rejecting this, some scientists said that the cans had a “clear biological appearance”.“We don’t know where the red rain began to fall, a loud sonic boom was heard and houses in Kerala were shaken, something scientists claim could only have been triggered by an incoming meteorite.”

New Union President promises reform

Joe Godsen

LUKE PEARCE won a landslide victory in Tuesday’s Union election, beating his nearest rival Charlie Kaye by 1,300 votes. This dramatic result from the highest turnout for a decade has been hailed as representing a serious opportunity for change.

Peare, a second year SPS student at Kungs, was elected as President. He was not just about doing the basics well and that he was going to bring changes during his tenure. Integral to these were the goals of making the Union “central to Cambridge” once more, and reinvigorating the Wister Hall. Acknowledging that long term change would not be easy, he said he would work to improve accountability through attendance at Member’s Business Meetings and making improvements to the union’s processes.

Pearce boasted in his manifesto that he has “the contact at the local, national and international level” to make the change he wants to see in the Union.

A number of complaints were also filed by Pedley against the campaigning eth- niques used by some candidates, although these were dismissed by the returning officers. Despite such problems, Pearce was keen to highlight the positive nature of the election and his desire to use his mandate to improve sweeping changes at the Union.

Attacks continue on Parker’s Piece

Gabriel Byng

AN EMMANUEL second year student was punched in the face during a failed mugging attempt on Parker’s Piece on Tuesday.

The female undergraduate was returning home at around 2.30am when her handbag was grabbed. She punched the assailant twice in the face during the struggle. There were no injuries. She is not sure if she saw anything. The mugging started at 2.30am when her handbag was taken.

The attack occurred near the edge of the green.

Police announced last week that the council plan to erect infrared cameras in the park to stem the recent rise in violent crime. Councillor Mike Dixson, who represents the Market ward, said “I think we will need cameras across these areas much more acceptable to most people.”

On November 17 last year students lit candles across Parker’s Piece as part of a protest for better lighting in the area, but so far no action has been taken.

“You should be able to feel safe going back to your houses in Cambridge” the victim told Varsity.

The rescue said it “is always a matter of serious concern when students are attacked in such a vicious way”.

Violent crime levels in Cambridge have been dropping faster than the national average with a 46 percent reduction in street crime during the summer. “We’re the best-performing force in the country for violent crime, but have known for several years it was on the increase and has to be tackled,” said Detective Inspector Jeff Hill, head of Cambridge CID. “We’ve made dramatic progress after identifi- ing robbery as a problem in the city.”

Council unveils plan to tackle congestion

Twedros Sile

THE LATEST plans to beat the traffic jam enabling Cambridge’s city centre have been revealed to the public. The County Council released the details of the proposed changes this week and are keen to know what students and local residents think of them.

The changes outlined, which centre around Emmanuel Street, Drummery Street and St Andrew’s Street, come as Cambridge’s traffic in an area frequently affect- ing by traffic congestion, causing significant problems with the punctuality of bus services”. It’s hoped that improving the layout of the bus stops will allow for much easier and faster access for buses.

The draft plans of the project will deal specifically with Emmanuel and Drummery Streets, with the plans for St Andrew’s Street expected to be subject to a public consultation later this year.

The proposals have been designed with the input of those who were affected by the area, including Emmanuel College, retailers and city councillors.
SERIOUS QUESTIONS have been raised about the adequacy of Cambridge's student complaints procedure, with one CUSU Sabbatical Officer telling Varsity “we now advise all students to complain through their colleges.”

Members of CUSU Executive have voiced concerns that the current process is unacceptably lengthy, that the system is biased against students, and that University staff are currently afforded a higher level of protection than the student body. They also claim their frequent requests that the University re-examines its policy have, in the past, gone largely ignored.

But the University yesterday assured Varsity they were “actively reviewing” the issue and were set to announce changes next month.

The current complaints procedure involves a three-stage process: “Discussion and Advice”, “Informal Process” and “Formal Process”. Only at the final stage does the University become involved, and, students are invited to “exhaust informal routes before making a formal complaint”. To get good reason for not doing so.

Usually, students are told to seek the advice of a “College officer”, and then to raise the complaint at a “local level” with the person responsible for the matter. Should there still be a problem the student may make a formal complaint to the University, showing that “something has gone wrong in the discharge of a duty towards the student, and that the student has suffered as a result.” The complaint will then be referred to a panel of three for consideration.

Normally a hearing will then take place, and there is also a system of quasi-visitation by a Commissioner available.

Current procedure has been criticised on several grounds. CUSU Women’s Officer, Michelle Notall, told Varsity it felt it was fundamentally flawed, focusing particularly on the emphasis it places on the student’s tutor. According to the current procedure, your tutor is meant to be thelynchpin, but the standard of care offered by tutors varies enormously. I am also concerned that some female students may have no female point of contact at all within the tutorial system of their college,” she continued.

Vicki Mann, CUSU Welfare and Graduates Officer, shared this anxiety, saying “Tutors aren’t necessarily trained in this area, and I’m concerned that in Cambridge becoming a tutor is seen more as a promotion than as an important pastoral role.” There are individual other than tutors suggested in the complaints process as being able to approach, but students are advised to “normally seek advice from a tutor or director of studies.

spokesperson for the University said, “The University procedure for students is comprehensive and have been carefully prepared.” However, there have been previous cases in which procedure has clearly not followed. Varsity has learnt that in one instance it took more than 18 months for a hearing to following a student’s complaint to the University. This is despite the fact that current procedure stresses that “complaints will be deal with in a timely manner and that delay does not hinder fair resolution”.

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The University also face allegations that its staff are better protected than its students in terms of complaints procedure. The University recently drafted a new procedure for staff complaints, and CUSU Executive members feel that as the larger and more vulnerable group, students ought to have been dealt with first. A University spokesperson said: “We can’t explain this. It is a complicated factor was the two groups’ differing legal positions: in the complaints procedures for staff and students are different because staff are employees of the University and students are not; therefore, their legal situations are different.”

Varsity has also seen a letter on the subject of student complaints. Several members feel that as the larger and more vulnerable group, students ought to have been dealt with first. A University spokesperson said: “We can’t explain this. It is a complicated factor was the two groups’ differing legal positions: in the complaints procedures for staff and students are different because staff are employees of the University and students are not; therefore, their legal situations are different.”

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Saturday

I take my son to his fúg ku practice and go off to try him during his lesson. In the afternoon I play football with a few of my friends and in the evening I come to the visual arts centre here at Christ’s for a private view of the work produced at the drawing workshops I run this month.

Sunday

I go to the Arts Picturehouse to see You Draw A Bunny, a very beautiful film. I am particularly interested in the artist Ray Johnson, who the film is about, as somehow he made his death this last work of art.

Monday

I have an appointment at the top of the tower at Great St Mary’s to talk about my FycenProject - I want to put a temporary quilt on one of the towers, which will house an advance of material on Christ’s allowing visitors to see spectacular views from around the church. The images would be accessible from the roof itself, on the net, and even screen at ground level.

Tuesday

I go to the astronomy department to discuss running some workshops to do with art and astronomy. Then in the afternoon I teach foundation students. I give them a potato and ask them to react to it. I teach a life drawing class afterwards, and this week I make the students use their own potato to draw with, to force them to use the other side of their brain.

Wednesday

I have a long meeting with two of my editors to finalise the visibility study for the EyeCone project. Then I spend the afternoon preparing my presentation for the talk I’m doing as part of Cambridge Science Week. I’m speaking next Thursday at Lady Mitchell Hall.
so, have you decided yet?

We're searching for an overall Editor and a team of Section Editors to create Varsity in Michaelmas Term, and for our May Week Special Issue next term. If you have a passion for journalism and an interest in any of the sections of this newspaper, we want to hear from you. Experience really is not necessary - if you're passionate, dedicated, enjoy meeting new people and learning new skills, download an application form from www.varsity.co.uk today. For more information, contact any of us using the section email addresses listed on the team list on page 12.
HANNAH FLETCHER takes a trip to the very core of our Hermes Webmail addiction

These computers have no need for poxy screens. Screens are for wimps

Webmail as we know it was first introduced? Elizabeth Ogilvie, currently working for a Phd in history of art at King’s, arrived in Cambridge in 1997, at the very beginning of the internet revolution. There was email but it was “ridiculously primitive” with only 2MB of storage (compared with today’s 250MB) assigned to each account and not widely used. “You just knew where you would be and when you just turned up.” Most people didn’t even have mobile phones either. Ogilvie recalls seeing an ad on TV for nible phone network Orange. “It had monkeys in it. I had no idea what it was for - a zoo?” In 1999 she bought her first mobile, “a horrible brick of a phone” on the now-defunct network One2One. “We used to call it One2NoOne because there was no reception anywhere.”

But no matter how much we laugh at the thought of our poor Hermes-less predecessors, and no matter how adept we are at navigating our way through the inboxes and outboxes of our self-created virtual world, there will always be things about Hermes that we don’t understand. Click on the search option, change the first drop-down menu to “text”. Why oh why is it “(expensive)?” (“Ah, that would be computationally expensive.” explains Tony. It requires more effort on the part of the computer than searching addresses or subjects and, as a result, is slower.) And more profoundly, where do our e-mails go when we expunge them? (Nowhere. Go to folders, type “EXPUNGED” into the directory, press enter, then open the second inbox: Magic.) This is the power of Hermes.

We have Facebook walls on which to imagine a life without Hermes. Sure, we have Facebook walls on which to leave messages and mobile phones to text but what would we do without the reassuring toilet-wall tones, the reassuringly mundane existence, of our three, four or however many years we manage to stretch out our degree in this strange little town.

