Prospective students are resisting government pressure to increase university applications. Cambridge University announced a 3.7 per cent drop in university applications this year.

In the same week that UCAS released figures showing a drop of 15,000 university applicants, the Director of Admissions for Cambridge, Dr Geoff Parks, said many on the introduction of £3,000 a year top-up fees have had an effect on applications to the university.

"It is likely that some of the decrease can be ascribed to the aftermath of the rush to beat tuition fees in the previous admissions cycle," Luke Pickering, CUSU Access Officer, agreed, saying "I certainly believe that top-up fees have had an effect on applications to the university."

The prominence of the "CUSU Against Fees" banner in the lecture theatre has proved the cause of controversy. While Varsity was assured by ENS member Donnacha Kirk during the meeting that "Luke Pickering, CUSU Access Officer, knows we’re doing this", the CUSU Executive was eager to distance itself from the occupation. Pickering, who lent the campaign banner to the CUSU Executive, declined to comment on whether any disciplinary action would be taken against members of the group.

"Top-up fees are and will continue to affect University applications. The problem is two-fold. Firstly, top-up fees hit students from middle-income families hardest, and I would expect a drop in applicants from this sector. Students from low-income families are also very likely to be discouraged by top-up fees."

Applications to Cambridge are a case in point. Whereas 14,343 people applied to Cambridge for 2005 entry, this figure dropped to 14,090 for 2006 entry. Entry numbers have suffered a greater fall of 4.5 per cent from 14,655 in 2005 to 13,956 for 2006 entry. The drop in applicants is blamed by many on the introduction of £3,000 a year top-up fees. Dr Geoff Parks, Director of Admissions for the Cambridge Colleges, told Varsity that "Early indications are that application numbers for 2007 entry are very similar to those for 2006."

But at the same time, Cambridge is resisting a new government initiative that could increase applications. A report commissioned by Aimi Higher Education Funding Officer Liana Wood suggested that top-up fees would have a more long-term effect on applications. She told Varsity "Top-up fees are and will continue to affect University applications. The problem is two-fold. Firstly, top-up fees hit students from middle-income families hardest, and I would expect a drop in applicants from this sector. Students from low-income families are also very likely to be discouraged by top-up fees."

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**In Brief**

**Coldham killer found guilty**

A patient on conditional release from a psychiatric hospital pleaded guilty to manslaughter he had been deemed suitable for release, and how he was monitored afterwards. “But a full review will be carried out”, a spokeswoman assured.

**Katy Lee**

**Replacement for Ewings elected**

In an uncontested election held on Wednesday 25 February, Hamish Falconer was elected to the position of CUSU Academic Affairs Officer. Leonard won 99 per cent of the vote against the option of reopening nominations. Although the turnout was under 8 per cent, CUSU President Mark Ferguson seemed unconcerned. Considering the lack of other candidates standing in the wake of Dave Ewings resignation earlier this month, he told Varsity “we’re quite pleased with the turnout”. 

**Daniel Zeichner, Labour candidate for Cambridge**

The lighter touch of Cantab politics

New Labour candidate, King’s College alumnus Daniel Zeichner, has promised to inject a “bit of fun” into the world of politics in his bid to wrestle the Cambridge seat from Liberal Democrat incumbent John (CULC) is excited by the prospect of a new Labour candidate for the city. A spokesperson told Varsity CULC welcomes Daniel’s selection, and firmly believes that he has the experience, energy and enthusiasm to win back Cambridge from the Liberal Democrats. They praised the fact that “throughout his career, Daniel has shown that he is not afraid to stand up to the leadership on issues that he cares about”. Speaking to Varsity, Zeichner said that his determination to “hold the line” against the Labour leadership on important issues has led to several “run-ins with the Deputy Prime Minister”. He claimed that he had been put under “considerable pressure” to support a scheme of private and voluntary funding for council housing in Cambridge, when residents had “consistently voted not to do it”.

Zeichner describes Howarth, a fellow of Clare College and lecturer in law and economics at the University, as a “very serious academic”, adding that he preferred to conduct politics with “a lighter touch”. Given that Cambridge is “extraordinarily diverse”, his concern is that Mr Howarth is not “in touch with all” with difficulties in practice”. Expressing scepticism about the initiative, he asked “How is the integrity of our students going to be maintained if this is a project that is going to be implemented without any consultation? What is the nature of the information that is being collected?” The report does not suggest implementing any nationwide exit policies, and implies that admissions tutors could retain a level of autonomy. But many universities already run access schemes. The Cambridge Special Access Scheme is a University-wide initiative that includes students who have experienced particular personal, social or educational disadvantage. 

Through the scheme, schools and colleges can put forward candidates who have had their education “significantly disrupted” through health or personal problems, disability or difficulties with schooling, or who are from a school whose pupils rarely enter higher education and a family with little or no tradition of going to university. In addition to this access initiative, UEA谙怀ing any declared exit policies. Target visits to state schools aim to dispel the myths of Cambridge life for financially and educationally disadvantaged students who would not normally consider applying. Pekac also pointed out that this year information packs distributed during the visits will contain advice on fees and funding.

**Glad-RAGS: Pyjama Pub Crawl**

**ALEX CONSTANTINESCU**

**Cambridge top in biomedicine**

Cambridge University has been ranked first in the world for biomedicine according to a recent survey by the Times Higher Education Supplement. Oxford and Imperial College London were also ranked in the top five. Although no nation can rival the 63 places held by Americans in the top 100, heavy investment by British universities seems to be taking effect.

**Jessica King**

**CUP pensions agreement**

Staff at Cambridge University Press have this week voted in favour of accepting changes to their pension scheme, which were initially rejected on the grounds that they would reduce pension benefits. All employees at CUP now have the choice of a Defined Benefits Scheme with lower benefits and lower accruals, or a Defined Contribution Scheme that has been open to new employees since 2002. Both schemes are still believed to be generous in comparison to industry norms, despite initial complaints by Anius print union members. 

**Amy Russell**

**Sudan divestment**

The Cambridge Campaign for Sudan Divestment, the first of its kind in the UK, is being launched this week. It calls on the University and its colleges to divest from holdings in companies financially backing to the Sudanese government, widely accused of sponsoring the massacres in the northern Darfur region. Hamish Falconer

**Daniel Zeichner, Labour candidate for Cambridge**

“never seen the hall so packed”, and described the mood of the local party as “upbeat and euphoric”. Zeichner describes himself as a “socialist in a modern context” and is positive about his chances of winning Cambridge for Labour. Speaking after his selection he claimed that he “will come from the front, taking local people seriously, rebuilding trust and working closely with Labour colleagues, so we can and will make Cambridge Labour again”. But current MP David Howarth was nothing less than vociferous in his disagreement, arguing “Cambridge decidedly rejected Labour at the last elections because of issues such as Iraq and top-up fees. I would be very surprised if more people voted Labour at the next election than at the last”. Cambridge Student Liberal Democrats also added that in “the last General Election (the results) speak for themselves... A 13 per cent swing from Labour to the Liberal Democrats in which the student vote was instrumental”.

Despite Howarth’s confidence in the Liberal Democrats’ popularity, Cambridge University Labour Club (CULC) is excited by the prospect of a new Labour candidate for the city. A spokesperson told Varsity “CULC welcomes Daniel’s selection, and firmly believes that he has the experience, energy and enthusiasm to win back Cambridge from the Liberal Democrats”. They praised the fact that “throughout his career, Daniel has shown that he is not afraid to stand up to the leadership on issues that he cares about”. Speaking to Varsity, Zeichner said that his determination to “hold the line” against the Labour leadership on important issues has led to several “run-ins with the Deputy Prime Minister”. He claimed that he had been put under “considerable pressure” to support a scheme of private and voluntary funding for council housing in Cambridge, when residents had “consistently voted not to do it”. 

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Johnson slams coursework cheats in age of technology

»Shadow HE Minister thinks exams are the only reliable way of assessing students
»Varsity surveys the supervision cheats of Cambridge

In response to Johnson's comments, Varsity this week conducted a survey of undergraduate work habits, with the aim of discovering the extent to which students “cheat” in their weekly essays and coursework. We found that while only seven per cent of students use Sparknotes, online study guides available in both arts and science subjects, 52 per cent admitted to using “internet encyclopaedia Wikipedia on a regular basis. One third year Medic from Emmanuel College even confessed that a quote from Wikipedia, “forms the first sentence of every one of my essays”. A further 30 per cent of students said that they lied in the bibliographies of their essays.

While Varsity’s survey highlights that a mentality of surreptitiousness is certainly a reality in Cambridge, Dr Andrew Zurcher, English fellow at Queens’ College, Cambridge, said that examination revision may be equally conducive to “all kinds of anti-intellectual activity”. Dr Stephen James, a lecturer at the University of Bristol concurred, suggesting that it is by no means self-evident that the work that goes on in the exam hall is necessarily the student’s own. A semi-prepared response to an exam “may well involve the undeclared recycling of critics’ ideas and phrases”. At Bristol, 95 per cent of an English student’s final grade is determined by coursework. As well as emphasising the possibility for students to plagiarise in examinations, James further said that they are a “reductive, even parodic” way of representing an individual’s knowledge and ability. James also argued that examinations lead to a hyper-consciousness about class-marks and a utilitarian attitude towards learning. The clichéd image of a student burning his or her books at the end of a university career “surely says something about the attitude towards one’s subject that the exam system itself has helped to foster”.

Rather than producing “synthesis and genuine learning”, as Johnson states, the results of our survey suggest that examinations might encourage many students to “coast” during term time. Asked whether they preferred exam or coursework-based assessment, many admitted that they preferred not having the continuous pressure of coursework. One third year historian answered “Coursework takes up too much time”, admitting “I only really knuckled down to work for exams”. A third year Classics student at King’s responded to the survey, “I’m not sure that exams are fairer, I just don’t like having to work hard all year long”.

The Varsity survey also highlighted a balance between those students who think that exams are a fairer form of assessment and those who prefer coursework. But when Johnson was asked whether students should be given a chance to choose between the two, he replied that it would be difficult to organise. While Zurcher suggested that a combination of both is the most reasonable way of testing “agile minds”, he added that a “practical, fair and cheat-proof” system of examination is yet to be devised.

Cambridge team fly to America to contest iGEM 2006 at MIT

A team of Cambridge students will travel to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) next week to contest the international Genetically Engineered Machine competition (iGEM). The competition, which has been running since 2005, will this year feature teams from 37 different countries, all attempting to help answer the question of whether “simple biological systems be built from standard, interchangeable parts and operated in living cells.”

The team of six, comprising Nikhilesh Singh Chand, Elizabeth Carter, Jisun Lee, Xuien Zhu, Kaj Bernhardt and Yang Xu, are due to fly out for the “Jamboree”, which begins on November 4. Chand explained that their entry “tried to genetically engineer two types of bacteria such that they would form patterns in swimming agar plates. Inter-cellular communication and differential motility would be the basis for this pattern formation”, although he admitted that “we could not get what we set out to do”. They did, however, “get some interesting results”. They will have to present their work to an audience of over 200 people from all around the world, including many experts in the field.

Jim Haseloff, one of the advisors to the Cambridge team, told Varsity that “with the arrival of new synthetic DNA today” the team would be “conducting experiments up until the day that they left”. Haseloff emphasised that the competition represented “much more than just a standard summer project” because of the breadth of the remit that the students were given. He told Varsity “We provide the environment and they do the work”, with “no intellectual constraints”. The Cambridge project has been made possible as a result of funding from Jeremy Minshull’s DNA 2.0 molecular biological company.
Open presentation: Wednesday 1 November (4th Week) at the Michaelhouse Cafe, Trinity St from 7.30pm
Apply online by 15 November 2006 for a pre-Christmas offer or 24 December 2006 for a January offer at
www.mercermc.com/joinlondon

join us!
Sanskrit and Hindi not axed

»South Asian language courses have been curtailed but “not abandoned”

TOM PARRY-JONES

Dr Gordon Johnson, Director of the Centre for South Asian Studies (CSAS), has stressed Cambridge’s continued dedication to the study of Hindi and Sanskrit, despite the University’s announcement that the subject should be abandoned in the teaching of Hindi and part of the Oriental Studies under-graduate course.

Speaking to Varsity, Dr Johnson said that whilst there is “never any good reason for stopping good subjects”, there is “only so much the University can support”, with a small number of students creating an immense “burden” on two teachers. A new focus on graduate research is necessary to ensure that South Asian Studies remains buoyant, and that the study of the languages “in the longer term… is safe”.

His comments come amidst confusion reports concerning the future of the subject. On October 13, the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) reported that the University “is to abandon the teaching of Hindi and Sanskrit to undergraduates”, whilst the Times of India reported how Cambridge “has finally closed the door on Sanskrit as a bailed-out subject of undergraduate study”. But in a letter to the THES last Friday, Dr Johnson stressed that “Sanskrit will continue to be taught to undergraduates who require it to pursue research interests, and expressed a commitment to postgrad-uate students in both subjects.

Nevertheless, options for under-graduate study of Sanskrit at Cambridge are now severely limited. Within the Theology Tripos only one paper a year is offered in the language, and Dr Johnson admitted that it is focused too heavily on religion. Meanwhile, the promised undergradu-ate teaching of Hindi will be completely separate from the Tripos, although existing facilities and staff will be used, with plans to “expand” these for the increase in graduate students. Dr Johnson is in particular seeking to pro-mote an MPhil in Classical Indian Studies, to take advantage of the “huge resources” that the University Library and Queens’ College collec-tions provide.

