



# VARSIITY

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## Gospel of Mark: same old story

»Fletcher left with much of 'Mark's Mountain' to climb

**ALICE WHITWHAM &  
LIZZIE MITCHELL**  
Chief News Editors

Mark Fletcher will replace Mark Ferguson as CUSU President, after an election which saw a rise in voter turnout and the failure of a referendum to restructure the CUSU executive. Speaking after results were announced on Wednesday night, neither Fletcher nor Ferguson was able to identify specific means by which CUSU could be made relevant to students. One student present for the result was unmoved by the transition from Ferguson to Fletcher. "Frankly, I don't see what's going to change," she said. "No one really notices CUSU anyway."

Fletcher was hesitant to set out any kind of vision for his year as President. "I could sit down and make many promises but I don't think that works to the benefit of anybody", he said. He believes that he won the majority of votes because "I was the most experienced candidate".

Despite the presence of four members of the A Little More Action slate on the Executive, Fletcher expressed optimism. "I hope that there is no factionalism in this. I hope that they will make efforts not to do so and then we can all work together for the better life of CUSU. They haven't said [that they will be running their own team] and I have no reason not to believe them." While denying the likelihood of a factionalised committee, defeated presidential candidate Daniel Perrett said that slate members would continue to campaign in their personal capacities. Outgoing President Mark Ferguson expressed the hope that "everybody who's running for election is big enough and mature enough and sensible enough to be able to work together".

"We have some similarities but possibly the name overstates them," Fletcher told *Varsity* on the subject of a "Ferg-Fletcher" transition. "The Ferguson thing's obvious and I

agreed with his style and I supported him last year so it's not a massive shock. To a certain extent I think we both have a practical view of how a student union should work. We both see it as a welfare organisation first and a campaign organisation second."

Despite former CUSU President Laura Walsh's claims that "Ferg will fix it", there have been no radical changes to CUSU under his leadership. "I hope we have done what we set out to do. We haven't made massive changes yet. We haven't brought CUSU back into the absolute mainstream but it's getting there. I don't think there's much more I could have done."

"Judge my presidency on next year's turnout", Ferguson challenged the Cambridge student body last year. Largely thanks to the introduction of online voting this year, there has been a 13.7 per cent rise in turnout after last year's six-year low, with 3292 votes cast by an electorate of around 20,000 students. "Voter turnout isn't massively up," admitted Ferguson, "but we're hopefully moving in the right direction, slowly but surely. 'Mark's Mountain' was never going to be climbed in one year".

Elected in 2006 in the wake of a troubled year for the Executive, Ferguson's presidency was announced on the same day as Trinity's disaffiliation from CUSU, at a time when several other colleges were considering disaffiliating. One of his stated goals was to convince Trinity to return to CUSU. On 28 January this year the college reaffiliated in a referendum at which only 20 votes were cast, following the reaffiliation of Downing MCR last term. Magdalene and Trinity MCRs remain disaffiliated.

CUSU has also failed to obtain the 2020 votes required in the referendum to restructure the Executive from one group of 27 individuals into six teams, after what incoming Services Officer Adam Colligan has described as "a year of desperately publicised open consultation forums and two unanimous votes from the Council" on the necessity for the restructuring.



Fletcher has said he is unwilling to make promises

DYLAN SPENCER-DAVIDSON

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Jamie Munk discusses the campaign to save the British Library



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Boris Johnson claims this is his most pompous interview ever



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London Calling: a quick trip round some capital theatre



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## ONLINE

### »Arts

*Varsity* previews David Lynch's newest and apparently strangest film yet, **INLAND EMPIRE**





## In Brief

### Videos of local fights on YouTube

Two teenagers from Cambourne, near Cambridge, have been arrested after posting videos of fights between youths on YouTube. One boy has been bailed and the other released without charge. Chairman of the voluntary Cambourne Youth Partnership group Andrew Bendon defended claims that there is a problem with anti-social behaviour in the village, saying that "People are getting the impression there is a big problem in Cambourne, all the kids are being tarred with the same brush". **Rebecca Lester**

### Born to addiction

Humans may be genetically predisposed to drug addiction, research carried out by Cambridge scientists has suggested this week. The study published in *Science* indicates that the lack of a particular receptor in the brain leaves some individuals more likely to become dependent on drugs than others. Jeff Dalley, head of the research team said, "We know that this particular brain receptor is decreased in a number in human cocaine addicts... The next crucial step will be to understand the causal relationship between trait impulsivity and cocaine abuse vulnerability." **Emma Inkester**

# Sporting success comes in cycles

»Linguist plans to cycle round France on the route of the original Tour de France

MIKE KIELTY

A Cambridge linguist on his year abroad is planning to cycle the route of the original Tour de France this summer. Ed Gascoigne, a third year from Emmanuel, decided to don the lycra and "do something extraordinary" while studying in Paris.

"The idea came to me on a grey evening on the way back from Cambridge to my old job near Paris, a frankly awful job that was going nowhere and represented a complete dead-end. I decided I had to

**"I decided I had to get out and run away to join the circus"**

get out and 'run away to join the circus', and came up with this concept."

While translating for the charity "Sport sans Frontieres" in Paris, Ed has been training for four hours each day in preparation for the venture and is now able to cycle 100km

on an exercise bike in three hours and twenty minutes. He plans to be entirely self-sufficient over the course of the trip, reconstructing the experience of the first cyclists of the Tour as far as possible. The details of his proposed route are currently in the process of finalisation.

Celebrating its 104th anniversary this year, original Tour was billed as "the greatest cycling trial in the entire world. A race more than a month long: Paris to Lyon to Marseille to Toulouse to Bordeaux to Nantes to Paris." In 1919 the famous yellow jersey was introduced to mark out the race leader.

The original race may have provided a tougher athletic challenge to its modern successor, involving a greater distance and bicycles that bore little resemblance to the lightweight aluminium machines of the twenty-first century. In the days before skintight yellow jerseys, aerodynamic helmets or even bicycle gears, the participants would start out in the early hours of the morning and arrive at their destination at some point in the night. With no organised food stops, riders stopped at cafes en route, preferring copious amounts of wine to protein shakes and energy bars.

It is in honour of their "incompre-



Ed Gascoigne tries out the lycra

ED GASCOIGNE

hensible" achievement that Ed plans to set off from Paris on April Fools' Day, "as fitting a day as any", hoping to return in early June. He is also using the trip to raise money in support of the work of the charity Save the Children and hopes to raise

one pound for each of the 4488 miles of the route, with a current total of just over one thousand pounds.

[justgiving.com/eds-tourdefrance](http://justgiving.com/eds-tourdefrance)

A is for Artwork, B is for Business, C is for Copy, D is for Deadline, E is for Editor, F is for Fact, G is for Guesswork, H is for Happiness, I is for Interview, J is for Juggling, K is for King, L is for Libel, M is for Madness, N is for News in Brief, O is for Over and Over... P is for Puzzles, Q is for Quality, R is for Redesign, S is for Stating This to Thee, T is for Theatrics, U is for Understanding, V is for Varsity, W is for Weather, X is for Xcuses, Y is for Yelling, Z is for Zapf Dingbats.

**is for Editor.**

**Be it**

**Applications for the post of Editor of Varsity Newspaper for both the May Week edition and Michaelmas term are invited to contact**

**Adam Edelshain, the Business Manager.**

**Email: [business@varsity.co.uk](mailto:business@varsity.co.uk). Applications close on April 24th.**

## Boost in funding upsets academics

CHRIS WILLETT

HEFCE's announcement on March 1 that Cambridge will receive £169 million in funding has been met with indignation by Cambridge academics and UCU, the lecturer's union.

According to CAMbridge Pro-Vice Chancellor, Tony Minson, "the total HEFCE block grant for 07/08 was fairly close to what we expected." The £169 million given to Cambridge will be divided into £107 million for research and £62 million for teaching.

**"we would all like an increase in total funds so teaching could be better funded"**

Since the main bulk of Cambridge's funding is brought in by research, there have been concerns that such an emphasis could lead to teachers feeling undervalued. One lecturer in Biochemistry, told *Varsity*, "It's a bloody travesty". Another, who lectures in the languages Department said, "I can't feed my cat on these wages".

Minson explained, "in the long term there is a danger that teaching may be seen by staff to be less important because it brings in less money." "What we would all like to see is an increase in total funds so that teaching could be better funded without reducing research funding", he added.

The UCU's general secretary, Sally Hunt, expressed a similar lack of enthusiasm. She said, "Around a fifth of institutions will be hit with a real terms cut in HEFCE funding, which is just not acceptable." A UCU spokesperson added, "The recurrent funding increase for English higher education institutions in 2007-2008 will actually leave many universities with real terms reductions."

The boost provided by HEFCE parallels a rise in inflation and an extra £1 million needed to support "high cost vulnerable science subjects". Minson explained, "The HE sector in general is struggling with its finances because costs are rising well above inflation".

Costs within the university have increased for reasons of rising pay and the expenses involved in dealing with new freedom of information and anti-terrorism legislation. These are coupled with the financial demands of implementing programmes to improve equality and disability provision.

But the University is not constrained in its spending of the whole grant. Professor Minson said, "The components are not ear-marked for specific expenditure. From our point of view, then, the objective is to maximise the total grant."

The total sum given to universities by HEFCE in 2007-8 will be £7.14 billion, a rise of 6.4 per cent from last year, a 7 per cent rise in funds for Cambridge. Only the University of Manchester and the Open University are set to receive larger grants than Cambridge in the coming academic year.

The increase in funding received by Cambridge is the result of various initiatives which have been introduced by the government which see both charities and businesses contributing to the costs of university research.

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Please see <http://www.varsity.co.uk/clarifications/412/1/>

# Auden “evaded MI5” over Cambridge Spies

KATHERINE FAULKNER

The poet W. H. Auden attempted to evade questioning by MI5 in connection with the “Cambridge Spies”, according to secret documents made public on Friday.

Auden, whose 1930s writings contain frequent references to espionage, became implicated in the investigation into the disappearance of the two Cambridge diplomats turned Soviet intelligence agents after it was discovered that one of the spies, Guy Burgess, had attempted to contact him on the eve of his flight to the USSR.

Don Maclean and Guy Burgess fled Britain by ferry on May 25th 1951, taking valuable British secret intelligence with them. It later emerged

that they had been part of the sophisticated spy ring subsequently dubbed “The Cambridge Five”. But the intelligence services were frustrated in their efforts to track down the poet, who had relocated to his holiday home in the Italian island of Ischia by the time the agents’ escape had come to light.

The newly released files reveal that Auden initially told the Secret Intelligence Service that he “certainly did not receive a call” from Burgess while staying in London with fellow poet Stephen Spender, a claim contradictory to Spender’s account of events. A subsequent file stated that Auden in fact admitted to receiving a message from Burgess, but that he had presumed him to be “drunk”.

Although the documents conclude that the case against Auden “proved

impossible to substantiate”, their release has triggered renewed debate over the reasons for Auden’s “evasive” attitude under questioning, with some literary experts accusing the media of attempting to construct biography from fiction.

Dr. Ian Patterson, an English fellow at Queen’s College, has dismissed the conjecture over Auden’s role as “sensationalist, totally insignificant, and completely trivial”. Patterson claims that “the stupidity of the British Secret Intelligence agencies where this kind of thing was concerned was limitless. Auden was not a spy”.

This view has been reiterated by Edward Mendelson, the literary executor of the Estate of W. H. Auden. “Auden had nothing to do with the affair,” Mendelson claims.

“The MI5 files are fairly obviously the work of Inspector Cluso. The incompetence and ignorance demonstrated in the files would be laughable, if it had not been the basis of so much government policy”.

Others believe the poet’s embarrassment over his close relationship with the “flamboyantly homosexual” Burgess explains his reticence when questioned. In a letter to Spender dated 14th June 1951, Auden wrote: “the whole business makes me feel sick to my stomach. I still believe Guy to be a victim, but the horrible thing about our age is that one cannot be certain”.

Auden expert Professor Stanley Smith claims that there is “no doubt” that Auden knew these letters would be opened. Smith draws attention to the final sentence of the

letter, which reads: “If you could get one of the servants to pack up my camera and post it, I should be grateful”. This comment, he says, “may be made in all innocence, but nevertheless has the authentic ring of the spy’s coded messages”.









# Reinterpreting playtime

»Architecture students rebuild the playground of local school ravaged by fire

TOM PARRY-JONES

Cambridge architecture students have been working with local children to create a new playground after their school was almost totally destroyed by fire. The Cambridge branch of Architects Sans Frontiers (ASF) has collaborated with pupils and parents to design and construct a playground which is not restricted to the usual swings and roundabouts.

Mayfield Primary School in Warwick Road was struck in September 2004 by a mystery blaze which razed to the ground 40 per cent of the school buildings and severely damaged many others. It took over one hundred firefighters eight hours to tackle the fire, and Mayfield was forced to close until February 2005, when portakabins were moved in to replace the lost classrooms. Since then, a £3 million constructional project has rebuilt much of the school. But the children

**“a blank canvas so the children could manipulate and interpret the space in many different ways”**

still do not have a playground.

In the autumn of 2005, the school began to work with students from the Department of Architecture to find a solution. The student-run group Architects Sans Frontiers Cambridge were put in touch with Mayfield by the University's Active Community Fund, which also contributed £1700 towards the project. Their brief was to “rebuild the Early Years playground, and transform it into an ‘Outdoor Classroom’”.

The final design for the playground is quite different from the traditional climbing frames and slides. ASF

President Hanne van den Berg told *Varsity* it offers “a ‘blank canvas’ so that the children could manipulate and interpret the space in many different ways”. The key features are a tunnel, an amphitheatre, a pergola, and a combined seating and storage area. The tunnel is a series of arches, which can be customised by the children by covering them with a variety of materials, from fabric to plants, while the amphitheatre allows them to act out stories or games. The whole playground is linked by specially cast paving stones. Designed in conjunction with the children and with David Bennett, a specialist concrete consultant, these can contain small objects such as marbles, sweets and small toys. The first batch was produced last month.

Van den Berg explained that involving the children in the design process was paramount. “We felt that, according to the ASF ideology, it was key to be working closely together with the children, parents and teachers of Mayfield School, and involving them as much as possible in the design and the construction process.”

In order to determine the needs of the four and five year olds, a series of workshops were held with where students observed the children playing. The last of these included a visit by sixty Early Years children to the Crit space in Scroope Terrace. Each child was given a disposable camera to take photos of the things they liked along the long journey from Mayfield School to the Department of Architecture. Once they reached the Department, the children were let loose on a “variety of transformable objects and materials”, such as foam board, clay, cardboard boxes and colourful lights, and encouraged to draw pictures of the things that had interested them during their day. One group of children decided to build a replica of Castle Mound from clay.

The design is currently being turned into reality with the help of volunteers, including the students in ASF, parents, and even the children at the school. If all goes according to plan, the young students at Mayfield should soon be enjoying the benefits of a playground built to their needs.



Digging up the old playground at break time

ASF



Early Years students at Mayfield Primary School

ASF

## Cambridge scientists fighting the fat

KATE O'RAGHALLAIGH

In a first for the UK, a centre for the study of obesity will open in Cambridge this October.

The Centre for Obesity and Related Metabolic Diseases will work to bring crucial research findings “from lab to bedside”.

The opening has been announced by the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the centre will be the first of its kind in the UK. It will work in conjunction with the



existing Epidemiology Unit to “accelerate the conversion of research findings into better treatments for obesity-related diseases”.

The centre will be located in the new Institute of Metabolic Science on the Addenbrooke's Hospital site, and is the result of a tri-par-tite collaboration between the MRC, the NHS Foundation Trust and Cambridge University, who have raised £20 million towards its development since the middle of 2006.

Director of the Centre and Professor of Clinical Biochemistry Steve O'Rahilly

laid out two fundamental issues to be addressed by the new Centre. His team of researchers will be investigating what the controlling elements behind body fat are, and why obese people are more likely to get diabetes. The team will work on “developing new approaches to therapy based on scientific processes”, building on the University's long-standing history in obesity and diabetes research, which has involved 16 years of significant research including identification of the genetic causes of the disease.

Clinical Director of the Wellcome Research Facility at Addenbrooke's Dr Nick Finan has predicted that the Centre will become “a leading international institution”. He explained that research into improving preventative and treatment strategies for obesity is vital as current levels “do not meet the medical needs of the

individual or society as a whole”.

Obesity is currently the second largest preventable cause of premature death in the UK, and since 2002 there has been a 585 per cent increase in the dispensation of obesity related prescriptions. During the last 12 months, the NHS has published statistics revealing that one in five men and women in the UK are obese.

The rapid increase of the problem is, according to Finan, the result of changes in our environment which allow for a “genetic and physiological susceptibility to gain weight”. He said that there is an “urgent” need to “understand how and why people vary in their susceptibility to become obese and develop obesity-related diseases”, in order to improve the quality of life for those who have such susceptibilities and go some way to eliminate the problem of obesity.



Hustings

### Gender Revolution

Eager voters were alarmed this week by an unexpectedly daring declaration from one of the candidates. Richard Braude, new CUSU Higher Education Funding Officer, raised his prestigious paw with the intention of grilling Elly Shepherd, sole candidate for Women's Officer. Informed that it was against electoral rules for men to ask questions of her, Braude was overcome by analytical rigour and emphatically defined himself as a woman. As reported in *Varsity* last week, Braude's passion for the feminist cause is undoubted, though Spies understands that he reneged on his commitment to a London march on Sunday. His bold claim to femininity is slightly undermined by his nickname, “Dick”, and all but destroyed by his tendency to wilfully sprout dense, simian sideburns.

### Cambridge Constabulary

#### Filling Up

A keen couple decided to break out of the Cambridge bubble and give serious vent to their feelings. Inspired by the rather grubby antics of Rizzo and Kenickie, the desperate duo leapt aboard her flashy motor and set off down the open road. They didn't make it too far from the scholastic spires before their affections overtook them, forcing an unusually elongated comfort break. They pulled up on what they thought was merely fallow asphalt, adjacent to a petrol station but seemingly unmanned. Opting to bypass the traditional highway services combo of some Hula Hoops and a Private Eye, the passionate pair wasted no time in energetically taking the “auto” out of “auto-eroticism” with distinctly dogged determination. The last limb they anticipated becoming entwined with was the lengthy leg of the Law. They must have been puzzled to find the burly visage of one of Her Majesty's sleepless constables casting his officious eye on their intimate efforts. Spies understands that the selectively clad couple were informed by interested cops that, alas, they had been playing fast and loose on Police property. We are assured that some snivelling apologies and roundabout explanations were needed before officers settled for a warning.

