Protesters forced out despite dons’ support

» Law Faculty occupation ‘starved out’ after University threatens legal action
» Six-day demonstration ends with minor concessions made to protest’s demands

Elliot Ross

Student protesters ended their six-day occupation of the Law Faculty yesterday, claiming they had been ‘starved out’ by the University and following a threat of legal action against them. The group issued a statement saying: “We did not fail. We were failed by the University.”

The University is facing accusations of “bullying” and “failed leadership” from academic staff and students over its handling of the Gaza protest. It “ categorically denies” both bullying and underhand tactics.

The accusations came after Registrar Jonathan Nicholls issued a second ultimatum carrying the threat of legal action and refusing protesters the right to return to the building. Existing stocks of food were disposed of by University officials, who recorded protesters’ names and photographed them.

The University said last night that students would not be punished, even though their actions were in breach of matriculation requirements.

English don Chris Warnes called the University’s response “a failure of leadership” and “a disgrace”. He attacked “the cheapness and the way they bullied those students”. Former UK Ambassador to Uzbekistan Craig Murray, who was refused access to the building to address the protesters one Tuesday evening, said: “I was quite astonished to learn that Cambridge University had responded by attempting to starve the students out.”

Andrew Chitty, a lecturer at the University of Sussex, has written to Vice-Chancellor Alison Richard to express his “dismay” at the University’s “heavy-handed methods”. Equivalent protests at Sussex ended amicably after an agreement was reached over their occupants’ demands. Dr Chitty told Prof. Richard that Cambridge’s response brought the University into “disrepute”.

The protest has found support within the academic community in Cambridge. 35 Cambridge academics have expressed sympathy with the protest and its demands, including prominent poet J.H. Prynne, Raymond Geuss, Robert Macfarlane and Priyamvada Gopal.

An open letter to the Vice-Chancellor signed by 29 academics concludes: “We do not believe there is a substantial conflict of interest between the University, its staff and the students on these matters. These students are showing motivation, drive, commitment, perseverance, and principle in abundance – exactly the qualities we as teachers value most in our students. We would thus urge you and your negotiating team to respond sympathetically to the student proposals.”

In his message of support to the demonstration, J.H. Prynne stressed the importance of British engagement with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. “There are other crisis spots right now, too, but this one points a finger at us because we have done nothing real, for so long,” he wrote. “Whichever way you look, it is just shameful. Intelligent human communities have an special duty to look for understanding and to make it work, not to sit pat on our useless hands.”

But academic opinion has been far from unanimous on the issue. No equivalent condemnation of the demonstration has been issued, but Matthew Kramer, Professor of Legal and Political Philosophy, called the protest “a puerile act of collective masturbation in which the object is not really to improve any situation”.

Mathematician Geoffrey Grimmett said “the University is a place of education and research, not politics. The act of occupation runs counter to the very qualities of Cambridge that attracted us here.”

Though the University refused to accede to any of the occupation’s six demands, its negotiators have indicated their willingness to endorse a statement made by Universities UK condemning the destruction of academic institutions in Gaza, and to notify faculties and Colleges of existing opportunities for humanitarian fundraising.

More details on page 4
Noble but futile

The occupation in depth » p4
All you ever wanted to know about the five-day protest in the Law Faculty.

Cambridge Spies » p7
Prepare to be scandalised by a well-boiled serving of hot gossip.

Comment » p9-11
Rob Macfarlane denounces the environmental impact of Land Rover.

A stand for freedom or a farce? » p10
Was the occupation a noble way of supporting the disadvantaged, or a disingenuous attempt at self-promotion?

Creative Writing » p15
A chance to win two tickets to the ADC main show.

Graphic design » p20
A look into the seldom-seen world of designing often-seen posters.

Laurence Shorter » p23
The new prophet of optimism tells us to keep our heads up and spirits high.

The transfer window » p30
Forget to read the sports news? We give a comprehensive guide to this week's happenings.

Cooney’s Marathon » p32
The fifth-week blues are coming early for Lauren.

Get involved
Weekly meetings are held for anyone interested in writing for Varsity.

News
Sunday, 4pm in the Maypole (Portugal Place)

Magazine
Wednesday, 5.30pm in the Maypole

OR
E-mail editor@varsity.co.uk to find out more.
**New sculpture challenges traditional image**

Tim Leung

A bronze statue of Charles Darwin is to be unveiled at Christ’s on the bicentenary of the naturalist’s birth.

The statue, to be unveiled on February 12th, was created by Anthony Smith, a former Christ’s student. The sculpture will form the centerpiece of a new Darwin garden in the College.

“The reason that I applied to Christ’s to read zoology in the first place was because I discovered a passion for natural history after reading The Origin of Species when I was sixteen,” Smith told Varsity. “Things have worked out quite nicely!”

Smith examined drawings of Darwin made in 1850 and 1853, as well as the facial features of his descendents, in order to gauge how Darwin might have looked in his youth. “I would like people to think about Darwin afresh when they see the statue,” Smith said.

“The public perception of him as an old man with a beard, the statue portrays Darwin as a young man in the summer of 1831.

Darwin was an undergraduate at the College between 1828 and 1831. The sculpture is of him in his final year as an undergraduate, a mere six months before he boarded HMS Beagle on his now famous journey to the Galapagos Islands.

The University is hosting a year-long programme of events to celebrate the bicentenary of Charles Darwin’s birth.

This includes the Darwin 200 Bicentenary Festival, which will take place in early July, and Endless Forms, an exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum from mid-June that will explore the influence of Darwin’s ideas on visual artists.

Student reaction to the planned statue has been enthusiastic. “It’s great to be able to put a face to the name”, said one first-year natural scientist.

**Christ’s to unveil Darwin statue for his 200th birthday**

Lizzy Tyler & Gemma Oke

Cambridge will avoid the worst of the recession but more than a thousand jobs will be lost in the city, according to a report published this week.

The news comes as three charity shops close their doors for the final time, joining dozens of other Cambridge retailers who have become casualties of the economic slump.

The Cities Outlook report, published by the Centre for Cities think tank, highlights Cambridge as “well placed” to see out the worst impact of the recession.

The city’s highly-qualified workforce and knowledge-intensive industries will lessen the impact of the recession, which has so far notably affected the financial and retail sectors, the report predicts.

The relatively stable technological and research industries based around Cambridge are expected to lead an eventual economic recovery on both a local and national scale.

The study estimates that 1,230 jobs could be lost, but this figure is small compared to other cities of a similar size.

The head of policy at Cambridge City Council, David Robb, called the report “positive”, but said that the council was not complacent. Robb identified identifying and encouraging prosperity of the town as a cause for optimism, citing long-term strengths in public sector administration, education and healthcare.

“The report”, he said, “provides evidence of how the country can face up to the coming recession.”

The relatively low number of employees who commute from Cambridge to London is also thought to have lessened the exposure of Cambridge to the effects of the recession.

This report provides evidence of how the country can face up to the coming recession,” he added.

**Charity shops are latest victims of the economic downturn as three close on Mill Road**

**Think tank report says that 1,230 jobs are at risk, fewer than in similar cities**

The University of Cambridge and the energy giant BP have signed a formal agreement to continue to collaborate on research. The BP head of Research and Technology, David Eyton, met Cambridge, Vice-Chancellor Alison Richmond on Tuesday to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, in which it was agreed that the two bodies will work to “deepen and more fully integrate their research collaboration and continue to attract the best students to employment opportunities within BP, to the mutual benefit of both.”

BP has already invested £24 million in the University, which has been used for a BP institute for Multiphase Flow, for the Cambridge Centre for Energy Studies in Judge Business School and as a start-up sum for the Cambridge Centre for Indian Business. The firm is also among Cambridge’s top graduate recruiters.

**In Brief**

**Plagues of Locusts**

Scientists from Cambridge, Oxford and Sydney Universities believe they have discovered why locusts fly together to form destructive swarms. Significant amounts of the chemical serotonin were found in the locusts’ nerves, rendering them less, it is thought, more social and mobile, and thus triggering their swarming instincts.

The chemical is also believed to change the colour of the solitary locust to the ‘gregarious’ phase from green to orange-brown. The creatures have been known to band together to cause millions of pounds of damage to farm crops and were said to be responsible for one of the ten plagues in ancient Egypt, according to the Old Testament. It is hoped the findings will help prevent plagues of locusts from occurring in the future.

**Flasher warning**

Cambridge students have been warned about a flasher in action around the Grange Road and Sidwick Avenue area. There have been two incidents so far – a man thought to be in his fifties exposing himself to onlookers in College property.

University Liais on Officer Carol Langton has asked that witnesses inform the police immediately should the incident recur. She said students should take particular care in protecting their rooms from outsiders. The flashing incidents were thought to be carried out by the same individual whom Langton describes as “an older male and very fat, wearing an anorak-style jacket and a woolly hat.”

**Cambridge and BP join forces**

The University of Cambridge and the energy giant BP have signed a formal agreement to continue to collaborate on research. The BP head of Research and Technology, David Eyton, met Cambridge, Vice-Chancellor Alison Richmond on Tuesday to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, in which it was agreed that the two bodies will work to “deepen and more fully integrate their research collaboration and continue to attract the best students to employment opportunities within BP, to the mutual benefit of both.”

BP has already invested £24 million in the University, which has been used for a BP institute for Multiphase Flow, for the Cambridge Centre for Energy Studies in Judge Business School and as a start-up sum for the Cambridge Centre for Indian Business. The firm is also among Cambridge’s top graduate recruiters.

** قريب**

**Flasher warning**

Cambridge students have been warned about a flasher in action around the Grange Road and Sidwick Avenue area. There have been two incidents so far – a man thought to be in his fifties exposing himself to onlookers in College property.

University Liaison Officer Carol Langton has asked that witnesses inform the police immediately should the incident recur. She said students should take particular care in protecting their rooms from outsiders. The flashing incidents were thought to be carried out by the same individual whom Langton describes as “an older male and very fat, wearing an anorak-style jacket and a woolly hat.”

**Cambridge and BP join forces**

The University of Cambridge and the energy giant BP have signed a formal agreement to continue to collaborate on research. The BP head of Research and Technology, David Eyton, met Cambridge, Vice-Chancellor Alison Richmond on Tuesday to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, in which it was agreed that the two bodies will work to “deepen and more fully integrate their research collaboration and continue to attract the best students to employment opportunities within BP, to the mutual benefit of both.”

BP has already invested £24 million in the University, which has been used for a BP institute for Multiphase Flow, for the Cambridge Centre for Energy Studies in Judge Business School and as a start-up sum for the Cambridge Centre for Indian Business. The firm is also among Cambridge’s top graduate recruiters.

**In Brief**

**Plagues of Locusts**

Scientists from Cambridge, Oxford and Sydney Universities believe they have discovered why locusts fly together to form destructive swarms. Significant amounts of the chemical serotonin were found in the locusts’ nerves, rendering them less, it is thought, more social and mobile, and thus triggering their swarming instincts.

The chemical is also believed to change the colour of the solitary locust to the ‘gregarious’ phase from green to orange-brown. The creatures have been known to band together to cause millions of pounds of damage to farm crops and were said to be responsible for one of the ten plagues in ancient Egypt, according to the Old Testament. It is hoped the findings will help prevent plagues of locusts from occurring in the future.

**Flasher warning**

Cambridge students have been warned about a flasher in action around the Grange Road and Sidwick Avenue area. There have been two incidents so far – a man thought to be in his fifties exposing himself to onlookers in College property.

University Liaison Officer Carol Langton has asked that witnesses inform the police immediately should the incident recur. She said students should take particular care in protecting their rooms from outsiders. The flashing incidents were thought to be carried out by the same individual whom Langton describes as “an older male and very fat, wearing an anorak-style jacket and a woolly hat.”

**Cambridge and BP join forces**

The University of Cambridge and the energy giant BP have signed a formal agreement to continue to collaborate on research. The BP head of Research and Technology, David Eyton, met Cambridge, Vice-Chancellor Alison Richmond on Tuesday to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, in which it was agreed that the two bodies will work to “deepen and more fully integrate their research collaboration and continue to attract the best students to employment opportunities within BP, to the mutual benefit of both.”

BP has already invested £24 million in the University, which has been used for a BP institute for Multiphase Flow, for the Cambridge Centre for Energy Studies in Judge Business School and as a start-up sum for the Cambridge Centre for Indian Business. The firm is also among Cambridge’s top graduate recruiters.

**In Brief**

**Plagues of Locusts**

Scientists from Cambridge, Oxford and Sydney Universities believe they have discovered why locusts fly together to form destructive swarms. Significant amounts of the chemical serotonin were found in the locusts’ nerves, rendering them less, it is thought, more social and mobile, and thus triggering their swarming instincts.

The chemical is also believed to change the colour of the solitary locust to the ‘gregarious’ phase from green to orange-brown. The creatures have been known to band together to cause millions of pounds of damage to farm crops and were said to be responsible for one of the ten plagues in ancient Egypt, according to the Old Testament. It is hoped the findings will help prevent plagues of locusts from occurring in the future.

**Flasher warning**

Cambridge students have been warned about a flasher in action around the Grange Road and Sidwick Avenue area. There have been two incidents so far – a man thought to be in his fifties exposing himself to onlookers in College property.

University Liaison Officer Carol Langton has asked that witnesses inform the police immediately should the incident recur. She said students should take particular care in protecting their rooms from outsiders. The flashing incidents were thought to be carried out by the same individual whom Langton describes as “an older male and very fat, wearing an anorak-style jacket and a woolly hat.”

**Cambridge and BP join forces**

The University of Cambridge and the energy giant BP have signed a formal agreement to continue to collaborate on research. The BP head of Research and Technology, David Eyton, met Cambridge, Vice-Chancellor Alison Richmond on Tuesday to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, in which it was agreed that the two bodies will work to “deepen and more fully integrate their research collaboration and continue to attract the best students to employment opportunities within BP, to the mutual benefit of both.”

BP has already invested £24 million in the University, which has been used for a BP institute for Multiphase Flow, for the Cambridge Centre for Energy Studies in Judge Business School and as a start-up sum for the Cambridge Centre for Indian Business. The firm is also among Cambridge’s top graduate recruiters.
Six days of sit-in: the story of an occupation

There hasn’t been a student movement on this scale for at least a generation,” one protester claimed, still buoyant on the second day of the occupation.

There was some truth in this: the six-night takeover of the Law Faculty was the longest sit-in staged at Cambridge since the 60s. It was part of a wave of similar “occupations” which has seen students across the UK demanding that their universities dedicate resources to alleviating civilian suffering in Gaza.

The action has provoked debate and discussion about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, the unusual mode of protest employed by the Cambridge Gaza Solidarity occupation has divided opinion among both students and academics.

“More power to you,” declared English don Dr Priyamvada Gopal, addressing the protesters on Tuesday. “I am heartened by the thought that some of my colleagues have visited you over the last few days. It is the duty of an academic to foster values of freedom and justice. But this is a spirit that you and not academics are keeping alive. Academics have failed spectacularly in this regard. I apologise on behalf of my profession.”

She refused to reject claims that the occupation has been disruptive. “Your occupation is problematic and you should back up the people who say so. They can’t get to their classes? Well, neither can students in Gaza.”

Other academics have vehemently attacked the protest. Matthew Kramer, Professor of Legal and Political Philosophy, claimed the protesters were simply “pretending themselves” and dismissed their demands as “utterly fatuous - even if the university did issue a statement in accordance with the demands of these thugs, it wouldn’t achieve anything.”

Student opinion on the protest has also been polarised. varsity’s snap poll of 210 students found 29 per cent supported the protest, 49 per cent opposed it, and 22 per cent did not know.

An online poll of over 2,500 students conducted by The Forum, a society based at Emmanuel, found opinion was fairly evenly split on most of the protesters’ proposals.

On only two issues did student opinion approach consensus: in opposition to the demand for scholarships for Palestinian students (just 28 per cent agreed), and with a resounding 74 per cent backing the call for disinvestment from the arms trade.

Many students have expressed concern that the granting of scholarships exclusively for Palestinian students would have been unfair on other disadvantaged groups.

Tim Cribb, a world expert in African literature, has pointed out that such visions already exist for South African students, as a result of student campaigns against apartheid in the 1970s.

The most sustained attacks on the protest have centred on the issue of their legitimacy. The demonstrators have found it hard to justify pressuring the University to comply with demands made by a small minority of students and the fact that they declined to use conventional routes to express their views.

The CU Jewish Society organised a brief counter-demonstration on Sunday. CUSU President Rachelle Waxman said it was “wrong to believe that 100 or so testers who have tried other channels of complaint are being intimidated” by the protests, but could not substantiate this view.

Beccy Talley, one of the protesters, dismissed Wolfson’s terrorism analogy: “Civilians are not being targeted through violent means, so we are not terrorists. What we are is a group of peaceful protesters who have tried other channels but have been barred, and are now taking more extreme action.”

The group’s blog claims their requests that CUSU pass an urgent motion on this issue were “blocked for bureaucratic reasons”. Ed Malby, a fourth year linguist and veteran student activist, said the direct action was symptomatic of a frustration with official channels which, he claimed, “move at glacial speed”, adding that it was “a time for impatience.”

The occupation’s first demand, for a statement condemning Israel’s action in Gaza has fuelled wider debate over whether Cambridge University is obliged to adopt a political stance on this conflict, and whether such action is appropriate for an educational institution holding charitable status.

Some students have joined mathematician Geoffrey Grimmett in arguing that the university must not adopt a political position.

“By forcing the hand of the university into taking a political stand you are setting a dangerous precedent, whereby Cambridge would be inclined to comment on other future issues,” commented undergraduate Charlie Mole.

“Would it not have been better to have lobbed an actual political institution which has the right and the mandate to speak out against such an event?” he added.

Dr Gopal attacked such arguments as naïve: “Of course the University is a political institution. Every time the University confers an honorary scholarship on a head of state, that’s a political gesture.”

Friday
20.30 Occupation of the Law Faculty begins.

Saturday
00.35 Senior Proctor collects names and Colleges of 86 protesters. 01.05 A University Constable, requested by the Proctor, arrives. 02.26 List of six demands is published on the group’s blog.

Sunday
15.00 University representatives arrive at the Law Faculty, requesting a meeting with a delegation of protesters. The protesters refuse, insisting that negotiation must happen in the presence of the whole group. 18.30 The University issue a written response to the six demands. It states that:

• The University cannot issue a statement that is not directly related to its "core educational mission".
• The Registry can remind faculties about existing opportunities to donate to areas affected by conflict.
• Students may organise a fundraising day for the DEC Gaza appeal.
• The University already has a State- ment of Investment Responsibility.
• The protesters should leave the Law Faculty by midnight.