Academics and students have expressed unhappiness over the can-cellation of the course. John Smith, one of the two readers in Sanskrit at the University, told the Times of India that Sanskrit is “simply worth doing. You cannot understand the culture of the Indian sub-continent and the world outside it without learning Sanskrit”. He also accused the University of being “tactless”, as the news coincided with the presentation of an honorary degree to the Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh. Dr Johnson’s statement on the cancella-tion of the course was attached at the end of a press release celebrating “a continuing relationship of excellence” between the University and India.

The cancellation of the course has sparked lively debate in the Indian press. In an editorial on October 19, South Indian daily News Today accused the University of a “planned and deliberate act to run down Hinduism”, calling the decision “cul-turally disastrous”. The columnist asked “whether the Cambridge University would have dared to abolish the Chairs in Arabic or Persian?” The editorial in the Times of India on October 13 was more reflective about the subject’s demise. Understanding that “knowledge has to be justified in its utility”, the writer nevertheless argued that Indian universi-ties should emerge as the new “centres of excellence in Indic studies”.

Dr Gordon Johnson, Director of the CSAS

“whether the Cambridge University would have dared to abolish the Chairs in Arabic or Persian?”

Nikki Burton

A naked and inebriated man was dis-covered asleep in a young boys’ dormi-tory at King’s College School last week, reported Cambridge Evening News. A matron responsible for the boarding school’s sleeping quarters found the man sleeping off a hangover on the morning of Thursday 19 October. The dormitory room belongs to Year 7 choirs, who are all between eleven and twelve years of age. The incident is not believed to have been reported to the police, but an internal enquiry “with a view to tightening further procedures” is underway at the school.

Parents were shocked by the breach of security

Parents were shocked by the breach of security, and are demanding answers from the school. They were informed via e-mail of an “incident in the board-in quarters” by Deputy Head Lesley Edge, who is also responsible for pastoral care at the school. Angus Gent, Housemaster, told Varsity that the man in question was “in fact a guest of a female staff member”. But parents have not been told how or why he was able to gain access to the private area. One parent admitted, “I am worried by the incident; all parents have the right to expect that their child will be safe in their school environment.”

The independent preparatory school, situated on West Road, is famous for its Choir who perform each Christmas in King’s College Chapel and their record-ings are sold worldwide. Fees start at £15,000 a year for the 300 boys and girls aged between four and thirteen who attend the school.

Their website states that King’s College School “has a duty of care towards each pupil while they are in attendance at school. The happiness, safety and security of each is a matter of paramount concern”.

Emmanuel

Student accused of dealing drugs

Last Sunday, a third year was accused by an Emmanuel College porter of dealing in illegal substan ces. Feeling totally bemused, the student went out, expecting to return to find himself in vast amounts of trouble. But after a much needed night’s sleep, the porter got over his suspicions, and let the student go.

Botanic Gardens: an apple a day

Lord Derby stands to attention at roll-call during the tenth annual Apple Day, held at the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens last Sunday, October 22.

Drunk intruder in the King’s choirboys’ dorm

The Maypole

Online Romeo seeks Pretty-in-Pink

On Wednesday, a Cambridge Flyer was spotted on Facebook, addressed to a girl in “pink earmuffs” whom the anonymous author had seen at the Maypole. It proclaimed that he wished to have the pleasure of taking the lucky lady out for a drink. When our spy called the number left on the flyer offering to help, the anonymous admirer signed his response Henry Hamilton.

Sidney Sussex

Freshers stops out

One fresher had an eventful trip to Old Orleans in Millers Yard, drinking so much that she passed out on the toilet floor. She lay there undiscovered until 4am, when she finally woke up. Finding herself locked in, she was forced to climb out of a window, setting off the burglar alarm in the process. She didn’t wait around for the police to arrive, instead quickly stum-bling home.

The Union

Shut Up and Get Trolleyed

An unfortunate reveller was spied last month in a compromising posi-tion on the back of an AUC trolley. The happy-snarmer had been prev-ioulsly spotted with his head exam-ining the inside of a cardboard box in the Union lobby at the Shut Up and Dance club night. But this seemed forgotten as he was wheeled home down Trinity Street, projectile-vom-iting off the burglar alarm in the process. For the care of the sickly soul, the highlight of the evening was yet to come. On arrival at Queens’, our spy reported seeing the individual being given a fireman’s lift up four flights of stairs, providing his chivalrous carrier with more of the same content left behind in the cardboard box. Lovely.
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EMILY GOSDEN
Oxford animal rights activists this week staged their first major demonstration since being served a High Court injunction limiting their right to protest. Over 600 marched on Saturday but key figures including Speak leader Mel Broughton were banned from attending.

In a change from previous demonstrations Speak did not rally on Broad Street, instead marching along George Street, where they remained silent in memory of a monkey called George who they allege was blinded by Oxford researchers.

Speaking before the march André Menache, a Scientific Consultant to Animal Aid, told the assembled crowd “Think critically and analytically...and just as important question, question, question, what you are being told”.

A heavy police presence supervised the event but there were no reported troubles. Five people were arrested at a similar demonstration in January.

Malcolm Holloway and Judy Forshaw of Speak lead the protest.
Hidden in alleyways, hostels and nightshelters, Cambridge’s homeless regularly go unnoticed. But homelessness and its associated crimes is a growing problem in the city. This week, Varsity investigates how a large web of charities, councillors and students are setting out to solve it.

In the Council’s last head count 222 people were found sleeping rough on the Cambridge streets, more than double their target of ten, and six more than at the same point in 2005. But the headlines are only complet-ed every three months. Many homeless people Varsity spoke to thought the real number of rough sleepers could be as much as double this figure. Even the Council acknowledged “we still miss people”.

In June of this year, the most recent month for which statistics were avail-able, 153 people declared themselves homeless to the City Council. Currently around 110 people are housed in council-run accommodation around Cambridge, but the number of homeless people is difficult to quantify as a large proportion are not in the city long enough to be counted.

Inspector Chris Porter is the police officer tasked with addressing anti-social behaviour. He spoke out against making generalisations about home-less people and against criticising those who are employed in acceptable activities such as selling the Big Issue magazine. But he admitted “This problem has got bigger, certainly. We’ve had an influx of ‘Street Life’ individuals, who may not be truly homeless but spend a lot of time on the streets doing activities we might find unacceptable, such as being drunk and disorderly… We’re looking at about 50 problematic people last year and 100 now.”

He also drew attention to the crime associated with the “Street Life” community. “The average drugs spend amongst those individuals who are drug-dependant is about £500 a week. This means that around £3,000 of property must be stolen, due to the conversion rates involved in selling stolen goods. Begging is quite lucrative for individuals, as it bypasses shoplifting.”

Streetbite: a day out on the town

Earlier this week, Varsity joined Mark Power and Helen Sharpe of Streetbite, a University organisation that hands out food and hot drinks to homeless people in the city centre. It also organises the placing of boxes in Cambridge colleges at the end of term, to donate food to homeless hostels and shelters. Mark and Helen both agreed that the realisation that the homeless are real people rather than simply annoyances or embarrassments was vital to improving matters. One homeless man explained, “lots of passers-by look at the ground, the trees anything but me”.

Streetbite find that vendors appreciate being given food as well as money, since an average day is often punctuated by long journeys to buy extra magazines. Mark also said “It would be interesting to see what the Council are doing to stop the beginning of homelessness in the first place.”

This is not a problem the Council are taking lightly. Ian Nimmo-Smith, the Liberal Democrat Leader of the Council, told Varsity “that it is at the forefront of our concerns, we’ve increased spending on the problem and we have developed services with partner agencies to address the par-ticular needs of homeless people”.

But Labour Councillor Ben Bradnack rejected this, saying “The City Council has not always offered a clear sense of policy direction”. He added, “It was central govern-ment which made resources available and gave clear policy direction to what up till then had been a hopeless-ly piecemeal approach by the City Council, which danced to the tune of the voluntary organisations who ran the show”.

Nimmo-Smith described these accusations as “a generalised swipe at the council”, claiming “some is inaccurate, for example we’ve been praised by the audit commission on the quan-tity of affordable housing”.

But Shelley Moram, former President of Streetbite, a University society that gives food to the home-less, was similarly critical of the Council. “They are really rubbish with dealing with homeless people. We need more facilities, but there is a lot of local opposition from people who think that by providing facilities they will just attract more unes-timably homeless people to Cambridge.”

Yet some charities disagreed with Moram’s claims. Lucine Harrison, Deputy Centre Manager of Winter Comfort for the Homeless told Varsity, “We speak to the Council a lot, they are fantastic, they paid for our kitchen to be refurbished so we can do nutrition exercises and they funded the winter care centre where the homeless can sleep if it gets too cold.”

The 1996 Housing Act compels local councils to find accommodation for all “priority need cases”, including the elderly, families with children, and pregnant women. But those judged “intentionally homeless” or without a local connection can strug-gle to get housed.

If temperatures fall below freezing, the only provision the Council must make for the homeless is accommoda-tion. But Robert Young, the Council’s Homelessness Monitoring Officer, defended the decision, telling Varsity, “the Government’s advice was that this accommodation should only be provided when three consecutive
Street in the small hours of Wednesday 25 October

Scott Bailey, Shelter’s regional representative in the East, noted “there’s a whole range of reasons why people become homeless, but affordability is a key problem. The East is seeing less houses being built than ever since the war. Nationally we create 30,000 more households than homes each year”.

The City Council’s Homelessness Review in 2003 recorded that the main reasons for loss of accommodation included leaving parents (21 per cent), leaving relatives or friends (17 per cent) and escaping from a violent partner (17 per cent).

Both charities and councillors suggested that one reason Cambridge seems to have a large homeless population is the high quality provision offered by charities and the council. Councillor Nimmo-Smith commented, “Our critics say we are too welcoming.”

A student volunteer added, “It is a relatively safe place to be homeless, small enough that homeless people can find each other and stick together... the wealth and education of people in Cambridge, alongside the thriving tourist industry, means that homeless people may think they are more likely to get assistance.”

Nelson
“t been homeless for 6 months: I lost my job and my flat, and together with health problems I was pushed into homelessness. People are willing to help the homeless, but Big Issue vendors have got bad publicity recently. The worst thing about being homeless is the loneliness”

Michael*
“I was born in Cambridge and I’ve been homeless for the last 3 years. I find I get a mixed reaction from the public: people tend to be either really nice or blatantly obnoxious. I think the embarrassment for my family is the worst thing about being homeless”

Nick
“I’ve been homeless for 2 years due to mental illness and other factors. The reaction from most is very good: most people are friendly. It’s really annoying to be waiting for a long time to hear about finding a hostel to stay in. This often takes a long time, especially for men”

Clive
“I’ve been homeless for five years. I moved to the city after my mother committed suicide when I was 28. I was very messed up in the head. After a year of homelessness I started selling the Big Issue outside Sainsbury’s. I’ve been threatened with being stabbed and punched”

*real name withheld

Analysis: Cambridge and the melting ice shelf

The Cambridge-based British Antarctic Survey (BAS) this week published a report that for the first time directly links the collapse of the Antarctic ice shelves with human agency.

The report ascribes the sudden collapse of the 5250km² Larsen B ice shelf in March 2002 to the strengthening of warm westerly winds, which melted the surface layer of ice, widening deep crevasses on the ice shelf, thereby increasing the likelihood of shattering and total collapse. The collapse of the 11,500 year-old Larsen B is attributed by the survey to “both ozone depletion (due to CFCs) and increasing greenhouse gases”.

Lead author of the report, Emmanuel alumnus Dr Gareth Marshall, emphasised how “interlinked” the whole Earth system is, stressing “we can perturb it in one place and, due to some local amplifying effect, it can have a big impact somewhere else”. In his view, the BAS research provides a “physical mechanism linking human activity to the Larsen collapse” rather than relying on vague ideas of the effects of “global warming”. But the report does not prove whether this is a “temporary phenomena or long-term change”.

It is estimated that at present 250km² of the west Antarctic ice shelf is disappearing every year with serious consequences. The collapse of Larsen B alone, according to the report, resulted in the velocity of the surrounding glaciers increasing up to eight times, causing sea level rises. Melting on a larger scale would effectively raise sea levels by 2mm per year, a volume capable of flooding the world’s low-lying regions and submerging coastal areas, including London and Cambridge.

To date, no definitive governmental action has been taken on the subject of climate change. But the findings of this report comes in the context of the popularisation of green issues in both the politics of David Cameron and mounting media pressure. Whether these developments come to a voting representative, there are a number of possibilities for improving the system that will hopefully be discussed both openly and extensively during the next academic year.

REBECCA BIRRANE

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The Larsen B ice shelf

Nash

BAS

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REBECCA BIRRANE
We have learnt this week of the alarming effect top-up fees have had on undergraduate admissions. These results, it seems, were as predictable as the London bus timetable. Like the top-down fees, the doom-mongers and causing CUSU and the NUS to join in self-congratulatory hand-rubbing. This week's failed deflated protest is thus almost satisfying. It is easy to point out the detrimental effect of the new price of a degree, but only if you can put a price on a degree at all.

Why do we insist on economically appraising something that is surely a good career, the key to the professional lives we wish to lead? If an undergraduate degree is such a vital acquisition, why do we mark an auction price above which we will not pay? Surely, we either accept that a degree is the commodity for a decent working life, and one which will therefore pay multiple dividends in the long term, or we can decide that the Higher Education route is not the best bargain.

Three weeks ago *Varsity* reported on the inaugural speech made by University Vice-Chancellor Alison Richard, in which she called for a reaffirmation of the “importance of education” within the university – but what does this mean? If education itself is given the emphasis it deserves, surely top-up fees, so long as they are at a financially viable rate for those paying them, should not be considered by students themselves such a barrier to obtaining it? If the product itself is something worth buying, we can shop away.

