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VARSITY

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What's your Vagenda?

Jilly Luke meets the women behind the magazine that takes on mainstream women's glossies

Comment P15



BIRD'S EYE VIEW: A pair of rare peregrine falcons are nesting in the University Library tower, and chicks are reportedly on the way

Cambridge concern over Ukraine

Richard Nicholl

News Correspondent

Academics and students at the University of Cambridge have cautioned against a simplistic interpretation of events as tensions in eastern Ukraine show no sign of letting up.

Dr Rory Finnin, Chair of the Cambridge Committee for Russian and Eastern European Studies, has referred to a divided Ukraine as "Europe's most dangerous idea", and that labelling the east of Ukraine as pro-Russian and the west as pro-European is inaccurate and risks fomenting support for partition.

The crisis has deepened since the Russian military seized control of the Crimean peninsula in February and March, with pro-Russian insurgency breaking out in the easternmost provinces of Ukraine, with alleged assistance from Russian Special Forces.

"Crimea was the first in a series of provocations designed to provoke a larger conflict that would ultimately bring Kyiv [Kiev] under Moscow's thumb," Finnin said. Despite the opposition in the east to the Euromaidan protest movement which led to the ousting of President Viktor Yanukovich in February, separatism remains a marginal idea in the east according to Dr Finnin.

Pointing to recent research by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS) which showed support for a union with Russia no higher than one-third in the restive Donetsk region, Finnin has argued that we must not view the situation in Donetsk too simplistically. Even Crimea showed no higher than 45 per cent support for a union, despite almost unanimous support in the recent referendum, and federalisation failed to achieve majority support in any polling by KIIS.

He added that "The Kremlin is pushing Ukraine's federalisation hard, hoping that the 'separatist' noise it helps sponsor in the east and south will somehow crescendo and force the issue before the upcoming Ukrainian presidential elections.

88% of sexual assaults unreported

Over 1 in 25 women said they have experienced serious sexual assault
2,126 students responded to survey

Hannah Wilkinson and Martha Elwell

A joint survey conducted by Varsity and the CUSU Women's campaign has revealed the extent of sexual assault and harassment experienced by Cambridge students.

Almost half of the respondents reported that they have been "groped, pinched, or touched" while a student at Cambridge.

8.4 per cent of female respondents said they have experienced attempted serious sexual assault, which was defined as an attempt to penetrate someone orally, vaginally or anally with genitalia, fingers or an object.

The survey, which received over 2,100 responses, found that 4.4 per cent of female respondents and 1.5 per cent of male respondents have experienced serious sexual assault. 88 per cent of all genders went on to say that they did not report the incident. Only two of these students reported the incident to the police, while 10 students reported the incident to staff or students with an official welfare role in their college. The majority of these incidents took place in the student's college.

Of the recorded incidents of attempted serious sexual assault, 98 per

cent went unreported. The most common reasons given for students not reporting sexual assault or attempted sexual assault included thinking that they would not be believed or feeling ashamed of what had happened.

Catherine*, who was sexually assaulted by a friend at her college last year, said: "I was told I have a responsibility to report my rape for the sake of future victims but there are a number of reasons why I didn't. I obviously want to protect others but there is no way of doing that without exposing myself to possible physical, mental and emotional danger.

"I also have no reason to believe that my report will be taken seriously, be investigated or result in a conviction. On the contrary I have every reason to believe that he would be acquitted."

55 per cent said that they had been

made to feel uncomfortable by comments of a sexual nature. One student said that while groping was common in clubs, comments of a sexual overtone were a problem even when jogging in the daytime. Another was made uncomfortable by comments about their sexuality in the context of "banter".

One female student, Alice*, said that Cambridge can be a hostile environment in which to deal with the consequences of serious sexual assault. She was assaulted last year during the break after her first term at Cambridge, and said she is only now coming to terms with what happened to her. She described a widespread "lad culture" among students at the University, insensitive to sexual violence.

When she returned to Cambridge

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Interview: Laurie Penny on anger and the millennial generation (p. 12)



News

Amy Hawkins meets the Cambridge alumnus who has founded Reach Academy, an “outstanding” free school in London



Comment

Carina Tyrrell on why she stood for Miss Cambridge-shire, and what she hopes to achieve in the national contest



Vulture

What's your Vagenda? Jilly Luke meets the young women who are fighting back with feminism



Sport

Unsung Blues: meet Cambridge University's forgotten sporting heroes of the past and present



The town-gown divide

While the image of the academic sat in his ivory tower is one that Cambridge is desperate to get rid of, the relationship between the University and the wider public remains unclear. Last week, Mary Beard, professor of Classics, suggested that the divide between town and gown had got starker, while Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury and now Master of Magdalene, last week argued that increasingly “there is often a pressure to turn first-class academic institutions into second-rate businesses”.

Certainly, the cuts in funding have made universities reconsider new sources of investment. And certainly, there is a lot that can be said about the impact of the University of Cambridge on the local economy.

However, Professor Beard's comments highlight the distance between the concerns of the University and the day-to-day reality of many locals. It may surprise some to hear that around 2,400 people used the local food bank last year, double the figure of the year before.

Last term King's became the latest college to agree to pay all its staff the living wage. Yet, 27 of Cambridge's 31 colleges still fail to pay its staff £7.65 per hour. The on-going living wage campaign has a hugely important role in closing the gap between town and gown.

Recently, a number of students have felt the need to “give back” to wider society by pledging at least 10 per cent of their future income to charity, in a scheme called Giving What We Can. Others choose to give back through volunteering, or Teach First.

While the programme has faced criticism, with suggestions that graduates use it as an act of self-indulgent altruism before moving on to a better-paid career, the role of intelligent graduates in helping children in some of the most deprived areas of the country should not be undermined.

One graduate has taken Teach First a step further and set up his own free school in Feltham, London, which was recently rated outstanding

by Ofsted. Ed Vaniker, who graduated from Downing in 2002, said that he was “committed to serving a community of social need” (page 6).

The success of Vaniker's project is most definitely an example of Lord William's proposal that the role of universities should be to “equip citizens who can confidently take part” in “public life” as “leaders of various sorts”. The University must continue to serve the wider public in bringing about social mobility.

One fairly easy way to close the gap between town and gown is to cement its role in educating not only its students, but also the local community. While there are a number of lectures open to the public, the cost of the Cambridge summer schools is around £1,000 for two weeks - far above what most people can afford.

This is not to say that the University does not do a lot of good work to widen public engagement. But there is so much more than can be done to open up our doors, and get away from that divide between town and gown.



Write to us

letters@varsity.co.uk

CAMBRIDGE MUSIC: NOT OUR FORTE?

I sometimes feel like all the scene needs is a better framework to allow it to flourish. Just look at the theater scene. It has a database of shows, it has mailing lists, it has venues and equipment that anyone interested can use. Anyone who wants to try their hand at theater can do by subscribing to a single mailing list and turning up to a couple of auditions.

Meanwhile the music scene relies on ad hoc

arrangements, you have to be ‘in the know’, and (as you say) be willing to provide a lot of your own equipment. The barriers to entry are higher, and, as a result, there's a lot less going on.

Jon Porter, online

FROM A FORMER EDITOR

I was editor of Varsity for Michaelmas 1954 and just noticed that is now 60 years ago.

For me it would be rewarding to hear about how Varsity is doing these days. My 3 years on the paper gave me a pretty good training in basic journalism and a generous infusion of printer's ink into my veins. I had a number of careers (aviation, exploration, education) and travels (Canada, NZ, Latin America) but always kept writing or editing in one form or the other.

Michael Winner worked for me and succeeded me as editor (some stories about that). To think -

it all started at a weekly Varsity staff meeting in St Edward's Passage when I still knew nothing about writing.

*David Harrison,
St. Catharine's 1952-55*

AN ANGSTY ANT

I read with horror Varsity's flippant coverage of a serious issue blighting today's ant community. We have lived in the coffee machine in the English Faculty for many generations and made significant contributions to its cultural output. So I trust you can imagine my disgust to see the ritual murder of our species carried out by first years carelessly buying coffee while complaining loudly about their prelims being seen as little more than an excuse to publish half-antsed puns. Varsity should be a paper of standards, not ant baiting.

Bernard, English Faculty

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The Double



“She has rationally thought through selling her virginity, and effectively lessened the guilt of her potential bidders.”
Redefining prostitution (p. 16)

Week 1

“DESPITE ITS PROGRESSIVE AND LIBERAL ATMOSPHERE, IT IS AT ITS CORE A STEADFASTLY TRADITIONAL INSTITUTION”
Amy Hawkins visits an ‘outstanding’ free school (p. 6)

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Number of students who voted in favour of a CUSU referendum (p. 5)

THE TOP 5 ONLINE

1. Interview: Ha-Joon Chang
2. Best ever Easter brownie
3. Why care about the NUS?
4. Pop vs Science
5. Interview: Clean Bandit

We’re looking for new section editors

Email editor@varsity.co.uk for more information

The deadline for applications is Wednesday 30th May

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the following term, she had not told anyone about the incident. "At the time I had a strong fear I wouldn't be believed or I would be blamed for what had happened. I didn't feel I could tell anyone at Cambridge. Three weeks after I was assaulted, I was present when someone I knew from college made a rape joke," she says.

"There is a privileged lad culture in Cambridge that doesn't take sexual harassment and sexual assault seriously. They can make jokes because it's not something they're directly affected by; they don't think sexual violence has anything to do with them or their friends, yet [...] they are likely to know someone affected."

One in 10 students said they had been intrusively followed, watched or had received obsessive messages or phone calls. Most perpetrators in such cases were fellow students, with the majority of incidents taking place within college.

A spokesman for the University said: "The collegiate University is committed to the welfare and safety of all its members, and expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and consideration at all times, and to act within the law."

"Where behaviour falls short of this expectation, there are well-established reporting procedures for both staff (Dignity@Work) and students (Dignity@Study). Criminal behaviour should be reported to the police".

Last term, sexual harassment policies across the University came under criticism from the Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre for insensitive wording and lack of clarity.

The University spokesman added: "The health and wellbeing committee is currently examining the impact of rape and sexual assaults on students in Cambridge."

"Its members have been meeting with student representatives and internal and external parties working in this area. They will also take into consideration the findings of the recent survey."

CUSU Women's Officer Lauren Steele said: "An incident of sexual harassment, assault, stalking or physical violence can have devastating effects on the individual, impacting on their ability to study and learn, their mental health, and their relationships".

"The University and colleges have a responsibility to provide support and care for their students. The Women's Campaign will continue to work with Women's Officers and JCRs to implement compulsory consent workshops in September for incoming freshers".

**Names have been changed to protect identities.*

SUPPORT

There are many support services available if you have been affected by any of the issues raised in these articles.

Linkline (Cambridge 67575)

Samaritans, 4 Emmanuel Street (Cambridge 364455)

Black Women's Support Group (Cambridge 369753)

University Counselling Service (Cambridge 332865)

Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre (Cambridge 358314)

London Rape Crisis Centre (0171 837 1600)

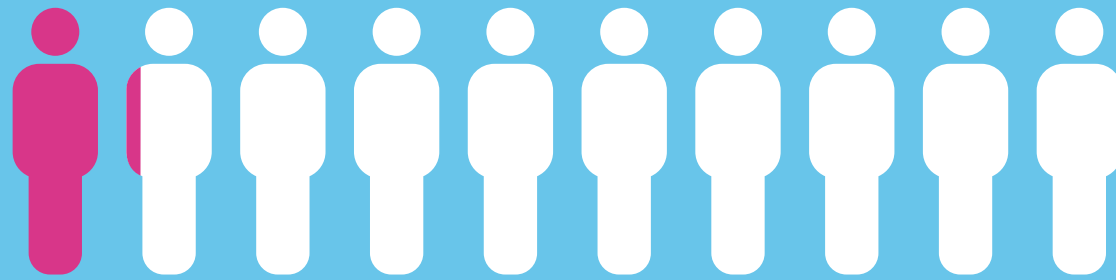
VARSITY INVESTIGATES

SEXUAL HARASSMENT SURVEY

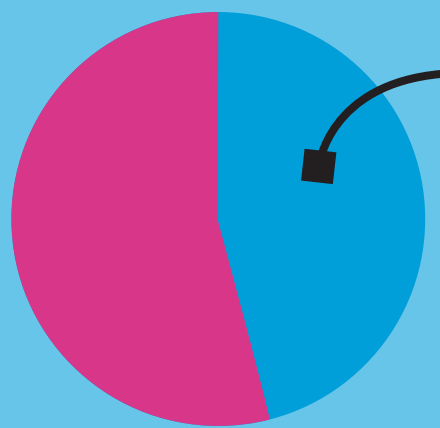
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people said they were the victim of an attempted serious sexual assault

Over 1 in 13 female students have experienced serious sexual assault or attempted assault during their time in Cambridge

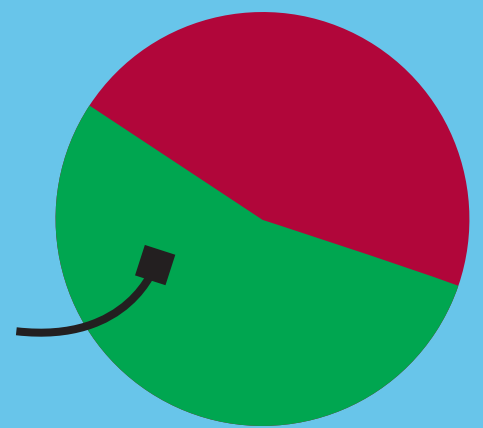


Only 12% of serious sexual assaults were reported



46% of respondents have been groped

55% of respondents have been made to feel uncomfortable by sexual comments



Catherine's story*

This testimony includes content of a violent sexual nature that some people may find distressing

I was raped by someone I once considered a very close friend; we had very similar academic and recreational interests and had immediately begun to know each other as soon as we arrived as freshers in Cambridge. We had a very complicated two years during which we saw each other very frequently, during lectures and supervisions, as well as in each others' beds.

As time moved on and we entered our third year we began to steadily move apart; there was a long period of time during which we didn't see each other because we were both too busy and involved in our own separate lives. He raped me eighteen months after we had last really talked or slept together. We were both quite drunk, him more than I, but I was not too drunk to not remember it all.

There was a group of us out that night and we didn't head back to college until about 3am. We all ended up in his room casually finishing off food from the obligatory 'Van of Life'. Eventually everyone began to drift off to bed and I went to the toilet.

When I returned I found him alone, half-dressed and crying into his hands on the bed. My immediate instinct was to just leave and get to bed. This had happened before, too many times. But instead I stayed. It had been a long time and I didn't have the heart to leave him like that.

So after a while of him mumbling and saying how happy he was to see me happy, I eventually went over to the bed, sat down next to him and put my arm around his back.

We talked for a while. He told me about

some of his problems, especially relating to mental illness and counselling. He talked about the suicidal thoughts he'd had since I'd gone. I was bewildered and tried to comfort him.

Then his arm moved, slowly but surely up to my thigh and then under my dress. His next words rang around my head: he said how much he needed me, how much he needed to feel me, how much he thought he loved me. I didn't move. It wasn't until I felt his fingers peeling over the top of my tights that I moved. I withdrew my arm. I told him firmly to stop it.

Within seconds he had flipped round on top of me, pushing me down onto the bed. I hit him hard across the face. I kicked my legs and pulled violently on his hair. I felt like I didn't fight in retaliation half as much as I should have done. I was shocked; I still trusted him. I just froze. He had his entire body weight pushing down on top of me and I could hardly move.

I remember feeling that disgusting and filling sensation. I remember him being quite loud, constantly repeating how much he needed to feel me. I could feel my mind and body slowly turning numb. I didn't really feel anything until he started talking about my current boyfriend, and then I began to feel angry. But before I had time to completely comprehend what he was saying he cried out my name and collapsed on top of me.

I pushed him off me. I grabbed my tights and ran for the door, feeling his semen running down the inside of my legs. I was uncontrollably shaking and he was just lying on the bed.

I told him I'd rather die than have him

touch me again as I yanked open the door.

The next day I got the morning-after pill and ended up being violently ill a few times.

I know that people should feel as though they are able to report any type of sexual abuse or rape but for many different reasons I have chosen not to.

I would be slut-shamed and victim-blamed very, very publicly, and my family and close friends would be harassed. My attempts at fighting back were way below the potential of what I could have done. He ignored me when I said no but I didn't scream or cry.