Monday
9.00 Law students return to the Faculty. 11.30 David Feldman, Chairman of

Katy Lee & Elliot Ross

LAW FACULTY OCCUPATION

Senior Proctor Margaret Guite address the protesters on Friday night

Senior Proctor Margaret Guite
LAW FACULTY OCCUPATION

The protesters’ demands

1. UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

What they wanted: A statement from Cambridge University condemning Israel’s action in Gaza, the Israeli blockade of Gaza and the continued Israeli presence in Gaza and the West Bank.

What they got: An endorsement of a statement by Universities UK, which represents the higher education sector, calling for an end to the conflict in Gaza and reconfirming universities’ commitment to the right to education.

What the students said: 35% agree, 54% disagree, 11% don’t know.

2. ACADEMIC AID

What they wanted: Academic aid, especially books, computers and financial support, for universities in Gaza.

What they got: A note circulated around faculties and Colleges reminding them about donation opportunities.

What the students said: 41% agree, 44% disagree, 15% don’t know.

3. DAY OF FUNDRAISING

What they wanted: Commitment from the University to a day of fundraising for humanitarian aid in Gaza.

What they got: Permission for students to organize fundraising for the DEC Gaza appeal.

What the students said: 43% agree, 42% disagree, 15% don’t know.

4. SCHOLARSHIPS

What they wanted: A minimum of ten scholarships for Palestinian students every year.

What they got: No guarantee of scholarships exclusively for Palestinians.

What the students said: 24% agree, 61% disagree, 15% don’t know.

5. ARMS DIVESTMENT

What they wanted: Divestment from the arms trade.

What they got: A restatement of the existing Statement of Investment Responsibility.

What the students said: 65% agree, 23% disagree, 12% don’t know.

6. NO PUNISHMENT

What they wanted: No repercussions for protest participants.

What they got: Participants were repeatedly told that they were in breach of their matriculation requirements. Their names have been passed to their colleges. Proctors are “not minded to take action”.

What the students said: 49% agree, 38% disagree, 13% don’t know.

Mixed results for student occupations around the country

Oxford

Over 80 students barricaded themselves in the Bodleian Library for six hours. The university agreed to publicly condemn civilian deaths in Gaza, offer five scholarships for Gazan students, and to cease selling arms to the Israeli army. However, it did not agree to cancel the lecture series inaugurated by Israeli President Shimon Peres. They fined the participants of the occupation £20 each.

London School of Economics

Over 40 students occupied the Old Theatre lecture rooms until January 21st. After seven days, the LSE agreed to waive application fees to publicize scholarships for students from the Palestinian Territories. They did not agree to instruct its fund managers to divest from BAE, and will consider a paper presented by the Student’s Union on a divestment-based ethical investment policy.

London Metropolitan

Occupation ended at 5pm last Friday afternoon after 27 hours. There is no further information on the demands and whether these have been met by the university.

Warwick

Students have been occupying a lecture room on the campus since January 23rd. The university agreed to review its ethical investment policy; they will work with the Students Union to extend scholarship opportunities to students from regions affected by conflict or catastrophe; they will help assist efforts to give surplus books, computers and other learning materials, meeting shipping costs where necessary and the university will not make any attempts to punish students.

Leeds

Students are occupying the Botany House building, near the Students’ Union. The occupation is still ongoing.

Queen Mary’s

Students are occupying the Frances Bancroft building. They began on January 25th and the occupation is still ongoing.

Essex

The occupation at Essex University began on January 16th. It is unclear whether protesters are still occupying the lecture building.

Wednesday

19.00 Delegation to CUSU Council meeting leaves the Law Faculty.

19.04 University statement demands that the protest leave the Faculty by 7.30pm. After this time, protesters – including delegates currently at CUSU Council – will be considered trespassers and not re-admitted.

19.15 CUSU Council passes an emergency motion supporting student commitment to the right to education.

Thursday

11.00 Remaining protesters leave the Law Faculty after they are threatened with court injunction.

The protesters at the Law Faculty, tells protesters that the occupation is disrupting the work of the Faculty. Bringing food into the building will also now be forbidden, due to breaches of health and safety regulations.

Tuesday

09.00 Security guards continue to require University ID for all entrants to the Law Faculty, and check bags for food. Staff conduct polls on whether Law students with the protesters to stay or leave at the start of each lecture. A majority votes against the protesters in every case.

11.00 A delegation enters negotiations with University authorities. The authorities uphold the written response issued on Sunday.

14.00 The University agrees to endorse a statement by Universities UK, which calls for an end to the conflict in Gaza and confirms universities’ commitment to the right to education.

Week 3: February 5th 1972

Varsity’s coverage of a student sit-in against planned changes in economics exams.

Old Schools was forcibly occupied by over 600 protesting students on Thursday afternoon. No disciplinary actions are to be taken – yet.

The sit-in followed a spontaneous decision of an Open Meeting called to discuss the General Board’s rejection of the Economics Committee’s proposed examination reforms.

The Proctors made no attempt to disrupt the sit-in after an initial skirmish in which the Junior Proctor claimed he was “kicked and scratched”. This has been strongly denied by the students involved.

An advance party of about 40 students tried to barricade the back entrance with a car, but were forced back by a squad of Proctors and special constables who were waiting for them. There was some violence at this confrontation and one student’s glasses were broken.

Jim Pemberton, Chairman of the Economics Students’ Committee, told them, “This sit-in is not for fun – we have serious demands. We must have well-defined aims and decide how long we are going to stay.”

It was not until an hour later that the sit-in agreed to end itself in 24 hours at one o’clock on Friday afternoon.

Spasmodic attempts were made at discussion and it was decided not to allow drugs in the room.

In a proposal put through the Senior Proctor, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deer, said that he was willing to meet a deputation of three, but following the advice of Mike Grabner the meeting voted to send no one until they had decided on their terms. Later, at 1pm, the deputation, including the Vice-President of the CSU, Cathy Prior, agreed with the Vice-Chancellor to sign a document saying that they would end the sit-in at 1pm the following day and accept responsibility for any damage.

After the pubs had shut there were many students mulling about the laws outside Old Schools, singing ‘Land of Hope and Glory’ and ‘We Shall Overcome’. The meeting voted not to allow them in while discussion was going on because they would “disrupt, not discuss.”

This led to a group of over 60 right-wingers, some inebriated, pulling down banners and giving three fingers for the Proctors and the Queen.

At 1pm on Friday it was decided to encourage sit-in for a further 24 hours. Mike Grabner, Cathy Price and Dave Green who has signed the previous agreement with the Vice-Chancellor to leave at 1pm on Friday did in fact leave at that time. At 1.30pm there were 600 still sitting in.

Corpus Christi undergraduate David Thompson was a keen and ever-present optimist and cheery demeanour would always leave you feeling better for having talked to him. He was able to make any situation fun and would lighten the mood of any group he was in. He really did have everything; he was funny, intelligent and good-looking. He was easy to talk to and always interested, whether he was discussing his love of drum and base or drunken exploits at the Northern Ireland Society dinners.

Effortlessly charming to the ladies, with his winning smile and laugh, he was forever number one in the suitability ranking of the male geologists by female counterparts. In fact, it was noted by his friends who found themselves further down the ranking. The girls seemed to flock to him wherever he went and they would often ponder the conundrum of how this was achieved. He said our “Mr Best”, because, quite simply, he was.

Throughout his time at Corpus, David was a lynchpin of the college community. Whether as stroke for the mens second boat or as a key player in a new and emerging lacrosse team, he was always first to arrive and last to leave and his infectious enthusiasm kept everyone going in training, even in the coldest weather. He was a good friend and neighbour, from opening jars and lending, to encouraging people out on a Saturday for a curry.

He will really miss him: his jokes, his smile, the funny little raised eyebrows that showed when he was surprised. Cambridge will never be the same without him. Memories of his friendship will be treasured and all truly wish that they had had more time to appreciate him.

A book of condolences is available in the Corpus Chapel to anyone from 4.00pm to 10.00p.m daily. All input, as creative as you like, is invited.

His funeral is on Tuesday in London. There will be a College memorial service at a future date to be announced.

City dims streetlights
to fight climate change

Lights to dim from midnight til 5am

Streetlights in Cambridge are to be dimmed at night to reduce carbon emissions and lower energy costs. The plans for reduced lighting levels are the result of a £57 million scheme that will see the replacement of 44,000 streetlights across Cambridge. The street lights will be dimmed between midnight and 5am due to the nature of the proposal for electricity to be charged on a meter.

The new lights, being introduced from 2010, will offer brighter light and greater energy-efficiency than the yellow sodium lights that are currently used.

The technological advances built into the high-tech lamps will also bring about a reduction in carbon emissions and “a potential fall in energy costs”, according to Mark Kemp, director of Highways and Access at Cambridge County Council.

A spokesman for Cambridgeshire County Council concluded said: “The switch to white light will give better colour definition and brightness. Even when the lights are dimmed they will still be brighter than the current yellow sodium lights.”

This follows the recently announced new lighting plans which have seen residents complain about glare into nearby homes as well as birds singing at night after being confused by the lights.

Cambridge appoints first female librarian

 Jarvis is ULI’s first female boss in 650 years

Beth Staton

The University Library has appointed its first ever female head librarian, it was announced this week.

Anne Jarvis, who has held the post of chief librarian since 2000, will become the first female in 650 years. She will replace Peter Fox, who steps down after 15 years as the Library’s head.

Jarvis, 46, has previously worked at Dublin City University Library before holding the post of sub-librarian at Trinity College Dublin, her alma mater. She is a Fellow of Wollson, and has served as vice-president there for two years.

Cambridge is already one of the world’s great research libraries,” Ms Jarvis said. “I look forward to building on this success and to an exciting future in which the University Library will play a leading role in providing in novative services in the digital age.”

City side is ‘like a third-world country’

Aditi Rao

A side street behind a Cambridge nightclub has been described by local residents to something from a third-world country because of the rubbish that accumulates there.

Concerns have been raised about the cleanliness of Hobson’s Passage, which connects Sidney Street to Hobson Street, and is situated just behind the Place nightclub.

Rubbish that overflows from the 1,100 litre bins, including broken bottles, old clothing, waste food, newspapers and cardboard can be found regularly strewn all over the passage way. Some pedestrians have even seen human faeces there in the past.

The serious health risk posed by the rubbish has horrified residents and visitors to the city, and has now been brought to the attention of Cllr Colin Rosenthal, who is the Executive Councillor for Environmental and Waste Services. The council has taken action against the owners of the large, unlocked waste bins, as they are “supposed to be locked and secure at all times”.

David Coventry, head of Street Scene, the company employed by the council to clean the passage, says the street is cleaned daily – “first thing in the morning”. He believes that the problem stems from the unlocked waste bins that are found in the passage way, as passers-by are tempted by the insecure bins to throw litter.

In Brief

Hermione comes to Trinity

Emma Watson is believed to have accepted a place at Trinity College, Cambridge, to read English, starting in October. The 18 year-old actress who plays Hermione in the Harry Potter films was rumoured to be considering going to Cambridge. She is now said to be favouring Cambridge over American universities because of a reluctance to be too far from her Oxford home.

Report on Muslims in EU

A Cambridge study has revealed that Muslim women are proud to live in and belong to Europe, despite prejudices they may experience on a daily basis. Dr Sara Silvestri, a Research Associate at Cambridge University’s von Hategel Institute and its Department of Politics and International Studies is running the research. The study, entitled Europe’s Muslim women: potential aspirations and challenges, has revealed the increasing independence of an emerging generation which is taking advantage of its rights to a full education and career. None of the participating women claimed they wished to live under existing Sharia Law systems.

Streets star injured

The rapper Mike Skinner has been injured after crowd-surfing at a Cambridge gig. The star from the Streets claimed on his MySpace blog that fans at the Corn Exchange on Tuesday “tug me the f** about and punch me and twist me”. He referred to crowd-surfing as “Moses based activity”. Skinner continued: “It’s great fun at the time but kills after. Real. Pain like I have never experienced... tonight someone held onto my belt so hard that my hernia scar from many years ago opened up to a bright red colour. Looks like a wee organ might pop out of its purply red bloody gash. Nice.” The Streets front man was treated by St John Ambulance staff on site, but later called for paramedics.

Jailbreak out of Cambridge

RAG’s annual Jailbreak event, raising money for charities such as the Cambridge Rape Crisis, the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Wateraid, begins today. Starting out from Parker’s Piece at nine o’clock this morning, pairs of student will race to travel across the country in a set of 36 hours, without spending any of their own money or relying on pre-organised transport. The event is designed to raise money for the various charities sponsored by the student-run fundraising organisations. Pairs are sponsored by the mile, and most aim at least to cross the Channel and reach Europe, although some set their sights higher: one competitor has expressed her intention to “get on a boat to Morocco”. Enthusiasm for the event has been particularly high this year, with the number of participants doubling. All money raised will go to charity.
Campaigners call for re-opening of Oxbridge rail link

Richard Kirsch

Rail campaigners are pushing for the re-opening of the so-called Varsity line between Cambridge and Oxford. The rail link, victim to the ‘Beeching Axe’ closures of the 1960s, would dramatically cut transport time between the two cities. The plan involves the construction of a new line trains to run at 100mph from Cambridge through Bedford, Milton Keynes, Bicester and Oxford.

Caedmon Tunstall-Behrens

Cambridge University researchers have invented a bulb that will cut household lighting bills by 75 per cent. The new LED bulbs, dubbed the “holy grail” by scientists, were unveiled on Wednesday. “They could last up to 60 years. They are three times more efficient than conventional bulbs, if their applications are success,” Peter Lawrence, president of Railfuture, a transport pressure group, is hopeful that the Oxford-Bedford section “will be ready by 2012”. But construction of the rest of the line remains “in the melting pot”.

Investigations in recent years suggest financial viability, with demand from students, commuters, and industry across this fast-growing area of the country. Railfuture believe that the route would encourage inward investment from industry and tourism, which they say are important during the UK’s dire economic climate.

Opposition to the plan is primarily political, not financial; there is a lack of support from both Bedford town council and bequeathed National Rail. Currently those wishing to travel from Cambridge to Oxford must take a three-and-a-half-hour journey on the X5 bus. Last week, Stagecoach, which operates the route, announced that it is investing £3.5m in upgrading its fleet. Among the improvements will be free broadband access and leather seats.

Alternatively, rail travellers can pay upwards of £40 for a single train ticket, changing stations at London, still totalling over two and a half hours. A Varsity line could reduce this to 75 minutes, as well as cutting costs. In 2006, flying an airship between the two cities was proposed, but estimates suggest the service would need 1,000 passengers a day to be profit-able.

LED bulbs could cut bills by 75%

» New bulbs could be in the shops within two years

Cambridge researchers unveil brighter bulbs that could last for 60 years

Peter Lawrence, president of Railfuture, a transport pressure group, is hopeful that the Oxford-Bedford section “will be ready by 2012”. But construction of the rest of the line remains “in the melting pot”.

Investigations in recent years suggest financial viability, with demand from students, commuters, and industry across this fast-growing area of the country. Railfuture believe that the route would encourage inward investment from industry and tourism, which they say are important during the UK’s dire economic climate.

Opposition to the plan is primarily political, not financial; there is a lack of support from both Bedford town council and bequeathed National Rail. Currently those wishing to travel from Cambridge to Oxford must take a three-and-a-half-hour journey on the X5 bus. Last week, Stagecoach, which operates the route, announced that it is investing £3.5m in upgrading its fleet. Among the improvements will be free broadband access and leather seats.

Alternatively, rail travellers can pay upwards of £40 for a single train ticket, changing stations at London, still totalling over two and a half hours. A Varsity line could reduce this to 75 minutes, as well as cutting costs. In 2006, flying an airship between the two cities was proposed, but estimates suggest the service would need 1,000 passengers a day to be profitable.

» New bulbs could be in the shops within two years

Cambridge researchers unveil brighter bulbs that could last for 60 years

Caedmon Tunstall-Behrens

Cambridge University researchers have invented a bulb that will cut household lighting bills by 75 per cent. The new LED bulbs, dubbed the “holy grail” by scientists, were unveiled on Wednesday. “They could last up to 60 years. They are three times more efficient than conventional bulbs, if their applications are success,” Peter Lawrence, president of Railfuture, a transport pressure group, is hopeful that the Oxford-Bedford section “will be ready by 2012”. But construction of the rest of the line remains “in the melting pot”.

Investigations in recent years suggest financial viability, with demand from students, commuters, and industry across this fast-growing area of the country. Railfuture believe that the route would encourage inward investment from industry and tourism, which they say are important during the UK’s dire economic climate.

Opposition to the plan is primarily political, not financial; there is a lack of support from both Bedford town council and bequeathed National Rail. Currently those wishing to travel from Cambridge to Oxford must take a three-and-a-half-hour journey on the X5 bus. Last week, Stagecoach, which operates the route, announced that it is investing £3.5m in upgrading its fleet. Among the improvements will be free broadband access and leather seats.

Alternatively, rail travellers can pay upwards of £40 for a single train ticket, changing stations at London, still totalling over two and a half hours. A Varsity line could reduce this to 75 minutes, as well as cutting costs. In 2006, flying an airship between the two cities was proposed, but estimates suggest the service would need 1,000 passengers a day to be profitable.

» New bulbs could be in the shops within two years

Cambridge researchers unveil brighter bulbs that could last for 60 years

Caedmon Tunstall-Behrens

Cambridge University researchers have invented a bulb that will cut household lighting bills by 75 per cent. The new LED bulbs, dubbed the “holy grail” by scientists, were unveiled on Wednesday. “They could last up to 60 years. They are three times more efficient than conventional bulbs, if their applications are success,” Peter Lawrence, president of Railfuture, a transport pressure group, is hopeful that the Oxford-Bedford section “will be ready by 2012”. But construction of the rest of the line remains “in the melting pot”.

Investigations in recent years suggest financial viability, with demand from students, commuters, and industry across this fast-growing area of the country. Railfuture believe that the route would encourage inward investment from industry and tourism, which they say are important during the UK’s dire economic climate.