This week’s survey into essay bluffing itself points to the flaw in the diamond: that academics and students alike can become more concerned about facts on paper than the intellectual sculpting of our minds. We can end up reciting, parrot-fashion, facts that can be easily obtained from Wikipedia – and why shouldn’t we? We all know students get away with being poorly being dealt with the tools available to us is as important a skill as having all the answers? That is, if a degree is just a game we play.

The undergraduate degree needs to be reassessed and revalued; we need to reform ways of testing knowledge and ability. In talking to *Varsity* this week, Boris Johnson mused that exams “create that genuine moment of intellectual excitement”, reminding us that the Internet was unable to provide these essays was “unheard of in my day”. We could draw excessive attention to the generation gap between ourselves and the Conservative shadow minister, but should instead surmise that times have changed. The solution does not lie in exams that simply draw out the abilities of students who began their degrees at Cambridge this year, as well as those who will join in the future. So perhaps now we’ve made our protest, students who began their degrees at Cambridge this year, as well as those who will join in the future. So perhaps now we’ve made our protest, perhaps now students who began their degrees at Cambridge this year, as well as those who will join in the future. So perhaps now we’ve made our protest, perhaps now we’ll keep the receipt.

**A Bid for Education**

Right kids, prepare to be shocked. Conservatives continue the environmental crusade, that includes the planet. A controversial, nay, downright outrageous claim, I hear you scream. Cameron is a liar, a fraud, a spinster (or should that be spinster? Images of David Cameron spinning wool into cloth appear.)

He doesn’t care about the environment – he’s a Tory!

Hush now. I wish to tentatively suggest there exists a narrative of environmentalism in the long history of the Conservative Party. My tale of ‘crunch’ Conservatism begins with Edmund Burke – the original (though not the best IMHO) Conservative. He grandly declared that the vast sweep of history is “a pact between the dead, the living and the yet unborn.” For Conservatives, the concept of leaving something behind for posterity which is as good, if not better, than that which was inherited, is essential.

As far back as 1875, Conservatives were foremost among the nation’s eco-warriors. Benjamin Disraeli, replete with green stockings and jointed of finest wacky, put the Public Health Act on the statute books to reduce the environmental impact of the industrial revolution. Travel forward in your TARDIS to 1955, and you will find Anthony Eden (not, aham, perhaps the man who was) who answered the cries of the nation with the Clean Air Act. Snogs were banned – but by Tories, not Greens.

Another fine crunchy Conservative was Ted Heath (if one can excuse the three-day week and, pardon my French, the European Community. Relax, I’m joking – you Guardian readers can be so petty!) In 1970 Britain had for the first time a Department for the Environment and a member of Her Majesty’s Privy Council responsible for Environmental matters. This was in fact no joke, and up the political salience ladder went our great planet.

We move swiftly on to that most un-Conservative politician, that bringer of harmony, that queen of consensus. Try this quick quiz: Question 1 – Who was the first world leader to stand up and confront the international community with the fact that climate change was a real threat? Question 2 – Which one of (a) Tony Blair or (b) Margaret Thatcher?

**Conservatives with crunch Conservation and Conservatism coexist in harmony**

**“Benjamin Disraeli, replete with green stockings and jointed of finest wacky, put the Public Health Act on the statute books to reduce the environmental impact of the industrial revolution.”**
Georgianna Vaughan

Creepy Cambridge
This Halloween, be sure to keep your wits about you

O

stensibly, Cambridge could be placed amongst the finest locations for Halloween happenings, howling winds, stones that can be turned into one around and gothic spires, you couldn’t design a Hollywood film set better. Sombre trees and dozens of visual effects pale when compared to an infinitely more terrifying spectacle that haunts Cambridge, the student body.

For all that we’re warm and cuddly, easy to get on with, etc. etc., there are haunting resemblances between some Cambridge students and the stuff of your worst nightmares. We’ve all witnessed certain students sweep a little too eagerly to the centre of a room. They’re the wolves, Loud, brash and only too willing to blow themself, they like to hunt in packs and are otherwise known as male drinking societies. Fortunately you don’t need a full moon to spot these characters. If you want to catch an Asnac, it’s difficult to answer the question Asnacs hear most often, is not in fact in fancy dress, makes the mien of fancy dress too petrifying than the form of fancy dress of someone. To avoid offering any King’s members here but if you didn’t already know about this, wise up. Perhaps we might fare better with the University student ghosts –of whom we have a plentiful supply. Sadly our phantom friends are so rarely seen, they’re much more likely to flee from the prospect of human interaction than they are to excite alarm in anyone, except perhaps the after-hours library staff. Although, if the wolves prove a little visually disappointingly the university, ghosts, however, are spectacular. What needs white make up with skin that’s been deprived of colour, is not in fact in fancy dress, makes the mien of these characters more petrifying than the form of fancy dress of someone, who is not in fact in fancy dress, makes the mien of fancy dress too petrifying than the form of fancy dress of someone. Amazingly, this fiendish array does not account for everybody. Politically correct amongst us could possibly engage in wilfully scary people let alone risk offending vegetarians by intimating that the pumpkin is in any way threatening. As Halloween, discrimination against short people is a definite no, and don’t even go there with the religious implications of celebrating an essentially pagan festival. For these students with a conscience, the prospect of compliments the outfit of someone, who is not in fact in fancy dress, makes the mien of fancy dress too petrifying than the form of fancy dress of someone. Slightly less repulsive, though certainly one way to go, is Scary Cambridges. I’m sure you get the idea. The politically correct amongst us can assure you that this madness is benign, if catching, and easily misdirected and forgotten anyway with a glass or six of Linsliffe near me, I can assure you that this madness is benign, if catching, and easily misdirected and forgotten anyway with a glass or six of Linsliffe near me.

Asnacs are people too
Medievalists, mystics and mead

Asnacs (those reading Anglo-Saxon, Nordic and Celtic if you’re not used to getting them confused) are scattered across the ramdom Greek letter-forms in early Irish manuscripts – a bit out of place, hardly understood, and ever so slightly twisted. Let’s face it, the subject is weird. It’s easy to imagine Asnacs as Tolkien fanatics, too helpless even to make it into the Tolkien Society and too geeky to be allowed to live in the real world. But, there is a bright side. For those who enjoy making lists, death provides an opportunity for the ultimate list: the funeral. This includes everything from the order of significance of various boxes, containing anything from foreign holidays to toothbrushes. As he did so, the studio audience shouted “Take the Money” or “Open the Box.”

Miles died in 1971. Legend has it that when his coffin was carried into the crematorium, one of the employees who can reconstruct the polities of a kingdom from the witness-lists in its charters, or read a sentence in Old Irish, or trace the history of a script through seven centuries. We are the few who choose to study as a pastime, away from Asnacs in Cambridge for fifty years or so. Surely there must have been some in that time who only visited Tolkien for his revolutionary article “Trick or treat?”

As if this ghoulish line up weren’t enough, how could we forget the witches’ tales? So, Roald Dahl taught us that when his coffin was carried into the crematorium, one of the

“Loud, brash and only too ready to announce themselves, they hunt in packs and are otherwise known as boys in drinking societies”
A letter from Paris

Alicia Spencer-Joyner

apparently, as English have no future. Grammatically speaking, of course. Our attitude towards grammar is at best misguided, if not erroneous. No Academic Française? That explains the grammatical carnage! The English are “quite nice but fundamentally inept, not to be trusted with anything important, like language”. Such was the cultural revelations of my first English grammar lecture. Though I’m not entirely sure I agree with the above, being forced to view one’s own culture from a foreign perspective is fascinating, galling. It’s not just grammar the French object to. British trains are incapable of running on time, we’re rubbish at football and can’t make a decent bowl of curry. Apart from these minor irritations, we eat too much bread, for all the tea in China. Good point, we English.

However, the most interesting thing has been viewing Cambridge from “the other side.” In many ways, the stereotypically English traits—politeness, eccentricity, death before dishonesty—are those of Cambridge University, even if the dishonesty is purely academic. As a Cambridge student, and I fundamentally culturally different, even to other English students? Take the “Hilling” of a haircut for example. Picture the scene: a packed amphitheatre, banks of disinterested students. The hair-styles say it all: dreads, afros, mullets, even a spectacular beehive. The lecturer breaks his hour long rant about mythology to announce sternly: “and the Iliad, you must read the Iliad all of next week”.

There is a stunned silence. Thirty seconds later, a French student shouts at our esteemed lecturer “to fuck right off”. This sentiment is echoed by all of the students. Except for the cohort of eager Cantabrigians a week earlier, who had at all to read a book we don’t even have to write an essay on. In fact, that’s pretty damn good.” I am even more confused when the lecturer grins at his fractious students. “If you go to the library, it’s quite impressive, really”, he says. “But the problem is…”

Dear Sir,

I thought that Dr Ruehl’s contribution to last week’s Cambridge Crisis column was absolutely fantastic. It was really refreshing to come across relationship advice peppered with literary references and proverbs. Dr Ruehl’s dear and concise counsel was better than that of the two pundits put together. Much as I suggest that Varsity (15.10.06) regarding the discrepancies in rents paid by New Hall, Churchill and Fitzwilliam colleges, compared to those paid by Trinity Hall students (“New Hall rents ‘unacceptable’”, page 6). It was only in great part, as a result of the issues highlighted in this article, that students from the aforementioned three colleges were made aware of the discrepancy, and indeed, it was only thanks to this article that we were able to ask about possible ‘compensation in the form of a discount’ to TR students. However, I was stunned to find out that being made available to TH students to reflect the inconvenience suffered from having to live on a building site (so having to walk 10-15 minutes through untidy mudfields and paths to get out of the complex), but it is better than nothing.

Yours sincerely,

A.N. Other

Way Back When: Varsity Archives

February 10th, 1981: Queens’ Fee - Charging tourists admission to colleges commences

Queens’ College has announced that, as from April 2, it is to charge tourists an admission fee of 20p. It will be the first Cambridge College to impose such a charge.

The scheme is being implemented to curb the enormous number of visitors that the College receives each year, estimated to be between seventy- and eighty- thousand. However, students and City residents will continue to be admitted free, on production of documentary evidence of their address. In order that students may enter the College without being stopped, tourists will be expected to be guided by their tour in Queens’ Lane and restricted to that entrance. Anyone may enter freely via the other gates, and Dr D. H. Walker, Junior Bursar, therefore agreed that the scheme could only operate with “a certain element of trust”. Mr Scurr said that students entering from Queens’ Lane would be liable to be checked, but he thought that porters could recognise students anyway and would not have to stop them. There are no plans for a turnstile as yet.

A window will be set up in the present Porters’ Lodge for the issuing of tickets, and tourists will be given a map of the College, a suggested walking route and notes on the College’s history. Some porters are in favour of the plans for a turnstile as yet. Others are in favour of the proposed fee. There is a general feeling that the College’s gravy train is bound to be used by the tourists.

A statement by Queens’ College Council said that over the years “the College has become increasingly aware of disturbance to its work and life as an academic community from the great number of visitors. Moreover, the Governing Body has decided that to protect the purpose and the academic life of the College, it must restrict visitors.”
Faith, Race and Politics

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Jack Straw’s recent remarks on the potential barriers created by Muslim women wearing the veil have caused an inevitable backlash from some in the Muslim community, but the number of supporters backing his comments suggests that this is a debate that will not die down any time soon. As the response to last week’s leaked document from the DfES (supposedly proposing the monitoring of university Islamic societies in order to stamp out extremism on Campus) has shown, government involvement in issues of race and religion must be sensitively carried out.

Before this leak occurred, there had been a steady filter of ministerial statements over the past few months feeding into the debate. Phil Woolas, the Race Relations Minister, sparked controversy when he intervened in the case of a female Muslim teaching assistant in Wales who refused to remove the veil before her male colleagues despite having failed to wear the veil in her interview. He demanded that she be sacked. Shadow home secretary David Davis recently averred, “there is a growing feeling that the Muslim community is excessively sensitive to criticism, unwilling to engage in substantive debate” and asked whether “we are inadvertently encouraging a kind of voluntary apartheid”. The latter remark encapsulates the concern residing at the heart of the issue. Has Britain’s brand of multiculturalism created communities living “parallel lives” in segregated or ghettoized societies where people from different ethnic origins and cultural backgrounds live side by side yet never interact?

» Has Britain’s brand of multiculturalism created communities living “parallel lives” in segregated or ghettoized societies?

Fundamentally, the notion of multiculturalism sounds positive. Encouraging people to respect diversity, to appreciate difference and treat each other’s cultures as equal. But herein lies the problem: can all cultures necessarily be considered equal? If our barometer of cultural value is a constitution or a set of laws, how should we respond when these rules are broken? For example, a conflict of moral interests arises when the activities of Islamic Fundamentalists clash violently with human rights and British laws. Killing legally innocent people in the name of religion may be acceptable to extremists, but to the majority of Britains, including most British Muslims, it is quite blatantly wrong. Respect for other cultures was obviously never intended to allow those with foreign origins to breach human rights and British laws on the pretext that their actions would be acceptable back at home, and yet this, for critics of British multiculturalism, is the direct result of our emphasis on diversity and the necessity to tolerate difference, and our compliance with Political Correctness. Michael Portillo is one such critic, stating recently: “The time for sophistry has passed. Our citizens and our society are under threat from those who believe that difference is a justification for terror and murder.”

