



# VAR-SITY

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## Danish cartoon printed at Clare

»Anger sparked by College student publication

### VAR-SITY NEWS REPORTER

On Friday 2 February *Clareification*, a weekly publication produced by students at Clare College, printed a cropped copy of the cartoon of the prophet Mohammed, first published in the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* in September 2005.

On the back page of the publication, in a satirical "look-alikes of the week" feature, the cartoon of the Prophet Mohammed was placed next to a photo of the President of the Union of Clare Students. The caption below the cartoon of Mohammed bore the President's name, and vice versa. Underneath the captions was a supplementary comment insinuating that one was a "violent paedophile" and the other was "a prophet of God, a great leader and an example to us all".

The edition of *Clareification*, produced by a guest editor, had been retitled *Crucification* and was largely devoted to religious satire. The front cover included a stand-first stating "Ayatollah rethinks stance on 'misunderstood' Rushdie". On page six an article described the reaction to the publication of the original cartoons around the world, likening it to the reaction to the Pope's speech at the University of Regensburg in September last year, which has been accused of inciting anti-Islamic religious hatred. The piece was accompanied by a photo of people holding placards reading "Behead those who insult Islam" and "Freedom to go to hell".

The publication of the cartoon provoked anger in Cambridge. The Union of Clare Students has been receiving letters of complaint throughout the week from enraged students. The Vice-President of the University of Cambridge Islamic Society reacted to the publication's content with indignation. Speaking to *Varsity*, he said, "I found the magazine hugely offensive. Cambridge has a well founded reputation for diversity, tolerance and inclusiveness and I

was surprised to see such crude and unabashed prejudice. Freedom of expression does not constitute a freedom to offend and this clearly crosses the boundary of Islamophobia". A second year *Clareification* reader said "I can't believe anyone would be so stupid. They are some of the most offensive things I have ever seen."

Clare College yesterday issued a statement. Senior Tutor Patricia Fara said "Clare is an open and inclusive College. A student-produced satirical publication has caused widespread distress throughout the Clare community. The College finds the publication and the views expressed abhorrent. Reflecting the gravity of the situation, the College immediately began an investigation and disciplinary procedures are in train."

Speaking on behalf of the Union of Clare Students, President Calum Davey expressed his "deep regret" for the inclusion of such a provocative feature in the student publication. "This material does not reflect the views of the Clare Students. We offer our sincere apologies for the offence caused," he said. The guest editor was unavailable for comment.

The cartoons have continued to cause worldwide controversy since their 2005 publication, sparking riots in some Muslim countries and leading to the death of at least four people. The French weekly magazine *Charlie Hebdo* is currently defending its publication of the cartoon in court. The editor, Phillippe Var, could face a six-month imprisonment and a substantial fine.

The only other British publications to have printed the cartoons are *Y Llan*, the magazine of the Church of Wales and *Gair Rhydd*, the Cardiff University student newspaper. Two hours after *Gair Rhydd* was printed, all copies were withdrawn from circulation and the editors responsible were suspended. The Cardiff paper had printed the cartoon to illustrate a serious discussion of the impact of the riots in Denmark.

*Clareification* is one of many col-



Clare College has cut its funding of the publication

DYLAN SPENCER-DAVIDSON

lege student publications produced in Cambridge. It is distributed within Clare College and has a limited print-run. During Lent Term, *Clareification* is run by a different guest editor each week in order to broaden the opportunities for journalistic experience. A student who had previously worked on the publication said "in this case, this has worked out for the worse". When asked how the cartoon could have

evaded censorship, he said "it was irresponsible of him and it was an overnight job... it's nothing to do with the publication". The College has now cut the paper's funding.

The guest editor was called before the College authorities on the afternoon of Thursday 8 February, where the President of the Clare Union of Students spoke on his behalf. At time of going to press, the outcome of the meeting remained undisclosed.

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Cambridge contingency plans and the spread of Avian flu



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Jamie Munk on why we're being run RAGged



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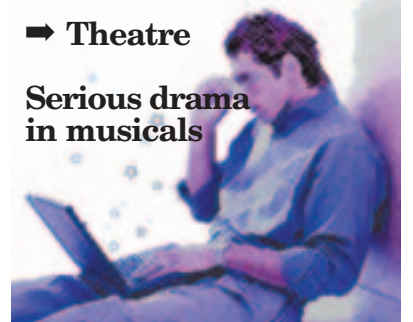
## ONLINE

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Dating in a digital climate

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Serious drama in musicals





# Intellectual property Ltd.

»Cambridge Enterprise goes from department to limited company

DATSHIANE NAVANAYAGAM

Cambridge Enterprise has recently achieved 'Limited' status. As of 1 December 2006 Cambridge Enterprise Ltd., which is wholly affiliated to Cambridge University, will "help University of Cambridge inventors, innovators, and entrepreneurs make their ideas more commercially successful for the benefit of society, the UK economy, the inventors and the University."

In particular, a substantial proportion of the firm's services deals with the protection and licensing of intellectual property and its associated intellectual property rights. This would include new information and innovative ideas arising from any intellectual activities such as research projects and academic collaborations. Cambridge Enterprise has said that it will not be mandatory for University academics to work with them, although they will be obliged to disclose any patentable inventions made during the course of their work at the University, giving the company the possibility to review such cases.

There are also intentions to provide assistance for those academics who wish to set up new companies for technological advancement. Such endeavours will be facilitated through the additional services of start-up clinics, individual mentoring, and the provision of seed capital and access to investors. Networking and showcasing events put on by the company will provide new companies with further links to industry. In addition the metamorphosis of the department to Cambridge Enterprise Limited is

hoped to extend its appeal to markets in intellectual property from outside the University.

Cambridge University is playing a close supervisory role in the development of the company, previously a Department within the University. At present, three University Directors preside on the board of Cambridge Enterprise Ltd. The board includes Cavendish Professor Sir Richard Friend, Professor Christopher Abell of Christ's College and Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research, Professor Ian Leslie. The University's Director of Finance is also acting as an observer on the board.

Officials told *Varsity* that the change in Cambridge Enterprise from a University Department to a Limited Company was "a logical evolution" resulting from the growth in its services and was needed for the purpose of "additional

**"the primary aim remains to aid application of knowledge to benefit society, academics and the institution"**

transparency" in business operations. But they were keen to stress that its new 'Limited' status would "not impact on teaching or lectures



Cambridge Enterprise has become a business

DYLAN SPENCER-DAVIDSON

of entrepreneurship" nor affect its quality of service and focus on the commercialisation of technology arising from academics and their departments. Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Leslie is known to have said that despite recent incorporations to Cambridge Enterprise "the primary aim remains to aid application of knowledge to benefit society, academics and the institution". Chief Executive of the company Teri Willey has also emphasised that the "new structure" of the company will help facilitate the recognised need "to increase efficiency and adapt speedily to new requirements".

The total affiliation of Cambridge Enterprise to Cambridge University has meant that at present the University receives all profits generated by the firm after rev-

enue shares are distributed to academics and their departments. In the last fiscal year 2005/2006 the firm generated £6.26 million through consultancy contracts and license income of which an excess of £5.2 million was distributed to academics and University departments in guidance with the distribution policies of the University. Four spin-out companies, Cambridge Innovision, E-stack, OrthoMimetics and Psynova were launched by Cambridge Enterprise in partnership with other entrepreneurial researchers. The company was also responsible for fifty-eight new patent applications and concluded over eighty consultancy agreements indicating that academics' technical expertise is still greatly required within the technological commercial market.

## First Muslim-Jewish dialogue Centre opens

TOM WOOLFORD

A new Centre for the Study of Muslim-Jewish Relations (CMJR) has opened in Cambridge.

The Centre, the first of its kind in the world, was opened last Thursday by Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks. Its aims, explains co-founder Dr Edward Kessler, are to "pursue teaching, dialogue and research into the encounter between Muslims and Jews". Dr Kessler says that "the Jewish-Muslim encounter demonstrates much misunderstanding, bordering on despair". The Centre's curriculum will include an examination of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, phenomena both currently hitting the national and international news. Sacks described "a tsunami of anti-Semitism" across Europe in the light of a report on the first day of this month showing that anti-Semitic attacks in Britain have reached record levels. A report published in December by the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia charted the rise of Islamophobia across Europe, citing hundreds of cases of violence against Muslims.

Faculty of Divinity lecturer Dr Kessler set up the sister organization, the Centre for the Study of Jewish

Christian Relations, in 1998. The CJCR is established as the leading European academic institute in the study of Judaeo-Christian relations, and has seen over a thousand undergraduates take part in its programmes since its foundation. Dr Kessler is optimistic about the prospects for the CMJR. "There has been a great deal of interest from both faith communities and beyond", he explained. Dr Richard Stone, Chair of the Commission on Islamophobia, welcomed the Centre on Tuesday, expressing a hope that it will further understanding between Jews and Muslims.

The founders deny that the Centre has been set up in response to violence and political crises in the Middle East. It has, however, been welcomed by a number of Arab countries and comes after a Jewish-Muslim conference held at Westminster Abbey last year at which several of the most high-profile Middle Eastern embassies were represented.

The Co-Convenor of the Cambridge University Faiths Forum, Preet Majithia, suggests that the challenge is to "spread the message of respect and understanding beyond those who are interested and attend such events to a much broader cross-section of society, where ignorance and prejudice still prevails".

## In Brief

### Cambridge NHS sinking into debt

NHS debt in Cambridgeshire is predicted to reach £52 million by March. Health chiefs have also admitted that the county's Primary Healthcare Trust's debt increased by nearly £16 million in one month. Chief executive of the Trust, who helped Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals recover £8 million in 18 months, said "It is a debt effectively being borrowed from other health systems. In a sense it is important that we in Cambridgeshire pay it back". **Elliot Ross**

### Network cleared of girls' deaths

An inquiry into the death of two schoolgirls at Elsenham train station in 2005 has cleared Network Rail of any wrongdoing but highlighted serious concerns over safety at railway stations. On their way to Cambridge, Charlotte Thompson and Olivia Bazlinton were killed when they were struck by an oncoming train while crossing the tracks. There was no footbridge to the opposite platform. The inquiry did not blame Network Rail, finding the deaths an accident. Network Rail plan to build a footbridge by the end of the year. **Hannah Thompson**

### Student apathy

Students across the country who have not registered to vote are being encouraged to do so in order to avoid losing their vote in local elections in May. The Electoral Commission has warned students to register before May 3. About 20 per cent of students are currently missing from the electoral roll. The NUS National Secretary, Stephen Brown, said, "Students have historically been powerful agents for change and I'd urge anyone who hasn't yet registered to do so this week". **Nikki Burton**

### Top up fees save you money

The price tag of a university education has fallen after the introduction of top-up fees, a study has shown. Research found that with government grants, bursaries and long-repayments the cost of attending university has dropped. The study also showed that graduates can expect to earn about £160,000 more in a working lifetime than their peers who do not attend university. **Rebecca Lester**

### Archers' bronzes

Cambridge resident Lord Jeffrey Archer has fallen victim to art thieves at his Grantchester home. On Tuesday evening a clutch of bronze sculptures by the artist Christopher Marvell were removed from the Archers' front garden. CCTV footage showed two men backing a white van up to a wire fence before making off with the valuable bronzes. Lady Archer described the statues as "works of art of considerable real value, and sentimental value". **Tom Parry Jones**





# Union Spring Ball cancelled

» Trustees cancel Union Spring Ball after low ticket sales and infighting

ELLIOT ROSS  
News Editor

Members of the Cambridge Union learnt late on Wednesday 7 February that the Union Spring Ball, scheduled for Sunday, has been cancelled. The announcement came after a week of wrangling over whether to go ahead with an event plagued by poor ticket sales. It was decided on Tuesday morning that to hold the Ball at a loss would not be “appropriate”.

*Varsity* has learnt that had the Ball gone ahead as originally planned, the Union would have incurred an £8000 loss. A standing committee meeting on Monday approved a revised budget that would have scaled down the event and reduced losses to £2,000.

Secretary and Vice President Nicholas Hartman said he and other senior members “felt that it was wholly inappropriate to use the Society’s funds as a registered charity to pay for the financial shortcomings of the ball due to a significant lack in ticket sales”. Some members of the standing committee then consulted the Society’s Board of Trustees, who advised unanimously against the ball on principle, despite there being no legal conflict with the Union’s charitable status.

Entertainment Officer and President of the Ball Committee Oyin Anubi said she was “very annoyed” and “really upset” at the decision. She expressed her regret that the ball “was met with so much opposition” and that certain standing committee members had “gone over our heads” to present “a biased and unfair case” to Trustees. Although frustrated by the board’s position, she felt the cancellation was necessary to avoid “creating division in the Union”. Nevertheless, she maintained that “it could have gone ahead and it could have been a great success”.

Anubi claims that cancellation costs have actually outweighed the deficit which would have been expected if the ball had gone ahead under the revised budget. While she would not give precise figures, she said that the fees paid for the late cancellation had been “significantly” higher than the projected loss. Union President Michael Jacobson described this as a

“very tragic” aspect of the week’s events, while another senior official described the issue as “a petty attempt to divert responsibility”.

The ball came under threat as a result of extremely low ticket sales. Less than two per cent of members purchased tickets and just 20 tickets were sold in the final week of sales. Despite these figures, Anubi praised the Ball Committee’s hard work, saying they “had done the best we could have”, explaining that “we didn’t want to bombard people”. She insisted “we did sell enough tickets to go ahead as planned”.

A senior official was more critical of the committee’s efforts. “The Ball Committee didn’t really make much of a ‘second wave’ campaign to sell many tickets and didn’t seem to take the financial shortcomings too seriously when asked what they planned to do about it. That’s just unacceptable. Everything was always ‘just fine.’ It was a bit like that scene from *Titanic* where the band keeps playing on the deck even though the ship is obviously sinking.”

The anonymous source went on to criticise the wording of the letter to ticket holders which cited “circum-

**“It was a bit like that scene from *Titanic* where the band keeps playing on the deck even though the ship is obviously sinking”**

stances beyond our control” for the cancellation. They said “the statement released by the Ball Committee which almost seems to place blame on others for ‘stopping’ the ball is utter rubbish”. They described “any attempt to cover up” disappointing ticket sales as “an



Union Ball ticket holders have been offered the chance to attend the Churchill Ball instead

EMILY WRIGHT

insult to those that bought tickets and the membership as a whole”. Anubi said that “members of the standing committee did all they could” to prevent the Ball proceeding. Ex Union President Luke Pearce suggested that Anubi has been “victimised”, while President Jacobson insisted that “no-one went behind anyone’s back or did anything wrong”.

St John’s student Vishnu Parameshwaran, who had planned to attend the ball, told *Varsity* “I didn’t really want to go anyway. Somebody guilt-tripped me into going. I’m obviously very disappointed.” The Committee offered Union Ball ticket holders the chance to attend today’s Churchill Spring Ball as an alternative event. Asked what he thought of this, Parameshwaran said “that’s just fucking cheeky, man. I wouldn’t go if my life depended on it.”

## The Union: moving forwards?

### April 2003

Jean-Marie Le Pen’s invitation provokes mass protests. The French Front National leader has described the Holocaust as “a mere detail” of history and claims “races are not equal”. Edward Cumming, the Union President who invited him, wanted him to debate the motion “This house would gag the bad”. Cumming received two death threats.

### November 2005

*Varsity* investigation ‘The Changing Face of the Union’ finds the Oxford Union is better at attracting sponsorship, member-

ship, big-name speakers and electoral candidates and that it spends more on its bar and library. Four separate ex-Cambridge Union Presidents tell *Varsity* the Union “seriously needs to learn how to run itself as a business”.

### November 2006

An anonymous email sent to Cambridge media outlets details alleged criminal activities, misuse of presidential power and significant internal conflicts within the Union. President Luke Pearce and Secretary Nick Hartman assure *Varsity* that “the Union is moving in the right direction”.

# Fifth time lucky for TCSU president

HENRY DONATI

“If at first you don’t succeed, give up. You tried your best and you failed miserably; the lesson is: never try”, are the wise words of Homer Simpson. Unfortunately Tom Coker, standing for the Presidency of the Trinity College Student Union for the fifth year in a row, didn’t listen to them. And this year he finally succeeded.

The victory is celebrated by the Facebook group “Fifth Time Lucky” with the question “Is this the greatest story in the history of the TCSU Elections?”

Last week *Varsity* reported on the response of Trinity students to TCSU’s decision to reaffiliate to CUSU. 20 out of a student body of

600 undergraduates attended a meeting to vote on the reaffiliation. The twentieth vote, without which no move could have been passed, was cast by the *Varsity* reporter sent to report on the event. So perhaps it should come as no surprise that one of England’s great institutions, founded by Henry VIII, home to 31 noble prize winners and countless great statesmen, authors and philosophers, has a president whose manifesto photo featured him in a PVC dress. In the opening line of his handwritten policy statement he misspelt ‘you’.

Standing for election in his first year at Trinity, his ambitious pledge to improve life in the college was “to show people what happened when skittles are microwaved”. He brought a plate of them for all to

see. In the second year his nomination form was ripped up and he was discounted from standing by the then President in a display of remarkable insight. Third year he was apparently “drunk”, and after again meeting with defeat in the fourth year he decided to disaffiliate from the TCSU. Repeated failure did not deter him from trying a fifth time, and succeeding.

So how did this Natsci manage to become Student President of an institution with endowments of several hundred million pounds? “This year there weren’t any serious candidates”, he explained candidly. “Having been in college for four years I have more experience and wisdom.” His manifesto demanded freezing college bar prices for 5 years, and banning an individual

named Andy Davies from ever entering the college.

The outgoing president Gavin Johnstone “was satisfied with the general conduct and fairness of the election” but considered it “inappropriate” to comment further. No burnt skittles for him then. Facebook provides some rather more colourful reactions. “Is that a joke? Coker, are you really TCSU president?” says a member of the campaign group. One unnamed source was rather less reticent. “I hear Coker is president? How on earth did this atrocity happen?...I have more respect for the tramp that you knocked out with an orange than him”, he said.

But Coker seems to have a keen regard for political success. He commented that the key to his presidential campaign was “to demonstrate



that one, you are better than the other candidates and two, the other candidates are worse than you”. This is surely the sort of political prescience of which Churchill would have been proud.

Calls to reopen nominations have been rejected, so be warned. This is what happens in a democracy when you don’t vote.



# Boys shun summer school

## »Boys too embarrassed to apply for Cambridge courses

**TOM MORIARTY**

Boys are missing out on free places at summer schools in Cambridge because they are too embarrassed to apply.

The Sutton Trust, an organisation set up to raise the academic potential of students from under-privileged backgrounds, raised the issue of gender imbalance after the proportion of boys attending the residential courses fell below 30 per cent last year.

Sir Peter Lampl, Chairman of the Trust, said "This is serious as we are concerned that boys from non-privileged homes are not getting the opportunities they need to go on to a top university". He added that the lack of interest may be due to the fact that "boys are too shy to apply".

The scheme was first introduced in Cambridge in 1998 and courses are currently run at Robinson and Sydney Sussex. Last year, only 200 of a total of 900 attending courses at Cambridge were boys. National figures for the summer schools, which also run at Oxford, Bristol, Nottingham and St Andrews, reveal a similar pattern. Last year the courses received 3,349 applications, but of these less than 1000 were from

boys. No solution has been offered to address this stark imbalance.

The summer schools are for 6th Form students and form part of the University's programme aimed at encouraging achievement and aspiration among young students, many of whom are from homes where nei-

**"last year, only 200 of 900 attending courses at Cambridge were boys"**

ther parent attended university. Schools and College Liaison Officer Xina Moss said, "the University of Cambridge wants to admit people on academic merit alone and realise that people are put off from applying because of misconceptions about the University".

Those who receive places on the week-long courses attend lectures, meet tutors and "take part in the usual social activities with the help from current students acting as

mentors". Lesley Gannon, Cambridge University's Head of Widening Participation was positive about the impact the summer schools can have on students. "A large proportion of students that attend Sutton Trust Summer Schools go on to apply to Cambridge or other Russell Group Universities and many go on to gain places. Some even come back as volunteers on the scheme".

Overall, one third of students go on to achieve a place at the university at which they took a summer course. Of the 64 students who attended the first ever summer schools, 14 gained a place at Oxford University the next year. Former participant David Eves went on to study Engineering at Cambridge. He said, "As far as I knew, nobody from my school had ever gone to Cambridge and I thought it was just for people from Eton. Meeting Cambridge students completely changed my mind about it. I realised that they're normal people, like everyone else, and that I did fit in here".

Most colleges have their own outreach schemes targeting students from disadvantaged backgrounds, many of which operate during the summer vacation.



Climate change: primarily a man-made problem

## Global warming "man-made" says professor

**EMMA INKESTER**

Professor Nigel Weiss, Emeritus Professor in Mathematical Astrophysics at Cambridge, has affirmed the announcement by scientists that global warming is primarily a man-made problem.

Weiss echoes the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), published in Paris on 1 February. The panel stressed that humans are the most likely cause of

**"universal effort to reduce emissions is necessary"**

global warming, emphasising that a concerted and universal effort to reduce emissions is necessary to lessen the risks.

There has been recent support for suggestions that solar activity is a more significant cause than human consumption, and that a fall in solar activity would lead to a cooling that would negate the effect of greenhouse gases. Weiss has rejected this stance.

"Although solar activity has an effect on the climate, these changes are small compared to those associated with global warming," he said. "Any global cooling associated with a fall in solar activity would not significantly affect the global warming caused by greenhouse gases."

Solar activity occurs in stars such as our own sun, where sunspots are the site of strong magnetic fields. The number of spots appearing varies cyclically with a period of approximately 11 years, with a boom currently taking place which scientists predict will be followed by a slump. Satellite measurements have shown that solar irradiance decreases by 0.1 per cent from sunspot maximum to sunspot minimum, causing a reduction of about 0.1 degrees Celsius in average global temperature.