The rape is historic and hence there is no remaining physical evidence and I would have to prove I withdrew consent, making it my word against his.

Last but not least, no official conviction of the law and judicial system of this country is satisfactory punishment for what he did to me.

**Name has been changed*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"At the moment, this venture has not succeeded, and it likely will not," he said, with strong support for Ukraine as the "fatherland" of most people in the south and east of the country continuing.

Oleg Naumenko, the External Relations Officer for the Ukrainian Society, and an undergraduate at King's College, was involved in the early peaceful protests. He told Varsity that "such a move will not be as bloodless and brief as it happened in Crimea."

Finnin echoed this, calling any Russian invasion attempts "reckless and a last resort," despite adding that the possibility of it "is not at all outside the pale, especially given the audacity of Putin's recent actions."

Dr Clare Griffin, Wellcome Trust Fellow in early modern Russian history, emphasised that "we should not see a Russian takeover of part or all of the Ukraine as inevitable."

"A takeover of Ukraine is not the sole or even the primary goal," said Dr Griffin, and noted that the recent action against Crimea is symptomatic of a wider Russian concern to prove itself a "strong world and regional leader, and to keep or bring back the former Eastern bloc into its sphere of influence."

However, Naumenko has pointed to a cause for optimism. "Despite the ambivalence of the Geneva accords, it is positive that all sides of the conflict continue to engage in a dialogue in order to soothe the tension. The bad news is that Russia is not committed to uphold this agreement."

The conflict has ramifications for beyond Ukraine's borders. "Poland in particular is very concerned about Russia's behaviour," said Griffin, "What happens to Ukraine will not be the end of the story, but only the beginning."

CUSU referendum proposal meets mixed reaction

Ex-president Ros Old argues announcement was unconstitutional

James Sutton

Deputy News Editor

At a time of noted student apathy towards CUSU, with 14.1 per cent of students casting a vote for the role of President in last term's elections, the sabbatical team has proposed a referendum to alter the constitution.

The main change involves replacing the current CUSU co-ordinator role with a Campaigns and Societies Officer. At the CUSU Council meeting on Wednesday evening, a motion to hold a referendum was passed by 26 votes to two. The new role will aim to provide better resources for societies, which Flick Osborn claimed are given "very little practical support".

She added that "CUSU wants to be the body that does that". The vote has been seen as a bid to show the student body, in the words of CUSU President, Flick Osborn, that CUSU "are doing things differently."

It is hoped that the new role will help to forge a stronger link between the CUSU sabbatical team and the autonomous campaigns, and thereby ensure greater involvement in the daily lives of students by trying to link the whole system up to the 'grassroots' which have made the likes of the Living Wage Campaign such a success.

Dom Weldon, the current CUSU co-ordinator, added that "there's so much that goes on in Cambridge, and it's a



The current CUSU committee

shame that it's under-supported."

James White, CUSU's Environment Officer on the Ethical Affairs Committee, supported the idea of the new position, claiming that autonomous campaigns such as Ethical Affairs "need the support of a Sab" if they are to achieve any real progress.

Speaking against the motion, Rosalyn Old, former CUSU President, argued that "it's your choice, not the Sab's". She noted that, according to CUSU's constitution, the announcement of a referendum should not precede the motion having been passed by CUSU Council.

An email sent to the student body on 2nd April first announced the referendum – before the matter had been put to a vote in CUSU Council.

Old added that there should be at least seven days between the motion being passed by the Council and the day of voting. According to current plans, which will see the referendum held on 28th April, students will only be given five days to digest the news, and to decide which way to vote.

Similarly, Robert Cashman, President of St. John's College JCR, stated that he was "confused and slightly concerned" by the announcement

of the referendum: "I don't really see who's winning [he said]", from further "bureaucratic" changes to CUSU's constitution.

Cashman put forward the accusation that the referendum is a "knee jerk reaction to a bad set of elections" by Osborn, who rejected the claim, stating that these changes "have been on the horizon for a long time now."

Cashman also raised concerns about the number of full-time sabbatical officers and their salaries – a line of discussion which was stopped on the grounds the constitution forbids discussion of individual officers' pay.

Here's to the crazy ones.

PAID INTERN

Candidates should have or soon have their degree and be good at solving problems, getting things done and quickly learning new skills. Good skills to have (or learn on the job) include some of: web design, word-smithing, admin, InDesign, html, photography, journalism, Javascript, graphic design, C and Illustrator. Because we're small and like a start-up, everyone mucks in, from writing news to editing web pages to organising seminars to building blackboards.

WHO WE ARE

The London Institute is Britain's first private institute for physics and mathematics research. It gives scientists the support and freedom to do what they do best: make fundamental discoveries.

THE CRAZY ONES

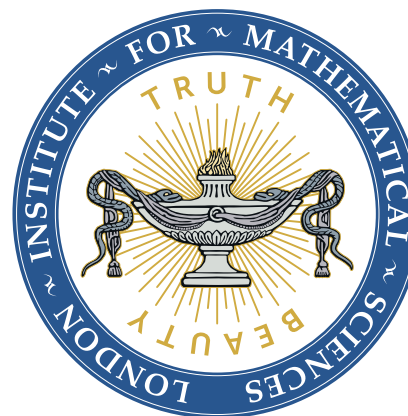
Apple once described the sort of people we look for: "Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo... While some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius."

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A far reach from Cambridge

Amy Hawkins visits an 'outstanding' free school in Feltham, founded by a Cambridge alumnus

Where do you see yourself in ten years time? It's a question that haunts many Cambridge students, and few have a concrete idea about what their answer might be, save for the odd fantasy about a Marylebone townhouse replete with an Aga oven and Farrow & Ball everything. Fewer still would imagine themselves to be living in a decidedly unglamorous and somewhat grey suburb of southwest London.

But Feltham, in the London borough of Hounslow, is exactly where Cantabrigian Ed Vainker has found himself. Just two miles south of Heathrow Airport, local estate agents have previously had something of a hard sell. Thanks to Vainker, however, their fortunes might be on the up.

Reach Academy Feltham, founded by Vainker and partners in 2012, is the latest free school to be rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. The inspector found that Vainker had provided the school with "excellent leadership", and "a sense of excitement generated by pupils enjoying their learning." Not bad for a project that hasn't even reached its second birthday.

"THE ACADEMY HAS A CALM AND PURPOSEFUL ATMOSPHERE COMBINED WITH A SENSE OF EXCITEMENT GENERATED BY PUPILS ENJOYING THEIR LEARNING"

Free schools, which were launched by the government in 2010, are schools set up and controlled by local groups, such as parents or private companies. They are funded by the taxpayer but are not governed by the local authority.

In recent months, this localised approach has been the subject of considerable bad press: notably, the allegations about the infiltration of Islamic extremism into a chain of academies in Birmingham. Michael Gove has come under fire for earmarking under-performing free schools to be fast-tracked for special attention, so great will be the potential political embarrassment if they fail.

Reach Academy is one free school that Gove doesn't need to worry about. The school is unusual in that it wasn't founded by parents in a certain area; in fact, Vainker had no particular attachment to Feltham before arriving two years ago.

"We were committed to serving a community of social need... not a leafy community. Also, we wanted to be in a place where there was a shortage of school places."

Serving through education has been at the core of Vainker's career since leaving Cambridge. After graduating from Downing with a degree in History in 2002, he stayed on for a year to be the College's Schools Liaison Officer, before joining Teach First.

He then moved to Washington DC to work for an international network of Teach First programs. His work took him to visit schools around the world, including ones in China, Lebanon and Australia, to name but a few. Suffice to say, he certainly has

a more well-rounded view of education than most.

When the free school policy was announced, Vainker got in touch with Jon McIntosh, a friend from Cambridge who had founded Reach Cambridge, a programme of summer residential camps. They decided to go into education together. "We handed in about a 450-page document [to the Department for Education], which was [...] apparently laughed at for being too long, but we'd actually edited stuff out," he tells me. Their diligence paid off, and in September 2010 they welcomed in their first cohort of students.

But what is it that makes Reach Feltham unique? As a school, it has a number of notable characteristics: it is "all-through", taking children from the age of four all the way to 18; they have a longer school day (from 9am to 4pm); the teachers are young (the oldest is 36), and there is a strong emphasis on high expectations.

"In some schools...there is a focus on getting five A-C English and Maths [GCSEs]...but a C grade at GCSE is not a passport to more choices, and the level of competence that it shows is not high. The problem is that there's an expectation that that's what children will aspire to."

"For us, it was important that the expectation is much, much higher, so our expectation and our aspiration is that our children will get As and Bs [at] A Level, As at GCSEs, and we're really aspiring to that and we're working towards that."

The combination of academic rigour and a vibrant atmosphere is refreshing. As Vainker rightly identifies, schools are often judged by how many students achieve an A*-C grade at GCSE, so teachers often focus on improving the prospects of a D/C student, rather than pushing the more able students.

The school's ethos is clear, and all the more so thanks to the helpful array of buzzwords and acronyms that they've implemented. Ishita, a remarkably confident and articulate Year Seven student, talks me through the "Payslip" system.

"Every week we start with 75 on our payslip, and we get merits in class for anything good we do and accordingly we get demerits if we do something bad." I learn that merits are worth two points and demerits are minus two. "Detentions reduce five points from your payslip and Step 1 and Step 2 are further forms of detention that reduce more points, like minus 10, minus 20, and exclusion is minus 30."

These are just the basics of a complex system that also includes: AWPR (Act Worthy of Public Recognition), TANC (Homework should be on Time, Accurate, Neat, Complete) and DEAR (Drop

Everything And Read). Even the school's name, Reach, stands for "Respect, Endeavour, Aspire, show Courage and Have fun"

It would be easy to mock the school's predilection for snappy, soundbite-friendly systems of organisation, but if anything it seems to bond the school closer, fostering a sense of community around this in-house terminology.

The school is not without its detractors. "We didn't have a particularly positive reaction from [local] schools," Vainker tells me. He admits that there was only a shortage for the primary school when they opened. For the eleven-plus intake, the opening of Reach Academy increased the proportion of children being educated locally, perhaps attracting the more affluent families who would have previously moved to neighbouring boroughs for their children's education.

Vainker, unsurprisingly, refutes this: "It's impossible to know for sure. In secondary, we have a higher proportion of children on free school meals than the local average [...] we didn't set the school up to become a middle class enclave, and that's why we put it here. We've got a very diverse cohort."

Reach Academy is intriguing. Despite its progressive and liberal atmosphere, with a student body that is clearly engaged and excited, it is at its core a steadfastly traditional institution. The range of subjects on offer is fairly narrow and academic, and students follow strict rules. Vainker's Cambridge education is evident in the expectation of high academic achievement at school and beyond. Whether or not the school reaches its lofty aims remains to be seen, but it has certainly already started the climb.

Reach Academy is now recruiting for Teacher Fellows. See their website for more details.





HODSON'S FOLLY: Cambridge locals have launched a petition to stop vandalism of Hodson's Folly, which was built in 1887 by a butler at Pembroke College, John Hodson. Hodson built the folly as a way of keeping an eye out for the safety of his daughter, who liked to bathe in the river.

Universities must consider impact, says Rowan Williams

Chloe Clifford Astbury

Deputy News Editor

Rowan Williams has expressed concern over the narrow definition of the word "impact", as applied to higher education institutions in order to measure their success.

In an article published in Times Higher Education last week, the former Archbishop of Canterbury and current Master of Magdalene College, argued that "most of the metrics currently used to measure 'impact' are at best clumsy, and at worst counter-productive." He said that academics were "constrained by box-ticking".

Lord Williams noted that the success of a university tends to be measured by its public impact, but worried that the definition of 'impact' is too frequently limited to commercial significance.

In outlining a broader definition of "impact", Williams highlighted the importance of universities in training individuals who would be capable of taking on a leading role in society, who could think critically and not be "slaves" to media that attempted to manipulate their emotions.

He pointed to the heritage of universities, reminding us that they were created to forge social leaders: "[I]t is essential to equip citizens who can confidently take part in the discernment and management of public life, whether simply as voters, or as activists or leaders of various sorts".

CUP withdraws book on Putin's regime

Daisy Hessenberger

News Correspondent

Earlier this month, Cambridge University Press (CUP) made the controversial decision not to publish a book concerning Vladimir Putin due to the possibility of libel suits. The publisher rejected the book the same week that Putin's government was targeted by the EU and the US for its actions in Crimea.

The author, Karen Dawisha, director of Miami University's Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, is an expert on Russian affairs. The book, which would have been her eighth published by CUP, covers the first one hundred days of Putin's rise to power, exploring how Putin's inner circle put the existing authoritarian regime in place.

After the CUP legal department reviewed the book, Dawisha received a letter from John Haslam at CUP informing her that they could not proceed with publishing "given the controversial subject matter of the book, and its basic premise that Putin's power is founded on his links to organised crime, we are not convinced that there is a way to rewrite the book that would give us the necessary comfort".

The letter, subsequently published in *The Economist*, went on to claim that: "The decision has nothing to do with the quality of your research or your scholarly credibility. It is simply



CUP rejects book on Russia due to possibility of libel suits

a question of risk tolerance in light of our limited resources".

A CUP spokesperson stated: "Decisions on whether allegations are or are not libellous are taken regularly by publishers of all kinds. These are not decisions that we take lightly or without careful consideration."

In an open letter to CUP, Dawisha sympathised with the decision: "I understand the ultimate reasoning that the basic premise of the book was such that the Press decided that no matter how many legally acceptable qualifiers were inserted, the book could not be rewritten in a way to give you

'comfort'. In fact, Dawisha herself requested that the book be reviewed by the legal department.

Dawisha's letter to CUP outlines her opinion on the state of the UK's strict libel laws. The laws were obviously a concern for Dawisha from the beginning, as she had initially stated: "I think I would prefer to withdraw it and submit it to American publishers before it goes out to CUP readers and inevitably starts to circulate."

She concludes: "The field of political science and Russian studies [...] needs to come to terms with the difficult situation that no empirical work on

corruption (and probably many other topics) should be published with a British publisher."

"THE DECISION HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE QUALITY OF YOUR RESEARCH OR YOUR SCHOLARLY CREDIBILITY"

At one point, the UK's libel laws allowed claimants to bring libel suits against publishers even if neither of the parties was based in the UK, encouraging 'libel tourism'. Libel cases were preferentially pursued in the UK instead of other jurisdictions where there is better protection for persons issuing derogatory statements.

The laws discouraged the publishing of numerous controversial texts, including CUP's *Alms for Jihad*, which concerned the funding of terrorist groups and was removed from circulation under pressure from a libel suit.

Such occurrences helped awaken the Libel Reform Campaign, culminating in the Defamation Act of 2013. The act introduced a new "serious harm threshold" for claims and, among other changes, narrowed the test for claims, allowing claims with limited connection to England and Wales to be excluded.

Why do women still gain fewer Firsts?

Cambridge Women in Science investigate why women perform less well

Amy Hawkins

Deputy Editor

The Department of Physics is launching a study that aims to understand why men traditionally outperform women in university examinations. The project is part of the Institute of Physics' Project Juno and the Athena SWAN Charter initiative, a national network that exists to "advance the representation of women in science, technology, engineering, medicine and mathematics".

The study aims to investigate whether genders respond differently to questions depending on how they are phrased. Two sets of students were given the same examination paper, with candidates being led through the question in stages in one version, and the question being asked outright in the other.

Roberta Wilkinson, a first-year Natural Sciences student at Pembroke who participated in the study, said: "I think it takes a certain level of confidence to be able to approach an exam question, and particularly the more open-ended type, in which you have to have confidence in your own initiative."

"Women generally tend to be less confident in their own abilities (unsurprising in a society which is still so unequal and often doesn't value women's

voices), and I can see this playing into how we approach exams."

"I think it's likely this is exacerbated in subjects [like Physics] where we're in the minority. It'll be interesting to see the results of this study, to see if it really does make a difference."

The study comes with the news that men at Oxbridge are awarded more Firsts than their female peers, a discrepancy that is less marked or non-existent on a national level. A look at the breakdown of first class degrees awarded to students at Oxford and Cambridge reveals that the gender discrepancy is higher at these institutions than the national average.

In the graduating class of 2013 at Cambridge, 27.7 per cent of male students were awarded Firsts, compared to just 19.7 per cent of women. The ratio is similar at Oxford: one-third of male students were awarded a First last year, compared to a quarter a female students. This discrepancy exists across most subject areas.