Opposition to the plan is primarily political, not financial; there is a lack of support from both Bedford town council and bequeathed National Rail. Currently those wishing to travel from Cambridge to Oxford must take a three-and-a-half-hour journey on the X5 bus. Last week, Stagecoach, which operates the route, announced that it is investing £3.5m in upgrading its fleet. Among the improvements will be free broadband access and leather seats.

Alternatively, rail travellers can pay upwards of £40 for a single train ticket, changing stations at London, still totalling over two and a half hours. A Varsity line could reduce this to 75 minutes, as well as cutting costs. In 2006, flying an airship between the two cities was proposed, but estimates suggest the service would need 1,000 passengers a day to be profitable.

» New bulbs could be in the shops within two years

Cambridge researchers unveil brighter bulbs that could last for 60 years

Caedmon Tunstall-Behrens

Cambridge University researchers have invented a bulb that will cut household lighting bills by 75 per cent. The new LED bulbs, dubbed the “holy grail” by scientists, were unveiled on Wednesday. “They could last up to 60 years. They are three times more efficient than conventional bulbs, if their applications are success,” Peter Lawrence, president of Railfuture, a transport pressure group, is hopeful that the Oxford-Bedford section “will be ready by 2012”. But construction of the rest of the line remains “in the melting pot”.

Investigations in recent years suggest financial viability, with demand from students, commuters, and industry across this fast-growing area of the country. Railfuture believe that the route would encourage inward investment from industry and tourism, which they say are important during the UK’s dire economic climate.

Opposition to the plan is primarily political, not financial; there is a lack of support from both Bedford town council and bequeathed National Rail. Currently those wishing to travel from Cambridge to Oxford must take a three-and-a-half-hour journey on the X5 bus. Last week, Stagecoach, which operates the route, announced that it is investing £3.5m in upgrading its fleet. Among the improvements will be free broadband access and leather seats.

Alternatively, rail travellers can pay upwards of £40 for a single train ticket, changing stations at London, still totalling over two and a half hours. A Varsity line could reduce this to 75 minutes, as well as cutting costs. In 2006, flying an airship between the two cities was proposed, but estimates suggest the service would need 1,000 passengers a day to be profitable.
We are the leading supplier to colleges, May Balls and student socs and parties. Party wines from £2.99, over 200 single malts, Port, Madeira, Claret, Absinthe, cans of lager. If you can drink it, we sell it.

Free glass loan, free delivery, generous discounts, wholesale accounts available for all CU bodies, socs, clubs etc.

Double-or-Quits your student discount with our Trivial Pursuit challenge. No conferring, bickering or face-pulling.

Branches at King's Parade, Magdalene Bridge and Mill Road. Edinburgh too.

www.cambridgewine.com

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL 2009

Festival Flats have a large number of good properties available in the heart of Edinburgh, all within walking distance of the various venues.

Please call Carole or Elaine on 01620 810620 if you would like us to help find the perfect flat for you.

E-mail: festflats@aol.com or festflats@btconnect.com

a Cambridge University Careers Service event

Thursday 5th February 2009

1pm-5:30pm New Museums Site, Pembroke Street
Rejecting Land Rover
Robert Macfarlane

Literary don Dr Macfarlane was offered a five-figure sum and an all-expenses-paid trip to the Caribbean by Land Rover. He said no. Here, he explains how the company shamelessly uses landscape and nature to sell its products.

Three years ago, I was approached by OneLife, the “lifestyle” magazine of Land Rover, which is sent out to Land Rover owners in more than 60 countries and is, according to its own modest marketing, “worth of the world’s best coffee table”. OneLife had a writing commission in mind for me. I would be flown out to the Caicos Islands in the Caribbean for a three-day stay. There, I would conduct a “beach-based” interview with “the world-famous freediver Tanya Streeter”, the conceit being that I, as a mountaineer, and Streeter, as a diver, were both explorers of the vertical. I would stay in the best hotel on the islands. Naturally, all expenses would be covered and all transport pre-arranged. The fee for the subsequent 2,000-word article would run to a generous five-figure sum.

If only it had not been Land Rover making the offer. How ardently I wished for it not to have been Land Rover.

Transport is the fastest-growing source of carbon dioxide production in Britain: transport emissions increased by 50 per cent between 1990 and 2002. In the main, this is due to the unsustainable growth in air travel. It is also, however, down to the massively burgeoning 4x4 market. Sales of 4x4s grew by 12.8 per cent in this country last year, to 179,000 vehicles: more than double the number sold 10 years ago. Only 12 per cent of 4x4s are ever driven “off-road”, and 40 per cent never leave the city.

One cost of the 4x4 boom is long-term environmental. Big 4x4s in urban conditions manage thirteen miles to the gallon; the very biggest manage four. Four miles to the gallon. To drive a 4x4, given the disastrous rapidity of climate change, is to demonstrate the same reverence of the lung cancer victim who continues to smoke cigarettes after diagnosis.

The other cost is short-term personal. If you are driving a small car and collide with a 4x4, you are 12 times more likely to die than if the collision was with another small car. OneLife, the magazine company which produces OneLife, speaking proudly of its publication’s print quality, balds OneLife’s “full-bleed imagery”. Indeed.

My OneLife contact sent me two issues of the magazine. It was lavishly produced, and “landscape” was its glamour, its sales pitch. On every page, Land Rovers romped across text boxes. Nature was being used to sell a product which embodies the principles by which nature must not be understood.

OneLife – what a happy holistic world the name evokes! – is of course only conforming to large-scale 4x4 advertising strategies. You will be familiar with them from billboards and television commercials: gleaming semi-militarised vehicles ploughing through a swamp, or along a cliff-top, before slewing to a rakish halt at a view-point. The vehicles’ names – the “Touareg”, the “Bedouin” – are repellently shameless steals from aboriginal cultures, designed to raise atavistic hairs on the backs of consumers’ necks.

4x4 advertising is dedicated to manipulating landscapes into generic forms. All that it evokes of a landscape is that it evoke the idea of challenge: something resistant to be conquered, something natural to be tamed. A river is valued for its difficulty of fording. A mountain for its dramatic and nameless escarpments. No landscape can be only itself: it must represent an obstacle of some sort. The hypocrisies of 4x4 marketing are dark, multiple and pernicious.

Everything about the product urges us to the wrong relationship with our environment. The vehicles themselves are the gargoyle of a rampant and acrid form of individualism: gated communities of one. They bespeak the urge to dominate and crush which is at the root of what Ivan Illich called “the 500-year war on sustainability”. They expound a vision of an unspoiled and untroubled land, even as they market the tools of its further wreck-age.

The massive sales growth of the 4x4 is one dismaying example among many of the gap which currently exists between knowledge and place. Each month, it seems, that gap widens. Apocryphal stories circulate: about the schoolchildren who do not know that milk comes from cows, or who cannot identify a cucumber from a line-up of vegetables. In April last year, the Woodland Trust published research showing that 94 per cent of British children are unable to identify common native trees – beech, ash, birch, hazel – from their leaves, and that more than 40 per cent of seven to 10-year-olds have never visited a wood.

And as that gap widens, so the “line of predestined fall”, as Tim Robinson calls it, yawns at our feet. For the separation of knowledge and place moves us slowly towards a society in which it is increasingly unnecessary for us to be aware of where we live, beyond the housekeeping of our own private zones.

Once this awareness has lapsed, then landscapes beyond those private precincts become easier to manipulate for ill. Once the networks of origin, cause and process which exist between environment and life are forgotten, then we are left with a diminished idea of how individual parts of landscapes are threatened, by pollution or mismanaged development. As Barry Lopez has put it: “The more superficial a society’s knowledge of the real dimensions of the land it occupies becomes, the more vulnerable the land is to exploitation... for short-term gain. The land, virtually powerless before political and commercial entities, finds itself finally with no defenders. It finds itself bereft of intimates with knowledge of the real dimensions of origin, cause and process which exist between environment and life to regain such “concrete knowledge”?” How is it possible to restore partic-
Making a stand
The Law Faculty protestors call for the University to stand by its principles

The occupation of the Cambridge Law Faculty has aimed to refocus popular attention on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and to press the University of Cambridge to engage in rebuilding the educational infrastructure of the region.

The crisis in Gaza is undeniable severe, having affected 1.5 million civilians and witnessed the destruction of the University of Gaza and UN Schools. It should be a matter of concern for academic institutions around the world that the safety and wellbeing of students and teachers has been compromised. Given this, and the University of Cambridge’s stated ability to act on matters of educational import, it is difficult to comprehend where the occupation goes wrong in pushing the University to offer concrete contributions to the reconstruction of Gaza.

The demands issued by the occupation include that the University of Cambridge publicly condemns the Israeli bombardment of educational institutions in Gaza, mandate the staging of a University fundraising event alongside the donation of educational materials, create scholarships for Palestinian students, and divest from the arms trade. Though some object to the notion that the University adopt an overtly ‘political’ position on this or any matter, disrupting, as it would, a supposed and erroneous claim to ‘impartiality’, we affirm that Cambridge University is a political entity. Its record of awarding honorary doctorates alone testifies to its readiness to adopt stances political and partial. To have the demands of the students occupying the Law Faculty would have been fitting of Cambridge’s charitable organisation and would have brought tangible benefits to the lives and studies of those Cambridge students and their communities.

What seems to have most frustrated some elements of the student body about the occupation has been its bypassing of normal channels and the appropriation of an educational space for political purposes. First, the glacially slow process of student politics, a supposedly representative system, is incapable of effecting the rapid change demanded by the severity of the situation in Gaza and similar crises. This inefficient pace necessitated a direct form of protest. Second, it was our fullest intention to allow educational processes to continue at the Law Faculty. Our dispute was neither with law students, nor with the Faculty. What is more, we maximised the opportunity for peer education on political questions by holding debates, showing films, and getting expert speakers to give lectures — some of whom were denied entry to the building to speak by the draconian conduct of certain University authorities.

There has been nothing odd or innovating about this occupation. From the beginning, it has only been about the Palestinian cause, but instead is an opportunity for this mob of rah-revolutionaries to partake in an orgasm of anti-establishmentarianism. Let us be frank: this is a glorified Sleeper. The fact that the decision to invade the Law Faculty was taken before they had complied a list of demands says it all.

There is, however, a far more insidious aspect to the actions of this minority; they are usurping the student voice. The Hard Left is dictating what we, as students of this influential University, will say to the world. But in reality, they are a student thinkers and activists speaking out about their concerns and making sure people hear what they have to say in a peaceful manner.

This direct action, operating under the ruses of inclusivity, a charade of democracy and peaceful protest, has fostered a level of political debate and participation not seen at Cambridge for decades. The occupation embodied the commitment to freedom of thought and speech upon which the University claims to base its 800 year history as an academic institution.

The University’s response to the occupation constituted an unsuccessful attempt to silence those of its own junior members; its willingness to manipulate its position of power is a damning indictment of its claim to the liberal ideals of free speech and intellectual exchange. Any peaceful political action which holds the University to account for its own ideals needs no justification. Such protests are the exercise of a political right, a right which the University has obstructed and refused at every turn.

The situation in Gaza remains critical. We hope that the attention focused on the crisis by the occupation will ultimately bring real and immediate educational aid to Gaza. Whatever the occupation’s final outcome, we applaud the broad movement staged; we are ashamed of our University for attempting to suppress it.

Rah-Rah-Revolutionaries
The Law Faculty ‘occupation’ was an insuring farce

In 1968, student-led protests raged across Western cities, their universities seeming rather tepid. An anti-war rally in London ended with 86 people injured, thousands arrested. Riot or wrong, the British student movement had committed itself to their cause, regardless of consequence.

The occupation of Cambridge University’s Law Faculty, our Law Faculty, is an insulating farce. Despite invoking the ideals of 1968, our faux revolutionaries have demanded immunity for their actions. They occupy a major academic centre of learning — an incredibly aggressive and confrontational act in itself, despite claims to peaceful protest — whilst expecting no repercussions. Their untenable reads like a comedy script: yoga, music workshops, poetry.

Indeed, the occupation was nearly brought to its knees on Saturday night, when the somewhat oddly-chosen ‘poetry and music’ session proved unpopular. Yes, as had been feared, the launch party of the King’s Affair was proving to be a tempest too far.

Many of us in Cambridge were left bewildered by the weekend’s events. This is an action ‘in support of the Palestinian people’, students who quickly descended upon the bottom floor of the Norman Foster-designed building with airrams, bunting, basked in the glow of self-importance (and the University-provided heating).

So what has caused such widespread resentment towards the ‘occupiers’? They claim that they are exercising their right to peaceful protest and that they do not want to disrupt the lives of students or faculty members. The fact that they wish to show solidarity with and gain aid for the people of Gaza. Yet, as is so often the case with actions of the Hard Left, the available institutional processes which would have allowed for inclusive discussion were ignored. In trespassing, they slipped into the realms of illegality, and the student body should demand that the University take appropriate action against them, as it would against ordinary rule-breakers.

This occupation is an insult to the student population of Cambridge. We have a Students’ Union capable of lobbing the University, we have accessible Chancellors, and students who are willing to sign petitions and hold vigils. In a spirit of peace, we demand that the occupation constituted an unsuccessful attempt to silence the University’s own junior members; its willingness to manipulate its position of power is a damning indictment of its claim to the liberal ideals of free speech and intellectual exchange. Any peaceful political action which holds the University to account for its own ideals needs no justification. Such protests are the exercise of a political right, a right which the University has obstructed and refused at every turn.

The situation in Gaza remains critical. We hope that the attention focused on the crisis by the occupation will ultimately bring real and immediate educational aid to Gaza. Whatever the occupation’s final outcome, we applaud the broad movement staged; we are ashamed of our University for attempting to suppress it.

Mark Wolfson

Week 3: Washington DC

Washington DC, a city obsessed with history, saw it being made last Tuesday as Barack Obama became President Obama. Two million gathered in the freezing cold. Much of it was weathered from the comfort of their own homes as Obama’s rhetorical masterpiece swept over an expectant world.

Anywhere else in the world that speech would have been dismissed as archaic, superficial, a concession to style over substance. But not in America. Partly of course is the man, Obama could have delivered the Nuremberg Laws and it would have had met with adulation. However, there is also a psychological difference between Americans and the rest of the world, which is in many ways epitomised in their capital of Davidic power.

For a start, Washington should not be there at all. Only Americans would decide to build a city on swampland with sweltering mosquito-infested summers and bitterly cold winters. Its very existence evokes that American virtue of self-sufficiency. From the comfort of their own homes hundreds of millions more watched along the National Mall on a late summer’s day. Other countries have memorial and celebratory parks, but none compare. Centre-pieced by the vast obelisk of Washington, the Mall stretches for over three miles, a massive boulevard for the celebration and remembrance of America’s past heroes — ‘the men that shaped the nation’. It gives one a unique insight into how Americans want to perceive themselves. Courageous? Yes! Free? Definitely! Proud? You better believe it.

For the few who dismiss Obama’s speech as old-fashioned, a walk along the National Mall should dispel that. As the Law Faculty protesters call for the University to stand by its principles, so what has caused such widespread resentment towards the ‘occupiers’? They claim that they are exercising their right to peaceful protest and that they do not want to disrupt the lives of students or faculty members. The fact that they wish to show solidarity with and gain aid for the people of Gaza. Yet, as is so often the case with actions of the Hard Left, the available institutional processes which would have allowed for inclusive discussion were ignored. In trespassing, they slipped into the realms of illegal, and the student body should demand that the University take appropriate action against them, as it would against ordinary rule-breakers.

This occupation is an insult to the student population of Cambridge. We have a Students’ Union capable of lobbing the University, we have accessible Chancellors, and students who are willing to sign petitions and hold vigils. In a spirit of peace, we demand that the occupation constituted an unsuccessful attempt to silence the University’s own junior members; its willingness to manipulate its position of power is a damning indictment of its claim to the liberal ideals of free speech and intellectual exchange. Any peaceful political action which holds the University to account for its own ideals needs no justification. Such protests are the exercise of a political right, a right which the University has obstructed and refused at every turn.

The situation in Gaza remains critical. We hope that the attention focused on the crisis by the occupation will ultimately bring real and immediate educational aid to Gaza. Whatever the occupation’s final outcome, we applaud the broad movement staged; we are ashamed of our University for attempting to suppress it.
The Killer Question

Matilda Bathurst

Did you have a gap year?

In Freshers’ Week (remember that?) there are, of course, the staple questions: name, College, favourite colour (although the latter is only to be used in desperate circumstances). And there’s one other question, which is make or break. It would either commit you to an hour-long conversation, or create a chasm-like awkward silence that seems to prove that you have nothing in common with the other person, and you might as well go talk to the guy in the knitted gilet with rampant acne.

“Did you have a gap year?” The answer is apparent before the other person has said a word. Eyes lighting up at the prospect of (at least) ten minutes of shameless self-endorsement is the accepted sign that they did indeed. You will certainly be hearing about it until you can edge close enough to acne-boy to make a seamless switch in conversation partners.

On the other hand, a shrinking in stature and apologetic facial expression is typical of the non-gap-yearer. As this question is predominantly raised as an opportunity for the gap-yearer to reveal their otherwise hidden layers of cultivation and worldliness, the non-gap-yearer in the conversation automatically assigns themselves the position of eager listener/awe-struck admirer.

This implicit hierarchy (albeit only lasting as long as the listener's young, school-fresh concentration levels will abide) is based on the tacit misconception that having a year out makes you ‘less’ of a Fresher. But we all start as straight-out-of-schoolers a break. It’s apparent before the other person has said a word. Eyes lighting up at the prospect of (at least) ten minutes of shameless self-endorsement is the accepted sign that they did indeed. You will certainly be hearing about it until you can edge close enough to acne-boy to make a seamless switch in conversation partners.

On the other hand, a shrinking in stature and apologetic facial expression is typical of the non-gap-yearer. As this question is predominantly raised as an opportunity for the gap-yearer to reveal their otherwise hidden layers of cultivation and worldliness, the non-gap-yearer in the conversation automatically assigns themselves the position of eager listener/awe-struck admirer.

This implicit hierarchy (albeit only lasting as long as the listener's young, school-fresh concentration levels will abide) is based on the tacit misconception that having a year out makes you ‘less’ of a Fresher. But we all start as straight-out-of-schoolers a break. It’s apparent before the other person has said a word. Eyes lighting up at the prospect of (at least) ten minutes of shameless self-endorsement is the accepted sign that they did indeed. You will certainly be hearing about it until you can edge close enough to acne-boy to make a seamless switch in conversation partners.