Weiss insists that this rate of change is small compared to that

which will manifest itself should fossil fuels continue to be burnt at the present rate. The IPCC has also reiterated the need for a global reduction. The USA has addressed a memorandum, endorsed by President Bush, to the panel. It advocates "modifying solar radiance" as a more viable solution than a decrease in consumption.

A number of nuclear weapons scientists at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in California have put forward the proposal of launching a million tonnes of tiny aluminium balls filled with hydrogen into the atmosphere each year, to act as a barrier against global warming. Sea water and sulphate particles have also been suggested as possible materials, but critics have argued that all of these methods are expensive, dangerous and do nothing to reduce the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Weiss affirms that the current situation is of grave concern. Scientists also acknowledge that increased levels of carbon dioxide threaten to acidify oceans, causing severe consequences for the food chain. This counters those who deny the existence of global warming.

This view has been promoted by Channel 4 director Martin Durkin. In *The Great Global Warming Swindle*, an upcoming documentary to be broadcast on Channel 4, man-made climate change is called "a lie ... the biggest scam of modern times". He continued, "The truth is that global warming is a multibillion-dollar worldwide industry: created by fanatically anti-industrial environmentalists; supported by scientists peddling scare stories to chase funding; and propped up by complicit politicians and the media ... The fact is that CO2 has no proven link to global temperatures ... solar activity is far more likely to be the culprit."

Educated at Clare College, Weiss discovered the process of 'flux expulsion' by which a conducting fluid undergoing rotation acts to expel the magnetic flux from the region of motion, and which is now readily accepted as a frequent occurrence in the sun and other stars. He was President of the Royal Astronomical Society between 2000 and 2002.

# VARSLITY

## Graduation Yearbook

**Varsity are looking for editors, photographers and designers to help produce this year's Graduation Yearbook.**

**If you want to be part of the team, email: [yearbook@varsity.co.uk](mailto:yearbook@varsity.co.uk)**





# Royal visit to Cambridge

## »Regal opening for £500 million Cancer Research Institute

KATHARINE FAULKNER

Last Friday the Queen visited Cambridge to open a £500 million Cancer Research Institute at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

The Institute has been funded by Sir Ka-shing Li, named by Forbes Magazine in 2006 as the tenth richest person in the world, and the richest person in Asia.

Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, who is Chancellor of the University, the Queen was welcomed to the new Li Ka Shing Centre by the Mayor and other local dignitaries, and greeted by rounds of applause from over 300 schoolchildren.

Ifthi, a student at Queen Edith's School in Cambridge, told *Varsity* he was so excited about seeing the Queen at the opening that he "woke up at five

**"I've seen the Queen on TV once but I think that was someone playing her"**

this morning". He said that the Queen "didn't look like what I expected, because I've seen the Queen of England on TV once, but I think that was just someone who was playing her." Another pupil, Amy, thought that the Queen "looked nice", subsequently telling *Varsity* that "I'm so excited I'm going to faint".

The Queen was unable to talk with the children who greeted her, to the dismay of 11 year old Alexandra, who said, "I was a bit disappointed as I wanted to talk to her". Two students from Long Road Sixth Form College, Adam Bloodworth and Emily Thompson, both 17, later spoke to the Queen when they turned up at the ceremony during a free period with a

bouquet of tulips. "To try and attract her attention, we decided to give her flowers", explained Emily. "We asked her if she had had a nice day and she said it had been very interesting."

More than 300 scientists, led by Professor Bruce Ponder, will be based at the centre. Ponder spoke of the "exciting opportunity" the Centre will afford researchers to "harness the scientific strengths of Cambridge to solve the practical problems of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cancer."

On her tour of the Centre the Queen conversed with cancer patients including Leah Wilby, aged 11, who has been undergoing treatment for cancer of the nervous system since 2004. Leah's mother, Debbie, told press that, "The hospital has been brilliant to Leah. This new Cancer Research Centre is an excellent step forward, and there is now a lot of hope for the future." The Queen also spoke to 62 year old Ricky Wilkinson, who recovered from prostate cancer after pioneering robotic surgery techniques were used in his treatment.

Alex Markham, Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK, said of the new institute, "Our aim is to create an exciting environment of interdisciplinary collaboration so that researchers in many different fields will be able to work together with the single aim of beating cancer". He added that this approach would mean that new cures will "enter clinical trials more quickly". The research will cover the genetics of breast cancer, stem cells, imaging and experimental medicine.

Professor Alison Richard, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, said the royal visit "illustrates the importance that the UK attaches to this crucial work, and is testament to the strength of this joint enterprise between the charity and the university". Sir Ka-Shing Li described Cambridge University as "one of the world's beacons of learning", adding that, "The research conducted at the institute will prove to be invaluable and offer major medical advancements to the world".



Queen and Duke of Edinburgh arrive in Cambridge

MICHAEL DERRINGER



Hotel Chocolat

### Hideous Kinky

A frisky theologian was spotted malin-gering dolefully outside Hotel Chocolat when his blind date failed to show up. Enraged, he furiously 'Facebooked' her and was less than impressed at what he was missing. His bitter text message read "Hey sexy, thankyou very much. I now have the privilege of telling my friends I've been stood up by the most hideous girl in Cambridge". His bewildered date apologised and explained that she had only received his RAG form the following morning. She proposed a replacement liaison at the ADC "if you still want a date with the most hideous girl in Cambridge". He declined.

Newnham

### Ungodly Acts

The Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union rarely finds its way into this column. But the controversial campaign of knocking on students' doors and handing Mark's gospel to them in person has yielded some surprising responses. One wide-eyed foot-soldier inclined his inquiring head around a door and was astonished to find two stray flock-members energetically flouting all kinds of Papal edicts and at least two of the ten commandments.

Magdalene



### What the Duck?

Sleepy-eyed students at Magdalene College were thrilled on Thursday morning to awake to find a thick coverage of snow on college grounds. Their high spirits were sent stratospheric, however, by the mysterious appearance of a 7ft long snow-duck idling nonchalantly on the immaculately kempt lawns by the Cam. Resident wildfowl were evidently distressed by the oversized interloper and were seen muttering amongst themselves. The magnificent mallard met an ignominious demise as its craning neck finally bowed to the afternoon thaw, leaving the bird "brainless". The poultry-inspired sculpture made a welcome change from the rather tired looking snowy phalloi which inevitably sprung up.

## Buying an education on a Tesco Clubcard

NIKKI BURTON

In a twist in the tail of the unending student funding debates, Tesco shoppers will soon be able to buy an education with £100,000 worth of groceries.

A new initiative set to commence on 16 February will allow Tesco Clubcard holders to use loyalty points to finance an Open University (OU) degree, exchanging vouchers for four times their face value in OU course fees. Under the Tesco Clubcard points system shoppers can pay for their higher education in part or in full using the Tesco points, making a typical £4,000 OU degree equivalent to 100,000 points.

Tesco Clubcard points can be used alongside any other funding the student may be entitled to, although as with any other Clubcard commodity the OU are keen to remind appli-

cants that the points are non-transferable and will be issued with the name shown on the Clubcard vouchers. Other rewards displayed alongside the educational option include Blockbuster rental tokens, airport parking vouchers, and magazine subscriptions.

Tesco Commercial Director Richard Brasher commented that "Clubcard deals already help thousands of people achieve things they might otherwise find hard to afford and now gaining higher education qualifications is added to that list".

The head of partnerships at Tesco Freetime, Nick McCormack, told press that "We're delighted to be working with the Open University

to offer customers the opportunity to put Tesco vouchers towards higher education. The programme provides a great opening for customers to achieve some valuable qualifications by studying at home at their own pace without having to give up the day job."

OU Vice-Chancellor Brenda Gourley highlighted the new scheme as "an exciting and innovative partnership that is true to the University's founding mission - to be open to people, places, methods and ideas. The partnership allows the University to extend our reach to new students, who have the opportunity to gain access to our courses without incurring any debt."

This is the first time a Higher Education Institution has used the loyalty card scheme to attract applicants. The OU said that they offer several projects intended to help students meet the cost of studying, including student budget accounts to allow for the monthly payment of course fees, and means-tested financial help. Gourley added, "We aim to make access to the University's programmes as flexible as possible. This extends to giving our students a number of options to meet course fees - and this new deal is now one of those options".

Alongside undergraduate degree courses, OU also offers other courses starting from £99. Topics covered include "life in the oceans", "writing family history", and "understanding children". Over 200,000 people study with the OU each year, accounting for 35 percent of all part-time undergraduate students in the UK.





# Are we prepared

»Michaela Freeland discusses the role of Cambridge scientists in tackling the threat posed by Avian flu

The word "flu" is used in many different contexts, from the predictable Fresher's bout to the epidemic of the 1918 Spanish flu. But after the hospitalisation of a Suffolk cull vet with suspected bird flu on 6 February, a new kind of flu has been forced once more on the public attention.

Though the current threat is posed by "bird flu" in particular, the virus from which it derives is the same. Dr Paul Digard of the Department of Pathology argues that "all flu is avian at source, it's just that some strains have adapted better to growing well in certain species". Therefore, the study of the mechanisms of the virus and its transmission in any species provides invaluable knowledge to aid the prevention of bird flu. Cambridge academics are researching into a wide range of cases. Dr Debra Elton at Animal Trust runs a monitoring programme for equine influenza, and her group also keeps a close eye on Cambridge's pigs, dogs and chickens.

But while most strains of avian and other animal flu are benign and commonly found on farms throughout Britain, the H5N1 strain responsible for the outbreak in Suffolk is distinctive for its capacity to bridge the species barrier and infect humans. Fears have been voiced that the genetic material of the virus could possibly mutate within other mammalian carriers such as cats. If so, it would have the potential to be transmitted from one human to another as opposed to through direct contact with infected birds. This development would increase the chance of a sweeping epidemic.

Influenza research at Cambridge seeks to

combat the threat in two ways. While the Veterinary School and Zoology Department monitors animal health and possible outbreaks, the Department of Pathology conducts bio-chemical investigation at Addenbrooke's. In the Department of Applied Maths & Theoretical Physics, the spread of infectious diseases is modelled mathematically. Cambridge Infectious Disease Consortium (CIDC), which oversees these different lines of enquiry, also includes an Education and Training Unit, training

**"The great fear is that the genetic material of the virus could mutate"**

veterinary students to deal with potential pandemics in the future.

Cambridge is further involved in nationwide and international research. The Department of Zoology, which monitors outbreaks of influenza, plays a significant role in choosing the antigen composition of the World Health Organisation's annual influenza vaccine.

The sharing of information and resources across institutions is important given that none of the laboratories in Cambridge meets the necessary requirements for biological containment facilities ("Biosafety Level 3" or above). As a result, University researchers cannot study highly pathogenic strains of the virus, and

must work instead with non-infectious components.

Thus, rather than find ways to make it less infectious or harmful, researchers are studying the mechanisms by which the virus replicates. No virus can replicate on its own; it does so only inside the cells of the host organism. Understanding the mechanisms by which the virus manipulates the host to achieve this could lead to methods of disrupting this process. Further, to replicate its genetic material the influenza virus requires particular biological molecules that are not present in uninfected cells. Preventing their formation could halt the infection without damaging healthy cells. In any population, some individuals have natural immunity to infection. For example, at the Vet School, researchers are studying those animals with genes that possess an "innate" resistance to influenza, so that vaccines would no longer be necessary.

Such novel methods are important since current vaccinations to prevent influenza remain ineffective. Like the other aspects of the influenza genome, the surface proteins of the virus to which antigens bind before destroying the infected cell are constantly mutating. This is why a new flu jab is needed each winter. Inherent genetic resistance may be an answer.

While the risk of an avian flu pandemic in Britain is minimal, the scientific study into combating the threat is essential. The better the understanding of biochemical action of the virus and the patterns in which it spreads, the more readily prevention measures can be transferred onto other forms of influenza and animal-borne disease.

Historically, epidemics have contributed to scientific development. The last time the University was quarantined as a result of plague, Trinity mathematician Isaac Newton went home and returned with the theory of gravity.

0 cases of human to human infection at present

50 countries with confirmed cases of H5N1

160,000 birds culled this week within Bernard Matthews Ltd, UK

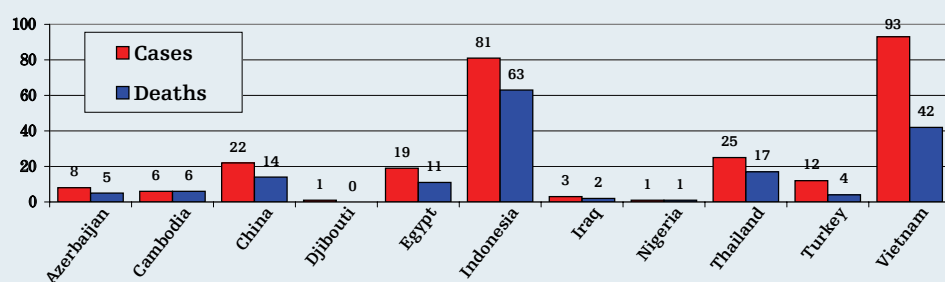
806 square mile restriction zone around the Bernard Matthews Farm, Suffolk

166 human deaths caused by H5N1 virus worldwide



## Bird Flu: The facts

- The outbreak of H5N1 avian flu began in Asia in 2003.
- Cases of this strain of bird flu have since been confirmed in around 50 countries worldwide.
- The virus has killed 166 people since 2003, according to the World Health Organisation. Many of its victims have been children and young adults.
- There have been no known cases of human infection in the UK to date.
- The H5N1 virus is not a new strain of bird flu: it caused an outbreak in Scotland in 1959.
- The main route of human infection is through direct contact with infected wild birds and poultry, or surfaces contaminated by their faeces.
- Symptoms in humans have varied from typical flu symptoms (fever, sore throat, cough, aches and pains) to eye inflammations, respiratory problems, and pneumonia.



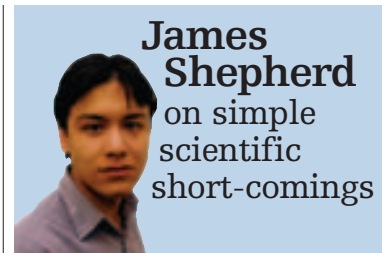
SOURCE: WHO STATISTICS

»Catherine Bosley

The University of Cambridge is drawing up plans to deal with a future avian flu pandemic in the city following an outbreak of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of avian flu on a turkey farm in Suffolk. Government Departments have been frantically working over the past week to control the outbreak. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has undertaken the gassing of more than 150,000 poultry and set up a zone of restricted access that reaches 60 km of Cambridge. The NHS has stocked 14.6 million doses of Tamiflu, the drug used to treat flu cases. The Home Office along with several other agencies conducted a drill code-named "Winter Willow" to prepare for a possible large-scale flu outbreak.

Dr Mark Wormald, Senior Tutor at Pembroke College and chair of the Advisory Group on Communicable Diseases explained "There is a pandemic plan for the University, and we are in the process of conducting exercises across departments to test resilience." He added "The Pandemic Planning Working Party

# for Avian flu?



**James Shepherd**  
on simple  
scientific  
short-comings

There is plenty of work going on into the science behind bird flu, but some basic measures are being neglected.

British monitoring of Avian flu in wild birds failed to pick up the current farmyard outbreak, which is thought to have originated in wild ducks. This could be partly due to inadequate survey techniques used by government monitoring agencies. The methods were initially criticised in April 2006, when an H5N1-infected swan was found on the Scottish coast.

The sampling conducted last year was called into question because very little flu was found in any of the birds tested. The fact that H5N1 was not identified may seem like a good result, but it is alarming that more common, and less dangerous, strains that we would expect to find were not present in the sample. This suggests that the samples did not accurately represent the prevalence of flu in the British bird population. Eventually, this anomalous result was attributed to improper preservation of the specimens, resulting in the viruses decaying beyond a detectable state. In effect this meant the sampling method could not accurately identify whether or not H5N1 was actually present in the samples. It has also been highlighted that surveillance may have targeted the wrong bird species. In spite of these problems, the method remains unchanged to the present day.

It is especially disappointing when

**“could not identify whether H5N1 was present”**

the UK's possible errors are contrasted with recent reports of successful and high-quality surveillance in less economically developed countries with fewer scientific resources.

Setbacks such as these could compromise our attempts to assess the actual level of risk.

Luckily there is increasing research into improving the tests we use. Flu is currently a popular and well-funded area of study. Furthermore, as demonstrated by the Cambridge research groups, scientists worldwide are cooperating in an “unprecedented way” when it comes to sharing data concerning bird flu.

This dual approach is very important because we are unsure when, or if, the H5N1 virus will mutate to give rise to the bird flu pandemic we fear. In addition, it should be noted that H5N1 is not the only strain causing concern, with H2, H7 and H9 also being plausible possibilities that need to be monitored.

With this in mind, we are in the fortunate position of being able to come at bird flu from both sides; from understanding the microscopic virus itself in addition to large-scale tracking and modelling of its progress in the ‘real world’. We have the ability to do both, as long as we take heed and stop ignoring the fact that resources are wasted on failing methods.



## outlines the measures taken to prepare Cambridge for an Avian flu epidemic

and the Pandemic Emergency Planning sub-group have been meeting regularly and have drawn up guidelines for both the University as a whole and the colleges”.

At present, humans can only be infected with the avian flu virus through direct contact with infected birds. Since 2003, 166 individuals worldwide have died from the virus but transmission between humans is not possible. But should the virus mutate, enabling it to spread from person to person, a pandemic could ensue. The Centre for Disease Control, a US public health agency, warns that because students often live in close quarters in halls of residence, they could be particularly at risk.

The measure taken by the University include drawing up “avian influenza and pandemic flu guidelines”, details of which can be found on the university website. They are also working closely with the NHS and local GPs, and appointing a Pandemic Flu Liaison Nurse. Moreover, according to Dr Wormald, “the University has adopted quarantine guidelines”, although he did not disclose any

details to *Varsity*. In the event of an outbreak, “The response... would be one of containment and isolation with appropriate medical support from trained and appropriately equipped staff. Provision for this is in place.”

In contrast, Harvard University has, in the past five years, undertaken emergency response planning including a new intranet for information sharing and fitting “front-line” staff with facemasks. Harvard has also conducted sessions in responding to a public health emergency for school staff and faculty members. One of the drills simulated the case of a student who had fallen sick after a trip to southern Africa. Drill-participants were linked via computer and given 15 minute deadlines to respond to unexpected developments, such as the unannounced appearance of television crews on campus and discussion of the student's condition via internet chat groups.

Paul Parry, in charge of emergency planning for the evacuation plan in Cambridge City Centre, has recently been participating in the Winter Willow exercise. Parry

explained that he is currently in the process of “tweaking” the city's emergency response plan, to “plug any gaps” left from the drawing board stage. One particular challenge he believes the City would face in the event of a pandemic outbreak would be allocating manpower

**“The response... would be one of containment and isolation with appropriate medical support”**

er. City employees would be pulled from their usual jobs to assist with the effort, but at the same time it would need to be ensured that basic services, such as trash collection, were functioning. Parry said he and his team were taking con-

tingency planning for a flu pandemic “very seriously”. Successful planning required a response to public concerns and “not giving people a cold shoulder”, he contended.

At Addenbrooke's hospital, spokeswoman Heather Munro told *Varsity* that if the flu were to emerge, response measures “would include ensuring that beds were available for those who really needed admission to hospital, [and] dealing with how we would run services in the event of increased staff absences”. Addenbrooke's referred *Varsity's* questions regarding the availability of Tamiflu to Cambridge students to the Health Protection Agency. The HPA, however, was unavailable to provide further details because its team members were busy dealing with the Suffolk flu outbreak.

*Varsity* also inquired with the Cambridgeshire County Council about what contingency plans had been drawn up and what sort of efforts were currently underway at the regional level. In response, the county council press office declined to comment.





Attentive Idler followers amongst you will have noticed, in recent weeks, that the tone of these columns has not been one of relaxed, gentlemanly cogitation, but rather of fierce, social and cultural polemic (with a few dirty words thrown in to get people really fired up). I'd like to make clear, at this point, that I would never *actually* take the time to do anything about the issues that bother me. No, you'll never catch me in the winter drizzle handing out flyers, shouting things into a megaphone or (as some conscientious students decided to do last week) protesting against college arms investment by waltzing outside King's College, dressed variously as shady 'arms dealers' and college fellows. You're much more likely to find me out enjoying all the perks of capitalism and unfair trade, or maybe just kicking a dog as I am wont to do on a lazy Sunday.

## "you'll never catch me in the winter drizzle handing out flyers"

Activism isn't really my thing, but other people campaigning for change doesn't bother me, just as long as the more interventionist religious or 'political' students don't surface too often to thrust things into my pigeon hole, e-mail inbox or face. In truth, I don't feel any antipathy towards the students who campaign against arms dealing, or global warming, or even top up fees! I mean, why should I; they're nice, politically conscious people who stage sweet little protests and put on good club nights.

However, if you're one of those volunteers wearing a fluorescent vest and a big smile who wants me to give "just five pounds a month" to whatever charity you think is "like, totally a worthwhile cause" then you can expect to be lectured on not being a righteous tosser if you attempt to delay me when I'm trying to get into Boots. Approaching people like this is aggressive behavior, and trying to pass it off as informative chat is worse because it exploits people's good manners. Let's face it, if you've ever given money to one of these people (and unfortunately, I have), then its because you've felt trapped, not because you've suddenly developed a pressing concern to abolish whatever social ill is being highlighted. There are many reasons not to give to a charity, from believing that there are more worthwhile causes, to believing that charity perpetuates government inaction over humanitarian issues, to simply not wanting to relinquish that extra fiver because you'd rather get boozed on it. Whatever your reasons, you needn't have to explain them to some "gap yah" goon who accosts you in the street. Charity should be a choice, not a social pressure. Information is great, coercion is disgraceful.