This is in stark contrast to the national figures. In 2012, according to figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency, 68 per cent of female students gained a First or 2:1 degree, compared to 63 per cent of men. However, these figures do not show how many degrees were Firsts rather than upper seconds.

In the Part II Cambridge history exams last year, the number of Firsts awarded was distributed equally between men and women. However, the year group consisted of 118 female candidates compared to 86 male, and so the men received proportionally more Firsts.

Similarly, 34 per cent of men received



Female students perform worse than men at top universities

Firsts in Part II English, compared to just 22 per cent of women.

A study published earlier this year looking into gender discrimination in science found that faculty members at US universities unwittingly showed a bias towards male applicants.

Some students have also suggested that the culture of the elite academic environment favours male students. "There's a certain type of confidence

that seems to come from being at a certain type of all-male, public school," said a female English student quoted in The Oxford Student. "When you come to Oxford and it feels familiar, you may have a sense of belonging that isn't accessible to everyone."

Many students have also expressed dismay at being told by academics to "write more like a man" if they want to get a First.

WHO GETS A 1ST?

27.7% Men

19.7% Women

Cambridge concern over tuition fees cut

Labour's 2015 pledge to reduce tuition fees has worried the University

Richard Nicholl

News Correspondent

Cambridge has expressed concern about a recent Labour pledge to reduce tuition fees, should it be elected to government in 2015.

A spokesman for the University of Cambridge said: "It is important to debate how best to address the long-term financial sustainability of undergraduate education. For this University, the fundamental point is that any revised scheme should continue to enable us to deliver needs blind admission on academic merit alone."

Speaking to the Sunday Times, Douglas Alexander, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, confirmed that a cut in tuition fees would form part of the Labour Party's manifesto in 2015. He did not give details on the policy, but the Independent has suggested that a reduction to £6,000 is likely, as proposed by Ed Miliband in 2011.

The cap on university tuition fees was raised from £3,000 to £9,000 per year in 2012, despite a Lib Dem pledge and widespread student protest.

Universities UK also expressed concerns about a fee cut of this nature, citing an estimated funding shortfall of £1.7 billion.



Students in Cambridge protested at the 2010 rise in tuition fees

The pledge from Labour was delivered in the wake of news that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills expects up to 45 per cent of tuition fee debt to go unpaid. Meanwhile, the Institute for Fiscal Studies recently delivered a report suggesting that almost three quarters of

students would fail to clear the debt.

Labour's prospective parliamentary candidate for Cambridge, Daniel Zeichner, implied that a graduate tax might be a way of responding to the shortfall, but stressed that Labour's final policy platform was yet to be agreed: "It is clear that the tripling

of tuition fees by Vince Cable hasn't worked and looks likely to bring in less money than the previous system, as so many students are earning too little to repay their loans," said Zeichner.

"It is staggering that of the £6.7 billion spent by the taxpayer on universities, just £0.7 billion is spent on

teaching, while £4.2 billion goes on writing off unpaid loans.

"It is quite understandable that universities are concerned about future funding - we share that concern, which is why our proposal is fully-costed."

The former Universities Minister John Denham, currently serving as parliamentary private secretary to Ed Miliband, has been credited with an alternative plan reportedly gaining ground among Labour's policy reviewers.

**"IT IS CLEAR THAT THE
TRIPLING OF TUITION FEES
HASN'T WORKED"**

The scheme would involve a £15,000 government voucher granted for any degree, with additional top-up fees to a maximum of £4,000.

Tuition fees are likely to be a major issue in the general election next year, especially in university-centric areas like Cambridge. Julian Huppert, the Liberal Democrat MP for Cambridge, said: "Labour's latest comments are vague, probably deliberately so. They have not guaranteed that universities would get the replacement money, and it is certainly not helpful for students to cut the money available for their teaching; they would then get a worse education."

Union Society announces Easter line-up

The Hoff, Katie Hopkins and Cath Kidston are all set to appear this term

Daisy Hessenberger

News Correspondent

The Cambridge Union Society announced its Easter line-up on Tuesday. This term's star speakers include Baywatch actor and singer David Hasselhoff and the controversial former Apprentice star Katie Hopkins, who recently tweeted that the Everyday Sexism Project "makes women look like an employment tribunal waiting to happen".

In celebration of 50 years of Doctor Who, Sylvester McCoy and Paul McGann, who appeared as the seventh and eighth Doctors respectively, among this term's speakers.

Easter term looks set to end on a controversial note, with the May Week Presidential Debate centring around a topic that is close to home for many Cambridge students. President Michael Dunn Goekjian will be proposing the motion, "This House Believes that Feminism Should Exclude Men". Lucy-Anne Holmes, founder of the No More Page Three campaign will be returning to the Union to speak for the opposition.

Although both genders are equally represented in the debate line-up this term, only two speakers out of 11 are female: Cath Kidston and Katie Hopkins. A Union spokesperson attributes the



David Hasselhoff will come to Cambridge this term

current speaker inequality to "the success rates of our invitations and the fact that historical factors mean more men have a connection to Cambridge and the Union than do women."

The Union assured critics that it "is utterly committed to creating a diverse line-up, and getting as much female and minority representation as we can," and is hosting a Women's Public Speaking Workshop in the first week

of term.

There will also be a chance to catch up on current affairs, with back-to-back speaker events on the tension in Ukraine. The Russian ambassador to the UK, Alexander Kramarenko, will be followed in the term by the Ukrainian ambassador, His Excellency Volodymyr Khandogiy.

On a more light-hearted note, the writer David Nicholls, author of 2009

best seller One Day, will be appearing on May 12.

The term kicked off to a fiery start last night with the motion, "This House believes the Catholic Church is a Force for Good". Speakers included Melanie McDonagh, the lead writer at the Evening Standard and former President of the Union, and David Greenwood, a solicitor at Stop Child Abuse UK.



CAMBRIDGE SPY

Rumour has it...

A certain Girton third year left critics unimpressed by using £20 notes as Rizla in the life smoking area...

Exam term is off to a bad start for one Engineer, whose water fight with a friend ended in with a broken glass in his hand and extensive surgery...

Student politics took a virtual turn this week as members of one student political organisation became embroiled in a less than gracious argument with a fellow student on Twitter...

Geography students had time to survey their surroundings as they queued for hours on end to hand in their dissertations. Tempers as well as temperatures were high...

Two inebriated students were got the better of, as their search for fun took them to an ATM to lose all their money.

Miss Vx

Interested in postgraduate journalism training?

A major scholarship and/or bursary may be awarded to students graduating from the University of Cambridge or ARU who are about to undertake an approved course in journalism in the coming academic year.

Past beneficiaries of the awards have gone on to successful careers at a variety of media organisations.

For further details on the Trust and to check eligibility, visit www.varsitytrust.org.uk or email trust@varsity.co.uk for an information pack.

Deadline for applications:
5pm, Monday April 28 2014

VARSLITY

The Varsity Trust offers funding to students planning to undertake journalism courses in 2014-2015. Registered Charity No. 1012847



Can you do better?

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No experience is needed to get involved next term, and there's never been a better time to join Varsity and try one of our positions.

For more information and to apply, email the editor, Emily, editor@varsity.co.uk.

Formal applications are also invited to edit and section edit Varsity in Michaelmas 2014

Application forms are available for download from varsity.co.uk/get-involved

The deadline for editorial applications is
5pm on Monday April 28 2014

The deadline for section editor applications is
5pm on Monday June 2 2014

All students are encouraged to apply.
No experience of Varsity is necessary.

If you have any questions, please email the current editor on editor@varsity.co.uk.

Positions on the team include:
News Editor, Production Editor,
Comment Editor, Features Editor,
Arts Editor, Reviews Editor,
Sport Editor, Fashion Editor,
Science Editor, Theatre Critic,
Music Critic, Classical Critic,
Film Critic, Visual Arts Critic,
Literary Critic, Food Critic,
Photographer, Illustrator

VARSLITY



NEWS IN BRIEF



Trinity wins University Challenge

CAMBRIDGE Trinity College won this year's University Challenge contest with an impressive 105-point margin over Oxford's Somerville College.

Cambridge was looking for a convincing win, having lost to Oxford in both the men's and women's boat races. The sixth year of the alternative annual Oxford & Cambridge Goat Race also served up a mediocre result, after 'e' trotted to victory, amid much confusion.

The final score was 240-135 in favour of Trinity.



Union handed cheque for "sod all"

CAMBRIDGE Two Cambridge students who were fined by the Cambridge Union Society when their protest at the visit of Minister for Universities David Willetts was deemed "obscene" defied the ruling with another stunt.

In response to the Union's demand that they each pay £20 for unfurling a banner reading 'Fuck Off Willetts' during the MP's talk, Conrad Landin and Jessica O'Driscoll-Breen handed the bursar of the Union an enormous cheque for the sum of "sod all".

The two undergraduates were accompanied by students and academics representing Cambridge Defend Education.



Cable wants apprenticeships included in UCAS

CAMBRIDGE In a Cambridge Public Policy Lecture this week, Business Secretary Vince Cable asked UCAS to consider integrating high-level apprenticeships into its admission services.

Cable believes that this move will stop apprenticeship being undervalued, and encourage students to think of them as legitimate alternatives to university study.

Putting Higher and Further Education on a par will allow for the creation of credible and prestigious vocational programmes that will not be seen as a step down from a university degree, argues Cable. In some cases, they may involve degree-level education with practical training.

Employers would also profit from this move, says Cable, as they will receive employees with strong theoretical backgrounds as well as practical experience.

Students to give what they can

Cambridge students have pledged their future incomes to charity

Emily Handley
News Correspondent

A group of Cambridge students have decided to pledge part of their future incomes to the most efficient charities that work to improve lives and tackle diseases in developing countries.

16 students, who are all working with the charitable organisation Giving What We Can, recently promised to donate 10 per cent of earnings they receive in their post-Cambridge careers to various causes around the world.

Giving What We Can was set up in Oxford in November 2009 by Dr. Toby Ord, a research fellow in Philosophy at Balliol College, Oxford. In October last year, the organisation was turned into a charitable trust and has since opened more than ten chapters around the world.

Dr. Ord's ideas were partly influenced by the writings of ethicists such as Thomas Pogge and Peter Singer, which inspired him to think about his obligation to other members of society and the effects that could be achieved if a lot of people gave a small amount of money to a cause.

Taxpayers are encouraged to give 10 per cent of their annual pre-tax salary to charity until retirement, while students and jobseekers are asked to donate one per cent of their spending money before committing to increase this to 10 per cent once they are employed.

On the organisation's website, certain charities have been recommended



A group of students pledging their future earnings

for their cost-effectiveness in the way that they allocate their funding.

The website describes the difference between charities as "astounding", commenting that the work that they do with their funds can lead some to do "1,000 times as much good as others."

The charities recommended for their cost-effectiveness on the website have been divided into two groups, with "well-established" organisations in one category and those which have been deemed "promising" in another.

The Against Malaria Foundation

is one of the suggested charities, as is Project Healthy Children and the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative, which supplies healthcare and education to countries in sub-Saharan Africa to combat the threat of bilharzia and other tropical diseases.

Markus Anderljung, a Natural Sciences student at King's College, is the newly-elected president of the Cambridge branch of Giving What We Can, which is already attracting plenty of new members.

Anderljung explains: "Giving What We Can is an organisation that aims to

firstly make people give a larger portion of their income to charity and secondly for them to give that money more effectively.

"Research by Giving What We Can and other organisations suggests that some organisations are over one thousand times more effective than others.

"By choosing to donate a substantial portion of your income to the most effective charities, then, a Cambridge student can easily save hundreds of lives over their lifetime. I think that is pretty cool."

Oxbridge should go private, says academic

Universities must adapt to global marketplace, argues Oxford academic

Chloe Clifford Astbury
Deputy News Editor

The Director of the Oxford Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies, David Palfreyman, has suggested that elite universities like Cambridge and Oxford could benefit from privatisation.

According to Palfreyman: "Total autonomy for world-class universities is essential, subject of course to regulation of a limited kind and to consumer law protection for students.

"Oxford and Cambridge must be on the same footing as competitors such as Harvard, Yale, and MIT, and government does not do a good job when messing with elite higher education."

The three American universities Palfreyman mentions, as well as other academic heavyweights such as Stanford and Princeton, are all privately funded.

Recently published figures reveal the decreasing significance of state funding to elite research universities such as Cambridge, and prompt questions about the future of higher education policy.

A 'health check' undertaken by Times Higher Education looked into the financial position of universities over the course of 2012-2013. The



Is Cambridge on the brink of privatisation?

University of Cambridge was outstanding for receiving only a small percentage of its income from HEFCE (the Higher Education Funding Council for England).

Cambridge was second only to the London School of Economics in this regard, with a mere 12.8% of its revenue depending on funding council grants. This percentage is set to decline even further as the last cohort of students who began university under the old fee regime prepare to graduate.

In a paper entitled 'Reshaping the University to fit the Marketplace in 2020', Palfreyman and his colleague

Ted Tapper considered the choices that must be made in designing higher education policy:

"Very few nations can afford to finance mass higher education, and the stark choice becomes: taxpayer-retreat and cost-sharing as the student/family picks up the tab; or Galbraithian over-crowded public squalor as higher education systems decline with underfunding.

"The rise of the regulated market and the possible shift to a limited State voucher could mean Cambridge escaping from the fees straight-jacket and charging more for those who can

afford to pay," argues Palfreyman.

He stresses the importance of ensuring tighter consumer protection control for students if this change does take place, as well as the University's responsibility to widen access.

"CAMBRIDGE COULD ESCAPE FROM THE FEES STRAIGHT-JACKET AND CHARGE MORE FOR THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD TO PAY"

However, he thinks such a move is unlikely to occur in the near future: "Why will Oxford and Cambridge not jump ship? They lack strategic ambition and managerial guts.

"There are too many dopey lefty and woolly-headed academics who are unable to see that Higher Education will become mass public squalor and mediocrity unless it escapes being a remnant of the Welfare State as a nationalised industry."

When the University of Law became Britain's first private and for-profit higher education institution in 2012 the move met with outrage from many academics, who were concerned that it was the beginning of a wider move towards privatisation.



TOWN VS GOWN: The gap between ‘town’ and ‘gown’ has widened over the past 30 years, says Mary Beard. The heightened security around the University’s buildings and grounds has created a physical divide between students and faculty of the University and residents of the town, she said last week.

Controversial don in happy video

A Cambridge lecturer has appeared in a video about happy Muslims

James Sutton
Deputy News Editor

Tim Winter, a Cambridge Islamic Studies lecturer and one of Britain’s most prominent Sunni Muslims, has appeared in a video which aims to challenge stereotypes surrounding Muslims in Britain. The video, posted on YouTube last Wednesday, shows groups of British Muslims dancing to Pharrell Williams’s song, Happy. The video has since received over one million views, despite facing criticism from some sections of the Muslim community.

Winter, who is also known as Abdal Hakim Murad, said in a statement published online by The Honesty Policy, the group who produced the video: “I see it not as a preachy film but as a kind of informal guerrilla documentary”.

The documentary film-maker Roshan Muhammed Salih took to Twitter, asking “Is this the biggest joke ever? British Muslims - some of them prominent - make complete fools of themselves.”

The Muslim online newspaper, The Shaam Post, published an article, since retracted, claiming that in email correspondence shortly after the release of the video, Winter had tried to distance himself from it, reporting that he had claimed that it was improper for Muslims to “jump around in that way, whether or not they are on camera.”

In the statement issued on Facebook, Winter defended his involvement



Tim Winter is one of the most high profile Muslims to appear in the video

in the video, arguing that “at Friday prayers today, during school holidays, I saw children and adults; but not one teenager.”

“They are in a different world – of quick social media, apps, and YouTube. Now either we can cut them off entirely, and let them work things out from their own resources [...] or we can find some way of standing among them and hearing them.”

“They know perfectly well that we don’t acquiesce in all the forms of their

culture, but they should know that we have more to offer them than an endless scowl!”

President of the University of Cambridge Islamic Society, Ali Salchi, has come out in support of Winter, calling him “a role model for everyone not only because of his remarkable scholarship but also his contributions to British society.”

Salchi adds that Winter’s appearance in the video is “evidence that Muslims need not be, and usually are

not, what they are portrayed as being in the media. Islam is a tolerant religion with room for legitimate differences of opinion, and few can claim to know Islam better than he does.”