### Queens'

#### Currying Favour

Queens' Ent was graced with an unaccustomed presence on Friday night. One of Cambridge's better known residents, a “Mr Mahal” whose fame has hitherto rested on the outstanding quality of curry and ambience provided to the more discerning of Cambridge's winers and diners, was spotted in the vicinity of the Queen's bar. The venerable gentleman was making himself particularly agreeable to the young ladies of the College through a combination of natural charm and the purchase of enormous volumes of strong liquor.



# Avoiding the prop

»Adam Edelshain suggests you think very seriously about where to live

If you can't live in college next year, your life is bound to get a little more complicated in the next couple of months. It is no easy task to find a place to live that's within budget and in a nice area, but that isn't the size of a cupboard or full of mice. Last academic year, 6587 students and staff of the University used the University Accommodation Service, which seeks to help all University members in finding accommodation, and the annual rush for the best housing is about to kick off in time for next academic year.

Cambridge does have a wide variety of properties available and its worth noting that, while its true that properties tend to be the smaller or further out of town, the cheaper, there are some houses and rooms that appear to be cheap for no good reason. For example, there's a three bedroom house on Victoria road for only £725 a month and even after you've added bills to this, its no more than £275 a head, much cheaper than many of its counterparts, and for no

**"his bedroom was only separated by a curtain from a over-amorous and vocal roommate"**

obvious reason.

Of course, like most things in life that appear too good to be true, they often are, and visiting the property, as well as looking at the surrounding area are crucial. Visiting a house in Chesterton that looked rather nice on paper, I was greeted by a desperate looking student who muttered tiredly, "you don't want to live here; biggest mistake of my life". He then showed me that his bedroom was separated only by a curtain from a room-mate who was apparently both over-amorous and extremely vocal.

Once you've found one or two places that feel 'right', don't assume that the battle is won. Two extremely important things must be done immediately. First, meet the neighbours. Although this advice may seem clichéd, making this acquaintance may help in two ways. You can find out from a simple "hello" whether they'll be the sort of neighbours who won't mind the occasional house party, or the sort that come storming over at 7pm because they have a vague inkling that they can hear you watching MTV when they want to listen to the Archers. Secondly, they may have some useful advice. Renting by the river in Chesterton might look lovely at three in the afternoon, but the neighbours might be able to tell you whether you'll be woken up every morning by noisy rowers.

Finally, but crucially, you have to have a good feeling about your landlord. I did not meet mine last year, and the lack of established contact meant that when I stepped through the faux floor of the shower (remember to check all household appliances too), it wasn't fixed for months, despite numerous begging phone calls. The bath was grim by this point and going into college to take a shower wasn't as convenient as I had first imagined. A good relationship with the landlord also avoids any rent issues, and inspections are likely to go by much more seamlessly.

Of course, once you've narrowed down your limitations through cost and distance from the city, the local area becomes key. There is a very big difference between living in just off Mill Road, surrounded by hundreds of local shops and restaurants and living in Arbury, which is lovely and quiet but chiefly residential.

Ultimately, there's a place for everyone, from the skint to the big spender, from the outgoing to the outsider, but the key to finding the perfect place is plenty of research and not leaving it all to the last minute. There are bargains waiting to be found. I'm in a house just north of Victoria Road which is in a nice area, has a dishwasher and a pond, and I'm paying £290 a month. There are some nuggets out there, so keep your eyes open.

**£400**  
average monthly cost of a single room in Cambridge

**6587**  
students last year used the accommodation service's website to find a place to live

**£725**  
The cost of a three bedroom house on Victoria Road, the cheapest house currently available



## Mill Road

- Average cost/person £380 per month
- A busy and diverse area; a Mosque, Hindu shrine and Baptist Church are all within walking distance of one another. Numerous shops and cafes are another major draw. An area with real atmosphere
- The houses range from grotty bedsits to large Victorian terraces. As a general rule, the further away from the town centre, the bigger and better the houses become

## Newnham

- Average cost/person £400 per month
- The area's major attribute is its many open green spaces that give Newnham its definitive quiet and sleepy feel, despite the fact it is so near to the Sidgwick site
- Newnham village proper is one of the prettiest areas in Cambridge, but the area has a distinct lack of cheap housing, and offers little by way of shops and entertainment

## Victoria Road

- Average cost/person £360 per month
- The area is not central, with inhabitants having to endure the cycle past Castle Hill on a daily basis. The crime rate is also purported to be higher than elsewhere. However, the pubs in the area are some of Cambridge's best hidden gems
- Generally speaking, housing is pretty cheap, but the condition of the properties available is distinctly mixed, with many run-down and ill-kept



# erty panic



## Arbury/Chesterton

- ▶ Average cost/person £350 per month
- ▶ Peace and quiet distinguishes this area, as well as the picturesque views of the river. Indeed, the proximity to the Cam would be especially useful for boaties. But the area is remote, and far from the town centre
- ▶ Arbury is the cheapest area to live in Cambridge

## City Centre

- ▶ Average cost/person £480 per month
- ▶ Location, location, location is obviously the main attraction to live centrally, with faculties, colleges, and shops only a short way away
- ▶ The main problem is a serious lack of availability, with college ownership dominating many central areas. The cost/space ratio might deter many, as well as noise in certain locations

### Cattie Hall on housing nightmares and loud roommates



My friends and I are not tidy people, so when we looked for a new place last year, we didn't want to rent anywhere that looked too nice. We were scared, for example, of renting from an old lady who was moving abroad and wanted someone to 'housesit' for a year and feed her cat. The vomit-on-carpet incident within a week of the tenancy made me feel that this was a wise decision. But neither did we want to rent anything which looked so disgusting that we wouldn't want to bring any friends back to it. So, for example, we did insist on the two 'main' bedrooms having a real wall between them - rather than piled up cardboard boxes.

At this point I'd also add that some of the most perfect potential houses really do need close scrutiny. Have a careful look over the contract. One of the contracts we saw (and didn't sign) entailed - when you put a couple of the clauses together - that the landlord could come round at 4am, let himself in, and demand that we cleaned the curtains immediately. And kick us out if we didn't.

Having chosen our accommodation - a three bedroom affair up near Fitz - we soon discovered that there are always some things you can't check for in that brief look around the house. For example, we failed to check if the house was infested with clothes moths and big, thin spiders (the ones that move very quickly). Also, while you can check that there are walls, you can't check how thick they are. Be prepared to hear sounds you didn't need to hear. This year, I can just

**“Even the smallest movements could be heard and one of my girlfriends was a ‘screamer’ ”**

about hear my fellow housemates' music. It could be worse.

Last year, however, I had to buy earplugs. Even the smallest movements could be heard and one of my girlfriends was a “screamer”. I sometimes managed to sleep through it, but if my third housemate thought I was asleep while he had to listen to the filth, he made sure to share the love by ringing me incessantly. Not fun.

And while I'm discussing last year's house, its worth mentioning that sometimes you just can't tell whether or not your landlord is a lying bastard. Our landlord, for example, definitely was. And he used dodgy builders to do shoddy work on the house and then blamed us for the damage. And he promised to do things he just didn't do. Last year we spent three months waiting for a drying machine that was conspicuous by its absence. I used to have to take my washing home because the washing line outside was so crap that before my clothes had dried, they had fallen on the ground and been covered in shit.

I like having my own place. It made me feel above the common student. I like not having a bedder arriving early in the morning. I like having a bigger kitchen. So it wasn't all bad. But it wasn't all good either.

Illustration  
by Mike  
Yue Ying





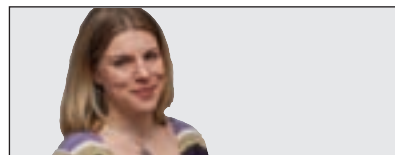
Late last Saturday night a friend of mine became very ill and had to go into hospital. We arrived there by ambulance, I having insisted on coming along. As the gurney was wheeled through the automatic doors of A&E I made sure that just the right expression of concern registered on my face – enough so that people knew I was following a patient, but not so much that it looked like I was hamming up the emotion. We rolled into a little room, where my friend was tipped off the gurney into a chair, and we were left to wait for the nurses. There being only one chair in the room, I had to stand while my friend sat. I wandered around, examining the various bacterial cleansers and the strategically placed vomit bowls. “Hospitals are quite sticky aren’t they” I said, after a while. “Everything you touch is always sticky, like all the surfaces”. He didn’t respond. “Sticky...” I mumbled, prodding a bin lid. Then, after a short silence, filled only by the distant noise of someone wretching, I added “Must

## “Two nurses ran into the room. ‘I set off the alarm by accident’, I blurted”

be a lot of vomit. That’s probably why, it’s so sticky.”

I heard a pumping sound, and a small pad that was dangling from the wall began to inflate. “Shall I do something?” I asked; my finger hovering over what I thought was the off button on a nearby display panel. The pad grew larger. I wondered if the machine would keep pumping until it burst. I wanted to press the button. “I think I should press this button” I said. After hesitating towards the door, I decided to take the initiative and nervously jabbed my finger at the display panel. A small picture of a red alarm bell began to flash. Somewhere else in the hospital an actual alarm bell began to sound. “What the fuck are you doing?” my friend shouted, suddenly conscious of my activities. Two nurses ran into the room. “I set off the alarm by accident” I blurted, “the machine was left on”. They looked incredulous. “Who are you?” “I’m his friend” I said, “I’ve come to be supportive”. “It might be better if you waited outside”. “Of course,” I agreed, “whatever’s best”, and stepped through the doors, shooting them all glances of my best concerned face. I waited for a few hours, then, when nothing seemed to be any different, I left. My friend turned up at college again the next day feeling a lot better. “I’m just glad you’re alright” I said, pressing lightly against his hand. “Yeah” he said. “Yeah...” I said soothingly, pressing a bit harder “...yeah”

# Yesterday’s answers



## VEE BARBARY

Last July, David Cameron’s call for a little understanding for Britain’s disaffected youth caused a stir. Instead of adopting a *Daily Mail* attitude, suggesting more laws and harsher punishments for teenagers whose behaviour was threatening to middle Englanders, here was a Conservative party leader suggesting that we should address the social problems that caused undesirable conduct and show “hoodies” some “compassion and kindness”.

Although this was ridiculed in the press, the speech’s underlying concept has recently re-emerged. The spate of shootings in South London a fortnight ago, and the continuing search for a response to the terrorist threat, which is still “severe”, leads us back to Cameron’s message of social responsibility. Seeking to punish or prevent threatening behaviour either with ASBOs, in the case of hoodies, or with control orders, in the case of terrorist suspects, is a classic case of “prevention not cure”.

Politicians’ knee-jerk reaction to the Peckham shootings was to suggest lowering the age at which carrying a firearm became an imprisonable offence; just as the heightened terrorist threat led to the 2005 Prevention of Terrorism Act, which introduced effective house arrest without charge. Such responses do not tackle the causes of these crimes: the failure to integrate individuals from minorities into society. It is simply an exercise in spin, making the government appear

## “Hugging a hoodie might not be such a bad idea”

“tough on crime, and tough on the causes of crime”.

We do not need more laws to deal with gun crime or terrorism. Anyone young enough to remember being at school could tell legislators that the

more rules there are to break and the more restrictive they are, the more creative strategies one finds to break them. Lower the age at which you are jailed for carrying a gun and criminals will use younger children to do it. If a gang leader uses a 17 year-old to transport a firearm, why baulk at using a 15 year-old?

The answer, then, is not to create more laws to break, institute harsher punishments for offenders, or even increase policing in problem areas. The task in front of government is not to make Muslims or teenagers believe they are persecuted, and further isolate them from a society in which they

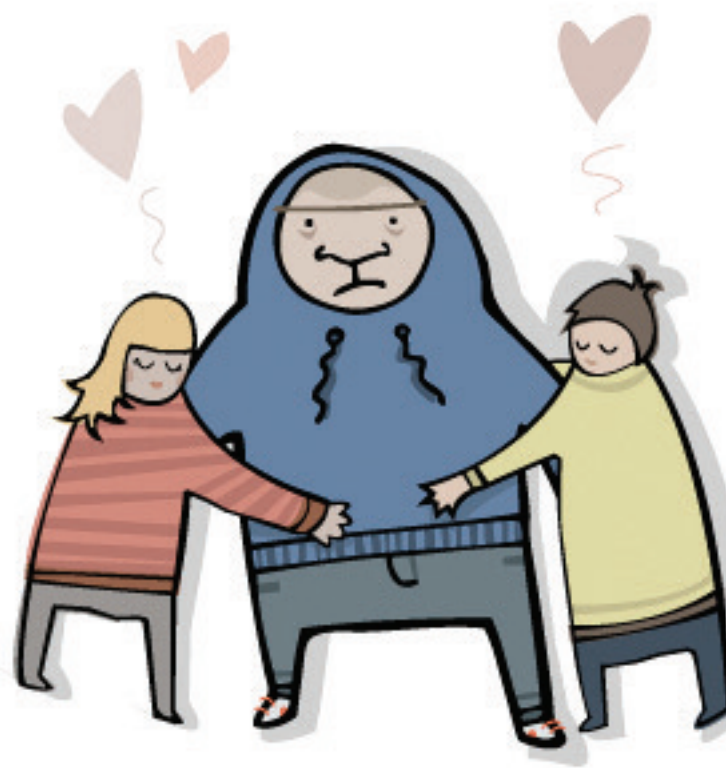


ILLUSTRATION BY PIPPA CORNELL

already feel marginalised. Rather, it should be seeking to engage across class, religious and ethnic boundaries and encourage community spirit through shared institutions: families, schools, hospitals and retailers.

That said, throwing money at these institutions will not solve the problems on its own. We need to look beyond increased funding, which is necessary, and ensure it is spent effectively. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience in grass-roots charities that needs to be consulted and channelled. Outside expertise needs to become an integral part, not only of policy formulation, but also of policy implementation.

This will not be successful, however, unless we play an active role in our society, and are encouraged to do so. While David Cameron had the right idea in July about tackling the causes of the congregation of youths on street corners, recently he seems to have lost his nerve. I choked on my tea when he told the *Today* programme that absent fathers should be compelled to contribute financially to their children’s upkeep and thus prevent the breakdown of society that was causing criminal activity among teenagers. The advocate of solving social breakdown by encouraging community cohesion is now claiming that they can be cured by procuring more money from men, who, by all accounts, have little.

If Cameron is serious about dealing with gun crime, hoodies, or even home-grown Islamic fundamentalism, if he reaches office, he needs to stand strong on his line of last July. This does not mean putting more legislation on the statute book, but changing behaviour through persuasion as well as through law. Government has a role to play, but families and communities must also be encouraged to actively enhance the welfare and interests of society. If we want to see an end to the headlines of the past weeks, hugging a hoodie might not be such a bad idea.

# Sympathy for the British Library



## JAMIE MUNK

News that the British Library may have to charge users to use its reading rooms has been met with widespread consternation in the academic community. The feared changes are due to proposed government budget cuts announced last month. Numerous petitions have been posted on the internet, signed by hundreds of outraged BL users from around the world, from eminent academics to lowly undergraduates like myself.

It is difficult to identify with the government’s rationale. It is argued that the unprecedented levels of public funding spent on the cultural sector by the Labour government, which includes museums and libraries, cannot be sustained in the slower economic climate anticipated by next year’s comprehensive spending review. But it seems

strange that a government that claims to be so committed to the revival of British cultural identity threatens the survival of one of Britain’s great public institutions. Especially when so much money is being thrown at fleeting cultural events like the 2012 Olympics as well as the new Wembley Stadium.

The proposed 7 per cent cut would have a devastating impact on the library’s ability to sustain itself as an open resource of knowledge for the nation. The fact that free readership is on offer to anyone who needs it is a fantastic statement of the open nature of scholarship in this country: provided you have a reason for needing to use the library, you are at liberty to exploit the intellectual wealth of the nation. By charging for access to the reading rooms, which the library would be forced to do in order to meet costs, this spirit would completely disappear. A closed book policy would serve to restrict entry into our shared republic of letters.

As a Londoner, for the past two years I have experienced the pleasures of vacations spent in a library that is well equipped and staffed, with the added perks of a swish coffee shop, an educational form of

procrastination in the form of fantastic temporary exhibitions, and the ridiculously comfortable leather armchairs. Next to this Ritz of the library world, the UL is a rather shoddy Fawlty Towers.