Acceptance of multiculturalism as “sophistry” is one thing. Making changes which will avoid stirring a
counterproductive backlash from targeted cultures is quite another. Ruth Kelly has defended the proposals to diverse university Islamic societies claiming, “This is not about picking on individual students or even spying on them, it’s about sensible monitoring of activities to make sure individual students on campuses are protected.” And yet the Muslim communities, as represented by the head of the Muslim Council of Britain, Muhammad Abdul Bari, feel they are being “stigmatised” and even “demonised” in these attempts to stamp out terrorism.

The lesson that seems to emerge from this response is that reforming Britain’s brand of multiculturalism cannot be achieved by highlighting the differences that have been emphasized by cultural diversity; we must focus instead on what should have been the primary objective from the start: creating solidarity by stressing similarities. Multiculturalism may have failed as an intellectual project on an absolute and uncontested level under the surface of everyday university life. The various societies hold talks and discussions, as well as dance lessons and garden parties; there are brunches and afternoon teas; the Jewish Society keep a drop-in centre above the Fudge Kitchen. There’s even an inter-faith society, the Cambridge University Faiths Forum, whose aim is to foster communication and understanding between the various religions in Cambridge.

Pluralism may be fun, but CICCU are not really interested.

With all this mutual cooperation and chatting, is there any serious intolerance in Cambridge? Every so often you come across, say, a controversial journalistic piece, or a handwritten addition to a provocative poster. But is it any more widespread than that? I spoke to the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of several religious societies, and they all agreed: the University is, on the whole, a remarkably tolerant place, however the level of tolerance does depend to a certain extent on which religion we’re talking about.

Alpa Shah, President of the Young Jains, has never had any problems. On the other hand, Umar Ahmad, Vice-President of the Islamic Society (JSoc), says he is aware of a certain level of background, public concern about Islam. World events have made it harder for those who adopt traditional Muslim dress to avoid being singled out at timed when intolerance, fear and a strong sense of superiority are the new norm. The ardent atheists: those whose belief in the non-existence of any God is as absolute as anyone else’s faith. On the other hand, some find it invigorating; “at least they’ve thought about it,” says Pete. It is a problem which religion we’re talking about. The people who some find most difficult are the ardent atheists; those whose belief in the non-existence of any God is as absolute as anyone else’s faith. On the other hand, some find it invigorating; “at least they’ve thought about it,” says Pete. It is a problem which religion we’re talking about.

Tom Smith on the success of religious integration in Cambridge.

Once upon a time, men at Cambridge had to attend compulsory chapel five or more times a week. Things have certainly changed since then. There are no statistics kept on the religious persuasions of contemporary students, but you can find twenty-five religious societies in the CUSU directory, and it’s hard to miss the posters all over town advertising talks, discussions and free lunches. Many college chapel services, on the other hand, are almost entirely empty.

There is, in fact, a whole world of religious activity that carries on almost unnoticed under the surface of everyday university life. The various societies hold talks and discussions, as well as dance lessons and garden parties; there are brunches and afternoon teas; the Jewish Society keep a drop-in centre above the Fudge Kitchen. There’s even an inter-faith society, the Cambridge University Faiths Forum, whose aim is to foster communication and understanding between the various religions in Cambridge.

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Political Islam

In an illuminating essay, Fatima Alam discusses liberation theology, variations of belief and the political impetus of religion.
Alain de Botton

Andy Wimbush meets the prolific thinker to talk about lust at university and his new book The Architecture of Happiness.

A lain de Botton is in the enviable position of being able to make a living by writing about whatever he feels like. So far, he has tackled everything from love, travel and anxieties to Proust and philosophy. “I don’t find any difficulty in finding possible topics,” he tells me. Inspiration for his latest book, The Architecture of Happiness, came quite simply from staring out of the window of his study in Kensington, over rows of terraced houses, car parks and tower blocks, towards Shepherd’s Bush.

“The view is a mixture of some pretty terrible things really. If you live in London, you very quickly become aware that lots of things have gone really wrong when it comes to architecture. I just wanted to ask three very basic questions: what happens when it goes right, what happens when it goes wrong and what exactly is a beautiful building?”

De Botton was born in Zurich, where he lived until he was twelve. “Switzerland,” he says, “is the home of Modernism. It’s one of the places where modern buildings have been widely accepted. Whereas in Britain we often try to make a new house look old, in Switzerland, the New has been accepted unambiguously good. It would be as odd to try and make your house look old as it would to make your telephone or your bicycle look old.”

The stories and characters of buildings are some of de Botton’s main preoccupations in his most recent book. He tells the tale of a man who tried to build a house as if it were a self-portrait. I wonder what an “Alain de Botton house” would look like.

“Probably a bit like this.” He reaches for his book, flipping the page open at a photograph of a stone house designed by Herzog and de Meuron, the Swiss architects who gave us the Tate Modern. De Botton describes the photo: “It’s in the Italian Alps. It’s got this amazing kind of drystone wall – a very ancient technique married with a very geometric, precise concrete frame. One blank face, with big windows on the other side. That’s where I’d like to live.”

De Botton read History as an undergraduate at Gonville and Caius, before doing a Master’s in Philosophy at Kings. Did Cambridge offer better views than Shepherd’s Bush?

“It’s certainly an environment where you are always looking at things that have been made with real care and love. There is that extraordinary sight across the backs to King’s Chapel, which has that bizarre sense that you’re both in a town and yet you’re in the country because there’s a cow there. When there’s nothing around you that seems modern, you can easily lose sight of where you are and what time you are living in.”

Despite great academic success, de Botton found Cambridge disappointing. “I was not a particularly happy undergraduate. I came to Cambridge with very high hopes – especially in the romantic sphere.

“I’d gone to all-male boarding schools previously and was basically expecting to find Cambridge a hot-bed of beautiful, sensitive, attractive women who’d be interested in me! But, for whatever reason – probably down to my own inadequacies – these encounters never quite happened.”

Ironically, de Botton seems to have spent his free time in what most undergrads consider to be Cambridge’s least attractive building: the University Library. Where does our beloved phallus of information feature in his “architecture of happiness”?

“I like it!” he says, smiling because he sees I’m genuinely surprised, “It’s got a slightly fascistic quality because it was built at that time. It’s also very imposing. But it does something very well by being a modern building that’s nevertheless quite classical. Ultimately, it’s making a big statement about knowledge: it’s saying ‘why not?’”

Having dismissed the idea of becoming an academic, de Botton set about writing his first book, Essays in Love, shortly after graduating. It is a semi-autobiographical fiction, which grew out of his undergraduate journals. “Writing”, he says, “was really a sort of mental housekeeping.” Ultimately it seems his dissatisfaction with university initiated his career in writing. “To be totally happy at Cambridge might cause a bit of a comedown in later life. Perhaps it’s best to be productively dissatisfied.”
Varsity are opening applications for section editors, photographers, production managers and the online team. Email business@varsity.co.uk for application forms.

Think you could be part of the Varsity team?

Varsity are looking for a new editor for the Lent term. Could you take control?
Info and application forms: business@varsity.co.uk
Deadline: November 8th, 5pm
Tess Riley talks to the Big Issue’s founder on the eve of the magazine’s fifteenth birthday

John Bird

Having cycled for half an hour through the pouring rain to meet John Bird, I turn up ten minutes late looking like a soggy tissue. Luckily, Bird is not there yet, giving me time to change in the toilets and attempt to comb my dripping hair. When he finally walks into the café, he comes straight up to me, beaming smile on his face, and says “you look a bloody mess”. Excellent. We sit down and John’s phone rings. “I won’t answer it. I will not answer it”, he laughs, before glancing down to see who’s calling. “Hold on, I need to take this.” As I squelch off – I failed to bring spare shoes – to get two cups of tea, I can hear Bird’s voice boom, “Gordon old chum! How are you? Look, can I phone you later? I’m being interviewed by an extremely important person. A newspaper called The Tess Journals. You’ve heard of it, right? Really? I’ll send you a copy.”

This joking around sums up why my afternoon was so fun. Although you’re never quite sure when he’s pulling your leg, he keeps you guessing – and laughing – enough not to mind. When I return, tea in hand, he’s not impressed. “What? You didn’t get us any cake?” Bird knows what he wants and how to get it. With the past he’s had, I’m not surprised.

Homeless aged five and living in an orphanage from seven, Bird began shoplifting at the age of ten. By his late twenties he’d been imprisoned numerous times. “I realised there were other ways – legal ways – to succeed.” He set up a printing business, became a father, and “made good.” At 45, Bird founded The Big Issue. The “Gordon” who phoned out to be Gordon Roddick – married to Anita – co-founder of The Big Issue with Bird. How did they meet? “I was in a pub. I’d had a few beers and met another fellow also making mess in the world. We just hit it off.”

For many, The Big Issue means the guy with the dripping hair. When he finally walks up in the middle. Where does he think he’s going on there. Communism, capitalism, the left ending up in the middle. Where does he think the answer lies? “I know this much. If someone found a way to profit from homelessness you can be certain there wouldn’t be any more people living on the streets.” “It’s all about the furniture. You’ve got to get the furniture right.”

“George is great and I’m all for what he’s saying. However, this person is guest editing one of the special editions celebrating the fifteen anniversary of ‘The Big Issue’ this month” but his furniture is all wrong. I’m one of the brightest guys on earth – modesty’s a waste of time; before you know it you’re dead – but I can also go into prisons and talk to people. George can’t do that.”

I’m quite relieved when Bird’s phone rings again. “Sorry, it’s another important one. I’ll be quick”, he smiles. How could anyone say no?

“Hello light of my life. How are you? Right, let me get a pen.” I realise I’m sitting in a cafe with John Bird as his very pregnant wife dictates a shopping list to him. He hangs up and orders tea number three before asking, “What the hell are aubergines?”

Bird is so boyish that it’s very difficult to imagine him turned 60 this year. How did he celebrate? “For the first time, Bird looks a little sheepish. Then he roars with laugh- ter,”I had a huge party – it was great! Filled with people I love. But I punched a friend. Pow. Just like that. That was a night to remember.”

He’s very interested in remembering. He’s currently writing a semi-autobiographical novel. Anything else planned? “The Wedge Card. It’s about buying local. The only way we’re going to sort the fucking mess in the world is if we think local, act local. Forget all this global nonsense. Everyone needs to sort their own doorstep first. That way we can make a difference, little by little, wedge by wedge.”

We talk more about this while walking towards the shops. I seem to be accompanying him to buy aubergines. “For me, it’s about how to get people back on their feet, whether that’s a struggling addict in Manchester or an African farmer. We’re blinded in the West by this enslaving notion of charity.”

“Climate change is another one. Turn the issue on its head. Make it sexy. Then people will get interested. I’m good at my job because I know how to make things sexy.”

I went to Rome over the summer with two girl friends. We had a great time: lots of sightseeing, and even more shopping. On our way to the Colosseum we stopped at about 10 different shops: shoes, dress- es, hats. You name it, they had it in Rome. And we had to look at it all. It made a 20 minute walk from our hotel to the Colosseum into a two hour and 40 minute walk, but I’m sure it was worth it. Did you look at any shops on your tour? I made think about what it must be like for a guy in a polygamous relationship to go shopping. It is extremely difficult for a man to go into prisons and off shopping. This is an evolutionary thing: women as gatherers would collect fruits and nuts, and have therefore become hardwired to enjoy shopping for hours on end, as their “animal” mind tells them that it’s good to be collecting things. Men, on the other hand, were hunters, and therefore hardwired to enjoy...
This week both the ADC and the NT are staging The Alchemist. The National has hundreds of affiliated actors, directors and other contributors. Cambridge productions might not operate on the same scale, but are there any similarities? Eva Augustyn compares the two

The NT faces the same scale, but are there any similarities? The Alchemist plays in Cambridge productions might not operate on the same scale, but are there any similarities? Eva Augustyn compares the two

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We are guided by the loose boundaries of papers, but for the most part students can decide what they read. (You're a big girl now, after all).

arguably rubbish Beveridge's Blooms. At first sight, this doesn't seem as a problem that transfers to Cambridge. English exams. We are guided by the loose boundaries of papers and a few core texts but for the most part students decide what they read. (You're a big girl now, after all). Consequently, dissertations could even be, or rather have been, written on the subject of Bob himself. Part IV: Post-Novel: "Post-Novel" paper encompasses everything written from then and now, joyfully warding off the concept of the canonical. However, another paper: "Post-Medieval and Renaissance" seeming problems. This year, its focus is the latest album, Mediator Finesse. We all know that the times are a-changing, or at least they changed greatly now, for example, the stuffy Oxbridge that The History Boys presents. For the most part, the English Diploma reflects this. The spruce and the culchie may be the same ones that Snape and his other savant channeled into and used, but which books we read and does great is thankfully not set in stone. A national newspaper article published this week suggested that the membership and orientation of novels over a huge amount to what goes on the A-Level syllabus, which is turn driven by expedience and individual political agendas.

Hermione Buckland-Hoby
On Kubrick and the Canon

A perception of Cambridge as a fortress of intellectual reactionary scene as simplistic and mistaken as Bob Dylan tiltng his latest album, Mediator Finesse. We all know that the times are a-changing, or at least they changed greatly now, for example, the stuffy Oxbridge that The History Boys portrays. For the most part, the English Diploma reflects this. The spruce and the culchie may be the same ones that Snape and his other savant channeled into and used, but which books we read and does great is thankfully not set in stone. A national newspaper article published this week suggested that the membership and orientation of novels over a huge amount to what goes on the A-Level syllabus, which is turn driven by expedience and individual political agendas. Hermione Buckland-Hoby, for example, is thought to owe her probability and book sales to the pages and pages of controversy on the

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It may not be in that “ivy league” of film festivals, certainly not a celebrity-jammed Cannes, or a sun-drenched Venice, but the London Film Festival, in its 56th year, has found humble identity as “a people’s festival.” A public and primarily “audience friendly” event that caters for the “ordinary intelligent cinema goer” (as the press release says), there is little excuse not to try and see at least some of what the coming year has in store for us on celluloid.