# Political climate change



TESSA RILEY

Over the past week, climate change has again taken centre stage, and for good reason. Last Friday, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report stating it is now more than 90 per cent certain that climate change is a direct result of burning fossil fuels and other human activities.

The Panel, the most authoritative global scientific body working on climate change, predicts that by 2100, average global temperatures will rise between 1.8°C and 4°C. It does not rule out a 6.4°C rise at the extreme. The consequences will be immense.

Increased desertification, rising sea levels, diminishing polar ice sheets, and an increase in air-borne diseases are all inevitable. We know climate change is already happening, yet this report makes clear how much worse it might get, particularly if we don't act now. We've spent too long quibbling over the details and not enough time trying to mitigate this crisis.

There are two main difficulties in dealing with an issue such as climate change. First, many in the developed world fear that to reduce their carbon footprints, they will have to give up certain luxuries they have come to take for granted. Weekend flight to Paris anyone? Likewise, businesses fear that cleaning up their act will inevitably reduce profits. It would be a shame to look back in eighty years time and tell our grandchildren that we didn't do anything about climate change because



ILLUSTRATION BY PIPPA CORNELL

## "Frightened into stasis, many feel powerless to do anything productive"

we were too busy flying off to Spain or buying endless – and endlessly disposable – Primark garments.

Secondly, and more understandably,

climate change is such an immense issue, with multiple contributing factors and consequences, that it overwhelms rather than inspires action. Frightened into stasis, many recognise that it is happening but feel powerless to do anything productive. Pro-Bush-anti-Bush political propaganda, vested industrial and aviation interests, and media scare-mongering have fuelled such stasis by casting doubt over whether human-induced climate change really is an issue. The IPCC's report proves beyond doubt that it is. Now is the time for us to do something about it.

The first thing anyone stuck in that

stasis position must realise is that just as everyone has an impact on the climate change problem, so too can everyone play a part in its mitigation. It may be impossible to fully reverse the phenomenon but we can do our utmost to prevent things getting worse. In his most recent book, *Heat*, George Monbiot offers a ten-point plan to reduce our carbon emissions by ninety per cent by 2030 – the target required so as not to go into negative feedback. This situation, where the earth itself starts producing rather than absorbing carbon, is a position we *never* want to reach.

Last term, Cambridge Plane Stupid ([www.planestupid.com](http://www.planestupid.com)), organised a harmless protest outside a Sidney Street travel agency. Twenty of us handed out flyers and talked to the public, expressing our feelings about the detrimental effects budget airlines are having on the environment. Rather than being thanked for doing our bit to help the planet, however, we were threatened with the arrest by the police. Ironically, aeroplanes were flying overhead as one particular policeman was proposing this. I suggested that he instead arrest the travel agency directors, as their actions are clearly much more dangerous to this world than a twenty-one year old student handing out informational flyers. He wasn't impressed.

And herein lies part of the problem. Because many of the important legal and political structures are taking too long to accept that climate change is one of the most important issues we face, those of us campaigning to prevent it are being pigeonholed as radical and unnecessary. The IPCC, consisting of 2,500 scientists from more than thirty countries, has inconceivably shown that this is not the case. Now it is time for us to get out there and do something about it. I can only hope that that policeman will be at our next protest, this time handing out flyers with the rest of us.

# Inequality, health and happiness



LUKE PEARCE

Many of us at Cambridge find it hard to get worked up about inequality in this country, particularly when we hear about poverty in the Third World. In the 1980s, Thatcher's Conservatives told us that poverty was people's own fault. Politicians today tend to emphasise absolute poverty rather than relative poverty and tell us that we shouldn't fret about the super-rich.

Inequality, however, does matter. The poorest countries in the world are indeed the least happy, but in the developed world, it's the most equal, rather than the richest, which are happiest. The US is the wealthiest nation in the world but also one of the most unequal. Its child poverty rate is twice that of other OECD countries. Infant mor-

tality in Western Europe is between three and five per 1,000 births; in the U.S. it's 7 per 1,000. Meanwhile, the UK has the worst rates in Western Europe.

Professor Richard Wilkinson at Nottingham recently published a study of income inequality and public health which confirms what many fear: shorter life expectancy, poor health, violent crime and infant mortality are all linked to inequality.

This isn't just about culture. The most equal US states also have the highest levels of social trust and lowest murder rates. Neither is infant mortality and lower life expectancy simply about poor diet. In the West, the likelihood of premature birth, the chief cause of infant mortality, is increased by stress and anxiety experienced during pregnancy by the poorest.

A low position on the community ladder can cause serious psychological damage. Low pay, in nominal and relative terms, suggests to people that their work and existence is not valued or respected. Depression is compounded by frustration when people try but fail to lift themselves out of poverty.

Only this Christmas, we were given a reminder of inequality in Britain: while working families lost

their Christmas savings through the Farepak scheme, City bankers netted several billion in bonuses. Try as we may, it is hard to celebrate this concentration of wealth, even if we're told it will ultimately benefit us all.

Rising UK housing prices, spurred by the free spending rich, have inhibited labour mobility and condemned the poorest in our society to a lifetime renting. Higher interest rates have hurt businesses and the indebted. The richest, meanwhile, can pay to draw the most talented doctors away from the NHS. They can price the best services out of the reach of the majority, contributing further to the segregation of society.

British children born into lower social classes are twice as likely as their peers in richer families to die before the age of one. Whatever a society's overall wealth, the fact that some children suffer such comparative disadvantage undermines the idea that we live in a meritocracy.

There is, however, hope. Those countries with the highest levels of equality, such as Denmark, are among the happiest and healthiest and demonstrate that a fairer society is worth pursuing. The left needs not fall victim to accusations of social

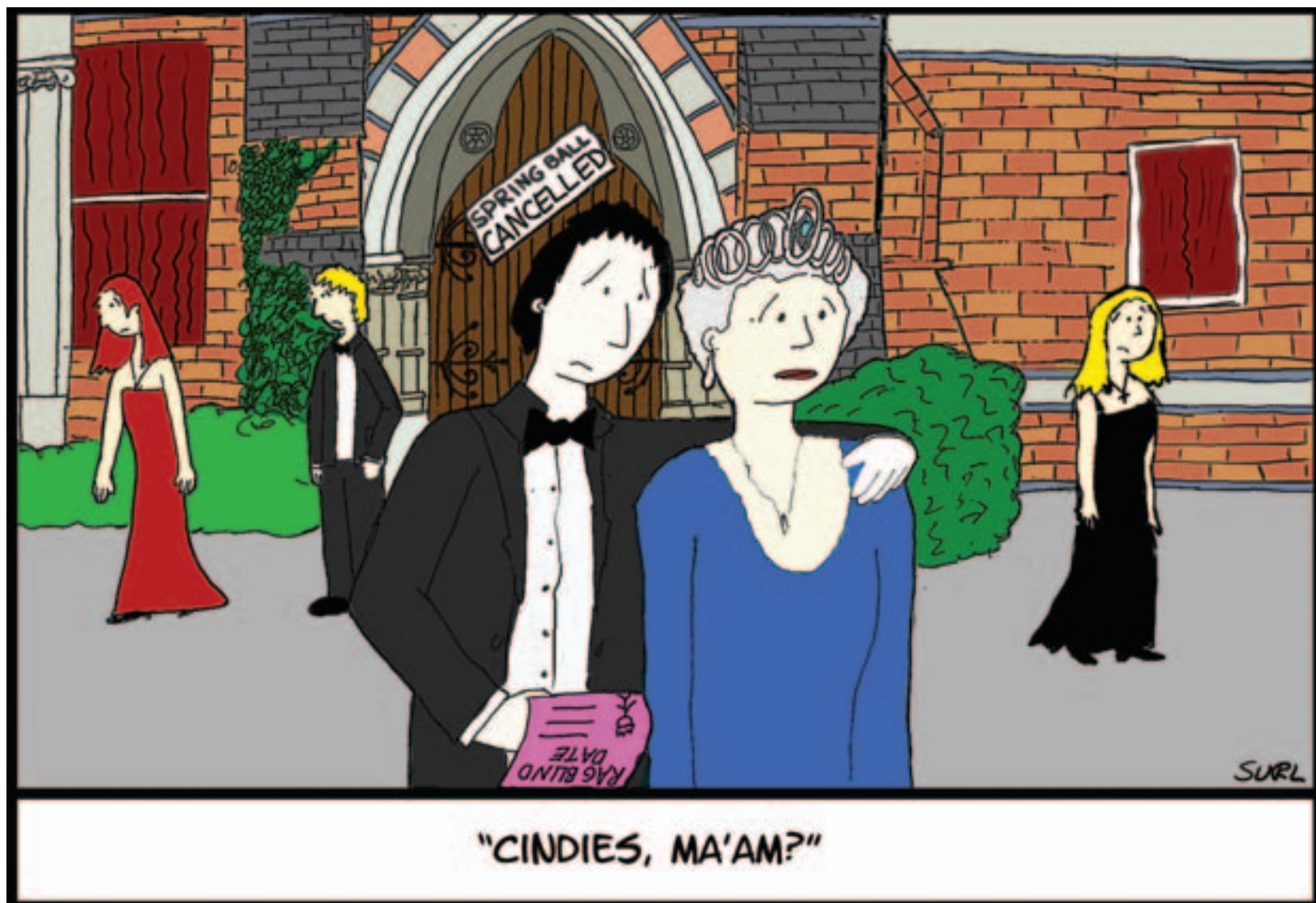
envy when there are such strong social and economic arguments in favour of wealth redistribution.

Job creation programmes, a minimum wage and redistribution through schemes such as tax credits can have an impact, as the current UK government has shown. Child poverty in this country is down more than a quarter on 1998 levels. A land value tax would create incentives for the efficient use of land and bring down house prices, assisting the poor to gain a foothold.

The strong have a duty to help the weak and the rich have a duty to help the poor. Individuals depend on society for the opportunity to become rich in the first place. We don't want a brain-drain, but we shouldn't glorify the super-rich and can encourage talented Cambridge graduates to consider fulfilling careers motivated not simply by the pursuit of wealth.

While retaining our concern for the poor, let's not blind ourselves to the massive increase in income at the top: it won't make us any happier as a society, any more than the Third World feels happier about a richer West. Let us remain concerned about a poverty-stricken world, but also a thoroughly unequal one.





# RAG's blind bluff

»We need to know where our charitable donations are going



JAMIE MUNK

I decided not to go on RAG blind date this year. Shunning the promise of scintillating conversation with a charming young lady, I instead stayed at home with a bottle of scotch, a box of cornflakes and a DVD boxset of *24*. Maybe not the most exciting of nights, but that wasn't the point: I was making a protest.

It's not that I don't like giving to charity, having no-strings-attached dates or being thrown out of Cindies. It's just that I don't like giving to RAG.

The idea of donating money to charity is that we support causes that we personally care about. We do this on a voluntary basis and out of a sense of compassion; giving is a conscious act of support.

This is where my idea of charity departs from RAG's philosophy. Paying to go on a blind date, or any other event organised by the group, provides no opportunity for a con-

scious act of giving. Yes, you are giving to charity, but only in the general, nebulous sense.

Nowhere on the blind date form on which you drew your Tequila Sunrise-swilling Aphrodite did it mention the specific charities to which your bribe will be donated. The recipient charity is decided by the RAG committee only at the end of the year, and even then, the pot is divided between a plethora of different recipients. This is somewhat problematic. Charity is not like a government tax, something you unthinkingly give to an agency which then disposes of your money as they (and not you) see fit.

So when a RAG rep sidled up to my table in the college bar offering a selection of luminous glowsticks the other week with the ever-appealing line "Go on, it's for charity", I began to realise just how much RAG's methods diverge from traditional concepts of charity. RAG (Raise and Give) is pretty much defined by its fundraising activities. It is a group of people who get together through a shared interest in making money for charity. But one wonders whether in RAG's eagerness to appeal to as big a demographic as possible, the broadness of their definition of charity ends up venerating the raising aspect above the giving. One does not give to "charity", but to particular charitable organisations. By defining itself around the act of fundraising and obscuring the recipients, RAG erodes the vital element of choice central to donating.

Okay, so maybe this is a little harsh. After all, if we take the

Christian definition of charity (still the predominant one) as an expression of compassion for one's neighbour, then RAG's principles are sound. Instead of frittering away their student loan on May Balls, cheesy chips and clearly avoidable library fines, students ought to, at least momentarily, stop seeing themselves as impoverished and malnourished and think about those less fortunate. By turning collecting into an inter-collegiate competition and integrating it into student lifestyle choices like drinking, dating, and in the case of the Miss Jesus style competitions, often humiliating cross-dressing, RAG makes a massive success of this altruism. Raising almost

**"Refusing to give to RAG does not indicate lack of charity, but rather strength of character"**

£12,000 out of one night's dating games is pretty impressive, however you look at it.

But this success does not overcome the main issue of RAG's 'untagged funds' that are only allocated following a vote by its central committee

and college representatives. Such an arrangement begs the question: Why should someone give away their money to RAG when they do not even know where it will end up? Refusing to give to RAG does not indicate lack of charity, but rather strength of character. It is much easier to put five pounds in a box, feel morally elevated, and get on with your day than it is to confront the bucket-waving collector and say "No thanks, I like to give to causes I believe in".

It is rather insulting to the intellect of the supposedly well-informed, well-educated individuals who inhabit our university to expect them to put money in a box without knowing where it's going.

Giving to charity is an ongoing process, not a one-off event. It expresses your concern for issues facing humanity on large and small scales. This is not to say that charity ought merely to be a personal act between donor and recipient. It is also a public act of protest and an opportunity to show solidarity with a common cause, be it saving whales or providing free buses for the elderly. And this public identification with a cause is critical. It brings the failings of societies and governments to their attention and forces us to deal with them.

There is no reason that RAG should not do this too: all it needs to do is choose its charities at the start, rather than the end of the year. Although specifying recipients might lead to a drop in funds raised, at least the donors will know where their money is going. And it might even convince me to go on the Blind Date.

## Aria From Athens

TOM FORD

Τὸ μὲν διατρίβειν ἔτος Ἀθήνησι ἴσως ἂν οὐκ ἀξιοσπουδάστον φαίνοιτο εἶναι· ἀλλὰ γὰρ ὁπώρα πόλιν θερμαίνει καὶ νοσέειν οἶμαι τῆς δυσοσμίας ἔνεκα τῆς τῶν ὁδῶν. καίπερ μὲν τὰ πρὸς τὴν πορείαν ἀναλώματα οὐκ ἦν ἐμοὶ πολλά, καταλύω δὲ ἥδιστα πρὸς τῇ ἀγορᾷ, δωμάτιον ἔχων ὃ τρέπεται πρὸς τὸν Ἥριδανόν ποταμόν. συνεισὶ δέ μοι καὶ αὐλητρίδες τίνες τῆς νυκτός. Ὁσημέραι δὲ γέροντι τίτιν ὁμιλῶ, Σωκράτης ὀνόμαστι· οὗτος γὰρ ἄλλοις διαλέγεται μειρακίοις ἐν τῇ ἀγορᾷ. ἐκείνος γ' εὐ λέγει καὶ ὅταν αὐτοῦ ἀκούω, μανθάνω Ἑλληνίζειν πολὺ ἄμεινον. καὶ γὰρ με ἐναγγχος προυκαλεῖτο εἰς συμπόσιον, ἀλλὰ — ἀπρεπέστερα γὰρ ἦν ἡ λαλία καὶ οὐκ προσήκεν τοῖς ἡμετέροις νόμοις — οὐκ ἂν αὐθις, εἰ καὶ με προκαλοῖτο, δεχοίμην. ἐπεὶ δ' οὖν μεθύων τις εἰσβάς νεανίσκος περὶ τὰ τοῦ Κλεισθέους ἔλεγε, οἶχομαι ἀπῑών. Ὁ δ' οἶνος ἐνταῦθα γεύεται τοῦ ἀντλου. οἱ δ' ἔνοικοι, ὥς ἐπὶ τὸ πολὺ, ἀμβλύτεροι τὴν διάνοιαν εἰσὶν· ἐνίοτε γὰρ ἐν τοῖς μεγάλοις Διονυσίοις συνελθόντες ἐκβῶσι κατὰ τῶν πολιτευομένων, ἀλλ' οὐχ ὁρμάται ἐπ' οὐδὲν οὐδεὶς ἐκῶν

**“ἐκείνος γ' εὐ λέγει καὶ ὅταν αὐτοῦ ἀκούω, μανθάνω Ἑλληνίζειν πολὺ ἄμεινον”**

τὸ γ' ἐφ' ἑαυτόν. οὐχ ἥκιστα εἰς Ἀκρόπολιν ἐν τῇ προσοδῷ ἀναβαίνειν ἀγαπῶσι, καὶ δητὰ σφάζειν βούν ἐν τῷ ἀκρῷ. φασὶ μὲν βούς εὐτελέστατους ἐνθάδε, ἐμοὶ δὲ δοκῶ ἔνοικους ᾗδεσθαι τὰ φθέγματα, ἃ χρονίζονται, ὅταν σφάζουσι σχολαίως. ἐὰν δὴπου φεύγῃ ὁ βούς, οἱ δὲ πολῖται διωκοῦσιν αὐτὸν ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα ἀμφὶ τὸν Παρθένωνα.

Προσῆλθον δὲ πρὸς πολλοὺς ἀστυγέιτους, ὅς ἐθαύμασα. ἀλλ' ἐν Σπάρτῃ ξεναγεῖσθαι οὐδ' ὁπωσισίου ἂν δύναίτο. θεωρήσα μὲντοι παίδιον τι τραγόμενον ἐν τῇ γαστέρι ὑπὸ ἀλώπεκος. Κορινθῶθι δ' εἰς τὸν τῆς Ἀφροδίτης νεῶν ἐβάδισα δούλας ἱεράς τῇ θεᾷ ἐπισκοπεῖν — ἃς ὕμιν φράσω ἐν ἐπιστολῇ ἄλλοτε.

My sincere thanks to Mr. A. J. Bowen for his considerable improvements to the first two paragraphs: any silliness that remains is entirely mine.



Varsity

The Cambridge Stage

The University’s prospectus proudly announces that “at Cambridge you can do almost anything at almost any level, from ‘having a go’ to semi-professional. University, with its clubs and societies, is about trying things you’ve never had the chance to do before.” The promise is certainly upheld. Cambridge students are well known for their involvement in everything from drama to politics, sport to journalism. Some appear, almost depressingly, to be astonishingly successful at doing pretty much all of them at once.

The University’s prospectus also boasts that many of its more famous societies “can provide a springboard for subsequent careers in theatre, music, politics, journalism and professional sport”. This is also substantiated. Yet prominence achieved can often in some part be traced back to the name and reputation of Cambridge as a University, no matter how talented the individuals involved may be, how spectacular their opening night was, or how well run their society is. Cambridge’s standing as one of the world’s top three universities ensures that the activities of its students often achieve far greater national and international coverage than those at other British universities.

In many ways this is enormously beneficial and it has been argued that the greater recognition of it’s role is perhaps deserved. Yet it would appear at times to be a dangerously double-edged sword. The interest generated by the Cambridge name can give an undue importance to activities within the University that would otherwise go unnoticed. The interest shown by The Times in a survey conducted by Downing into the service provided by its bedders is one example. The Daily Mail’s “University of Shamebridge” article on the St John’s Swans in 2001 is another.

The position of guest editor at the *Clareification* is not currently included in the University prospectus as constituting one the most prestigious, demanding or accomplished extra-curricular posts available. This week it has, however, eclipsed all others. The continuing problems at the Union, which have in the past repeatedly made national headlines, have this week gone largely unnoticed. Yet the Cambridge University name is not what has led to the *Clareification* back-page cartoon generating such contention. As the prior actions of *Gair Rhydd*, and *Y Llan* demonstrate, the prestige, connections and circulation of publications are irrelevant when it comes to issues of such international sensitivity as the Danish cartoon. It can only be hoped that next time the University arouses such interest it is for something more intelligent.

Varsity

The Independent Cambridge Student Newspaper since 1947

Varsity has been Cambridge’s independent student newspaper since 1947, and distributes 10,000 free copies to every Cambridge college and ARU weekly. Varsity is proud to be the holder of numerous student media awards and a vast number of alumni now working in international media. Varsity also publishes *BlueSci* magazine, *The Mays*, and an online edition at [www.varsity.co.uk](http://www.varsity.co.uk).

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letters@varsity.co.uk

unemployed and the economy of entire regions devastated? Blair has made mistakes, certainly, but surely nothing on the scale of destruction practised by Thatcher.

In 2002, Howard accused Blair of “trying to play Margaret Thatcher”, continuing: “I know Margaret Thatcher. This prime minister is no Margaret Thatcher”. Something for which we should all be grateful, perhaps. Yet Howard unwittingly touched on one of Blair’s major problems - the legacy of Thatcherism.

Indeed it is New Labour, rather than

the Conservatives, who have inherited most from Thatcher. Undoubtedly, history will not be kind to Blair. Let us hope that his successor will salvage the New Labour legacy and rescue the government from the history of Thatcherism.

Giles Smith  
Fitzwilliam College

Tell Varsity what’s on your mind - each week, the best letter will win a specially selected bottle of wine from our friends at Cambridge Wine Merchants, King’s Parade

Sir/Sir and Madam,

The organisers of the NatSci film festival your paper has been relentlessly plugging may have shot themselves in the foot: its name is almost identical to Chris Nieratko's sadly defunct column of porn reviews - 'skinema' - which was a staple of *Vice Magazine* long before it arrived in Cambo.

Coincidental!

Ned Hercock,  
Queens' College

Dear Sir and Madam,

Stuart Smith's article about foreign films might have been better if he'd defined what he meant by 'foreign films'. At the beginning it seems he means any film produced with money and personnel not from America but later he talks about *Apocalypto* and *Babel*, which suggests he means anything with subtitles. I say 'might have been better' but I think it's unlikely. Lamenting the supposed underdog status of non-American films is so old hat and familiar it could put amphetamine freaks to sleep. There's no reason to think that films produced by big American studios are worse than ones that aren't. The foreign language films that are well known outside the countries they originated from are the best of the crop. Anyone who caught the series of abysmal German films at last year's Cambridge Film Festival -

as I regret having done - learned that the hard way.