And twice a week, the trappings of our student lives are lovingly backed-up onto tapes - these are not like any tapes you’ve seen before; these are special tapes - where they will remain, locked in a fire-proof safe, for posterity or until a year after we graduate. Whichever comes first. Tony takes me over to another computer. This one has a screen and generally looks like a computer. Obviously, it’s a “machine”. Every second, long lines of colorful code appear on the screen, like a film’s rolling credits. It is nesersuring. Each letter denotes an email entering the system, being delivered, being rejected. Long series of -----'s show mailing lists the longer the line, the bigger the mailing list. Finally, some logic. At the end of every line, there are numbers showing the total activity. On Monday March 6 2006 from 11:37pm to 11:57pm approximately 45 emails per second are whizzing through the Hermes system.

For most of us, it is impossible to imagine a life without Hermes. Sure, we have Facebook walls on which to leave messages and mobile phones to text but what would we do without the reassuring toilet-wall tones, the reassuringly mundane existence, of our three, four or however many years we manage to stretch out our degree in this strange little town. And twice a week, the trappings of our student lives are lovingly backed-up onto tapes - these are not like any tapes you’ve seen before; these are special tapes - where they will remain, locked in a fire-proof safe, for posterity or until a year after we graduate. Whichever comes first.

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JESS HOLLAND ASKS

How are you, Daniel Dennett?

DD: I’m fine, thanks. I’m enjoying the reactions to *Breaking the Spell*, even the angry ones. They demonstrate that I was right to anticipate frantic and irrational reactions.

JH: Your latest book, *Breaking the Spell*, argues that religion should be seen as a natural phenomenon, analysed in evolutionary terms and discarded. Are you optimistic about the outcome of the evolutionists’ struggle against creationism in America, and in the rest of the world?

DD: Yes, but that may just be my optimistic nature. I still think that the sheer cumulative power of truth and reason can drive out irrationality and superstition if we are patient and persistent. Everybody has a deep, if tact, appreciation of the difference between truth and falsehood. Lies are unstable; truth isn’t.

JH: Do you have any thoughts on the relationship between politics and religion in Britain and how it compares with the situation in America?

DD: I gather the gap is narrowing, sad to say. I just read Duncan Campbell’s piece in the Guardian about the growing creationist movement in the UK. It reminds me of my student days in Oxford in the mid-60s when many British people were rather condescending about the civil rights problems America was dealing with. They soon discovered they were not as superior as they thought. America may sometimes uncover the problems first, but they are everybody’s problems.

JH: Are there circumstances in which you would feel that religion is a positive force?

DD: Certainly, religion has often been a positive force. It can still be a positive force. It is in any case a powerful force, and it can be wielded for good or evil. We need to learn how to keep religions from being exploited for socially malignant ends. If that isn’t possible, we will have to try to replace religion with something safer.

JH: Your explanations of free will, consciousness and religious faith in scientific material terms has led you to label a ‘reductionist’ by critics, who see you as leaving out something fundamental to these concepts.

DD: ‘Reductionist’ is what you call an implication you don’t like and can’t think of anything better to say in rebuttal. It has no fixed meaning. In one sense my thinking is wildly non-reductionist, spanning the chasm between talk about molecules and genes on the one hand and art, religion and meaning on the other. Darwin’s great idea is the all-time champion anti-reductionist idea, uniting the material, mechanistic world with the world of meaning. The claim that such a unification is impossible or undesirable is simply obscurantist.

JH: Do you have any ideas about new philosophical areas you want to explore in the future?

DD: Actually, I have hopes of making some real progress on the computational architecture of human consciousness. In one sense it isn’t so much philosophy as theoretical cognitive neuroscience, but in another sense it is a return to the old Socratic role of midwife, helping the experts talk to each other, helping them discover what we already know – but don’t know we know – about how consciousness works.

JH: You’ve studied under some of the luminaries of twentieth-century philosophy: W.V.O. Quine at Harvard and Gilbert Ryle at Oxford, both famous for attacking non-naturalist dogmas. How did they affect your thought, and what were you like as a student?

DD: I was secretly wildly optimistic and ambitious; I thought I could just see how philosophy could be done a lot better than most people were doing it. From Quine I got confirmation of my basic feet-on-the-ground American pragmatism, and my conviction that philosophy is continuous with, indeed, a part of science when it is done right. Quine was an auto-didact in philosophy; he majored in math as an undergraduate, and did his PhD thesis with Whitehead when Whitehead was over the hill and quite unable to understand what Quine was up to. So he did it all himself, and learned philosophy by listening sidelong to his colleagues – and doing lots of reading. I think he may never have actually taken any courses in philosophy!

From Ryle I got the sense that one didn’t have to be a professional sniper and counter-example-monger to do good work in philosophy. Ryle was willing to be controversial, but he was not a debater or point-scorer. Ever. Both of them were wonderful writers: vivid, accessible, with telling examples, intent on helping the reader understand, never hiding behind technicalities or obscurities even when it meant exposing their own confusion or uncertainty. I try to emulate them both.

Daniel Dennett will be giving the annual Heffer lecture at the Lady Mitchell Hall, Sidgwick Site on March 17 at 5.30pm.

Daniel Dennett is professor of philosophy at Tufts University. *Breaking the Spell* argues that we should see religion as a natural phenomenon whose extraordinary predominance in human thought can be analysed in evolutionary terms. He hopes that a scientific treatment of religion will encourage people to abandon their religious beliefs, and provocatively proposes ‘bright’ as a term to replace ‘atheist’. Dennett is famous for deflating ideas about phenomena that are seen as supernatural. In his previous books he has argued passionately against traditional views of free will and consciousness.
I an Hislop enjoys life, I think. He really does seem to have had a good time. On the day we met he is evidently still checked and chuckling with aplomb - he laughs unapologetically and indulgently telling a pot story. He knows he's got a great deal.

Once a week he sits in the Race I Get News For The Studio, dissecting the actions of politicians, celebrities, even he and wannabes (those aren't discrete categories of course) and, well, taking the biscuit. "It's a bit of a demand, isn't it?"

"For each issue of Private Eye he contributes a cartoon, finally deciding upon one to play 'little wifey'. I think it's well chosen to the day before the pair announced their separation. "Fairly precisely, he says it. "I won't laugh because it'll look a bit silly."

"I think there's no value in the market for share tipping. I'm not against it because it needs to be told." He quickly adds, in his defence is pretty small. I'm not one of them, but... he was subject to an extensive investigation of his involvement in the scandal and he was completely cleared.

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S o there emerges a peculiar mix in Ian Hislop. On one hand he's a protracted, even obsessed, with substantiation and accuracy. Seeking out the libels, illegitimately and inadequacies of public figures is something of a game to him, an enjoyable tussle. Making them get on to the subject of the recent imprisonment of the Mirror's City Slitters columnist James Hipwell for share tipping.

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THE DEBATE: RISE OF THE LEFT?

LAURA DIXON asks what EVO MORALES’ Bolivian transition means for South America

Bolivia has had five different administrations in five years. Prior to the election last December, the poorest country in Latin America was paralyzed by frequent strikes and protests from the capital, La Paz, to the highlands. In the Presidential election, indigenous former coca union leader Evo Morales triumphed with over 50% of the vote. This is the largest personal mandate in a President in Bolivia since the return to democracy in the early 80s. However his policy goals, combined with his apparent closeness to vocal anti-U.S. President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela have made him a controversial international figure.

Richard Calland: Visiting Law Fellow, Robinson College. He has worked as an advisor to a number of Bolivian governments. He hosted Evo Morales in the South African part of his tour as President-elect in December 2005

Carlos Orías: International News Editor, El Deber, Bolivian national newspaper

Liliana Colanzi: Postgraduate student at the Centre for Latin American Studies, Cambridge, specialising in Bolivian politics

Firstly what did you think of Morales’ success in the December elections? Did you expect it?

Calland: Yes, I did expect it. I thought the tide of history was with him. What was perhaps a little surprising was the scale of his victory. That was a major accomplishment and gives him a very significant popular mandate. His victory gives the indigenous population of Bolivia a possibility to be represented for the first time. It is a moment of opportunity to inject a fresh, modern democracy into what was a very stale political system.

Orías: I think that Mr Morales’ election is a landmark for his country and has great historical importance both for Bolivia and across South America. Working at the newspaper, I saw his victory coming, although the margin of his success was much narrower than I thought.

Colanzi: I also saw the victory of Evo Morales coming. However, I was doubtful that the elites of Bolivia would accept his victory. In the end however, I suppose democracy triumphed.

Do you think that President Morales will be able to end the recent period of political instability in Bolivia?

Calland: Unfortunately, I don’t think it will necessarily bring the instability to an end. It may be that things will have to become more unstable before they can find a new equilibrium.

Orías: So far, the negotiations that have taken place have occurred remarkably smoothly. The principal problem now is that Morales has placed a number of inexperienced members of his party, the MAS (Movement to Socialism), in positions in the public administration. These people largely inexperienced, and now have an enormous responsibility. I fear that we could see history repeating itself. Stability is now dependent on the government being able to negotiate with the regions, and their demands for autonomy.

Colanzi: This government will perhaps be more unstable than any of those that have gone before. Morales’ principal strength lay in the support of the popular classes. However, this strength could also be his weakness. Popular support is a fragile thing, and it can turn against you. In fact, this is already starting to happen to Morales; teachers have recently gone on strike for the second time, unless he makes changes to the Education Law. The support he has is conditional on his policies resulting within a very short time frame.

What do you think of Morales’ dedication to his principles regarding coca, the nationalisation of natural resources, and his international belligerence?

Orías: The coca issue is a difficult one. Evo has asked the coca growers to help him restrict the growth of coca plantations, and prevent the country descending into a spiral of narco-trafficking. The subject has however remains contentious with the U.S. For the time being, he has a lot of authority amongst the coca growers. He has declared the end of coca as a poison, and was recently confirmed as the coca-growing union leader once again. In his pursuit of nationalisation, so far he seems to have made an agreement with the main petrol firms, Petrobras and Repsol. The problem is that there is a need to have a joint vision, but that this vision is completely different from that of other left-leaning leaders in Latin America.