However, Winter’s appearances on YouTube have not always been so positive; footage of him calling homosexuality sinful and an “inherent aberration” emerged on the website in May 2013. He later issued a statement claiming that the video was old, and that this was no longer his view.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Student radio host nominated for prestigious award

CAMBRIDGE CamFM presenter Phin Adams has been nominated for a 2014 Radio Academy Award. Other nominees for the prestigious prize include industry heavyweights such as Danny Baker from BBC 5 Live and Alan Robson from Metro Radio.

Adams’ show, Phin’s Barmy Brunch, has seen the third year Theologian interview eminent personalities, including Rowan Williams, the Dalai Lama and Tony Robinson, and has already garnered him recognition at last year’s student radio awards.



Artificial pancreas offers independence to diabetics

CAMBRIDGE A successful experiment saw Cambridge scientists entrusting diabetic children with an artificial pancreas.

The children were allowed to employ the technology overnight, without any surveillance from scientists.

All previous trials of this type had involved continuous surveillance, and the experiment shows that independent use of the artificial pancreas is safe and beneficial.

Participants in the trial reported improved blood glucose control. Diabetics can suffer from dangerously low levels of blood glucose, which can cause loss of consciousness and, in extreme cases, death.

Lead researcher Dr. Roman Hovorka calls the study an “important stepping stone” towards freer lives for diabetics.



Cambridge PhD candidate alleges plagiarism in eminent sociologist’s work

CAMBRIDGE Cambridge PhD candidate Peter Walsh has accused Zygmunt Bauman, emeritus professor of sociology at the University of Leeds, of plagiarism.

Walsh claims that Professor Bauman uses extracts from websites including Wikipedia, but fails to reference his sources correctly.

Walsh also claims that Bauman reproduces inaccuracies from these sources, which, says Walsh, suggests the sociologist lacks the desire to check his facts and statistics.

Bauman responded by saying that the quality of scholarship is not to be assessed by the scholar’s “obedience” to “technical” rules.

The Interview: Laurie Penny

A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS



SURAJ MAKWANA

Hannah Wilkinson talks to Laurie Penny about the lack of opportunities young people are facing today, and what we can do about it

"Sorry I've ranted a bit. I just never get a chance to nerd out about media stuff".

Laurie Penny needn't have apologised. I was in my element. Twenty minutes into our interview and she had already smashed two rules that I had been living my life by up to that point. One: Never meet your idols, and two: Chokers are so 1999.

Penny is the bright red hair and 90s accoutrement-sporting contributing editor of the *New Statesman*, who writes on feminism and social justice with the kind of sass and brains that make her pieces a regular on my Facebook feed. She's also an author and award-winning blogger, but came to Cambridge to debate at the Union because her boss told her she had to. Her unwillingness was not surprising, given that she was going to be arguing on the same team as Simon Heffer - whose speech began with a nod to the "ladies present".

It's not that Penny isn't passionate about the topic. The *New Statesman* sponsored the Cambridge literary festival, and is contributing to proceedings by debating the motion "This House Believes Baby Boomers Left Society Worse Than They Found It".

Throughout the interview Penny speaks passionately about young

people; their problems, their ideas, their opportunities. But for Penny the most revealing thing was that they had such a hard time finding people to speak in opposition. "Everyone agrees young people are fucked," she says.

She also resents being seen as a mouthpiece for young people, a group she no longer feels she represents.

"I graduated in 2007 before the crash, and I look at my friends who graduated just after the crash and the difference is just astonishing," she explains. "People my age and older believed that if we worked hard and did all the right things it would all be fine eventually. Now people know that's bullshit."

Even today's fifteen-year-olds, trudging down the gloomy path of GCSEs and A-levels, are beginning to realise that the light might not still be there when they get to the end of the tunnel.

"I can't imagine how angry people must be, and just because they don't necessarily show it because they're frightened, and British, and under a lot of pressure doesn't mean they aren't angry," she says. "They know it isn't going to work out, which is why everyone's reading the *Hunger Games* and divergence and getting ready for the dystopia"

Instead of fretting about the future,

Penny spent her days at Wadham college Oxford performing with the Light Entertainment Society, hanging around in goth clubs, and drinking. She searched for the hot bed of political activity she had expected to find there, but found nothing but "Young Labour

"I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW ANGRY PEOPLE MUST BE. JUST BECAUSE THEY DON'T NECESSARILY SHOW IT DOESN'T MEAN THEY AREN'T ANGRY"

and a few Scattered Communists".

It was only when she recently returned to speak at the Oxford radical forum that she found the radical politics missing from her undergraduate days. "People who are at university now are in general more aware, more radical than they were when I was at university seven years ago".

It's not that young people aren't interested in Westminster anymore; Westminster was never interested in

them. "Young people are there to stuff your envelope and bring your tea and do your admin and are not the people who actually matter and it's all about making young people work for politics"

Penny isn't just an angry young woman, bellowing into the internet. Her work is effective and convincing, and her award winning endeavors in blogging show that she's deeply engaged in how people are using new media to change the kind of voices that get listened to. But an angry and a confrontational debate in a 200 year old chamber is not her best idea of how to do that.

"The whole point of discourse and debate and critique is not to actually learn anything, it's just to win. Beat the other guy. If you make the other guy cry then you've won, and that's it, that's all it comes down to just people shouting at each other in a room".

Although she wishes there were more skilled debaters who really cared for the issues, Penny is unlikely to become one of them. "I was crap at debating at school," she remembers. "I joined the team and I would just get really over-invested in a topic and cry, and then I would lose. Eventually I was not allowed to do it anymore".

After a televised debate with Louise

Mensch over abortion rights, Penny is not ashamed to report that she was left "physically shaking" in anger. She says she has no desire to develop a debater's "thick skin". "I could do, but I'd be a shit writer" she says. "I need to be listening and engaged. The last thing I need is a thick skin".

Luckily for Penny, anyone who hates the aggressive medium of the televised debate can now just make a podcast and broadcast their own. "Interesting stuff is happening in the podcast world. People are making discussion shows where people aren't just yelling at each other. They're just more in depth, more discursive."

As a 27-year-old in a world where people are increasingly finding new ways to be heard, Penny no longer has to be the voice of the angry young person. "It's not my job to keep writing on youth issues. Arguing for and about young people is really hard because it's a genre that changes every year not just in terms of how politics change [but] in terms of how you change."

She shows me a Facebook status posted by a friend: "Last night danced semi-unironically to Sean Paul whilst we all discussed how much we regret campaigning for the Liberal Democrats in 2010. Possibly my most millennial moment ever".

Heartbleed

The peril of the internet

A new internet security breach could seriously undermine our privacy

Daniel Simpson
Science Correspondent

As with most addictions, the current craze for sharing personal data on the internet is a bad habit which we just don't want to give up. No-makeup selfies, status updates and funny pictures of cats are among the most common things we now broadcast into the web's dark and mysterious clutches, but so

too are emails, bank passwords and, increasingly, our exact geographical location. The frightening consequences of beaming our entire lives online are well-known, but users remain remarkably ambivalent to the internet's many perils.

That ambivalence might be about to change. Early this April, media and IT experts worldwide reported on the discovery of Heartbleed, a serious vulnerability in OpenSSL, the open-access cryptographic software that protects the private data of almost two-thirds of websites. Those in the know showed how a remarkably simple technique allowed spies, hackers and bored teenagers to force an internet server to disclose its private key, which would in turn allow open access to all encrypted and sensitive information shared on a chosen website, past and present.

As the online website The Verge put it: "The bug allows an attacker to pull 64 kilobytes at random from a given server's working memory. It's a bit like fishing — attackers don't know what usable data will be in the haul — but since it can be performed over and over again, there's the potential for a lot of sensitive data to be exposed."

The vulnerability is now being fixed, but the most disturbing revelation about the whole episode is that our private data may well have been open to prying eyes for as many as two years. In research-intensive universities such as Cambridge, Times Higher Education has claimed that this could have included reams of privileged data, including valuable research, as well as highly sensitive information about all registered staff and students.

Cambridge reacted almost instantly, recommending a series of patches and alterations to global IT systems.

So what can we, as everyday internet

users, do about Heartbleed? Some might argue that it is already too late to safeguard all that we have uploaded to the net. Perhaps surprisingly, however, few victims of the Heartbleed bug, which is named after the vulnerable 'heartbeat' security extension which it exploits, have so far been announced.

The unfortunate few include the Canada Revenue Agency, which revealed that nine hundred social security numbers had been stolen from its systems, and also the popular parenting site Mumsnet, which detected an intrusion that certainly had all the indications of an OpenSSL hack.

The expert recommendation is that you change your passwords instantly. All of them. Heartbeat has shown, however, that even the most well-thought out passwords would have been an ineffective safeguard against this vulnerability. Frankly, many (me included), simply won't be bothered. In an age where it has been shown repeatedly that '123456', 'qwerty' and, most astonishingly, 'password' are among some of our most popular password logins, it seems highly unlikely that people will feel compelled to live up to the recommendation.

If anything, the lesson of Heartbleed is that we are now all inclined to share our data on an inherently insecure platform. The only response may be simply to limit the amount we put on offer. Users need to distinguish between harmless fun and potentially compromising actions, while rethinking the trust they put into some of the more obviously insecure areas of the web. The Heartbleed bug was a rude, but entirely expected, reminder about the perils of the internet, and one which should force everyone to tread more carefully from now on.

TOP 5 SCIENCE STORIES

1. A new material, Gecksin, has been discovered. It sticks tightly to many surfaces, but releases easily, [like a gecko's foot](#).
2. Researchers have identified a [brain 'antidistracton' mechanism](#).
3. A trial treatment for Parkinson's uses [molecular 'tweezers'](#) to pick apart proteins.
4. New data reveal [Antarctica](#) was once as hot as today's Florida.
5. New research [has found](#) why alcoholism drains muscle strength.

As spring arrives in Cambridge, and flowers begin to blossom, a somewhat less elegant organism inhabits Indonesian rainforests. The Rafflesia flower is over a metre wide and produces a rotting smell to attract flies to help pollinate it. Gross!

FLOWER

of the

WEEK

Comment



Anna May Rowan

We need more open discussions to make sure partners have the same understanding of what they mean by consensual sex.

Sex: knowing when to say no

A few weeks ago, I started dating a guy called Fred. We met at a friend's party during my year abroad and started meeting up, going for meals and coffee until eventually we got together. And then I realised that, when it came to the bedroom, he was a bit of a dick.

This really, really took me aback. We'd been getting on so well, spending hours just chatting to each other every time we met up. He made me laugh, he seemed to get me, really listening when I spoke and asking me to expand if he could sense I was holding back. Basically, he didn't fit the profile of 'I am going to treat you like a piece of meat in bed'. We'd bonded over talking about meditation and Buddhist philosophy for Christ's sake.

When we kissed for the first time though, I realised he was holding my face quite hard. It was like he was worried I might move away and he needed to hold me still. He clutched my neck. He wasn't strangling me – I could still breathe. But he was exerting quite a lot of pressure and I wasn't into it.

This is just one example of the kind of things which made me feel more and more uncomfortable. I liked this guy. I wanted to be with him. But the way he was going about it made

me nervous and increasingly scared. I generally like being with someone who's decisive, but it's always come with trust. Previous experiences were enjoyable for me as well, and not just a way for the other person to get what they wanted.

"IF I'D HAD SEX WITH THIS GUY, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSENSUAL, BUT IT WOULD HAVE ALSO BEEN VERY TRAUMATIC"

I didn't have sex with him. Even though I'd been thinking about it all week, there was something in the way he seemed ready to flip me over and fuck me like a leaky surfboard that made me put the brakes on.

I was sure there had been a misunderstanding at some point, and that this was a temporary glitch. He'd done nothing to hurt me, after all. But he wasn't listening to what I wanted, and seemed to be enforcing what he wanted. So the next time we saw each

other, I told him that sometimes he held me a bit too hard. He sighed, exasperated, and told me I was the first woman to complain. He had a lot more experience than me anyway, so what did I know? He then started making jokes about how he was supposedly "brutalising" me.

The experience gave me a glimpse of how hard it can be to speak up when someone is not taking what you want seriously – especially if you want to be with that person, however misguided. I seriously doubted my automatic unwillingness to sleep with this guy and my concern for how he was treating me, because it entirely went against the connection that I'd thought we had. Unfortunately, there's no fog horn to sound the alarm. It's just you and your feelings versus the other person – you have to listen to yourself and choose when or whether to say 'no'.

The topic of consent is very black and white, and so it should be. No means no. But I'm not talking about strictly non-consensual sex. If I'd had sex with this guy, it would have been consensual, but it would have also been very traumatic. It would have involved me silencing my own alarm bells because... because I didn't

want to make this an issue, because I wanted to follow through with what I'd started, because I wanted us to be together and for our sex life to be easy. And I wonder how many women do go through with things they don't want to, without saying anything, and are left feeling violated.

It's a judgement call. Sometimes we may feel awkward or unsure at the beginning of sex, but then go on to enjoy it. The important thing is feeling that the other person respects your body and will respect your wishes, whether they differ from theirs or change during sexual intimacy. Being open about how you feel will ultimately only help your relationship or, like in my case, reveal flaws that you needed to see.

Some names have been changed

Have any views on this week's comment pieces? Tweet us @VarsityUK, or write in to letters@varsity.co.uk



Carina Tyrrell

The Miss Cambridgeshire and Miss England competitions are about more than just appearance.

Why I stood for Miss Cambridgeshire

At the beginning of this month, I was lucky enough to be chosen as Miss Cambridgeshire. I went from ward rounds in the hospital and studying pathology to interviews with reporters and attention from the national media.

There is a question I have been asked on several occasions: why did I enter a Miss England competition, from a background as a student doctor at Cambridge University?

Firstly, I'd like to dispel a common myth about Miss England, which is that it is just a beauty pageant or a modelling competition, which judges on looks alone. The Miss England competition is much more: it judges the whole person.

The Miss England competition began in 1928, when Nonni Shields took the title. Since 1955, the winner has gone on to compete at Miss World, with Miss England 1964 Brenda Blacker still holding the record for the best placement, finishing as first runner up.

The contest has developed over the years and today involves so much more than merely presenting your outer beauty. A Miss also has to be beautiful on the inside – she must be charitable, eco-friendly, talented, and sporty.

These are indeed fundamental elements that girls are judged on for the Miss England competition, and I should add, for the Mr England

competition as well. Only a girl who is well rounded can win the title and become a truly beautiful ambassador for the country.

Intelligence and beauty work hand in hand. Miss England has been attracting girls from a variety of backgrounds over many years. As an example, this year so far we have had girls entering regional finals whose main careers range from accountants to student policewomen, from a council surveyor to even a church preacher.

I do not see my participation as a student doctor as surprising or think that competing is demeaning to women; actually, it's empowering. I believe in women's rights and that women are equal to men, and that a woman should have the right to participate in a beauty competition if she wishes to do so.

I want to demonstrate that competing in Miss England is not all about physical attributes and that people should be appreciated based on their overall personality. I would like to show that "beauty and brains" should and can work together for the greater good.

Being beautiful is about more than just external appearances. Being beautiful comprises a multitude of facets. The most beautiful people I know are beautiful because they have a kind and caring heart, and a loving personality.

Since a young age, I have wanted to make a difference to the lives of those who suffer every day and people who are stricken by poverty and disease simply because of where they live or

"I DO NOT SEE MY PARTICIPATION AS A STUDENT DOCTOR AS SURPRISING. COMPETING IS NOT DEMEANING TO WOMEN - IT'S EMPOWERING"

their unfortunate circumstances. This is why I have begun medical training and aspire to go into global and public health.

By making the most of the platform that Miss England brings, I would like to emphasize the importance of inner beauty in the fashion and beauty industries, and highlight that the Miss England and Miss World competitions are not as they are sometimes perceived.

Beauty can do much for charitable causes. Beauty is naturally in the public eye and charity depends on the support of the public, and I therefore believe that beauty has an important role in fundraising and supporting

those in need.

The Miss World charity Beauty with a Purpose is at the heart of the Miss England and Miss World competitions. It is a charity for disadvantaged children around the world, which includes work within the UK.

Over the last three years alone, Miss England has raised over £500,000 for children, with funds being spent here in the UK. As a 'Miss' I hope to use my title to help people in a new way along side my role as a doctor, through fundraising, helping in both the local community and abroad, as well as being a good ambassador.

Indeed, so important is the charity aspect of the competition, that part of the judging process looks at the amount each contestant has raised. I would like to encourage you to make a donation. In doing so, you are supporting disadvantaged children around the world, as well as supporting me in the Miss England competition.