Jack Sommers  
Fitzwilliam College

Dear Sir,

I write on behalf of the current undergraduates of South Asian Studies regarding a review of the Faculty of Oriental Studies and the proposed discontinuation of the undergraduate South Asian Studies course within the Faculty.

I would like to express my thanks to the staff of the South Asian Studies Department, who have, throughout this difficult and uncertain period never failed to provide teaching of the highest standard and offer their continued help and support. The department epitomises what I believe Cambridge should be: a place where it is the love of learning that is important, not its economic viability.

It is a shame that the passion and commitment to students shown by our staff has not been shared by the members of the General Board.

Throughout the review, communication with the student body has been woeful. Undergraduates have been given almost no opportunity to voice concerns and there have been no attempts to explain what the outcomes of this process represents. The report refers to a mythical open meeting held sometime after term

last year: a meeting to which none of the current students was invited. In my view this does not constitute adequate consultation and is indicative of the contempt shown by the university to students who feel that they have simply been brushed aside by ‘the powers that be’.

The report also pledges to provide “necessary care and attention to the completion of the studies of current students”. This is already a hollow statement: undergraduates this year have found themselves with vastly curtailed options for papers, with more cuts set to follow before any of us complete our degrees. In the wake of potential cuts in other subjects like Portuguese, this surely makes a mockery of Cambridge’s supposed diversity and its belief that it is among the finest academic institutions in the world.

The whole process has created an atmosphere of uncertainty and ambiguity. Despite this however, it has not diminished my passion and commitment to the study of one of the most fascinating and relevant regions of the world.

Support for this cause would be much appreciated; there is an online petition available at:

<http://www.petitiononline.com/ssas2007/petition.html>

Representative students of  
South Asian Studies

EL NUMERO LEARNS OF A POTENTIAL BIOHAZARD...

...SO HE SCOURS THE LOCAL AREA, TAKING CARE OF EVERYTHING WINGED AND CAPED!

...INCLUDING HIS "I'M A BIT OF A WILD BIRD" BLIND DATE

(YET SHE STILL FRIENDS HIM THE NEXT DAY)

The Bishop of Ely

Greetings from the pulpit. This week, a sermon on ladylike deportment, which has been woefully lacking from the parish thid past week. We have been wringing our hands over reports of two supposedly self-regarding affiliates of the congregation and their less than angelic conduct.

First, we were gravely sobered last week to hear that a certain fashionista of the froideur school found herself far from composed when intoxication led to an unfortunately public loss of control. It is our clerical duty to stress euphemisms surrounding intoxication are not to be condoned. It seems that in this case, as with the “trolled” gentleman last term, the Union is the nexus of this sinful deportment. The female offender’s mictural self-soaking did little to dampen her night and despite being - and of course having - pissed, she and her friend proceeded to that doomed Friday night den of iniquity behind the round church. We venture that its punters were too “trolled” to notice the young lady’s unfortunate state.

Feminine composure also eluded a notorious thespian figure. Alas yes, the ADC, that bastion of nepotism and vanity, has once again spawned a whispered tale of scandal. Allegedly, its power-hungry prima donna was not so prima after her director-friend failed to give her his play’s prime role. The presumptuous diva had assumed the part was hers, flying into a rage at the snub. Rumour has it that the indignant madam promptly checked herself into a costly hotel to surmount the ignominy in expensive seclusion.



# FEATURES & ARTS



**ARTS:** rock 'n' roll  
radio - why the air  
waves are cool again

**INTERVIEW:** artist  
Andrew Tift on photo  
realism

**REVIEWS:** *The  
Seagull*

**FEATURES:** civil  
partnerships on  
Valentines Day

designed by Charlotte Tyson



# Civilised Affair

Features

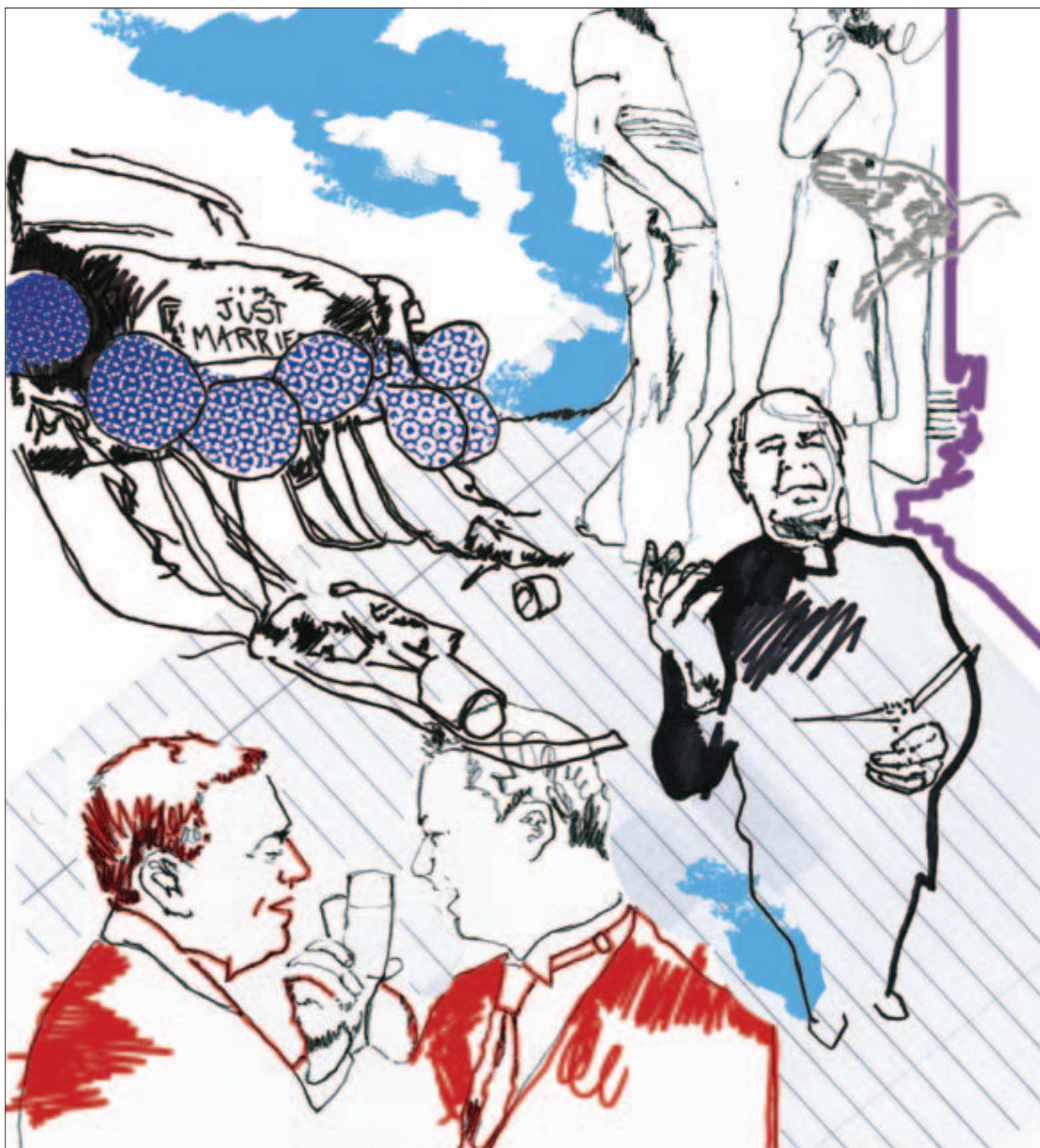


ILLUSTRATION BY JULES HUNT



# It is Valentine's Day again, and, this year, **Mary Bowers** met some of the students who want love to last longer than a chocolate heart

The black sky is clear and the tinkling of piano keys is only just audible above the rich voice of Nat King Cole, wafting over the Cam from the Granta. Valentine's Day looms upon us yet again, and all over our hallowed town couples huddle over ten pound set menus at Bella Pasta. Others sit slowly banging their heads against their pin boards, listening to old Take That albums, and wishing, only wishing, they had half the self-esteem of Bridget Jones.

'mere undergrads we might be, but there are some who profess to have found their soulmate'

Valentine's Day either represents the forced affection young couples distain yet are lured into by their own guilty reflection in the card shop window; or the (far more enjoyable in my opinion) mutual wallowing of contrived loneliness and retrospection.

But forgotten in our lovelorn town are those students who might dare to stand for all that Valentine's Day is there to commemorate. For, mere undergrads we might be, but there are some who, at our tender ages, profess to have found their soulmate.

Researching this article, surprisingly, was like hitting one's head against a wall. Facebook couples are typically 'married' to their college husbands or wives, or, oh so comically, same sex friends. A surprising number of 'engaged' couples wished to remain anonymous. "Our friends don't know about the intensity of our relationship" pleaded one email from a para-

noid fiance. Another two also wished to retain their privacy, despite their relative openness about it online. Was it, perhaps, that true love really dare not speak its name? Could it be true that even on February 14 any expression of love that was not moulded in plastic or shrouded in satin was, well, just too much like bragging?

Rob and Emily Darvill married while still students at the University. They met in their first year "at a MedSoc curry in the Mahal", and, after dating each other for a couple of years, Rob decided to propose. "I took Emily to a secret location, on a deserted meander of the river" he declares proudly, "with a waterfall behind us and rolling valleys in front of us. If it hadn't been for the tramp who was there when we arrived it would have been absolutely perfect. I dropped onto one knee and asked The Question. I had a dozen red roses delivered to Emily as we arrived back at my house." They married last summer and are in the fourth and fifth years, Emily as a medic at Addenbrooke's and Rob a Vet student. With his winning smile, and her demure and modest grin, Rob and Emily are exactly the type of couple aspiring Bridget Joneses will delight in spilling their Chardonnay over. But wait, there's more.

John Garrett and Hannah Wright are both third year students, who have been engaged since Valentine's Day two years ago, and they don't even hold the CICCUCard as an excuse. They met at interview, got together in their first term, and were engaged by their second. "Hannah sat beside me and complained about some guy playing music in her room." "I said, 'hey, can I come and study in your room?' There was no ulterior motive!" How did John eventually

propose? "It was Valentine's day. John had cooked dinner. We were just sitting around in his room and John said 'oh, but you'd be really scared if I proposed now'. I said 'no', and he got the foil from the champagne bottle and made a ring."

Of course, both are very capable of unselfconsciously spewing exactly the kind of phrase that propelled the phrase 'smug marrieds' into the OED. "The best thing about it is living with my best friend" grins Emily. "I can't imagine life without Hannah" enthuses John. Despite the support of their families and friends ("We only had one 'you are too young' - I appreciated her honesty," says Rob), Queens' College, for one, "did nil" to support their living arrangements. In undergraduate rooms the sexes cannot cohabit and whilst married sets do exist they are above the boathouse, over a mile away.

"I have always been of the view that it lacks a bit of balls and isn't very loving to say 'I love you, want to live with you and be with you forever but I am too scared to declare it publicly and have it formally approved on paper'" says Rob. Perhaps us students

'John took the foil from the champagne cork and made a ring'

feel our lives are formalised on paper enough; but whether staring into the eyes of your girlfriend over the SpagBol, or those of Pete Doherty from your college wall, spare a thought for those who have become objects of ire for their sheer impudent, true love. After all, marriage is for life, not just for Valentine's Day.

## Laura Kilbride

Romantic alternatives to paper aeroplanes



Ever wondered how to enact your own period drama in a lecture? No? Well, this Valentines day why not take the initiative. Step one is easy: simply rip a largish piece of paper out of your Tort or Faerie Queene. Satisfying? Then I'll proceed.

Fold the shorter edge of the page over an inch and smooth through, flipping the paper over. Now fold another one inch section upwards. Continue zigzagging until you run out of paper, secure at one end and let the elegant folds fall out: voila! Your very own Venetian/ Regency

'Using Badini's 1797 text, use your fan to signal to the other people in the room, pursuing those you find amorously appealing'

period fan. Use your fan to signal to the other people in the room with fans, pursuing those you find amorously appealing using Badini's 1797 "Original Fanology". Not in Waterstones? Then I'd better help. Having first mastered: Yes and No (letting the fan rest on the right or left cheek) wave the fan about in the air over your head until you have attracted your aficionado/a's attention. This done, initiate conversation: touching the tip of the fan with a finger (I wish to speak to you), a closed fan resting on the right eye (when can I see you?).

Let the intrigue simmer for about twenty minutes gesticulating towards the weather, lecturer, last night's bop until, strongly affected, your devotee offers a half-closed fan pressed to the lips (kiss me). You might observe, twirling the fan in the left hand that you are being watched, and luckily the fan will provide sufficient cover at this point-but wait! Who's that?-a contender in the third row! You find yourself quickly moving the fan back and forth between hands (I have seen you look at another), closing the fan quickly (I'm jealous), fanning manically with the left hand (don't you dare flirt with another man/woman). The fans lie limp on the desk for about twenty chapters, until the reprobate turns with a long slow look, drawing the fan across the eyes (I'm sorry).

Having had plenty of opportunity to assess the prowess/ waywardness of your paramour's fan-talent make a decision: placing your fan near your heart (I love you) and shutting a fully open fan slowly (I promise to marry you) or alternatively dropping the fan (we'll be friends). Then again, it might be best to make excuses: slowly fanning (I'm actually married) or even, vengefully, twirling the fan right handed and pointing at your neighbour (I love another). Make helpful fish movements with your fan to indicate there are plenty more men and women in the sea. Now who says romance is dead?

## Valentine's

### Is it only about Boy meets Girl?

The recognition of Civil Partnerships in 2005 may theoretically have heightened our tolerance levels towards homosexual relationships, but it doesn't take Jade Goody to prove to the nation that social attitudes in our nation's enclaves are very different from those in parliament. *Varsity* asks two former CUSU LGBT reps: is Valentine's different when you're gay?

Noel Cochrane said "Valentine's Day isn't different when you're gay. Perhaps its because I am completely happy with my sexuality; if I was repressed, it might be different. If you're going out with someone, you should give them something every day, not just on February 14. For a single person, it's a bit tongue-in-cheek; it gives you a chance to flirt with people. Gay people are, I think,

more creative in the way they treat their partners on Valentine's Day. In Cambridge, hardly anyone's gay, so things are quite against you. The market's in disequilibrium. Demand far outstrips supply."

James Trafford, meanwhile, has a contrary view. "Valentine's Day is very different for gay people. If two men went out for a meal in a restaurant on any other day except Valentine's Day, no one would think anything of it, but if you go on Valentine's Day people know you're going out. Everyone would know you're there and that you're different. If I were to go out with another boy it wouldn't be on Valentine's Day. Your choice is often limited to doing something a bit more intimate. Gay clubs normally have a massive thing, and it's more of a sex thing."

## ONLINE:

### → Love in a Cyber Climate:

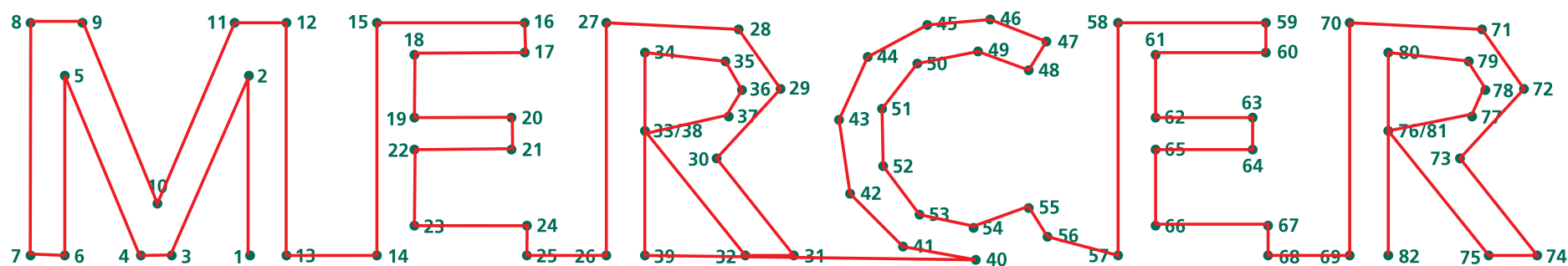
**Leonie Shanks on the death of literary romance**

### → Romance.ucam:

**The lowdown by Simone Milani**







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# Gene Pull

As species numbers plummet, **Rob Haworth** profiles **Edward Wilson**, father of modern ecology

In the 1950s, much as today, island hopping around Baja California was a pleasant way for young researchers to pass a field season. Whilst Robert MacArthur and Edward Wilson, of Princeton and Harvard respectively, were enjoying just such a jaunt, they did what most of us would not have done – count insects. In fact, they set about cataloguing the entire species of inventory of hundreds of these islands – no small task, one would imagine, but one that revolutionised population biology and led to a career such that Wilson now sits “at Darwin’s right hand” in the pantheon of evolutionary theorists.

The resultant *Theory of Island Biogeography* of 1963, is a slim, green volume containing formidable equations and only the sparsest of prose. There is one simple conclusion – that the number of species they found on a given island varied predictably with the size of that island: tiny islands have some, larger ones lots more and really big ones only a few more than that. There would, as the theory goes, be no difference between a continent-sized island and country-sized island in terms of species richness.

This effect can be demonstrated experimentally – in Brazil, patches of rainforest earmarked for clearance were bought up and divided into squares of different size, from just a few hectares up to a few hundred. The biodiversity within them was measured, the land around them cleared, and then they were left to evolve. The results were astonishing – small plots degraded within months, the formerly lush rainforest drying out and becoming open grassland with only a fraction of its former

diversity. The larger fragments were much less strongly affected, maintaining their species numbers in the manner predicted in the 1963 work.

Then at the age of forty, Robert MacArthur died and Wilson left behind the nascent science of biogeography, to return to his childhood passion – the natural history of ants. At that time, numerous rapid advances in evolutionary thought were being aggregated as modern ‘neo-Darwinian’ theory – amongst the most important, the principle that shared inheritance, as in siblings, gives rise to altruism. Look after your family – they share your genes, after all – but look out for your cousin less than your brother because the former is more genetically distant. This is

“Wilson has been vilified as ultra-reductionist and a triumphant individualist”

fundamental for its quantitative insights into how our behaviour as well as our body is influenced by genetics – and, precisely because it addresses questions of the brain, it is mired in controversy and accusations of genetic determinism.

On the back of this body of work, twelve years later Wilson published *Sociobiology: a new synthesis*. It is a scholarly and unashamedly academic text, and its importance outside myrmecology arises from the final chapters – how these genetic theories

of mind can be applied to mammals, primates and eventually humans, to predict social behaviour. Using genetics in a behavioural context makes it, in some respects, the forerunner to Dawkins’ *The Selfish Gene*, and these authors have in tandem been vilified as ultra-reductionist and triumphantly individualistic in outlook. In the political and social climate of 1970s Massachusetts, the whiff of racism threatened Wilson’s very academic future – and his most vociferous critic was from within Harvard itself: the late Stephen Jay Gould, Marxist and evolutionary theorist, denounced Sociobiology as a fascist treatise and comparable to eugenics.

Considering the murky associations of such a tag, it is a surprise to find that Wilson is now a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, formerly one of Time magazine’s most 25 influential people and a celebrated humanist. But as the planet faces unprecedented ecological upheaval, the rediscovery of Wilson’s early work is key to understanding how we will affect biodiversity in the years ahead. The *Theory of Island Biogeography* tells us that with each logging incursion and each destroyed hedgerow the rate of biodiversity loss goes ever upward. For it is a stark fact that as our planet’s natural environment is fragmented by onrushing humanity, former continents of ecology like the Amazon basin, or indeed British woodlands, become mere collections of islands, standing proud amidst a sea of humanity, palm oil, beef pasture or bypasses. And, as such, they are describable by those equations written in 1963, written when the whole issue was of merely academic importance.

## UNDER THE LABCOAT



**MicoTatlovic**

On olfaction in animals

Land mines left behind in various wars are estimated to kill 26 thousand people around the world and mine clearance is a hazardous and costly activity. However, rats specially trained to detect mines may soon be saving lives. The small size of rats means they don’t detonate the explosives if they step on them, and their excellent smell can be trained to easily detect mines where humans would have to spend hours to find the same, using probes or other hi-tech devices. The rats’ abilities to detect mines, following training in Africa, is proven; if they are shown to be operationally successful, we might be seeing many more in use around the world. Even the most despised animals can help us save lives.

The fear of war has been replaced by the fear of terror in the Western World. Another amazing animal with great olfactory abilities has the potential to make a portable and a highly sensitive explosive detection system – bees. Trained in the UK to detect minute traces of explosives, a few of them can then be stored and their behaviour monitored. Certain key flight patterns will alert the security personnel to the presence of explosives. Bees can provide us with a faster and more sensitive system of explosive detection, perfect for use in stadia, transportation systems and other places where screening of individuals is impossible.

Explosives are not the only thing we fear from terrorists, drinking water could potentially be targeted. How do you develop a fast and reliable system to detect that someone has been messing around with your water supplies? The answer, of course, is: use animals. Some American cities are already using sunfish to make sure water supplies are not under attack by chemical or biological agents. The fish are held in pools of drinking water used to supply citizens; computers detect any changes in fish’s health. These fish have already been used successfully to detect diesel spill, but they are not as reliable when it comes to detecting various germs. Their work is appreciated though, and at least they make sure people don’t drink chemically altered water.

When it comes to health, cancer is one of our most vicious enemies. Man’s best friend, the humble canine, has been shown earlier this year to be able to tell by olfaction alone whether people have cancer or not. By sniffing peoples’ breath, dogs can detect breast and lung cancer with high specificities and sensitivities. Further development of this method of cancer detection may lead to more certain and earlier diagnosis of various cancers in humans thereby allowing for faster and more efficient treatment.