Colanzi: Definitely. This is just an example of a growing neo-populism in Latin America. However, the ‘Left’ of Morales is very different from the Left of say, Michelle Bachelet in Chile. I think that Fidel Castro, Chavez, and Morales share the same vision, but that this vision is completely different from that of other left-leaning leaders in Latin America.

Calland: Not his. Morales’ success was part of a wave of across Latin America. This electoral year, there will be changes in Colombia, Peru, Nicaragua and Mexico. And it seems Lula will stay in control in Brazil. As Liliana says, it is important to distinguish between the different degrees of left-leaning governments. Morales can continue taking elements of some, and some of the other, but he will also have to face internal pressures to take a radical position.

How do you see relations between Bolivia and the US developing?

Calland: It is a very difficult question to know how things will move forward. The fact that President Morales got this majority makes it a lot harder for the United States to put pressure on him. However, the U.S. will also be very concerned about a build up of alliances in the Andes, and also for the economic and commercial interests of North American companies in the region. But China are very important.

And regarding Chavez in Venezuela? He, at least, sees President Morales as a partner of the Left as opposed to the U.S.?

Colanzi: As for Chavez, he continues to enjoy considerable popular support, and incendiary declarations, as long as the Petro-dollars last. As regards Bolivia, it seems he supports Bolivia, but on the whole, he offers cheap hydrocarbons to Brazil and Argentina, which undercut the hydrocarbon economy of Bolivia, which is currently one of the pillars of the Bolivian economy.

Orías: The difference between Chavez and Morales is that in Bolivia Evo does not have the resources to finance policies like that of Chavez.

For the future, are you hopeful Mr Morales will be able to change all he hopes to?

Calland: He faces an immense challenge. Fortunately, he’s more likely to fail than he is to succeed given the very powerful range of forces lined up against him and his transformation project. However, he has said he would rather stick to his principles and fall at the hands of his people than to fall at the hands of the Empire.

Orías: The next five years will be full of difficulties for the Bolivian government.

Colanzi: Unfortunately, I think a number of factors are working against Morales in the long term. With the debt he has inherited, this government is trying to resolve problems it will be never be able to change. Santa Cruz, which has come to symbolise the Right, will continue to represent his biggest challenge. Furthermore, the economic base of his government remains fragile. In spite of his best intentions. Although he has promised to.compromise with transnational companies, his policies have yet to inspire the confidence of foreign investors. Also, a large part of his success is dependent on the unity of the MAS and his government.
The Neighbours From Hell

Inspirational art fights it out with own-sake art

Tim Roach

As a long-time art lover and critic, I have always been fascinated by the complex relationship between art and politics. In recent years, we have seen a growing number of artists using their work to address social and political issues, and this trend is likely to continue in the years to come. However, as we see in this article, not all art is created equal. Some is truly inspirational, while others are simply propaganda.

The article begins with a quote from the artist Turner: “Art is not an end, but a means to an end.” This is a timeless truth, and one that is echoed by many artists today. However, the article goes on to suggest that some artists are more interested in the means than the end, using their work as a tool for political gains rather than as a reflection of the human condition.

This is a worrying trend, and one that we must be careful to avoid. Art should be about more than just politics, and it should not be used as a weapon in the hands of those who seek to manipulate and control. Instead, it should be about shining a light on the world around us, and helping us to understand our place in it.

The article also discusses the CUSU's Aims and Values, and how they are being used to argue for the introduction of top-up fees. This is a controversial issue, and one that is likely to cause a great deal of debate in the coming years. However, as this article suggests, the CUSU's Aims and Values are not merely a set of goals, but a reflection of the values and beliefs of the students who belong to it.

In conclusion, I believe that art should be about more than just politics. It should be about the human experience, and about helping us to understand ourselves and our world. While some artists are using their work to address political issues, we must be careful to ensure that this is done in a way that respects the values and beliefs of all those who participate in it.
Culture Minister Disem-Jowells Our Expectations
Double-life Secretary of State and her ilk make our lives interesting

T

the past two weeks have all been about Tessa Jowell. No one seems to have realised how odd that is. It means, it's never been about Tessa Jowell. Even for the Culture Minister herself, you get the impression it's not really been about Tessa Jowell. So what's going on? Why, in a period of escalating violence in Iraq, George Bush's nuclear-powered visit to India and a 14 percent increase in Chocolate, How do you solve a problem like Tessa? How do you catch an (alleged) can of beans? He's a simple sort of bloke, isn't he? But let's ignore that piling point for a period, and imagine, for argument's sake, that all over Cambridge heads are being scratched, pints spilt, and friendships destroyed as the propoerty of Jowell's expectations are fully debated.

Tony Blair, meanwhile, has put his full support behind his heroine. Broadly speaking this is a good thing; it's heartening to see our leadership sticking up for each other in times of trouble. But the worry is: what is he only doing it because God told him to? If that were the case, we should surely be worried; what if God misheard and thought he was sticking up for Mother Theresa? Driven or driven, Blair's loyalty is revealing. It is surely not beyond the realms of possibility that his initial irritation at the scent of ministerial malpractice has been brought around by the realisation that, despite the long-lasting nature of allegations, public interest was more the product of avaricious than anger. Absorbed that the Jowell we all knew, is, in fact, entirely different Jowell, a more sour-faced, and decisively more interesting version. It's this consistent that are our heads. A classic of subtextual dominance. Text: “Has Tessa Jowell broken the Minister's code of conduct?” Subtext: “Holy smoke. Tessa Jowell isn’t the ghost. Blair-fodder we thought she was. What’s that about? In this way, Tessa Jowell is just like Julie Andrews in the Sound of Music (Alright, a bit like Julie Andrews). In the film we are introduced, and accept young Julie as a lightweight, kind-hearted, hill-living nun; and then, all of a sudden, she’s an all-singing, all-dancing, Super-Mum. She even finds time to confront some Nazis. Where did that come from, we wonder. Similarly, we all thought we had pucky Tessa pegged. Which begs the question: How do you solve a problem like Tessa? How do you catch an (alleged) can of beans? He’s a simple sort of bloke, isn’t he? And ask him who was paid? And so on.

WHAT IF ONCE WE LEAVE EVERYONE IS COVERED IN RONSEAL, AND DOES EXACTLY WHAT THEY SAY ON THE TIN?

If there is a distinctly musical flavour to the affair, it is also plain that a large part of the attraction is the distinctly comic element. I mean, how classic is it that at the Italian end of the nefarious network is a sinister and besoulted Mafia boss, whilst our native variant prominently features a sinister and besoulted mortgage dealer. Genius. Whether or not it subsequently transpires that David Mills has committed perjury and/or fraud is somewhat irrelevant; the man is an absolute first class scum-character. You can imagine a first episode in which ‘Tessa’ and ‘Dave’osing (as they did) over Council minutes in Cambridge. Milloy (as we’ve come to know best) is a young, slick, and immediately captivating piece of evidence I would cite my long-aren’t Americans among you, the British media reports "news" sources similar to the ones you guys rely on. For those of us who try to keep above this media storm it’s a tiring and exhausting week, both mentally and in terms of keeping up my routine sleep check as part of my job as a mains inspector for British Gas. Wobbler’s Tale.blogspot.com

Winston Churchill once said: “democracy is a swarm: rude, and a bitch”. For once I sympathise with the old man as I roll up my thick, birch-bark socks for another day looking for that bloody wren. As a free-lance journalist, times don’t come much quieter than 6.03am in a sleeping bag outside northern Johannesburg. The air stinks fetid. There is a Father here with huge hands whose growl warms your heart the way you remember. Come and get me!

HiaElec.blogspot.com

North Dakota, 08:45 hours. Not enough bread to fetch a cake, but I’ll just carry on teaching and writing and doing everything else. It doesn’t mean to say messages are, of course, to me, a source of utter delight. I just can’t keep on publishing myself via the net and the world wide web and hope that somebody hears my plight.

Rick*Stein.com/poetry

Just remembering Shakespeare who “made in [him] a sparkling fittest soul”. Just thinking how apt this is in relation to certain gold-medal-winning athletes who haven’t been too shy about, asserting their winnings in this week’s edition.

Johannesburg. The air stinks fetid.

in a sleeping bag outside northern

So much to do, so little time... President Ferguson prepares for the coming battle while Elder Stateswoman Laura chassis the whip. Woo-pah.

Culture Minister Disem-Jowells Our Expectations
Double-life Secretary of State and her ilk make our lives interesting

Olaf Henricson-Bel

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VARiTy
VARSITY

The need for reform becomes clear immediately upon reading the case studies of students who have had negative experiences of the University’s complaints procedure. It is conventional to bring a sense of rationality back into this debate “by refocusing on the simple benefits that Cambridge students can obtain for less than £6, and quelling the murmurs of dissatisfaction.”

The Anonymous Student

Dear Sir,

I must take issue with several items in your current edition (Varsity, 3rd March). First, you display an in favour of supporters of testing on animals in your editorial, “Right fight or wrong?” Nothing wrong with that - if you were simply declaring your paper’s support for animal testing. But you are evidently trying to do more than that, as your condemnation of Pyrcock’s attempt to bring a sense of rationality back into this debate “implies” that Pyrcock is a force of moderation, implored both sides to exploy perceived naught but words. He is nothing of the sort: he is a campaigner for animal testing.

All he has done to win your allegiance is not all, but not something that distinguish es him significantly from the rest of the population, or indeed from opponents of testing on animals. Your reference to the above terms, juxtaposed with the piece’s opinion that the simple benefits that Cambridge students can obtain for less than £6, and quelling the murmurs of dissatisfaction is exaggerated, for the reasons that Cambridge students can obtain for less than £6, and quelling the murmurs of dissatisfaction is exaggerated, for the reasons that CUSU will be vital to resolving the debates necessary for its progress.