On 16 June 2014, I am running for Miss England at the national final in Torquay. I want to help people in need in a new way, by combining studying to become a doctor with the fundraising and community work opportunities that being a Miss brings. I would also like to develop the image of beauty, which covers many different important elements – much more than external appearances.



Disability welfare cuts are ruining lives



Abbi Brown

The last twenty years have seen great steps forward in the quality of life for disabled people, but ongoing welfare changes are turning the basic rights into privileges.

Imagine, for a moment, that you cannot walk further than fifty metres in a day. You can just about manage to shuffle around your house, but you can't leave it without assistance. Imagine that you can use your hands, but cannot hold or lift heavy objects, and are therefore unable to cook yourself a meal. You need to drive, be driven, or use a wheelchair to get around, and if you don't have someone who can cook for you, you will need to pay for ready meals or Meals on Wheels in order to eat. There are numerous other aspects of daily life which are also tiring, difficult, and expensive.

Under the coalition government's recent cuts to disability benefits, this level of impairment will no longer be recognised as a disability. You will receive no financial assistance whatsoever.

Over the past four years, the disabled population of Britain has been subject to a gradual but vicious attack by its own government. Until now, other related benefits aside, there have been two main forms of financial support intended not as a viable form of income (like Incapacity Benefits) but solely to fund the costs of living with a disability.

One of these was the Disability Living Allowance (DLA). First introduced in 1992, the DLA comprises five stages of allowance: lower, middle, and higher rate care; and lower and higher rate mobility. The conditions described above would have entitled a DLA recipient to the lower rate care and lower rate mobility components, a total allowance of

£43.10 per week. This sum is not, and was never intended to be, enough money to live on, but rather it helps a little towards any disability-related costs.

DLA is, as of this year, being replaced with Personal Independence Payments (PIP). Whilst recipients of middle and higher rates of the current DLA will certainly be affected by this, two main consequences of the change to PIP are that the care component is being cut entirely, and the range of mobility impairment deemed disabling will be reduced from 50 to 20 metres.

Mobility-impaired individuals who can still walk 20 metres will now be expected to pay for basic forms of assistance – wheelchairs, walking frames and extra petrol – themselves, although it may be physically impossible for them to be able to find employment. Disability charity Scope estimates that, under these changes, 600,000 disabled people will ultimately have their disability benefits taken away.

The second main form of disability benefit is the Independent Living Fund (ILF). Created by the Labour government, the ILF helps severely disabled people to live as independent a life as possible. ILF is paid directly to claimants, who can then use the money to fund the most appropriate forms of assistance. For some, that might mean purchasing expensive, specialist electric wheelchairs not available on the NHS, or adapting their homes. For others, that might mean employing a friend or family member as a carer.

While the DLA is, admittedly, a fairly inefficient benefit, involving a huge quantity of paperwork and incredibly invasive (and often incorrect) assessments, the ILF is widely acknowledged to be one of the most successful benefits in the UK. Cutting out all middle men and leaving absolutely no opportunities for fraud, it

“DAVID CAMERON PROMISED TO MAKE THE NEEDS OF DISABLED PEOPLE A PRIORITY, AND MANY OF US BELIEVED HIM”

simply allows severely disabled people to access the support they need, when they need it. The effects of this have been life-changing, allowing severely disabled people to learn, work, volunteer and live actively as part of their communities.

In January 2015, the ILF is to be closed. There is no apparent reason for this, except that ILF claimants are the demographic least capable of protesting for their rights. The coalition claims that the money currently spent on ILF will be given to local councils, to spend as they see fit. It will not be ring-fenced. Realistically, this means a return to brief home visits from agency carers, and that Britain's 18,000 most severely disabled will be confined to their homes or, worse, to institutions. With nobody to assist the

ILF's current recipients in going to work, employment will no longer be possible.

Once again families will be left financially struggling as parents have to give up work to care for their disabled children without recompense, and as severely disabled people are left to be entirely dependent upon benefits.

During his election campaign, David Cameron promised to make the needs of disabled people a priority. As the father of a severely disabled child himself, many of us believed him. The sad truth is that, had Ivan Cameron been born into a less financially privileged family, and had he survived into adulthood, his future would have been bleak.

I grew up being taught that disabled people could achieve anything, and that I had the right to lead as independent and fulfilling a life as possible regardless of the expenses that my disabilities might incur. But the coalition government is teaching me to see the quality of life which I and my more severely disabled friends enjoy not as a right, but a privilege – a privilege which is rapidly slipping away.

Since the welfare reforms began, the deaths of at least thirty people with disabilities have been attributed to these changes. This list does not include the disabled people who die needlessly due to neglect and overcrowding in government-run institutions such as hospital units and care homes. Please find 'Calum's List' and sign the petition to prevent it from growing even longer.



A View from the Bridge

Alice Udale-Smith

The clubs shut down, while the libraries stay open late: exam term is always a surreal experience for the uninitiated. In any other year I would already be counting down the days to the dizzying blur that is May Week. This year, however, my countdown is focused on a much more sobering event: graduation. In just two months, my four years will be up and it will be time to escape the bubble for good.

It is tempting to try and cram as much as possible into the last few weeks and do all those typically Cambridge things I've somehow never got round to (or at least admit that I still haven't visited the Fitz, despite regularly editing articles on its masterpieces). In reality, my hastily compiled bucket-list is unlikely to drastically change my Cambridge experience.

So what will I leave behind me when I graduate? A quick dinner-time crowd sourcing of my fellow finalists reveals a surprising range of claimed legacies. One proudly claimed to have been the reason our college bans students from bringing their own furniture, after abandoning a specially bought revision-sofa in a college teaching room last year and upsetting housekeeping. Much more common however, was everybody's focus on their extra-curriculars, from college sport, to the JCR, university societies or charity work.

It's hardly surprising that it's Cambridge's success, or lack of it, outside of academia that has been making news over the Easter holiday. Trinity proved why we like them slightly more than St John's by beating Somerville College, Oxford in the final of University Challenge. This news went some way to restoring Light Blue pride following Cambridge's chaotic defeat in the Boat Race.

In other news, the two students fined by the Union for unfurling a sign telling David Willetts to 'fuck off' during his talk last term delivered a giant cheque for 'sod all' to the Union in place of their £20 fine. Unfortunately the video of the attempted handover was not nearly as dramatic as I had hoped, with the students simply looking really very silly when they couldn't find anybody at the Union prepared to actually take the cheque off them.

For those of us with less dramatic legacies, maybe it's not so important what we leave behind us but what we take from our time at Cambridge. Faced with the question of what they would take from Cambridge, eventually one of my dinner-time companions ventured, 'well, I suppose you now have friends to crowd-source opinions for your column, Alice'. So whilst Cambridge hasn't given me any particular wisdom just yet, at least I have something to show for the four years I've been here.

Border Agency brutality



Hesham Mashhour

Serious questions need to be asked about UKBA's treatment of LGBT+ asylum seekers.

The UK Border Agency continues to be a fundamental part of a government still uncertain of its policy regarding LGBT+ rights. Though it was a Tory government that legalised same-sex marriage last year, one must never forget that less than half of conservatives voted in favour. More recently, it was also a Tory government, trying to appease its conservative voters, that appointed Nicky Morgan as the new Minister for Women: Nicky Morgan is a staunch opponent, on principle, of two women getting married.

The UKBA is, in many respects, Britain's 'iron curtain' when it comes to handling visa applications, stay permits and asylum seekers. But unlike the government it is part of, when it comes to dealing with the rights of LGBT+ individuals, the UKBA consistently chooses a rather aggressive policy. The UKBA shamefully continues to eject LGBT+ asylum seekers back to their home countries, condemning them to a life of danger, persecution and discretion.

It was only this month that a deportation order was issued against Cameroonian Alain Tchatchue, who had fled his home country years ago to avoid persecution after neighbours caught him in bed with another man. It has been reported that, while in custody, UKBA officers beat and abused the blind Tchatchue.

The situation is so extreme that, prior to 2010, the UKBA could still deport an individual who identified as LGBT+ even if there were legitimate grounds for asylum. It was assumed that if one could live a closeted life in their home country then one should be returned to it. This grossly homophobic policy was reversed by a Supreme Court decision and not by the agency.

The policy under which the UKBA now operates requires asylum seekers to provide evidence that (1) there is a very real danger to their life back in their home country and (2) that they are actually gay or bisexual – both extraordinarily difficult to prove. The Border Agency seems to encourage asylum seekers to submit pornographic material of themselves with someone of the same sex as evidence of their sexuality.

It is easy to dismiss these concerns and claim they do not affect the student body here at Cambridge – the truth is, they definitely do. One such student is due to return to his country this year after his examinations. He is finding it hard to concentrate on his studies when there is this impending danger of deportation. He doesn't have a job after graduation and is applying for asylum – he wonders how exactly he is expected to prove his homosexuality. Filming a sex tape to please some officer at the UKBA is

something he would never consider.

A Facebook update might do the trick, but would doubtlessly hurt his family back home – his parents treated as outcasts losing their jobs and livelihood and his sibling bullied out of school. Professional legal help seems an impossibility due to the expense involved. Meanwhile, the University's legal service offers no adequate support beyond graduation.

A substantial number of our students here at Cambridge are international students and many are on study visas that are due to expire once their course is over.

Most undergraduates here will not be able to see the situation many LGBT+ international students are in; it is often only through being a welfare officer that these situations become apparent. In many cases, there is a sense of insecurity – one of doom and failure – it's a feeling that things won't last and that eventually they'll be condemned to a clandestine and closeted life or face certain persecution. This is especially true for LGBT+ students from Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

What nation claims to be tolerant yet sends people away to be persecuted? What leading university fails to ensure its students' welfare? What kind of friends sit back and watch their colleagues wither away? These are questions that we need to ask.

Our generation: redefining prostitution?



Morwenna Jones

With the rise of 'mutually beneficial' sexual relationships, the boundaries are blurring between romantic partnership and prostitution.

D.H. Lawrence's essay 'On Pornography and Obscenity', opens with the question, "what is a harlot?" His answer: "If she was a woman who took money from a man in return for going to bed with him – really, most wives sold themselves, when they felt like it, for nothing". Accusing wives of having sold themselves on the cheap, Lawrence goes on to say "If a woman hasn't got a tiny streak of harlot in her, she's a dry stick as a rule."

Nowadays, we reel from this in horror. We no longer seek to be either the giver or the receiver in our relationships – we expect to be both. If we are lucky enough to be seeing someone who does have money coming out of their ears, we don't expect to be showered with gifts. We buckle up and set ourselves the challenge of fending for ourselves.

Yet, scratch the surface of our society's views on relationships and it appears that sexually, we haven't moved on from Lawrence's evaluation of 1920s 'harlots'. The only difference is that our generation is redefining what it means to be a 'harlot' or, to use the non-archaic term, 'prostitute', meaning that capitalising on your body or appearance is increasingly socially acceptable.

The most obvious example of this redefinition is taking place in the US, where Elizabeth Raine (not her real name) is auctioning her virginity online. On her website, the 27 year-old describes herself as 'exceptionally well educated, financially independent, and entirely willing to lose my virginity in this manner'. A medical student from a wealthy family, she is offering men from around the world the chance to bid for a twelve-hour date, during which they may take her

virginity.

With bidding currently at \$130,000, it looks like a great way to raise a lot of money quickly – something any student with substantial loans would die for. Elizabeth's education is a significant factor. Not only a virgin, she's an intelligent young woman who has rationally thought through selling her virginity, and effectively lessened the guilt of her potential bidders. Rather than taking advantage of a woman who has no other option, they're engaging in a mutually beneficial deal, on an equal footing, with a partner who has reflected on their engagement as much as they have.

The phrase 'mutually beneficial relationship' also happens to be the slogan of SeekingArrangement.com, the world's most popular 'Sugar Daddy' dating site. For members, it offers 'Sugar Daddies' (and 'Sugar Mommies') the chance to date beautiful, young, ambitious women, and 'Sugar Babies' the chance to date wealthy, affluent, powerful men or women.

But it's not just dating. The site also prides itself on the fact that many 'Sugar Daddies' have helped their 'Sugar Babies' with tuition fees and now the site is being increasingly criticized for 'pay per date' arrangements. To assume that sex isn't a principal consideration in 'sugar' relationships, or that they're based purely on intelligence, is nothing other than naïve.

Seeking Arrangement is specifically defined as a 'dating' site having nothing to do with whatever occurs between two consenting adults, though it differs from Elizabeth Raine's virginity auction in only one area: rhetoric. Whereas Seeking Arrangement coined the phrase 'mutually beneficial arrangements', one of the first phrases

to appear on elizabeth-raine.com are the words 'I have made the decision to auction off my virginity'.

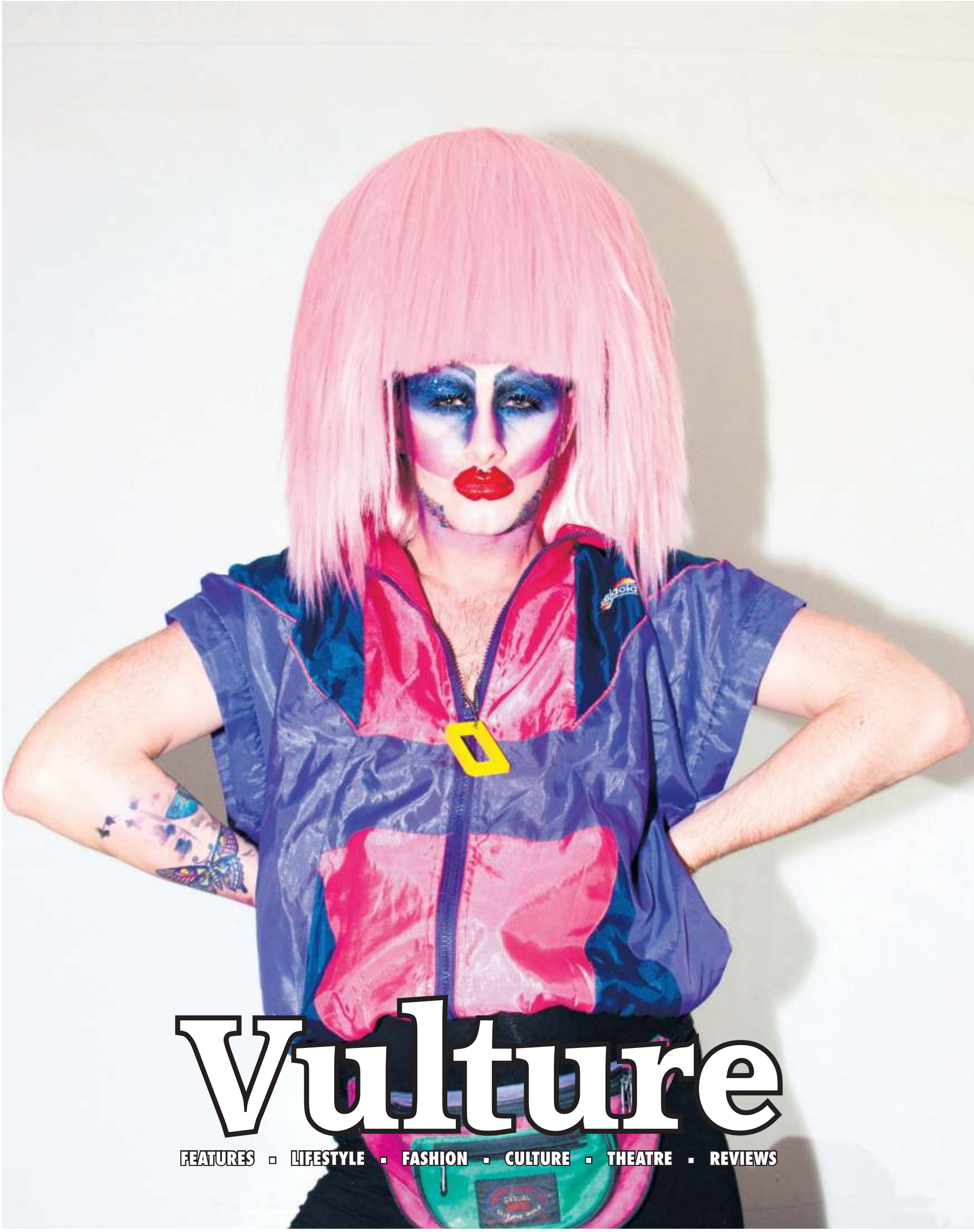
It seems fitting to ask where the real difference is, or even which is worse. On the one hand, Seeking Arrangement offers the chance to enter into an 'arrangement' in return for mental, emotional and, crucially, financial support. On the other, Raine has openly made the decision to profit from her virginity.