Be it war, terrorism or disease, it is clear that animals’ extraordinary olfactory powers may help save human lives.

## Stem Cell Therapy Trials Offer “False Hope”

[www.bluesci.org](http://www.bluesci.org)

It is hoped by scientists that in many years time, currently incurable conditions, such as Motor Neurone Disease, may be treatable with stem cells – ‘master’ cells with the potential to turn into any type of cell in the body. Speaking to the Cambridge



University Scientific Society on 23 January, Professor McLaren said that finding such a cure within ten years was highly unlikely. She mentioned other conditions, such as Parkinson’s disease, as having the same difficulties.

Left: Professor McLaren, who spoke in Cambridge



# Original Pirate Material

*Varsity* Music celebrates the rebirth of radio with its pick of the airwaves. Lock down your aerial

Long before the internet attracted us all to the romance of the great unknown, radio ruled the waves. The airy wisps of its influence are embedded in British cultural consciousness. The Radio 4 theme, Steve Wright In The Afternoon, groaning at the Chris Moyles show over your cornflakes – radio may seem an old fashioned, even out-dated medium, associated with continuity and the same familiar voices. But, for a long time radio was also at the cutting edge of new music, represented most powerfully by the tradition of the late, great John Peel. The rise of the internet has strengthened this tradition, not undermined it. Online radio is providing listeners with access to stations all over the world and to an infinitely vaster array of new sounds. This increasing variety may seem in keeping with the modern obsession with choice and demand-driven media, and to a certain extent it is. Radio, however, is unlike the YouTube of this world where you simply type in the song you want and are provided with it immediately. The beauty of a radio show is that, once you've made the decision to tune in, you are guided by a personal touch. To download a band's songs, or look them up on MySpace, you have to have heard of them first; radio still offers that kick of being introduced to something you've never encountered. It plays a crucial role in providing a way through for non-mainstream, anti-commercial or overseas music; in the process offering the listener an opportunity to discover new and interesting sounds. At a time when new bands are getting pushed through faster than their pin badges can be made, radio can encourage us to look backwards as well as forwards. When all is transitory, go transitory. So this week, we present some of our contributors' choice transmissions.

## CBS.nu

Straight out of The Hague comes the Cybernetic Broadcasting System, devised by i-f of 'Space Invaders are Smoking Grass' fame. All day it blazes out unrelenting electronic sugar rushes and euro-vision winners from a dystopian future/unrealised past. Expect absurd italo-disco classics with badly sung English, sprawling electronic prog epics (although no avant-garde bullshit, unless it's a concept song about martians) and soundbites from b-movies with mention of humans replaced by ROBOTS ("he's not a human - HE'S A MACHINE!"). All classics and parallel dimension numbers ones that you'd be gagging to loathe if it was remotely popular, but the fact is no-one has the balls to make music like this anymore so it's completely fine to turn it up and pretend you're Phil Oakley.

## PANDORA

Pandora.com is trying to change the way we listen to music. As part of the Music Genome Project, where every song is categorised on 400 different aspects such as tonality, syncopation and vocal harmonies, Pandora uses this analysis to select recommendations for what you should listen to. Starting with one of your favourite songs or artists, Pandora builds up a database of similar songs and streams them as a radio station. You can hone in on your own sound by rating each song it plays to update its database, and you can have different 'stations' for every mood you're in. It's an impressive way to listen to new music you like, but the only catch is that copyright limits its use to America. Enter any valid zip code and you escape notice...

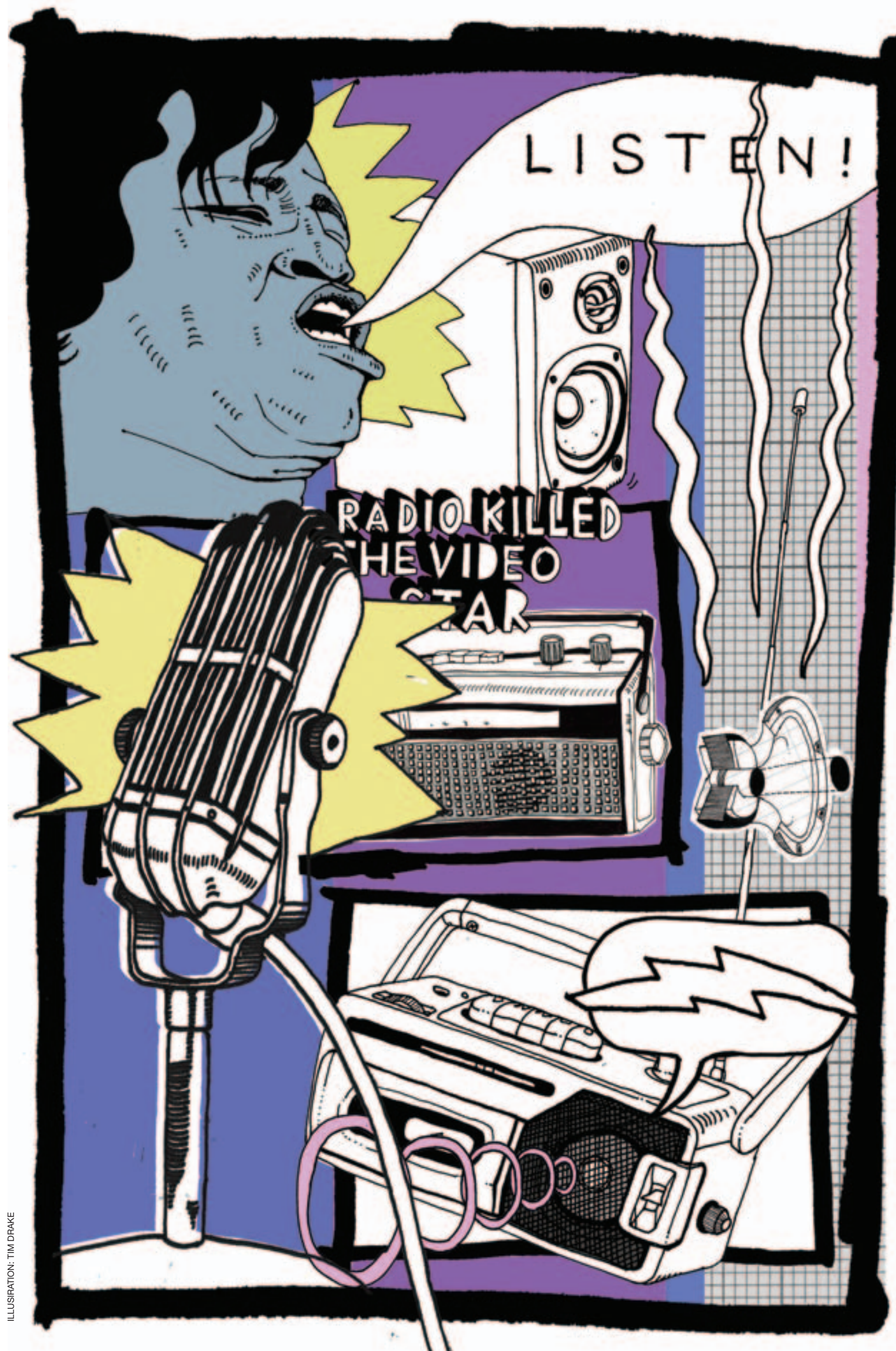


ILLUSTRATION: TIM DRAKE

## 1 UNSIGNED

New Artists; by the time you've heard of them, they've already toured the country and already boast a growing fanbase of which you are only one miniscule member. There seems to be no way to discover hidden gems and keep them to yourself, right? No longer. Every week, on Radio 1, the best local unsigned music from a variety of different shows - Rob Da Bank (Leftfield/folksie, Thurs), Huw Stephens (Indie/punkTues), Ras Kwame (dub-step/grime, Weds) and Fergie (underground dance, Fri) - is collated into a nifty little podcast. To give you an idea: in the last instalment, Stephens (probably the best-known out of the four) travelled to the Netherlands' Eurosonic Festival and presented tracks from bands like Zea, Persil and Da Wunderlust; and he has brought to light such London bands as Tinpots, The Duloks and Girls That Scratch.

## ARROW

Arrow is an extended acronym for All Rock and Roll Oldies, and it does just what it says on the tin. You'll find it nestled in airwaves at 675 AM; if you want classic rock, tune in and drop out. It's a Dutch station, with all the usual inter-song drivel from faces probably best suited to radio, but with one little perk: the vast majority of us on this island won't have a bloody clue what they're saying. Spending an hour in the company of Arrow's airwaves is like pretending to be your parents when they were your age. But kind of middle-aged at the same time. So that leaves those of us listening from behind the wheel to sit back, perhaps not relax (apparently there are laws against that in this country) and let those groovy vibes take us on a long strange trip through the best of the 60's and 70's. Holland's given us the sex and drugs, now here's their rock n' roll.

## LATE JUNCTION

As you might expect from the comfortingly eccentric Radio 3, Late Junction is less of a dive into the great unknown, more of a gentle sliding into a bath of obscurity. Late Junction provides its listeners with an eclectic and challenging schedule that is still somehow appropriate for bed time. Broadly speaking, the music broadcast falls into the categories of modern classical, electronic, folk, jazz, world and early; in reality, while the tracks are this diverse, there is still consistency in the form of the mellow atmosphere of the show, thanks to the laidback presenters and the strangely soothing quality of the music. Tracks range from dissonant madrigals by sixteenth century murderer Gesualdo de Venosa to the latest offering by harp-playing pixie Joanna Newsom to plenty of excellent stuff I've never heard of and never will again except on this show.

## WFMU.org

The holy grail of internet radio for all hipsters and indie kids. Completely freeform (no playlists!) and completely free of adverts this is just about the most perfect internet radio station you'll find, though it's from across the pond, it has its finger on the pulse of British music. Just switching on one morning in the summer of 2005 I heard The Long Blondes when they'd barely hit British radio and heard some rare Kenickie b-side or another (Michael Goodstein's anglophilia is a great introduction, in spite of his current absence) and a quick search for your favourite band should put you onto any other show that you'll probably find a tonne of other stuff you like from. The station is just a musical sprawl with almost nothing neglected, the website is something to immerse yourself in and the blog will point you to whatever is the talk of New York right now.

## DANDELION

Dandelionradio.com aims to fill the void in independent music left by John Peel's death. To their great credit they manage to follow in Peel's footsteps although fall short of filling his large, BBC-backed shoes. Dandelion continues, in an engaging and endearing fashion, Peel's true fan-ship conveyed by people who loved his unassuming style, such as Rachael Neiman co-founder of Cherryade records and winner of Radio 1 Huw Stephen's DIY label of the year award. Presenters create shows, which rotate throughout the month, based only upon the music they love; no playlists. This month they offer a special programme celebrating 10 years of important independent label Shifty Disco. Peel's legendary Festive Fifty baton was also handed to the station in December. Dandelion is an alternative to the mainstream working with it to showcase great music - just as Peel would have liked it.

## CHICKS & CARS

Started from an all-male laundry room over 40 years ago, the University of California's freeform radio station produces some weird and wonderful sounds to dig throughout the night, accessible at kdvs.org. The pick of the lot is undoubtedly Megan's Chicks & Cars, a collection of psych, garage punk and rare sixties folk. Her taste reigns supreme, and usually six or seven songs go by before she introduces the next set. No ads, no interviews, just one hot-rod Lincoln ride away from today. If you like the sound of retro radio, KCEA.org is a proper Swing Era station in the States that streams through iTunes as well as Windows. Besides the awesome 30s and 40s recordings, there's the occasional radio story from the period, although be warned - Wednesday night shows tend to revolve around local amateur sports features.



# Andrew

**Catherine Spencer** spends a day talking inspiration and reluctant photo-realism with the prize-winning painter and photographer

After speaking to Andrew Tift for a matter of minutes, it becomes clear that he is one of those rare people who would be happy to chat with absolutely anyone. Interested and interesting, once he starts talking there's no stopping him – moments into our conversation he suddenly pulls himself up short, asking in a concerned voice, "Are you getting all this? I know how I rattle through things, so just let me know if you need me to slow down." Then he's off again, talking with infectious ease and enthusiasm about his painting and the people he paints.

Fittingly, the piece which finally won him the National Portrait Prize in 2006 evolved from a good old natter. In his triptych of Kitty Godley, the daughter of Jacob Epstein and former wife of Lucian Freud, he "wanted to catch the experience of conversation with someone, the feeling of being face to face. In the middle image you can see her visibly thinking about what she's going to say next – I'm interested in how people receive and absorb information when talking."

His portraits are a little like his way of conversing: direct, to the point, pared of all pretensions. "I'm not really interested in exposing the soul of the sitter in my paintings. A lot of artists who paint portraits get swept up in this big romantic notion and wrap themselves up in semantics. I'm purely about the physical: I want to capture as objective a likeness as possible." This objectivity is achieved through the conversation which he so delights in. "What I enjoy most is going and spending time with people. When I was doing my MA I went around West Midland steel foundries and painted pictures of the steel workers. I got to know them really well, and fourteen years later I'm still in touch with them."

The steel workers aren't the only ones who have fallen for Tift's no-nonsense charm – when painting Tony Benn the two "built up a great rapport – he still phones me to see how I'm doing." These relationships are a testament to the sympathetic intimacy his portraits achieve. I ask him if anyone has ever refused his request to paint their portrait, but Tift is clearly an artist who inspires trust. "I've never had a problem with anybody, anybody at all. It's all about establishing confidence – you've just got to talk to people." At one point in our conversation, Tift describes himself as being

"almost like Parkinson", and it's not a bad comparison. After a brief phone call, it's easy to understand why people from car manufacturers in Japan, to Vietnam veterans and cowboys in New Mexico, have all opened their homes and themselves up to this man.

Together with conversation, "narrative objects" are a key element of Tift's portraiture. He is obsessed with "the things that people collect during their lifetime. They reflect and reinforce the individual's identity." His portraits bristle with personal odds and ends. "When I painted Tony Benn it was great – we

'His portraits are a little like his way of conversing: direct, to the point, pared of all pretensions'

did the portrait in his house in Notting Hill where he was surrounded by all his knickknacks. Everything in that picture has a story... on the mantelpiece is a pair of RAF wings that belonged to his brother who died in the war." It is this link with memory that makes objects so important for Tift. He describes how after the death of his grandparents he helped sort through their belongings: "we went through all the objects that they left behind, old combs and little things like that, and even though they'd gone the objects were still there, and

with them all the memories that went with them."

This attention to detail is reflected in the execution of his paintings. Although he hesitates to class himself as a photorealist, he acknowledges parallels with the style, and particularly with artists such as Chuck Close. The photographic quality of his style is strongest in the triptych of Kitty Godley. In painting her, Tift wanted to achieve the effect of "the black and white camerawork on old TV interview shows – when the camera goes right up to the face and scrutinizes the flesh." Despite this, Tift is a painter first and photographer second. "I use photography as a sketchbook. It can be incredibly useful, especially in the case of sitters such as Lord Woolf, who don't have much time on their hands." On being questioned as to the difference between paint and photography, he agrees that the time and concentration demanded by his precision painting fosters the intimacy with the sitter he desires to achieve. But it's also that paint is simply the medium for him. "People are always saying that painting is dead, but it's not going to go away so easily. It's such a natural, instinctive thing to do – think of cavemen and wall paintings."



Tift, for one, always has his mind bent on the next image he will paint. "When I'm walking around, I always carry a camera. I'm thinking visually all the time, when I'm watching TV, reading the newspaper, doing my shopping, whatever, I'm always looking for possible pictures." It takes a while for the initial ideas collected on these mental sprees to reach the canvas. He had "loads of ideas", many of which he knows he'll "never get round to doing." There's a plan to do a series of portraits at Glastonbury, and another of people in old people's homes. He is fascinated by old people "just think of all their memories and knowledge – everything's about to be lost... There's such a sense of frailty to them."

He stresses the importance of letting an idea "ferment for 4-5 months. Because painting is so time-consuming for me, I have to be really sure. I'm not what you could call a spontaneous artist – you could even say I was contrived. But that's just my way." The paintings themselves can take anything up to ten months, depending on size. Does he ever tire of portraits? The answer is swift: "No, never. Never, never, never. I can paint fifteen portraits and then start a landscape, but before I've even finished the landscape I want to go back to portraits again."

Tift has been able to support himself with his art ever since graduating. He refers to himself as "lucky", but it's difficult not to feel that his honesty, with his sitters and himself, has deservedly got him where he is today. "You've got to be true to yourself. Keep it real, as Noel Gallagher would say," he laughs. "I think students often feel obliged to do installation art or conceptual art, as if they've been told that that's where the best art comes from." Tift's career may have run parallel to the ups and downs of the Emins and Hirsts, but he has "always worked very much on my own." Artistic influences, briefly mentioned, are Van Eke and Holbein, and he speaks admiringly of Hockney and Freud. At the end of the day, however, Tift is all about "painting one person, their memories and thoughts floating around them." If he's almost Parkinson, his paintings are indeed "almost like interviews. That's when painting really gets interesting."



Left: Tift with his current portrait of Lord Woolf. Right and above, portraits from the triptych of Kitty Godley







VIEW FROM THE  
GROUNDINGS

**Tom  
Kingsley**  
Thrills and spills

Well shit me knickers. The view from here is pretty scary, let me tell you. These are exciting times. There's never, ever been a thriller at the ADC before. There really should have been. But, as if by magic, there's a terrifying comedy called *I'll Be Back Before MID-NIGHT* curdling blood next week in that very theatre.

Theatre is live. It's all about the experience. Interesting abstract readings of a play are very clever, but it'd be stupid if they got in the way of feeling something. So thrillers are perfect – they're rewardingly difficult to stage, and yet tremendously exciting to watch. I could talk about Freud and the uncanny and Aristotle and catharsis, but let's just say it's like a rollercoaster. You wouldn't actually want to be chased by a ghost, or strapped into a runaway mine train, but it's a lot of fun imagining you might be.

More than a horror film, a stage thriller is wonderful because it's actually happening live in front of you. It's like an elaborate magic trick. And you just watch and marvel at the way you laughed and screamed at the same time even though you were sitting in a crowded room with 200 other people. It's weird. In a good way.

For such a technical medium, there's got to be total complicity between actors and crew. Everyone's had to memorise all the sound tracks so they know exactly when to press the button or jump out from the trapdoor. It turns out that with horror, it's not that hard to get it right, but it's so easy to get it wrong.

Less is more. Music should be as simple as possible – keep it to two notes (think of the *Jaws* theme tune), or even just one (the *Psycho* theme). And the magic soundtrack formula turns out to be 25 seconds of scary music, 2.5 seconds of silence and then an unexpected BANG.

That's stuff we've learnt. But there's still more that we'll learn when it's finally on stage. Including the scary fact that if it goes wrong, we've no lofty purpose to hide behind. If it screws up, we're screwed. Good thing the play starts on Valentine's Day.

But oh look – with our cast of old Footlights hands we've only gone and made things harder for ourselves by adding loads of jokes. Getting the audience to scream one minute and laugh the next. Just don't get caught in between and start hiccuping. So you get two of the best emotions for the price of one, and we can have our cake and eat it. Come along and have some.

The Seagull  
ADC

★★★★



Masha's narcissistic gloom sets the tone for Chekov's *The Seagull* as she declares: "I am in mourning for my life". Almost immediately we plunge into Hamlet-esque contemplation as we are forced to consider how low life has to sink, how much suffering one heart can bear, before death becomes preferable. Osh Jones' production seizes this cerebral intensity within a few lines and sustains it impressively throughout, whilst retaining an element of humour with some excellent comic timing. Every aspect, from the

stark, beautifully slick set to the ethereal lighting has been meticulously considered, and the effect is one of a professionally realized show.

Jones unearths the script's central considerations without allowing them to consume the play; there is always a danger that *The Seagull* could come across as a dramatized sermon on the nature of creativity, yet this is skillfully avoided. Instead, the cost of creativity – the obsession, the compulsion – and the illusory idyll of celebrity are brought out in some superb perform-

ances. Several of the cast, particularly Bea Walker (Nina), inhabit their roles so completely that it genuinely seems they are no longer acting, merely speaking and moving with natural spontaneity.

Walker's breathy charm makes her utterly believable as the naïvely hopeful actress in the first half, whilst in the second half her tragically altered outlook is wrought with pathos. Vivienne Storry (Arkadina) commands the stage with an austere glamour and reveals the prismatic nature of Chekov's protagonists in her subtle lapses into compassion. She charges silence with her powerful gaze, although occasionally there are moments where the lack of movement and dialogue are hyperbolically extended. It takes courage to sustain silence on stage, but unfortunately the production occasionally enters into uncomfortable territory in this respect. As the struggling writer Konstantin (James Norton) cuts an aptly pathetic figure, hunching and moving erratically across the stage, yet Norton must be careful not to peak too soon in order that his mental decline is convincing.

The seagull motif is beautifully executed, mercurially shifting from a tantalizing vision of hope for Nina, to a symbol sympathetic with her suffering in the fourth act. Visually stunning throughout and cast to perfection, this production, if given time to settle, has the potential to be truly outstanding.

**Sarah Wilkinson**

Someone Who'll Watch Over Me  
Corpus Playroom

★★★★

Frank McGuinness's *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, penned in 1992, is truly relevant to today's political climate. Dealing with three hostages in a cell in Lebanon, the play revolves around their day to day existence and their battle for humanity against an indefinite enemy – a battle which is at the forefront of our minds with the ever rising death toll in Iraq.

In Sarah Blissett's production, the concepts of humanity, patriotism and love are critically examined and destroyed by each of the protagonists. Though all three actors hold their own, it is not until the entrance of Peter Baxter's vulnerable and naïve Michael that the play truly thrives. From this point on, the audience is moved, frightened and amused by turns, as McGuinness's work effectively avoids predictability: when a character wants to cry, he forces himself to laugh; when talking of escape each retreats further into his imaginary world.