In contrast to this was Mark Ferguson’s unashamed decision to stay away from the vote unless his campaign was successful. This is not encouraging: the coming year will be filled with important opportunities to challenge, to illustrate than student journalists recording possible electoral disappointment. Staged photographs of his “reaction” to the news of his victory leave more than a bitter aftertaste to those who were there. Regardless, his task is a huge one. Making his union relevant and useful has already been a blow by the dissatisfaction of Trinity Union of Students. The confusion following as to just what Trinity students are now entitled is indicative of CUSU’s failure to firmly drive their message into college unions. Ferguson’s first task is to do is this: justifying the simple benefits that Cambridge students can obtain for less than £6, and quelling the murmurs of dissatisfaction. It is crucial to the progress of medical science; suggest wrongly that animal testing is objectively right and that its opponents are predominantly violent.

Second, while as a Classist and a thief I am as pleased as Napoléon Bonaparte is when he discovered the native sun his adaptation of the “blacks” got an ADC Mainshow slot (even though it is deplor ably getting back to me after I announced, both here and elsewhere, “a Renaissance for Cambridge, a chance – to break up from the playwriting” is exaggerated, for this is not unique: “Wetnash College”, as a musical satire on Oxbridge, was first performed in full (as the ADC Mainshow last year). Last, I was disappointed to see Mary flowers refer to our college’s famous wooden structure by the spurious and misleading sobriquet of “the Mathematical Bridge”. It had enough coming from tourist guides a flyers’ student ought to know better. This seems to be the case for students.

Laurie Marks  
Queens’ College

Reality Check

Dear Sir,

As a working-class, Community College-educated football supporter with a Provincial accent who has been known on occasion to read the Sun (although admittedly has never been a huge fan of baseball caps) I was appalled to see Adam McNestrie’s stereotyping of the working class in his article, “Cam’N’Stang Are We Northern Korea With Spurs?” (Varsity Comment, 3rd March). While I appreciate that Mr McNestrie is the first to admit that his hatred of the working class is an image that paints an untrue picture of working-class life. His breeding, his social and economic background makes him a bona-fide member of the Middle Class, but this does not detract from the fact that he is a complete and utter racist. As a perfectly articulate member of Bradford’s working class I can say that my conversation is not punctuated with excrement, I do not wear tracksuits and am extremely proud of my Yorkshire accent which I have no intention of losing during my seemingly perpetual stay in this godforsaken town. Unlike Mr McNestrie, it matters not to me what social background or working class or Maccy D’s any day. My pre-judged corre spondent clearly does not appreciate the width of working class as I do, for other prejudices he holds; after all, if I hate racists, who isn’t behind him, is he is nicely confessing to all manner of prejudices. I am glad that Mr McNestrie has finally made a decision on behalf of the populace as to what constitutes important - clearly in the case of footballer spending time in an outlaws pub, football politics and, of course, getting back to me after I auditioned, her suggestion of getting back to me after I auditioned, for me to do work in the afternoon. However, I have been afraid to fettle, but why do I feel obliged to host a poker evening until 1am in my掳luding? It’s like when we wake up feel ing like there’s a Frenchman living inside our heads we vow to drink again, but somehow, come next Wednesday at 7.30 pm, I go to my room would be a good idea. I’ve cre ated that I think like Mikey, you would have to be me in order to be able to understand this.

I get rinsed for being the smart kid that goes to bed at one but I am as proud of my reputation. I’m still the kid that goes to bed at one and crisis in the Executive draws to a close, we are left wondering whether or not students are to feel protected within their own University.

The need for reform becomes clear immediately upon reading the case studies of students who have had negative experiences of the University’s complaints procedure. It is important in a highly pressured living and working environment that transparent and comprehensive measures exist to resolve such issues as quickly as possible. However, the University’s pledge to review its procedure rings hollow if students do not feel that they have been dealt with up until now. The problems seem to point to a fatal weakness at the heart of the Cambridge pastoral system, that of the tutor/student relationship and the lack of adequate training provided for tutors. This must be urgently addressed if students are to feel protected within their own University.

Varsity is now looking for a new editorial team for its Michaelmas 2006 editions, including an overall Editor and editors for each section of the newspaper. If you’d like to apply, download an application form from www.varsity.co.uk

You can also apply to be a part of the one-off team for Varsity May Week special. We are also looking for a full-time Business Manager for the 2006-7 academic year. Full details can be found on pages 6 and 27.

Opportunities at Varsity

A Handy Tip

Dear Sir,

Two words for Adam McNestrie: Wi-Fi Access. With the appropriate hardware, one can be in Starbucks, logged in, and browsing Facebook. If a higher form of procrastination exists, I am not aware of it. I am an Arts student, I know about these things...

You speak as if you are not involved in the University debate, I am.

Persecuted Philosopher

Letters may be edited for space and clarity

Letter of the Week

“I am convinced that my friends are idiots”

The Anonymous Student

This Week: Cambridge’s Nocturnal Culture

Think back to when you were eleven. Daddy still had to threaten you with punishments to stop you staying up all night playing Goldilocks. You just weren’t mature enough to realise that a night without sleep hit your body like a train the next day. Few people stop to think about this stupidity, and nothing has changed. Not even Cambridge students are capable of putting themselves to bed at a sensible hour. As a perfectly articulate fellow from Spires? (Varsity Comment, 3rd March) I have finally made a decision on behalf of the populace as to what constitutes important - clearly in the case of footballer spending time in an outlaws pub, football politics and, of course, getting back to me after I auditioned, her suggestion of getting back to me after I auditioned, for me to do work in the afternoon. However, I have been afraid to fettle, but why do I feel obliged to host a poker evening until 1am in my掳luding? It’s like when we wake up feel ing like there’s a Frenchman living inside our heads we vow to drink again, but somehow, come next Wednesday at 7.30 pm, I go to

10.03.06 Editorial Varsity 13


John Tippell  
Jesus College

Richard Kilip  
Queens’ College

Letter of the Week wins a specially selected bottle of wine from our friends at Cambridge Wine Merchants, King’s Parade
Lifestyle

stands out from the crowd rather than attracts plenty of attention and party girl. She is that friend that leather belt that other women you…

what your party partner says about their style for the evening. In the get people talking like Sandra attractive Keanu Reeves in tow to like Reese Witherspoon or with an their choice of dress. Whether the leading ladies knew that their choice of dress is paid not only to your outfit

for your comfort rather than to

behind them. They are often there

An attentive boyfriend may seem

In the end, accessories are there

idea of a ‘style’, choosing to sketch

Wilding’s first collection the revival of the evening tones, occasionally

smile. It was a quiet, wet down we flashed each other

Abraham, the proprietor.

The table itself was quite

His week, this restaurant is

rich and tender and stewy,

stewed slowly on the bone

selection of meats and

Antivalle.

the Rice Boat’s marvel-

tempura-like Onion Vada

Lamb Utharlu. We could

Chicken Curry) and the

Lamb Tandoori. We could not recover the last time we are charmed on an Indian

bag (a favourite though

jewellery, it’s cheap or treat.

but it takes a true eye for

Just follow these four

Rule number one: if you

suit. If you wear something

out of proportion.

Rule number four: forage.

Segmental bag (£20

This versatile belt (£20

oversized, you may find

over the years that

costume so hard to

transform an outfit

ThisNaval Road

A statement piece at a

A tip from Luisa

Minky and Zoe

CHOOSING SHOES

STYLING BY LUCY

Photographed by Andy Sims

Origami by Mike Taylor and Ayaka Suzuki

Modelling by Zoe

The Times fashion editor Stella McCartney, offering

a tip of advice. As a young fashion editor, she

addresses the needs of the modern girl. Stella

McCartney is famed for her trademark of

cut, texture and colour. McCartney’s design

approach is unique in that she designs the

world as a whole and combines the

apparel with accessories and

make-up. She is often seen

wearing her own creations,

dressed in the same

ensemble. This seasons

stripes of folded asymmetrical
gowns and overcoats, she

shone a bright light on

the London fashion
circuit. Her clothes are

known to be made

sustainably and ethically,

using wool from her own

sheep and organic cotton

from the farmers where she

knows you want to.

shoring up her

orange smile in this

sunny season and amp

up the hale break. There

will always be a few

lucky few who can

what can’t these days?

End of term gossips can be seen as

harassment, it needs

to be ended. As the sun

set on the final days of

spring, Buzzy and

Zoe take the break, be

creative and get more

out of their summer.

Nestled on the

Esplanade South, Buzzy

is a family friendly

restaurant with a

chilled out atmosphere.

If you want to have a

good night, pick your

favourite bar. Like your

favourite band, it can

be as exciting to

nerve fringes to the

beauty of the British

fashion industry, but

outside the UK, she

is famous for her

clothing line.

Stella is a fashion icon

of our generation.

The Times

credit

Wowsers, great cruise and

eye flickers. The rest of the

summer season will

decision on your

summer break. With

those Buzzy’s and

Shore Road would have

looked just as

charming with or without

Ryan Pidgeon. Buzzy is

just as laid back, and

won’t let the small stuff

bother them.

Jenny Sticks

NEW DESIGNER

MICHAEL WILDING

T he brand, Vanity Fairness, born in London, is a unique blend of British and American fashion. Michael Wilding, who is the creative director and founder, is still working on the product and creating clothing lines. The team consists of experienced designers, and Michael is the one who keeps the brand alive with his passion for fashion. He believes in creating classic designs that are timeless and comfortable for all ages.

Willing himself at 18, working to be known for his work and passion, the brand is rapidly gaining attention.

The collection is available at Buzzy’s, a restaurant and bar in South London. The restaurant has a relaxed and cozy atmosphere, with comfortable seating and a variety of drinks and snacks.

Review: RICE BOAT

37 NEWHAVEN ROAD

ACCESSING YOUR ACCESSORIES

T he restaurant Rice Boat is located on

Buzzy’s in South London. It is

an Asian-inspired

restaurant with a

relaxed and

relaxed atmosphere.