It is the scholars of the future who will suffer most from the change. Where academics will often have adequate sources of funding to pay for use of the BL, undergraduates and postgraduates will be far less able and willing to do so. With the high price of Underground fares

## “It is the right of all to share in our nation’s cultural heritage”

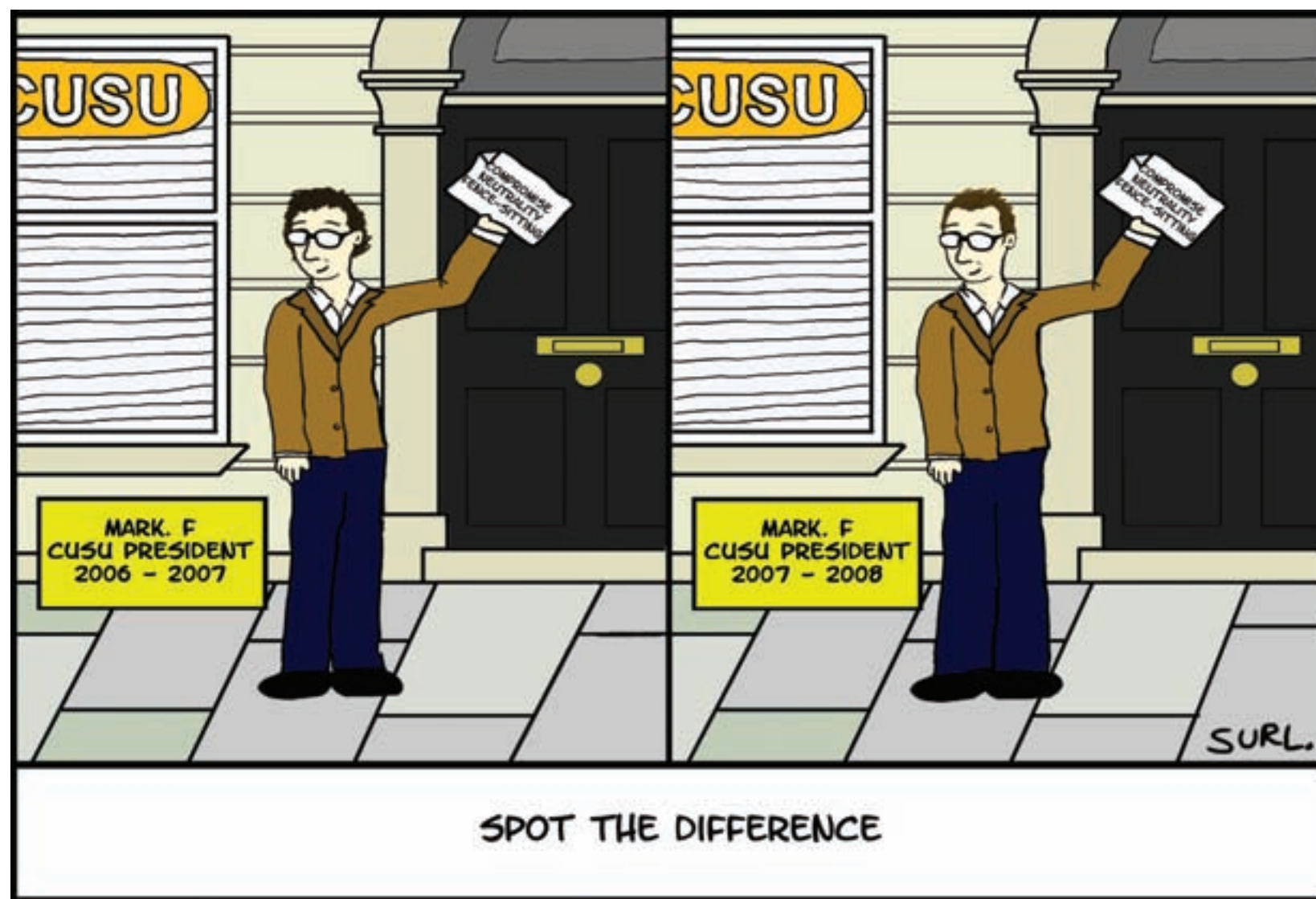
and lunches in London, having to pay to go to the library is more than likely to turn all but the most committed undergraduates away. MPhil and PhD students, who rely on the library to carry out their research, will also suffer. Many academics

have fears that they will not be able to afford to bring graduate assistants with them in future, impinging both on their scholarship and the training of their successors.

Certainly, the British Library is only one library in one city. But it is also the storehouse of Britain’s intellectual and cultural wealth. The manuscripts and volumes held within Wilson’s magnificent 1998 redbrick colossus are the property of the nation to a greater extent than the contents of any other library in the country. Thomas Jefferson believed that information was “the currency of democracy”. To restrict access to this bank of knowledge is to dispute that it is the right of all to share in our nation’s cultural heritage. For a government which has done so much to open up national institutions such as the British Museum and the National Gallery, it seems a travesty to now backtrack to a mediaeval cloistered view in which a library is a treasure-trove to be guarded, rather than a republic of letters to be shared by all.

The petition to the Prime Minister to keep the British Library free can be found at <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/library/#detail>





## Latin Letter

DAVID BUTTERFIELD

calamus, ut uidetur, in manum meam traditur (sed trudi nego) meque rogant ut aliquot sapientia uobis, Cantabrigienses, Roma eloquens mittam. scripta eruditione mirata et copiosis fontis Pieriae fluminibus manantia non habeo, confiteor uolens, proferre sed magis quaedam ponderis minoris minuta.

stant omnia Romae, ne uos pauor anxiosos teneat, ita ut opinemini. de togis igitur fluentibus, de infestis imperatoribus, de fabellis amatoris, de nouissimis salibus, de pane circensibus, de omnibus denique quae hodie thyrsos quodam uesano corda permulta percutiant, nil, inquam, nil in his inuenietis. mica tamen de arte poesique, oculis uostris digna (ita me di ament), inter haec latet, quae uos legentes haud immerito fortasse remoretur: uae! iam enim nonnulli Varsitaniorum, mihi crede, illis arte et poesi dictis, ocellos ad aliam paginam aduerterint.

sed illuc unde ueni redeam: homines, ut aiunt, non fingunt poemata, at haec illos; putetis omnia carmina manibus reuera aliquorum sunt facta; immo uero poesis manus poetarum uerorum uera gubernat. ergo potionem nullam inuenietis salubriorem pectori dulcioremue menti quam splendidum poetarum flumen. equidem igitur non solum pueritiam uerum etiam adolescentiam consumpsit neque ebriolis ebriosior neque ludibundis lasciuior peruagans, sed potius a grauibas Acci uersibus ad Enni ualidos uolans uel inter lepida Titini uolumina ac Terenti iocosa pede laeto saltans. o suauem discantibus libertatem! nam quae sit humanitas, quis sit homo, quid denique sit uiuere didici nusquam nisi a poetarum dictis; mihi maiora magistro quouis tales attulere.

sed nunc sapientiam eloquentiam ueritatem in poetis uidemus nullam. nulla mentes leuant, laedunt omnia; nulla oculos aperiunt, claudunt cuncta. poetae hi noui mihi (ac uobis, puto, litteratis) nil nisi furorem excitant. nonne unus quisque ubertim flet de passeris morte uel de eunuchi praecis non affectuum uiolentium causa sed magis desperationis poetae merae gratia? o utinam Iupp-... en! poema nouum a quouis illius gregis miri diligenter compositum nunc aduolat. uobis quaedam legam: 'a! a! milia, milia - a! - mihi affer / mimet basia, Lena, (amo furens haec)! / quid? quot milia quala basiorum / quaeram, bella, rogas? tot ipse quaero / tot, tot basia palcra? passeres / tot...' sed sat! haec poema, quaelequomque est, a puero malefico agglutinatum? arsne maiorum ad sauia passerulosque ita est reducta? o tempora! amores? quis est quin unquam ueteres nostros substituant pro his cantoribus Euphorionis? plures autem sunt, ut scitis, qui omnia sibi propria atque a se ficta aliorum omnibus praeferant. sic semper erit. illud tamen unum uelim, omnes qui Musae quidam aures aduertant prius Ribbeckium suum perlegere et animos uertere a stupro stultitia strumis ad studium stemmata stellas quam poemata per papyrus profundant.

at tabularius epistolam et (quod est grauius) calamus a me haec cursim nec sine ioco scribenti postulat furiosus. uos qui adhuc legis ualete.

# (Non)Sense and the City

»Dressing up and getting down. Undressing attitudes



LOWRI JENKINS

I'm quite a fan of *Sex and the City*. Not in the yes-I-too-have-slept-with-a-man-who-was-a-dildo-model kind of way, but in the essays-hurt-ooh-pretty-clothes-no-brain-activity-required kind of way. It might not say very much to me about being a modern woman (I buy my shoes from Oxfam rather than Manolo Blahnik, for a start). But, if I want to procrastinate, it's a pleasant and often hilarious way to do it. After all, don't we need reminding every now and then that sex is actually pretty funny? And that we are allowed to enjoy a bit of cultural fluff once in a while? After all, Carrie's tacked-on attempts at philosophising, legs artfully folded under her chin, Marlboro Light smoking gently, work in a glossy way. It amuses me, however, that Carrie Bradshaw has never turned her wonderfully trite trademark "I couldn't help but wonder..." to the serious issues that sex raises with respect to the swathes of tailor-cut fabrics that cover it.

The way we dress is something with which we are both overly preoccupied, yet simultaneously try to dismiss as being too 'superficial' for consideration. Clothes are the tool of the angry feminist determined to tell us that we wear make-up and skirts because all men are trying to misogynistically dominate us (thank you, Sheila Jeffreys). But we spend too much time worrying about the importance of clothes, and not enough time questioning why we worry about them.

Since the Fall, sex and clothes have been trapped in a perpetually unfulfilled courtship. Adam and Eve's embarrassed desire to cover up their fleshly sins is still a hang-over in a culture in which, as Brits in

**"Since the Fall, sex and clothes have been trapped in a perpetually unfulfilled courtship"**

particular, we don't seem quite sure what we should make of sex. Should we feel all post-lapsarian and shy about it? Should we sing it from the rooftops? Should we do it because we have to? In some ways, we have

a lot to thank those biblical fig-leaves for. Along with the weather, and well, thousands of years of civilised culture, they are one of the main reasons that getting dressed is still the most important thing we do before facing the world.

I can't decide if we take clothes too seriously or not seriously enough, but we definitely still have problems with them, all of which seem to have a lot to do with sex. Sheila Jeffreys, intimidating feminist theorist behind books like *Beauty and Misogyny: Harmful Cultural Practices in the West* (which a little too dangerously equates female genital mutilation with cosmetic surgery and waxing), somehow implies that whether all women are aware of it or not, they dress to a reductive, misogynist male ideal. But, in many ways, it is Jeffreys who is being a little reductive here; most of the women I know and admire are individuals who dress creatively, blithely, uniquely - *not* politically. Surely it is OK to wear something because it makes you feel good? Isn't it alright, in a day when all that lies ahead of you is laboriously typing in front of a computer screen, to do something creative with the way you look? I don't think we dress for sex; if a woman wears a short skirt, she isn't asking men to rip it off her. And what would you class as men 'dressing for sex'? I mean, what would they wear - lycra? Can anyone here comfortably say that a man in Speedos/tights/(dare I say it) rowing lycras screams 'bed me now you lusty wench'? Clothes are never going to deny sex simply by partially

covering up the body. Are those breasts underneath that high-necked sweater? Gracious, no! Does anything lie beneath your voluminous skirts other than a chastity belt and plastic Barbie smoothness? Heaven forbid!

Maybe I haven't read enough feminist critiques to properly comment on this. But then, why the hell

**"Are those breasts underneath that high-necked sweater?"**

should I? I don't need intellectuals telling me how to dress. Sex is there, somewhere, whether it is buried in a cassock or not. But that doesn't mean it's everywhere. There is nothing wrong with dressing up, with wearing what you like. And, with that in mind, it's not wrong to look good. You don't decorate your room to look like a hovel. The Mona Lisa wasn't supposed to look shit? We need to stop paying attention to the Bradshaw, Marlboro-fumed philosophising that surrounds getting dressed, and just enjoy it instead. The more we theorise about these things, the worse they become. I can see feel Carrie trite-ism coming on now: "I can't help but wonder if we're doing too much wondering..."



# Varsity

## Surveying the situation

It is doubtful as to whether many Cambridge students will worry greatly about their failure to fill in the National Student Survey when they look back on their final year. The majority will, with MA (Cantab) firmly attached to their name, be seeking to carve out destinies for themselves outside of the narrow confines of student politics. It can hardly be argued that taking the five minutes necessary to fill out the form would have been particularly detrimental to their panicked last minute revision, and the majority would undoubtedly have been perfectly capable of dealing with any persistent NSS call-centre attention.

Yet the campaign to boycott the NSS has become something of a cornerstone of CUSU policy this term. Alongside Ferguson’s laudable defence of Portuguese within the University, the campaign will serve as a legacy of his presidency, just as Iraq will define any history of the Blair ministry. It seems something of an anticlimax to end the 12 months since his election to the CUSU presidency over what it, to be honest, a rather routine student survey. Yet against a clamour of support for the survey from Vice-Chancellors, government departments and even the campaign’s grandfather, Wes Streeting, Ferguson and his Executive have remained defiant.

The amount of weight that many prospective applicants will attach to the results of the survey is very much debateable. How students choose their universities is far from rational and, although the aims transparency and increasing the availability of information are praiseworthy, the fact that one institution got three points more than another in a government survey is hardly likely to sway the decisions of many potential applicants. Yet the survey seems a strange choice for such a major campaign. It surely cannot do any harm to garner the opinion of students from around the country in the hope of providing better government provision for higher education in future. Ferguson’s argument that the survey is irrelevant to the higher expectations of a Cambridge education could be difficult to interpret in any other way than Oxbridge elite aloofness for some.

The ‘one size fits all’ stance of the NSS is far from ideal and comes from the same stable of government policies as the HEFCE governance guidelines discussed last week. Yet the national embarrassment of being the only university in the country not counted in the survey seems a heavy price to pay for what some will undoubtedly describe as the strange moral smugness of CUSU’s resolve, and Ferguson’s wish to leave a legacy of defiance.

# 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

## LETTER OF THE WEEK

Dear Sir,

You complain in your leader on March 2nd that “rather than mobilising Cambridge, the perceived role of CUSU President is now seen to be that of providing a safe pair of hands.” Nothing wrong about that statement on the face of it, but when you think about it, what are CUSU supposed to be mobilising Cambridge for? When mobilisation has been needed, CUSU has done a good job of representing students’ views- look at the campaigns against the National Student Survey and the closure of the Portuguese department. But otherwise why do we need to “mobilise” in a gener-

al sense? What is so massively wrong in the way we are treated and the way the University is run that requires spontaneous and mass support for CUSU?

Moreover, most decisions about students’ lives are taken by the colleges rather than the university. Here, it is JCRs that come to the fore, not CUSU. CUSU can’t do much about Jesus’ rent rises apart from performing the dull but necessary task of providing JCSU with information of rents across the University. As it should be, CUSU’s job is inherently unglamorous. The leader of CUSU should be someone who is “a safe pair of hands” and not another politically motivated demagogue/hack, focussed on making the students rise up in the devalued spirit of 1968.

Remember, the last time we had a fundamentally incompetent President, the Access Shadowing Scheme collapsed. Yet this same President won a closely fought race with around twice the number of first preferences than Mark Ferguson had the next year. CUSU is dull and boring and it should stay that way.

Alex Dawson  
Pembroke 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

Dear Sir,

It was with some bewilderment that I read your editorial on the March 2 which appeared to advocate CUSU return to the days of the CSU (Cambridge Students’ Union) or, as you put it, “Charles Clarke’s giant”.

There are many legitimate reasons why students may wish to criticise CUSU but the progress the Union has made over the last 20 years is undeniable. In 1971, the year of Charles Clarke’s Presidency, student representation within the University was minimal; CSU had no caseworkers to deal with individual students’ problems (CUSU now has three); it ran no ents; and did, as far as I am aware, exactly nothing for Access. It is particularly worth noting that CSU only achieved a “working relationship” with the University in 1979 and was only formally recognised in 1985. Surely Varsity is not advocating regression to those days?

Equally, I am concerned about continuation of the use of comments such as: “[CUSU has] become wholly disengaged from the student populus”. Although the appearance of such remarks in the student press have become a leitmotif to all of those who volunteer their time to work for the Union, the reality of the situation is not the same as the received wisdom. For example, despite CUSU becoming “increasingly sidelined”, Varsity has had

features stories with direct CUSU involvement on its front page eleven times out of sixteen this year. A cursory glance through the middle page of any edition confirms this statistic. We must ask, if CUSU is so irrelevant, why does Varsity persist publishing stories about it? Varsity must surely either ignore CUSU as irrelevant or embrace it as an important part of Cambridge life. It seems impossible to have it both ways.

Yours faithfully,

Jacob Head  
Selwyn College

Dear Sir,

May Week does not begin on either of the days you mention. It begins on the first day of the May races.

Yours truly,

Peter Linehan  
Dean, St John’s College

Dear Sir,

I would like to congratulate Varsity on this term’s fashion pages. More specifically, I have been dazzled by the use of a linguistic motif which has tirelessly linked the pages together across the weeks. This motif, as other readers as avid as myself must have noted, is the word “sartorial”.

Meaning “tailored” or “relating to a tailor” (just in case its prolific usage in Varsity has obscured the word’s actual meaning for any readers), “sartorial” sadly does not apply to every trend going, especially nothing of the billowing or loose variety. I have to wonder whether the fashion writers in question are unsure of other ‘professional’ fashion journalism words that they could use, or whether the Vogue cut-out that is pinned above their bed features the word alone in block capitals, somehow winding its way into their subconscious, an thus into the pages of your hallowed newspaper.

For these innocent, be-fuddled writers, I feel I should offer some alternatives: structured, figured, boned, sculpted. I am aware exchanging the word would put an end to the linguistic motif that has pulled this term’s pages together, in a manner not unlike the strings of a sartorial bonnet, but I think the time has come for a re-style.

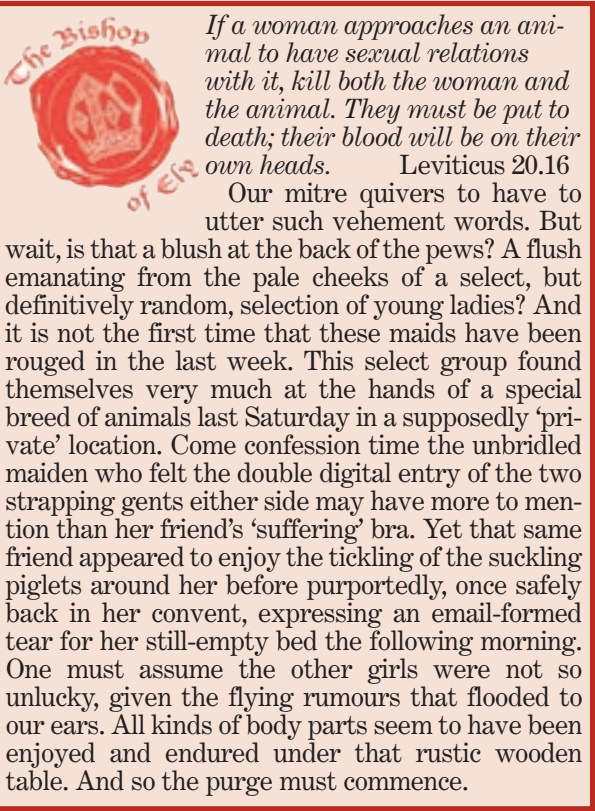
Yours Sincerely,

Freddie de Courcy Wheeler  
Peterhouse College

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Recycled paper made up  
80.3% of the raw material  
for UK newspapers in 2005





# Features & Arts



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Boris Johnson, the Shadow Minister for Higher Education, is his usual animated self in his Portcullis House office discussing education inequality

## Mary Bowers meets Boris Johnson and discusses

Once the stop-start tourist crowds snapping their holiday shots over Westminster Bridge have cleared, Parliament Square takes on another mood; the slightly ominous calm of police officers and towering metal detectors that solemnly guard the seat of power somehow manage to make even the steadiest of heartbeats quicken in their chests. Such a habitat seems entirely incongruous for Boris Johnson, the straw-haired fop of the Conservative Party, the man who is not afraid to write about “blacks” and a “jihad on education” on his weblog, the man whose mobile phone has gone off twice live on television and who has been lauded by Paul Merton as “the man who will lead the Conservative Party into the seventeenth century”. He is the Tory Party’s top gimmick, and thus an unsurprising choice for David Cameron’s Shadow Secretary for Higher Education. The Cambridge University Conservative Association at last year’s Societies’ Fair chose to advertise themselves by using girls in extra-short tennis skirts to distribute “I heart Boris” badges. His PA warns me against asking any “awkward questions”, tells me he is under a great deal of pressure, and cannot possibly spare me more than ten minutes. When I tell him I am from *Varsity* he raises a perfectly preened eyebrow, shakes his head and breathes something about slipping

through the net.