At the opening and closing night galas are Kevin Macdonald’s The Last King of Scotland and Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu’s Babel. There is the “Galas and Special Screenings” section. This year featured (among others) are Todd Field’s Little Children starring Kate Winslet, Marc Forster’s Stranger Than Fiction with Dustin Hoffman, Richard Linklater’s adaptation of Eric Schlosser’s shocking expose Fast Food Nation, as well as two of this year’s larger UK features; Venus written by Hanif Kureishi and directed by Roger Michell, and Breaking and Entering from Anthony Minghella, starring Jude Law and Juliette Binoche. Below these sections, the program is structured in accordance with the geographical distribution of the selected films. The UK with almost 50 entries and France with 20, are both entitled to separate sections in the program. Awkwardly for this “national” logic, although the States are the festival’s main contributor with nearly 60 entries, they get no section of their own, perhaps an attempt to play down their presence. Evident, but not articulated is a Western, or (excluding the French presence) rather Anglo-Saxon bias.

Trends aside, my personal favourites would have to be the blossoming of that delicious new Sacha Baron Cohen film starring Pamela Anderson - Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan. There was a surprising treat for the all-enduring Lars Von Trier fans, in The Boss of it All, a kind of Dogme version of The Office, with Lars’s irresistible black humour never losing its London audience despite the overabundance of rather culturally remote Danish jokes about Icelander’s. If you’re in the mood for some, tasteful, slow-paced realism, there is Djamila Sahnoun’s Borakhatl, pensive journeying over the breath-taking Algerian landscapes, following two charismatic female leads. Or Andrea Arnold’s award-winning Red Road that explores the world of a run-down Glasgow estate through the all-watching eye of CCTV and the woman behind the monitors looking for a man from her past. For those on the look out for new documentaries, not to be missed is David Lea’s and John Scheinfeld’s The U.S. vs. John Lennon, which might just awaken your dormant political instincts through its subtle contrast of our docile reality with the vibrant world of 1960s activism. Also unmissable is Marc and Nick Francis’s UK-made Black Gold that challenges the multinational coffee giants in its portrait of classic corporate exploitation of some 70,000 struggling Ethiopian farmers. But don’t be tempted to see Davide Ferrario’s Primo Levi’s Journey, a documentary that retracts Levi’s journey home from Auschwitz, more “protracted” for its tedious filmmaking, than for the nature of the protagonist’s actual voyage - a sad case of bad story-telling undermining some interesting subject matter.

For those with a taste for the fantastic, highlights will include Gyorgy Palfi’s Taxiidemia – one of the most provocative and revolting films you’re likely to come across, delighting in lushious close-ups of human parts and juices, making even the most grotesque seem perversely beautiful, but often indulging to the point of neglecting the coherence of the actual story. A more hyped-up, but less interesting phenomenon is William Friedkin’s Bug, a thriller prophesied to be “one of the most talked about films at this year’s festival”, but which horrified through poor dialogue and the carelessness of its technical execution. Its tension is fatally undermined by the total incoherence of the dramatic action, which makes the whole thing more comic than frightening. Finally, if you’re looking for a freebie, the Portrait of London event will screen a series of “digital post-cards” from around the capital, conceived by some of the most celebrated British artists and filmmakers, this Friday in Trafalgar Square.

London is 45 minutes away, and this “people’s festival” has something for everyone. Whether you want to get ahead of the game for whole film seasons, or just discover a couple of rare festival gems, check out the program at www.lff.org.uk for the week and a half of the festival that still remains.
Grayson Perry

Grayson Perry's studio in Walthamstow is filled to the brim with pots. I realised that I was expecting something quite different from this particular potter. Unconsciously, (Perry likes talking about the Conscious), perhaps I thought that it would be a little more dramatic, like a theatrical set. This workshop seems to belong to a different world to that of Claire, Perry's female alter-ego, who wears dresses and patent leather shoes (although she did wear a fifties style ball dress made of rubber last night at a party). Grayson Perry is wearing tracksuit bottoms and pads about his studio rustling bags of clay. Perhaps for lots of us, even after three years in the public eye, the very idea of the Turner Prize winning potter and transvestite is still intriguing. Which is lucky because, as Perry readily acknowledges, it is his apparently paradoxical identity that comprises his work – not just pots.

His ceramics are in many ways old-fashioned in their meticulous decoration, but are glazed with humour and irony; his work is, he explains, "a play on the role of artist as eccentric". It is immediately clear that you can't take the girl out of the pottery; several of his vases are decorated with women – Perry corrects me, "they're trans-nies" – of different varieties, some like dowdy housewives, some powerful business women, some like little girls, some exposing their knickers to those who look past the pots' classical shape and shiny surface. Airing dirty laundry (or red knickers) could seem to be what Grayson Perry is all about; the word "confessional" doesn't cover it. As he settles down into his chair, next to his own complexities to the public that has made him a cultural icon since he won the Turner Prize in 2003; he writes a weekly column for the Times, has made television programs, and pops up on Radio 4 constantly.

Grayson Perry seems in many ways to be a new kind of social commentator and he talks about the "preachiness" of his pots – footballs, mobile phones, soft-porn, price tags – encapsulate everything he hates, and he tells me that it is a comment on the lifestyle of ordinary people. It is also absurd and satirises its own social error of their ways", Perry jokes). But it is also absurd and satirises its own social aims; he can't change things through pottery, but he wants to show us what would happen if he could.

Grayson Perry is thinking of starting his own religion, with Alan Measles as God. The religion will have no rules, only two questions: "Who am I?" and "What do I want?". It is testament to his special brand of wisdom and humour that a religion with a teddy bear as a god could make so much sense.
Reviews

Londonistan: Melanie Philips

In Londonistan, Melanie Philips makes a series of bold assertions designed to get under what’s left of the left’s collective collar. It is, of course, good to unsettcle the complacency of the majority (if the left-wing is indeed the majority), but Londonistan never thinks to unsettle itself. The important thing, it seems, is to take a hard line and stick to it.

If you scream against hate you are not working against it.

Her basic theses are that British institutions are brainless appeasers of Islamist terrorism, that Britain has lost its sense of purpose and identity, that multiculturalism is just another word for “nothing left to lose”, that Israel is the victim of Palestinian aggression, that the Palestinian resistance is — wait for it — “the cause of choice for every heart that bleeds”, what the EU and the UN are undermining British liberty and replacing it with the Barmecide of international law, and finally, that Britain is a decadent society.

Each of the above propositions has a grain of truth in it. It’s true, for instance, that Israel is the victim of violence. But that does not stop it from also being horribly aggressive, just as Palestinian aggression doesn’t stop them from also being victims. Given a political conflict, Phillip’s strategy, to adopt the words of King Lear, is to change places, and handy-dandy; which is the just, which the thief? That America is the victim of terrorism does not stop it from being an aggressor in Iraq that Muslims, homosexuals, feminists and Romany are often resistant to the “host” culture doesn’t stop them from being victims of prejudice. Both sides of a conflict can be found wanting does not seem to have entered her head.

Her inventive, whilst locally persuasive, too often calls up the spectre of Bob Dylan’s My Back Pages: “Rip down all hate”, I screamed”. If you scream against hate you are not working against it. Phillip’s rhetoric sounds at times like Milton’s two-handed engine, which stands ready to smite once and smite no more; such is the donnish style that if you describe something as “appalling” and “astonishing” enough times, it will suddenly be made simple.

Phillips has written a book that whilst often well-researched is prone to repetition, and more often than not, simple-minded. Her arguments deserve to be heard, but by painting her opponents as entirely without the power of reason, I doubt they will listen. The best I can say about Londonistan is that it is unashamedly serious.

The American Dream: Corpus Playroom

As the dulcet tones of “Jeepers Creepers” welcome you in to The American Dream, Edward Albee’s dark tale about a dysfunctional American family from director Lowri Jenkins, and you can sit safe (though ill at ease and just a little alarmed) in the knowledge that you’re in the right place: you want to see this show.

The stark contrast of the costumes brilliantly echoes the interplay between Mommy and Daddy, as Rory Mullarkey’s dry, lacrimo boring compliments and feeds off Sarah Lumbie’s chilling, manic, all-American cheer to great tragi-comic effect. His “I’m going to blush and giggle” provokes genuine laughing; as does Sarah’s outstanding narration of a fiasco involving a beige hat. Her one moment of authentic emotion leaves you reeling with awkwardness at the collapse of her pretence and begging for her no-less-disguising facade to return.

Bizarrely real unreality.

Lowri Amies’ Grandma maintains this atmosphere of unashamedly serious. Albee’s爸妈 valuable performance is superbly offset by the others’ artificial theatricality, which in turn reflects that of this “jolly family”. Grandma’s relationship with Mrs Barker (Megan Fresser) develops deliciously throughout the production, as tension turns to collusion, with frank insincerity remaining constant. When Chris Stephenson walks through the door, you might consider that his Young Man is not quite right; he seems wooden at being wooden, as it were. His poignant, affecting monologue, however, proves that a more understated approach is exactly what his character requires. His accent, however, doesn’t quite match up to those of the rest of the cast, which are so excellent that you don’t even notice.

Don’t expect a fulfilling conversation after this show: its atmosphere of tense artificiality leaves you unable to relate to anyone, just like the family and society represented. This is a funny, disturbing play and very well done: Daddy’s wrong, you certainly can “get satisfaction these days” in The American Dream.

Moya Sarner

Grow Up: ADC

As can be expected from the Cambridge Footlights, their back-from-the-Pringe show Grow Up, directed by Tom Kingsley, is a tightly packed series of sketches that leaves the viewer little time to sit and think before the next punchline. Fine-tuned after their national tour, Grow Up mixes traditional staples of sketch-based comedy — performers pretending to be bees or balloons, the occasional well-timed pun — with more original elements. A projector screen is used as a dynamic background adding visual or textual humour to all the sketches and also for a brief behind-the-scenes “mockumentary” reminiscent of The Office. The humour was fresh, and even the occasional sexual jokes avoided the sick cliché. The sketch did pander to all of us children of the 80s in the audience, but it didn’t come off as gimmicky in this well-rounded show. A few of the sketches recurred in several segments, which added to the show’s fast-paced nature by interspersing additional punchlines in between sketches. Each of the performers added their own unique talents to the show, with Tom Sharpe putting on a delightfully stereotype-typical Italian accent, Anna O’Grady acting convincingly like a hormonal psychopath, Alastair Roberts as a maths-obsessed uncle and, unforgettably, Tom Williams as a dimwitted pot of mousse. With this ensemble of actors and writers, we have a lot to look forward to from Footlights this season.

Nicholas Swettenham

Ports of Call: Trinity Hall

We are taught that art in the early quattrocento was a family business, and that it wasn’t until the heroic personalities of the High Renaissance, so the myth goes, that the creative bond of son to father was broken. Here in Cambridge, artistic dynasties are alive and well, and apparently producing generations of great sculptors. The exhibition Grow Up, directed by Tom Kingsley, is a tightly packed series of sketches that leaves the viewer little time to sit and think before the next punchline. Fine-tuned after their national tour, Grow Up mixes traditional staples of sketch-based comedy — performers pretending to be bees or balloons, the occasional well-timed pun — with more original elements. A projector screen is used as a dynamic background adding visual or textual humour to all the sketches and also for a brief behind-the-scenes “mockumentary” reminiscent of The Office. The humour was fresh, and even the occasional sexual jokes avoided the sick cliché. The sketch did pander to all of us children of the 80s in the audience, but it didn’t come off as gimmicky in this well-rounded show. A few of the sketches recurred in several segments, which added to the show’s fast-paced nature by interspersing additional punchlines in between sketches. Each of the performers added their own unique talents to the show, with Tom Sharpe putting on a delightfully stereotype-typical Italian accent, Anna O’Grady acting convincingly like a hormonal psychopath, Alastair Roberts as a maths-obsessed uncle and, unforgettably, Tom Williams as a dimwitted pot of mousse. With this ensemble of actors and writers, we have a lot to look forward to from Footlights this season.

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Ports of Call: Trinity Hall
The Alchemist: ADC

I was wary as I took my seat in the ADC to see Ben Jonson’s *The Alchemist*, as it easily could have been a long evening. Jonson’s play is famously difficult, very dated, and potentially indecipherable.

All play their parts with genuine understanding, and comic aplomb. There isn’t a weak link anywhere.

A string of “sober, scurvy, precise neighbours” come along the street and into Lovewit’s house, where Face; played in this produc- tion by John Lau, and Subtle, played by Alastair Roberts, have set up shop as alchemists. They proceed to bleed them of everything they’ve got, even making them feel honoured to give their stuff away in the process. Jonson intertwines, I think, seven separate plots, and they move so quickly that putting it onstage must (as I thought) be almost impossible.

But, to my surprise, the Swan Theatre Company production manages to surmount the difficulties of the play in a flawless production that makes the play and its characters seem as fresh as a daisy.

The ADC stage is stripped naked to its back wall, with all costume-changes done in view of the audience and no effort to conceal the workings of the set; simply several doors, bended, beaten and battered by Roberts and Lau as they move from Christianity to chemistry as the plot rolls on. There’s an astonishing scene after the interval when one of the doors blows off its hinges and, through its frame, we see Lau snap into character, mourning the loss of the “retores, receivers, pelicans, boltheads” that we know were never there in the first place.