On the other hand, a shrinking in stature and apologetic facial expression is typical of the non-gap-yearer. As this question is predominantly raised as an opportunity for the gap-yearer to reveal their otherwise hidden layers of cultivation and worldliness, the non-gap-yearer in the conversation automatically assigns themselves the position of eager listener/awe-struck admirer.

This implicit hierarchy (albeit only lasting as long as the listener's young, school-fresh concentration levels will abide) is based on the tacit misconception that having a year out makes you ‘less’ of a Fresher. But we all start as straight-out-of-schoolers a break. It’s apparent before the other person has said a word. Eyes lighting up at the prospect of (at least) ten minutes of shameless self-endorsement is the accepted sign that they did indeed. You will certainly be hearing about it until you can edge close enough to acne-boy to make a seamless switch in conversation partners.
Bombay Brasserie offers an exciting fusion of sumptuous Indian food, friendly service and a vibrant atmosphere. Bring your own wine on student night or enjoy our special student meal deal. On Fridays and Saturdays enjoy a relaxing evening with our a la carte menu and a wide selection of wines. We can confidently recommend our Chicken Tikka Masala or Lamb Rogan Josh.

3-5 Millers Yard, Mill Lane, Cambridge CB2 1RQ

T: 01223 360409 / 07951 572 131  www.bombaybrasserie.net

OPENING HOURS
Lunch: Mon - Fri 12 - 2.30pm / Sat - Sun 12 - 3pm  Dinner: Sun - Thur 6 - 11.30pm / Fri - Sat 6 - 12am

Call for Volunteers!

The Darwin Festival Team is looking for enthusiastic, reliable and committed volunteers to assist during the Festival week (5-10 July 2009) and also in the weeks prior. Benefits include access to sessions, complementary tickets to evening events and opportunities to meet the world's leading Darwin experts.

Please register your interest at www.darwin2009.cam.ac.uk/
Photograph of the week by Patrick Garety

My week by Sebastian Plank, Revolutionary*

*As told to Rob Peal

Friday
This evening got a text from Chloe, the fit left-wing girl with the asymmetrical haircut who thinks I read the Guardian. She asked me to come down and show her solidarity at the Law Faculty, so I charged up to my room, took off my suit, and got radically prepared. Went for Afghan scarf (obw), Fat Bloke with some leaflets and black rimmed glasses, and asked him what he thought of the two-state solution. That did the trick: 10 minutes later I was sleeping like a baby.

Saturday
Woke up seriously excited. It was going to be like 1968 all over again. I felt not dissimilar to Che Guevara. Bloody good film by the way.

Tried my hands at some poster making but they refused to put up my efforts: "Death to the global Zionist conspiracy". Squares. Decided it was time to learn a bit about what was going on with Gaza so I went to the open discussion; it seems that Israel were disproportionate. Hamas is a moot point and 1967 was a bad year all round. And the West Bank should not be under Israeli State control, but nor should Northern Rock in my opinion. Wasn't having much luck with Chloe – it was time to take affirmative action. I made a pre-emptive strike by hiding her sleeping bag. Later she asked me if I had seen it, and said no, but chivalrously offered her space in mine. She told me to piss off. So much for solidarity. I thought we were here to make love, not war.

Sunday
Tried my hand at some consensus decision-making. To reflect our democratic convictions, we got bogged down in when we should agree on the proposals. We decided to postpone that decision for an hour, so ended up voting on when we should vote on when to vote. Socialists have good intentions, but sometimes they need an iron fist in a knuckle duster to show them which way is up. Chloe started talking to me about Noam Chomsky and John Pilger – massive turn-off. I don't think I fancy her any more. Chilled out all afternoon smoking weed and playing guitar. Maybe we should send acoustic guitars to Israel; I really think if they new how to chill out like us, things could improve. Sung some Dylan. Oh Rob Dylan, is there anything you didn't know? If only he was still alive to tell the Israelis where to stick it. What a waste – I can't believe the CIA could get away with that.

Monday
Fucking pigs at the University high command still won't agree with our proposals. Authorities are all the same; Israel, America, Cambridge, Bush, the Nazis. If only Obama was president, he'd sort it out. Later on the proctors invaded the Law Faculty – I can't believe they could not notice the irony that it was JUST like Israel invading Palestine. We have a right to show dissent and that we know what will happen in Gaza, but the important thing is that we demonstrate we are not apathetic, we have a right to show dissent and that protesting is really fun. I really felt solidarity with our Muslim brothers this morning. After some solid protesting, it was time to go back to college. I don't know what will happen in Gaza, but the important thing is that we demonstrated we are not apathetic, we have a right to show dissent and that protesting is really fun.

“...I was walking back to Trinity Lane with a camera in hand. It was a cold, crisp day and very clear, the late morning light ideal. The heavier neo-Gothic of the Old Schools on the left and the less adorned end of Clare Chapel opposite makes an interesting contrast, squaring up to each other across the narrow lane. In trying to accommodate the two in this shot a vapour trail in the sky provided the perfect compositional link, allowing the juxtaposition of the modern and the historic. Looking up to the sky with the two buildings towering over me, almost seeming to collapse inwards, the plane’s trail seemed a reminder that there is a world outside the Cambridge bubble even during the term.”

If you have a potential Photograph of the week, send it to features@varsity.co.uk
Ed at large

What's in a name? When I was younger my friend Adolf and I used to lie in bed and wonder whether our lives might have been like had we been named differently. I was always drawn to 'Ulysses' and 'little Fuhro, as we called him, was rather taken with 'Rosie'.

What's important is not the names themselves, but rather their associations: Ulysses conjures images of great warriors and literature. Rosie, on the other hand, conjures images of being a girl and a puppet. As ever, one only needs to think of television: why else would a bank spend so much on an advert to announce 'we're changing'? Because whilst 'Aviva' is a terrible name for a company, 'Norwich Union' sounds like a recipe for a kid with eleven toes and one leg shorter than the other, which is worse.

All of which leads us in a roundabout way (and for the aforementioned infant one imagines there are few alternatives) to this week's venue. I need hardly tell you that 'The Maypole', as a name, summons both images of springtime optimism and a long and distinguished association with sinister (roundabout) skipping. Yet it will become clear both of these are misleading. The 'Pole needs a new name.

In the first place it's an astonishing venue for a public house. If you simply go to the address, at the arse end of Pentagol Plaza, you come across a 1970s red brickouthouse, which you are forgiven for thinking is somehow associated with the multi-storey car-park next door, perhaps in some sort of rest-room or long-term storage capacity. Separating these two architectural features is an alleyway of the sort suitable for the murder of prostitutes and the purchasing of second-hand firearms.

With the help of a well-trained guide, you will eventually learn that this alley is in fact the 'outdoor heated seating area' and the outhouse is, in fact, the Maypole, a place unique in Europe and possibly the world for its ability to operate outside of all economic conventions and yet retain business. It is the pub that the free market forgot, and to spend an afternoon there is to feel your jaw gradually slacken as you pour your student-loan into the pockets of a team of men whose cheerful nonchalance belies hearts of steel. For as the plaque by the bar warns you, these men are the offspring of Marsas.

His name suggests bombarding plums and chuckling toastoduls, but he runs the business with the chuckling resolve of a man who has thought long and hard about various people's money and, after careful deliberation, concluded that his must take priority. Lasagne and chips? £8.50. A burger? £6. A pint – who knows? Rows of bank cards sit in little glasses behind the bar like Mayan heads on spikes. There's a fun game you can play when you order a round literally anywhere else where you guess what the same round would have cost in this place. The correct comic answer to this question is to shut your eyes, whimper like a kitten and hand over your cash and carry on.

There are other humorous touches. A note on the wall proudly announces 'the best cocktails in Cambridge', which rather than an advertisement is in fact a hilarious self-referential gag since, to my knowledge, nobody has ever ordered one. Although if they did, they would be served with a hearty giggle and a thrusting of the PIN machine, and then order would return to the universe. The place is the Asterix village of the recession: a corner of Cambridge which is forever a maibunese Italian bank.

I should say that I write all this with a weary heart, as I know I'll be back there, probably tomorrow, as I am a creature of habits (some more destructive than others) and it shows the football. But something should be done. This aggression will not stop. To this end I have begun an online petition to have the Maypole's name changed to 'The Chuckling Provocateur'. For any of you inspired by this week's resurgence in gypsy activism (have these people not degrees!), but looking for a cause, now is the time, this is the one. We will camp there. No doubt we will be welcomed with open arms. But there won't be any heating, and we'll probably be charged for rent.

No Peas with Humous

Although there are few acron which are less contentious than sitting-down, something which our authors in the Law Faculty has created a great furore. The crowds are clucking with anxiety - whilst some see the move that the Law Faculty has created a great furore. The University be political? Is the law faculty the right shape for yoga? Yet with their emphasis on the Old World and the 1967 Borders, the posters, amicable and well-intentioned as they may be, is it not the case that science is in some time an ingredient. The chickpea.

Nothing has been more contentious in Israeli-Palestinian relations and no other legume has been quite so instrumental in creating discord. Because whilst 'Aviva' is a terrible name for a company, 'Norwich Union' sounds like a recipe for a kid with eleven toes and one leg shorter than the other, which is worse.

All of which leads us in a roundabout way (and for the aforementioned infant one imagines there are few alternatives) to this week's venue. I need hardly tell you that 'The Maypole', as a name, summons both images of springtime optimism and a long and distinguished association with sinister (roundabout) skipping. Yet it will become clear both of these are misleading. The 'Pole needs a new name.

In the first place it's an astonishing venue for a public house. If you simply go to the address, at the arse end of Pentagol Plaza, you come across a 1970s red brickouthouse, which you are forgiven for thinking is somehow associated with the multi-storey car-park next door, perhaps in some sort of rest-room or long-term storage capacity. Separating these two architectural features is an alleyway of the sort suitable for the murder of prostitutes and the purchasing of second-hand firearms.

With the help of a well-trained guide, you will eventually learn that this alley is in fact the 'outdoor heated seating area' and the outhouse is, in fact, the Maypole, a place unique in Europe and possibly the world for its ability to operate outside of all economic conventions and yet retain business. It is the pub that the free market forgot, and to spend an afternoon there is to feel your jaw gradually slacken as you pour your student-loan into the pockets of a team of men whose cheerful nonchalance belies hearts of steel. For as the plaque by the bar warns you, these men are the offspring of Marsas.

His name suggests bombarding plums and chuckling toastoduls, but he runs the business with the chuckling resolve of a man who has thought long and hard about various people's money and, after careful deliberation, concluded that his must take priority. Lasagne and chips? £8.50. A burger? £6. A pint – who knows? Rows of bank cards sit in little glasses behind the bar like Mayan heads on spikes. There's a fun game you can play when you order a round literally anywhere else where you guess what the same round would have cost in this place. The correct comic answer to this question is to shut your eyes, whimper like a kitten and hand over your cash and carry on.

There are other humorous touches. A note on the wall proudly announces 'the best cocktails in Cambridge', which rather than an advertisement is in fact a hilarious self-referential gag since, to my knowledge, nobody has ever ordered one. Although if they did, they would be served with a hearty giggle and a thrusting of the PIN machine, and then order would return to the universe. The place is the Asterix village of the recession: a corner of Cambridge which is forever a maibunese Italian bank.

I should say that I write all this with a weary heart, as I know I'll be back there, probably tomorrow, as I am a creature of habits (some more destructive than others) and it shows the football. But something should be done. This aggression will not stop. To this end I have begun an online petition to have the Maypole's name changed to 'The Chuckling Provocateur'. For any of you inspired by this week's resurgence in gypsy activism (have these people not degrees!), but looking for a cause, now is the time, this is the one. We will camp there. No doubt we will be welcomed with open arms. But there won't be any heating, and we'll probably be charged for rent.

Shakshouka

1 lb of chickpeas
1 garlic clove, crushed
juice of half a lemon
3 tbsp tahini (sesame seed paste)
3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 pinch of salt

1. Drain the chickpeas and rinse, reserving some of the water.
2. Put everything in a blender.
3. Blend, adding water where extra lubrication is necessary.
4. Serve with pitta, with parsley, with paprika sprinkled on top.

Humous

1 6 medium tomatoes (not canned)
4 eggs
1 tsp cumin
3tbsp extra virgin olive oil
3tbsp tahini (sesame seed paste)
1 pinch of salt
3tbsp cooking oil
6 medium tomatoes (not canned)

Serve with pitta, with parsley, 4.
GODFATHER ADVENTURE (STARTS ON PAGE 13): “Why, exclaim Alice and Richard, “it’s for the 800th anniversary of course. Eight hundred years of innovation. Eight hundred years of inspiration. Haven’t you seen the banners daubed with randomly chosen numbers?”

“Two Little Tulips” by Robert Burns is on sale for the price of a single ticket to the show. The masterly and inspiring 19th century Scottish Bard has been the subject of many performances in recent decades. This year’s celebration will feature the full story of Burns Night, which marks the 250th anniversary of the poet’s birth. The evening will include readings of his works, performances of his music, and a trip through the life of this great figure in Scottish culture.

Burns Fight
GEORGE REYNOLDS PONDERS THE QUIRKS, FOIBLES AND POETRY OF OUR GAEIC SEMI-CIVILISATION

Did you have a massive Burns Night? Yeah, neither did I. It wasn’t the fault of The Union, which gamely did its best with free whisky and ceilidh-dancing. It was just too late in the night, and how you spell it. My rubbish evening wasn’t even the fault of the person at The Union who decided that the ideal accompaniment to cheap alcohol and energetic dancing would be steaming, nose-wrinkling stovies...although I suppose Scotland’s to blame for that one too. No. It was dear old Rabbie Burns himself that I had a problem with, refusing as I do to celebrate mediocrity in all its guises.

We’re still thinking of the equivalent night for other nations, but it’s just emotionally trying. A nation’s best poet whose greatest contributions to verse...although I suppose Scotland’s to blame for that one too. No. It was dear old Rabbie Burns himself that I had a problem with, refusing as I do to celebrate mediocrity in all its guises.

We’re still thinking of the equivalent night for other nations, but it’s just emotionally trying. A nation’s best poet whose greatest contributions to verse...although I suppose Scotland’s to blame for that one too. No. It was dear old Rabbie Burns himself that I had a problem with, refusing as I do to celebrate mediocrity in all its guises.

We’re still thinking of the equivalent night for other nations, but it’s just emotionally trying. A nation’s best poet whose greatest contributions to verse...although I suppose Scotland’s to blame for that one too. No. It was dear old Rabbie Burns himself that I had a problem with, refusing as I do to celebrate mediocrity in all its guises.
This page mask designed for Varsity by Holly Briggs
Opposite mask by Ellie Measham; necklace, Accessorize
Photography, Katy King
Styling, Kate Womersley & Alice Newell-Hanson

for your eyes only
THE VARSITY WEEK
THE COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS

Theatre

Friday 30th & Saturday 31st
Ongoing:
Orfeo
Breakfast at Night

Macbeth
Chris’s New Court Theatre, Chris’s College: 7.30pm (£3)
Chris’s Shakespeare Company present a new production of Shake- speare’s darkest masterpiece. Runs until Monday 2nd (no performance on Sunday 1st).

Churchill Amnesty Smoker
Churchill College Bar: Sat only, 8.30pm (free)
A policeman stops a vicar for drink driving. Policeman: What’s that you’re drinking father? Vicar: Only water officer. Policeman: Looks like wine to me vicar. Vicar: Christ, he’s done it again. Expect similar cok ers at this one-off charity event.

Monday 2nd
Life and Beth
Arts Theatre: 7.45pm, Saturday matinees 2.30pm (£10-£27)
A deliciously spooky, new Alan Ayckbourn comedy. Runs until Monday 2nd (no performance on Sunday 1st).

Tuesday 3rd
Roads
ADC: 7.45pm (£6-9)
Join Scullery for a wild ride through one night of alcohol-soaked, violence-fuelled, sex-driven stories on a single, unnamed ROAD. Runs until Saturday 7th.

NICK MOHAMMED is a character comedian
ADC: 11pm (£4-£5)
This is a rare chance to see an accomplished Footlights alumnus return to the ADC. See our interview with Nick in this issue.

Wednesday 4th
Roads
ADC: 11pm (£4-£6).
See POTW.

Music & Nightlife

Saturday 31st
Q-Bar DJ Night
Queens’ Bar: 9pm (free)
A free night of electro at Queens’ bar.

Saturday 1st
Symposium
Soal Tree: 9pm (£4/£5)
Cambridge’s best student dance music night. All genres of electronic music represented. DJ/I, Dubstep, Techno, Psytrance...

Tuesday 3rd
Max Tundra
Soal Tree: 8pm (£7 advised/£9 on the door)
Last seen in Cambridge opening for Hot Chip, the electroclash electronic pop master comes with support from Ben Tundra and Mouse Pad, UM and DJ Nochezz.

Wednesday 4th
Get Real! III
Kambria: 10pm-3am (£3 before 11/£4 after)
DJ Frankly Sick brings you some of the dastardly winning styles and pure bass heat in the ‘Bridge’.

Alkaline Trio
The Junction: 1.8pm (£15 adv/£16 on the door)
Start wearing black and feeling mildly depressed. Chicago emo punk band Alkaline Trio are in town in support of their latest album Agony & Irony.

Thursday 5th
Teddy Thompson
The Junction: 1.8pm (£13 adv/£15 on the door)
The New York-based singer-songwriter (above) performs some of his breezy sweet pop, continuing the lineage of his parents, folk-rock icons Richard and Linda Thompson.

Ongoing Exhibitions
Fitwilliam Museum (free):
• Sir Sydney Cockerell and the Fitz (until March 17th)
• Picasso Prints – Dreams and Lies (until February 8th)
• The Immortal Stone - Chinese jades (until May 31st)

Kettle’s Yard (free):
• The Roundhouse Of International Spirits (until March 15th)
Scott Polar Research Institute (free):
• John Gale & Sons (until February 14th)
• British Antarctic (Nimrod) Expedition, 1907-9 (until April 4th)
Churchill College (free):
• Direct Observation: Chinese prints (until February 8th)

Friday 30th
CUMC - Cordelia Williams, Harry Winstanley and Kausikan Rajeshkumar
West Road Concert Hall: 8pm (£7/£5/£3)
Performances of Schubert, Chopin, Bach and Reinecke.