But when we walk in, clearing a space through the newspapers and finding a space on a rather shabby-looking green sofa, Boris has his nose in his own book. He is “researching” a talk he has to give in an hour, “somewhere or other in North London” and hasn’t yet begun. His trademark snowy mane shows all the signs of being ruffled by his hands, never by a comb. The remains of a celebratory fruitcake is scattered on the side and among the sugary debris I can just about make out a flag of St George. He looks distracted until I tell him I wish to speak about his role in the Shadow Cabinet.

‘Boris seems on a mission to stamp out privilege, he’s a paradox in tweeds.’

Suddenly, he fixes me with an unrelenting, intense gaze and leans forward, waving his hands around and spouting ideas with typical bluster.

“We must raise the standards of all universities!” He enthuses, “We must all go higher and higher! A rising tide will lift all boats!” Inwardly, he seems to be waving a Union Jack.

Boris Johnson is, despite his novelty packaging, a paradox in tweeds. He repeats the words “social equality” whilst exuding an Etonian charm. In a recent photograph of Cameron in the jacket of Oxford’s Bullingdon Club, Boris was in the background sporting one similar. The new Cameron shadow cabinet can seem less a collection of politicians leading the country to social equality and more an Old Boys’ social reunion, yet Boris seems on a mission to stamp out privilege. “We have a system in this country whereby the elite, the rulers, avail themselves of selective education, either by having the economic power to move to an area by a good school, or by using fee paying education, or by pretending to be religious and going to a church school, and yet by their laws they deprive the rest of the population, the 90 per cent who don’t use fee paying education. That is socially unjust.” And yet a social injustice Johnson himself benefited from, he admits. But if he were given ten billion pounds, he explains, he’d reform primary education. “12 per cent of children are leaving schools unable to do basic mathematics. They are never really going to catch up. The single biggest thing you could do for equality and social justice is to make sure that all children by the age of 11 get a decent education.” He pauses. “That’s how you’ll get Oxford and Cambridge, once again, to be a great engine for social mobility.” Perhaps the pause rep-





MICHAEL DERRINGER

## privilege, education and marrying for money

resented the convenient gap in his explanation where the middle seven years should have been.

If he cannot fight social inequalities before Oxford and Cambridge, perhaps he can help us afterwards. Why aren't there, as a recent report has posed, enough graduate opportunities? Cue trademark spitting and huffing and the answer "Now listen here Mary, this is unbelievable. I graduated in the 80s when it was tough, [now] we have no unemployment in this country. When I started out it was Thatcher and dog-eat-dog. Come on..."

If Boris is going to give us that unsympathetic, "during the war" attitude, how can he then encourage students that a degree is worth its increased price tag, especially after Cameron's U-turn on Top Up Fees? "It's a risk! Everything you do is a risk! Life is a risk!" Cue intermittent arm waving. "Its overwhelmingly likely that personally it's the right thing to do, but no one in their right mind could guarantee that this very modest investment is going to pay off. I think on the whole it will, but I can't guarantee it." He goes glassy-eyed as he continues and I can distinctly see the flags waving once more, this time complete with the sounds of the brass band striking up and crust-less cucumber sandwiches being unwrapped. "It is a good thing in itself, you meet lots of wonderful people, you have a chance to work on wonderful magazines and newspapers, you'll have a thoroughly won-

derful time, all sorts of initiations will happen to you, spiritual, emotional, things will happen to you which are incredibly important, you will be exposed to other people from all sorts of walks of life and you'll learn about your country and your fellow countrymen, which is vital."

'Inwardly, he seems to be waving a Union Jack'

In which case, what are we to do if we have the "spiritual experience" and not the job we might have hoped for as, wide-eyed, we filled out our UCAS forms? The solution is revealed in typical Boris fashion; "If you don't earn £15,000 over 25 years, you don't pay it back. Suppose I'd gone to university and then been wise enough to marry some kick-ass banker from Goldman Sachs." Is that his advice? "Absolutely. My advice to young men these days is get your wife to become a partner in a big law firm and you won't have to pay a penny of your fees, because you won't [have to] earn enough to qualify."

It is at this moment, ten minutes to the second, that his hawk-eyed assistant returns. By the end of the session, "the most pompous interview I've ever given" he assures me, Boris is in full flood and seems to have forgotten his assistant, his book and

even the talk he is supposed to be giving in less than an hour. Forgetting seems to be a regular theme. What advice would he give to graduates seeking a career now? "Oh, I would say, I would say to them, in the words of my grandmother, 'darling... don't worry. Darling... what did she say?' Creepily, his assistant seems able to recall for him. "Darling, don't worry *how* you're doing, worry *what* you're doing." It is perhaps Boris Johnson's endearing quality, and just as well for him, that he does not seem to worry at all.

### BORIS' BIOG

**1964** – Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson is born in New York

**1986** – Graduates from Balliol College, Oxford

**1987** – After a series of journalistic endeavours, Boris trades in Wolverhampton's *Express & Star* for *The Telegraph*

**1999** – Succeeds as supremo at *The Spectator*

**2001** – Moves in on Michael Heseltine as MP for Henley.

### Joe Rinaldi Johnson

On media moguls



Whether you get your dose over breakfast, on the toilet, or repeatedly throughout the day, there can be no doubt that, as Britains, we suffer from a serious news addiction.

We consume news with an insatiable appetite, taking in stories with startling rapidity and skimming over those all-too-unimportant details. Whether it's George Galloway's unfortunate animal antics or David Blunkett's suprising feats of sexual promiscuity, we want to know, and we want to know quickly. Luckily for us, news can be condensed to such an extent that it is even possible to fit some in *The Daily Star*.

Unfortunately with politics, it is usually the details that matter. With all the hurry to reduce our news to a bite-size, compact format, some issues simply never make it onto our agenda. Sensation sells in the British news market and certain media moguls are more than happy to give it to us at the expense of reasoned political debate. A relentless media bombardment from the internet, 24-hour news and the press, much of which is dominated by Murdoch's *News Corporation*, can hit key demographics all at once, often making untenable the position of a politician targeted in this way.

I may have disagreed with David Blunkett's illiberal, authoritarian and unworkable policies, but to force him out of a job for doing just one little favour for

'people would rather choose a smiling, well dressed villain over a promiscuous saint with the right policies'

an ex-lover is more than a little theatrical. If any of you have ever made a personal call from a work phone, or logged onto *Facebook* using a library workstation, you are just as guilty as he. But perhaps what this shows is that politics is satisfying the public's wants: the media's lack of focus on policy shows that the public is so content with the politicians' proposals that the only role left for democracy is to select those candidates with the most virtue. For the mass media, sleaze is a mark of failure; to have a clean slate means success.

When image and style take precedence over policy and substance, democracy is in a worrying state. When people would rather choose a smiling, well-dressed villain over a promiscuous saint with the right policies, it is clear that our ability to make clear political judgements has been clouded. Until politicians cease to be simply media-friendly buzz-word dispensers and until we choose a better diet of political information free from the contamination of interested parties, the relationship between the public then the media and the politicians will remain unhealthy.





Moya Sarnar and Osh Jones pack up Dick Whittington-style and look to the bright lights of London for a theatrical respite from Cambridge essay gloom....

In the dark, dehumanising depths of the UL, supervision-sick, dissertation-decrepit, mal-nourished, fun-phobic and miserable, dejected students are sobbing themselves into week eight. Thank goodness it's only seven days until the 'Easter Holiday'. Holiday? You might have forgotten: that six-week sounds-long-but-it'll-be-gone-before-you-know-it countdown to exam hell. Thank goodness for that. How relaxed it is NOT GOING TO MAKE US.

But wait, let's just calm down a minute. Chill out. Break out.

Breaking out is not such a bad idea. You could even go all the way to London. There's more to life than this university's skewed attempt at reality: burst out of the bubble, escape your fears, run away from your problems.

Take advantage of our proximity to the capital and catch the Cambridge Cruiser out of this god-forsaken hole of towering spires and inspiring towers all full of books, books, so many books...

You won't be the first. The historical relationship between Cambridge and London is more than just geographical: it's dramatic. Some ex-students haven't just popped up for a day at the theatre to escape the dreaded Cam backwaters; they've ended up on London's stages. With this in mind, you could pop along to see a Cambridge alumnus - on stage or off. There are plenty flitting about; you could spot Queens' Stephen Fry driving in his London taxi cab (though not in a professional capacity), or catch a glimpse of Newnham's Emma Thompson jogging

around Hampstead. More recently, up-and-coming talent has presented itself in the shape of recent graduates like Amy Noble in *East-Enders* and *Holby City* over Christmas; and Tom

'Catch the Cambridge Cruiser out of this god-forsaken hole of books, books, and more books...'

Hiddleston, who starred in old ADC favourite Declan Donnellan's *The Changeling* in 2006 - as well as appearing in *Casualty*.

If you'd rather laugh than cry, join Jonny Sweet, Simon Bird and Joe Thomas (graduated 2006) at *The House of Windsor*, their first show since leaving the Cambridge Footlights for the bright lights of London. They've continued the traditional career move to the capital, just like ex-Footlights President and *Varsity* writer Clive James, now living between London and Cambridge, who details his experiences here in the '60s in his book *May Week Was In June* - some things never change.

There are plenty of Cambridge graduates working their magic backstage as well; the National Theatre has Nicholas Hytner (Artistic Director); one of the RSC's numerous Cambridge connections is Adrian

Noble (ex-Artistic Director), and, more recently, Natalie Abrahami (graduated 2003), who has taken over as Artistic Director of the Gate Theatre. Cambridge doesn't just swap people with London - it swaps plays too, from last term's *The Alchemist*, shown at the National and the ADC, to this term's *The Changeling* (on this week at the Round Church). *The Seafarer* dropped anchor at the Cambridge Arts Theatre after it's successful run at the National, showing us that a little bit of London in Cambridge can do wonders for putting the wind in your sails. Next term we welcome *Cheek By Jowl's* Declan Donnellan, judge of this year's Harry Porter Prize, when he brings his *Three*

*Sisters* to the Arts Theatre, before transferring to the Barbican in May. In Russian, no less. *Do svidania*.

So follow the crowd to escape the crowd, jump on the train, bus, or bicycle, and have a day-trip to London. There's no need to bounce from one insular socio-cultural bubble to the next however; if you never want to see a Cambridge face again, this is still the city for you. And it doesn't even need to cost a fortune; if you want to act like a groundling in the Shaftesbury Avenue theatres, you might have to pay through the nose; but for £5 standing at the National you could see student-muso favourite Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days*. Or conjure away your cares with *Harry Potter's* Daniel Radcliffe, as he waves a very different kind of magic wand in *Equus*, at the Gielgud

'Conjure away your cares with *Harry Potter's* Daniel Radcliffe, as he waves a very different kind of magic wand in *Equus* at the Gielgud Theatre.'

Theatre. Why not trot along to see the once horrendous magician turn his attention from hippogriffs to horses - to considerably greater critical acclaim? If naked men don't tickle your fancy, try *Taylor Mac*, in full, glorious drag, at the Soho Theatre (March 26th - April 7th). Both intellectually stimulating and politically provocative, this show - a massive hit in Edinburgh - will lift your soul and put that sequin sparkle back into your life.

If you've really lost all sense of self and are contemplating ending it all, then try the National and Martin Crimp's *Attempts on her Life*. Katie Mitchell (director) will guide you through seventeen diverse theatrical scenarios on a search for identity, rolling with the punches and rocking to the sound-track. But should you be able to hold on until Easter Term blues hit you, and don't mind walking a little further east along the Thames, take a place in the pit at the Globe. Standing tickets are £10, and from May onwards you can see *Othello*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Love's Labour's Lost* in a theatre where the architecture as well as the action is appreciated. (A completely valid bit of 'revision' for those ensnared by the English Tripos.)

However, if you can't quite shake off that Cambridge feeling even in the Big Smoke, look on the bright side of life and find your Footlights roots in *Spamalot*, the Monty Python Musical, on at the Palace Theatre until November 7. Hilarious, spectacular and many other adjectives besides, this show will restore your faith, and might even manage to start you looking forward to coming back next term.

## APPLES AND PEARS

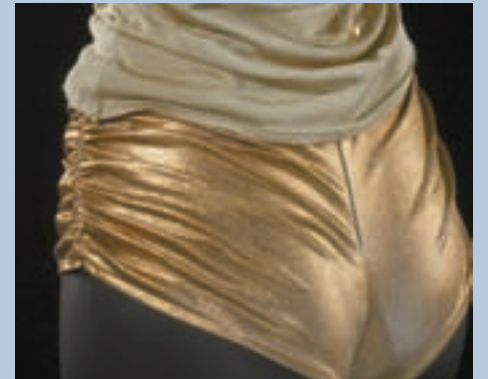
A versified pick of the best of the Big Smoke



### Banksy

1 - 24 March, Andipa Gallery

Lift me up Banky,  
With graffiti for the soul,  
You feed my spirit.  
Banksy Banksy, you complete me,  
With political graffiti.



### Kylie - The Exhibition

8 February - 10 June,  
Victoria and Albert Museum

Perhaps the answer,  
That we are all looking for,  
Is Kylie's bottom.



### The Ideal Home Show,

9 March - 1 April, Earl's Court

Forget college rooms,  
Find decorating bliss and  
Fulfillment: ideal.

A dull and disused college chamber,  
Is not one of artistic favour,  
So go to this show  
To get in the know  
With sofas to blissfully savour.

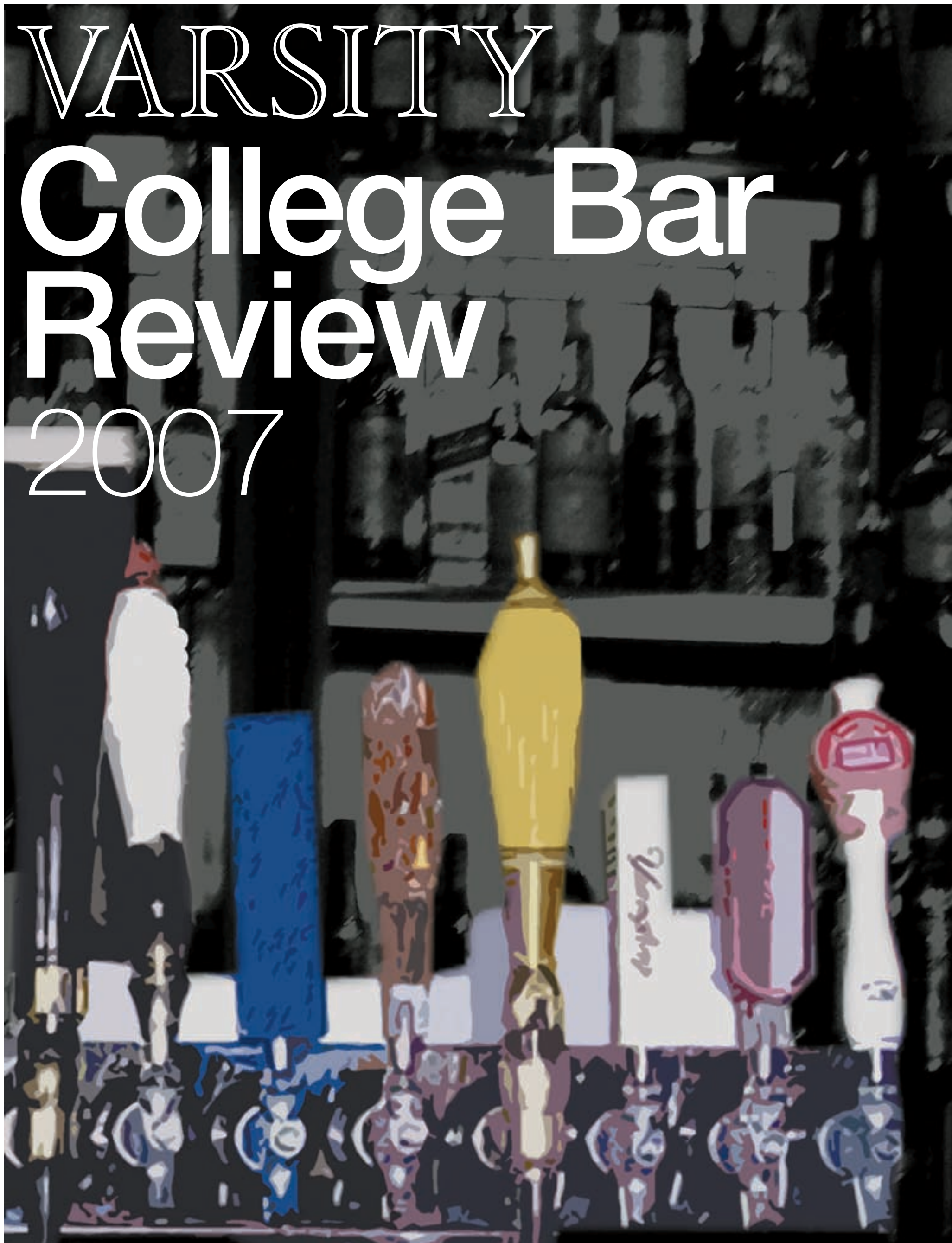
Right:  
Banksy's  
police-  
man,  
Kylie's  
hotpants  
and  
Ikea's  
idea of  
heaven



VARSITY

# College Bar Review

2007





BORED OF YOUR BAR? IN AN EXHAUSTIVE AND THIRST-QUENCHING STUDY, VARSITY CHECKS OUT THE ALTERNATIVES

CHRIST’S

Christ's bar is homely, with window seats and Victorian style ceiling beams it has the character of an old man's pub. Food-wise, there's only chocolate. The bar has a television, darts board and a relaxed ambience, let down slightly by the baby blue walls with their school toilet connotations.