So, what about what they have in common? In both instances, people are capitalising on their appearance by exchanging a relationship, whether sexual or not, in return for what are generally financial gains. It has led to arrangements – both sexual and romantic – becoming priced and valued.

This says something important about how we see relationships today. The term 'trophy-wife' is thrown around today as an object of scorn, yet our university has the fourth highest number of 'sugar babies' in the UK. We shrink in disgust at the prospect of being completely reliant on the financial strength of another, but that changes when we see it as a transactional 'arrangement' as opposed to a relationship in which we depend on our other-half.

Ours is the age in which 'sexual activity', be it sex or a relationship, is on the auction block. We capitalise on our appearance and our time and company is available in exchange for 'pampering' and 'support'.

As Lawrence says, not to have a trace of harlotry in oneself is to be 'as dry as a stick'. But if it's a choice between climbing the ladder of life using my face and my features or being a dry stick then, call me old-fashioned but I'd rather be a stick and get by on my own.



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Vagenda?



JILLY LUKE TALKS TO THE WOMEN TAKING ON THE GLOSSY MAGS - OH MY!

The tale of two women fighting back against mainstream women's glossy mags...

What's your Vagenda?



Rhiannon Lucy Cosslett and Holly Baxter

From quizzes to see which member of One Direction you should marry, to advice on how best to wear white denim, to Cosmopolitan's memorable and well-documented article which suggested bringing donuts into the bedroom, anyone who's ever had a haircut knows that women's magazines run a brand of crazy that's all their own.

In January 2012, The Vagenda stepped into this soupy quagmire with a resounding WTF? and they haven't stopped laughing since. We caught up with them in the run-up to the launch of their book to ask about funny feminism, Lena Dunham's *Girls* and their feminist icons.

The Vagenda was set up by Rhiannon Lucy Cosslett and Holly Baxter when they were living together after university. "We were very, very skint", they explain. "We read a lot of women's magazines in that period and they were demonstrably lacking so we started reading them out in silly voices to make them more entertaining than we thought that we could probably make a blog about it. A satirical kind of funny blog for our friends."

The Vagenda may have started out as a blog for their friends, written by their friends—"We got together 8 friends from uni and bullied them into writing things"—but

they couldn't have expected the impact it would make. The site got 60,000 hits in its first night and has run from then on, taking submissions from all over the place on topics as various as miscarriages, being a stay-at-home mum, dating older men, fashion, Geordie Shore and Maria Miller—and that's just this month.

Humour is at the heart of The Vagenda but "funny" probably isn't the first word that would spring to mind when people think of feminism—"That's why it's successful. Humour is a really powerful weapon."

"Poking fun at feminists is how people got around talking about gender equality," Holly explains. "If you're being the funny one and they can't respond in that way then they have to respond angrily and they look like twats."

I was once told off for saying that I like Caitlin Moran by a Cambridge feminist who informed me that The Female Eunuch was a very entertaining read, actually, and that more teenage girls should get into it. How does being funny and populist interact with the heavier theoretical stuff?

Both Rhiannon and Holly are aware of the importance and usefulness of academic feminism "But at the other end of the spectrum you have swathes of young women who don't even know what feminism means so you need an

accessible side to things as well as an academic one."

To be a feminist by The Vagenda's standards, all you need to do is believe in gender equality—"that's the only requirement." They argue that when the entry requirements are that low, "you'll find that most people in your life are feminists and when they find that out, they're really receptive." They're also keen that people apply a feminist ethos to wider society: "More and more people are using their personal feminism to investigate things they believe in. That doesn't necessarily mean they feel they have to sign up to a checklist of ideologies."

Fourth Wave Feminism has been called out for being nasty by a number of commentators. But isn't that the nature of politics? "I think the reason it's highlighted in the media around feminism is so people can say that feminism is like herding cats, you can never get those women to agree with each other."

They are willing to concede, however, that the internet has made the trend within feminism of trashing other women, which has existed for decades, more visible—"We definitely experienced that first hand."

Social media has had a positive impact too, and one that The Vagenda has profited from enormously. They describe it as "invaluable" from an awareness-raising perspective and for generating "a diversity of voices", but are adamant that feminist engagement shouldn't stop there: "It's not just about that, there are things you can do in the offline world for the

"We were very, very skint cause."

In the offline world, Lena Dunham's *Girls* seems to be picking up the mantle for voice of our generation, with the full backing of The Vagenda. They describe the show as an "honest portrayal of something that I haven't seen before", contrasting the "sugary or watered-down or really over the top" portrayals of women prior to Dunham with the grit and honesty of her show.

Although Dunham has been criticised in the press for the lack of diversity in her show. The Vagenda is keen to support her, saying the answer is more content and a bigger plurality of people "rather than tearing down the stuff that is attempting to do that."

In terms of their feminist icons, they have a great respect for many female journalists and "women who make feminism interesting," but Rhiannon says her ultimate feminist icon is her mum. "We were both raised by single mums so we both have that kind of unique relationship that you have as the single daughter of a single mum, that's been really nice, to have them around."

And as for the book, released on 1st May, it was strictly embargoed when our interview took place, but they did let slip that it was "a continuation of the website" with all-new content.

Initial reviews have been a bit of a mixed bag, but based on my interview with Cosslett and Baxter we can rest assured that their book will echo the irreverent, funny and sharp voice of their website.

Jilly Luke

"Poking fun at feminists is how people got around talking about gender equality..."

WORDS THAT *FIGHT* THE PATRIARCHY

AMY HAWKINS

1892 *The Yellow Wallpaper* | Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Jane, diagnosed with a “hysterical tendency” by her husband, is confined to the upstairs bedroom of their summer house. Left with nothing but her journal to record her thoughts in, she becomes fixated with the yellow wallpaper that lines the walls around her. Her journal entries reveal her descent into psychosis, as she becomes the first of many literary ladies imprisoned in the attic. Gilman’s collection of short stories preceded even the first wave of feminism, the struggle for suffrage, and exposed just how trapped women were.



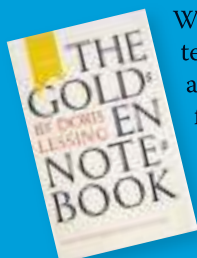
Laura Bates | *Everyday Sexism* 2014

Why does Cambridge produce so many high profile feminists? Is it because it is such a progressive, feminist, equitable environment, where discussion thrives and ideas are born? Or is it because there is an insidious sexism to the structure and culture of the university that makes women angry? Either way, Bates is one of the more recent Cantabrigians to be paving the way for young women. Her project, which, would you believe it, compiles accounts of everyday sexism – from catcalls to harassment to intimidation – shows the world how pervasive misogyny is, and makes women around the world feel a little less alone.



1962 *The Golden Notebook* | Dorris Lessing

Waving the flag for British feminism, Lessing’s novel extends the reach of feminism into pacifism, anti-Stalinism and Communism. Four notebooks come together, in a final, fifth golden volume, in which our protagonist Anna Wulf considers women’s struggles with the conflicts of work, sex, love, maternity, and politics. Lessing said this book is about fragmentation: Wulf’s fragmented mind reflects the paradoxical society in which she lives and endeavours to understand.



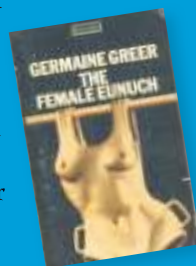
C. Thimmarsh & M. Sweet | *Girls Think of Everything* 2002

The brown paper bag, the chocolate chip cookie, the windscreen wiper: three everyday essentials that were invented by women. This beautifully illustrated children’s book tells the stories of women who saw a problem, and thought of a way to fix it. Many of these inventions were thought up a long time before women had equal rights to men, and as a consequence, we learn, many women didn’t get their due credit or had to register their patents in their husband’s name. Nevertheless, their ingenuity is inspiring, and dispels the myth that men Do Things while women Are Things.



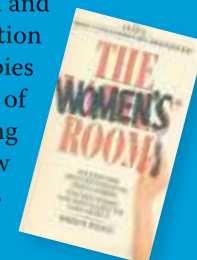
1970 *The Female Eunuch* | Germaine Greer

This is a book that needs no introduction – the title says it all. Society hates women, who are taught to hate themselves, and the pressures of desexualisation render women eunuchs. Greer is a bombastic figure of the second wave that is not without controversy. She resigned from Newnham College after the controversy surrounding her opposition to the appointment of a transsexual fellow, and said that Cheryl Cole was “too thin” to be a feminist. Nevertheless, the influence of the book that launched her career cannot be denied.



Marilyn French | *The Women’s Room* 1977

Written in the late ‘70s, *The Women’s Room* builds upon the preceding decades of female emancipation as it follows the life of Mira from adolescence to independence, via the worlds of domesticity, childbirth and freedom. This was one of the first feminist works of fiction to break into the mainstream, selling over 20 million copies worldwide. One criticism of the novel has been the lack of depth or complexity of the male characters, but considering the norm of having women as little more than window dressing in popular fiction, one can hardly lament French’s decision to forefront women.



The pop-up performance café

A pop up café unlike any other will be taking up residency in Cambridge on 3rd May, promising an experience that’s not just arty: it’s Art.

Hunt & Darton is a fully functioning café that aims to combine art and everyday life to create a social and artistic hub where the usually mundane activity of going to a café becomes a performance: from the waiters to the writing on the blackboard – and via the spoons – everything is part of the show.

Hunt & Darton Café was first launched in Cambridge two years ago on Regent Street, where the originality of the premise proved immensely popular, with patrons coming back again and again for coffee, lunch and artistic appreciation.

The café subsequently travelled up to the Fringe, gaining the rarely bestowed honour of being ‘truly alternative’, standing out against a sea of comedy and Shakespeare to win the 2012 Three Week Editor Award.

Hunt & Darton are a live art collaboration between Jenny Hunt and Holly Darton, who met at Central Saint

Martins and have been working together for seven years, employing a broadly sculptural approach, often creating installations that they can perform in.

Their inspiration is a desire to celebrate and explore the anxieties that surround life choices, particularly for women in today’s Britain. The result is deadpan, and often absurd: where else would you find a café that has themed DIY days where customers are encouraged to serve one another?

They told me: “We are excited to be returning to Cambridge, the birthplace of Hunt & Darton Café and meeting up with local loyal customers who supported us back in 2012.” This time around, new and old customers can expect new jigsaws and will reap the benefits of the unusual flavours that will come out of their newly purchased ice cream maker.

The input of other live art performers is central to the project, particularly when it comes to the waiters, who create their own performances as they serve. Guest waiters will include the all female, five piece performance company Figs in Wigs, duo

Clerke and Joy, whose previous work include a cabaret act starring Georgina and Cassidy from the Hemel Hempstead under-16s Synchronised Swimming Squad, and performance artists Brian Lobel and Scottee. What ‘waiter’ comes to mean during the project will be testament to the degree of interaction and spontaneity the project encourages.

Hunt & Darton is being run in collaboration with Cambridge Junction and will be supported by Cambridge Eat, a two-week culinary festival celebrating local independent producers.

The food on offer will encompass the variety that Cambridgeshire has to offer, while staying true to the café’s origins of Battenberg cake and its now legendary roast dinner sandwich. Other highlights for the festival are set to include a Mad Hatter’s tea party and a secret supper club.

Hunt & Darton will be open 3rd May until 31 May, Wed-Sun 10am – 5pm at 36 Bridge Street.



ACT YOUR AGE

Jasmine Brady wants adults to read more young adult fiction

The recent passing away of Sue Townsend, author of *Adrian Mole*, brought young adult fiction back into the public eye. Twitter was full of memories of teenage years spent reading the angsty diary of a spotty thirteen year old, and many declared their intentions to revisit the words of the character who once upon a time seemed to be just like them.

A classic like *Adrian Mole* raises questions about the relationships adults have with young adult fiction. We have fond memories of the books we used to love but usually don't choose to read a young adult book once we've grown up. Lots of adults are wary of young adult fiction. Why is this? Should adults stay away from young adult fiction?

Personally I'm happy to have entered decade three of my life and still be reading young adult books. I treat young adult fiction as a kind of comfort reading. I reread William Nicholson's beautiful *Wind on Fire* Trilogy this time last year when lots of my friends disappeared into the library for exam term. I felt confident that Nicholson's depiction of ten year olds on a mission to save their city was preferable to the philosophy set texts I was supposed to be focusing on and I stand by that decision.

Our generation has been lucky enough to grow up with some incredible children's and young adult fiction and we shouldn't be ashamed to treasure the books we used to love. I could easily continue to talk about revisiting the books I used to read – I reach for the *Harry Potter* books at the slightest

excuse – but I don't think this is what people are thinking of when they say adults should stay away from young adult fiction.

"I've discovered a previously ignored room at the back of the bookstore that's filled with masterpieces I've never heard of"

Reading an old favourite is a kind of nostalgia, and I think would be seen as an acceptable time to break the general rule that adults should stay away from young adult fiction. But why should there be a rule in the first place?

It's not clear what people are referring to when they argue that adults should stay away from young adult fiction. The term 'young adult' encompasses such a wide range of books that it's hard to see how anybody could object to them all.

Young adult fiction is not bound by genre; it is about the experience of growing up. Within young adult fiction are the range of genres present in fiction generally. It's hard to see how anyone can know they won't enjoy them all.

If you don't want to read about a teenage love triangle that's fine, stay away from *Twilight*, but this isn't not wanting to read young adult fiction at all. Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief* is about as far from *Twilight* as stories about young people go but it's still in the same section at Waterstones.

Not all young adult books fit into the same mould. When we recognise that 'young adult' is an age recommendation rather than a genre it becomes much harder to insist that adults should stay away.

One thing people might object to in young adult fiction is the dominance of the teenaged protagonist. The main characters in books written for teenagers are usually teenagers themselves.

Personally I find it hard to see why the age of the protagonist should be a reason not to read something. We are almost always hugely different from the characters in the books we read. We read books about people of different races, religions and nationalities to ourselves and about characters who live in entirely different worlds to the one we inhabit.

Why should it be difficult to read a book about somebody younger than ourselves? Yes, Katniss Everdeen is four years younger than me. She's also able to hunt (I can't), kill (almost certain I couldn't I couldn't) and lead a rebellion (I definitely wouldn't manage). If we made it a requirement of the books we read that the protagonist is like ourselves we would rule out almost every book on offer.

The illegitimacy of this idea that we can't read young adult books once we're no longer teenagers has been put nicely by author Nick Hornby. He wrote: "I see now that dismissing young adult books because you're not a young adult is a little like refusing to watch thrillers on the grounds that you're not a policeman or a dangerous criminal, and as a consequence, I've discovered a previously ignored room at the back of the bookstore that's filled with masterpieces I've never heard of".

It's right that young adult fiction is distinguished from fiction but it's important that we understand this distinction for what it is. The distinction is there to help teenagers find books with protagonists of their own age that they are likely to enjoy reading.

It does not mean that young adult books will not be enjoyed by adults, or that they are the only books young adults will enjoy or manage reading. It should be understood as a practical distinction that is there to make it easier for young adults to find books, not as a conclusive distinction that separates the books young adults read from books for adults.

Lots of teenagers are happy to explore books outside the young adult classification. The same should apply for adults reading teenage fiction. These divides in how books are distributed shouldn't be seen as prescribing what we should read. Many adults will be able to find young adult books they enjoy and it just doesn't make sense to avoid them purely because teenagers like them too.

A Closer Look: Joan of Arc

Thea Hawlin takes a closer look at what's on offer at the Fitzwilliam

As we enter exam term, one could do worse than take inspiration from Joan of Arc. She's one of history's bravest heroes. Emerging from poverty and obscurity in war-torn France at 17, Jeanne d'Arc managed to rally a demoralised army and change the course of history; exams don't look so bad now do they?

In spite of the evident significance of who it depicts, this painting by Rossetti is also a work unto itself, a thing of beauty. Rossetti manages to capture something other than a physical beauty, he captures spirit. Yes his Joan is beautiful, more akin to Waterhouse's *Lady of Shallot* than a French peasant, but through this beauty Rossetti depicts a strength and

determination.

Jeanne created a new role for herself, although she was born a peasant she immortalised herself in history as a woman of courage and conviction. She donned men's clothing and proved that women were equal to men both on the battle field and off it. More than that, she proved a peasant could fight just as nobly as a member of the nobility. She took the constraints of gender and class and fought against them.