Saturday 31st
The Beethoven Ensemble: Beethoven and Bruch
Trinity College Chapel: 8pm (£10/£8/£3)
A chance to catch Rosie Ventris, feature of last week’s Varsity 100, in action, conducted by Daniel Hill, a recent Cambridge graduate.

Archipelago
Clare Hall: 7pm
The opening night of Katherine Cooper’s collection, inspired by her time spent living next to Stockholm’s archipelago in the winter of 2006/7.

Sunday 1st
An Evening Recital
The Old Combination Room, Trinity College: 8pm (£4/£2)
Trinity College Musical Society present pieces by Kreisler, Wieniawski and Franck.

Art & Classical

Saturday 31st
Aspirations and Landscapes in the Middle Ages & the Renaissance
Magdalene College, Cripps Court: 9.30am-5pm (£10, e-mail lifef@magd. cam.ac.uk)
A day-long series of talks as part of Magdalen’s Festival of Landscape.

Sunday 1st
“What is Christianity?”
Guildhall: 8pm
Ian Hamilton launches the CICCU Main Event.

Monday 2nd
“Enhancement in Sport: Faster, Higher, Stronger, Yet?”
McCrann Lecture Theatre, Bene’t Street: 7.30pm
Sport is about pushing the human body as far as is physically possible, but how can scientific advancements surpass these limitations?

Ferencz Genetics: application to crime scene investigation and the identification of human remains
Pharmacology Lecture Theatre, Tennis Court Road: 8pm
This talk will cover the sensitive issue of the national DNA database and the identification of human remains following mass disasters and conflict.

Tuesday 3rd
“Evolution: from malaria to manu scripts”
Pharmacology Lecture Theatre, Tennis Court Road: 8pm
The Science Society looks at what happens when inaccurate copying, during DNA replication or when scribes were copying manuscripts, throws up inter erating relationships.

Wednesday 4th
“Sustainable Development - great green dream or impossible ambition?”
Lecture Theatre 0, Engineering Department: 6pm
The former Friends of the Earth executive director directs Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet as Richard Nixon and David Frost in the famous 1977 interviews. See review on p.27.

Film

Beverley Hills Chihuahua
Vue: daily 5.30pm Sat/Sun only: 10am, 12.20pm, 2.40pm
Surely Judgement Day is coming.

Frost/Nixon
Arts Picturehouse: daily 1pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm
Frank Langella and Martin Sheen lock horns as Richard Nixon and David Frost in the famous 1977 interviews. See review on p.27.

Revolutionary Road
Arts Picturehouse: daily 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm
ADC alumnus Sam Mendes directs Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet as a couple struggling with their dreary lives in the 1950s suburb of Dalsville USA. Not exactly Rambo, but excellent performances help the film achieve more than its synopsis.

Underworld: Rise of the Lycans
Vue: daily 12.00 (Sun only), 2.30pm (not Tues), 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm
Michael Sheen and Bill Nighy star in this prequel to the goth-pop Underworld series. Goes some way to answering the age-old question of who would win in a fight between a vampire who listens to My Chemical Romance and a werewolf wearing eye shadow.

Volkyre
Vue: Daily 1pm (not Sat), 3.45pm, 6.30pm (not Tues), 9.15pm
Tom Cruise leads a group of German army officers in a ploy to assassinate Hitler. See review on p.27.

Music & Nightlife

Talks & Events

Feelgood
From Wed 4th to Sat 7th
ADC: 11pm (£4-£6)
The writer on the streets, the spin doctors are sweating over the Prime Minister’s speech... it has to be perfect. At the same time, a journalist is cook ing up a story that could put the party out of power for a generation. Award-winning comedy that takes a look at the tactics of ‘feelgood’ politics and features a cast of Cambridge’s finest; this is a bitingly funny political satire.

The Roundhouse of International Spirits
Until 15 March
Kettle’s Yard: Tues-Sun, 2-4pm
Check last week’s Varsity for our five-star review: Kettle’s Yard’s new exhibition showcases the work of the artists’ collective in Locarno in the 60s. Particular highlights include Hans Arp’s collages, Mark Tobey’s calligraphic tempera paintings and Felicius Vogler’s photographs documenting the period.
Talking Liberties

IN RECENT YEARS, SHAMI CHAKRABARTI HAS BECOME AN EVER-PRESENT VOICE ALERTING US TO THE REGRESSION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES IN BRITAIN. ORLANDO READE TALKS TO HER ABOUT TERROR, THE MEDIA AND REBEKAH WADE

Two things became clear to me when I listened to the recording of my interview with Shami Chakrabarti. Firstly the fact that on a dictaphone I sound like a knob, but more interestingly, the eloquence of a woman who has emerged as one of Britain’s most important political commentators.

Shami Chakrabarti currently holds a host of honorary positions: she is the Chancellor of Oxford Brookes, a visiting fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford, Court of Governor of the LSE, Master of the Bench of Middle Temple and director of Liberty. These honours, accorded to a thirty-nine year old, are impressive, but it has been her articulate appearance on New Labour’s domestic policies which has been most remarkable. In spite of this, she has attracted much personal criticism, including allegations of sanctimony.

I spoke to her just before her debate at the Cambridge Union last term. We sat in the Union bar, the garrulous regulars. The proposition was ‘This House Believes That The War on Terror Has Become An Assault on British Justice.’ She was joined by Philippe Sands QC and Hannah Perry, secretary of Amnesty International. Opposing her was Douglas Murray, author of Neoconservatism: Why We Need It, and two resident Union sophists. I imagine that had I attended the debate (I would first have had to join the Union) it would have staged an amusing ethical dilemma, inviting celebratory pacifists to provoke a pre-debate-debate. In the spirit of things I offered up some criticisms of Liberty.

Set up in 1934, Liberty (also known as the National Council for Civil Liberties) counted among its founding members prominent Labour figures Clement Attlee, Aneurin Bevan, J.B. Priestley and George Orwell. I wondered, did this strong Labour heritage not complicate Liberty’s status as an apolitical organization?

She disagreed, adding that as governments are always the ones who have the latest opportunity to do wicked things, Liberty has always been committed to cross-party campaigns, to draw people together from across the political spectrum. The forty-two days campaign attracted ‘very brave people’ in the Labour party, including Frank Dobson and Diane Abbott, as well as ‘brilliant speeches’ from Conservative politicians Damian Green and David Davis.

Liberty’s human-rights website claims to be ‘the conscience of the nation’. I asked her whether this was not dangerously subjective. ‘It’s grandioso. We wouldn’t claim that for anything other than our issues. We don’t have direct power, so we have to prick conscience.’ It had become apparent that, without any effectively articulated opposition, no debate could take place. So I relented in my feeble provocations and she allowed me to pick her brains gently.

I asked her what it is about the war on terror that she objects to. On a most basic level, it is the name. ‘The war on terror is a brilliant Bush slogan... on terror is a brilliant Bush slogan... people were being arrested for reading the names of dead soldiers at the Cenotaph.

Failing to find a less inappropriate metaphor, I asked her whether it ever feels as if she’s banging her head against a brick wall? ‘No. That’s the nature of humanity, democracy. Each generation has to fight its own battles, has to discover why these things matter so much. Forgive me for quoting Martin Luther King: “The arc of history is a long one, but it bends towards justice.” To some extent the British public has woken up.’ She continues “I was speaking to the German Ambassador recently, and in Germany they take every camera very seriously, they take their personal privacy very seriously. And that’s because we haven’t really been oppressed.”

Apart from the Normans. “Apart from the Normans. But recently, it’s been a really tough time. But out of it there’ll be a reawakening. That’s why I’m here. Tony Blair said that the rules of the game are changing. And they have. He did things that I never expected would happen in Britain in my lifetime. This is why we need media exposure. Because we’ve been saying things that other people weren’t saying. Difficult things.”

And maybe, that need for media exposure to enable unobjectionable things to be much violence from me.” Who is, then, the most dangerous woman in Britain? “I don’t know. I haven’t met her!” Rebeckah Wade? “I have met her... no.”

It must be awkward, I supposed, depending on the media to reach the widest audience and, at the same time, having to monitor it. “We need them to give us a voice and access to the public. But not at the expense of looking away from the disenfranchised.” But such exposure to the media has attracted all kinds of criticisms, not to mention personal attacks. “Sticks and stones. You only encourage that if you do silly things like parade your children in the media. I’m not going out with a footballer.”

One of Liberty’s initial functions was to monitor the policing of protests, so I ask her how optimistic she feels about the ability to protest against the Labour government. “It’s bizarre, the circularity of things. Increasingly we’ve had to do much of that. We didn’t do it to be cute, it was proving necessary. Peaceful protesters were being hit by terror laws, and people were getting arrested for reading the names of dead soldiers at the Cenotaph.”
**Designs of the Times**

The unsung heroes of graphic design who enhance Cambridge’s visual landscape share their thoughts on some of the best promotional material of recent years.

Patrick Kingsley

I’d wanted to do a kind of Buñuel-themed Wild West poster for quite some time, so when James Moran asked me if I wanted to design the poster for Latin!, a play by Stephen Fry, I thought: “This is my chance!” I was quite pleased with it. Clarendon is one of my favourite fonts and I loved the scuzzy texture and the surreal face. Unfortunately James hated it, and so the finished article ended up looking completely different. He was probably right — thematically speaking, this poster doesn’t have much to do with the brief I was given, which was “paedophilic teachers” — but I’d still like to use it for something.

Charlotte Bourn

“There is so much on around Cambridge on any given night, so when I’m asked to design the publicity for a play or event, I try to make it as eye-catching as possible. I think these designs work well because they are bright and attention-grabbing; and playful too. This last bit is very important: from my experience, aside from well-known plays, Cambridge students are far more likely to go and see a play they don’t know much about if they think it’s funny, or a little bit rude. Light-hearted sells, and sells out; and I suppose that’s why these designs are all quite illustrative in style. This design, for Life x 3, is lively and suggestive of a wine-fuelled evening in Paris.”

Dylan Spencer-Davidson

“There is so much on around Cambridge on any given night, so when I’m asked to design the publicity for a play or event, I try to make it as eye-catching as possible. I think these designs work well because they are bright and attention-grabbing; and playful too. This last bit is very important: from my experience, aside from well-known plays, Cambridge students are far more likely to go and see a play they don’t know much about if they think it’s funny, or a little bit rude. Light-hearted sells, and sells out; and I suppose that’s why these designs are all quite illustrative in style. This design, for Life x 3, is lively and suggestive of a wine-fuelled evening in Paris.”

I hardly ever still like a flyer or poster a year after making it; this one is probably the only exception. I think it manages to convey quite a lot of what Rob was trying to do with the play. The concept is based around the perforation in the middle, which invites you to rip apart the two protagonists and break the red ampersand which is connecting their heads, lips and eyes. The flyer then works as two independent halves: you have a Romeo half and a Juliet half. The portraits show Romeo and Juliet as naked and vulnerable teenagers, staring into each other’s eyes (you can make them kiss if you bend the flyer together). The title typography was written by Alastair (playing Romeo) and Lizzie (Juliet) respectively. The play sold out, even with added matinees, and the ADC referred to the publicity in its mailing list: “This already promises to be one of the highlights of the theatrical year, and is creating a real buzz around Cambridge. Perhaps you too have already succumbed to the moreish pleasure of the production’s serrated flyers...”
“The publicity for Follies was unusual in that it developed from the image of the showgirl, which I submitted when applying for the post of publicist. The mirror and bulbs came a lot later. The idea behind the Follies publicity was to get a sense of past glamour that has now decayed. While the bulbs and mirror capture this most obviously, the idea of the girl looking over her shoulder was also a reference to looking back at the past. I think the bulbs turned out well after some computer trickery and, as with most posters that include a person’s face, the girl’s eyes catch our own. In general however I prefer posters that are more simple and crisp. I think my work for Follies was perhaps a little overworked, as a consequence of piecing together the different elements over time, rather than having a coherent design at the beginning.”

“This piece is for the upcoming production of Waiting for Godot. For theatre posters I’ll always try and incorporate some of the major symbols of the play/production whilst creating a visually interesting and unified image as possible. Thus in this production the tree and passing time are two of the core themes. It is important your design is sufficiently different to what’s gone before, whilst still including some of the imagery that people may already be familiar with or associate with the show. The most important thing I’ve learnt about graphic design at Cambridge is that the senior figure in whatever you are promoting will have their own ideas about how a poster should look and often your creative input is limited – it is more about doing something that you are not ashamed to put your name to but ultimately that the person on top is happy with.”

“After considering the need to be eye-catching and to communicate ideas about the show, I have to ensure that the poster works as a piece of art in order to give an impression that the show will be of a similar high artistically standard. I have been a portrait artist for a number of years; when I paint a portrait I like to break down a face into shapes with solid edges - I paint in strong brush strokes with very solid edges, and this has infiltrated my design work. The Cement Garden poster is one of my favourites because of the use of outlines against solid colour, which draws attention to the intricacy of the shapes of the woman’s body. Outlines make us look at shapes in a new way: we are so used to seeing things in real life that we don’t notice what shapes they are made up of.”
AS FORMER FOOTLIGHTS COMEDIAN NICK MOHAMMED PREPARES TO RETURN TO THE ADC ON TUESDAY, HE TALKS TO JOEL MASSEY ABOUT DURHAM, CHARACTER COMEDY, AND ... ER ... THAT UNFINISHED SEISMOLGY PHD

NICK MOHAMMED likes to spell his name in block capitals. As if that wasn't enough, he also has a high, distinctive braying - a folk-based comedy and is one of the most promising recent Footlights exports. Oh, and he's on at the ADC this Tuesday.

I catch Nick on a break from filming. He's working on a revival of the classic 70's sitcom The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin to be broadcast on BBC. Two later this year. The show documents the life of Reggie (played by Martin Clunes of Men Behaving Badly fame), a middle-class audience driven mad by the monotony of modern life. During the interval I hear some commotion and giggling from outside. "Sorry, we're just taking the piss out of me for doing an interview."

An interview with Varsity, a source of mockery, what an outlandish thought. Martin Clunes, how dare you.

Despite the interruption, I manage to get the conversation back on track. Nick is returning to Cambridge this Tuesday with his critically acclaimed Edinburgh show, 'NICK MOHAMMED is a character comedian'. Whereas most stand-ups masquerade as themselves on stage ("I'm so-and-so last Tuesday..."), Nick offers something quite different. "Essentially it's just me playing lots of different characters," he tells me. "I'm never myself on stage, never not in character."

Nick's characters are not fictional; they are genuine impressions. However, he does not rely on the usual staples of impersonation, the likes of Blair and Bush. "I impersonate not famous people but just people I see on the train, my friends, teachers from school and even lecturers from when I was at Cambridge." Portraying a plethora of characters in a tight one-hour slot presents serious challenges. "I love to do it on TV, to get into proper make-up and costume. But as it's live I have to change characters instantly. I need to get the physiognomy and the voice exactly right."

I decide to press Nick on how against the grain his style of comedy is. "I wouldn't say it's unique. There are some famous character comedians, like Sasha Baron Cohen with Ali G and Borat. But there aren't many people doing it live. The London comedy circuit is dominated by the comedy club format, a guy with a mic, an informal atmosphere and a bar at the back. What I do is more theatrical."

Nick first nurtured his impersonating skills as far back as when he was at school. "It started with just messing around in class. One of my characters was a camp, Northern bloke who taught me when I was fourteen." When Nick arrived in Cambridge he developed his style further. "Two of the characters in my show, the weatherman and the conductor, were first performed in Footlights Smokers."

Nick arrived in Cambridge, having received a first degree at Durham, to tackle a PhD in Seismology. Before long he started to prefer comedy to earthquakes. "After doing some Smokers I was just hooked. In the end, Footlights made me quit my PhD."

Was Footlights a better training ground than the Durham Revue? "Absolutely. Durham was so cliquey. They had one audition at the start of the academic year to determine who would be in it for the whole year, and if you weren't already friends with them you wouldn't get in. They also had only one show a term, so all their eggs were in one basket. I know all these clubs can become cliquey, but at Footlights, with Smokers, the Pantomime, the Spring Revue, the Harry Potter Prize and the Tour Show, there's just so much opportunity. The Smokers are key - there's no better way to improve than to write something every two weeks."

Nick is happy to wax lyrical about Footlights, but I want to know if he felt there were any disadvantages in coming from the club. "I don't think so. People say it's a double-edged sword, but it's not. I suppose when you're starting out you can get reviews saying 'you'd have thought the group behind Stephen Fry would have produced someone better.' People forget that even the likes of Stephen Fry weren't perfect at 19 or 20, everyone learns by writing and gigging more and more. It's not the name that makes the people, but the other way round. NICK MOHAMMED is a character comedian is on at the ADC Theatre this Tuesday at 11pm."

REPORTING FROM A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE BAND, PAUL SMITH SHARES SOME INSIGHTS ABOUT THE MAKING OF FRANZ FERDINAND'S LATEST, MOST ‘MENACING’ ALBUM

No animals were harmed in the making of Franz Ferdinand's new record, although a human skeleton was used for some percussion effects. "Just in a very small way, it didn't play a major role," Alex Kapranos reveals.

‘We found it at a box at an auction."

Drummer Paul Thompson excitedly informs, "We did an impromptu excavation in Paris and the journalist asked if we went to a graveyard and dug it up."

There and a half years since the release of their last record, the lads are back with Tonight: Franz Ferdinand, and are still finding inspiration from (literally) underground sources.

Fans expecting another anthem like ‘Take Me Out’ or a jaunty ‘Do You Want To’ may be disappointed, as their new release, while still firmly rooted on the dance floor, is darkly undermined by dirty grooves and menacing synthesisers, which feature heavily, for example, on current single ‘Ulysses’. Alex explains the song’s classical inspiration. ‘You can read it now..."
Laurence Shorter has a cold. This is not good news; he’s got to be in London next week to promote his new book, The Optimist: One Man’s Search for the Brighter Side of Life. So he must feel mucus-ridden, miserable, and bitter, right? Wrong. “I’m a little under the weather,” he tells me, “but that’s just a consequence of it being winter time, you know?” That’s what he calls optimism.

Shorter developed this outlook whilst researching and writing The Optimist. Three years ago, at the age of 35, he was going through a kind of mid-life crisis. He was in a funk; the news, his personal life, and his career as a freelance business consultant were getting him down, and he found himself asking the question, “Why should I get out of bed?” He wanted the motivation, that energy and purpose that some people have and I didn’t. How the hell does Richard Branson get up at 6am with a spring in his step? It’s always baffled me... and somewhat annoyed me. Where do they get their optimism, their joie de vivre? So he decided to travel the world, and embarked upon a “genuinely quixotic journey”, punctuated with extraordinary adventures, “like a knight errant” on a quest for optimism, both in himself and in others.