Katy Tranter

		
£1.40	£1.80	£2.17

CHURCHILL

The bar itself is large and open, with plenty of seating and all the standard college bar paraphernalia: a large darts board, a couple of vending machines and a jukebox. With the exception of Pav, one of the few college bar ents that's free entry for all Cambridge students, this is a very run-of-the-mill bar.

Izzy de Rosario

		
£1.90	£1.80	£1.40

CLARE

Best Setting

Clare bar has it all. It's scenic, with comfortable sofas in an atmospheric underground environment. There's a buzzing atmosphere, friendly bartenders, foosball and pool tables, jukebox and widescreen TV, a wide range of bar snacks, cheap drinks and great virgin cocktails. Go.




Catherine Hall

		
£1.10	£1.80	£1.50

CLARE HALL

Walking in here is like entering a funky New York apartment with its slanted ceilings. But, despite the bright red walls the atmosphere, although warm, is not quite Upper East Side. It was deserted at 10pm, perhaps highlighting the difference between this and an undergrad bar. Or maybe just the punters' workload.

Sarika Thanki

		
£1.50	£2.00	£2.00

CORPUS

This is a proper college bar: cosy and crammed with drunk boys in gowns and mortar-boards. There's something for everyone: Polish vodkas, dirt-cheap fair-trade coffee and four different sorts of sambuca. However, the orange-and-cream colour scheme seems misconceived, and the music is horrendous.

Tom Smith

		
£1.20	£1.80	£1.75

DARWIN

Hidden Gem

This bar is not for limbering up ahead of a Cindies drinking marathon. Instead, savour your single malt or decorously sup a Bitberger before stepping outside to waltz gracefully across the grounds. Late night sessions are rumoured, when one suspects things get a little more iniquitous.

Alfred Rudd

		
£1.30	£1.50	£2.00

DOWNING

Downing's café-bar is a solitary building, cowering under the shadow of the library. Student-run and the venue for several ents, it might be expected to possess real character. But this was strangely lacking. Still, its Mediterranean colour scheme exuded a warm glow, the bar-keep was friendly and the drinks reasonably priced. Essentially adequate, it doesn't merit a special trip out.

Jess Snow

		
£2.00	£1.80	£1.50

EMMA

Cheapest Bar

Best for Ents

This student-run bar is cosy yet maintains a sizeable space if you want to cut some shapes. Although the blue plastic décor is more pop-up-pirate than swanky yacht, impressively cheap drinks and the legendary Funk Da Bar make a good case for it being the best college establishment.

Gianna Vaughan

		
£1.30	£1.20	£1.10

FITZ

Likely to be your first stop when you stagger out of formal; at this time it fills with bright inebriated young things. It was just ten minutes before my mate was chatted up. Vile pasties, decor like the inside of the better sort of suitcase, a wide array of retro arcade machines and loads of pool tables next door.


David Brown

		
£1.40	£1.35	£2.05

GIRTON

Never ones to shun a challenge, we negotiated the bus ride and found ourselves a lovely bar. Red velvet stools, old photos and arched alcoves make for a friendly atmosphere whilst the jukebox and usual paraphernalia ensure you don't get bored. An opportunity "to boldly go" where few have gone before.

Laura Kilbride

		
£2.20	£1.70	£1.75



Queens' College Bar is favoured for it's hearty Sunday roast and a faux-granite bar that's clean enough to eat it from.

DYLAN SPENCER-DAVIDSON

CAIUS

Visiting Caius put me into a foul mood. It wasn't the cheap prices, friendly patrons or comfortable décor, which I rather liked. Instead, I objected to being ejected by the angry barman for not being a Caius member. A shame as I'd overheard a college member wishing for "more girls from other colleges." For Caians only.


Chrissie Collins

		
£1.30	£1.90	£1.50

HOMERTON

Clean, modern and spacious, this bar was recently redecorated and combined with the college buttery, and, as such, feels a little utilitarian. However, comfy sofas, trendy bar seats and a large projector screen makes it a popular choice for students of Homerton. And for others too, if you can face the bus ride.

Ed Galvin

		
£1.70	£2.00	£2.00

HUGHES HALL

Although entirely lacking draught beer, your inner Highlander will be pleased with the monstrous collection of single malts. The welcoming student barman and hot clientele mean that despite looking like an art-deco sports pavillion, it's definitely worth a visit. Plus, its right next to Fagito's, easily Cambridge's best kebab shop.

Ric Whalley


		
£1.50	£1.65	£1.80

JESUS

Style Award

Small but perfectly formed, this stylish bar offers expensive drinks but excellent cocktails. Colourful, ergonomic seats and a curvy glass wall adds to the sophisticated, yuppy feel. Hordes of drunken Jesuans detract from it. Good and evil, Yin and Yang. Like the Universe, Jesus bar has perfect balance.

Adam Kessler

		
£1.95	£2.00	£1.75

KING'S

The décor in this place is fantastic; they have framed a hammer and sickle lest the students forget their revolutionary mission. They hold regular pop quizzes and gigs; if you're really lucky you may even gain entry to the fabled King's Cellar where a load of indie types are holed up with gunpowder and Blur's Greatest Hits.

Jessica King

		
£1.40	£1.25	£1.75

LUCY CAV

Can a bar be a bar without beer on tap? Dodgy wine and an almost impressive lack of drink selection are compensated for by fabulous conversation and a starlit conservatory. The porters are strict on non-members, but if you make it inside enjoy inexpensive drinks and the excellent, and not necessarily quiet, Lucy scene. Fill up my glass.

Bernadette de Villiers

		
£1.40	£1.70	£1.85

MAGDALENE

One of the prettiest college bars, it blends cheerful red and yellow stripy wallpaper with traditional timber beamwork. The room has a clean and spacious feel to it, and features a games machine and an electronic jukebox. Not always bustling, but with the pleasant air of a country pub. One of my favourites.

Lizzie Briggs




		
£1.60	£2.10	£1.78

NEW HALL

Most Expensive Bar

Bright, airy, high ceilinged but mostly quiet. Gargantuan TV and sound system and the pool table is tiny but free. There's a predictably massive rush on rosé when formal kicks out and all beer is bottled. Service is cheeky and cheerful, college members sometimes work behind the bar. Shots only £1.

David Brown

		
£2.00	£1.80	£2.00

NEWNHAM

Friday night: entirely empty except for two friends of the barman. The beer's run out, and there's been no house wine since December; "people mainly come in here to buy chocolate", he says wistfully. Features a rather forlorn discoball and a stairlift. Four girls come in and set up a board game; we make a swift exit.

Tom Smith

		
£1.85	£1.59	£1.90

PEMBROKE

After the ceiling fell in last year, this bar was redecorated and consequently it is easily one of the most pleasant bars around. Yet, the plush sofas, dark red walls, pool table, foosball table and TV have not lured students; it is inexplicably underused, even though the main room of the bar doubles up as their JCR.

Izzy de Rosario

		
£1.80	£1.80	£2.40

PETERHOUSE

Peterhouse bar is not frequented by its students, or anyone else. It is in response to this that the College have agreed to renovate it over the Easter vacation. So hopefully by next term, there'll be no more chipped and garish yellow walls, more seating, a jukebox, and it'll be open on Mondays. Fingers crossed.




Izzy de Rosario

		
£1.65	£1.85	£2.50

QUEENS'

A spacious open plan bar with all the old-world charm of a formica airport lounge. But it does have a wonderfully cheerful atmosphere and sunny open terrace in the summer. Juke boxes, foosball, TV sport, coffee shop and a Sunday roast make this perhaps not the spot for intellectual discussion, but lively nonetheless.

Isabel Taylor

		
£2.00	£1.60	£1.80

ROBINSON

Its "Saved By The Bell" feel is complimented by a juke box, pool table and foosball table. Hot food is served on a Sunday evening. The smoothies are well worth a try and a visit to this bar is definitely recommended, especially if you are a brick-fetishist.




Sarika Thanki

		
£1.50	£1.90	£2.00

SELWYN

With a sexy S-shaped bar, blonde pine floor and large windows, it's aesthetically pleasing: the Sweden of college bars. It could be mistaken for the trendiest of trendy wine bars. The sofas are deliciously marshmallow-like and create a homely feeling. Wednesday's "Selwyn Savers" means all pints are a quid.

David Brown

		
£2.00	£1.90	£1.80



SIDNEY

Impressive array of spirits, with a nudge and a wink perhaps getting you a cheeky absinthe. There's also real ale. Little ventilation so a bit sweaty, and the weird tripartite set-up makes it hard to decide on the aesthetic, but cosy. No jukebox, so the bar staff decide the tunes: a good thing, bearing in mind the drunken student musical taste.

David Brown


		
£1.40	£1.30	£1.10

ST CATZ

Worst Bar

Designed by numbers, it has pool, foosball and arcade games but the bland decoration and uncomfortable seats ruin any potential atmosphere. Behind the bar the cheerful chappie has stuck up colourful posters and some famous faces, lending the counter some much needed character. Shame about the rest of the room.

Adam Kessler

		
£1.40	£1.90	£1.40

ST EDMUND'S

A good drink selection with cheap prices and an attractive though small bar. It's not for the kids but if you're over 21 it's an option. Outside the cute little box of a bar there's masses of underused, badly furnished common-room space but it is all too bright, devoid of atmosphere and lonely, even on a Saturday night.

Bernadette de Villiers

		
£1.50	£1.60	£1.75

ST JOHN'S

Best Bar

One of the busiest Cambridge bars, it's worth going earlier in the evening if you want to get noticed. There's plenty to do; the room stocks a bagatelle table, TV and board games are available on request. There's a range of food on offer standard chocolate bars to toasties. Definitely has the feel of a proper pub about it.

Lizzie Briggs

		
£1.35	£2.00	£1.75

TRINITY

Trinity bar is often likened to an airport lounge, due to the awkward seating arrangements. Lots on offer: cheap drinks, a pool table, a football table and two TVs. There's also a massive food selection ranging from fruit to sponge cakes. Definitely pop in, if you can stomach the unfriendly bar staff.


Lizzie Briggs

		
£1.20	£1.80	£1.55

TRINITY HALL

Wacka-wacka porn music was coupled with more bar snacks than you could shake your rhythm stick at, including the Holy Grail of booze accompaniments, Mini-Cookies. The décor trod the line between a Church of England Primary and a Medieval Tavern, replete with comely, yet surly serving wenches. Huzzah!

Lowri Jenkins & Lauren Smith

		
£2.20	£1.80	£1.50

WOLFSON

It's an epic trek; Lord of the Rings stylee, but once you do it's a pleasant enough place. It comes complete with cafeteria style seating, a few sofas and attractive mood lighting. A cheeky 2 for 1 drinks deal got us squiffy enough, and the friendly barman sealed the deal. If you're in the area, make the detour.

Chutney Higginbotham

		
£1.45	£1.60	£2.20

Varsity Victuals



Glass of house wine



Cheapest pint



Vodka & coke

If Varsity made College Bars

Cider, sausages and leather-bound quiz machines, George Grist plays God and imagines creating the daddy of all college bars

As you'll have seen in the previous pages, Cambridge college bars are a pretty mixed bag. They range from grotty out-houses with overpriced, watered down beer to luxurious, airy rooms with good cheap drinks, leather sofas and friendly bar staff. A good bar can be the centre-point of the college; a place to meet people, chat and relax and a temporary respite from whatever essay you're bogged down with. But if you could make the perfect college bar, how would you go about it?

Start off with the drinks. Apologies to all you tee-totalers out there, but alcohol is pretty important. You want a good range of lagers on tap. Carlsberg, Grolsch, Heineken, as well as some adventurous options; Leffe and Hoegaarden are slightly more exotic, and if you're really daring it might be worth sourcing some Maximator beer from Amsterdam. With an A.B.V. of 11.6%, it's a foul and slightly poisonous brew which would undoubtedly deliver the intoxicating kick-up-the-arse that a good night out sometimes needs. Try mixing that into a snakebite. Moving on to the real ales, I'd favour looking to the Westcountry for inspiration. Doom Bar bitter and St Austell Tinner's Ale would be a nice Cornish combo and as for cider, Weston's Old Rosie is a pretty potent drink, and comes highly recommended. Cocktails aren't a necessary addition to a good bar,

but they're not altogether worthless; there should be a smallish, well-mixed selection, if only for the girls. Think along the lines of Raspberry Cosmopolitans, Zubrowka Apples and Mojitos. Even if none of these was to your taste, there'd be guest ales and lagers to keep you interested, along with a range of smoothies and tasty non-alcoholic cocktails if you

'Traditionalists maintain that a bar should have nothing but beer, seats and tables, whereas more 'liberal-minded' folk appreciate a cheeky Deal or No Deal on the quiz machine'

don't fancy the harder stuff. The extent and variety of bar entertainment is a pretty contentious point. Traditionalists would maintain that a bar should have nothing but beer, seats and tables, whereas more 'liberal-minded' folk appreciate the opportunity to have a game of pool, a cheeky *Deal or No Deal* on the quiz machine, then a quick doubles on

*Virtua Tennis 2*, where it's Pat Rafter and Tim Henman all the way. Unfortunately for the traditionalists amongst you, I'm of the latter opinion. It's a college bar, and its primary function is to allow people to have a good time; while bar games like these might not be to everyone's taste, for their fans they are absolutely integral to the fabric of the place.

Appearance is crucial for any bar, and it can be very difficult to strike a balance between the clean, practical comfort of the airport lounge affair and the oldie-style cosiness of the timbered smoky backroom. By my reckoning, the best balance here is to stick to the attractive traditional "pub" image, but to try to incorporate modern touches and conveniences. Why not hide the TVs behind sliding wall panels when they're not in use? By all means have those big squishy leather sofas, but put them in front of a roaring open fire. As for those unsightly quiz machines, just deck them out in leather and they'll fit right in.

Foodwise, there should be a decent range of cheap sandwiches and panini at lunchtime for a quick alternative to the buttery, and in the evening it's always nice to see a few snacks on sale. The best take on bar snacks I've ever seen was a pot of cooked sausages by the bar, sold individually with a bit of mustard. A fantastic alternative to cheese and onion crisps. And while they're not to everyone's

taste, I think that pork scratchings represent the essence of an English pub in a

'The best take on bar snacks I've ever seen was a pot of cooked sausages'

small packet of salty fat; they'd be top of my list for a cheap unhealthy fix. An important point to consider is that bar staff can make or break any college bar. They should be the type of person you could have a chat with even if the rest of the bar was empty. What's more, they have to be strict enough to eject anyone who's hit the Maximator a bit too hard, but lenient enough to occasionally pour a little bit more vodka than a single measure rightfully deserves.

So, there you have it - the ingredients of the almost perfect college bar. But, in reality, it's not quite that simple. Some bars just feel right, and it's not a matter of ticking the boxes. When you step in to a bar and the conversation's flowing just as much as the alcohol, you know that the bar's doing its job. So instead of falling into the comfortable familiarity of your own bar, go out and try another one. You never know, it might just be a good'un.



VIEW FROM THE  
GROUNDINGSDavid Ralfe  
and Beth Sims

## Whirlwind Tour

This last column of term brings you two well-travelled groundlings. For you, dear reader, we have travelled countries and centuries, endured the Scotch wilds and dodged the ethical science bombings that came our way.

First to our friendly Northern neighbours; unfortunately the interpretation of the Scottish play was scuppered by a gulf between greenness and experience. Playing Macbeth and his Lady, Ade O'Brien and Natalie Kesterton gave solid performances, but were let down by the inexperience of a weak supporting cast. When these two were alone on the stage the Playroom finally began to crackle. But even O'Brien proved fallible. Perhaps we just couldn't get his Bottom out of our minds, but more than once his performance was too hammy for our liking.

Onto Copenhagen! The ambitious ADC Mainshow attempted to broach issues of ethical physics (particularly the development of the Hiroshima atom bomb) in a way that doesn't dilute the scientific subject matter. It was, perhaps surprisingly, remarkably clear and watchable. Dave Brown's Bohr is twitchy and awkward, whilst Misha Verkerk plays Heisenberg with self-conscious arrogance. The sexual charge in their relationship renders it somewhat spicier than that between Bohr and his wife. Virginia Corless' staid Margrethe provides an emotionally intelligent touchstone for the less scientific amongst us. It is a disjointed piece, but deliberately so, as the three characters remember and misremember the events of several decades. The spectacular use of shifting mirrors and kaleidoscopic lights makes for a visually stunning production.

New writing has been alive and kicking this term and *The Queen Is Dead*, penned by Mike Kieley and George Reynolds, brought us back to Blighty for a witty and well-paced exploration of the frustrations of everyday life. Pointless platitudes like "tomorrow's another day" are shot down by the wonderfully acerbic Lizzy Barber, whose scene with the ex-boyfriend (Reynolds) steals the show. Grace Hughes-Hallet is also memorable, as a self-important food critic desperately smothering her insecurities. The potent, brutally awkward naturalism of their scenes jars with some Carry On-style caricatures, and Reynolds occasionally errs towards 'all you need is love' moralizing. But this show is a hugely promising play from a duo, whose work the groundlings will scramble to see in the future. Sometimes you can tell it's a Freshers' Play, but it's a bloody good Freshers' Play. And so it seems, in our packaged tour of the globe, the New World is best.

The Changeling  
Round Church

★★



CARL FLETCHER

Violation of mind and women is about the worst thing that can happen to someone in Jacobean theatre, and *The Changeling* gives us the double whammy. Poor Alsemero (Tom Attenborough) gives his betrothed a dodgy potion to check the old maidenhead's intact. It isn't, awkwardly, because Beatrice-Joanna (Sarah Lambie) has been having it off with the nasty and deformed De Flores (Merric Boyd). By mistake. Sort of.

Milly Greene's production in the Round Church seems to be afraid of vio-

lating the serious action of Alsemero's nuptial nightmare with the comic world of the madhouse of Dr Alibius (the splendid, splendid Thomas Yarrow). The tragedy and the comic relief feel truly divorced, especially given that the only real point of contact the two worlds have is a dance by the lunatics at the wedding. Humour is to be found in Beatrice-Joanna's world: the virgo-intacta-tester makes a maid gape, sneeze and giggle.

Unfortunately, Lambie and Boyd find little chemistry in their machinations, with their po-facedness making it worse.