In the words of the immortal Kate Bush: "Joanni, Joanni wears a golden cross/And she looks so beautiful in her armour/Joanni, Joanni blows a kiss to God/And she never wears a ring on her finger". In simple terms

Joan of Arc doesn't need 'a man to complete her', all she needs is herself. Holding her weapon of choice (finalists substitute the blade for a pen here) she looks upwards and onwards, begging for it all to be over and yet continuing on the strife despite it all (again, finalists take note).

This was one of the last paintings Rossetti would complete in his lifetime, yet it is one of his most hopeful. Joan's eyes are locked on what is to come. She has faith, not merely in the divine presence, but in her own abilities. Her hands are clasped in prayer but also in knowing determination.

You may not be going to a literal battle this term, but Joan may still serve as an inspiration.





SOCIAL MEDIA: TMI?

Social media offers a convenient way to stay in touch with each others' lives, but perhaps we're a little too in touch. Step aside, Information Age. We're in the Age of Too Much Information (TMI). We've turned a convenient way to say "hello" into a constantly-updated online diary, featuring the most inane details of our lives – from photographs of that intended-to-make-your-friends-envy holiday, to our most recently consumed meals.

This, when you think about it, is surprising. For a society whose motto seems to quite often be: 'I want what I want, and I want it now', we spend an awful lot of time photographing and videotaping experiences, to (hopefully) enjoy them at a later date.

Instant gratification, at least as far as enjoying a meal, a holiday or even a live concert goes, has been put on the back burner. It's not enough for you to have your cake, and eat it, too: you have to ensure that your online social hub of disturbingly labelled "followers" has a front row ticket to the experience. After all, it would be a shame if they couldn't collectively share a stab of annoyance as they catch sight of that crème brûlée you're about to demolish, while they

feast on some reheated frozen pizza, grumble, and continue to scroll down their newsfeed.

If you're in your twenties, you've probably also noticed the surge of life events that have begun to pop up on your newsfeed every couple of days. In a global epidemic of sorts, everyone appears to either be getting engaged, married, or having a baby. While most of the sensible amongst these updaters tend to wait a week or two after the event before they share this with the rest of the world, there appears to be an interesting sub-category: the ones who update on-the-go, as if live-tweeting the event.

It isn't just the cringeworthiness of living out your private moments in a public charade of sorts, it's the thought process that forces you to disengage from the event as it's taking place, pull out your smartphone, and update your status. That's what's troubling. It's almost as if something isn't official until it's been witnessed by your social media followers (or stalkers, as the case might be).

Worrying as all of the above might be, the side effects of oversharing are undeniably chuckleworthy. People you hardly ever said more than hello

to in school or college seem to suddenly want to be your friend (albeit virtually), and not wanting to appear rude, or knowing you're going to dodge them in Sainsbury's, you unwillingly click "accept".

Shakespeare couldn't have put it better when he noted that "all the world's a stage/ And all the men and women merely players". Yet even he couldn't have imagined twenty-somethings orchestrating the following scene: you bump into X, whom you barely know, at a bar. Yet, of course, courtesy of Facebook, you already know where X went to high school and college and who they were dating two years ago. The unspoken, unwritten, yet widely observed rules of online stalking, however, prohibit you from declaring prior knowledge. So instead you nod along, take a sip of your drink, and casually steer the conversation in that direction: duly feigning surprise when they tell you what Facebook told you last week.

We tend to live rather publicly, yet can't quite stop ourselves from being creeped out by how much the people we barely know seem to know about our lives. I guess in the end, you can check in anytime you like, but you can never leave.

Karishma Sundara



Cook(ie) up a storm

What's a gal to do with leftover Easter Eggs? Cook them of course. More specifically, break them into chunks and use them as the chips in a glorious batch of double chocolate cookies. Just perfect with a cold glass of milk. Or something stronger, if required.

Ingredients

100g salted butter, 100g light brown sugar, 1 tsp vanilla extract, 160g self raising flour, 30g cocoa powder, 200g chocolate (broken into chunks)

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 180 degrees celsius and line a baking tray with baking paper.
2. Melt the butter, sugar and vanilla together in a pan and stir to combine.
3. Add the egg and beat it into the mixture.
4. Sift in the flour and cocoa powder before folding it in.
5. Spoon the mixture into equal sized clumps. I make about ten large cookies from the mix but you could make more if you have a less greedy appetite.
6. Bake the cookies for about ten minutes. Remove from the oven and leave to cool on the tray. They are better eaten cold but I can rarely wait that long.

To top it off

Smarties, Mini Eggs, marshmallows or even chopped fruit and nuts are all delicious substitutes if those easter eggs are already gone.

Gigi Perry

Somebody Else's Cambridge

Charlotte Ivers on the talk of the town

Other people's lives are fascinating. This simple fact explains so many apparently inexplicable things: the popularity of celebrity magazines and structured reality television, the lightening swift spread of college gossip, and where all those hours spent on Facebook actually went.

It was with this in mind that I set up Somebody Else's Cambridge, a project in which I interview the people I come across in my day-to-day life. I ask them about their innermost thoughts and emotions and publish the results anonymously online. I don't know quite what I was hoping to get out of this strange activity. But the results have surpassed my expectations.

In Cambridge particularly, it is incredibly easy to fall into the trap of believing that everybody around you has the perfect life. Everybody seems to be doing everything to an extremely high level, maintaining perfect relationships, and understanding every article that they read the first time around. It can feel like you are the only one who isn't perpetually in control. The more people that I interview, the more I realise that this simply is not the case.

We all project a version of ourselves as we would like to be viewed, and it is often only under the veil of anonymity or with our very closest friends that we let this disguise fall. If you are feeling uncertain, like you are not good enough, struggling with a relationship

or responsibility, I can tell you now that you are very much not alone.

It is not just the people who I interview: the Facebook page for the blog has been inundated with messages saying that the writer identifies with one post or another, that the person whom I have interviewed has expressed something that they have always thought, something they never knew anyone else was thinking, something they could never quite put into words.

There is something rather comforting about knowing that everybody else is thinking the same things that you are, despite the initial shock of realising that something you previously thought was unique to you is in fact as common a trait as the tendency to procrastinate.

My aim in setting up this project was to prove, more to myself than anyone else, that everybody's life is interesting if you look at it for long enough. Think of how much has happened in your life, how many different emotions you have felt, how many things you have seen.

Everybody you meet, whether they serve you coffee once, bore you in seminars on a weekly basis or become the love of your life, has the same vast history behind them. You may think that I am stating the obvious, but it is something that never stops amazing me.

We all spend three years of our lives in this city, maybe you will spend more

if you are doing one of those practical subjects that have always mystified me, yet each of us comes away with a completely different experience. You could easily pass three years on the rugby pitch, and never realise that the thriving theatre scene exists as anything beyond an occasional annoying flyer in your pidge. Likewise, you could devote your life to student politics and be only vaguely aware that some people "do the odd bit of rowing".

The onset of finals forces us to look back at our lives here and wonder if we made the right choices, if perhaps we could have done more with what are allegedly the best years of our lives. This can be terrifying, but it can also be liberating. I find it fascinating to see people who have been given exactly the same opportunities as I have, but made different choices and hence live completely different lives.

I think that this above all is the source of our fascination with other people's lives: the fact that we are all so different, yet at heart share startling similarities which occasionally burst through. I got my wish: everybody whom I have interviewed has been extraordinary.

But at the same time, they have been startlingly ordinary. I have found myself identifying with every single person whom I have interviewed. When it comes down to it, we all have far more in common that we would ever guess or be willing to admit.

3 OF THE BEST SUMMER DRINK SPOTS

1. Down by the riverside

Grab an ice-cold bev from the Anchor on Silver Street and dangle your legs over the Cam. It is a popular spot and it's easy to see why. Linger as long as you like or just sit for a few minutes; the choice is yours.

2. Drink(s) with a view

Unrivalled views of Cambridge? Check. Vast cocktail menu? Check. Weekend barbeque menu to accompany your drink? Check. Look no further than the Varsity Hotel Roof Terrace on Thomson's Lane.

3. Booze Cruise

You're in Cambridge so this one's obligatory. Stop in at the Cambridge Wine Merchants on King's Parade to purchase your drink(s) of choice. Flash the plastic if you're a Union or Wine Society member to secure a discount. Go down to the river.

Rent a punt. Row your boat and voila: booze cruise with style.





KLUB KUNST

Photography | Peter Fingleton, Talent | Poly Ester, Mikey Woodbridge, Megan Death, Dinah Lux, Jonbenet Blonde, Annie Pics, Amy Zing, Leona Lewisham, Makeup and Clothes | Talent's Own. With thanks to Sink the Pink.





Forward and Back

On a finalist's last Cambridge term.

RIVKAH BROWN

Aged 13, I began the obsessive habit of keeping the ticket stub from every play I went to. Performing my termly ritual of sticking these into (that's right, folks) my scrapbook, it struck me that I've been to more shows in the nine terms I've been at Cambridge than in the nine years I've been theatre-going in London.

While in Easter term there's perhaps not quite the abundance of shows to which we're usually treated to in Michaelmas and Lent (not to mention the theatrical extravaganza that rolls into town in May Week), there's more than enough to keep you going.

The ADC's mainshow line-up is particularly promising, featuring familiar titles Hedda Gabler (Week 1) and The Tempest (Week 2), an exciting dramatisation of A Clockwork Orange (Week 4), and Rebecca Lenkiewicz's Suffragette drama, Her Naked Skin (Week 3).

Besides the more serious stuff, I've found it's essential to include in your Easter Term menu of theatre a healthy dose of comedy to ward off the crazies. I'm therefore greatly looking forward to both Dystopia: The Musical (A Sketch Show) (Week 1 Corpus Lateshow) and STIFF! (Harry Porter Prize Winner, Week 2 ADC Lateshow). Needless to say I will be religiously attending Footlights Smokers.

Only now is the realisation beginning to dawn that I have spent the past three years glutting myself on theatre in a way I probably never will again. Never again (unless Sajid Javid has a brainwave) will shows be so cheap: I am getting perilously close to the upper age limit of the National Theatre Entry Pass scheme, and can feel the minutes slipping away until my student card expires (the apocalyptic consequences of which, admittedly, will extend far beyond the realm of theatre – I might conceivably never buy new clothes again).

Yet what Easter Term also makes apparent is the unique love of the theatre shared by Cambridge's techies and performers, whose blood, sweat and tears are right now being poured as much into art as exams, often even finals. (It's around this time of year that those folkloric tales of people performing right up to the night before their Part II exams start doing the rounds once more.)

What's even more amazing is that the lunacy doesn't always outweigh the logic: though for many starring in an Easter Term show is simply a pleasant distraction from revision, for others, starring in a show might contribute as much to their future career as their degree certificate. It's this term that the best of our actors, directors and producers will be taking part in a showcase attended by respected members of the industry.

It's these people that make leaving Cambridge and its one-of-a-kind theatre scene more exciting than terrifying. It's these people that I'm excited to see outgrow Cambridge, and whose talent I feel will carry them a long, long way.



Shakespeare turns 450

Shakespeare, had he lived, would've turned 450 on April 23rd. Or the 22nd, or the 25th: no-one is quite sure. Still, it's a solid number, and round. It will excuse any number of articles. (Yes, I know.) In Paris La Société Française Shakespeare is organising a week-long conference; the dozens of events planned in Stratford are helpfully outlined at shakespearesbirthday.org.uk. Things are happening pretty much as you might expect.

What Shakespeare's ubiquity obscures, and not just presently, is how *weird* a position he occupies in culture today. In theatre and in film there is a tacit Shakespearean ladder, Hamlet-crowned. An actor must be exceptionally successful to play lead roles in any professional film or play, but to play one of the great Shakespearean roles is to vie for immortality, to append your name to a roll-call of the best performers known. And familiarity with his plays is a sort of cultural obligation, the groundwater of cultural capital.

Cambridge, as ever, acts as a kind of selective microcosm for the world. A season without a hard-hitting Shakespearean mainshow is almost unimaginable. Yet such productions operate via a series of unspoken paradoxes. We rarely mention the difficulty of comprehending Elizabethan language, but how many of

us have let our attention slide and missed whole blocks of verse? The demands of merely parsing meaning are held in balance by extensive foreknowledge of the texts.

"What Shakespeare's ubiquity obscures, is just how weird a position he occupies in culture today"

And then there are the productions themselves: how many shows have we seen constructed around a not altogether productive transposition of the play? It's a curious consequence of the playwright's unassailable pre-eminence that concept-treatments, however gimmicky, are rewarded. (An Onion headline recognised this well: 'Unconventional Director Sets Shakespeare Play In Time, Place Shakespeare Intended!') Is it possible that we are fitting century-old texts to present-day concerns instead of, or at the expense of, contemporary writing? Is this really the most productive application of

such texts? Or are the texts themselves lost amid such effusions of cultural production?

A. D. Nuttall begins his study of William Shakespeare – an attempt at a recovery, in its own way – with an imaginative reconstruction of the writer's reality. In Stratford he thinks: 'The author of the best plays ever written must often have walked in the street in which I was standing.' There is something vertiginous about that sort of recognition which is hard to bring home in words.

I would not presume to fault those – all of us, of course; it's all of us – who have appropriated, transformed, or re-formed Shakespeare. It is in duality that the value of a palimpsest lies, in old and new together. But as the engines of our cultural hysteria settle comfortably into overdrive, I want to suggest that there may be value in separating 'Shakespeare' from Shakespeare. 450 years ago, give or take a few days, a baby boy was born and drew his first breath. 52 years later a wealthy man, renowned, familial, bald or at least balding, drew his last. It may have been a painful breath, or ragged, his lungs heaving like broken bellows. Perhaps it was then that Condell and Heminges began thinking of the First Folio, with whose publication seven years later his legacy was secured; and Shakespeare, as he expired, was already being given a new and different lease on life.

Aron Penczu



Varsity interviews the performers behind sketch show **Dystopia: the Musical**

Dystopia: The Musical (A Sketch Show) features a team of five already well known to anyone who has seen a performance inclined towards the comedic in Cambridge. Written by and starring Milo Edwards, Archie Henderson, Jordan Mitchell, Theo Wethered and Guy Emanuel (with help from a piano), the sketch show questions whether, faced with an apocalypse, we'd make a song and dance about it. As Varsity found out, we probably would.

How did you come to work together?

Jordan: We were put into a collective by a mysterious shaman, who saw us in a footlights smoker once.

How is Guy's beard coming along?

Theo: Nicely. It's nice to see, and touch.

What should we expect?

Archie: The unexpected (but not in a dangerous way; unless you're lactose intolerant).

Why should people come?

Milo: The show will be as good as you can reasonably expect for £6 – i.e. better than subway, but not as good as pizza express.

To what extent are elements of the show held together by a 'concept' or loose and largely distinct?

Guy: The concept is a dystopian musical. We then realised this is not a thing. So we resorted to jokes.

What is the show's relationship to known/unknown, experience/inexperienced performers?

Archie: The experienced performers are in romantic relationships with the inexperienced performers.

How do you feel about Corpus's L-shaped theatre?

Theo: We L-ove it!

How do comedy and music intersect?

Milo: At the hypotenuse.

Do you see the show as a means or an end (or as a vegetable)?

Jordan: More as a vegetable.

Barefoot in the Park
ADC Theatre, 22nd April to 26th April, 7.45pm
Reviewed by Caroline Dormor

★★★★★



The Barefoot in the Park poster greeting audience members in the ADC gives no more away about the play than its rather enigmatic title. But Neil Simon's play, a light-hearted comedy about newly-weds struggling to settle into their NYC apartment (which is definitely not worth the \$125 rent they are paying) is a pleasant surprise.

Barefoot in the Park, which opened on Broadway in 1963, was later made into a successful film. For those familiar with it this is a great chance to see

the comedy in a different setting, or to spend a nostalgic evening in 1960s New York.

For me, completely new to the production (and having sadly missed the Beatles by a few decades), Barefoot in the Park provided an evening of relaxed entertainment.

The relationship between Corie Bratter, impulsive, reckless wife-of-six-days, and her mother, Mrs. Ethel Banks, who has not slept without a board for years, provided most

amusement, in the recognisable format of mother-daughter disputes. The extremes of character were well-portrayed for the most part, though at times Corie's lurched a little too far towards melodrama. However, in the spirit of the production, this had a certain charm in itself.