Optimism is one of those words which, if you’re a stickler for linguistic and philosophical precision, can really get your goat. It was originally coined by the philosopher Leibniz in the early eighteenth century in his work Théodicée, where he outlined his belief that this universe is the best it can be: optimism, from the Latin optimus. This definition was soon distorted; saturated by Voltaire in Candide, optimism later came to reflect nineteenth century society’s preoccupation with progress; “it meant something about tomorrow; everything’s going to be alright, “ he tells me, “I started to have a chain of anxiety and he wouldn’t have made it; in that moment of danger and extremity there was no choice, he had to remain positive.”

So we all find that positive attitude, so as to grace the towering spires of Cambridge with the glimmer of light that can often seem all too lacking? Optimism is not the privilege of any particular class or religious bent. Shorter asserts; it is a deeply democratic concept, and available to anyone who decides to find it. “I’ve become much more of an optimist; having made that decision. It’s not a predisposition, until I start to really determine; we have the power to observe mental habits for interpreting what happens to us. Clinical psychologists have found that even manic depressives, by closely observing their own thought patterns, can improve their chemical or genetic depression to a remarkable degree. If you examine your own reactions and beliefs about reality, you see how you compound and create suffering in your own mind; the simple solution is to be aware of it.”

**GODFATHER ADVENTURE (STARTS ON PAGE 13):** Yup, cheddar = dash. You name it: bread, lolly, wonga, frie – Alice and Richard know their money-based slang. But enough of that: what are you going to offer them? *p28 Make them an offer they can’t refuse.* *p22 Make them an offer they can refuse.*
George Reynolds tells us what’s in theatrical week 2

Get this. Just fucking get this. I now have 420 words, pretty much uncensored. WHATEVER I WANT about the Cambridge drama scene, a thing I have learned to hate their carefree, less joyless hours in minor theatres watching minor actors do minor parts in minor plays and wondering if the leading lady would give me a hand crank in exchange for that elusive sixth star. Oh, there’s been Shakespeare. Lots and lots of Shakespeare.

Technically, this is a Round Up. So let’s round up: Orfeo (yawn), Breakfast at Night (babalha), the first Footlights Smoker (baba), a Churchill Amnesty Smoker (ha), Cosi Fan Tutte was apparently very good, but you’ll know that already if you read the review (dumbass). And there was a Jesu Smoker, which must have been nice for them.

Honestly, though, do catch Breakfast at Night: it’s written by some very funny people that I’ve never met but that I like a lot, for some reason. And Godford, it’s got a huge cast full of all sorts of amusing Footlights-y types. And, irritatingly, Lucy Evans. Not because she iritates me, but just because I wanted to make a joke about this being the first week in living memory that she hasn’t been on at the ADC. But she is. So I can’t say that. Anyway: if “GRAPHIC HORROR” (note soapboxsky capitals) you didn’t mean that then go and see Macbeth at Christ’s. Just remember - there’s probably a reason he didn’t get to put it on at the ADC.

Um um um - looking into my crystal ball(s) further ahead in term, 42nd Street should provide a good night out, even for those who aren’t gay or tap-dancers (very exclusive). And despite some truly amateurish, lacking in imagination, giving no inkling that she believed in the power of music. Opera, in the hands of its masters, is the greatest art form of them all. And it all dates back, so the legend goes, to Monteverdi and Orfeo. Though not quite the oldest, Orfeo remains one of the earliest operas of which we are aware. Two years ago, it celebrated its four-hundredth birthday. It isn’t opera in the clichéd, cartoon sense. What we have instead is a piece of light entertainment, albeit one with a moral (self-restraint is a virtue to be cherished). Typically for an early opera, it’s based on Greek myth. Orfeo is in love with Eurydice, who then dies. He bravely tries to get her back, and is given the chance to lead her out from Hades on the condition that she joins him, so that he can’t see her. Predictably, that’s exactly what he does, so Eurydice vanishes. All that is left is for Apollo, the Sun God, to descend from the sky, console his grieving son, and drift up with him into the stars.

Unfortunately, this production rarely makes it to entertainment. As the brass fans that open the work lacked any sort of drama, and was out of tune. Indeed, the playing of the University Ba-roque Ensemble left a lot to be desired throughout the evening. There was little rhythmic bite, cadences were regularly mistimed, and the off-stage brass in Act 3 pitted into half-life, woefully at, as if nobody had brought them in. The opening brass are followed by a prelude, in which Music waxes lyrical on the wonders of her art. Unfortunately, her acting was so wooden that it brought no inkling that she believed in the power of music. This wasn’t helped by the two on-stage accompanists trying roughly to hide their copies of sheet music as they departed the stage.

Act I saw the first dance (more accurately described as lopsided group hopping), and with it the mascaraled choreography that plagued the performance, especially in the final, moralising chorus, in which hand movements seemed to appear at random. We also glimpsed our first set: a garden backdrop which looked like it had come straight out of a children’s fairytale, coupled with a solitary and none too convincing rock.

Set design continued after the interval. When Orfeo attempts to get past the guardian of Hades through the charm of his music, he sings in front of a zebra-patterned screen, with Charon’s boat intermittently surrounded by a fug of smoke, so liberally applied that it cascaded into the orchestra pit.

There were also serious costume problems. Charon looked perturbingly like a cat thanks to his smeared face paint (and he fell asleep as if he was having a heart attack). Act 4 featured such hellish demons as a pig and a winged frog, both of whom wore masks that would not be out of place in a cheap family dress shop. Hades had all the menace of afternoon tea, not helped by the costume that made Pluto look like a sorcerer. The final act saw Apollo descend from the sky incrementally, preceded by a Rapunzel-esque plume of yellow fabric, attached to a balloon basket that looked oddly like Wedgewood pottery. Hope shot a knowing look offstage as she struggled with the sheets.

On the singing front, Orfeo and the Messenger were in a class of their own, the latter bringing genuine stage presence which showed what was missing from the rest of the cast, who generally lacked both vocal power and emotional pull.

It can’t be denied that a great deal of effort must have been put into this production, but it looks and feels terribly amateurish, lacking in imagination, giving the impression that it’s being put on in a rural town hall.

Footlights Smoker
ADC Theatre, January 27th

Footlights Smoker is not an easy thing to write. It is a one-off, so I can’t warn a Solicitor of Asssociates to look out for, or recommend attendance. It is an evening of subjective comedy, where failure to laugh is more likely to be a result of your impressions to the joke than the joke not being funny. And most concerning of all, taking notes during the performance causes people to think I am stealing material. Of course of which I wouldn’t do. So consequently.

In my short time at Cambridge I have been audience at three Footlights Smokers, this was the best yet. Funnyman Keith Akushe opened the show, with a hilarious set re-living some old jokes: millennium bugs and Berlin Wall. Akushe has a timeless charm about him as these jokes went down in history as some of the best of the night.

But there was also mention of more recent affairs, something deep in everyone’s hearts in which we cannot help but feel we should be involved; no, not the Middle Eastern conflict (although that was brought up) but the social networking phenomenon that is Facebook. At my count, Zuckerberg’s baby got four different mentions in an hour, including a funny scene of a Facebook rape crime. One in particular was great, a quick-witted and cleverly delivered poem about a computer and pornography - and my editor, sitting behind me, remarked out loud during the show that it was fantastic, so I wouldn’t dare write anything else.

Other notable sketches include: a boy who tells “absurd but very specific lies” and then meets a well (geddit?). Lewis Hamilton falling out with a friend due to incessant bragging about his wins; a birthday present of a watch that can stop time but just turns out to be a year-long social experiment: a song on the guitar full of sexual innuendos and a crude scene at the gynaecologist, vulgar enough to make you feel bad about laughing, but funny enough that you laugh nonetheless (loudly at that).

The Footlights Committee (Roberts, Evans, Mullarky, Johnson, Williams & co) feature in several original and punchy sketches each word play aptly to keep the posters like me happy. Example: “a tabloid newspaper... a politician... your turn, think of something that lies.” “Erm, a snare!” “Why a snare, are you thinking of the Garden of Eden?” “No, just it’s got no legs. Groan. Lauren Davison

Orfeo by Claudio Monteverdi
ADC Theatre, January 27th-31st
Dir. Francis Knights; CU Baroque Ensemble & Fitzwilliam Chamber Opera

****

The Footlights Committee (Roberts, Evans, Mullarky, Johnson, Williams & co) feature in several original and punchy sketches each with word play aptly to keep the posters like me happy. Example: “a tabloid newspaper... a politician... your turn, think of something that lies.” “Erm, a snare!” “Why a snare, are you thinking of the Garden of Eden?” “No, just it’s got no legs. Groan. Lauren Davison

GODFATHER ADVENTURE (STARTS ON PAGE 13): So you pick up at the LawFac and introduce yourself to the protestors. “Take me to your leader,” you say, but unfortunately they don’t have one because they do everything by consensus. You have to negotiate in front of their 100-strong body. 26 Sure thing - you’re not daunted by these hippies. 27 No way, Jose. That would be too intimidating.
CAN'T WAIT TILL FRIDAY? BE THE FIRST TO READ THE REVIEWS ONLINE AT VARSITY.CO.UK/REVIEWS

Breakfast at Night
ADC Theatre, January 28th-31st
Written & dir. by Mathew Bulmer, Daran Johnson & Liam Williams
★★★★★

“What do you look for in new student writing?” I ask. “Something off-the-wall and very funny,” you say. Good, then go and see Breakfast at Night. The ADC has been transformed into a live recording studio for Channel YES. “That’s ‘yes’ as in ‘yes madam, I do want to...’”, the station is piloting a new show, Breakfast at Night, “the morning show for people who are not awake in the morning...as in night workers and dead people.” We are the live studio audience, watching to see if our three presenters (hurling silver medalist Michael Mid-dle, celebrity shagger Lucky Dorigo, and uggy version of Russell Brand lookalike Ryan Alright) with their motley assortment of guests can hold it together for this tense pilot. Every night a different stand-up opens the show with a warm-up act. The audience can hold it together for this tense pilot.

The guests are in guffaw-mode as soon as the show kicks off, with a high-octane flurry of hilarious gags. This comes largely from the strange Channel YES guests. Characters like Arthur Arthur reading an extract from his pun-filled new book: “I looked at her and she returned my gaze, I missed those guys since sending them to her last week,” celebrity chef Siamese twins Hue and Hugo spouting pears of culinary wisdom: “people say breakfast is the most important meal of the day, but what if every meal was the most important meal of the day”; and a dog psychiatrist: “Britain is a nation of animal lovers, just look inside our kennels and you’ll see they’re full of dogs.”

The show is not confirmed to a dialogue-based format. A live band and an enormous chorus lend a well-tuned musical edge. My favourite number was ‘Who Did the Credit Crunch?’, particularly as the question (I think) doesn’t even make sense.

The show is not flawless. It drags a little near the end. Perhaps it could have been an hour instead of ninety minutes. However, throughout the show, guests are off their game, with a play that is just so intoxicatingly silly. Ultimately, this is a comedy that will make you laugh, a lot. Oh, and the rumoured nudity is true – wait for the song ‘Bath Time with Professor Bubbles’.

Joan Plummer

Così Fan Tutte by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Great St. Mary’s Church, January 22nd & 23rd
Dir. Jack Furness; & Shadwell Opera & Gonville & Caius Music Society
★★★★★

This new production of Mozart’s comic opera is, in no uncertain terms, a triumph. Two brightly-coloured and vaguely trippy screens stood in the nave and acted as a composite backdrop. One was of King’s College Chapel and the other of an old gilly tree-trunk with lovers’ initials carved into the purple bark.

Goodbye 18th-century Naples; hello swinging Cambridge. Conductor Aidan Coburn glided elegantly down the centre-ise and struck up the impressive orchestra. Transitive and poised, the house lights were snapped off one by one and Mozart’s beautiful, soaring score went to Guglielmo (Guglielmo) and Edward de Minckwitz’s luscious voice. The girls, played by Jo Songi (Fiordiligi) and Lucy Roberts (Dorabella) easily match the boys for vocal ability. Songi’s voice has a clarity and roundness of tone that made her arias just patently beautiful. Roberts is also a hit. Her pretty tone and giggly tottering as the girls lay off the beauty of their arias made her arias just patently beautiful. Roberts is also a hit. Her pretty tone and giggly tottering as the girls lay off the beauty of their arias.

Enter Guglielmo, Ferrando and Don Alfonso who, thanks to a rather authentic and familiar looking sign, having a few beers in, well, the Maypole. Young bucks Guglielmo and Ferrando are relating each other with stories about how faithful their girlfriends are. However, when the more cynical Don Alfonso throws in his two pennies’ worth, a diabolical wager is proposed and the plot gets going. Tenor Tom Cockett fills Ferrando’s role and is quite simply excellent. His voice is superb. Clear and heartfelt, the snilness of this farcical comedy is tenderly and intelligently cut through with more pensive and serious arias. Praise must go both to Guglielmo (Guglielmo) and Edward de Minckwitz (Don Alfonso) who were equally magnetic in the role.

The girls, played by Jo Songi (Fiordiligi) and Lucy Roberts (Dorabella) easily match the boys for vocal ability. Songi’s voice has a clarity and roundness of tone that made her arias just patently beautiful. Roberts is also a hit. Her pretty tone and giggly tottering as the girls lay off the beauty of their arias.

Nathan Brooker

Jesus Smoker
Coleridge Room, Jesus College, January 22nd
★★★★★

Stand-up nights always scare me a little. I worry for the comedians that they will be met by a sea of blank, bored faces. I worry for the audience that they will feel awkward during hideously uninteresting acts. I worry for the comedians that their acts were not as slick or sharp but they seemed spontaneous yet perfectly at ease and well prepared. The other stand up comedians were also pretty good; their acts were not as slick or sharp but they were respectable student comics. Those who ventured into the realms of sketches and poems, on an evening so dominated by stand-up, did so bravely.

Simon Hunter and Mark Fiddaman’s off-the-wall seagull sketch was entertaining enough, but perhaps having separate events for stand-up and sketches would work better, to allow the audience time to appreciate the different styles and paces. Comedy can be so hit and miss. In many respects the comfortably inebriated Cambridge student crowd is a very forgiving audience; they miss awkward moments and their high spirits keep them ticking throughout. On the other hand, they have paid and given up an evening to come and they want to be entertained. What an intimidating scene; I take my hat off to all the Cambridge comedians out there. Victoria Ball

Godfather Adventure (starts on page 13): Alice and Richard talking to student: You must be joking - they’re never been even to Cambridge. ★☆19 Have another go.
iWatch

Week 3: Explore, from Patagonia to the Pampas, Tuesday 9pm, available at iPlayer.

The Streets
The Junction 1
Tuesday January 27th

★★★★

“You look like you’re asleep!” roars Mike Skinner, pointing at an unfortunate spectator in the Corn Exchange balcony. “It’s not Radiohead!”

The crowd laughs, but I cringe. Perhaps this is why I’ve never been a massive fan of The Streets. The greater anthem ‘Dry Your Eyes’ drove me to despair, as did widespread belief Skinner was the worst of British music, and I vividly remember making a hasty exit when he appeared at Radio One’s Big Weekend in 2004.

Five years later, Skinner parades the stage in a Metallica T-shirt while Kevin Mark Trail provides vocal accompaniment to the title track of last year’s album Everything Is Borrowed. An engrossing music video followed, climaxing in a mash up of the Prodigy’s ‘Out Of Space’. It made for a rave-tastic opening, but any charm was quickly forfeited, with his tiresome attempts to rally the crowd with cries of “CAN YOU SEE ME? CAN YOU HEAR ME? Like the Radiohead joke, his patronisingly slow voice, pronouncing every single syllable, (in the same tone you use giving tourists directions to the bus station) very quickly wore thin.

Luckily, crowd pleasers like ‘Could Well Be In’, ‘Weak Become Heroes’ and ‘Has It Come To This’ dominated the set, with the latter having a near nostalgically effect. Can you believe it’s nearly a decade since the release of Original Pirate Material? The only problem was the sound levels. A four piece band drowned out Skinner’s story-telling, with his poetic references to KFC, JD and the Artful Dodger struggling to compete over the cacophony of bass, drums and synth. ‘Never Went To Church’ received one of the biggest reactions of the night, with Mark Trail tagging a solo rendition of Glasvegas’ ‘Daddy’s Gone’ onto the end. ‘Blinded By The Lights’ saw some eerie eyes projected on stage, before Skinner rather ingenuously invited the crowd to crouch down on the floor. Reaching a point where the infectiousness had worn out even the toughest of reviewers, it was impossible to refuse in joining the mass squat. His attempt to strip Cambridge of its dignity even further, urging us to “Take your shirt off” during a thrilling encore of ‘Fit But You Know It’ was less enthusiastically received though. We’re clearly more prudish than he reckoned.

Paul Smith

CUMC: Brahms and Beethoven
The Cappé Quartet, Clare Hennenssey and Oskar McCarthy
Thursday January 22nd

★★★★★

The Cambridge University Music Club boasts Ralph Vaughan Williams and Sir David Willcocks amongst its numbers; you are a lucky one if you are one. A good reason for seeing out this medievise episode is the last ten minutes; an all too short glimpse of the plight of the rural poor of the Pampas. Soy production for European cattle has sent vast swathes of the countryside into unemployment, and footage reminiscent of the American dust bowl served as a salutary reminder of the severity of globalisation. Seemingly harmless changes in European meat production have lead to desperate suffering in Argentine towns where we will never even know.