The testing potion should be more comic (Alex Clatworthy, underused here), and the ghoulishness of De Flores' disfigurement of his rival needs to be camped up. Boyd is less convincing than his make-up and the melodramatic ending made me want to gape, sneeze and giggle.

All this silliness means that the show is stolen by the madmen. Amy Gwilliam and Pablo Navarro Machlochlainn are perfect as Isabella and Lollo, the wife and assistant of the asylum keeper. Isabella is after sex, which the jealous Alibius is unable to provide. She chases some of the madmen, including two fakers (James Everest and Ed Martineau). Lollo uses what he knows of this to his advantage, and the two circle each other as Isabella attempts to escape her lovely golden cage.

Everest and Martineau show the audience through the novelties of a promenade performance. Both are strong, although their ad-libbed jokeries are less effective than their verse. The promenade is engaging, particularly in the space of the Church: it's a shame that only two spaces are used, giving us a sense of inevitability as we alternate. This is presumably a technical restriction, but it's a shame that lighting is poor throughout, illuminating the audience or boringly enforcing mood with a single colour.

Gwilliam and Navarro Machlochlainn lift much of this production and, in doing, so mark out two serious talents. But not even this strong sub-plot can totally redeem the dreary tragedy.

Jeff James

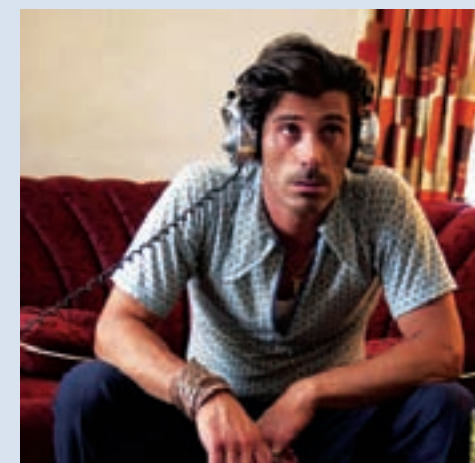
A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints  
Dir: Dito Montiel

★★★★

Set largely in 1980s New York, *A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints* is a bruising look at how difficult it is to leave behind certain communities and cycles of behaviour. It makes for uncomfortable viewing at times, but is nevertheless an engrossing viewing experience. It convincingly captures the distinctive oppressive atmosphere of a very specific point in time and space. It helps that this is an unquestionably personal story. First time writer/director Dito Montiel is here adapting his book of the same title, which is a semi-fictional take on his experiences growing up in the Astoria district of New York. The film switches between Dito in 2005, the successful author returning home for the first time in 15 years to confront his ailing father, and Dito in the 1980s, coming to terms with the necessity of his flight from his surroundings. While the bulk of the story takes place in the flashbacks, the reflection of the modern scenes provides some of the film's most affecting moments. Indeed, one of the movie's greatest strengths is its ambiguous judgement of Dito himself. It's easy to

see why he would want to leave the apparent despair around him, but the repercussions of his departure are disarmingly clear.

First-time director Montiel has crafted a fine piece of cinema that makes the most of its non-linear storytelling and contains some striking visual and editing flourishes. In particular, the inevitable heart-wrenching moments are handled very well from a technical point of view. Similarly, not enough praise can be heaped upon the cast. The youthful ensemble invigorate the 1980s' teenagers with all-too-familiar adolescent angst. It is the adult cast, however, who do the most to bring home the emotional complexity of Dito's actions. Chazz Palminteri is superb as Dito's frustrating father, while Rosario Dawson owns her few scenes as the bitter childhood sweetheart left behind. Predictably, it is Robert Downey Jr. as the adult Dito who really stands out, imbuing the role with a pitch-perfect mixture of nervous charm and barely-concealed guilt, reminding us just why the recovery of the troubled actor is



such cause for celebration.

Occasionally guilty of predictability, all of the usual good-kid-wrong-side-of-the-tracks clichés being present and correct, and finishing what feels like a few scenes too early, *A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints* is nonetheless essential viewing, thanks to a gripping authenticity that makes this coming-of-age drama feel extremely fresh.

Stuart Smith



## Joan Baez The Corn Exchange

★★

Joan Baez's name will never be detached from Bob Dylan's, and, for many fans, their involvement in the early 1960s was the perfect fairy tale: two great singer-songwriters sharing their ideas, experiences and even the stage on occasions. Her music is far more than a Dylan pastiche, however, even if she does litter her albums and shows with his songs and the odd impression (which almost got more applause than the song).

Many of the songs on her early records remain live staples, especially the finale "Love is Just a Four Letter Word" - a song Dylan left in her house and then forgot about, only to hear it again on the radio, and then ask after its writer. Her career progressed after breaking up with Dylan in 1965, and she pursued her involvement in protest movement, ending up meeting her husband David Harris at the Santa Rita Rehabilitation Centre where she had been placed for supporting young men who refused military induction. However, she divorced him soon after, never to marry again. A number of songs about these two relationships have become amongst her most famous, notably "David", "Prison Trilogy" and "Diamonds and Rust", which became the title track for her most successful album, released in 1975.

Inevitably, this was played tonight, and the opening notes sent shivers down the spines of the hundreds of middle aged, and beyond, fans who have obviously stuck with her through the years; but, after the wonderful start, a huge blunder left her on the wrong fret and having to make jokes about cufflinks. Never mind.

From her days as a child following her physicist father through Iraq, Mexico and America, Baez has been intimately aware of suffering and injustice, and this thrust

her into the midst of the Civil Rights movement at the height of the Cold War. Seen at school as something of an outcast with a Mexican surname and sharp political views, music has always been her way of connecting, and performing is the ultimate example of that. Tonight, alongside wonderful songs such as Gillian Welch's "Caleb Meyer", Dylan's "God On Our Side" accompanied by heart wrenching slide guitar, a slightly funky rendition of "Stand By Me", and other songs of her own, there remained a few which jarred slightly. Perhaps this was because of the cough she was nursing, or maybe the frail manner of her guitar playing, which she hid behind her backing band, or perhaps it was just the intensely dull atmosphere surrounding me. Although I did feel in awe of her during those special few songs, at other times it proved too difficult to fully enjoy with someone who looked like my Grandma sitting next to me.

If there had been a slight edge to the atmosphere, a touch of intimacy better created by those guitar slip ups and the cracks in her voice than the sheen placed over the top by her backing musicians, or maybe if we hadn't all been sat down like it was the Saturday afternoon matinee, clapping politely and laughing at all the right moments, the whole experience could have felt more complete. Perhaps I am just clutching at the impossible; it's not difficult to feel like her best days are behind her. There were hints of the edge which Joan Baez brings to folk and protest music, and elements of the timeless emotive quality of so many of the songs she plays, along with a willingness to challenge herself with more modern material; but god help her if she stops playing the Dylan covers, for they serve to create



the false bridge with the 1960s that so many of her fans, including myself, crave.

**Tom Hamilton**

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM

**Inland Empire**  
*Dir: David Lynch*  
*Arts Picturehouse*  
Even if this were to be a more painful experience than having Dodgeball beamed straight into your hurting skull 24/7, you'd probably still feel a compelling obligation to see avant garde-mainstream crossover hero Lynch's latest - a dark mystery about a director (Jeremy Irons) adapting a Polish gypsy folktale in unsurprisingly murky circumstances. Disjointed, jarring, foreboding, fractured - all of Lynch's usual threatening richness is here to fuck you up. A must see.

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

THEATRE

**Coat: Harry Porter Prize Winner**  
*ADC, 23.00, 14 Mar - Sat 17*  
Based partly on jokes, and partly on Gogol, Declan Donnellan, co-founder of



theatre company Cheek by Jowl judged Rory Mullarkey's *Coat* to be the funniest thing that has happened this year. About love and humour and all the things that often die in Cambridge

MUSIC

**Good Shoes + Vincent Vincent & The Villains**  
*Wed 14 Mar; Soultree*  
*19.00-22.00, £7*  
Good Shoes will be bringing their competent but not exactly earth-shaking indie power pop to sterile dance-caverns of the Soultree. Thankfully the excellent Vincent & the Villains will be providing a much better reason to avoid going to Rumboggie, dancing to the 'Final Countdown' and watching while your friends try and fit their entire faces down other people's mouths. Thumpingly melodic guitars and a stupidly danceable (and not in a new-rave first-year architect way) rhythm section should leave you smiling like... something.

OTHER



**Daniel Kitson in C90**  
*Fri 9 Mar; Junction 2, 20.00, £9*  
Described as 'Extraordinary' by *Time Out*. Edinburgh Fringe winning drama - touching, and less annoying than an ADC schmooze

GOING OUT



**Twitch** *Tue 13 Mar*  
*Niche Bar, 21.00-04.00*  
*free entry b4 11, £3 after*  
The last EVER Twitch - a fancy dress extravaganza. Dress to get fucked - featuring Sam Long, Sankeys & BuggedOut! DJs from Manchester playing live minimal, alongside usual residents Nat, James and Krzys playing electro, minimal, techno, everything. Kill to come... *TWITCH* are also doing a Mingle after-party, *Fri 16 Mar @ Niche*

FRI	<b>Das Boot (Caius)</b> 20.30 <b>After the Wedding</b> 18.00, 20.30 <b>Crash</b> 23.00 <b>Becoming Jane</b> 18.15, 20.45 <b>Inland Empire</b> 16.30, 20.00 <b>Manhattan</b> 23.15 <b>The Science of Sleep</b> 23.20	<b>Macbeth</b> Corpus Playroom, 19.00 <b>The Cagebirds</b> Pembroke, 19.30 <b>Yerma</b> Fitzpatrick Hall, Queens, 19.30 <b>Copenhagen</b> ADC, 19.45 <b>The Changeling</b> Round Church 19.45 <b>The Queen is Dead</b> Playroom, 21.30 <b>Waiting for Guagua</b> Pem, 22.30 <b>Medics Revue 2007</b> ADC, 23.00	<b>Eagles of Death Metal</b> Junction, 19.30, SOLD OUT <b>Club Goo</b> Junction, 23.00-02.30 Friendly Fires (live) and Futureheads DJ set why is this sort of thing still alright	<b>Daniel Kitson in C90</b> Junction 2: The Shed, 20.00, £9 the one-man theatre show that scooped the Fringe First and Stage Awards at Edinburgh - a tale of hope, memory and sadness; wistful, elegiac and uplifting.	<b>Shut up and Dance w/ DJ Margaret Scratcher</b> Union, 21.00-01.00, hip-hop, funk, breaks, vomit-encouragingly cheap drinks, more floaties than you thought deserved to exist.
	<b>Film Noir Course</b> 10.00 <b>After the Wedding</b> 18.00, 20.30 <b>Crash</b> 23.00 <b>Becoming Jane</b> 18.15, 20.45 <b>Inland Empire</b> 16.30, 20.00 <b>Manhattan</b> 23.15 <b>The Science of Sleep</b> 23.20	<b>Macbeth</b> Corpus Playroom, 19.00 <b>The Cagebirds</b> Pembroke, 19.30 <b>Yerma</b> Fitzpatrick Hall, Queens, 19.30 <b>Copenhagen</b> ADC, 19.45 <b>The Changeling</b> Round Church 19.45 <b>The Queen is Dead</b> Playroom, 21.30 <b>Waiting for Guagua</b> Pem, 22.30 <b>Medics Revue 2007</b> ADC, 23.00	<b>Thomas Tantrum + Econoline</b> The Portland Arms, 19.30, £5 excellent shimmery indie pop with a threatening undercurrent, supported with annoying vigour by the proudly crap Econoline	<b>University Exhibition of Student Life Drawing and Painting</b> Christ's College Studio, Sat & Sun, 14.00-18.00 Ambitious collection of student art from across the university.	<b>Ping Pong</b> Junction, 22.00-04.00, £8. All-star DnB/Hip-hop & breaks - Pendulum. Hazard, Blak Twang, and an atmosphere that makes you feel violent death is imminent <a href="http://www.junction.co.uk">www.junction.co.uk</a> for more
SAT	<b>Casino Royale (Christ's)</b> 20.00, 22.30 <b>I Heart Huckabees (Robinson)</b> 20.00 <b>Raiders of the Lost Ark (John's)</b> 19.00, 22.00 <b>Inland Empire</b> 16.30, 20.00		<b>Tom Cawley's Curios</b> Clare Cellars, 20.00 pianist from the excellent Acoustic Ladyland plays gorgeous, agitated jazz and classical improvisations - you should go, if only to annoy musos by not really caring	<b>Fitzwilliam Music Recital</b> Fitz Museum, Gallery 3, 13.15 Couperin's <i>Lecons de Tenebre</i> with sopranos, harpsichord and bass violin - the perfect Sunday relaxer, and the perfect way to win the culture war with your awful friends	<b>The Sunday Service</b> Club Twenty-Two, 22.00-01.00, £3 a theodicy is an attempt to reconcile the existence of suffering in the world with that of a benevolent God
SUN	<b>After the Wedding</b> 18.45, 21.15 <b>Becoming Jane</b> 18.30, 21.00 <b>Inland Empire</b> 16.30, 20.00 <b>A Guide to Recognising Your Saints</b> 14.10 <b>Notes on a Scandal</b> 16.50	you could weep a little bit. here's to Cat Power	<b>Gruff Rhys</b> Junction 2: The Shed, 20.00 (seated), £13 supported by 9 Bach & DJ Andy Votel, Gruff is touring for his forthcoming album <i>Candylion</i> - expect beautifully melancholic melodies and khaki-wearing 30-somethings	<b>Henri Gaudier-Brzeska</b> Kettle's Yard, Tuesdays - Sundays, 11.30-17.00, free. Despite the tragic brevity of his career, Gaudier produced a large oeuvre of powerful sculpture about modernity and ALL that kind of stuff. all of it.	<b>Duplo</b> Kambur, 21.00 - 04.00, £4 - Electro indie rave buddy <b>Fat Poppadaddys</b> Fez, 21.00 - 03.00, £4 pleasingly generic, like describing a night as carnage because you went to Gardies
MON	<b>After the Wedding</b> 16.00, 18.30 <b>Becoming Jane</b> 14.30, 21.00 <b>Inland Empire</b> 16.30, 20.00 <b>Effi Briest (recommended)</b> 21.15 <b>Notes on a Scandal</b> 16.50	<b>Smorgasbord</b> Corpus Playroom, 19.00 <b>Return to the Forbidden Planet</b> ADC, 19.45 <b>Ghosts</b> School of Pythagoras, 20.00 <b>Footlights Smoker</b> ADC, 23.00	<b>Jazz Record Listening Sessions in association with TCMS</b> West Road, Lecture Room 4, 19.30-21.30, £4. atmospheric jazz listening session - Miles and Monk - Original Jazz Virtuosi	<b>Frank Auerbach: Etchings and Drypoints 1954-2006</b> Fitzwilliam Museum, free Showing till June, the complete collection of Auerbach's prints, from his drypoint nudes made in 1954 to more recent etchings.	<b>SUAD: Scratch Perverts!</b> Soul Tree 21.00-03.00, £6 <b>Between the Sheets</b> The Castle, 20.00-01.00, free liquid DnB, cheap is life <b>Kinki</b> Ballare, 21.00-02.00 modernity lets you be this shit
TUE	<b>A Guide to Recognising Your Saints</b> 14.10 <b>After the Wedding</b> 18.45, 21.15 <b>Becoming Jane</b> 18.30, 21.00 <b>Inland Empire</b> 16.30, 20.00 <b>Notes on a Scandal</b> 16.50	<b>The Miscellaneous Theatre Festival</b> Drama Studio, English Faculty, 14.00 <b>Smorgasbord</b> Corpus Playroom, 19.00 <b>Return to the Forbidden Planet</b> ADC, 19.45 <b>Ghosts</b> School of Pythagoras, 20.00 <b>Footlights Smoker</b> ADC, 23.00 <b>Porter Prize Winner: Coat</b> ADC, 23.00	<b>Good Shoes + Vincent Vincent &amp; The Villains + Be Be See</b> The Soul Tree, £7.50, 19.00-22.00 polarising headline act have been called 2007's great indie rock hope by some and the Morden Strokes by others. Go for Vincent instead.	<b>SOCDOCSOC: present 'Garbage Warrior'</b> Umney Theatre, Robinson 17.00-19.00, £2 Director Ollie Hodge and producer Rachel Wexler present their snapshot of contemporary geopolitics - an intimate portrait of maverick architect Michael Reynold	<b>Rumboggie</b> is killing Cambridge 21.00-02.00, £3 <b>Melamondo</b> Fez, 22.00-03.30, £3/4 sterilised cosmopolitanism <b>Funk Da Bar</b> Emma, 21.00-12.00, £3
WED	<b>Thank You For Smoking (Robinson)</b> 21.00 <b>A Guide to Recognising Your Saints</b> 14.10 <b>After the Wedding</b> 18.45, 21.15 <b>Becoming Jane</b> 18.30, 21.00 <b>Inland Empire</b> 16.30, 20.00	<b>The Miscellaneous Theatre Festival</b> Drama Studio, English Faculty, 14.00 <b>Smorgasbord</b> Corpus Playroom, 19.00 <b>Return to the Forbidden Planet</b> ADC, 19.45 <b>Ghosts</b> School of Pythagoras, 20.00 <b>Footlights Smoker</b> ADC, 23.00 <b>Porter Prize Winner: Coat</b> ADC, 23.00	<b>BOOK NOW NOW: Erol Alkan + These New Puritans</b> <i>Fri 23 Mar; Junction, 9-3am, £10</i> The fucking blistering These New Puritans will burn your face with bilious Fall-esque rage and Erol Alkan will make you slam-dance.	<b>Champagne Tasting w/ Dom Ruminart</b> Howard Building, Downing £16, reserve tickets w/ Clare Harrison at <a href="mailto:ticketing@cuws.co.uk">ticketing@cuws.co.uk</a> A perfect opportunity to reflect on how far and fast man has fallen	<b>EVIL NINE</b> Fez, 22.00-03.00, £4 breaks for secret indie kids <b>Urbanite</b> Club Twenty-Two, 21.00-02.30, £3 the week, and your social legitimacy, is over
THU					

GOING OUT

It's the last week of term, you want to paint the town red with your stomach lining. Let *Varsity* guide you...