But if no chemistry is provided by the plot, it is found in abun-
dance in this production from Roberts and Lau, who give out-
standing performances, playing beautifully off each other throughout. Roberts is the more comic half of the two, shuttling from a camp, headed happy to a biblical prophet, to a gravely tur-
baned new-age guru with total ease. Lau more often plays the serious, stressing the amoral blankness of Face; his last speech to the audience is truly chilling.

They are surrounded by one of the strongest casts I have ever seen in Cambridge. There is a deliciously deluded Sir Epicure from Henry Elliot, a sad, sexy Del Common from Vivienne Storry, and a hilarious Kastrill from Tim Smith-Laing; all play their parts with genuine understanding, real style and comic aplomb. There isn’t a weak link anywhere.

We return to “classic”, a great produc-
tion and genuine inspiration, the Swan Theatre Company has transformed literary lead into 24-
carat theatrical gold.

James Laurenson

Shitmat

The Loft

At the Loft on Monday, a night of drum and bass/electro house was promised by the touring tal-
ents of Wrong Music Industries. The first act was DJ Ladyscraper, a long-haired blur dancingly energetic character, hunched over a laptop. He com-
posed his frenetic fusion of drum ‘n’ bass/ thrash metal with a Nintendo joystick. One’s first impression upon entering was that an audio-visual re-enact-
ment of the Blitz was taking place. The DJ’s enjoyment of his own music rather eclipsed that of his small audience. Inserting a number of confectionary from a glass on the bar (which disap-
pointingly turn out to be earplugs) into our ears, this epileptic exponent of “digital hardcore” and the chaotic strobe lighting which accompanies it.

The next act, helpfully named DJ Floorcleaner, is a demonic bald man whose veins pulsed angrily to the beat. Delighting in the violation of our ears with assaults to the menacing neo-jazz

Badly Drawn Boy: Born in the UK

Oh Damom. Why? Why would you record over twenty songs, bin them, then resurrect them a year later claiming that they aren’t after all, so bad? In fairness, you’re right - they’re not bad. But there’s nothing good about them either. Nothing special, nothing interesting, nothing to draw me back. I wanted *Born in the UK* to be good, but clearly, I wanted too much.

Much like his last two albums, this too plods along at a snail’s pace. The songs go on for too long, you hum along non-committ-
tally to a few of them and when it finishes you turn on *Hour of the Beulderbeast* and remind yourself of how quietly beautiful he used to be. The title track aims for Springsteen territory but is neither bombastic nor evocative enough to justify com-
parison. “Welcome to the Overground” is a choir-infused mess of an overly-ambitious song. Later on, when the produc-
tion is pared down and the songs become more piano or voice driv-
en, the album starts to sound less like a failure. Instead it just sounds dull. The closing overstackoverflowing “One Last Dance” chill-
ingly warns us: “I’ll be with you for quite some time.” Dubful, if he keeps churning out albums as uninspired as this.

Sarah Pope

Squarepusher: Hello Everything

As the title suggests, Tom Jenkinson’s tenth record in as many years is an attempt at bringing together the many musical faces of Squarepusher, from scattershotted rhythmic assaults to the menacing neo-jazz experiments, fusing live instrumentation with fissing electronics. The result is a record full of humanity and intense purpose.

Standout track “Pleatius” most successfully achieves the synthe-
sis, fusing spacious live instruments with immaculately twisted breakbeat and intriguing chord progressions to create something genuinely innovative and fresh. Theme from Sprite” and “Circlewave 2” recall “Music is Rotted One Note”, as shimmering keys, guitar and taut drums allow sparse electronics to breath through the texture but never dominate. “Vacuum Garden” is an odd ambient interlude, but the
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6.30 pm - Presentation Commences
8.30 pm - Close

Please sign up online with Arlene Davis at arlene.davis@allenovery.com or 020 7330 4137 if you wish to attend

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**THEATRE**

**In the Blood**

Adir Assaf

**The History Boys**

Geoffrey Streatfeild and company

**The Queen**

Helen McCrory

**Strangers on a Train**

Nicola Walker

**Future Shorts**

12.30, 14.30, 20.30

**The Living Room**

Corpus Playroom, 19.00

**Go Up**

Corpus Playroom, 23.00

**The American Dream**

Corpus Playroom, 21.30

**Footlights Smoker**

ADC, 19.45

**Cosycopy + The Hope**

Portland Arts, 20.00, £6

**Uncle Vanya**

Corpus Playroom, 19.00

**Liberdad! (Freedom)**

ADC, 22.30

**The Pete Seeger Night**

The Junction, 19.00, £15

**The Bun Shop**

21.00, free entry

**UCU anti-racism week - load, percussive and really racist.**

**Wolves Stole My Childhood**

The Loft, 20.00, £4

**Launch Party: In the Blood**

Ta Bouche, 20.00-00.00

**Speaker event as part of the NUS anti-racism campaign.**

**Lock In**

The Kambar, 22.00-02.00

LOCK IN at the Kambar

Get over your sickening prejudices about the Kambar you bastard: the toilets might look like a scene from 28 Days Later but it’s homey and host to a vibrant student DJ scene.

LOCK IN is an Amnesty fundraiser with great DJB, dubstep and dance DJs.

**MUSIC**

**Cooper Temple Clause**

Junction, Wed 1 Nov, 19.00, £11.50

The first thing anyone i.e. the NME noticed about the Cooper Temple Clause was their epic haircuts; horrifying swatches of brittle seemingly gelled by gods.

The second thing was that much of the indie/indie/metal mash up on their 2002 debut Set This Through and Leave was pretty rubbish. But 2003’s Kick Up the Fender partied up the Nurses Breed Loose was more adventurous, electronic, and well more Kid A. They sound like robots cooing, and that isn’t brilliant, then what is? Exactly.

Catch them this Wednesday at the Junction.

**Amnesty UK director speaks**

The Union, 19.00

Kate Allen will be giving a speech entitled “Amnesty Works. Human Rights Advocacy - its challenges and successes”

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**EXHIBITIONS**

**Human Rights Advocacy**

The Arts Picturehouse

They will do this by holding a vegetarian formal meal. They will also arrange to look at her and cry.

**FREE ENTRY**

Ta Bouche, 20.00-00.00

**Wolves Stole My Childhood**

ADC, 19.45

**International Night. Poitiers!**

Fez, 21.00-02.00

**YES DO IT DRESS STUPID**

The Junction, 19.00, £9

**BOOK NOW**

Nina Nastasia, The Junction, 19.00, 29 Sun 26 Nov

Nina Nastasia brings her astonishingly beautiful voice and complex arrangements to the Junction, and even if you don’t go to see her music you can look at her and cry.

**WORLD VEGAN DAY**

Wed 1 Nov, £12.50

Emmanuel College

Emmanuel College, in support of that radical and subversive force for good international veganism, will be celebrating World Vegan Day. They will be hosting a vegetarian formal meal with a vegan option and Fairtrade ingredients. £12.50 might seem like a lot to pay for what you would expect to be a slab of cow’s ass from Gardie’s.

Contact Dharini Bhuwanedra at db357@cam.ac.uk with your name, college, email and food preference. I’ll be there, We can swap insults.

**FILM**

**Future Shorts**

Arts Picturehouse

Fri 27 Oct, 21.00

An under-publicised gem at the Arts Picturehouse. Future Shorts, a selection of 10 short films from around the world, should be a regular fixture in the schedule of any self-respecting culture vulture. Useful for those of you with the attention spans of brain-damaged aqualife.

All films showing at Arts Picturehouse unless stated otherwise.

**PICK OF THE WEEK**

**damaged aqualife.**

**Future Shorts**

Notorious Bettle Page

23.15

**The History Boys**

The Queen

21.00

**The Queen**

21.00, £8

**Future Shorts**

21.00, £8

**The History Boys**

21.00

**Be With Me**

Be With Me

14.10, 20.45

**Roostrer**

Junction, 19.00, £6

**Liam Noble Quartet**

Kettle’s Yard, 19.00, £8

**Wolves Stole My Childhood**

The Loft, 20.00, £4

**Cosycopy + The Hope**

Portland Arts, 20.00, £6

**Tanusk the Henge**

Man on the Moon, 20.00, £4

**The History Boys**

21.00

**Be With Me**

Be With Me

14.10, 20.45

**Cosycopy + The Hope**

Portland Arts, 20.00, £6

**Tanusk the Henge**

Man on the Moon, 20.00, £4

**The History Boys**

21.00

**Be With Me**

Be With Me

14.10, 20.45

**The History Boys**

18.30, 20.50

**Red Road**

18.40, 21.00

**Red Road**

18.40, 21.00

**future shorts**

23.00

**Notorious Bettle Page**

23.15

**Strangers on a Train**

The Queen

21.00

**The History Boys**

18.30, 20.50

**Red Road**

18.40, 21.00
Cambridge Crisis: answers to your problems

"Every time I go to the cashpoint again, my heart sinks"

Dear Varsity,

I was always told not to talk about money, but in this case I have to! I'm a first year student and although I'm having a great social life, I can't keep up financially with my friends. I'm from a modest family background and worked all summer to put some money aside for university. I'm terrified at how fast I'm spending money here and I can't afford to keep going out every night, buying drinks and so on. At the same time I don't want to seem boring and have to stay in while my new friends are out partying and shopping. None of them seem at all concerned about money, and they all appear wealthy. I'm trying to keep up appearances, but every time I go to the cashpoint again, my heart sinks.

I don't know who to turn to at my college, as I don't think my bursar would be willing to give me financial assistance to spend on my social life, rather than books and the like. I don't feel I can confide in any of my new friends, as I don't want to be considered different from them, or be pitied. When I tried talking to my parents about the problem, I just got a lecture on the fact that money doesn't grow on trees. I've heard that I'm not allowed to get a job in term time at Cambridge and I just don't know how I'm going to cope. Please help!

David

Dear David,

There are actually two issues here: a) you don't have much money and b) you're struggling with what it means to have a good social life.

Many people find that it takes time to learn how to budget. Part of that skill is to manage your money so that you can put aside a bit for 'treats' as well as for essentials. After all, everyone needs a life! You come from a low-income family, so ask your Tutor to see if you are entitled to a Newton Trust bursary, or any other hardship funds. There's no shame in that, but you do need to show that you realise that you've messed up your expenditure so far, and that you want help to learn to prioritise what you spend your money on. It also seems to me that you are socialising with people that you are not too comfortable with. You don't have to spend a shedload of cash to have a good night out. Cambridge is a great place for cheap (and free!) things to do, where you can meet people without spending a lot. If this doesn't appeal to your current crowd, then maybe the people you're spending time with are not as good friends as you think they are!

Finally, do carry on talking about your problems - as the old saying goes, 'a problem shared is a problem halved'.

Jan Leaver
Tutorial Administrator
Corpus Christi

Dear David,

My, reading your problem really took me back to my first term in Cambridge. It's easy to forget how difficult that first term can be, financially as well as everything else. And that would be my first point to reassure you. I would be willing to bet my whole degree on the fact that you are not alone in feeling this way. Even among your group of friends, there'll be people just as anxious as you about how fast they're spending their money. In the first few weeks, everyone is crazily trying to take up every possible opportunity, and not miss out on one single night out. And this is coupled with the fact that for many, this is their first time away from home properly, in a new town, with a brand new student loan and overdraft. A dangerous combination!

Cambridge is an odd place. Some of my friends have no money worries because their parents top up their accounts each week. Other people, like myself, have forgotten the last time they saw their bank account in positive numbers and live off Tesco's value food. What I have learnt is that it doesn't really matter. Mention to your friends that your money situation is a bit tight, I expect that you will be met with at least some relieved replies of 'mine too!' But even if it probably just hasn't occurred to your rich friends yet that not everyone is as lucky as them. Let them know and my experience is that most people are understanding.

Dr David Naumann
Alumnus of the Hawks' Club

Dear David,

I'm a first year student, and although I'm having a great social life, I can't keep up financially with my friends. I'm from a modest family background and worked all summer to put some money aside for university. It's easy to forget how difficult that first term can be, financially as well as everything else. And that would be my first point to reassure you. I would be willing to bet my whole degree on the fact that you are not alone in feeling this way. Even among your group of friends, there'll be people just as anxious as you about how fast they're spending their money. In the first few weeks, everyone is crazily trying to take up every possible opportunity, and not miss out on one single night out. And this is coupled with the fact that for many, this is their first time away from home properly, in a new town, with a brand new student loan and overdraft. A dangerous combination!

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Dr David Naumann
Alumnus of the Hawks' Club

Games

Pub Quiz

1) What nickname was given to the day when over £100 billion was wiped off the value of shares in the city of London?
2) Which is the first animal listed in the Oxford English Dictionary?
3) In which country was England cricket captain Nasser Hussain born?
4) What are the flat treeless plains of Argentina called?
5) Which basic condiment of South East Asia is called abore in Japan and jiang you in China?
6) From what expression does the word "goodbye" derive?
7) Name the only country in the United Nations whose name begins with "O".
8) Which character from A Midsummer Night's Dream, shares his name with a piece of sporting equipment?
9) Which car company has a prancing horse on a yellow shield as its emblem?
10) Which town or city in Kent has the prefix "Royal"?
11) What does a monophobe fear?
12) Name three types of cars that have the prefix "Royal"?
13) What is the most popular colour of wedding dress worldwide?
14) In which year was the first email sent?
15) If Prince William became King, what number William would he be?
16) In clothing care symbols, what does a plain circle signify?
17) In the lubricant and rust-prevention spray WD40, what does WD stand for?
18) Which drink was named by its inventor after the rejection of the first six names that were offered?
19) When there are two full moons in the same month, what is the second called?
20) Which American store chain is called 'Moneymaker' are all varieties of pasta and cheap cheese?
21) 'Shirley', 'Harbinger' and 'Pollan' are all varieties of what?
22) What is the proper term for the art of bell-ringing?
23) How many teaspoons make a tablespoon?
24) What first left Gare de l'Est in Paris on October 4th, 1883?
25) Whose birthday is celebrated throughout the world on 25th January?
26) Who is the only tennis player still playing who has played Roger Federer and never lost to him?