Ironically, it is through these fantasies that the pathos of their impossible reality hits home. This small taste is extremely powerful, efficiently accentu-



ating the tragic elements of the script; though this show is at times very funny. Whether it's at Edward mimicking Michael's upper-class English accent or at anecdotes about Immac and chiffon scarves, laughter closely follows tears throughout this play.

That is not to say the show is perfect – at two hours without an interval it's hard to tell whether the actors or the audience are more drained by the end, and the

opening scene is awkward and unconvincing. This production however has poise and punch: when Mark Maughan, as Adam, sings *Amazing Grace*, the audience is fixed.

As political theatre, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* does not disappoint. By the end of the play, the title's initial promise of faith and confidence, has become a desperate plea for help.

**Elizabeth Davis**



## Notes on a Scandal

Dir: Richard Eyre

★★★★★

There were moments watching *Notes on a Scandal* that I wanted to leave the cinema. It isn't that it's bad. Rather, it's so good, so intense and so uncomfortable that it is almost too much. The last time I felt like this in a film was when I saw *Closer* which, not at all surprisingly, was also written by the supremely talented Patrick Marber. The two leads, Cate Blanchett and the British institution that is Dame Judi Dench, devour his tight script with an appetite which is enthralling to watch. Dench plays Barbara Covett, a wizened, bitter history teacher, whose loneliness and disappointment with life oozes from every pore. Her pupils loathe her, but she has the respect that is attributed to women who don't suffer fools gladly.

'You will leave the cinema feeling emotionally exhausted'

Enter Sheba Hart (Blanchett); upper-class, bohemian, beautiful, artistic; and the woman Barbara has been waiting for. They enter into a friendship, based superficially on Sheba's complete inability to control a class, but undercurrents of Barbara's obsession cast a feeling of doom over the film from the outset. The friend-



ship takes on a terrifying dynamic when Sheba begins an affair with a 15 year old pupil - when Barbara finds out, a twisted set of events ensue which destroys both women, and those around them, all of which Barbara 'notes' in her series of macabre diaries.

You will leave the cinema feeling emotionally and physically exhausted - the power of the two lead performances draws you inexorably in, and the audience collectively exhaled as the credits rolled. There is relief, mercifully, in the wry humour that Marber weaves so well into the script, and which Dench in particular delivers with a dry wit that had the audience laughing

out loud. Moreover, the caricatures of their fellow teachers are well observed and touching, and the supporting cast. Andrew Simpson as Sheba's adolescent lover (a career highlight, surely, before it's even begun?) is notable, if eclipsed by the *tour de force* of Blanchett and Dench. The only disappointment is Bill Nighy as Sheba's husband; he is, as always, simply Bill Nighy - receding hair-line, crumpled clothes and a latent sexiness without much depth. According to the film press, 2007 is the year of the female film star; and this challenging, superbly-acted film certainly endorses that.

**Rachael Boston**

## Red Stripe Compilation

Various Artists

★★

Considering that there are numerous bands vying for attention on this compilation, most of them sound strikingly similar, setting their sights between Greenday and The Darkness. The Red Stripe Compilation 2007 allegedly features the pick of the Cambridge music scene, picked out from the beery sponsors of Cambridge venue the Junction. Some, such as Kill the DJ and the brilliantly titled WolvesStoleMyChildhood, are very listenable, but to quote from Me Against the World's entry, "do we just lack

imagination"? The wailing punk-rock of disaffected youth, aspiring above all to alienation, is ironically commonplace. Was anyone going to attempt something different?

Thankfully, the answer was yes. Fugazirum made a welcome move into funk and soul, that was impossible to resist dancing to. Also, a female vocalist seemingly discourages her bandmates from just pounding the hell out of their guitars: Flamboyant Bella were what The Scissor Sisters would sound like if they were 16 years old

and out of tune, and Under the Streetlamp used piano to good effect, despite being a little frenetic. Kyla Bowen-la Grange was lovely, sighing an earnest, angsty, yet composed acoustic track with vocals much like The Indelicates, and The Hot Bang used an exciting range of instruments, although their entry sounded more like a jamming session than a completed song. It seems there is innovation and talent here, albeit often in embryonic form.

**Becky Varley-Winter**

## ONLINE:

➔ **Live Review - Jamie T**

➔ **Theatre - Henry Eliot on serious drama in musicals**



## Here and Now

Live music at Kettle's Yard

★★★

Given its image (nice tune becomes out-of-tune) 'new' music might not be your first port of call on a Sunday lunchtime, but, if Kettle's Yard's efforts are anything to go by, then maybe we should give it more of a chance. Showcasing recent works by some of Cambridge's student composers, Here and Now was as new as it gets, with a diversity wide selection of pieces on offer (from video to string quartet). Inevitably, some pieces worked better than others, but highlights included Cevanne Horrocks-Hopayian's opening

video *3 M'Lord*, a combination of still images and guitar, and the spellbinding musicianship of an improvising quartet of violin, viola, piano and trombone in *Maybe Lunchtime*. Unfortunately, many of the items suffered from the jam-packed clutter of the setting (I could read the string quartet's music from my seat). Still, what was left was enough to convince me that the next concert (new music for clarinet, coming on February 18) will be well worth a listen.

**Luke Rogers**

← RWD FFWD →



## Liz Bradshaw and Richard Braude

FFWD ➔

*Plan B, The Junction, 12/2, £8.50*

East London MC offers tales of gritty urban life over acoustic strummin'. Compellingly dark at times, this unfortunately won't be as funny as the Eminem comparisons suggest. If your 'mama' is also trapped in a relationship with a scrounging crackhead this might help you through, though.

*Bloc Party, The Corn Exchange, 13/2, £15*

Yes, it does seem like Bloc Party play here more often than John Reid's supposed to have screwed up at the Home Office, but this will actually be fun. The combination of alcohol consumption and the Corn Ex's dodgy acoustics mean you probably won't be able to make out Okereke's awkward and ill-judged/frankly embarrassing lyrics on A Weekend in the City, so you can just dance. And let's face it, they're going to play 'Banquet' and 'Helicopter', and it's probably worth it just for that.

*Indigo Girls, The Junction, 14/2, £20*

Listenable folk-rock duo, somehow appropriate for Valentine's Day, the official holiday of pretending you're in *The OC*. As long as there are some fairy lights and perhaps a white tent then I'm sure those twangling guitars and over complex yet home spun lyrics will all make sense.

← RWD

*Dan Sartain The Loft, 1/2*

Mr Sartain possesses the slickest of hair and the roughest of riffs. An American pupil of the Wild Billy Childish school, his authentic Alabama accent, sometimes exaggerated in mockery, may not inspire thoughts of the more sophisticated rockers, but his lyrics had a gorgeous precision. Sartain, looking somewhat lost in just t-shirt and jeans next to a bassist whose beard made him looks like either a Hell's Angel or an Orthodox priest, truly is the Tarantino of music - an awkward underdog with a natural gift for cool. A welcome surprise was the thumpingly danceable duo of Two Tears, like the White Stripes but with the sexes swapped.

*DUPLO, Kambar, 1/2*

Round two from the indie-gypsy-electro-rave that is rapidly accumulating stature in the otherwise-barren nightlife of Cambridge students averse to Cindies' meat-market. The dancefloor, after a quiet start, was rammed and stayed sweatily so from eleven onwards, as fifties rock'n'roll jostled with harsh electro and Balkan folk. Laughing gas and glow sticks were order of the night and, fuck me, was it a good one.



PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM

**Children of Men**  
Arts Picturehouse  
Fri 9 - Sat 10 Feb, 23.15  
So the title isn't exactly inspiring, and Clive Owen has a huge face. But Cuarón's stunning adaptation of P.D. James' novel convincingly Beirutises London, plunging the viewer into a pitiless, pessimistic vision of a future quasi-totalitarian Britain - Wyndham Lewis-meets Orwell-meets Full Metal Jacket. Despite a sometimes cumbersome script, this is an ambitious, epic film - an intelligent, pummeling blockbuster.

All films showing at Arts Picturehouse unless stated otherwise.. Also not all films being shown are listed.

THEATRE



**The Seagull**  
ADC, Tue 6 Feb - Sat 10 Feb  
Last chance to book for one of this term's best productions. You might have to stab someone to get a place. But that's okay, the ADC's seats are red

MUSIC

**Will Oldham (+ Scout Niblett)**  
The Junction  
Tuesday February 13th, 20.30, £17.50  
Don't weep over Bloc Party being sold out. Weep instead, over the beautiful whiskey-soaked vocals and death-obsessed lyrical matter of Will Oldham, a.k.a Bonnie 'Prince' Billy, the alt. folk legend. Touring for his latest LP *The Letting Go*, the Bonnie 'Prince' will be filling the Junction with his mournful eccentricities, and single-handedly making up for the mediocrity of the rest of Cambridge's live music calendar.

OTHER



**Henri Gaudier-Brzeska**  
Kettle's Yard, Tuesdays - Sundays, 11.30-17.00, free  
Just go alright? Nothing else in your life is of particular worth. It'll only cut down on the time you normally spend pretending to read literary theory in Clowns.

[www.kettlesyard.co.uk](http://www.kettlesyard.co.uk) for more.

GOING OUT

**Club Goo with Foals + The Whip + Maps + Artrocker DJs**  
Junction, 21.00-03.00 £7  
While students in other universities travel miles to see bands they've never heard of, here we keel over and vomit when we get past Parker's Piece. This selection of math-punk, New Order-esque new-wave and post-rock provides as good a justification to move outside Cambridge's heavily defended Green Zone as any. Followed by Artrocker and Club Goo DJs playing a mix of indie/electro, this Club Goo night should be enough to pull you away from the infernal flames of your College ents

<b>FRI</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Munich (Caius)</b> 20.30 <b>Children of Men</b> 23.15 <b>Climates</b> 16.30, 21.00 <b>Last King of Scotland</b> 16.40 <b>For Your Consideration</b> 19.00, 21.10, 23.20	<b>Someone Who'll Watch Over Me</b> Corpus Playroom, 19.00 <b>The Seagull</b> ADC, 19.45 <b>The Mikado</b> Arts Theatre, 19.45 <b>Post-Mortem</b> ADC, 23.00	<b>The Foals + The Whip + Maps</b> The Junction, 21.00-03.00 £7 <b>Modern Jazz - Django Bates &amp; the Soren Norbo Trio</b> Kettle's Yard, 19.00, £12 'fine improvisation'. don't pretend you know enough jazz to scoff.	<b>Emma Pol Soc &amp; Cam Student Lib Dems: Jo Swinson MP</b> Emma, 13.30. youngest MP in the House of Commons, Lib Dem Shadow Sec of State for Scotland gives talk. Cheese at Queen's after mate yeah? YEAH?	<b>Shut Up and Dance</b> Union, 21.00-01.00, £3 <b>Generator (Indie)</b> Kambar, 21.00-03.00, £3 <b>Rodeo</b> queen's, 21.00-01.00, £3 cheese, cowboys, suffering
<b>SAT</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Children of Men</b> 23.15 <b>Climates</b> 16.30, 21.00 <b>Last King of Scotland</b> 16.40 <b>For Your Consideration</b> 19.00, 21.10, 23.20 <b>Notes on a Scandal</b> 19.10, 21.20	<b>Someone Who'll Watch Over Me</b> Corpus Playroom, 19.00 <b>The Seagull</b> ADC, 19.45 <b>The Mikado</b> Arts Theatre, 19.45 <b>Post-Mortem</b> ADC, 23.00	<b>Ether State + Now He Sleeps, Now He Sings + The Hot Bang</b> The Junction Shed, 19.30, £5 hot bang for your buck	<b>Cambridge and the World of Science</b> Guildhall, 11.00, £4 This exhibition will explore Cambridge's scientific heritage. No prior knowledge of science is required. Just a long, long attention span	<b>Hed Kandi</b> Fez, 21.00-03.00, £8/£10 funky house, broken men <b>Insomnia</b> Queen's, 21.00-01.00, £3 house and dance
<b>SUN</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Prestige (John's)</b> 19.00, 22.00 <b>A Very Long Engagement (Robinson)</b> 20.00 <b>The History Boys (Christ's)</b> 20.00, 22.30 <b>Venus</b> 18.45 <b>Notes on a Scandal</b> 19.10, 21.20		<b>Patrick Wolf</b> The Junction, SOLD OUT <b>Last Gang in Town: Pirate Radio DJs</b> Punk/Ska/Psychobilly, 19.30-23.00, free free free	<b>No Sweat Action Week: Open Meeting</b> Bun Shop, 20.00, free No Sweat aims to secure a living wage, safe working conditions and independent trade unions for workers worldwide. This an open planning meeting - hoist your flag	<b>The Sunday Service</b> Club Twenty-Two 22.00-01.00, £3 the vietnam war
<b>MON</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Black Book</b> 16.20 <b>Climates</b> 16.30, 21.00 <b>Last King of Scotland</b> 16.40 <b>For Your Consideration</b> 19.00, 21.10 <b>Notes on a Scandal</b> 19.10, 21.20 <b>Venus</b> 18.45	you could prepare for Will Oldham by listening to his entire oeuvre of death folk, alone in a dark room. that'll beat your mid-term blues	<b>Blood Red Shoes</b> Portland Arms, £5 proficient boy/girl call response heavy punk-pop <b>Plan B</b> The Junction, £8.50 come on, he's awful isn't he	<b>Biological Society Talks: Sir Greg Winter</b> Pharmacology Lecture Theatre, 20.00. talking about antibodies to startup companies and therapeutics. like the 'plastics' line in <i>The Graduate</i> extended over an hour	<b>Fat Poppadaddys</b> Fez, 21.00 - 03.00, £4 pleasingly inoffensive, like a three-legged Fabian Society pub crawl
<b>TUE</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Black Book</b> 16.20 <b>Climates</b> 16.30, 21.00 <b>Last King of Scotland</b> 16.40 <b>For Your Consideration</b> 19.00, 21.10 <b>Notes on a Scandal</b> 19.10, 21.20 <b>Venus</b> 18.45	<b>The Collector</b> ADC, 19.00 <b>Oklahoma!</b> Cam Arts Theatre, 19.45 <b>Hang on Mr. Bugson</b> ADC, 19.45 <b>A Number</b> Corpus Playroom, 21.30 <b>Footlights Smoker</b> ADC, 23.00	<b>Will Oldham + Scout Niblett</b> The Junction, £17.50 GO GO GO GO GO GO GO. go <b>Bloc Party</b> Corn Exchange SOLD OUT	<b>'WE the Moderns' - Gaudier</b> Kettle's Yard, Tuesdays - Sundays, 11.30-17.00, free despite the tragic brevity of his career, Gaudier contributed greatly to the development of modern sculpture. bring theory	<b>Funk Da Bar</b> Emma, 21.00-12.00, £3 <b>Precious* LBGt Night</b> club 22, 22.00-02.00, £3 <b>Ebonics</b> Fez, 22.00-03.30, £2 <b>Kinki</b> Ballare, 21.00-02.00, £3
<b>WED</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Black Book</b> 16.20 <b>Climates</b> 16.30, 21.00 <b>Last King of Scotland</b> 16.40 <b>For Your Consideration</b> 19.00, 21.10 <b>Notes on a Scandal</b> 19.10, 21.20 <b>Venus</b> 18.45	<b>The Collector</b> ADC, 19.00 <b>No Exit</b> Trinity Hall, 19.30 <b>Hang on Mr. Bugson</b> ADC, 19.45 <b>A Number</b> Corpus Playroom, 21.30 <b>Footlights Smoker</b> ADC, 23.00 <b>I'll Be Back Before Midnight!</b> ADC, 22.30	<b>Goose</b> The Soul Tree, £5.50 <b>Indigo Girls</b> The Junction, £20 and at a fraction of this price, you could buy several robots and train them to play identical coffee table anthems	<b>New Fitz Exhibition: No Straight Lines 1963-2007</b> Fitzwilliam Museum, free exhibition of 20 of distinguished contemporary artist Maggi Hambling's powerful drawings	<b>Rumboogie</b> is killing Cambridge 21.00-02.00, £3
<b>THU</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Boys Don't Cry (John's)</b> 21.00 <b>Romeo &amp; Juliet (Robinson)</b> 21.00 <b>For Your Consideration</b> 19.00, 21.10 <b>Notes on a Scandal</b> 19.10, 21.20 <b>Venus</b> 18.45	<b>The Collector</b> ADC, 19.00 <b>No Exit</b> Trinity Hall, 19.30 <b>Hang on Mr. Bugson</b> ADC, 19.45 <b>A Number</b> Corpus Playroom, 21.30 <b>Footlights Smoker</b> ADC, 23.00 <b>I'll Be Back Before Midnight!</b> ADC, 22.30		<b>Treasures of Today</b> Fitzwilliam Museum, free when you end up flagging up Goldsmith's collections of silver from the past two decades you know things are drawing to a close	<b>Urbanite</b> Club Twenty-Two, 21.00-02.30, £3

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ASSEMBLE >> Guildhall, 13.00  
MARCH>> Through town, past John's & Trinity  
RALLY>> Senate House Lawn, national & local speakers, 13.30



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# WAY WE DANCE

## GET YOURSELF TOGETHER SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE

### GET UR FREAK ON

Last month, All You Can Eat, “this decade’s equivalent of Taboo” according to i-D magazine, celebrated its first birthday. The aesthetic of the impossibly fashionable club scene that has been aptly coined ‘New Rave’ seems poised to enter the mainstream: *Grazia* highlighted it as a top trend for 2007 in December and the *Sunday Times*’ Style magazine covered it in November. The spring 2007 collections seemed to be nodding their heads towards all things futuristic, neon and metallic. Cassette Playa featured in the MAN - Topman Design show and the iconic House of Holland T-shirts reading ‘Uhu Gareth Pugh’ and ‘Get your freak on Giles Deacon’ have become hugely oversubscribed. Yet although it seems as if ‘New Rave’ is on the brink of high street takeover, the word on the scene suggests otherwise. *Super Super*, the ‘in-house publication’ of the movement has sunk to sending out messages on mspace asking “you and your crew” to

dress up in “crazy wigs, crazy ski jackets, spazzy specs” (particularly without lenses). Young designers such as Henry Holland, rumour has it, are thinking of crossing the pond to New York where ‘new rave’ is still embryonic, and just a cursory glance over

‘Styles are moving away from the Cassette Playa uniform of neon and day-glo’

photos from nights such as BoomBox shows that styles are moving away from the Cassette Playa uniform of neon and day-glo. The high street is meanwhile ready to be hit by Christopher Kane’s neon offerings in Topshop. The point is that the NME’s keen desire to name and thereby own the developing movement has clouded



quite what it is. The clubs of east London do not signal the return of rave culture, per se, but the re-emergence of flamboyant and self-consciously ridiculous clubbing on a level not seen since the late 80s, developing out of older nights like Kashpoint. These clubs embrace the world of art and fashion, are frequented by the likes of Gareth Pugh, Marios Schwab and Naomi Campbell, and their regulars are most likely to be seen at last week’s Giles Deacon Party or Pop Magazine’s Christmas celebrations. This is a world that is not declining by any means- during the course of this year it spawned the establishment of clubs like Durr or Hot Boy Dancing Spot. In reality, it is moving away from the shackles of what the press has decided defines it. Dominated as the ‘new rave’ scene is by artistic and fashionable gay men, the clothes they wear is always bound to change at least a season or two before the lumbering giants of international fashion.

### RIP WHAT YOU SEW



#### On the half-hearted

“That’s the dress of the season,” I said over the kitchen table, pointing at a black satin Stella McCartney shift dress. “Really?” asked my housemate, as she stopped undressing her new issue of *Vogue*. “It ticks every box for spring,” I announced, keen to show that I was getting a grip on this season’s elusive trends. “It’s got dramatic volume in those puffy  $\frac{3}{4}$  length sleeves; it’s ever so short, which is a key factor for eveningwear; it’s got a body con thing going with its more clingy form – and you know how tricky it is to hit the volume trend and the body con one!” But my housemate did not seem swayed, so I added, “it’s even gem-coloured”. Puzzled, my housemate lowered her head to the glossy paper. “It’s black.” “Look closer,” I cajoled, tilting her head closer to the catwalk image, “there’s purple in that black – gem-like purple, so Prada wasn’t the only one with gem-like silks. This is a key trend.” My housemate, way past bored, replied “nye.”

As admirably consistent as McCartney is about her animal rights views, her collections are often done by halves, and yet not half-hearted. McCartney, unlike McQueen, will take a concept and downplay it, until it is completely wearable. My housemate probably wasn’t as impressed by the dress as she was by a fresh-flower-stuffed McQueen ballgown. McCartney’s was classic, pretty, modern, and timeless – a series of hackneyed fashion superlatives.

Last May Week I asked someone out on a date – the following term. Realising it was a stupid idea to make a date four months in advance, I suggested meeting sooner. Then I received a Facebook message, “Meeting for a drink would be nice, but maybe we can leave it ‘til next term?” We never did meet up. I was too embarrassed for being keen, and the person turned out to be involved in a game of tonsil-hockey with someone else – the human equivalent of a tame McCartney LBD – beautiful and safe. That made me feel like a stuffed floral ball gown – in a bad way. For Valentine’s Day we all dream of grand romantic gestures, but sometimes, especially where drastic fashion trends are concerned, playing it safe and nonchalant to be stylish. It’s fashion, and not style’s domain to be exciting, risky, passionate, and spontaneous – and, as ever, it’s hard to wear the thread that is both fashionable and stylish.

**Ben Ohad-Seidler**



THE  
RESTAURANT  
COLUMN

**Luke Thorne**  
Fitzbillies

★★★★

Something different in Cambridge? Pah, Cindies every Wednesday is fine. But, if you *are* looking for a restaurant that seems unique to Cambridge, where do you start? After deciding against the carnage of The Mahal fairly speedily, next on the list was Fitzbillies.