The food is

excellent, with

specialties such as

tempura-like Onion Vada, slow

cooked Lamb Utharlu, and

a variety of Indian curries.

The restaurant

is also

well-known for its

beautifully decorated

interior with

unique

furnishings.

The rice boat

is a

speciality of the restaurant,”

commented on the

Rice Boat’s chef.

The restaurant offers

a

variety of dishes to

please all palates.

The

menu includes

temple

butter chicken,

Spicy Tandoori Chicken,

and a

variety of

vegetarian dishes.

The

restaurant also

has

a

selection of

wines

and

drinks

to

complete

the

meal.

The

restaurant

is

open for

lunch and dinner,

and

reservations

are

recommended.

The

restaurant

has

a

happy hour

from

5-7 pm

where

they

offer

specially

priced

drinks.

The

restaurant

is

open

seven days

a

week

and

is

closed

on

Sundays.

The

restaurant

can

accommodate

up

to

50

people

for

private

events.

The

restaurant

is

located

at

37

New

Way

in

London,

SW11

3JQ.
**Arts**

**Monday**

Theatre

I went to see **John's** the other night. It was sort of about Nazi-occupied Paris and sort of about The Subconscious. To put it bluntly, it wasn't very good, with slightly stilted acting and a script consisting largely of foggy existentialism (“what's the point?” – good question).

Music

I've been to several acoustic events, and I've enjoyed them, but I think I prefer them somewhere other than the King's Cellar. The college consists of several buildings, and it seems to me that the acoustics are not great. It's also very small, and the room is quite hot.

**Tuesday**

Theatre

I saw a play on Tuesday. It was about a family, and it was really well acted. I enjoyed it a lot, and I think it's a good way to spend an evening.

Music

I went to an acoustic night at the Track Shack at King's. It was really good, with a lot of local talent. I enjoyed it a lot, and I think it's a good way to spend an evening.

**Wednesday**

Theatre

I saw a play on Wednesday. It was about a family, and it was really well acted. I enjoyed it a lot, and I think it's a good way to spend an evening.

Music

I went to an acoustic night at the Track Shack at King's. It was really good, with a lot of local talent. I enjoyed it a lot, and I think it's a good way to spend an evening.

**Thursday**

Theatre

I saw a play on Thursday. It was about a family, and it was really well acted. I enjoyed it a lot, and I think it's a good way to spend an evening.

Music

I went to an acoustic night at the Track Shack at King's. It was really good, with a lot of local talent. I enjoyed it a lot, and I think it's a good way to spend an evening.

**Friday**

Theatre

I saw a play on Friday. It was about a family, and it was really well acted. I enjoyed it a lot, and I think it's a good way to spend an evening.

Music

I went to an acoustic night at the Track Shack at King's. It was really good, with a lot of local talent. I enjoyed it a lot, and I think it's a good way to spend an evening.
New comedy, new danger
Henry Eliot interviews himself about writing the Harry Porter Prizewinner...

Henry: Henry Eliot, you won the 2006 Footlights Harry Potter playwriting prize. How was the reaction?

Henry: With The Barber Shop. That's right. It's on next week. Come along and bring all your friends!

Henry: Well maybe I will. Now, would you tell us a little bit about writing comedy?

Henry: Ok. I wrote most of The Barber Shop the day before the deadline, while drinking a few Kwaito cola and feeling guilty about a Swiss girl called Carole who was reading a book about linguistics on my sofa.

Henry: Multicultural... It's supposed to be funny. Ok. Maybe a little synopsis?

Henry: I like your questions. Thank you.

Henry: It's about a guy called Hugh who meets another guy called Henry.

Henry: That's it.


Henry: Nice name.

Henry: Quiz. As Hugh tells the story, the scenes are re-enacted and Henry watches them, invisible to everyone but Hugh.

Henry: Clever.

Henry: Thank you. Sometimes Henry pauses the scenes and discusses with Hugh what he could be doing better. Hugh also has an over-developed imagination which creeps out until there are a few dramatic twists and a spectacular ending.

Henry: I see. Well it sounds very watchable. Now perhaps you could tell us a bit about yourself.

Henry: Do you write a lot?

Henry: When I can. I've had two other scripts performed this term: a modern musical version of TsrilKa and a new adaptation of Flann O'Brien's novel The Third Policeman. And I won a poetry prize last year, but I haven't long hair any more.

Michael: Um, Henry?

Henry: Hello?

Henry: Was that you?

Henry: Who?

Henry: Am I?

The Harry Porter Prizewinner: The Barber Shop is on at the ADC next week at 17pm

...and Nick Mohammed subliminally mixes mind control with comedy in the Forer Factor

C an I play with your mind? I mean, I can, but can I? Thanks a lot, really kind. So. Read this character analysis. Imagine it's your horse's

"You have a need for other people to like and admire you, and yet you tend to be critical of yourself. At times you have serious doubts as to whether you have made the right decision or done the right things. Some of your aspirations tend to be rather unrealistic. At times you are extroverted, affable, and sociable, while at other times you are introverted, wary, and reserved. Does that sound like you? Well you think it does but you're wrong wrong wrong, because it was actually written in 1948 by the psychologist Bertrand R. Forer, who proved that people accept vague statements as being uniquely applicable to themselves, with no other realising that the same description would be true for pretty much anybody else. That's how mind control works, and, surprisingly, it's also how The Forer Factor works. Why is this amazing, because it's a comedy. No one has ever before combined comedy with the subliminal. This is unprecedented. Hold onto your hats.

Nick Mohammed's new comedy is at the ADC from the 22nd-25th March at 17pm. Hear the trailer at www.theforerfactor.com

Horse from making noise
Tom Royston is only whelmed by Richard III

Dear 20th and 21st Centuries,
You know, you've seen Shakespeare in Love, so you're no excuse. I've written, what, five million plays or something? Obvi-
ously I knocked them out like bally-o. So I'm not that fussed about the little details... I never was.
But while you continue to tinker with my piping staging (inciden-
tally, I still LIKE boys playing women and I LIKE strap on the
floor...) you severently leave my words alone. Now, I admit, twice I have a nice turn of phrase now and again. But "As 'tween retail'd
to all posteritie?" Five hundred years ago that possibly meant something. If you honestly still think that - uh - bad people can't tie
their laces? Shakespeare left the relationship between Richard's disability and charac-
ter open. I would have liked to see it more firmly addressed.

Yours sincerely,
William Shakespeare

The Varsity Elect, Pass Judgement, with Tom Kinley, Tom Sharpe & Tom Williams

T he best plays this term have been those which you have remembered they were being watched. The ones which tried to give something to the audience. Entertaining should affect the viewer emotionally. It should be enjoyable. It shouldn't be about trying to impress by wheeling out a tired old classic, or by lazily throwing together a bunch of thespians and expecting something meaningful to evolve from the mess. Trying to be clever isn't clever. And so the good plays this term, as always, were those which had some substance, some sincerity behind them. The ones where those involved were in it to give, not to take. It's just so obvious when people are dully beautiful set that graduatedly filled with bullet holes and blizzards. The script - rapprochement of Greek tragedy to Northern Ireland - went over the heads of anyone who wasn't familiar with both of those things. Which was everyone. This is probably a problem. But at least it was written by someone young. There should be way more new writing. Without saying. Just way more new. It's too obvious in 2006 even. Brick Walls might be good. That's coming up. The Third Policeman may only have been an adaptation, but it couldn't have felt any more generously exuberant. Maybe it could have done with a shade more editing, but moments of it were properly inspiring.

ETG's Taming of the Shrew kept its simplicity in mind throughout, and ended up an infectiously energetic pantomime, not overfilled with ideas, but full of warmth.

Beautiful Child did the impossible - not only did it make the depressingly shabby Corcoran Centre seem truly stylish, but it made paedophilia quite charming. This un-hyped gem of a play was probably the unexpected delight of the term. Let's finish on that.

Entertainment should be entertaining. If you weren't entertained by a play, you weren't being stupid. It just wasn't a good play. Or at least not staged well. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.
Designing: just child’s play?
Simone Westermann reports on Cambridge architecture students’ project in the real world

In September 2004 Mayfield School caught fire. A catastrophe undoubtedly, but one that offered the school a chance to create a new and better educational environment. Thus, just as Christopher Wren created a new St Paul’s from the ashes of the Great Fire of London, the Architecture Sans Frontiers Cambridge (ASF), a committee of architecture students at the University, have been called in to design a new reception class playground.

The University’s Active Community Fund and NatWest Supergrounds so far, though additional sources are welcomed.

Two students involved, Theo Greber and Hanne Van-den-Berg, explain just how energy and originality required for such a project. A close working relationship between the coordinates of the Mayfield School and ASF has developed since then, with both parties sharing an ambition to bring it beyond the ‘swings-and-slides’ playground prototype.

The aim was an environment where children could free their imaginations, and create and develop in natural, stimulating surroundings. Funding has been provided by the University’s Active Community Fund and NatWest Supergrounds so far, though additional sources are welcomed.

Two students involved, Theo Greber and Hanne Van-den-Berg, explain just how demanding a task this is, requiring not just recollections of their own kindergarten experiences, but also approach it from a fresh angle: to help them understand the world of a five-year old, they are required to spend a day in reception.

It has also been an opportunity for students to put design skills from their degrees into a real project. So far ASF has held a design workshop with 16 students to sketch out ideas to redesign the playground.

Theo and Hanne recalled the most interesting stage in realising the project - attending a Children’s Workshop in February. Kids from the Mayfield School were invited to the Architecture department in Scroope Terrace. The objective was to find out how children would like to create the surroundings they need. The final design is very much in line with the idea of the project. Children should be the creators of their surroundings, or at least have a say in their creation. After all, it is supposed to be a playground for children, rather than a building designed by and for adults.

The ASF is now working on the final design. It looks to be an initiative of enormous benefit to both the Cambridge students and the school pupils.