Varsity.co.uk: Poll Results

We asked: How much of an 80s child are you anyway?

- A: As the Berlin Wall fell a piece of my heart went with it.
- B: Thatcher wasn't all that bad really.
- C: Foolish tight pants? Leggings, I'll have you know.
- D: I could never live without my iPod.

31% (a) 12% (b) 34% (c) 31% (d)
Energy trading is a way to make a difference. The energy market doesn't just have an economic impact: it fuels human progress all over the planet. In fact, it's one of the largest trading marketplaces in the world.

Trader development programme

BP Integrated supply & trading (IST) is one of the largest supply and trading organizations of its type in the world. We've played a critical part in BP's emergence as a leader in the energy sector. And we're a truly global organization.

Our trader development programme is the ideal entry point to the energized, innovative and dynamic world of energy trading. It will not only expose you to one of the most exciting sectors, but also to some of the best traders in the energy industry. Each year we invite a number of applicants to the BP trading workshop in Paris to learn more about BP trading through presentations, games and social events in a fun and friendly environment. Invitations to this event will be sent to the applicants who apply by the 12 November deadline and score highly in the initial screening process.

To find out more come and attend our presentation:
Thursday 2 November 2006 at 12:45pm
Beves Room, Kings College. Lunch provided from 12:15pm
BP is an equal opportunities employer
MODERN MANNERS MAKE THE MAN

Navigating your way around Cambridge can seem like stumbling across an etiquette minefield. Nowadays, one can’t do anything without making a faux pas. That’s where Varsity is here to help. With our handy three part guide, you’ll never forget how to behave again. This week: academic affairs.

At Lectures & Classes
• If arriving late, the correct etiquette is to stride in looking nonplussed, take a seat in row six and then look pissed off at the lecturer five minutes later because you haven’t got a handout.
• Men: the best crotch position when ladies are nearby is the John-Wayne-legs-wide-open stance. Ideally, you should aim to take up at least 1.5m on either side of you.
• In classes, if you have the choice between using an everyday term and an antiquated expression no one else knows, go old every time. It will improve the rest of the group’s vocabulary, which is always something to strive for.
• Dissections don’t need to be inelegant. Don’t disre-gard the entrails. Instead form them into a heart shape and present them to the lecturer as an early Valentine’s gift.

At the Library
• If you find yourself at the entrance to the University Library and someone manages to block the rotating entry system for five seconds, please note that the accepted practice is to sigh loudly and look at your watch. This not only uses up your precious wasted time but also reinforces the social hierarchy.
• Don’t run library books by marking them with those hideous fluorescent highlighters one can buy in W. H. Smith’s. Instead we recommend using lemon juice to mark the required section so that you can use candlelight to reveal it later. This is so much more refined.

At Supervisions
• If propositioned by a DoS, it’s only polite to accept. They are after all the sole rea-son you got in. Grad. students, on the other hand, can and should be rejected without a second thought.
• Write all essays in super-swish French Script Mt font. In fact, write everything in French Script Mt.
• If a supervision partner is not from your college, it is polite to roll your eyes or snigger only at every other moronic comment they make.
• If your supervision partner makes a point that you would like to speak on, you should always acknowledge his/her contribution. Something along the lines of, “To clarify on the point that Carol so badly tried to explain...” should suffice. Never deadline. They’ll be touched that you made the effort.

WINE VIRGINS

Packaging and Luxury

Benidorm Blazer
Soldarado, Spain, 2004, £2.99

This dry muscat is a real package holiday deal, very Eldorado. Muscat grapes are usually used to make sweet wine so it is no surprise this tastes of sug-arified apples and grapes; honey and lots of lemon zest. It’s lively and punchy and the price alone sells it.

The Virgins thought this was a perfect wine for getting you in the mood for going out. And frankly it’s about the cheapest decent bottle around. Serve it chilled.

South African Safari
The Cloof Cellar Blend, South Africa, 2004, £10.49

From just north of Cape Town this red has an unmistakable South Africa taste; granary, earthy, dense and full bodied. This wine is a cut above the norm though with a strong taste of raspberries and plumy fruits adding a more juicy edge.

The Wine Virgins were knocked out for the rest of the day by this big, juicy, fruity, dense wine which has been getting rave reviews from all the top winos. If you want to splash out on an impressive bottle you won’t be disappointed by this cellar blend.
In the grey fashion climate of the moment, where clean lines and masculine tailoring dominate the rails, florals, tea-dresses and delicate cardigans have ironically become unconventional. Looking pretty and feminine is the way to stand out this bleak mid-autumn.

English Rose

Bea wears:
- Cream lace dress £150, Chloé at Dixie’s stall, Market Square
- Wool/Angora mix drape £49.95, Kew
- Red woollen beret £12, Topshop
- Brown tights £4.99 for 3 pairs, Asda
- Shoes stylist’s own

Photographed by Andy Sims on Senate Passage

Stylist by Saskia Payne and Carol Peacock

At an enjoyably conservative dinner party last Friday, a friend lamented how, with every decade of the twentieth century getting a sartorial comeback every now and then, the 40s have had an unusually sporadic presence on the fashion carousel. One could argue that the 80s are just the 40s on speed, a kaleidoscopic fun-house-mirror view of the war-torn decade. But who wants to be reminded of rations, air raids and the repressive reserve of the post-war society? Miuccia Prada, apparently.

In a tepidly received Spring 2007 collection, the innovative designer showed turbaned models in jewel-coloured satin ultra-mini-tunic dresses left open in the back like surgical gowns, as well as long tea dresses with extraordinarily severe shoulders, all of which have little to do with what anyone else is offering for next season. And, much like a Cambridge student hesitates to debate that obnoxiously haughty supervision partner, the fashion press has been sceptical to rule out Prada’s show as being extraneous to the message of the season (although one less fashion-orientated daily dared to question, “Who the devil will wear Prada?”)

Those tight dresses in such strong plum and wine shades just don’t mesh in a season washed in beige and sacked in baggy volumes.

On the strength of well over a decade as the forerunner in fashion, Prada has earned the right to be judged in a category all her own; one into which all others will follow just as she picks up her ostrich skin bowling bag (or nylon backpack, depending on the season) and heads for the exit. Prada is talking about the thing that has been on everyone’s minds for many seasons now: the war and its need for a revolution. Prada was more literal in her references than others, who went for either libertine new-romantic rococo escapism (such as Louis Vuitton) or heavy-handed-metallic futurism (like Lanvin). Beige was often the colour; that safe, generic tone will have designers with less bottle reap benefits from its mundane qualities on the shop floor. Just like so many of our political views, beige allows us to say nothing and avoid confrontation under a veil of breezy indifference.

Prada’s bold statement enveloped society in wartime clothes, riddled with wounds (the hospital gown reference) and heavyhearted (the unlikely use of leather and satin for a summer collection). That said, vibrant colours related a hint of hope, that “thing,” as Dickinson put it, “with feather that perches in the soul, and sings the tune without the words, and never stops at all.”

Perhaps Prada, like everyone else, did not realise that we need something utterly un-referential to confront the enemy of apathy. Prada deserves kudos for addressing the lost sense of conviction of that decade when even though the bomb blasts were blaring, the frail sound of hope sang through.
For those of you who prefer sipping on a Cuba Libre over a Smirnoff Ice, here's the essential guide to muddling, shaking, stirring and straining some classic concoctions:

**Margarita**
A sharp and satisfying classic

There are countless versions of how the Margarita was invented, but the one most commonly believed is the story of Pancho Morales, a bartender from Juarez in Mexico. When asked by a customer to make a Magnolia, Pancho, who couldn’t remember the ingredients, shook up something new. The lady, whose name was Margarita, loved it.

**Method:** Shake one shot of tequila, half a shot of triple sec and a shot of lemon with ice, and then strain into a chilled glass.

**Twist:** For a Frozen Fruit Margarita blend all the ingredients with strawberries, mango or melon.

**Mojito**
A bitter, refreshing cocktail

In the 1920s, during the US prohibition, Americans popped over to Cuba to drink and brought with them the Mint Julep - a cocktail made with bourbon, mint, lime and sugar. Cuban bartenders adapted this recipe and the Mojito was born. You can order a Mojito almost anywhere in the world, but the best place to drink one has to be in Havana’s Bodeguita del Medio, the bar accredited with its invention.

**Method:** Muddle (mash up with a rolling pin) some fresh mint, lime wedges and soft brown sugar in the base of a glass. Add crushed ice and pour in a good helping of dark rum - try Havana Club Añejo Especial. Stir it up and top with soda.

**Twist:** For those with expensive taste substitute soda with champagne.

**Manhattan**
Short but sweet bourbon tipple

The Manhattan is believed to have been made up for Churchill’s American mother, Lady Randolph in New York’s Manhattan Club in 1874. The Manhattan is complex to make, but very morish and, best of all, can be adapted to suit every palate.

**Method:** Shake up two shots of bourbon and a dash of Angostura with Martini Extra Dry for a Dry Manhattan, Martini Rosso for a Perfect Manhattan or Martini Rosso and syrup from maraschino cherries if you like it sweet.

**Twist:** If your prefer brandy to bourbon, shake up ingredients for a Sweet Manhattan with a double of Remy Martin.

For the best cocktails in Cambridge visit ta bouche on Market Passage. 25% student discount and happy hour weeknights 7-9pm.
IF YOU COULD CHOOSE ANYTHING . . .

Come and meet us at Downing College on Tuesday 31st October at 7.15pm
Register by emailing lonrecruiting@bcg.com with the subject heading ‘Cambridge Presentation’

BCG
THE BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP
Apply online at www.bcg london.com

Careers Service event

Careers in Property Event
Thursday 2 November 4.00 – 7.00pm
Howard Building, Downing College
This is a new event run by the Careers Service in conjunction with the Cambridge University Land Society. The event covers all sectors of the property industry and is open to students studying Land Economy and anyone else from other degree subjects interested in entering this vibrant and varied sector. Come and talk to:

ATISREAL
AXA Real Estate Investment Managers
Bidwells ♦ CB Richard Ellis
Colliers CRE ♦ Cushman & Wakefield
Drivers Jonas ♦ DTZ
King Sturge & Co ♦ Knight Frank
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Savills ♦ Strutt & Parker ♦ Tesco Stores Ltd

Cambridge University Careers Service, Stuart House, Mill Lane, Cambridge
www.careers.cam.ac.uk
Careers Service Careers Evening

Working in Arts & Heritage

Thursday 2 November, 6.30 – 8.30pm

Mill Lane Lecture Rooms

For undergraduates and postgraduates of any degree discipline – all years welcome

A chance to find out about opportunities in this multi-faceted field from a range of people involved in it. Real-life accounts of getting in and getting on will help you to decide if it’s for you:

Sebastiano Barassi – Curator of Collections, Kettle’s Yard, Cambridge
John Bickley – Development Director, Britten Sinfonia
Sarah-Jane Harknett – Outreach and Publicity Officer, CU Museum of Arch & Anth
Dr Liz Hide – Museums Development Officer, University of Cambridge
Kerry Radden – Theatre production and marketing, arts consultancy (own business)
Sarah Talmage – Learning and Interpretation Officer, Ickworth House (National Trust)
Lars Tharp – Arts consultant, exhibition curator, ceramics expert, author, broadcaster

Short talks, Mill Lane Lecture Rooms, 6.30-7.45pm followed by discussion, drinks & snacks at the Careers Service next door

No need to sign up but come on time – prompt start

www.careers.cam.ac.uk

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Providing a unique insight into the wealth of career opportunities available to Cambridge students since 1976

GLOBAL BANKING CASE-STUDY

Deutsche Bank

Tuesday November 14th
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Mong Building, Sidney Sussex College

This event is based on an interactive authentic Global Banking case-study. It has been designed to give you the opportunity to learn more about Global Banking at Deutsche Bank and to gain insight into the role of an investment banking analyst. Following the case-study presentation, attendees will have the chance to network and get to know Corporate Finance professionals in an informal atmosphere.

WHAT DO RECRUITERS LOOK FOR?

Accenture

Thursday November 16th
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Mong Building, Sidney Sussex College

Knowing what recruiters are looking for is crucial to your success in the job market. Increase your understanding of applications, interviews, and assessment centres in this interactive session. This workshop is led by recruiters and Cambridge alumni, who have experienced the application procedure and can give their top tips for improving your employability. Management Consultancy professionals will be on hand to give you additional feedback and advice.

To book a seat at any of our upcoming events or to simply find out more about various careers visit our new and extensive website: www.cambridgefutures.com

This announcement was brought to you in association with:
HARVARD UNIVERSITY TO VISIT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

Meet Admissions Representatives from:

Harvard Business School
Harvard Law School
The John F. Kennedy School of Government

November 1, 2006
12:45 pm
Law Faculty
LG 17

Harvard University welcomes students from the U.K. All prospective students are welcome to attend.