**Monday**  
**DUPLO**  
*Mon 12 Mar; Kambur, 9-4am, £3*  
The last Duplo of term returns to give Cambridge's walking legwarmers somewhere to condescend in. Electro, indie, the inimitable Barnstormer cider. Highly recommended



**Tuesday**  
**SCRATCH PERVERTS**  
*Tue 13 Mar; Soultree, 9-3am, £6*  
Fabric residents and hip-hop/DnB legends fuck up Cambridge. Big enough to make you forget that you're at the Soultree, though this is certainly debatable.



**Thursday**  
**Evil Nine @ Fez**  
*Thu 15 Mar; Fez, 10-3am, £5*  
Music to punch your friends faces to. Come with Adam Freeland's seal of approval, Evil Nine are fucking great - eclectic hip-hop, techno, and menacing, punked breakbeat.



**Friday**  
**Kings Mingle**  
*Fri 16 Mar; Kings, 9-2am, £14*  
Supercilious sneer tossed at other college ents. The biggest end of term ent. Psytrance, dnb, electro, indie, fashion disasters, sneering cunts etc. Will be so many clashing shellsuits & wannabe-breadline sloanes you might break down and cry. er in a good way

*Tickets on sale in Kings Bar 12.30-13.30 from Mon 12 Mar.*  
**TWITCH** at Niche, 22.00-04.00 if you survive....

Student art...

**Exhibition of Student Life Drawing & Painting**  
*Christ's College Arts Studios*  
*Sat 10th - Sun 11th Mar*  
*14.00-16.00*  
University-wide exhibition of student life drawing and painting held at Christ's College. Proof that student creativity in Cambridge extends well beyond pissing the letters of your name into urinals or wearing loads of stupid fucking clothes.





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Up, up and away  
in a neon and  
lycra blaze...

...reclaim  
your cosmic  
destiny



Photographed by Dan Marmot  
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Kamal wears top, jacket and jeans from Dogfish with  
bloomers from Ark Vintage

Alice wears swimming costume from Dogfish and  
shrug from Dixie's market stall

Idil wears hat, top and bloomers from Ark Vintage

Lucy wears top from House of Holland and petitcoat  
from Boudoir Femme



## On Dress Rehearsals

Cambridge is a dress rehearsal for the real world; we play at government, drama, art and high society. Term after term, we try on another costume, update our Facebook profile, play another role, have a new relationship. Fashion reinvents itself in a similar way. And, after a long romance with the Romantic, fashion has found another dapper beau in the guise of environmental and political issues and futurist technologies.

Topical issues featured heavily in Paris last week. The first model at Hussein Chalayan came out wearing a dress that projected a short film on its LED skin, which, on closer inspection, was a series of images strung together from Google earth. It introduced the show's weather-theme. Chalayan succeeded in raising a key issue without being overtly political. The bitter-sweet black rose brocades alluded to the sweetness of simpler times, the environmentally-minded message was as clear as the florals throughout. The Cypriot designer asserted that we must address environmental concerns, and that our wardrobes are a fine place to start.

The strongest collections showed clothes as expressions of popular pre-occupation. The Balenciaga collection took 'Uni-girl' as its theme, and wove in ethnic-inspired dresses and scarves between collegiate blazers and slacks. Indeed, one might argue the University is also striving to weave a more diverse type of student into the tightly knit strands of Cambridge stereotypes. Suggesting that fashion, like art, holds a mirror to everyday life is an over-hackneyed proposition. Yet Viktor and Rolf argued that life is much like a fashion show; the Dutch duo sent out their models harnessed to obscenely heavy light fixtures, the outfits charmingly debating between the importance of the traditional dress and the now almost ubiquitous sportswear.

We might not like lofty statements coming from a medium as supposedly frivolous as fashion, but, to quote the highly forgettable cinematic footnote *The Perfect Man* (starring Hollywood sideline Hilary Duff), "people may think the Mona Lisa is more beautiful than a fudge brownie, but you can't eat the Mona Lisa." One cannot relate to the documentaries and statistics, even if they do come from Stephen Hawking or Al Gore. Step forward fashion, which can reach a greater, more interested public through shops, magazines and style.com. And, with that kind of exposure, we can only laud it for saying something thoughtfully constructed, even if its festooned with frills and flowers.

**Benj Ohad-Seidler**



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20.00 21.20 (Fri/Sat Only) Fri/Sat/Wed  
Late 23.00

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Daily 12.40 15.20 18.00 20.40

Friday 9 Mar to Thurs 15 Mar

Fri/Sat/Wed Late 23.10  
**THE NUMBER 23** (15) (2h) (NFT)  
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(Not Tues/Thurs) 21.20 (Not Fri/Sat)  
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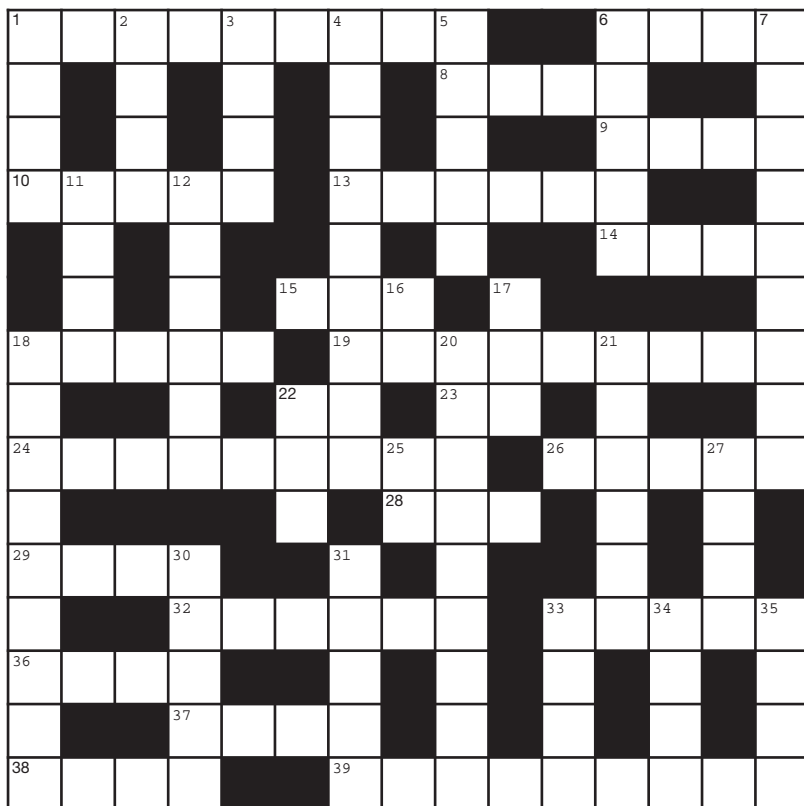
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## Games and puzzles



### Varsity crossword no. 466



#### ACROSS

1. Grew messy - negate mud (9)
6. First Lady comes before Queen, always (4)
7. Imitate Christ at pinnacle (4)
8. Fashion leaders certainly hate ironing clothes (4)

10. Care about Sun interference (5)
13. Music run through scrambled egg (6)
14. Lord Archer should help begin punishment (4)
15. Overseas Development Agency backs delay (3)
18. Master messes up CGI wizardry (5)
19. Unfair election contrives to rig a ruler (9)

22. To exist, stinger loses tail (2)
23. Easy now, begin dash (2)
24. Amateur mistake! Enrol a spy (3,6)
26. Honour follows Greater London theatre (5)
28. Representing odd pieces in flour (3)
29. Hill feathers? (4)
32. No robe confounds fairy king (6)
33. Principle that looks the same from all angles (5)
36. Capital city in go-slow (4)
37. History association for old people? (4)
38. Deodorant confuses user (4)
39. Central mathematician - Common in Cambridge? (9)

#### DOWN

1. Vauxhall reverses up river (4)
2. Mechanism dissolves rage (4)
3. Hedgerow conceals boundary (4)
4. Stage ride upset plays (9)
5. District Attorney stomachs limited piece of information (5)
6. Extra Large successor to Common Market meddled with spreadsheet (5)
7. Compete, sound short of voice, and contrive to scare hero (4,5)
11. Bear in fur saga (4)
12. Sir; prison is rioting over seafood (6)
16. State logical operator (2)
17. The German hideout (3)
18. Musical, me? So loud I compose (9)
20. Given up on object in garbled creed (9)
21. Distinct Regressive EU hides kiln (6)
25. Headless zebra offers support (3)
25. Belonging to Old Felstedian (2)
27. Wear down drill? (4)
30. Nothing in nose for hanging (5)
31. Glass of whisky clouds Eastern vision (5)
33. Sounds like a class archbishop (4)
34. Usual muddle of first things in the morning (4)
35. Jaunt around early part of French city (4)

©Phrygian



### 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



© Adam Edelhain

### 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.

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

## accenture

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### 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).

		8		28			24	25
11					19		16	
16						4		
		3				17		
		4				7		
		21			4			
			9					

### 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.

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

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# Bombing brothels in Macau

»Jossie Clayton talks to motorbike and truck racing legend Steve Parrish

Besides the glow of the trophies that support the achievements of Steve Parrish (the most successful truck racer ever, having won five world titles, super biking legend and Sky Sports commentator), there are three things that lodged in my memory when I interviewed him. First, the fart machine on the fridge; secondly, his aeroplane “parked” just outside his

kitchen window and finally, the pole dancing podium in his sitting room “that the builders put up for a laugh.”

These initial impressions sum up what I was to learn about Steve and his attitude to his life, sport and work. When I asked which he preferred between his racing and presenting lives, he tells me that he enjoys “having not had to have a proper job for most of

my life.” I baulk - surely 120mph in a truck around Copse Corner isn't all fun and games? “Well, since many years ago, I was always allergic to work – I didn't really like the mundane life that most jobs seem to entail.” The way that Steve has made this work is a mixture of luck and the ‘hard graft’ that he wasn't so adverse to after all. “I guess it has been a fluke. Sport in my day

was not a proper job and I proved them all wrong whereas nowadays, everyone wants to go into a sport. It wasn't nearly as commercialised and I managed to luck into it...it just happened that someone wanted to pay me.”

We are talking about a change in attitude towards sports in general; greater media attention for winning players has created hype around their fields. I am told that “sports stars now achieve fame similar to soap stars and it's all down to the media, commercialism and money.” It seems that the ‘bug’ which sportsmen and women so often refer to as their childhood motivation is being swatted in the face of management machines. International sports are nowadays “not so much a passion as a job.”

The benefit, however, of these growing sports industries is that it has become easier to diversify away from one's early talent once injury sets in and the going gets tough. Steve now does everything from hosting corporate awards and events to commentating on Sky Television, Eurosport, the BBC and acting as an expert witness for motorcycle racing accidents.

So should successful sports players of the future all expect to become a brand like David Beckham? Perhaps one day we will be able to buy a petrol-scented Steve Parrish perfume? Steve laments the fact that “you can no longer have a fart without someone

noticing and as a result people are loathed to be characters and have fun...you can't have a laugh with your mates because someone will be there with a camera.” Renowned for his practical jokes, Steve is a one-off in this flashbulb-dominated industry and I try to glean as much gossip as possible. One particularly memorable incident is in Macau, a country he is no longer allowed to visit because he blew up a brothel. The toilet blocks in Poland were also substandard so “we set fire to them.” With his persistent injection of fun into everything that he does, added to Steve's death-defying racing success, something tells me that there might yet be some originality still to come. As he puts it, “the TV world pisses me off because there are lots of people deemed to be famous who sit on the telly not doing anything. I just love meeting talented people.” The most important thing about talent is making the most of it and never missing an opportunity. I start to doubt whether any achievement of Steve's has really been one of the “flukes” that he attributes to his life.

As the interview comes to a close, I ask Steve whether there is anything else that he wants to conquer. “I just want to be able to carry on doing what I'm doing and have lots of fun. My life has been about having fun and as long as I can continue doing that, I'll be very happy.”



Steve Parrish, clearly very proud of his enormous vehicle

JOSEPH ROGERS



## The Lehman Brothers Women's Varsity Match

**FREE ADMISSION**

**CAMBRIDGE vs OXFORD AT CURUFC, GRANGE ROAD, CAMBRIDGE | 10TH MARCH 2007 | KICK-OFF 2.30 P.M.**

**CUWRFC Tigers vs OUWRFC Panthers | Kick-off 11.00 a.m.**

**LEHMAN BROTHERS**



## »Cambridge lose out in penalty shoot-out



Steve Bailey flexes his prodigious neck muscles to keep the pressure on Oxford

MICHAEL DERRINGER

# Football clincher

PETE HUNTINGFORD

CUAFC Falcons	2
OUAFC Centaurs	2
Oxford Centaurs win 10-9 on penalties	

Coach Alex Mugan was left rueing his side's misfortunes after the Falcons succumbed to the fate of sudden death penalties at Grange Road on Saturday. Cambridge looked to have sealed the win just before the second half of extra time with an outrageous 30 yard strike from substitute Nico Leslie that soared past a helpless Oxford keeper into the top right-hand corner. Yet, in this truly gripping encounter, neither side could afford to switch off for a second, setting the tone for the Varsity match at Loftus Road in just over a week's time.

Whilst free-kicks provided early opportunities for both sides, it was Cambridge who dominated the opening stages of the game. A vocal Cambridge crowd got on top of the Oxford players who produced a number of early errors, especially right-back Toby Hodgson who twice allowed Bulmer to weave past him before threading in the frightening pace of Bates. With Cambridge looking best when they played their natural passing game, Oxford looked to raise the tempo to a frantic pace that forced the once-solid Falcons' defence into an uncharacteristic error. A lack of communication allowed the Oxford a clean run into the penalty area before slotting the ball into the bottom right hand corner to take the lead.

Looking calm on the ball, midfielder

Bailey looked to revive Cambridge's early success with the passing game by spreading the ball to either flank to exploit Oxford's defensive weaknesses. A low struck corner just before the stroke of halftime did just that as Oxford failed to clear, enabling poacher Mattie Gethin to nudge the ball home to cancel out Oxford's lead. An inspired Gethin nearly scored again just seconds into the second half as he beat three men before putting the ball over the bar from close range.

### "penalties are always a lottery"

Stunned by the Falcon's sudden boost in confidence, Oxford rode their luck and can be considered fortunate not to have conceded a penalty as referee Holmes waved away the Cambridge protests. An injection of energy to the Cambridge side came in the form of midfielder Ed Bond, who chased down every opportunity, yet not even he could prevent this encounter from going into extra-time.

Having taken the lead before half-time with a strike that would leave pundits across the globe gasping for air, Cambridge retreated into their own half to see their way to victory. Sensing that Cambridge were sitting back, a surge of Oxford attacks ensued. Looking to capitalise on their height advantage with a series of early crosses from the left wing, Oxford packed out the Falcon's box. However, it was a

Cambridge corner that nearly put the result beyond doubt, as Bailey muscled his way above the opposing defenders only to see his attempt pushed onto the bar by the Oxford keeper. With victory in their grasp, Cambridge fought hard against the Oxford onslaught, yet, as the pressure gauge exploded, Cambridge conceded from a corner just before the final whistle to extend the drama even further into penalties, and then sudden death, before an unfortunate miss by Mattie Gethin sealed the victory for Oxford at 9-10.

Oxford captain Tom Clare was ecstatic, "When you go beyond 120 minutes you never really know what is going to happen. However, we have had a fantastic season and this was a fairytale ending". Coach Mugan was, however, quick to praise his side's efforts: "I was largely pleased with the performance today. It was disappointing to concede so late in extra time as penalties are always a lottery".

However, the Blues have an opportunity to put things right at Loftus Road on March 17. Having scored 10 goals in their previous two matches the Blues' side are undoubtedly brimming with confidence. Speaking about the game ahead Mugan said "The players are excited and confident, and so am I. However, I am not interested in making predictions about who will win. We are planning to put on a show and we plan to make it a special one." With two warm-up matches left before Varsity, Cambridge are looking push themselves further, as Bailey stated "If we perform to our true potential then there is no doubt that we can be victorious."

# VARSITY

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## Varsity Vase

The final date has been set! With the end of term looming, March 14 has been set for the final match of the Varsity Vase, and there are still 4 teams hoping to make it there and lift the beautiful trophy, which they will be relieved to hear, looks nothing like the green monstrosity above me. The last semi-finalist is ARU after they

defeated Pembroke, albeit narrowly, 4-3. They meet St Catharine's who beat them in the league, but I have a sneaky feeling that ARU will come through what looks like a very tough test.

It's Jesus versus Homerton in the other semifinal and, for me, this really is 50:50. Homerton are at home, but sit

one division below Jesus, who have beaten Caius and Downing already in this year's competition. My heart says Jesus, my head isn't so sure. Whoever makes it to the final though will be treated to real referees and linesman, a first for almost all our budding third team sportsmen.



Visit [www.varsity.co.uk](http://www.varsity.co.uk) to download an application form.

Applications close midnight April 30



# Victory for Lacrosse men

»Bitter disappointment for the women in a hard fought, tense encounter

EMILY KNIGHT	
Women's Blues Oxford	910
Men's Blues Oxford	76

This Saturday Parkers Piece played host to an absorbing medley of lacrosse as the Cambridge Mixed, Men and Women encountered their Oxford rivals.

The mixed team began the day, and despite a promising start, failed to retain their initial lead. However, effective teamwork, combined with commendable individual performances from Kate Jefferies and the captain Mark Jobson, prevented Oxford from running away with the second half. The final score of 6-3 highlights a significant improvement on previous meetings with the Dark Blues.

The Cambridge 2nd Women's team ('Kingfishers') then took to the pitch determined to secure a consecutive Varsity victory. This was reflected immediately by a goal in the opening five minutes, which successfully boosted Cambridge's confidence and rattled the Oxford defence. Cambridge augmented their lead, with goals from George Rose and Rosie Garvey, forcing Oxford to call a time out. The Dark Blues failed to return with any renewed tactical play that could disconcert Cambridge, who with persistent defending and unrelenting drives on goal brought the score up to 6-0. Josie Baum's yellow-card for dangerous tackling marked the conclusion of an exhilarating first half.

Any Oxford resurgence proved to be transitory as a result of consistently strong goal-keeping from Lara Moffat. Cambridge started to look unstoppable, creating some spectacular midfield transitions which fed into

rapid shots on goal. The final whistle secured the Kingfishers' a deserved 11-0 win; a fitting end to a highly successful season. Most valuable player was awarded to Charlotte Yonge in accolade of her fast midfield runs and committed pressure in defence.