Bob Fear

Toni...
**ART, FILM & LITERATURE**

**Valkyrie**

*Dir. Bryan Singer*

**Starring:** Tom Cruise, Bill Nighy and Eddie Izzard

★★★★★

B asically *Ocean’s Eleven* with swastikas, *Valkyrie* follows a group of German army officers in the Second World War, led by Cruise’s Claus von Stauffenberg, who attempted to assassinate Hitler and overthrow the Third Reich in 1944. Cruise is keen to call the film a ‘suspense thriller’, but really it’s closer to a heist movie, albeit with more Nazis than you would typically expect. It follows the standard formula of plan/rehearse/execute/oh dear, that will be familiar to pretty much everyone. At some point, the director, Bryan Singer, would have faced with the difficult prospect of casting a film full of Nazis. Should he go for German unknowns? Big Hollywood stars? Or perhaps just every available British classical actor, and, inexplicably, Eddie Izzard. Singer loves the English, so we end up with an ensemble cast of instantly recognisable acting royalty such as Terence Stamp, Kenneth Branagh, an unused part of the RSC. Although their performances are individually faultless, seeing so many famous faces on screen simultaneously can be a bit distracting, and it’s easy to be pulled out of the action while wondering what’s in the Caribbean on your recognisable Olbricht from General. Having such a large cast also presents problems in terms of characterisation; with the exceptions of Stauffenberg, no one is developed beyond a single trait-personalities are either good or evil. From one of the headstrong ones, the clever one, the clever one (in glass- es), and that’s about all we’re given. No back-stories, no nuances, no motivations (other than just “let’s save Germany”). Through all this, Cruise puts in a serviceable performance as the all-German hero Stauffenberg, and does a good job of looking both pouty and resolute while wearing an eye-patch. Singer makes the decision to let the actors use their normal voices, rather than putting on German accents or going all the way and using subtitles. While this prevents us from having to endure cringe-inducing impressions, it does produce slightly odd scenes of Hitler’s war-cabinet sounding like a Senate House meeting. Singer also sensibly limits the roles of Goebbels, Himmler, and Hitler himself to small and unobtrusive cameos. With Tom Cruise comes a big budget, and thankfully the sets, costumes and action sequences all benefit from a level of polish that makes Valkyrie a treat visually. Overall, Singer gives us a solid and suspenseful film that is held back by an overly-large cast of poorly-drawn, but well shot, characters. **Tom Morris**

---

**Frost/Nixon**

*Dir. Ron Howard*

**Starring:** Frank Langella, Michael Sheen and Kevin Bacon

★★★★

T hink back to a time before Obama. Think back to when the USA had a president so unscru- pulous he enlisted a host of illegal tricks to get himself elected. With essays and other contribu- tions by former students, current fellows, and everyone in between— including the events and customs of university life over the course of the past century, I often can’t help but feel as if I’m looking through a very narrow window into a place and a pattern with which I am completely unfamiliar. However, since this book focuses primarily on the University’s modern face, it succeeds in portraying an institution and a population that any current student or other University figure will recognise immediately. Since the entity it describes is so familiar, this volume is truly a valuable souvenir of Cambridge in 2009; I am tempted (despite its high price) to purchase it and store it away so that in fifty years’ time I can enjoy immersion in a portrait of the place where I was educated. I have read, with real curiosity, several books with 800th anniversary this year has spanned at least two celebratory volumes. One is CUSU’s glorified graduate recruitment brochure (or doorstep, for the more practical), distributed to staff and students before Christmas; the other is this official commemorative book, commissioned from Third Millennium Press by the University and edited by award-winning documentary-maker Peter Pagnamenta. Check-full of images and bursting with contributions from a veritable Who’s Who of twenty-first-century Cambridge alumni, Pagnamenta’s book is entertaining, informative, and up-to-date. While it nods, with due reverence, to the past eight hun- dred years, it is not preoccupied with the events and traditions of the uni-

---

**The University of Cambridge: An 800th Anniversary Portrait**

*Ed. Peter Pagnamenta*

Third Millennium Publishing, out now

★★★★★

T he University’s much-publicised 800th anniversary this year has spawned at least two celebratory volumes. One is CUSU’s glorified graduate recruitment brochure (or doorstep, for the more practical), distributed to staff and students before Christmas; the other is this official commemorative book, commissioned from Third Millennium Press by the University and edited by award-winning documentary-maker Peter Pagnamenta.

---

**Valerie Mustich**

---

**Scotland**

**Five of the Best**

**Edinburgh Fringe Festival**

The world’s largest arts festival has become a proving ground for the next big things of the comedy world, with David O’Doherty, Russell Howard and Cambridge’s very own Mark Watson appearing in recent years.

**Iron Bru**

Everyone’s favourite metal-flavoured soft drink. Apparently it’s made with real bits of iron... but it’s! We’ll never know. Actually, we do. It’s not.

**Mogwai**

Their crawling instrumental post-rock soundscapes may divide opinion, but there’s no denying that there’s a major Scottish beauty to tracks like ‘Cod’ and ‘Stop Coming To My House’.

**Five of the Worst**

**Loch Ness monster**

More hype than Glasvegas, and with only a few blurry photographs and a Ted Danson movie as evidence, we’re not holding our breath for an appearance from Nessie any time soon.

**Deep Fried Mars Bar**

The NHS in Glasgow actually commissioned a survey recently to dispel rumours that this was an urban myth. True story.

**Scottish currency**

Can anyone find anywhere that accepts a Scottish pound south of Hadrian’s Wall? No, thought not...

**Scottish Premier League**

Why not just make it two teams, and forget the other ten? I mean who cares where Dunfermline fin- ish? ‘Hey, Dunfermline are in the First Division!’ It was supposed to be rhetorical, because no one cares!

**Rory Ramsay**

With a face like a relief map of the Scottish accent

---

**GODFATHER ADVENTURE (STARTS ON PAGE 13): Oh come off it Prof – you’re a Cambridge fellow and you’ve never spoken to a crowded lecture theatre before? You can’t fool me. pg24 And the chap’s name isn’t Joe either.**
Great Works Of Art In Cambridge

#21: The Bridge of Sighs by Henry Hutchinson

St John's College

The Bridge of Sighs is Cambridge's most photogenic architectural feature, the area under its gently sunken elliptical arch playing host to countless panting collisions, and forming the idyllic backdrop to the daydreams of the river passengers, town or gown. Designed by Henry Hutchinson in 1831, St John's Bridge of Sighs bears many stylistic resemblances to the contemporaneous New Court, which it connects to the old College. The architect responsible for the Bridge was one half of the pair (the other half being Thomas Rickman), who designed New Court between 1825 and 31. The crenellations and pinnacles that run along the upper rim of the bridge, and the five unglazed Gothic ogee arches on either side, all echo forms that are present in the front ranges of New Court, and on Rickman's famous 'wedding cake' tower.

The romantically wavering reflections of the lightly coloured parabuck stone in the water cast a veil over what are the Doge's Palace. Prisoners from the gaol would pass through the enclosed bridge, with its grated windows and unforested, thick white marble walls, shackled in chains, and sighing on their way to likely execution. Thus, the name 'Bridge of Sighs', or Ponte dei Suspiri (far more evocative in Italian), is not a reference to the dreamy exhalations of impressionable young undergraduates, but rather to the distraught waltings of lost souls. Admittedly, the Johnian Bridge was not designed to perform the same function as the Venetian bridge, which is incidentally very different in style to the Cambridge version, the latter being a prime example of the Gothic Revival style, and the former being a piece of theatrical high Baroque, with its rusticated pillars and swirling volutes. The impenetrable iron grates fixed over the openings in the Cambridge Bridge of Sighs were, however, originally built to serve a purpose: to prevent the aristocratic young students from escaping the College by means of the river. Nowadays, in this respect at least, the Bridge of Sighs has lost some of its original use; however, it still remains one of the most striking symbols, and memorable means of passage, in Cambridge.

Flo Sharp

Games & puzzles

Varsity Crossword

no. 497

Across
1 14, young woman hides bottom but gains weight? (6)
2 See 1 Down
9 Pleasant time with Eastern relatives (6)
10 Anguished, a deity embraces online vice, the wrong way (8)
12 King Edmund to smooth out edge (8)
13 Keeper of goat almost a fake (6)
15 Hang about - latrine odour not what it seems (6,6)
18 Keenness for public relations ballot consumes princess (12)
23 Briefly radical revolution to succeed for 14 (6)
24 A good impressionist, I'm not - I am highly provocative (8)
26 Collection of flowers given by persecuted love god in front of small forest (4,4)
27/11 14 Walker approaching Evil? (6,7)
28 Renounced having eaten with pig (8)
29 Join together holy man and entirely singular apple (6)

Down
1 Lawyer is baldy stereotype. (7)
1/4 A convulsing Delia fried up 14 (8,3,5)
2 Oratory choir right, somehow, about several members of Eton (8)
3 Check up on notice following six deliveries (7)
5 Badgers old horses (4)
6 Fake love-in gets Jack to marry (7)
7 Everything is an object's little helper (6)
8 14 is kind of to deny calumny (6)
11 See 27 Across
14 A (rather wooden) way to bow without neglecting English educational institution (7)
16 Used to conceal the present (4,4)
17 This writer's device, called 17, is employed by some bards all the time (for instance) (3,5)
19 Sun god in knot, as Noah saw (7)
20 Pets Inuit not in clothing (7)
21 Loved wine after a party (6)
22 Snacks Christopher mentioned, by the way (6)
25 One point – the French must be completely surrounded by water (4)

Set by Hisashi

Week 3: When sex imitates porn

Alice was a quiet girl, her skirts were not too short. One night in 2001 she had touched her clitoris for the first time. In 2003, watching Marissa and Ryan in The OC, she had felt her heart beating between her legs, she knew what she wanted. Yesterday, the first time, it had just felt strange, complicated, not like this… what was he doing? He moved towards her, she was crouching over her; all she could see was his penis, and then he ejaculated all over her face.

This was no On Chesil Beach, style accident, but a huge misunderstanding, and one entirely attributable to porn. ‘What you girls don’t realise,' intoned my brother, 'is just how much porn the average boy has watched by the age of fourteen.' Alice’s boyfriend had simply performed what happens in almost every amateur porn film: the girl’s face is adorned with a triumphant spurt of come, which is then licked off with a cry smile and massaged into the girl’s nipples. He hadn’t meant to upset her; for him this was what people do when they have sex.

This is not a naive view of female sexuality: many girls have not been exposed to any pornographic material before they first have sex, whereas most boys have (speaking entirely from anecdotal evidence). It is not that girls are spun from sugar and float around in clouds of petals, blinking innnocently, but most porn is made for men, by men, for the pleasure of men.

Being a woman, it is a horrible shock to realise that, rather than discovering your body and enjoying the excitement of new experiences, some part of your boyfriend’s mind is replaying the tape that has gone round his head since he first pressed ‘play’ all those years ago. The prevelance of pornography disturbs me purely for its inescapable intrusion into bed. In the final moments before coming, a girl probably not control the sounds she makes, but the rest of the time, why does she make those particular sounds? When a girl says, ‘Come on my breasts,’ do you really think she has thought of it herself? Sexual narratives are no longer erotic, but pornographic. With the huge accessibility of Internet porn, sex is losing its authenticity, its intimacy and its charm.

The most special sex exists within its own images, its own sounds and its own sensations, and only then can sex be truly entranced with love.

Maria Lavaux

Sudoku

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

The Varsity Scribblepad

Answers to last week's crossword (across): "Dobbing - that was its name - and so they're much indebted to you. You're never asked for a penny again."

Arts Editor: Emma Mustich
arts@ varsity.co.uk

Friday January 30th 2009

varsity.co.uk
Cambridge boys bash Bedford

» Short corner successes allow Cambridge to dominate

Cambridge 3
Bedford 1

a way through the tightly fought midfield.

Cambridge had engineered only a 6-6 draw into the final minute before they opened the scoring in the 18th minute following a useful short corner.

Dave Maddern deflected a shot from Chris Lee which pushed the ball in front of the Bedford defenders who were unable to get it out of the D.

The Blues’ Adam Gordon on the ball

Cambridge GS Rebecca Crawshaw takes a penalty

McGrath’s girls hold off Oxford

» Cambridge netballers hold Oxford to a high-scoring draw

Cambridge 32
Oxford 32

After the break, Cambridge came back stronger and were the first to score.

The new combination of Jess McGeorge and Rebecca Crawshaw in the attack worked well, getting the ball under the posts more often to increase their scoring potential. Oxford looked riled and produced a series of penalties against their captain at Goal Defence gave Cambridge the chance to go on the attack.

In the second quarter, Oxford were unable to make use of their penalty as they were intercepted, whilst the Cambridge attack continued to dictate play, forcing a few more goals.

The final whistle must have come as a relief to the visitors, whilst Cambridge can be thoroughly satisfied with an impressive professional performance. If the opposition weren’t poor, they were certainly made to look as Cambridge gave them virtually no opportunity to touch the ball, never mind threaten their goal. The Cambridge goalkeeper became increasingly bored, and resorted to wandering aimlessly around her own area and mocking her fellow players, whilst the Cambridge goalkeeper resorted to docking as whizzed whizzed through her hands, an apt encapsulation of the vast difference between the sides and a summary of the match as a whole.

Cardiff can’t cope with Lacrosse Ladies

» Cambridge have an easy day in defence

Cambridge 14
Cardiff 0

They sought brief respite from what was already threatening to become an annihilation.

The start to the half proved that Cambridge retained their thirst for goals, as they surged forward, wave upon wave of attacking, flinging towards their target, and admittedly they rarely missed. As a result, Cardiff were unable to make use of the Cambridge advantage, became increasingly bored, and resorted to wandering aimlessly around their own area and mocking their fellow players, whilst the Cambridge goalkeeper resorted to docking as whizzed whizzed through her hands, an apt encapsulation of the vast difference between the sides and a summary of the match as a whole.

Quick Catch-up

Mini Report

Men’s Lacrosse

On Saturday Cambridge recorded an impressive win on the road against East Grinstead. Despite a tricky month away, in November, the Blues demolished the opposition this time around in a 13-5 victory.

Building upon an outstanding defensive performance, with only 31 goals conceded all season, the team held out a determined attack, and maintained their rhythm to attack.

Midfielder Jeremy McCarron earned the Man of the Match accolade, taking four goals for himself and helping set up a myriad of opportunities. Other scorers included the points leader for this season, attacker Tod Hallett, who scored with a hat-trick and two assists.

The team were unsurprisingly thrilled with their performance.

Coach Tony Watson is quietly confident: “With a little luck, and a bit more determination, I believe we can pick this division.” With the division title match looming, all will be hoping he is correct.

Blues Fencing

The Blues completed a perfect 8-0 campaign in the BUCS Southern Premiership by demolishing UCL 135-69 on Wednesday. They will now look to continue their unbeaten run into the Varsity match in February and onto the BUCS Championships in March.

League Round-Up

College Rugby

A predictable league season saw St John’s claim the championship once again with an astonishing 414 points scored in the space of just nine matches.

At the bottom of the table, Trinity-Hall were the only team to be unbeaten, while Magdalene joining them.

It remains a stepping stone between St John’s and the rest, and deserves credit for providing them with the only semblance of competition throughout the course of the season.

These two colleges have become increasingly isolated at the top of the table, with the extent of this gap further emphasised by Magdalene’s controversial vote not to play against the Reds in the BUCS Southern.

Newly promoted Trinity was impressive at times and deserve to stay up, while Downing continued to struggle in the top flight.

Attention now turns to the Cuppers competition.
SPORT FEATURE: TRANSFER WINDOW

JAMIE PTASZYNSKI CHATS WITH THE EVERTON CHAIRMAN ABOUT MANAGERIAL RELATIONSHIPS AND FOOTBALLING FINANCE

FRENCH WINDOWS

The wealthier clubs have tended to stay quiet, unless they’re in a slightly precarious league position, such as Tottenham. For in-form Manchester United, it’s a masterclass in hygiene it whatever way you look at it. Instead, a contract extension for Giggs has been the talk of late. That’s not to mean that United haven’t got rid of a bit of cash. An alleged £16.3 million has been doled out for Serbian pair Tosic and Ljajic. The latter is nick-named “little Kaka”. That’s still more than City managed to get.

Previous big spenders Chelsea have turned rather miserly this transfer window. Perennial bench-warmer Cu- dicini has moved to local rivals Spurs for nothing, but a few ideas about it. Such is a shame because the only other story is the painful Droga I’m-going-no-where-again bid. Arsenal’s ongoing attempt to sign tempestual Russian midfield maes- ter Andrey Arshavin didn’t end yet in success. If so this would probably be the most exciting move by any of the ‘top four’.

Harry Redknapp is desperately try- ing to buy back the Tottenham team that Ramos sold off for £17.5 million and Chimbonda (undisclosed) are back and one wonders whether Robbie Keane will follow suit. An- other big buy has been the £12 million Palacios from Wigan, but the inspired acquisition of Julio Baptista for not a single penny has the bank manager purring.

GROUND LEVEL WINDOWS

For most smaller clubs, it’s either a loan deal or a no deal, unless you’ve got an England under-21 or a Honduran maestro to offload. With not a sheik in sight, Middles- brooke has matched Arsenal with Marlon King on loan, but it’s not all bad news. In the process, they’ve shed the consider- able weight of Shaun from their ranks. They wanted Crystal Palace’s Watson, too, but Wigan snuck in when they heard Boros intentions. Southgate has said he’ll remain quiet about all his other targets.

Expect something to happen late at the Riverside.

Wigan’s transfer activity has been bolstered by Palacios’ move to Spurs. They’ve also handed over prolific Heskey for £3 million, the burden of goals now falling to new £4.5 million Colum- bian Hugo Rodallega. Like Emile, he has a flair for making the odd a bit of (YouTube the fantastic fluff: ‘Rodallega Perdono’). Nido rolls in on loan, while ageing Kilbane is sold.

Tony Adams at Portsmouth is sitting on a tidy £20 million pile from Darras move to Real Madrid, but turned first to the loaning system, bringing in old Arse- nal team-mate Jermaine Pennant. Con- tinuing the Gooner connection, he’s also signalled an interest in Vieira. Whether it’s recruperated is unclear. The sale of Defoe has given him even more cash to splash, but so far there is no sign of a big money move. Mullins (from West Ham) and Peli (is he being combed?) are his lat- est headline-dodging deals. There could be a last-minute loan bid for Savoia in the pipeline.

Outspoken and in trouble, Joe Kinnear is doing his best at Newcastle, signing striker Peter Lovenkrands on loan and searching around in France for defend- ers. Toulouse’s Ebondo is a target.

DOUBLE GLAZED CONSERVATORY WINDOWS WITH FANCY BLINDS

Manchester City obviously had a £14 million for notorious nutter and temperamental Russian mid/fi eld maes- ter Andrei Arshavin could yet end in falling to new £4.5 million for ster and Pele (is he being conned?) are his lat- est headline-dodging deals. There could be a last-minute loan bid for Savoia in the pipeline.