Just beyond King's Parade, it has a long standing reputation as a bakery; even my dad remembers it from forty years ago. The restaurant is a more recent venture but shares similar acclaim. Upon entering, one is greeted not by a smiley waitress, but by a sign asking you to switch off your mobile. Although ignored by most, it sets the tone for a more intimate occasion than might be expected in the bustle of the day-to-day eatery. The interior is surprisingly small, yet doesn't feel crowded; we were able to take the second table at 7.30 pm. But watch out for the draught by the door.

The menu isn't extensive (there are only four starters and six mains) but it covers sufficient bases to provide a good range of options. The soup of the day, tomato and basil, was homely, the tomato's sweetness being delicately overridden by the basil and presented alongside a welcome and suitably soggy cut of bread. The scallops were succulent and more substantial than many shellfish courses, nicely set off by the crunch of a green salad, but without obscuring any of the flavour.

The main course options included pasta, but this appeared to be a token option for picky eaters, as the rest of the menu was dominated by traditional meat dishes. The duck was extremely well cooked. It was delightfully tender with a slight hint of lingering pink left in it; its full flavour brought out and complemented by the orange salad accompaniment. Whilst size clearly wasn't one of the chef's priorities, this didn't matter at all, the quality was certainly high enough to warrant the price. The wine menu was extensive and the Cabernet Shiraz was certainly a step up from usual house standards. The desert menu shows the baker's influence - the Chelsea bun ice cream, trading on the reknown of being the Fitzbillies' speciality, is clearly a home creation and all the better for it.

Straight out: it's good. The portions aren't huge, but the standard makes up for that. The service isn't the fastest either, but it seems to fit in with the atmosphere. It's not fast food, but it's good food cooked well. It's a place to come and spend an evening with good company, enjoying some of the best traditional cooking Cambridge has to offer. But with main courses from £16 to £18, it won't ever be an everyday option.

# Your Heart's Desire

»George Grist forgets chocolates and oysters this Valentine's, and gets straight to the heart of the matter

So here's the deal: buy a heart, cook it so it doesn't look like a heart any more, feed it to people on a RAG blind date without telling them what it is and ask them how it tastes. Then, tell them what it actually was. Simple, almost satanically cruel, but what better way to celebrate the run up to Valentine's Day? None of this poncy, romantic guff; no meals, no flowers, no chocolates - just a boiled lamb's heart cooked up with a bit of onion and tomato.

It's harder than you might think to get a heart in Cambridge, but our search came to an end at Andrews Butchers, just down the road from the Grafton Centre. Mr Andrews, a cheery soul, seemed understanding of our plight, adding "These ones are pretty large, you know" as he pointed at a row of sizeable, gruesome-looking lumps at the far side of his counter. "Brave people," he added as we left the shop, "if you're going to eat that." Little did he know that we had no intention of eating it ourselves, not even in some kind of misguided spirit of good sportsmanship. On to Sainsbury's, and, hardly spurred on to create anything palatable (that'd take away half the fun), we picked up some onions, some tins of tomatoes, and an Oxo cube for that nice meaty finish.

Raw heart is horrible. It smells a bit fishy and, aside from all the tubes and sinew sticking out of it, it seeps blood at every opportunity. Of course, we didn't have the slightest idea of how to cook it, so we boiled it whole for a little while. The water turned a shade of green, and the aroma of dead animal wafted about the kitchen. We made the schoolboy error of popping away to check our e-mails

"It'd be a great story to say that the heart stew was in fact delicious - offally good, if you will. But frankly, it wasn't"

while we left it to cook, and, returning into the kitchen, a foaming mixture of blood and hot water had escaped the saucepan and was making its wicked way across the floor; it was one of those moments which really makes you wonder why you bothered cooking a heart in the first place. After a bit of a mop-up, we chopped up the heart into bitesize chunks and chucked it in a frying pan with the vegetables and that all-important Oxo cube, and left the mixture to cook.

It'd be a great story to say that the



heart stew was in fact delicious - offally good, if you will. But frankly, it wasn't - it had the look of a bad curry and the smell of dog food, but it wasn't all that bad. We could at least persuade people to give it a go, even if they were going to chuck it back up again. Taking it down to the bar, there were a few takers, and the initial reaction was pretty mixed; the unanimous opinion of the night was that lamb heart

"If a stranger came up to me offering a 'mystery meat casserole', I'd be none too keen; thankfully, others were more inclined to give it a go"

is chewy, which was no real surprise - it's a pretty tough piece of meat. One poor volunteer started by saying "that's not too bad actually", before moving on to "tastes a little bit like liver" and perhaps inevitably spitting it out in the bin, with the damning phrase "I've changed my mind - that's rank". Surprisingly, only three people in the evening had to follow his lead of spitting out their chunk, which I'd say is a resounding success.

We moved on to the Cindies queue, and it took surprisingly little persuasion to get some of the better-natured folk standing there to have a little taste. If a stranger came up to me offering a "mystery meat casserole", I'd be none too keen; thankfully, others were more inclined to give it a go. When asked what they thought it tasted like, there was a varied response - liver was probably the winner of the night, but kidney and gizzards also got a look in.

One brave blind dater, when asked by his female companion why on earth he would taste the concoction, said that he was hungry because he hadn't eaten in ages, and could probably eat a whole plateful.

As for its effect, well, we're not able to vouch for its effectiveness as an aphrodisiac, but at least it could have provided much-needed filler for awkward silences. And while this particularly hearty stew probably won't be causing any shockwaves in the day-to-day world of Cambridge food, it's worth bearing in mind that offal is a cheap, healthy alternative to the standard steaks and chicken breasts, and could probably be the focus of quite a tasty dish in slightly more capable hands than ours.



» Or if you'd prefer not to do the washing up, *Varsity* has trawled the city's restaurants to find out what this year's lovebirds have in store

Valentine's Day is, was and always will be an absolute rip-off. It's one of the only nights in the year when restaurants can hike their prices right up and get away with it, safe in the knowledge that hoardes of hungry, inamorous people will be on the lookout to impress their other half. There's no point in arguing, and short of feeding your partner a cooked lamb's heart (ahem...), you may as well just take out your wallet and sign over your overdraft to whichever place you tempts you most. To help you part with your money, we've gathered together a selection of special Valentine's Day restaurant deals in one place.

A solid option would be Café Rouge, the popular French bistro chain. They're doing a three course meal for £23.95 per person, with such starters as salmon rillettes and duck terrine, and beef, salmon and chicken options for main course. To finish, they are offering the usual tarty patisserie-type fayre that you'd expect, including a meringue, white chocolate and raspberry roulade. It's not a bad menu for a reasonable price, and is definitely worth considering if the food's to your tastes. Brown's have thoughtfully introduced a £15 two-course deal for cash-strapped (or stingy) lovebirds, but it's only available before 6 o' clock - and *Varsity* suggests that a Valentine's Day lunch is only to be attempted by the super-smooth amongst us. For the more conventional evening diner, they've pulled out a standard menu, along with promised spe-

cials on the night - the highlights are probably the braised lamb shank main and the traditional strawberries and cream favourite for desert; this three course menu is priced at £24.95 per person.

Fitzbillies really trumps the competition for price, but you can bet that their £42.95 menu will push all the right buttons in terms of quality. The four course menu includes a sweetcorn and basil soup appetiser, and a choice of scallops, fillet steak, duck and salmon for the subsequent courses. For desert, the highlight is surely the "lover's plate", an shortbread and chocolate affair

"They also include a glass of Disaronno for 'your partner' - theoretically a romantic gesture but in practice a miserly trick to turn a slightly bigger profit"

which would end the meal well; if you can afford it, go for it. But even if you can, £22.50 for half a bottle of champagne seems a little excessive.

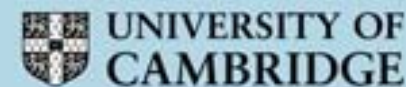
An alternative to this would be a walk to Grantchester along the river, to visit the

Rupert Brooke Inn. One of my favourite restaurants in the area, they've put on an accomplished three course meal price at £29.95 a head - reassuringly expensive, but not bank-breakingly so. Starters include home-cured salmon with a horseradish cream dressing and a pressed ham hock and baby leek terrine; mains include rump of lamb and pan-fried red mullet with braised fennel and new potatoes. Finished off with a warm chocolate pudding and a moonlight walk back to college, this would be a winning way to celebrate the evening.

If cost really is an issue, Pizza Express and Caffè Uno are offering menus priced at £17.95 and £19.95 respectively. Pizza Express offers its Valentine's Day customers a cocktail before a pretty run-of-the-mill selection of its usual dishes, including Il Padrino, a pizza topped with chicken, tomatoes and roasted Italian vegetables. Caffè Uno pushes the boat out slightly more in terms of food, with a nice looking roasted cod main or a heartier 8oz sirloin steak. They also include a glass of Disaronno for "your partner"; theoretically a romantic gesture but in practice a miserly trick to turn over a slightly bigger profit. Strada isn't doing a Valentine's menu at all, making it one of the cheaper options for the night. But if you really can't stretch to any of these suggestions, you could always wait until the following evening, when you'll get the same food at half the price - as "our Graham" from mid-nineties TV show *Blind Date* might have said, the choice is yours.



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## CAMBRIDGE GREEK PLAY

Following the runaway success of the production of Oedipus Rex in 2004, the next Cambridge Greek Play in October 2007 will be Medea by Euripides, directed by Annie Castledine (performed in the original ancient Greek, with surtitles). The dates of the performance are 10th-13th October in the Cambridge Arts Theatre.

The first casting session for two Assistant Directors will be held on 17th February in the Walters Room, Selwyn, at 2pm. This post offers a great opportunity to work alongside Annie Castledine and the choreographer Clive Mendus, both from the Theatre de Complicite. We are looking particularly for students who want to go on to work professionally in the

theatre, especially those people interested in directing.

On 22nd February at 2-5pm in the Drama Studio, English Faculty, Annie Castledine wants to meet everyone who is interested in taking part in, or helping with, the play. A prior knowledge of Classical Greek is not a requirement for actors. There will be further casting workshops and follow-up auditions on 23rd Feb

in the Selwyn Diamond (2-5pm) and on 24th Feb in the Drama Studio, English Faculty (2-5pm). Anyone interested in directing, acting or helping backstage with the play can contact Dr Rupert Thompson, Selwyn College (rjet1@cam.ac.uk) for further details.

See also the Greek Play website: [www.classics.cam.ac.uk/faculty/greekplay](http://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/faculty/greekplay).

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**THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS** (12a) (2h20) Fri-Tues 17.55 20.45 Fri/Sat Late 23.35

**BABEL** (15) (2h45) Fri/Sat Late 22.40

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**NODDY AND THE ISLAND ADVENTURE** (U) (1h) Sat Only 10.30

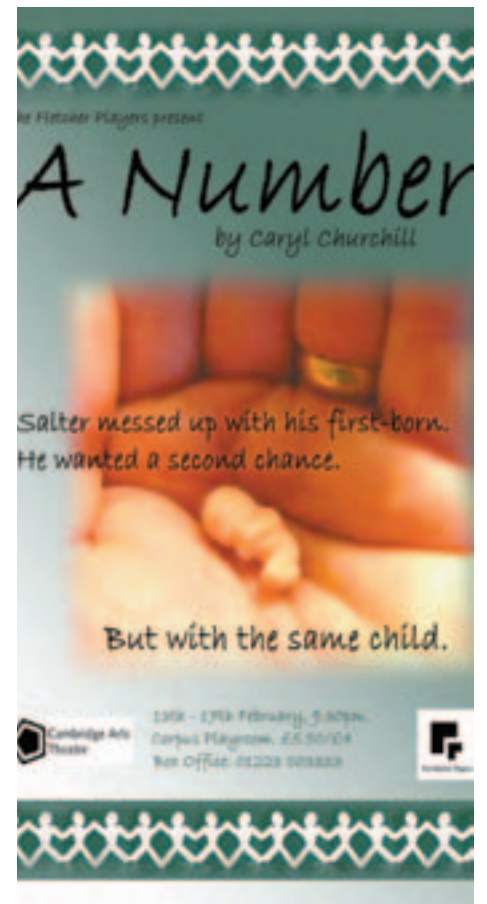
Subtitled screening: **BLOOD DIAMOND** (15) (2h45) Sunday 11th February 14.10\* Tuesday 6th February 20.40\*

\*Audio description is available on these performances – please ask at the Box Office for details

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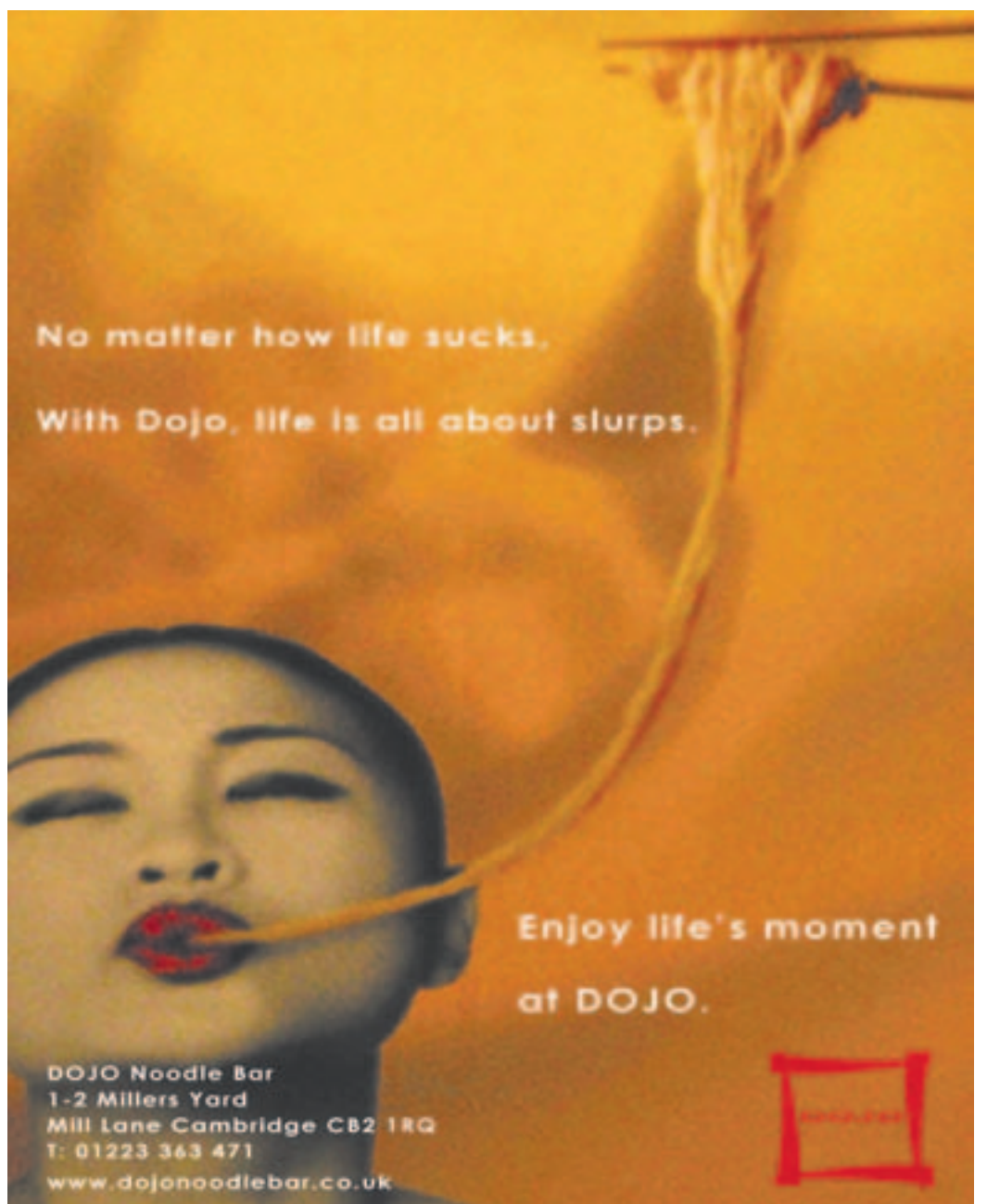
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# Boxing Blues battle Town

## VARSITY REPORTER

On Tuesday evening the Cambridge boxing team hosted their last warm up fixture before Varsity. In a mixed night for the club there were a number of success and some very encouraging bouts against experienced opposition.

The standout performance of the evening came from Cambridge heavyweight newcomer Rory Holmes. In his first bout, Holmes was not troubled past the first round as he repeatedly knocked his opponent to the floor to the extent the match official ended the encounter after the first bell.

Cambridge's Russ Glenn, in the light welterweight category, also did well to secure his first victory in his first bout against fellow University boxer, Emmanuel's Taras Gout.

In the middleweight, welterweight and other heavyweight category Cambridge were extremely unlucky to register defeats. Bout 4 between McAleese and Taylor was an extremely well fought and tense encounter between two extremely talented fighters. Ed Andrews, Rugby and Boxing blue, and this year's CUABC Captain, lost narrowly on points in a tight encounter with Rylands of Marston ABC. Many in the audience were adamant that Andrews was the rightful victor. This tough encounter will serve as a important experience in the teams preparations for the upcoming Varsity.



The Boxing Blues fought it out in a hard encounter on Tuesday night

RICHARD WEST

## Varsity Vase

Another week, another empty Vase schedule. I would really like to blame the weather again, but it could be that the captains are just being lazy. With my beloved Jesus Thirds losing in the league last weekend, it left me feeling pretty miserable.

I turned away from the lower leagues and the Vase in an attempt to lift my spirits. On Wednesday night I watched England play a friendly match against Spain. "It's at home", I thought. "We're bound to win". England lost 1-0, and I was in a foul mood. England had the attacking penetration of a blind, drunk eunuch and were about as creative as a packhorse.

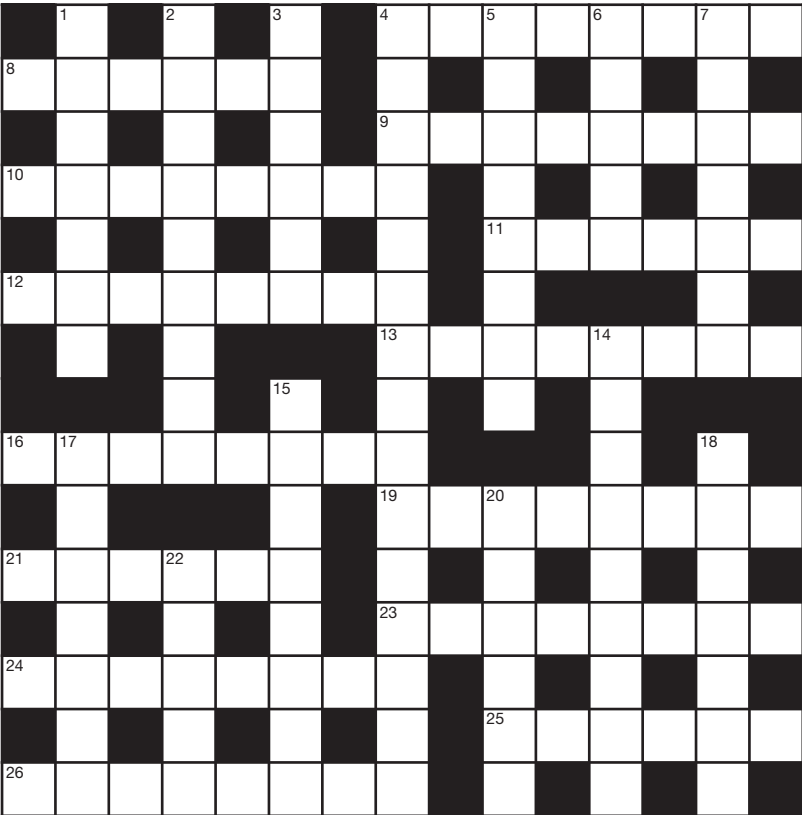
And so I'm going to have to wait for the weekend to cheer me up. As an Arsenal fan my spirit might be improved if we beat Wigan on Sunday, but at the moment I'm just worried about how my girlfriend will react when I tell her that she's the best thing that ever happened to me, but that the Arsenal v Bolton match on Valentine's day is a must see.

If I make it through the week, I hope to tell you about another Vase quarterfinal, Giron v Catz taking place this weekend. If it is cancelled, I might cry.

# Games and puzzles



## Varsity crossword no. 462



11. Looked carefully at dessert coming back after watch (4,2)  
12. I ran hard from vicious old woman (8)  
13. Wobbled to deter movement on peg (9)  
16. Accountant and verger are spot on (8)  
19. Break up due to stress? (8)  
21. Appeared to have moved off the pitch, we hear (6)  
23. Going for a spin, having taken time in tying up boat (8)  
24. Coil Cobra endlessly around vegetable (8)  
25. Stands and brings car to a standstill (6)  
26. Near the light every 24 hours (2,3,3)

### DOWN

1. Icy as a Gallic shrug (7)  
2. This tippie overcomes caution and hesitation (9)  
3. Stacked ambassador was mimic (6)  
4. Hereditary stomach upset (4,2,3,6)  
5. 500 drove around and got fine (8)  
6. Type of pigpen the Spanish back (5)  
7. Carry out client's will to kill (7)  
14. Ratio lied about in column (9)  
15. Mahogany, for example, found in tricky forest (8)  
17. Lycra the French display obviously (7)  
18. Roll a low bed (7)  
20. This man's time is ut into his work (6)  
22. He prohesised about Hebrew life (5)

### ACROSS

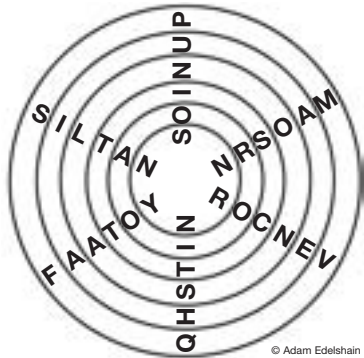
4. Funny comments as confused sire takes over mail (8)  
8. Recess found within room i scattered talc over (6)  
9. Singular type of happy couple (8)  
10. Liquor makes companion sleep quietly on board ship (8)

## rotations

### COMPETITION

Win a pair of tickets to the Arts Picturehouse

Re-arrange the letters by rotating the discs to create six separate six-letter words leading in to the centre. Email your answer to: competitions@varsity.co.uk



## Sudoku

The object is to insert the numbers in the boxes to satisfy only one condition: each row, column and 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 through 9 exactly once.