In contrast to the Kingfishers', the blues match culminated in a nail-bitingly close finish. Oxford looked set to avenge the defeat of their second team, immediately pressuring the Cambridge defence and scoring the first goal. Cambridge bounced back with a fast break from Kate Morland securing the equaliser. Cambridge continued to battle against the Oxford defence, creating several shots on goal which were intercepted by the seemingly impassable Dark Blues' goalkeeper. Oxford then converted an expeditious break into a 2-1 lead which was succeeded swiftly by a second straight from the draw.

However the Light Blues fighting spirit was displayed by their attacking drives towards goal, although to their evident frustration this did not alter the score. A rapid turnover from a long Oxford clear upped their lead to 4-1, but Cambridge showed that the match was still in their grasp with goals from Tanya Glanville-Wallis and Liz Morris leaving Cambridge just one goal behind. Two further Oxford goals seemed to spur Cambridge on and some fantastic midfield stick-work by Ros Lloyd set up a successful shot for Morris. Morland then continued the trend, driving to goal after receiving an admirably long goalkeeper's clear from Alex Carnegie-Brown. This was topped off by Charlie Hill, who magnificently intercepted an Oxford clear to score another. Persephone Bridgman Baker pulled off a near impossible angle after a practised feed from Lloyd to score the equaliser whilst an ecstatic crowd were forced to watch nervously in the



Cambridge's Glanville-Wallis and Selezneva try to stem the Oxford attack

SOPHIE PICKFORD

knowledge that the final whistle was imminent. To the dismay of the Cambridge supporters Oxford then scored to lead 9-8, but their hopes were promptly uplifted by Tess Khoo's equalising goal from a free position. The last minutes were an exhilaratingly tense struggle, but a last gasp goal from Oxford left Cambridge exhausted and disappointed.

Cambridge's men were ready to regain the title after last years loss.

Cambridge dominated possession early, however, a lapse in concentration meant their first goal was disqualified due to an offside violation. Oxford responded to take first blood. Cambridge countered by putting several more past the post including a hat trick by new man David Haines who capitalised on some sloppy work from the Oxford keeper and a spectacular diving shot between the goalie's legs.

The second half saw Oxford keep more possession but their offence was

efficiently contained by the Cambridge defence. A strong final quarter by Oxford brought them back into the match. With three minutes to go and the score at 7-4, Cambridge were caught off guard with back to back goals from Oxford in successive minutes setting up an incredibly tense final minute. Oxford won the ball and charged into attack; however the Cambridge defence managed to keep them out and deflected a shot on the buzzer to claim the Varsity match.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Men's Hockey

Mike Palmer

How did it feel winning this year's Varsity?  
I was actually off the field at the time of the final whistle having been sin-binned a few minutes before so it was just a huge relief to get the win. Going up the steps to collect the trophy was probably one of the proudest moments of my life.  
A clean sweep for the men, how often does that happen?  
I couldn't tell you off hand but in 2005 the Blues won (3-2), I played for the Wanderers (our second team) who won 6-0, and the Squanderers

drew 1-1 which meant they retained the trophy. I doubt it's a regular occurrence though - it's certainly been a vintage year.

How has the rest of the season been for the club?

It's been hugely successful so far. Having had a fairly miserable season last year, including Varsity Match defeat, we're now 5 points clear at the top of the East Premier League and look set to bounce straight back into the National League. The second team are also pushing for promotion so it all bodes well for next year.

How often did the squad train in the run up to Varsity?  
We didn't really alter how much we trained - we just slightly tailored it to the game by organising two training sessions on water-based astroturfs to prepare for the game at Southgate. In fact we decided not to do a fitness session last week and even found time for a pre-game massage!

What have been the best and worst parts of being Blues Captain this year?

Winning the first game of the season was a brilliant feeling, my first victory playing for the Blues. Yesterday probably trumped that and if we go on to win the league this year that will be pretty special too.

## Sport In Brief

### Varsity Ice-Hockey

Sunday evening saw Oxford win a convincing victory over the Cambridge Light Blues, at the 88th Ice Hockey Varsity match. However, it was not until the third period that Oxford's domination was confirmed: the match in general was extremely entertaining and at times brutal. Cambridge fought well during what was to be an evenly matched first period, which ended 1-0 to Oxford. Later, a crippling series of penalties for both teams proved the depths of Oxford's larger line up as the short Cambridge bench suffered from a lack of men. Cambridge hung on during the third period, but were finally outmanned after incurring two match penalties, and a concussion inflicted by the Oxford Captain, who was immediately ejected from the game for misconduct. Overall, Cambridge showed integrity in the face of a tough opposition, and played a game which was not reflected in the final score of 11-1 to Oxford.

### Dancing Competition

The competitive season started with an outing in Michaelmas term to the Nottingham Varsity Ball, where Cambridge triumphed in three out of the four team matches resulting in overall success and spurring them on for the competitions ahead. February was a frantic month with three competitions in as many weeks, including Cuppers where Trinity took the college title. The first of these competitions was held at Sheffield University and concluded with yet more reason for celebration: trophies for A, B and C team matches and a victory over Imperial College London, in the final of the knockout competition after I.C. had dispensed of Oxford in their semi-final.

This set Cambridge up well for their most recent competition: SUDC, Southern Universities Dance Competition, which was hosted by Bath University. The day was quite gruelling, especially as the coach left



Cambridge at 5am and didn't return until 3am the following morning. Once the open competitions got under way it became apparent that the standard had improved quite dramatically. However, Cambridge's team were not intimidated, and they left a striking impression, contributing over half the couples to the advanced finals and ending the day on a high by winning the overall SUDC team title.

Cambridge is hosting the Varsity Match next term on Saturday 5th May.



# Blues Hockey triumph

»Women just miss out as the men seal a Varsity clean sweep

SARA LITCHFIELD &  
JAMES WATERS

Men's Blues	4
Oxford	3
Women's Blues	1
Oxford	3

The morning of March 12 saw a large contingent of Oxford and Cambridge hockey players, with supporters in tow, boarding buses to Southgate Hockey Centre in London for the 107th annual Varsity matches. The weather was beautiful, the sun only outshone by the play on the pitches.

The day began badly for Cambridge as the old boys lost 8-2 to their Oxford counterparts. A closer game was played out between the former women's Blues, a 1-1 draw meaning that Cambridge retained the Boizot Cup after last year's victory.

But the match of the day was surely the nail-biting battle between the men's Blues, which culminated in another victory for Cambridge. The Light Blues began exceptionally well, taking a two-goal lead in the opening quarter hour.

The first goal came when Simon Ashton, later named man of the match, chased a long ball down left-field with an exquisite first touch which kept the ball in play until it found Philip Balbirnie on the left wing. Balbirnie's cross was blocked, but he reacted fast to the loose ball to beat his marker and create an angle (later described as 'obnoxious') for a smart low finish. The second goal came from the same source. A break down the right wing led to Balbirnie smashing a powerful strike across the face of the keeper and inside the far post. Oxford's opener came from a short corner when a deflection found its way into the net. The dark blues then levelled things up with a smartly taken reverse stick effort from their man of the match, Joel Evans.

Cambridge came out strongly in the second half and retook the lead, CUHC president Jez Hansell scoring



Cambridge University men's captain Mike Palmer lifts the trophy after a well fought victory

SARA LITCHFIELD

from their opening short corner. Again back came Oxford with Evans finishing after a scramble in the Cambridge D in which several Cambridge defenders could have done better with their clearances. The win was sealed with another corner; Tom Littlewood fired the ball just outside the far post for Nick McClaren to steal in and deflect past the Oxford keeper.

Coach Andrew Middleton, himself a former Light Blue, found watching more nerve-racking than playing. He commented, "I was pleased with the guys' work rate, not our finest performance of the year but they did really well to dig in and get a fantastic result. Hopefully we'll carry on from there and wrap up the league in the next couple of weeks. Very proud of the boys, they deserved it."

Following such a performance the pressure was on for the women. Both

teams came out strong, but a quick goal from Oxford brought the Dark Blues an early lead, which they further capitalised on, to make the score 2-0 in the first quarter. Cambridge fought against the tide, Tash Fowlie leading an attack which sadly failed to convert into a goal. Anna Stanley's fleet run down the wing followed by a strong cross into the D similarly failed to get the Light Blues on the scoreboard. Cambridge man of the match Pippa Woodrow was prominent on the pitch, putting in some deft tackles, but Oxford continued to gain possession of the ball and worry the Cambridge defence. But the defence held strong Lizzie Ballentine making a series of flawless saves, to the chagrin of an Oxford attack looking for a greater goal-difference. Meanwhile, the mid-field and forwards stepped up their game and,

towards the end of the first half, possession evened out and Cambridge looked dangerous on the attack. Two goals up at the beginning of the second half, Oxford came out set to finish the game, but met with a resilient Cambridge side, equally determined to win. Louise Garvin scored their goal from a smashing short-corner strike. Oxford bagged another to make the final score 3-1, but Cambridge captain Rosie Sherman had good reason to be proud of her squad.

After this years round of Varsity matches, Cambridge have come out on top, with an overall tally of five matches to one. Both sides have a right to be proud of themselves, however, another year of training having produced some champagne hockey to the delight of spectators from both camps.

Joe Powell and  
Oscar Brodtkin



## Gamblers Unanimous

The tremors of our now earth-shattering bank-job were felt in Italy this week, as Inter eased past an inferior Livorno. The target of £100 profit is still in our sights and whilst there are only two columns left, confidence at Gamblers' Unanimous is sky-high. Fingers are crossed for last week's long shot, Thomas Wahlroos, who is making his way through the field at the Dortmund EPT.

The holidays are fast approaching and we can't wait to get a change of gambling scenery back in London. The promise of big home poker games, quality live football and the final stages of the Cricket World Cup should be enough to whet any punter's appetite. So if you're fed up of revision hop on the train and get yourself to Farringdon and meet us at the Gutshot card club where the

£20 freezeout poker tournament attracts more 'fish' than the London Aquarium!

The horse racing highlight of the Easter period is the Cheltenham festival, which runs from March 13-16 March and culminates in the Gold Cup. This race pits the classiest of jumps horses against each other, following in the legendary footsteps of Arkle and Best Mate. It also provides our 'Bank Job', as we expect Kauto Star to romp home for the money at current odds of 2.96 (just under 2/1). The price is likely to be skinnier come race day as bookies will dread the thought of this fine specimen living up to all the hype. We have got £12 on to win in the ante post market and we advise you do the same.

The porters have struck lucky and are off to the Caribbean for their tip

this week. A misfiring Australian outfit has left the market wide-open for the Cricket World Cup and we think Sri Lanka have just the right ingredients in their side to go all the way. The 'Muralitharan' factor could be decisive, combined with the fact that the low and slow wickets are similar to those of the subcontinent. £4 goes on to win at odds of 9.6 on Betfair to secure a handsome profit.

The 'Long Shot' travels to Ewood Park for the FA Cup Quarter-final between Blackburn and Manchester City. Although City's away form has been poor in the league, this is a must-win game for Stuart Pearce and with new signing Emile Mpenza expected to start, this game may be the turning point for their season. Odds of 4.9 (4/1) are simply too good to miss and our last £4 goes on here.

Running total: £37.26

**The Bank Job**  
Kauto Star to win Cheltenham Gold Cup  
Stake: £12

**The Long Shot**  
Man City to beat Blackburn  
Stake: £4

**The Porters' Tip**  
Sri Lanka to win Cricket World Cup  
Stake: £4

betfair.com

## Sports Round Up

### Upcoming Fixtures

**Friday March 9.**  
BUSA Pentathlon (and Saturday 10).  
**Saturday March 10.**  
BUSA indoor athletics, Sheffield (also Sunday 11).  
Men's Lacrosse Blues v Buckhurst Hill, home.  
Women's hockey I v Canterbury II, away, 1:15, Canterbury HC Astro  
Women's Hockey II v Harleston Magpies II, home, 12:30, Wilberforce road.  
Women's Hockey III v St Ives II, home, 11:00, Wilberforce Road.  
Karate central regional championships.  
Men's Hockey I v Bury St Edmunds, home, 2:00, Wilberforce Road.  
**Sunday March 11.**  
Men's Football I v Staffordshire I, away, Stoke on Trent 2:00.  
**Monday March 12.**  
Cuppers Football final, St Catharine's v Churchill, Grange Road.  
**Wednesday March 14.**  
Cuppers Rugby Final, Trinity v John's, 3:15, Grange Road.  
**Saturday March 17.**  
Men's Lacrosse flags final.  
Women's Hockey I v Crostyx I, home, 2:00, Wilberforce Road.  
Women's Hockey II v Norwich City, away, 1:00, Taverham high school.  
Women's Hockey III v Huntingdon I, away, 2:00, Hinchingsbrooke school.  
Men's hockey I v Havering.  
Women's eights Heads of the river race.  
Women's tennis v London Metropolitan women, away.

### Upcoming Varsity Matches

**Saturday March 10**  
Women's Rugby varsity, Grange Road, Tigers 11:00, Blues 2:30.  
Varsity Gaelic Games, Coldhams Common, 12:30-5:30, 12:30am: Ladies' Gaelic Football, 1.30pm: Men's Hurling, 3pm: Ladies' Camogie, 4pm: The 12th Men's Gaelic Football Varsity Match.  
**Saturday March 17**  
Men's Football I, Loftus Road QPR ground, Shepherd's Bush 2:00-5:00.

### Results

**Netball**  
College Cuppers winners, St Catharine's I  
**Rugby**  
Women's rugby I v Shelford, lost 5-3  
Women's rugby II v ARU, won 52-0  
Men's rugby league v Nottingham  
**Football**  
Cuppers semi-final, St Catharine's v Trinty, 1-0  
**Tennis**  
Men's I v Warwick, won 8-2  
**Lacrosse**  
Women's I v Oxford I, lost 9-10  
Women's II v Oxford II, won 11-0  
Men's I v Oxford I, won 7-6  
Men's II v Oxford II, won 11-6  
**Ice Hockey**  
Cambridge v Oxford Varsity, lost 1-11  
**Hockey**  
Women's I v Bromley & Beckenham, won 2-0  
Women's II v Dereham, lost 1-0  
Women's III v Wisbech II, won 2-1  
Men's I v Cambridge City, won 5-1  
Men's II v Norwich Union, drew 2-2  
Men's III v Norwich City II, lost 1-2



# SPORT

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## »Triumphant First and Third secure the double headship



First and Third Men's 1st VIII command the choppy waters of the Plough Reach to close in on Caius to take the bump, and with it the headship, as they powered out of Ditton

NEIL COPLAND

# Caius finally crumble

**TOM MARRIOTT**  
Chief Sports Editor

It has been six years and a total of thirty five individual races since Caius Men last suffered the ignominy of conceding a bump. Such has been the dominance of Caius over college rowing in recent years that not one of their current crew has any experience of anything other than rowing over at head. Possession of the headship lends any crew a natural advantage; in turn, it can often flatter to deceive.

As the gun fires, the crews explode into a frantic wind in a desperate bid to take vital inches out of the crew in front or to get away from the chasing boat. Within seconds the entire river has become a churning, swirling, turbulent mass as the combined exertions of some 112 oarsmen are deposited into the Cam. For the head crew, this is all academic; the water they row into is calm, balance is easy, catches are quick and finishes are strong. The standard distance between crews at the start of a bumps race is one and a half lengths. It is estimated that the clear water of the headship adds an extra half to a full

length's advantage. Last year, it was whispered that these were not the Caius crews of old, that a change was afoot, that First and Third were looking strong. As the first day approached, the air of anticipation was palpable. In spite of all the build up, as the sun set on the final day Caius remained Head and the First and Third stroke-man was in hospital with exhaustion with Downing having closed to within a canvas of the bump. It seemed with the advantage of clear water Caius merely had to put out a crew to retain the headship.

It was then with stunned disbelief that word spread along the river bank shortly after 4.50pm last Wednesday that the unimaginable had happened. Caius after a reasonable start had lost ground to a hungry First and Third crew. As the two crews rounded Grassy Corner into the Plough Reach the FaT cox called an 'up two', the crew responded and were within seconds approaching to within half a length's distance. Caius took Ditton slightly wide and FaT made them pay; hearing three whistles just before the corner FaT knew they were only a short distance away from the headship. Sensing victory FaT worked hard not to lose

pace around the bend, Caius conceded just as both crews were coming out of Ditton corner. Caius rallied on day two, managing to hold off a strong Jesus crew fresh from bumping an underpowered and inexperienced Downing on the first day. Unfortunately, for Caius they could not marshal the same effort for another day succumbing to

## Varsity Hockey

Second's Varsity and Blues build up

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Jesus on Friday afternoon. Jesus made a spirited but ultimately fruitless attempt at the headship on Saturday, as Caius succeeded in holding off a determined Lady Margaret crew to finish third. Caius has enjoyed a long and seeming indomitable reign at the pinnacle of the mountain of college rowing.

However, it does now seem at last that times are changing. Caius should be lauded for their achievements in recent years; it is a truly remarkable record that will surely go down in Bumps history. But change is necessary and increased competition can only be a good thing for both the bumps races, and Cambridge rowing in general.

Frequent competition for the headship is no rarity in the top women's division. Since Caius took the headship for the men in 2002, Emmanuel, Caius, Downing, Clare and now First and Third, have held the Women's Headship. In contrast to their men, First and Third's women performed the impressive feat of bumping Emmanuel, Caius and Clare in order to take pole position on day four. Further down in the women's first division, Jesus women earned their blades by bumping four days in a row to finish second. Solid gains were made by Churchill and Fitzwilliam. St Catharine's secured a secure place at the foot of the first division bumping up from third in the second division.

The usual carnage ensued in the lower divisions, allowing for some impressive overbumps. Notably on the

first day Girton men's 2nd VIII managed to jump from sixteenth to thirteenth by dislodging St Catharine's II, after Peterhouse and St Edmund's bumped out, before going on to bump each remaining day to finish in tenth position in the third division. In the women's second division CCAT, Peterhouse, Emmanuel II and Pembroke II, all earned their blades. In contrast New Hall, New Hall II and Downing II all received spoons.

There is no questioning however that this was First and Third's Bumps. Not only did they manage the impressive feat of securing both the men and women's Headships simultaneously, but both of the club's second crews won their blades; bumping on every time they rowed. For First and Third this is the product of a number of years hard work and success, particularly for the women's crews who have climbed twelve places in three years. This year's Lent Bumps have, if nothing else breathed new life and competition into the age old tradition. Caius can no longer cruise on their aura of infallibility, and with that will emerge all sorts of challengers. One thing is for sure; the Mays will be very interesting indeed.