Please email Dana Garfunkel at dana_garfunkel@harvard.edu with any questions.
Submissions for the Mays 15 are now open. Send your short stories and poetry to: mays@varsity.co.uk

Chutzpah Theatre Company presents: Liberdad!
by Jane Liddell-King
Directed by Jen Barham
ADC Theatre, Park Street, Cambridge, CB5 8AS
Wednesday 1st - Saturday 4th November 10:30pm,
2:30 matinee on Thursday
Wed & Thu £4/£3, Thu mat & Sat £5/£4

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Top prices paid for translating small sections of text
pcb27@cam.ac.uk

Applications are still open for editors and designers of the University of Cambridge Graduation Yearbook. Please e-mail business@varsity.co.uk. Deadline: Tuesday October 31st
Sportsdesk

Rucking all over the world

»Women’s rugby Blues off to a flyer as they start the season with two solid victories

ELAINE SHIRT

In a tough game against Peterborough the women’s Light Blues held on for an impressive 12-5 win

Undeterred, Cambridge came back with their first try being scored by Murray, who took a pass from the inside centre and surged through two defenders to dive straight under the posts. Riehl then successfully converted.

Peterborough were targeting Cambridge’s weak areas and looked threatening throughout, but the pack pulled together to help keep Peterborough at bay. The match could easily have gone either way before stream half Riehl scored the Blues’ second try, a result of great team work from the backs.

The Blues were kept on their toes until the very end, holding Peterborough back from the try line right up to the last minute, and the Blues’ forwards were kept busy in the scrums following frequent knock-ons from both teams. Some fantastic defence prevented any further tries and Cambridge hung on for the win. Despite these early victories there is still much to work on if a Varsity win is to be secured this year.

This year’s women’s rugby squad will be one of the few losses inflicted on Peterborough this season. The squad’s first match against Southwold, a 5-2 rout, demonstrated the superior standard of the Cambridge side. The Blues dominated throughout and the speed of the Cambridge players was a real advantage against a larger and slower opposition. Many of the Light Blues’ tries were the result of a kick and chase, to which Southwold were unable to respond quickly enough.

Other positive moments included some great handling from the backs and breakdown tries from Anne Murray and Fran Blackburn. The tries kept coming with incredible ease and some fantastic teamwork resulted in tries by Emily Riehl, Kez Shaw, Alice Sargent and Hari Gay, with Riehl also successfully kicking six of eight possible conversions. The final score reflected a relatively easy first victory for this year’s Blues.

Last Sunday the Blues took on Peterborough, a more challenging opposition, in some particularly adverse weather conditions. But even without the obvious advantages in terms of speed that Cambridge had enjoyed against Southwold, the Blues once again proved to be the superior side. Playing against one of the strongest teams in the division, it seems likely that Cambridge’s victory will be one of the few losses inflicted on Peterborough this season.

The game began slowly for Cambridge, a weakness that the Blues must try to address, and this led to an early try for Peterborough. But the Light Blues came back with their first try being scored by Murray, who took a pass from the inside centre and surged through two defenders to dive straight under the posts. Riehl then successfully converted.

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The Blues were kept on their toes until the very end, holding Peterborough back from the try line right up to the last minute, and the Blues’ forwards were kept busy in the scrums following frequent knock-ons from both teams. Some fantastic defence prevented any further tries and Cambridge hung on for the win. Despite these early victories there is still much to work on if a Varsity win is to be secured this year. The clearest weakness emerging from the first two matches has been in running. Cambridge’s lack of physical strength is also a potential problem, particularly for some of the harder BUSA matches this season.

But there is much for the Blues to be excited about in the upcoming months. With two wins already secured, many experienced players inherited from last year’s squads, some impressive new recruits from the United States and a large intake of freshers boasting lots of talent, the Cambridge women’s rugby squad looks extremely promising.

Swimmers edged to second in relays gala

»Competition goes to the wire but Cambridge’s efforts are just not enough to take the win

EMMA GAME

Cambridge’s swimmers put in a good performance in the annual swimming relays gala, just missing out on a team victory but scoring numerous individual wins. Cambridge entered two teams, each a mix of first and second team swimmers. Against strong opposition from the University of Hertfordshire, Otter and Nottingham University, both sides performed well. There were many good signs for this year’s captains, with some promising early-season swims from the Cambridge side.

Outstanding performances were seen in the individual events from Tom Rose, who won the 100m L.M., Brett McLean, who swam to first place in the 100m Breaststroke and Teresa

The swimmers just lost out

The swimmers just lost out in the last race of the night, the mixed 8x50m freestyle relay. Teresa

Early season form as well as strength in depth. The squad has a good mix of potential and experience, and with hard work we have an excellent chance to make this year a successful one.

Certainly after this performance the Light Blues can approach the BUSA Short Course National Championships feeling confident. From there, they should be well placed to achieve this season’s goal of eight successive wins at Varsity in February.

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Final Points Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hertfordshire</td>
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Not just a load of old balls
» Testicular cancer diagnosis for footballers highlights the forgotten killer

SOPHIE JAMAL & JOAN IYIOLE

Last week, Leyton Orient defender Adam Tann underwent an operation after being diagnosed with testicular cancer. His is not an isolated case in football - the Millwall striker Neil Harris was struck down with the disease five years ago. Tour de France legend Lance Armstrong is another fit young male to have been affected.

These players were only 24 and 25 respectively, ages that many might consider 'too young' to be at risk. But, surprisingly, this is the peak age for testicular cancer, with most cases occurring in men between 23-45.

Here in Cambridge a huge amount of work goes into providing information about sexual health and other diseases, so why is it that men know more about breast cancer than they do about the dangers of a lump in their own prostate? As CU SU Welfare Officer Sam Rose said, 'There are so many causes that it is hard to give them all equal emphasis.'

The sportmen of Cambridge are often obsessed by fitness and their physique, yet what is perhaps the most curable type of cancer, men are diagnosing with the disease so early on. Even though this disease is the most curable type of cancer, men are dying unnecessarily purely because they are too embarrassed to check their testicles, let alone talk about it. So, how does one check oneself?

We asked a cross-section of sportsmen in Cambridge, and these are the sorts of replies they came up with:

• If there are similar lumps on both, then it is almost certainly a normal part of the testicles.
• If there are similar lumps on both, then it is almost certainly a normal part of the testicles.
• If a lump is found on one testicle, check the other to see if the same lump is present.
• If you're on testicular cancer checks.
• Men should check themselves for lumps in their testicles regularly, every few months.
• Tests are best after a hot bath or shower, as these help to relax the muscles and make the process easier.
• Use both hands and gently roll each testicle between your fingers and forefinger.

How it's really done

1. Feel your balls for a lump!
2. You're supposed to play with your balls and see if there's a lump!
3. Feel your balls and if one is bigger you've fucked.
4. 'Have you seen the Rachel Stevens' advert?'
5. It is both sad and worrying that so many men know little about a simple disease that can mean the difference between life and death. Surely a greater emphasis should be placed on testicular cancer checks.
6. Why is it that every Fresher knows all about STIDs and sexual health but little mention is ever made of how to catch a potentially deadly disease?

Joan Iyiola

Testicular cancer diagnosis for footballers highlights the forgotten killer

In an eventful weekend Jesus won both the men's and women's competitions in Athletics Cuppers. However, it was Phyllis Agbo of Trinity who stole the show with an incredible performance in the women's 200m hurdles.

In the men's competition a dedicated set of performances by Jesus gave them their first Michaelmas Cuppers win since 1988. In recent years the title has been closely fought by St. Catta and Trinity, but this year a depleted Trinity team was never in the running for first place. The Jesus men managed to take a quick lead by winning both the first and second string steeplechase races, and they held on to first place overall for the rest of the day.

Catta were still strong, though, and they were always just behind Jesus in the standings. At the end of day one the result was very much in the balance, especially after Catta's Captain Humphrey Waddington won the 200m Hurdles. The next day he followed up his victory by also coming first in the 110m Hurdles and the Javelin.

But Jesus fought back and the competition was decided in the 4 x 100m Relay, with a solid second place from Jesus giving them the overall win.

The best individual performance in the men's competition was by jet Thieric of Homerton, who man-

Keeping it real: Cambridge’s other tennis club

Cambridge is one of the few places in Britain with fully-functioning Real Tennis courts

BURAT SALGIN & CHARLOTTE BARKER

Forget Wimbledon, Real Tennis is the only game for those who enjoy their tennis fast, teeming with suspense, furious yet subtle and with an amazingly wide spectrum of skillful play. Britain, along with Australia, not only leads the world at Real Tennis, but the UK also hosts the World Champions of the game for both sexes. The men’s champion, Rob Fahey, often plays here in Cambridge.

Tennis began in medieval Europe as a game played in streets bordered by arches, sloping roofs and fishing nets. It migrated indoors as a pastime for monks before it caught on as a game for princes and became Real - that is “Royal” - tennis. Lawn tennis developed hundreds of years later, ironically as a primitive variant, with the invention of the hollow rubber ball that bounces on grass.

Until recently Real Tennis was a forgotten sport played by a few hundred people around the world on perhaps a dozen courts. But over the past fifteen years it has rapidly increased in popularity and attained something of a cult status. Scours of celebrities and sportmen have taken it up. Even Roger Federer, who tried the sport last year during a glitzy pro-

motional day, was an immediate convert. A growing number of ambitious young players are joining the professional ranks, drawing not only more converts to the game but also increasingly generous salaries and prize money. In Cambridge we have two courts, both situated on Grange Road opposite Robinson College, which host both National League and Premier League matches on a regular basis.

Once you try Real Tennis it is irresistible. You can deploy speed and power, or can combine subtlety with tactical skill. You can exploit the depth of the Jesus team was simply the easiest victory came from Jesus giving them their first Michaelmas Cuppers win since 1988. In recent years the title has been closely fought by St. Catta and Trinity, but this year a depleted Trinity team was never in the running for first place. The Jesus men managed to take a quick lead by winning both the first and second string steeplechase races, and they held on to first place overall for the rest of the day.

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Bilen Ahmet

Cambridge’s other tennis club

Until recently Real Tennis was a well-kept secret

“Until recently Real Tennis was a well-kept secret”

Catta’s men just lost out

tened to run in families, so if you have a brother with testicular cancer, you are between 6-10 times more likely to be affected. If your father had it, you are 3 or 4 times more likely to suffer it than normal.

Sports clubs provide one medium through which the at-risk group can be informed. That is why the Hawks’ Club would like to redress this by promoting awareness and raising much needed funds.

The good news is that survival rates are relatively high, and in 2004, only 74 men died of this cancer in the UK. But, as with any disease, an early diagnosis greatly increases the chances of survival. The current treatments are very effective, meaning that if the tumour is diagnosed quickly, a full cure is achieved in nearly 90% of the cases. Harris managed to come back from his ordeal to return to playing football, and the signs look promising for Tann because he was playing football, and the signs look promising for Tann because he was...
Women’s Ice Hockey

How did you start ice hockey?
By growing up with three brothers. I played football for ten years, went on to rugby when I got to university, and then saw my first ice hockey match in Sweden. That was it, I was done for. Not only could you tumble around on ice like a lunatic skittle, but you were allowed to send everyone else tumbling with you.

Where’s the ice around here?
Sadly our nearest ice rink is in Peterborough, but we provide a club coach to take all three teams on a Sunday evening. It’s always good fun on the journeys there and back.

How do you get involved?
You just need enthusiasm, perseverance, and a good sense of humour. We welcome everyone who’s up for giving it a go, from seasoned players to total beginners.

How do you play against?
Who do you play against?
We currently have weekly matches against other local and university teams. These are great fun, and get pretty competitive. Of course, all our games are in preparation for the Varsity match against Oxford, which last year drew a crowd of over 1000 spectators.

Ed Cumming

Cambridge 1
Bedford 1

Paddy Croft

After the disappointment of relegation last year and a mixed pre-season, the Blues were keen to start the new year with a win in their first BUSA match. But, facing a physical Bedford side, they were forced to settle for a draw despite a flurry of chances in the second half. While Cambridge might have been disappointed with the result, the way they played will give them confidence for later games.

Bedford’s fiery spirit led to several heavy tackles and angry exchanges in the opening minutes of the match. But the teams soon managed to settle down and play some good, attractive football. After 15 minutes it was Bedford that broke the deadlock, when a 25-yard shot caught Blues’ keeper James Dean off his line and flew in off the crossbar.

The Blues were not to be behind for long, as a combination of Bedford complacency and Cambridge spirit allowed the Blues to score a quick equaliser. A corner from captain Alex Coleman found Brendan Threlfall slapping it home from the near post and he managed to turn the ball home.

Minutes later Coleman again showed his class as his 25 yard free-kick was just tipped over the crossbar. But Bedford was still in contention and Cambridge dominated the second half. Dean managed to spread saves. Especially important were a set of close-range reaction blocks late on in the game.

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Cambridge's Alex Mugan tries to hold off a Bedford challenge

The second half saw Cambridge step up a gear. Coleman was forced to go off injured but the new central midfield partnership of Dave Mills and Mike Dunkis proved effective. Mills especially showed several good touches in a crowded midfield and seemed to be involved in every dangerous Cambridge move.

It was Threlfall, however, who was causing Bedford’s defenders the most problems, and he almost won a penalty when he went down whilst rounding the keeper. But, despite protestations from the Cambridge bench, the referee waved play on. In Cambridge’s best spell of the match, Dunkis then came within a whisker of emphatically finishing off a stunning Blues’ move, his running volley just flying over the bar. This proved to be Cambridge’s last proper chance, although Threlfall had a header go just wide near the end.

Bedford had clearly settled for the result they wanted against Bedford, their first performance in the BUSA league bodes well for the rest of the season.

Mugan, however, refused to be downbeat and remained confident for the season’s prospects, arguing that both the Blues and the Falcons, Cambridge’s 2nd XI, had grown stronger since last year.

The Blues may not have got the result they wanted against Bedford, but their first performance in the BUSA league holds well for the rest of the season.

Toffee

© Adam Edelshain

COMPETITION

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