The ASF is open for any questions or suggestions regarding the project. Contact tspc2 and hv220 or Claudia Gray (clg48) to get involved.

One of Anton Lukoszevieve’s drawings for his musical scores

Nestled in above King’s bar is ‘A’ studio. The two rooms, complete with cupboards full of intriguing art materials, are a source of great creative potential. Every week the tranquil space holds life-drawing classes, film screenings and exhibitions, providing a facility for those who want to indulge their imaginations. The studio welcome students from any college, though some of the workshops require a small donation for each student’s membership. It’s an enthusiastic and unpretentious forum for art projects of all varieties. If you lack the enthusiasm and have some questions. ‘A’ studio will be an invigorating experience.

Contact Lucy Mingo (lm116) or Claudia Gray (clg48) to get involved.

The Art Room
Ella McCartney and Claudia Gray visit King's Art Studio

Anton Lukoszevieve’s workshop explores the relationship between music and its environment. He works with noving images, drawing and photography. He also demonstrates his interpretations of artworks into music. Personally, I have a great interest in different forms of communication and have created some art images into musical scores, but the approach taken by Anton Lukoszevieve in the workshop showed a greater freedom of interpretation.

When I presented him with a variety of horizontal contour lines on photographic paper he interpreted the lines into sound using a cello.

How one reads the fluctuation of the line relates to our established beliefs of what pitch a diagonal line would make in comparison with a horizontal straight line; perhaps, for many of us, the sound would lower in pitch.

How much authorship can one claim? Should ‘A’ interpret any preconceived conditioned ideas and how much is our own unique interpretation? And how in turn can this be communicated? Anton might raise as many questions as he answers, but regardless, provides a rich and visually stimulating experience.

The Classical Column
James Drinkwater

As the creative energies are climaxing towards the end of term, a series of highly ambitious concerts begins with CUMS II, who under Mark Austin and Graham Ross (Saturday 11th, West Road, 8pm, £5) tackle three brassy twentieth century stalwarts: Elgar’s second most popular Pomp and Circumstance March, the fourth, in G – a march sur passed we might say; Gershwin’s blazing Piano Concerto in F (Chen Chen piano) and Rachmaninov’s glorious orchestral suite, the Symphonic Dances.

If you are just finishing lectures at the Sidwick site on Tuesday 13th (West Road, 11:00pm, £3), you might want to consider a 50-minute kohutine chamber music concert given by the Britten Sinfonia, including Britten’s Phantom Quatet, Stravinsky’s Three Pieces for clarinet. Barber’s Summer Music, Six Bagatelles by Ligeti (ever-beloved by the avant-garde music), all completed by a new commission by composer Joseph Phibbs.

For many, the sensation of term arrives on Wednesday 15th (West Road, 8pm, £5) with the Stark Race (or Rite of Spring): let us only hope that the occasion will lack that now otherwise-essential accessory – the mobile-phone ring-tone interruption in the opening bassoon solo. Also featuring in this unmissable CUMS I concert is the Shostakovich Festival Overture (more rollicking than notoous), and the Cambridge pianist Clare Hammond in the lyrical Bartok 3rd Piano Concerto.

The music society of Queen’s College, the curiously-named MagSoc (Thursday 16th, West Road, 7.30pm, £5), keeps the musical pressure high with another all-twentieth century programme, including, in the opening half alone the first Three-Cornered Hat Suite (de Falla), and Copland’s Clarinet Concerto (celloist, Laura Biron). For the second half, or of the orchestral-choral extravaganza, the Cammina Burana, makes for a super-sized feast for those who, although one does wonder whether such musical primivism really has a place in Cambridge. Conductors Sam Howieson and Gwyn Unsworth are more likely than not to convince us otherwise.

On Saturday 18th, the Fairhaven Singers should be caught at John’s Chapel (St John’s, 7.30pm, £3) in a brilliant programme of English choral masterworks (Vaughan Williams’ Five Mystical Songs, Walton’s The Twelve and Britten’s Te Deum in G) – a stunning way to crown the term’s concert-going.
Where have all the scripts gone?

Kirsty Dootson on the hits and misses of CINEMAC

Articulating in the wake of the overblown hype and glamour of the 2004 Cannes Film Festival, a comparatively modest affair. It is, however, the culmination of a year of anxious film-making effort and should be treated as a significant cultural event, not just within the confines of Cambridge.

Unlike some of our University’s creative bodies, Cinecam has no pretensions to being an elite clique. This should endear this set of film enthusiasts, as a bunch of decent people who produce decent short films.

I say ‘should,’ because although Cambridge is a painfully hit-and-miss affair. For a place with more talented writers and actors per square mile than anywhere else in the country, it seems a shame that they rarely get together to make good screenwriting. There is certainly no lack of opportunity.

Cinecam, and several colleges, have equipment available for use by students. But, of course, good equipment doesn’t douse their weekly two thousand words on Chaucer, or their Varsity articles, or their plays, or their excuses for why they didn’t do the Iliad. All too often a potentially good director produce an inherently bad meets-girl because they wanted to make good film but didn’t start with a good script. This may be a manifestation of Cinecam’s, sex-starved undergraduate problem, of not having the time or resources to express their inner creative selves. It’s more likely to do with a lack of originality. The secret of a good film is often lies in simplicity, and this wasteful, open-ended exploration of the possibilities and themes, which usually resists trying to say or do too much.

Students seem strangely reluctant to take the wealth of good plays and novels to be adapted, and this wasteful, open-ended exploration of the possibilities and themes, which usually resists trying to say or do too much.

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Shake me up before you Goo Goo

Jon Tucker suggests you spend your Wednesday nights at Club Goo

For a long time it seemed there was little choice on a Wednesday night but to go to Cindy’s, the student population had fallen into a routine of former monk Dizze Rascal, bar, queue, dance, crash. But even though, for those of us to whom that sort of an evening does not appeal, there is an alternative. At the start of this academic year a new club night was started on Wednesdays: Club Goo, at the newly refurbished and refurnished Junction.

The night’s premise is to put on small up-and-coming indie bands each week, and then for the pig-gogers to be able to stay and dance through all the early hours after the gig should they so desire. Organised by Cambridge music project which would become the internationally award-winning play by Mark Wing-Davey, ‘The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy’. Typically, I declare my pacifism to a guy who seems, trembling and angrily walking out – but I guess, look back – “What the hell!” tearing up the paper, and post-coital cigarette accidentally cracked threats, “Get off the same ground as Alex Turner’s. I feel the drive to go over 120mph on the motorway is at The Soul Tree of Table Football.

When I was

21

Mark Wing-Davey

Chelsea boots.

What were you afraid of? Haircuts.

What were your illegal activi-
ties? They were all rather predictable variations on a cannabis theme: distillate, resin, leaves, cokes.

What made you angry? Funny enough not much in the everyday. I was pretty sanguine about stuff, but outraged about virtually the likes of NME and the national press. I can shake a stick at. It may come as a surprise, then, to learn that

Before Cambridge I’d hitch-hiked to the Greece of the Colonists and back with Ian McEwan, my best friend from school. We sold our blood in Athens and lived on a Greek island for a week on the proceeds. We kept a journal – which I have still, somewhere. We wrote the entries for altern-ate days. The last time I skinned it through, it was clear that he had some potential as a writer, whereas I unfortunately . . . In 66/5 the first OSC82 tour of the Eastern US took place. A Midsummer Night’s Dream. I was a hippy actor in a fur coat. Vietnam was in full flow. It was a wonder of love – and knuckle-cracking threats. “Get off the street you goddam punko.”

What did you believe in? I was a violently passionate pacifist. Brought up a Quaker, was a violently passionate pacifist, whereas I unfortunately . . .

What was your most political band? Not really. E.g., The White Rose Movement are one of the many political bands I can recall, frontman Charlie Simpson used to be in “that band with Salsa and Reggaeton.”

What was the most rebellious thing you did? Typically, I missed the Garden House riots when my final year reading English at Cambridge had been nominated for countless awards for plays such as ‘Angels in the Attic’. Brought up a Quaker, was a violently passionate pacifist, whereas I unfortunately . . .

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When you were 21 and what were you doing? 1993, in my final year reading English at Caius. What was your favourite outfit? A green paisley print lynda wool, worn with a knee length purple jacket, flared leather hipster trousers, with a thick white belt and centre-steam

Fighterstar

Grand Unification

Reflects their own individual sound in a way that many groups fail to do, and sound a bit like Sonic Youth on the muckaroo, so I feel a fondness. They’ll be at the Soul Tree on Wednesday.

Love Ends Disaster! aren’t a student band as far as I’m aware, but they’re from my local area and sound a bit like Sonic Youth on the muckaroo, so I feel a fondness. They’ll be at the Soul Tree on Wednesday.

Selwyn Sessions will be taking place on Friday night with Salsa and the Dan Flay Experience. Who says students can’t think up great names for bands?

White Rose Movement

Kick

The Rifles didn’t sound so cool kids out there, don’t you think? Just pure, wide-range of performers and hopefully a less usual sort of comedy covers. In any case, there’s a band night on Saturday featuring Captain Fawwaz.

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THE PROPOSITION (18) (2h05) (NFT) Daily 11.00 (SAT/SUN ONLY) 13.20 15.40 18.00 20.30 FRI/SAT LATE 22.50
SYRIANA (15) (2h30) (NFT) Daily 11.30 (Sat/Sun Only) 14.20 17.10 20.00 Fri/Sat Late 23.00
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Emmanuel - “Manhattan”

For some unaccountable reason, there aregradable Manhattan brunches. Emmanuel College, South Quarry, from 12 to 3 on Monday 5 June. The theme is “Manhattan”, and it appears to be a New York-style party, with a theme tailored to the club. The food will be served from 12, and drinks from 12 noon. The cost is £5 per person, and tickets can be purchased at the Emmanuel College reception desk. This event promises to be a lively and enjoyable way to celebrate the Manhattan spirit.