3	2					6	5
9	7		6		5	2	1
				3			
	6		5		9		8
	8			2			7
	1		3		4		5
				5			
1	4		8		7		3
8	3					4	9

©Mathmo

## accenture

High performance. Delivered.

## Kakuro

Fill the grid so that each run of squares adds up to the total in the box above or to the left. Use only numbers 1-9, and never use a number more than once per run (a number may reoccur in the same row in a separate run).

	3		9				
8							
				10	11	17	
16							7
					15		
					10		
	7		6				
18							
3							

## Hitori

Shade in the squares so that no number occurs more than once per row or column. Shaded squares may not be horizontally or vertically adjacent. Unshaded squares must form a single area.

7	3	5	3	6	3	7
5	7	4	4	1	3	6
2	6	1	6	5	4	4
4	5	2	6	3	1	3
4	6	3	2	7	4	5
3	1	3	7	3	2	2
6	6	7	2	4	5	1



# Ain't no mountain high enough

»As she prepares for her next ascent, Elli Pirkis writes about the trials of mountain climbing

ELLI PIRKIS

As a 21 year-old girl and a History of Art student at Peterhouse, perhaps I make an unlikely mountaineer. Certainly, in comparison to the number of female rock climbers around today, there are surprisingly few female high-altitude mountaineers. I don't see why this should be the case; in my experience climbing a big mountain is more a question of stamina and determination than of brute strength and machismo. I hope that my expedition to the Himalayas this Easter will encourage other British women to have a go at mountaineering, to venture above 8000m amongst some of the most spectacular scenery imaginable.

The peak I will be attempting is called Cho Oyu, the 'Turquoise Goddess', and lies on the border between Nepal and Tibet. It was first climbed in 1954, from the Tibetan side by an Austrian team led by Herbert Tichy. My expedition will follow this same route, living at Advance Base Camp and putting in three further camps on the mountain before finally making a push for the summit. The whole trip will take four or five weeks, giving us ample time to acclimatise as we move up the mountain.

Acclimatization is absolutely critical on a mountain of this size, especially as I will be climbing without supplementary oxygen. Areas above about 7600m (the altitude of Camp 3 on Cho Oyu) are known as the 'death zone' because

the paucity of oxygen in the air at that altitude causes the body gradually to deteriorate. Not only that, but temperatures high on the mountain will commonly fall to -30°C. I'm very fortunate to have been given lots of mountain clothing by Berghaus (Ireland), as well as some glacier glasses from The Norville Group, which will stop me getting snow-blindness. It will be an expensive trip and I am especially grateful to the Gordon Foundation for their generous travel grant. I would still welcome any further sponsorship!

Preparation and planning is half the battle on an expedition like this; gathering together all the clothing, climbing gear, camping stuff, medicines and food that you'll need, and then trying to reduce the weight so that you can carry it all. I'm doing the expedition as part of a small team of seven people and we'll be unsupported; that is, carrying our own gear, putting up our tents, cooking our food and so on. It's great fun to live independently in the mountains, life is much more straightforward: all you have to do is eat, sleep and climb.

There are only fourteen mountains over 8000m high in the world and I have dreamt of climbing one of them since I was ten. That was when, on a trekking holiday in Northern Pakistan with my family, I saw the 8125m peak of Nanga Parbat, the 'Killer Mountain'. As well as teaching me to love being in the mountains, that holiday made me appreciate the satisfaction of hard physical exercise. A concession was made for my younger brother, then only seven, in the form of a donkey to carry him, but I was firmly encouraged to walk.

Since that trek in Pakistan I have spent as much time as possible in the mountains, during school and university holidays. I gradually built up the altitude; climbing mountains like Mt Blanc, Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, and Imja Tse, 6189m, in Nepal. Most



Pirkis' team scales the ice face

ELLI PIRKIS

recently I have climbed a 7000m volcano called Ojos del Salado, which is in the middle of the Chilean desert. It was the first time I've climbed a snow-capped mountain and then been able to descend and have a hot bath in a natural thermal pool.

Sadly there will be no thermal pools on Cho Oyu, though I'm told it's possible to make a sauna in a toilet tent (having moved the tent away from the toilet hole first). Like most long expeditions, this trip will probably fairly smelly and uncomfortable, certainly it will be extremely hard work. That is part of the appeal of mountaineering; the joy of seeing all your efforts pay off as you reach the summit and, more importantly, as you arrive home safely afterwards. I also love the sense of

peace you get on a mountain; the absolute silence that only exists far, far away from civilization.

Mountaineering is, perhaps, a selfish activity. The only reason to venture so high above the clouds is because you want to. I'm very aware of this, and would like to take the opportunity to do something useful with the expedition; to fundraise for a certain charity, appropriately called Moving Mountains. I have worked with them in the past, helping to build a hydro-electric scheme for a remote village in the Nepalese Himalayas. I would be enormously grateful to anyone who would like to sponsor me as the youngest British woman to attempt Cho Oyu.

[www.justgiving.com/ellichooyu](http://www.justgiving.com/ellichooyu)



Pirkis at base camp

ELLI PIRKIS

## Sport In Brief

### Women's Rugby

Cambridge Women's Blues beat Bedford 34-0. After a bit of a sluggish start, the Women's Rugby Blues began to fire on all cylinders midway through the first half. Following a series of forward punches, Jo Bradley ran it in to score. Good pressure allowed Amy Teal to run through and touch the ball down for the second try. The second half got off to a great start: Cambridge scored immediately after the kickoff as it was fumbled in front of the opposition line and stolen by Keo Shaw, who then scored. The Blues continued as they had started with tries from number 8 Hannah Batty and Laura Britton. Bedford had a bit of a fight back midway through the second half, this time putting pressure on Cambridge's line, but strong kicking from the Blues took advantage of the opposition's inexperienced back three and quite frequently gained thirty to forty metres to ease the strain. Bedford's best scoring opportunity ended with a Cambridge try, when Krish Mahbubani intercepted a fly-half-centre pass, ran it into their half, and kicked ahead for Britton to pick up the ball and score her second.

### BUSA X-Country

Last Saturday, Cambridge's Men's and Women's Cross Country Teams travelled down to Bath for the annual BUSA Cross Country Championships, especially competitive this year as it was coupled with trials for the World Championships.



Despite injuries, the Men's and Women's Blues both came in solidly in 8th place with particularly strong personal races from Owain Bristow, Charlotte Forbes and Andy Bell.

### England call for Cambridge Blues

After their recent Varsity success, four Cambridge Rugby players have been selected to the squad for the England Students side in preparation for their game this Saturday against Spain. Centre David Tibbot, scrum half Ross Blake and hooker Joe Clark all started in December's triumphant Varsity encounter with Oxford at Twickenham. They are joined by Cambridge flanker Tom Malaney, who started the match at Twickenham on the bench. Malaney is one of several England University squad members returning from last year's successful team. Clark and Tibbot have both previously won caps at U.18 and U.21 levels respectively. The same squad is scheduled to play to further matches against France; one in later February and another in March, at Cahors and Oxford respectively. The Blues match against Crawshays' XV scheduled for Wednesday was canceled, due to adverse weather conditions. The next Blues game takes place next Wednesday and is against the Royal Air Force.

## CAPTAIN'S CORNER

### Netball



### Sian Folley

**Women's netball must be very competitive, when did you start?**  
I played at club and county level from the age of 14, until I left school. I couldn't really avoid getting into netball because my mother was a national coach, I spent most Saturdays on the side line!

**What level of commitment does Women's Blues netball require?**

We train every day along with our second team, except for Saturday. We have a sprint and a circuit session for fitness, as well as team skills and tactical sessions three times a week.

**What sort of facilities and provisions does your team have?**

Cambridge's facilities are actually not very impressive. We don't have our own courts or coaches, but at the moment we're very lucky to have an experienced coach who volunteers her time once a week.

**Despite that how's your season been so far?**

Pretty successful actually. We've been battling for the top spot in our BUSA league and Oxford are in the same league as ours, just to add a little excitement.

**So Netball Varsity match should be a one to watch. What are your chances and when is it?**

I think it will be a very close and physical game. They beat us last season, but I think we've put in a lot of effort this year and that is sure to pay off. The match is taking place at Haverhill Leisure Centre on Sunday 18th February and buses will be leaving from Grange Road for all those want to come and support. Entertainment guaranteed.



# Tetrathalon Success at Milfield

»Weekend of success leaves Modern Tetrathalon club poised for Varsity

## VARSITY REPORTER

<b>Men's Blues</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Chelmsford</b>	<b>3</b>

The Modern Pentathlon Club paraded their talent at the weekend by dominating of the strongly contested Millfield Invitational tetrathlon in Somerset. A sturdy team of 18 members migrated south for the weekend to compete in the disciplines of running, swimming, shooting and fencing. The competition began on Sunday morning bright and early with the pistol shooting, which tests accuracy and control over twenty shots at a 10m distance. Nick England took a narrow early lead in the Senior Men's division following the shoot with a great score of 168 (out of 200). Whilst Ed Moffet's 149 secured him top place in the junior shoot. In the women's detail Lucy Greenwood triumphed with a personal best of 173, whilst Sabrina Veerja similarly shot a personal best of 174 to head the Senior Women.

The subsequent 3km race which is

whilst Nicky Brooks also obtained a personal best. Leading the race from the gun, Jon Wright's floating stride allowed him to storm home in 9.41. James Pelly bravely tried to stick with Wright but lost out over the closing laps in a time of 10.40, which earned him top spot in the juniors, followed by Noel Cochrane.

A tight time schedule meant rushing straight over to the fencing salle, frantically stuffing high energy food down on the way. The fencing was split by gender, so Junior and Senior divisions fenced each other under two hit, one minute per hit rules. Overall, strong performances materialised from all members, but Cochrane and Pelly claimed the all important top spot in the Junior men, whilst Wright and Nick England tied for top spot in the Senior men. India Martin capitalised on her Hungarian training, lunging ahead of others.

Finally, the 200m freestyle swim began seven hours after the first event, making stamina and focus imperative to continue our lead. Millfield's 50m Olympic pool, heralded as a wonder of the world, posed



Cambridge lock swords with a strong opposition

NOEL COCHRANE

problems for some of the club who were not used to double distance lengths. Nevertheless, Nicky Brooks was dependable yet again with a swim of 2.44 – winning the Senior

Women's event. The overall consistency of Sabrina Veerja in the four events gave her a whisker's advantage to be the top Cambridge Senior women, followed extremely closely by Cat Wilson and Nicky Brooks finishing in 3rd and 4th places respectively. Lucy Greenwood continued to stamp her authority all over the Junior girls division, individually winning each section and unsurprisingly winning the division.

The testosterone driven men's swim was headed by on-form Jon Wright in 2.45, which gave him enough points to comfortably claim gold, followed by Nick England in second and Kui Oui in third. James Pelly's waterpolo training paid off in the pool when he led the Junior division swim, resulting in winning the division overall, with Oli Samuelson in second and Noel Cochrane in third. This impressive performance by all competitors strengthened Cambridge's existing reputation for Pentathlon, but gives the captains a difficult choice for Varsity. With BUSA Pentathlon coming up in March, Millfield has injected masses of confidence in the team.



Cambridge lead all the way in the 3km race

NOEL COCHRANE

**“This impressive performance strangethened Cambridge’s existing reputation in the event”**

usually cross-country, was run on a track, so monotony replaced the usual views of fenlands and forests. Veerja, fresh from a credible BUSA cross country result the day before, ran a fluid race to achieve pole position in a time of 11.50, followed by Cat Wilson,



Joe Powell and Oscar Brodtkin

## Gamblers Unanimous

As you may have noticed, life at Gamblers Unanimous is pretty good at the moment. The ‘Bank Job’ is now talked of around Cambridge as a licence to print money, after four straight winning weeks. Even the porters’ are getting pressies in the their pigeon-holes after Indianapolis blitzed the Bears on Sunday. The only disappointment is that our readers’ new-found wealth is not being redistributed to two thirsty hacks at the Cindies bar. There’s always a next time...

As it happens this article very nearly didn’t get written after a bust-up on the poker table on Saturday evening. During a feisty £10 freeze-out we nearly came to blows following a bad call and a luck outdraw, but luckily all was forgotten in the bookies on Sunday, as Ireland won by more than four points in the rugby, and Joseph Addai made his yards at the Superbowl for two juicy wins.

In and around Cambridge, gam-

bling fever is spreading, and while officially we will not be taking responsibility, it always nice to have a few more brothers in arms. One high-rolling Scottish student punter took the bookies to the cleaners on Tuesday night. He correctly realised the German U21 side would be too strong for a Scotland team that could only field a



bunch of school kids, and duly lumped on for an easy profit. Others have been less fortunate, with

one wannabee tipster forced to chase his losses after an ill-advised bet on Portsmouth to beat Wigan.

For the ‘Porters’ Tip’ we gallop to Newbury for the 3.45 Game Spirit Chase over 2m 1f on Saturday. The popular Voy Por Ustedes jumps like a stag and barring any mistakes should cruise home. £6 on at odds of around 7/4 (2.72) will pay well.

The ‘Bank Job’ travels to The Championship for the first time on Saturday. West Brom are in blistering form at the moment, Diomansy Kamara leading the line with six goals in his last four games. The Baggies should beat an overrated Southampton team at the Hawthorns, and odds of even money (2.02) are simply too big to ignore. £12 goes on to double your money.

The ‘Long Shot’ comes courtesy of home favourite Matthew Stevens in the Welsh Snooker Open in Newport

starting on Monday. The ‘Young Welsh Dragon’ could well land huge odds of 26/1 so our last £2 goes on him.

**Running total: £55.89**

**The Bank Job**  
West Brom to beat Southampton  
Stake: £12

**The Long Shot**  
Matthew Stevens  
Welsh Snooker Open  
Stake: £2

**The Porters’ Tip**  
Newbury  
Vor Por Ustedes  
Stake: £6

betfair.com

## Sports Round Up

### Upcoming Fixtures

**February 10-11**

Polo Arena National Championships

**February 10**

Men's Lacrosse Blues v Welwyn Away

Squash v Nottingham Uni

Women's Hockey Blues v Sudbury I Away, 11.30, Great Cornard Sports Centre

Men's Hockey Blues v Broxbourne 2pm Wilby

Women's Hockey II v St Ives II Home, 12.30, Wilberforce

**February 10-11**

Men's Fencing Blues v Oxford, UCL, Bath & Bristol

National rugby fives U25's

**February 11**

Coe Fen Relays, College League Coe Fen, Cambridge

Bowmen v Birmingham (BUTTS league)

Bowmen in Cambridgeshire County Championships

**February 12**

Squash v Oxford & Cambridge Club Women's Hockey II v Oxford II

Wilberforce Women's Hockey III v Oxford III

Wilberforce

**February 14**

Athletics RAF invitational indoors

Rugby fives v St Paul's School

### Results

**Women's Basketball**

Blues v Oxford Won 53-46

**Men's Lacrosse**

Blues v UEA Won 18-0

**College Hockey**

Catz men's hockey V Sidney 10-0

Catz men's hockey V Downing 13-2

Pembroke v Catz II hockey 4-0

**Bowmen** v Warwick, Oxford, Birmingham, Nottingham & Loughborough. Cambridge finish 2nd (beaten by Warwick)

**Women's Lacrosse**

Blues v Bath Won 20-5

Lacrosse II v Oxford Won (w/o)

Blues v London I Won 13-3

Women's lacrosse II in East Anglian tournament Won

**Women's Rugby**

Blues v Peterborough 15-0

Blues v Nottingham Trent (A) 10-7

Blues v Nottingham Trent (H) 5-3

**Squash**

Blues v RAC Club 3-2

Pembroke v Catz II hockey 4-0

**Women's Hockey**

Blues v Loughborough II Lost 2-3

II v Bedford Won 3-0

II v Coventry Won 5-2

**Netball**

Blues v Bedford Lost 32-37

Netball II v Loughborough II Lost 29-40

**Football**

Blues v Wolverhampton Won 3-0

Women's Blues v Northampton

Women Won 7-3

**Men's Basketball**

Blues v East Anglia I Won 54-42

**Table Tennis**

Blues v London South Bank Won 16-1

**Men's Volleyball**

Blues v Oxford Brookes I Won 3-0

**Women's Volleyball**

Blues v Nottingham I Won 3-0

**Men's Tennis**

Blues v Oxford Brookes II Won 10-0



# SPORT

**Mountaineering**  
Cambridge student  
breaking records  
Page 31

**Blues Boxing**  
Varsity Warmup  
Page 29

## Varsity Triumph as Blues swim to victory in the pool

»Swimming and Waterpolo make a clean sweep of the honours

**CATHERINE DOBSON**  
Swimming Correspondent

Saturday February 3 saw Cambridge take on Oxford in swimming and water polo Varsity matches at Parkside Pools.

The swimmers had the task of defending their current winning streak (begun in 2000) against an increasingly strong Oxford squad who are benefiting from professional coaching and their own pool facility. In the ladies' competition the two sides could not have been more evenly matched with the points split down the middle in five out of the six events. It was the 100m Breaststroke that proved the turning point. Woman of the match, Katherine Hedley, having been plagued by both illness and injury, won in 1.16.20 and took her fourth individual university record of the year. Team mate Kate Hindson overcame a troublesome shoulder injury to make it 1-2 in the event putting the girls four points ahead. The 4 x 50m medley relay quartet of Catherine Dobson, Hedley, Teresa Thurston and Sonia White sealed the win, taking victory by half a length against their dark blue counterparts. Other individual wins came from Thurston, making it four victories in four years in the 100m Butterfly, and Captain Emma Game came through on the final length of the 100m Freestyle to take the win. Freshers Natalie Moores and Heather Moore were barely separable in the 100m backstroke taking 2,3 in a lifetime best for Moores and a season's best for Moore demonstrating just how key they will be to the squad in future years.

In the men's match, following an unfortunate injury sustained by captain Graeme Spence, a last minute shuffle took place and saw Brett McLean and Will Wall deputizing in the 200m Individual Medley and 100m Butterfly respectively, with both stepping up to the occasion admirably. Veteran Daniel O'Dea, competing in his seventh match, took the 100m Butterfly in comprehensive fashion, beating the Oxford captain by a body length. Tom Close once again took on the 100m and 200m Freestyle combination winning both in style with team mate Ben Yeoh completing a 1,2 in the latter. Yeoh joined Man of the Match Brett McLean in the 100m Breaststroke, with McLean taking a formidable victory followed closely by Yeoh, both men performing life-



Kate Hindson swims the butterfly leg of the individual medley for Cambridge, helping to ensure a sea of light blue on the winners' podium SOPHIE PICKFORD

time bests. Captain Graeme Spence said, "I'm so proud of every performance today, with the team stepping up to the occasion and performing. We deserved the victory, having been very determined and worked hard all year."

Following the success of the swimmers the water polo players set about avenging last year's defeats. An experienced ladies' squad led by Line zu Ermgassen were quietly confident following some strong showings throughout the year. This confidence was indeed warranted; some excellent match play saw the Light Blues ahead 6-2 in the third quarter, two Oxford goals in the dying quarter saw a final result of 6-4.

The squad performed strongly throughout the match. Some excellent goalkeeping from Janet Scott, in particular two magnificent saves in the shallow end, ensured that Oxford would only see defeat. Donna Etiebet played an excellent game in hole, but was effectively marked out

of the game by an Oxford squad aware of her prowess. The wrapping of Maxine von Eye in the third quarter was a great loss but only spurred the team on to victory. Jo Davies' narrowly missed penalty demonstrated further quite how talented this squad is. Goals were scored by Bridget Riley (2), von Eye (2), Sarah Hopkins (1) and Ermgassen (1).

In the final match of the evening, the men's water polo team took to the water. Having drawn with Oxford only nine days before, in BUSA, this promised to be a hard fought game. After an early goal from Oxford's New Zealand International, Shaun Hotchkins, it looked like the Dark Side were there to dominate. A quick response from Cambridge ensured this wasn't to be the case, and the second quarter saw Cambridge take the lead. Solid defending from Varsity Match Man of the Match Steve Cooke and goals from Albert Riera ensured that Oxford were put back in their place.

Dark moments came when Cambridge's Maltese International, Simon Cachia, was sent out. The resulting converted penalty helped Oxford narrow their gap.

Half time saw an increasingly frustrated Cambridge Squad brought back under control by some excellent advice from Cambridge coach Andy Knight, who reorganised the team to adapt to the Oxford threat. This proved pivotal for the light blues, who came back in the third quarter to score four goals with Oxford managing only one in reply. Strong defending and good leadership from Cambridge Captain Steve Smith saw Cambridge hold off Oxford's final push in the fourth quarter. A final goal from Cambridge's Chris Judge sealed the deal. 11-8, four matches out of four.

After the Match, CUSWPC President Chris Judge said "After having lost the water polo to Oxford last year, it's good to have smashed them one last time before I graduate.

It is very rare that Cambridge gains a clean sweep in the Varsity matches and I'm delighted that the club has managed to achieve it this year."

## Results

Swimming Overall	
Cambridge	92
Oxford	78

Men's Waterpolo	
Cambridge	11
Oxford	8

Ladies Waterpolo	
Cambridge	6
Oxford	4

Left handed? Good at Sport? Got a Blue? If so, contact [sport@varsity.co.uk](mailto:sport@varsity.co.uk)