Outspoken and in trouble, Joe Kinnear is doing his best at Newcastle, signing striker Peter Lovenkrands on loan and searching around in France for defend- ers. Toulouse’s Ebondo is a target.

PADDLED ROOM

Liverpol went into the trans- fer window sitting confidently at the top of the table, so owners Gillett and Hicks decided that no money would be made available for new signings. Jenkinson, whose price was £10 million, was rejected, as was £25 million for conspicuous forward Thierry Henry. They had no idea what the bearded Iberian had in store. As the transfer window opened, the same boat, “he says, before swiftly adding that power will always be a plus. Cairney, a long-term target, has been rejected. Elia, while he has succeeded only in singing his own goatee.

A master of the Toffees and the theatre

The January transfer window is a godsend for newspaper and on- line gossip columnists. The rolling drama of record-breaking deals and otherworldly wage negotiations provides them with endless room for speculation and sensationalism.

The only club that consistently avoids this furor is Everton. Even since the arrival of David Moyes in 2002, the club has tended to operate below the radar when it comes to transfers.

Bill Kenwright is a very successful producer, running the country’s largest independent theatre and film production company. This seems to clash with his alter ego as chairman of Everton FC and huge football fan. I spoke to him on his way up to Goodison Park to watch the match against Arsenal on Wednesday evening.

When he first met David Moyes, the first of many late-night meet- ings which they cram into their busy schedule, they outlined their strategic approach to the club: “to bring the age of (the players) down and to please the fans by making one important signing per season.” Evert- on have never had a large transfer budget, but when they do make an expensive foray into the market, it tends to pay off. Joseph Yobo, Andrey Arshavin and Julio Baptista are examples of big money well spent, while Joleon Lescott is a tribute to the well-researched and frugal ap- proach of the manager. Kenwright describes Moyes’s autonomy as “total”.

He’s also scouting network and it’s very rare that I suggest a player to him whom he hasn’t already researched in full. “David is 24/7. He has a big scouting network and it’s very rare that I suggest a player to him whom he hasn’t already researched in full,” he continues.

It is not often, particularly with the influx of impatient foreign owners to the Premiership, that managers get so much time and freedom to go about their business. This relationship between manager and board is crucial. In fact, in Kenwright’s words, “it’s everything.”

Rafael Benitez’s relationship with his Liverpool bosses, for example, seems to be constantly at break- ing point and it is hard to imagine that this does not affect the way the players go about their own business on the pitch. Merseyside underdogs Everton have successfully held Liver- pool to two draws in recent weeks. “David Moyes has given us stability,” says Kenwright, which seems to be a value chairman and owners under- rate at their peril. But while under- lining the importance of consistency, he also admits that you need a bit of luck sometimes to see you through.

Everton will not be looking to make any major signings this month. Because of transfer policy

they may not seem so affected by the financial situation, but Kenwright says that in speaking to other clubs, which, of course, he does six or seven times a day, he has noted an added level of caution when it comes to financial matters. “We’re all in the same boat,” he says, before swiftly adding that power will always be a plus. While he has succeeded only in singing his own goatee.

The excitement of the window, though, is undeniable. Kenwright and Moyes still intend to make a few more loan deals before the window shuts at the end of January, which are unlikely to cause a massive stir, but he vividly remembers the heart- stopping tension of trying to push through the Fellaini deal on the last day of September: “I was standing in a club watching the ticker on Sky Sports News while David was in a hotel room with the player, trying to fax through a signed contract on a particularly slow line, having flown out on a private jet at just twenty to ten to meet him.”

The £15 million transfer went through with exactly eighteen seconds left before the allotted transfer period ended. Even the most modest clubs can provide thrilling moments during the window.

TIMELINE

1945 Born an Everton fan on Merseyside
1964 Finishes education at Liver- pool pool Institute High School
1968 Plays Gordon Clegg in ITV dra- ma Coronation Street
1989 Elected to the board of Everton FC
1993 Blood Brothers, Kenwright’s first major theatrical success, nominated for Best Musical at the Tony Awards.
2000 Awarded a CBE for services to film and theatre
2004 Becomes chairman of Everton FC

JAMIE PTASZYNSKI CHATS WITH THE EVERTON CHAIRMAN ABOUT MANAGERIAL RELATIONSHIPS AND FOOTBALLING FINANCE

SPORT EDITORS: JENNY MORGAN & JAMIE PTASZYNSKI

sport@varsity.co.uk
Dan Quarshie
Sport

The Week Ahead

International
Australian Open Tennis
The Australian Open draws to a close with the Men's final. OK so it won't be Murray, but it will be exciting.
Sunday Feb 1, BBC2 8.30am.

University
Men's Lacrosse
The Blues take on the only other undefeated team in this division title decider. Tense stuff.
Saturday Jan 31, Queens' Sports Ground, 2pm.

National
Premier League Football
Stoke City face Man City at the Britannia Stadium. Let's see how those new signings fare...
Saturday Jan 31, Sky Sports 1, coverage starts 12.30pm.

University
Blues Rugby
Vickerman's men take on international tournament club Ravens with some big name players.
Wednesday Feb 4, Grange Road, 7.15pm.

Cooney's Marathon

Week 3
In which Lauren suffers an early bout of the fifth-week blues.

Friday January 30th 2009

Jamie Pietrzynski

Gown outshined by Town

"Webb shines on a tough night in the ring"

Cambridge 'Town'

the second round after another jab-uppercut combination left the already bloodied Portsmouth man dazed and confused. It was not the only stoppage we would see, nor was it the only blood. Light Blue Matt Erfich was very unlucky to be stopped after being caught out by Paul Mitchell. Both boxers seemed a little bemused by the decision. A friendly match between Dar Sandhu and James Phillips left the latter with nose and eye injuries. By far the biggest hit of the night, though, came from Joe Corrigan of Fulbourn ABC, who managed an effective knock out within seconds against Jason Thomas in their lightweight bout.

Davis Ahmed (Emma) lost by a majority to Neil Bentley in a closely fought but untidy scrap while Cambridge captain Will Rees was out-boxed by Brad Chapman of St Ives. Will was incredibly quick on the defence, dodging punches and landing a couple of good counters with his left, but Chapman was equal to all of it.

Having retaliated with force in the third round, he took the match unani-
mously.

Dowling's Max Kirchhoff stopped the solid-looking Wesley Churchill in the first round, a well timed long-range jab proving too much for the Fulbourn fighter. Perhaps Ieuan Marsh's match ought to have ended the same way, but the referee let him continue his barrage of undefended punches right to the final bell.

By far the best fight of the night saw Emma's Chris Webb pitted against the considerably larger Dolan of Fulbourn. Floored in the first round by a huge right hook, Webb fought back with unbelievable energy, dancing rings around his towering opponent. The decision was unanimous and the big man left the ring bloodied and dizzy.

The concentrated nature of the January transfer period does have one saving grace – entertainment value. Transfers, and even just talk of them, recapture the public interest, ensuring that the second half of the season is as hyped-up as the first. More media attention, more fans in grounds, more money. Good for clubs, good for authorities - a godsend (stained-glass windows).

And you can't deny that it's all entertainment. Takeovers, tapping up of potential signings, player-manager-chairman bust-ups, and exorbitant fees and wages; all manner of weird and wonderful things go on.

No windows here; just a lot of white padding, a straightjacket and a metal bucket in the corner.

And you can't deny that it's all entertainment. Takeovers, tapping up of potential signings, player-manager-chairman bust-ups, and exorbitant fees and wages; all manner of weird and wonderful things go on.

No windows here; just a lot of white padding, a straightjacket and a metal bucket in the corner.

In which Lauren suffers an early bout of the fifth-week blues.

Fifth-week Blues come early when you're a runner; around week two, and even then I'm being generous. Usually they're brought on by a build up of work; lethargy over the Cindies queue/emptiness of Kambiar/bruising from a long-anticipated Soul Tree event; realising that you've forgotten to return a call from a dying nan; making me laugh at the two remnants of peeling skin; annoyance that the last tin of Wattroose seared yellow tin you bought from home has been manged and you're onto Aldi's finest; the cold; the wet; the wind.

I particularly value these last three as vital components of my Second Week Suffering. Cambridge is marvellous as it rarely hits you with a double whammy of weather; usually it is the latter - have you heard the one about Siberia? - and that's quite refreshing when you're sweating around Parker's Piece. This week has been terrible as it has rained particularly wet rain.

I've admired the resolve of others, opening the front door exclamatory. "It's only bloody raining", and then shutting it, stuffing the library and sitting down to watch another episode of Derren Brown. I went out for a Chandler's run. I got wet. I got pissed off, first with the fact that I was wet, and then because I wasn't showered. I went out for my birthday. Absolutely unmiss-
able, and highly recommended.

This time I had resolved not to drink, as I'd planned an endurance run for the following day, which meant I listened to Jools' 'Babyshambles' about eight million times, and watching the general mob regression, which involved pole dancing and strawberry smoothies, pole dancing. I did get a huge amount of pleasure from tutting at people, especially when they went out for a big night out, and I contented myself with chewing gum and passing round pink-coloured pins of Red Bull and vodka to my friends, who were by this point displaying admirable stamina. I hoped that I might prove equally determined on my run the following day.

Unfortunately, I overslept so the run was shortened consider-
ably. But my intentions were good, which I reminded myself is half the battle. Such a bloody martyr. I'm picking my charity soon, so remember to suggest something you think is worthwhile on the Facebook group: 'Lauren Cooney London Marathon'.

Formerly high priest, currently soul guide. I'm feeling pretty bloody good about January transfers. Another chance to exert their influence over poorer ones. Everyone

And you can't deny that it's all entertainment. Takeovers, tapping up of potential signings, player-manager-chairman bust-ups, and exorbitant fees and wages; all manner of weird and wonderful things go on.

No windows here; just a lot of white padding, a straightjacket and a metal bucket in the corner.

In which Lauren suffers an early bout of the fifth-week blues.

Fifth-week Blues come early when you're a runner; around week two, and even then I'm being generous. Usually they're brought on by a build up of work; lethargy over the Cindies queue/emptiness of Kambiar/bruising from a long-anticipated Soul Tree event; realising that you've forgotten to return a call from a dying nan; making me laugh at the two remnants of peeling skin; annoyance that the last tin of Wattroose seared yellow tin you bought from home has been manged and you're onto Aldi's finest; the cold; the wet; the wind.

I particularly value these last three as vital components of my Second Week Suffering. Cambridge is marvellous as it rarely hits you with a double whammy of weather; usually it is the latter - have you heard the one about Siberia? - and that's quite refreshing when you're sweating around Parker's Piece. This week has been terrible as it has rained particularly wet rain.

I've admired the resolve of others, opening the front door exclamatory. "It's only bloody raining", and then shutting it, stuffing the library and sitting down to watch another episode of Derren Brown. I went out for a Chandler's run. I got wet. I got pissed off, first with the fact that I was wet, and then because I wasn't showered. I went out for my birthday. Absolutely unmiss-
able, and highly recommended.

This time I had resolved not to drink, as I'd planned an endurance run for the following day, which meant I listened to Jools' 'Babyshambles' about eight million times, and watching the general mob regression, which involved pole dancing and strawberry smoothies, pole dancing. I did get a huge amount of pleasure from tutting at people, especially when they went out for a big night out, and I contented myself with chewing gum and passing round pink-coloured pins of Red Bull and vodka to my friends, who were by this point displaying admirable stamina. I hoped that I might prove equally determined on my run the following day.

Unfortunately, I overslept so the run was shortened consider-
ably. But my intentions were good, which I reminded myself is half the battle. Such a bloody martyr. I'm picking my charity soon, so remember to suggest something you think is worthwhile on the Facebook group: 'Lauren Cooney London Marathon'.

Formerly high priest, currently soul guide. I'm feeling pretty bloody good about January transfers. Another chance to exert their influence over poorer ones. Everyone

And you can't deny that it's all entertainment. Takeovers, tapping up of potential signings, player-manager-chairman bust-ups, and exorbitant fees and wages; all manner of weird and wonderful things go on.

No windows here; just a lot of white padding, a straightjacket and a metal bucket in the corner.

In which Lauren suffers an early bout of the fifth-week blues.

Fifth-week Blues come early when you're a runner; around week two, and even then I'm being generous. Usually they're brought on by a build up of work; lethargy over the Cindies queue/emptiness of Kambiar/bruising from a long-anticipated Soul Tree event; realising that you've forgotten to return a call from a dying nan; making me laugh at the two remnants of peeling skin; annoyance that the last tin of Wattroose seared yellow tin you bought from home has been manged and you're onto Aldi's finest; the cold; the wet; the wind.

I particularly value these last three as vital components of my Second Week Suffering. Cambridge is marvellous as it rarely hits you with a double whammy of weather; usually it is the latter - have you heard the one about Siberia? - and that's quite refreshing when you're sweating around Parker's Piece. This week has been terrible as it has rained particularly wet rain.

I've admired the resolve of others, opening the front door exclamatory. "It's only bloody raining", and then shutting it, stuffing the library and sitting down to watch another episode of Derren Brown. I went out for a Chandler's run. I got wet. I got pissed off, first with the fact that I was wet, and then because I wasn't showered. I went out for my birthday. Absolutely unmiss-
able, and highly recommended.

This time I had resolved not to drink, as I'd planned an endurance run for the following day, which meant I listened to Jools' 'Babyshambles' about eight million times, and watching the general mob regression, which involved pole dancing and strawberry smoothies, pole dancing. I did get a huge amount of pleasure from tutting at people, especially when they went out for a big night out, and I contented myself with chewing gum and passing round pink-coloured pins of Red Bull and vodka to my friends, who were by this point displaying admirable stamina. I hoped that I might prove equally determined on my run the following day.

Unfortunately, I overslept so the run was shortened consider-
ably. But my intentions were good, which I reminded myself is half the battle. Such a bloody martyr. I'm picking my charity soon, so remember to suggest something you think is worthwhile on the Facebook group: 'Lauren Cooney London Marathon'.

Formerly high priest, currently soul guide. I'm feeling pretty bloody good about January transfers. Another chance to exert their influence over poorer ones. Everyone

And you can't deny that it's all entertainment. Takeovers, tapping up of potential signings, player-manager-chairman bust-ups, and exorbitant fees and wages; all manner of weird and wonderful things go on.

No windows here; just a lot of white padding, a straightjacket and a metal bucket in the corner.
Hockey girls wriggle out of relegation

Anna Stanley

Wednesday was judgement day in women’s hockey. It was the final and all-deciding game of the BUCS South Premier Hockey League for the Blues, currently drifting dangerously just one place away from the bottom of the table. Losing would have meant definite relegation. Unsurprisingly, nerves were high, not helped by the delayed push back as Cardiff got stuck in heavy traffic. When the visitors arrived with just five minutes to spare, the stage was set for a dramatic showdown and some of the best hockey played by the Cambridge women so far this season.

Cardiff appeared rattled and struggled to get into the game from the start. Having had extra time to prepare on the other hand, the by this time highly-motivated Blues looked keen to finish the BUCS season on a high and went out hard from the first whistle.

**Cambridge** 4  
**Cardiff** 0

Within minutes the first short corner was won, and an excellent rebound from a straight strike was tapped into the back of the net by Lisa Noble. Not resting on their laurels, the Blues continued to pile the pressure on a rather weak Cardiff defence, and good play by Jenny Stevens soon led to another short corner. Jess Hume deflected the strike, hitting a defender’s foot on the line of the goal and a penalty flick was awarded.

The Cardiffkeeper, however, somehow saved the flick, which seemed to provide the required motivation for Cardiff to begin stepping up their game. Hard hitting from their centre back in particular helped their team gain much-needed ground and a short corner was eventually won as a result of a foul committed in the Cambridge D. The Cambridge defence were now tested for the first time, but Kirsty Elder and Rosie Evans stayed calm and the goal opportunity was diverted. Some more chances for the Cambridge attack went wanting and a period of equal play in the run up to half time left the Blues 1-0 up as the whistle went.

The second half started much like the first with Cambridge dominating the attacking play. Using the width and feeding the ball well up to the right forward, Charlotte Brearley, the Blues soon engineered a chance in the D. Somehow in the mêlée, Emma Goater managed a cheeky steal to make the score 2-0. As if a switch had been flicked, the Blues were on a roll now, outplaying their opponents at every opportunity. As the midfield marked Cardiff’s best player, a Welsh international, out of the game, the forwards were left free to engineer their own match strategy. Before long an excellent pass by Lisa Noble gave Emma Goater plenty of space on the right side of the D to calmly strike the ball and bury it in the bottom left corner of the Cardiff goal, just out of the keeper’s reach.

But Cambridge weren’t finished, and in the dying minutes a cross by Anna Stanley enabled Charlotte Brearley to finally claim the game for the Blues, scoring the fourth and final goal with a cool-headed strike. With their position in this top league next year now secured, the Blues will live to play another day.

Moreover, the outstanding commitment shown by this team justified their victory, and bodes well for their Varsity match now just around the corner. **Varsity Woman of the Match:** Jenny Stevens for her determined, fighting play.

---

**Bill Kenwright talks transfers...**

...while we sum up the January signings so far.

**View from the River**

Silas Stafford

At this stage in the season the trialists of CUBC begin to experience a shift of focus, from merely making the Blue Boat to winning the Boat Race. The Blue Boat lineup is by no means finalised, but most of the trialists have a good idea of whether they will race in the Blue Boat, in Goldie, or as spares.

The period of selection for boats is unhappy for both the selected and the unselected. The process of seat-racing is incredibly personal. Seat-racing is a large part of how individuals are selected for the Blue Boat. It involves racing two equal crews, switching an individual from each boat, and then racing again.

When you race against an opposing team, they are almost always strangers, and if you lose, you can just say “well, we had a bad race” or “they were just a better crew than we were”. They are the enemy, and they are trying to take something away from you, which makes it easier to separate yourself from them emotionally. That said, losing a race is still absolutely dreadful, some of the most painful feelings in my life have come from hard losses in rowing.

Seat-racing, however, matches you up against your teammate, your friend, your brother in suffering. When you win, you’ve only beaten your mate, not a fierce rival. Added to this, you know you have to look him in the eye for the rest of the season. Losing is worse still, because you’ve proved yourself to be the inferior man. While in reality you may only be the inferior man on the water, or even only for that particular workout, it carries over to other parts of your life, where social status and ego are defined by rowing. I for one will be glad to face Oxford in the coming months, instead of my teammates.