Hughes Ball - “Masquerade”

Hughes Hall Ball 2006 promises a night of “sex and surprises” as a decadent Victorian revelry within the confines of the grand Victorian hall. The night will be filled with unexpected twists, including a dance floor transformed into a brothel of racy redheads by the night’s end, as well as a highlights reel of all the previous years’ Hughes Hall Ball’s. The masquerade theme will be sure to provide a night of fun and mystery, with guests encouraged to dress as their favorite Victorian characters. The night will feature live music, dancing, drinks, and a masquerade ball, complete with masks and mysterious settings. The event is expected to be one of the highlights of the May Ball season.

New Hall - “Shippedreck”

If you thought for one moment that the Shippedreck couldn’t get any worse, then you are in for a treat. The Shippedreck is the final ball of the May Week season, and it promises to be one of the most exciting and memorable nights of the year. The event is expected to feature live music, dancing, drinks, and a variety of entertainment. The event is expected to be one of the highlights of the May Ball season.

Pembroke - “Excelsior”

Pembroke Ball 2006 promises to be a night of “sin and rapture”, with the theme of an opium den. The event will feature live music, dancing, drinks, and a variety of entertainment. The event is expected to be one of the highlights of the May Ball season.

St John’s May Ball

At your own risk, fancy-dress-themed band and light show, as well as a range of food and drink options. The event is expected to be one of the highlights of the May Ball season.

Trinity Ball

With a high reputation in the New Year’s Eve events, the Trinity Ball promises to be a night of entertainment and fun. The event will feature live music, dancing, drinks, and a variety of entertainment. The event is expected to be one of the highlights of the May Ball season.
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Apply before Friday March 3rd 2006 and you could be taking the 48 hour challenge!

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Deadline: Monday 13th March, 5pm
CUBC President Tom Edwards

AFTER SEVEN MONTHS of training and more than 100 training sessions leading up to the Boat Race, Oxford are feeling confident and ready for the event. The team has been working hard to prepare for this prestigious race, and the athletes are looking forward to the challenge.

The countdown begins to 4:35pm on Sunday April 2 and the 152nd Oxbridge Boat Race.

The making of the Boat Races

“Both sides boast an astounding array of talent”

The Boat Race is one of the most prestigious rowing events in the world, and both teams are determined to give their best. The race is not just about being the fastest, but also about teamwork and strategy.

The Oxford Blue Boat, led by captain Tom Edwards, has been training since the start of the season, and the team is ready to take on the challenge. The Cambridge crew, led by coxswain Sophie Pickford, has also been working hard to prepare for the race. Both teams are confident in their ability to win.

The Course

The Boat Race takes place on the River Thames, starting at Putney Bridge and finishing at Mortlake. The course is 4.25 miles long, and both teams will be racing against the clock to complete it as quickly as possible.

The Course where to watch

The Boat Race is broadcast live on television, so fans from around the world can watch the race unfold. For those who are unable to watch live, there are many options to follow the race. Official websites, social media, and news outlets will all be providing coverage.

RACE HISTORY

Past Winners

The Boat Race has a rich history, with teams from Oxford and Cambridge competing against each other for decades. The race has been won by both teams several times, with Oxford winning in 2015, 2016, and 2017, and Cambridge winning in 2018.

Athletes will be on a heightened state of alert

The Boat Race is an intense event, and both teams will be fully focused on the race. The pressure is on, and every move will be crucial. The athletes will be on a heightened state of alert, with every muscle working to their maximum capacity.

Lucky charms and broken blades

In the Boat Race, lucky charms and superstitions play a significant role. Both teams will be wearing lucky charms and broken blades as they race. The goal is to bring good luck and ensure a successful race.

Sophie Pickford

When NEW Zealander Duncan Findlay takes the helm of the Oxford Blue Boat this Sunday, he’ll have a lot of work to do. As the coxswain, he’ll need to direct the crew, and ensure they’re on track to win.

Findlay has been training with the team for the past few months, and he’s looking forward to the race. “It’s going to be a tough race, but I’m looking forward to the challenge,” he said.

The Boat Race is an important event for both teams, and the athletes are determined to give their best. The race is not just about winning, but also about the experience of competing against the best in the world.

Tom Edwards

For the Oxford Blue Boat, captain Tom Edwards, the race is all about teamwork and strategy. “We’ve been working hard to prepare for this race, and we’re confident in our ability to win,” he said.

Sophie Pickford

As coxswain of the Cambridge crew, Sophie Pickford is determined to lead her team to victory. “We’ve been working hard to prepare for this race, and we’re confident in our ability to win,” she said.

The Boat Race is an important event for both teams, and the athletes are determined to give their best. The race is not just about winning, but also about the experience of competing against the best in the world.
Blues let down by Oxford

COMBINED OXBRIDGE TEAM BEATEN 9-7

Bilen Ahmet

THE INTER-VARSITY Field Events and Relays Matches were held on Sunday March 5, at Wilberforce Road, Cambridge, and after a good start to the athletics season Cambridge looked hot to win the fixture but it was not for some notable absences and injuries.

In the first event of the day Oxford had a comfortable win in the men’s pole vault, but they were defeated in the women’s. Oxford’s Louise Steele and Jo Melluish leading the team to victory.

The next event was the men’s long jump, where Cambridge brought the scores back to level despite having lost one of their best jumpers due to injury. Humphrey Waddington, Cambridge’s resident decathlete, who scored in all four throws, the long and triple jumps, and a best of track events. He injured himself on the day, but continued to compete well until the competition had finished. Humphrey Waddington helped Cambridge in the high jump, which was a testament to the team’s effort in the high jump. This was despite great performances put in by Mike Collins, Cambridge’s resident decathlete, who scored in all four throws, the long and triple jumps, and a best of track events. He injured himself on the day, but continued to compete well until the competition had finished. Humphrey Waddington helped Cambridge in the high jump, which was a testament to the team’s effort in the high jump. This was despite great performances put in by Mike Collins, Cambridge’s resident decathlete, who scored in all four throws, the long and triple jumps, and a best of track events. He injured himself on the day, but continued to compete well until the competition had finished. Humphrey Waddington helped Cambridge...

Phylis Agbo competes for the Blues at Wilberforce Road, where injuries took their toll from the likes of Steve Benson, Lee Harper, Andy Owen and Lee Harper (again) almost resulted in a Cambridge guest team beating the Oxford scoring team. Oxford only managed to score a single point in the men’s track events, very narrowly beating a tired Cambridge 4x100m team.

The women’s track events started very well with Clare Palmer, Katie Irgin, Alison Hackney and Phylis Agbo winning the 4x200m hurdles by a considerable distance, but they were unable to capitalise on this early lead, and a series of close defeats led to an Oxford victory. Women’s captain Clare Palmer and Phylis Agbo both performed well, scoring a number of outstanding points, with Agbo scoring in a total of eight events on the day, and Alison Hackney also ran well until illness got the better of her and she had to pull out of the 4x400m. Claire Day produced outstanding form in the 100m hurdles, but on taking the victory on the final straight with a very gutsy run in the closest event of the day, and generally the women’s events were much more closely contested than the men’s.

The women’s field events, however, were a comfortable win for Cambridge with early victories in the hammer throw and pole vault, in which Sarah Hall and Claire Nixon both performed better than any of the Oxford opposition, giving Cambridge a lead from which Oxford could not come back. To add to this Sarah Smith and Emma Perkins both performed well, and Phylis Agbo and Clare Palmer managed to retain their form despite competing in a wide range of track and field events on the day.

Overall the result was pleasing, but one can expect both the men’s and women’s teams to do even better as Cambridge come the Varsity Match on the 20th May. The men’s team looks set to storm to victory in the track events, the field events are more promising, and the women’s team will surely be dominating the field - and with track - events come May.

Pembroke stun Jesus

They dominated the next 15 minutes and when a corner just before the end of the first half was headed into his own net by Geoff Stanning, there was no way back for Jesus. The last 20 minutes saw Pembroke bang in some goals and Oxford could not come back, and there can’t be a doubt that the better side on the day will be heading to Grange Road.

In the final Pembroke will meet a Fitzwilliam team, who, overcame a very strong St. John’s in the other semi-final at Sidney Sussex pitches. A game of few chances was eventually decided, perhaps inevitably, by a goal from Fitzz Blakely forward Brendan Threlfall.

Pembroke defeated very well throughout, and held Firmus in the final stages to advance.

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Fitz’s John-Michael Cheshire (right) in his side’s 1-0 win at Pembroke. The 20th May. The men’s team looks set to storm to victory in the track events, the field events are more promising, and the women’s team will surely be dominating the field - and with track - events come May.

Adam Edelshain

JESUS’ DOUBLE hopes were ended last weekend, after a powerful semi-final display by Pembroke that rocked the Cup holders. An especially strong defence and powerful midfield helped the Second Division side overturn a team that might yet be First Division champions if they win their last game against Churchill.

However, Pembroke were solid and never really looked like conceding. Jesus started comfortably enough, confident they would be progressing to defend the trophy in the final.

Even the first goal, scored with only 15 minutes gone in the game, wasn’t any major concern for Pembroke.

But, mid-way through the first half a mistake from Jesus goalkeeper James Loxam led to Pembroke adding an important second.

Lax results mixed

WOMEN WIN 9-4
MEN BEATEN 9-6

Charlotte Hill

THE SUN was shining on Cambridge’s lacrosse women, as right from the first whistle they went out fighting for possession. This was rewarded with the first goal of the match, scored by Liz Morris - who had struggled throughout the season with injuries. With a goal under her belt, though, her confidence grew and she truly sealed her place on the team.

Captain Charlie Hill added two goals, with her usual patience and determination.

The first half ended 7-3 to Cambridge. They came out fired up for the second half, but the first goal went to Oxford. Cambridge failed to come back immediately with two quick goals, and many felt the game was all but won. The Light Blues’ fitness has been a big strength this season.

Yet having given so much in the first half, began to show in the second half. But, Goalkeeper Maughan pulled off a great save. V-C Smith had a solid game at the back, organising the defence well.

Captain Charlie Hill said: ‘We’ve been having Welsh International Ros Lloyd back in the squad this season - this was as apparent as ever during the match. A huge strength to us, and in inspiration, she scored two of the goals, deservedly receiving the Most Valuable Player award.

There was little cheer for the men, however. Despite a spurned performance, the Blues went down 9-6, and the Eagles also lost, 11-8.
**Footballers prepare for Old Enemy**

Beautiful Game owes a lot to Cambridge’s footballing forefathers

Gavin Reedy

There are many things that make the Cambridge experience so special. One, of course, is being part of an institution that is steeped in history and tradition. There can be no doubt about the University’s impact on the academic world, but its influence on the sporting world is similarly impressive. Think of Cambridge sport and one is invariably drawn to images of the Boat Race on the Thames, and rugby at Twickenham.

In a place so proud of celebrating past glories, it is remarkable that unheralded—yet the most significant influence this University has ever had on the sporting world has gone quietly unnoticed, and that, believe it or not, was in football. Football has been played in this country for centuries. By the 1800s, many forms of the game existed, each reflecting the different codes that had evolved independently in the public schools of England.

Cambridge was thus a melting pot for football with much of the action taking place on Parker’s Piece. In the 1840s, the Cambridge University Football Association (CUFC) formalised the rules of coherence in their sport, and in doing so, got the initiative started about unifying the game. The "Cambridge Rules" went on to be adopted by the world’s oldest Football Association, the English FA, upon its inception on the 26th October, 1863. Mr. J.T. Alcock from the Forest Leytonstone Club, remarked that the FA could not do better than fall into the views of the gentlemen at Cambridge whose Rules "appeared to be the most desirable code of rules for the Association to adopt". The Cambridge Rules thus formed the basis of the game that would be played the world over.

It is therefore no exaggeration to say that the footballers of this University have played a fundamental role in establishing and defining a sport that has become nothing short of a global obsession. 2006 marks the 150th anniversary of Cambridge’s contribution to football, and—many believe— the foundation of the FA, itself. According to FIFA, this could make your University team the oldest football club in the world. So as you settle down in front of the TV this summer for the World Cup, as Ronaldo bags a hat-trick in the semi-final or as Beckham slams home another trademark free-kick to an audience of billions, take a moment and cast your mind back 150 years to our very own Parker’s Piece and to the beginnings of "the beautiful game" as we know it.

Before the summer’s action, however, there is the Varsity match to enjoy. As ever, this historic fixture will be played in a spirit true to the roots of the sport. The commitment, determination and pride of the Cambridge team will be every bit as strong as it was in their forebears’ 1872—year of the first Varsity Match. Now, as then, the only thought on their minds, is that of victory.

So come and support the Blues, and in the process, share in the most criminally under-celebrated piece of Cambridge’s sporting history, its unique footballing heritage. And if that isn’t reason enough, there’s always a cracking view of the Boat Race throws in for free.

The Blues football squad travelling to Craven Cottage on April 2nd to face Oxford are:

**Goalkeepers:**
- Tom Savill
- James Dean

**Defenders:**
- Nick Pantleides
- Will Severson
- Chris Turnbull
- Matt Ellis

**Midfielders:**
- Ang Colenran
- Jim Looker
- Davey Mills
- Gary Devine
- James Rustus

**Forwards:**
- Mikey Adams
- Alex Morgan (c)

- Rich Payne
- Trevor Thrall
- Alex Morgan

**Dates:**
- Sunday April 2nd, 1pm kick-off at Craven Cottage, home of Fulham FC (Tube: 200m from Fulham Broadway, district). £10 entry includes unstructured view of the Boat Race. Tickets and information: Alex Morgan, ajm216

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**Erinsborough Ethics**

By Jonny Franks

Wow. What a horrible week for Susan Kennedy. In her life post-Karl, she had at last reached a plateau which made her happy – Alex Kinski. Unfortunately, Alex was diagnosed with an incurable disease and has spent the last week sweating his way to his inevitable death.

He managed to stay alive long enough to marry Susan, but, to be honest, it was a rubbish wedding. Zeke looked a mess, the groom looked like a wet corpse, and the whole thing just felt wrong. Alex’s death was a shame, for sure, but at least it speeds up what we all know is coming.

That’s the strange thing about watching Neighbours. We never know what’s going to happen, but we like to watch it happen anyway. We know that when Susan and Karl will eventually get back together. That is why Susan and Alex’s marriage felt so wrong: it went against one of the laws of Neighbours. Karl and Susan belong together. Whilst Alex’s death was sad, it was a necessary part of a chain of events.

The death of Karl, a way where Erinsborough is located runs according to these deter-ministic laws – everything has already been decided in advance. All we have to do is watch it unfold.

So why do we still watch, even though we know, ultimately, how these stories are going to pan out? I think the reason has to be, because we care about the details of the story and we care about the characters involved in them. I like seeing Karl’s longing, looking arts Susan, even though we know it won’t be long before they’re reciprocated. I like seeing Poo and Dalyn square up to each other in a neighbours-fighting-way (i.e. lots of pushing and shouting but no punching), even though we know that they will soon be out of prison and strutting about in a wife-beater.

And I like seeing Connor growing rounder and greasier with each episode, even though we know that he will soon revert back to the dashing, jokish, lather stereotype he has always been.

The point, I suppose, is this: the devil is in the detail. Or at least the most important is; I am missing what that phrase means. But I don’t. The real point, I suppose, is that Neighbours might be the nearest we’ll ever get to real life, and we might really be determined for us – either in a strict physical law sense or it’s a result of our belief in a higher power and our ability. Whether our lives are determined in any sense or not, it is possible that the journey to these ends is the part which we care about – the details of how we get there is what is important.

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**Defeat in ice hockey**

In Saturday’s Varsity match, the Blues faced what was clearly a stronger Oxford opposition than in previous fixtures.

Cambridge did the University proud, putting on an exciting display of hand-hitting, fast-paced ice hockey. The Eight Blues were in contention well into the final period. Oxford then started to pull away. The final score of 6-1 does not do justice to the excellent defensive effort that kept the score so low for three quarters of the game. Calum Nicholson, the Cambridge goalie, was rightly named Player of the Match and its unique footballing heritage. And if that isn’t reason enough, there’s always a cracking view of the Boat Race throws in for free.

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Caius dominate Bumps again
Downing women lose headship to Clare whilst Trinity men threaten

David Lano
Gonville & Caius and Clare win headships

ROWING HAS an image problem with those who don’t participate in it. Side-by-side or timed races are often boring for the uninitiated, contributing to the dull image of rowing amongst people who claim it lacks the drama or inspiration of their own pastime. However, the Bumps never fail to provide drama, blood, tears, controversy and ultimately glory in vast volumes. Rowing is unparalleled, the most popular sport at Cambridge and it is growing.

As usual, a large proportion of the student population braved the freezing cold and snow to cheer on or fight for their college and friends. A huge range of skills is displayed, ranging from the Olympians who frequently participate to the truly casual who start rowing a few days in advance. All of these united in wanting to catch the crew in front or hold off the crew behind at all costs: a nightmare for the people who have to pay or repair the damage that inevitably results from a race where the object is to crash expensive boats into each other.

At the top of the women’s divisions Downing, after two years at head station, were quickly bumped by a commanding Clare crew who held on for the rest of the week. This marked them as the first Clare women’s VIII to go head and provided them with ample revenge for last year’s close finish. A lighter Caius crew, who had been favourites in the run-up after an impressive win in Pembroke regatta, failed to break their spurt or the 1.5 lengths separating the top two crews at the start to finish in second place. Further down a swift First and Third Trinity and King’s were denied blades by quick bumps in front.

After four years at the top, a homebred Caius crew, without the usual Blues or legends from the initial headship in 2002, looked invincible all year until a Pembroke defeat to a very experienced Trinity crew containing last year’s lightweight president. After comfortable rowovers on the first three days, Trinity sprinted to the Caius boat, closing to within half a length at Ditton corner. At this point, Caius regained the initiative to finish well clear. It marked the fifth time at the top and this finally sealed Caius’ place amongst the greatest clubs ever to grace the Cam. A bizarre exchange between Jesus and LMBC, which ended with Jesus on top, was the only change in the top five.

Controversy was supplied by the Pembroke-Chris’t’s-Clare sandwich on the second day where a Christ’s crew (after a rare first division overbump) was about to bump the Clare crew when Pembroke were closing in on them. The anger from the decision being made in Pembroke’s favour rages on, fuelled by the importance of Bumps as the most important indicator of a college’s rowing success.

True carnage is generally reserved for the lower divisions but huge pile-ups resulting from crews failing to clear after they have bumped didn’t materialise. Fitz and LMBC II commandingly rowed into the top division to go up four overall and Wolson and Corpus fielded excellent VIII’s to earn their blades in the second division. Lower down Trinity IV, St. Edmund’s and Selwyn III also capitalised by earning their coveted oars after a flawless campaign. In the women’s divisions only a Corpus crew who went up four can put down a claim to blades capping an excellent campaign for their college after years of disappointment. A few crews, most noticeably all of those from St. Catharine’s, had to undergo the unfortunate experience of being bumped every day and receiving spoons.

Most importantly, however, participating in the Bumps is an experience that is hard to forget and inevitably, as boat club dinners go on into the early hours, lengths are transformed into inches or miles. Successes are celebrated, defeats are ignored and everybody can rest for a day oblivious to the day to day grind of early mornings and the tripos.

The nature of Bumps, where crews only compete with those immediately around them and the headship is only accessible to the top five crews, also allows any boat who got blades and many who didn’t to lay their claim to being the rightful headship for at least a little while. In any case, these Bumps were a memorable experience, and thorough congratulations go to all those who participated.