Paul Bratter, Corie's neat, 'stuffed-shirt' husband, pulled off a particularly impressive Yankee accent, even managing to affect it with a cold following an unfortunate night sleeping below a hole in a skylight in February.


The couple's eccentric neighbour, Victor Velasco, is of a similar spirit to Corie. Between his inappropriate jokes, bizarre habits and odd living arrangements, he provides a great deal of the comedy.


He embodies the spirit of the play with its philosophy that sometimes one must forget it is February, that the grass might be damp – and ones feet will surely get cold – and simply walk barefoot in the park.


And so I encourage anyone feeling submerged in revision, or down after hours spent staring out of the same window, to give this play a go if they fancy trying something unexpected. Do not go looking for an epiphanic ending, a host of witty aphorisms, a tough, gritty issue, or any form of moral awakening.


But if you fancy taking a detour and abandoning the books for an hour or two for some unexpected amusement, go see Barefoot in the Park.


What's Trending?


- 


ToryBoyz @CorpusPlayroom (April 29, 19.00)
Sam is northern, gay and a Conservative. "...it's not who you are, it's what you do. You should hold on to that".
- 

Hedda Gabler @ADCtheatre (April 29, 19.45)
Hedda Gabler is bored, and that's dangerous.
- 

The Angel Rails @ADCtheatre (April 30, 23.00)
A group resolve to take justice on the man who murdered their loved ones ... by whatever means
- 

Round and Round @LarkumStudio (May 2, 20.00)
"The next stop is coming up. I am going to get up and I am going to get off. And you are not going to stop me."
- 

Trojan Women @CorpusPlayroom (May 6, 19.00)
"The waves are free. The war is over. The war begins – for me!"
- 

The Tempest @ADCtheatre (May 6, 19.45)
"While you here do snoring lie,/ Open-eyed conspiracy/ His time doth take."
- 

STIFF! @ADCtheater (May 7, 23.00)
Footlights present the winner of this year's Harry Porter Prize for a one-hour comic play.



Netflix will help you pass your exams (sort of)

Fiona Stainer

I must confess, I haven't watched any new TV in a while. I've finally succumbed to an affair with Netflix (specifically *The Good Wife*) but with a dissertation-shaped elephant in the room, all the series I've been meaning to watch (*Rev.*, *The Crimson Field*, *Jamaica Inn*) have sidled past silently, with far too many episodes stored up on iPlayer for me to have any hope of catching up.

A couple of months ago, I wrote about the dangers of Netflix. Now I've changed my mind, and I'm about to tell you what you want to hear: contrary to popular belief, Netflix is made for exam term.

First and foremost, Netflix provides respite. Sometimes you just need a break. But what do you do when everyone else is revising and you've already caught up on the latest episode of *Game of Thrones*? Netflix is there at all hours to comfort you.

Crucially, it's also flexible. If you start watching a current drama, you're completely at the mercy of schedulers. People say binge watching is dangerous, but catching a drama before it falls off the iPlayer cliff and into the under-world of unwatched and unreachable episodes requires a level of commitment that just isn't realistic in exam term.

And you can guarantee the final episode will be scheduled the night before your first exam – the world is cruel like that. But Netflix is kinder. It doesn't mind if you've been away for a while: the episodes are all still there waiting for you when you get the chance to return.

Netflix also keeps you sane. It's a truth universally acknowledged that in exam term every conversation, no matter how it starts, will always end up being about exams.

You can even apply a kind of exam-term Bechdel Test: 1. Are there ever two people in a room? Yes, at mealtimes. 2. Do these people talk to each other? Yes, when they don't have food in their mouths. 3. Do these people talk to each other about something other than work?

Uh oh. Test failed at the final hurdle. The only two places you can go to escape this manic revision/dissertation-based conversation are a) home or b) Netflix. Home is far, and probably expensive. Netflix is just a click away. Honestly, the fact that Alicia Florrick doesn't stop halfway through a trial and express panic about whether the preface is included in her dissertation word count is more of a blessing than I can put into words.

Okay, so I'll admit, this column is basically an elaborate justification for renewing my Netflix subscription at the worst point possible. But I think I've argued my points well. I have a feeling I won't be saying the same about my first practice essay.

The Trip to Italy

BBC Two



Throughout all the episodes of *The Trip to Italy* that have been aired, I have not once laughed out loud. Yet I still think it's one of the best comedy series of the year so far. It simply relies on an entirely different breed of comedy: gentle, slow-moving and uncontroversial.

Its premise is simple, and could only be pulled off by a pair of skilled comedy professionals such as Rob Brydon and Steve Coogan, playing hyperbolised versions of themselves completing a restaurant tour of Italy for the *Observer Magazine*.

Watching it feels rather like enjoying a meal with two witty friends trying to outdo each other with streams of puns, impressions and little digs at each other's work. As anyone who saw Rob Brydon at *Watersprite* in Cambridge last term will know, his impersonations are unrivalled – except, perhaps, by Coogan himself.

They master Michael Caine and Christian Bale, Ronnie Corbett and Roger Moore, imagining them in delightfully ordinary situations and playing them out together.

Other than the



move to Italy, bringing with it beautiful sweeping vistas of the landscape, this series doesn't stray far from the territory of the first. Even the impersonations mostly remain the same.

It does nod to the ageing process which both men are seen to be going through, sparking a particular change in Coogan who is now struggling to find women interested in him. This mild touch of humility makes his character a little more likeable, while Brydon's concern for his own diminishing head of hair completes a convincing portrait of middle-aged semi-stardom.

This gentleness makes for a refreshing change from some comedies, and is welcome at this fraught time of year.

It's almost worth watching the entire programme on silent merely for shots of the beautiful meals that the pair are lucky enough to tuck into.

Italian cooking relies on a few simple ingredients, cooked to perfection, and it seems that this philosophy has rubbed off on Brydon and Coogan, who prove that a simple concept, carefully crafted, can develop into a real pleasure.

Ellie Gould

The Double

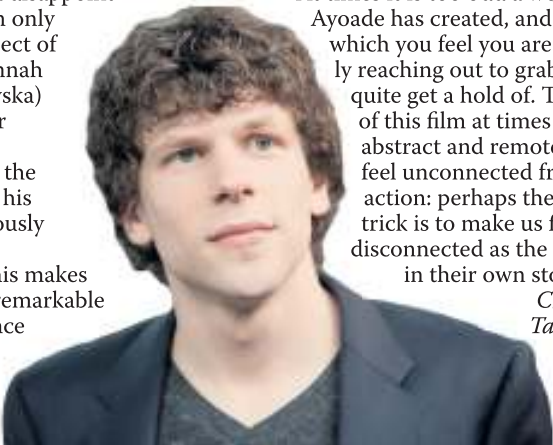
Richard Ayoade



Dostoyevsky's psychohorror *The Double* has never been far from our cinemas. Its world of contrasts – white and black, good and evil, innocence and guilt – most notably influenced Aronofsky's *Black Swan*. Finally, in this film directed by Richard Ayoade, the seemingly undaptable source material is brought to the screen in stylish form, but is sometimes lost in translation.

The *Double* seems an unpromising subject: Simon James (Jesse Eisenberg), a pathetic push-over, lives in a depressing Soviet era style tower block and works in a depressing Soviet era style office full of Kafkaesque rules, broken lifts and tedious tasks to perform for his boss (Wallace Shawn). His life is even worse back at home: he's a disappointing son, he can only gaze at the object of his desire, Hannah (Mia Wasikowska) through a Rear Window style telescope, and the suicide rate in his area is ridiculously high.

All-in-all, this makes him the least remarkable man in existence – until dop-pelganger James Simon



appears, that is. James enters the stage in swashbuckling style, convinces him to do his work for him, takes his girlfriend and gradually takes over his unremarkable little life.

The film is certainly a sensory experience; Ayoade excels at cramming the screen full of contrasting colours, shadow and light, word play and jarring notes to set the stage for the show-down between the two foils, played with great skill by Eisenberg, who seamlessly creates two reverse yet entwined characters.

An expertly-crafted melancholic humour is injected into the piece, which prevents it from becoming too sincere a work about the state of man and instead creates a sharp, witty and macabre piece.

At times it is too odd a world that Ayoade has created, and one which you feel you are constantly reaching out to grab but can't quite get a hold of. The world of this film at times feels so abstract and remote that you feel unconnected from the action: perhaps the film's trick is to make us feel as disconnected as the characters in their own story.

Charlotte Taylor

Transcendence

Wally Pfister



Transcendence generated a fair amount of interest a couple of years ago when it was unveiled as the upcoming directorial debut of Wally Pfister, the cinematographer best known for his collaborations with director Christopher Nolan. And as expected, *Transcendence* looks nice – but that's about all you can say for it.

Johnny Depp plays Dr Will Caster, a world-renowned expert on artificial intelligence with dreams of creating a computer that transcends human technological capabilities.

When A.I. research labs are attacked across the country by technophobic terrorists and Dr. Caster is mortally wounded, his wife Evelyn (Rebecca Hall) attempts to upload his consciousness onto a prototype AI, despite the misgivings of their friends Max (Paul Bettany) and Joseph (Morgan Freeman).

Although Will's mind appears to

EVENT

The Fall

The Fall formed in 1976 and its composition has been evolving ever since. The current line-up, featuring original band member Mark E. Smith, come to Cambridge in May.

9th May
The Cambridge Junction



ALBUM

Sheezus

Lily Allen makes a shamelessly self-aware and glamorous comeback with her third studio album, which features hit 2013 single *Hard Out Here*.

5th May
Warner Bros Records

CONCERT

HCMS Presents:

Renée Reznek Piano Recital. The programme includes the world premiere of *Hade Tata* (Sorry Father) by Neo Muyanga, in tribute to Nelson Mandela

7:30pm, 26th April
Homerton College Great Hall



survive the initial transfer, his need for electrical power and to ensure Evelyn's safety causes them to take extreme measures to evade first the terrorists and then the government. The concept of the computerised consciousness has been knocking around science fiction for over 60 years, which may go some way to explaining why this film feels so generic. The script alludes to ideas of self-awareness, transhumanism and the hidden price of modern technological advancements, but squanders these

potentially interesting topics by failing to give them any dramatic heft. Any pretence towards scientific realism is quickly buried under heaps of Hollywood silliness (mumble mumble nanites, quantum etc.) without the entertaining visual spectacle that typically accompanies such nonsense. Even Pfister's reliable cinematography doesn't show much panache, with the film confined to a series of dull and underwhelming action scenes. The cast acquit themselves fairly well regardless – Hall does most of the emotional heavy lifting, with

solid supporting work from Bettany, Freeman and Cillian Murphy. The film would have benefitted from someone other than the terminally lethargic Johnny Depp as the male lead; his near-comatose acting style doesn't help establish much threat from the supposedly ambiguous motives of his character. All-in-all, the film is muddled and not particularly engaging. Here's hoping that Wally finds more interesting scripts in future – for now, give Transcendence a miss. *Ollie Bartlett*

FILM

Bad Neighbours

Seth Rogen, Zac Efron and Rose Byrne star in this comedy about a young couple who move in next to a raucous frat house.

3rd May
Universal

THEATRE

Things We Do for Love

Natalie Imbruglia makes her stage debut in Alan Ayckbourn's play, a love story between two neighbours.

5th-10th May
Cambridge Arts Theatre

CONCERT

ANGELA HEWITT

Angela Hewitt's ten-year project to record all the major keyboard works of Bach has won her a huge following, and she brings her work to Cambridge this month.

8pm 29th April
West Road Concert Hall

New Worlds

Channel 4

★★★★★

New Worlds, Channel 4's latest period drama, is the sequel to the popular *The Devil's Whore*, which starred Dominic West as Oliver Cromwell. Set two decades later in the 1680s, this new offering by Peter Flannery and Martine Brant is an unusual combination of extensive historical detail and highly implausible female frolicking. The dual narrative is at first a little confusing and, true to many other period dramas, the first episode bounces between an unnecessary amount of heaving bare breast and whispered historical explanations to set the scene. The opening scene depicts scantily clad virginal maidens darting out of their mansion and dousing themselves in the blood of a freshly slaughtered deer (it is unclear exactly why they are dressed so inappropriately or what role in the plot they or their breasts are playing). The plot deals with a very complicated part of British and American history simultaneously. In Massachusetts, the heirs of the Pilgrim fathers are gaining ground against the natives, while a plot emerges to overthrow Charles in England. The dialogue is loaded with the historical detail of this dual narrative. Although arguably this detail is necessary in order to have any idea of the two periods that *New Worlds* attempts to depict, this heavy historical elucidation is written



into the mouths of the characters. The result is that this programme is mostly period, and not a lot drama. What little 'drama' there is, is extreme to say the least. The daughter of the *"Devil's Whore"* Angelica Fanshawe, Beth (Freya Mavor), has a habit of running through the woods with unsuitable men without fear or awareness. She falls for both the local anarchist Abe (Jamie Dornan), who is plotting the downfall of Charles II, and a Native American chief while shipwrecked on American shores. The third episode sees her falling in love with this bone clad native (who can miraculously speak perfect English), adopting their cultural practices and accent, and then burning the body of her lover when he is killed by local New Englishmen. There is however, a definite silver lining: the cast is convincing and delicate. Ned Hawkins, whose father's company owned the land grant from the King, is played passionately by Joe Dempsie, as he defends native rights against the illegal exploitation of his company. Despite a dry beginning, this programme does attempt to address an area of history that is largely overlooked; one where an indigenous people were robbed and persecuted. The result is not wholly successful but certainly interesting. *Zoe D'Avignon*

Calvary

John Michael McDonagh

★★★★★

Any reference to *Calvary* holds a quasi-exotic and mystical status that demands a certain reverence. So it is that John Michael McDonagh sets the tone for his cinematic confessional: a bleakly acerbic, comic and gratingly self-referential portrayal of a contemporary rural Irish community and a Catholic church in decline. Shrouded in the darkness of the confession box, Father James (Brendan Gleeson) hears from a voice beyond the grille that he is to be killed the following Sunday: one of his parishioners, sexually abused by a priest as a child, has chosen him to atone for the sins of the hypocritical and harmful Church. As the rest of *Calvary* hammers home, the question is whether the possibility of expiation or redemption exists in today's society. The irony – in a film which adopts the Christian narrative as its guiding force – seems to be that there is not. In the week that follows, we encounter various characters from James' flock: the domestically abusive Jack (Chris O'Dowd), his vauntingly adulterous wife (Orla O'Rourke),

the offensively rich retired financier (Dylan Moran) or the atheist doctor (Aiden Gillen). They are the multitude that mocks our messiah who, despite flaws of his own, is the film's moral compass. As each day passes, Father James helter-skelters willingly – yet more and more obviously in vain – towards his fate with eschatological bathos and the futile dignity of a sacrificial lamb. *Calvary* is clearly intended as a postmodern passion play, a probing of and a musing on faith, doubt, death and the legacy of the Church's abuse, with a pinch of commentary on Ireland's economic situation thrown in for good measure. The film self-knowingly deflates its exalted aspirations with gallows humour and satire in an attempt at self-deprecation, but the whole premise awkwardly screams 'I'm meta and I know it'. Gleeson's mesmerising screen presence just about holds everything together, but the film fails to achieve the messianic greatness to which it aspires. *James Taylor*



FILM

Rendez-Vous with French Cinema

The annual showcase of French cinema includes a Q&A with Martin Provost, director of *Violette*.

23rd-30th April
Cambridge Arts Picturehouse



UNSUNG BLUES

If S.M. Hadi were a Cambridge student today, his dominance of the full and half Blue sports would be the stuff of legend. An officer's son from Hyderabad in what was then British-ruled India, he was an early bloomer at sport.

Adopted aged two by the family of Sir Asman Jah, the former Prime Minister of Hyderabad State, after his father's death, Hadi was a proficient horse rider and footballer from the youngest age. It can have been no surprise to anyone when he was despatched to further his education in what was still seen as the best training ground in the world for any young and talented sportsman – England.

Some Unsung Blues impress as much with their off-field brio as with their achievements in competition. Not so much S.M. Hadi. With him, what impressed was his sheer, merciless effectiveness at playing whatever sport took his fancy. The wardrobe in his room at Peterhouse must have been bursting with light blue jackets, as he shone at polo, tennis, soccer, field hockey, cricket and table tennis. A particularly fine tennis player, it is at the racket game that his sporting career perhaps hit its greatest heights, as he played at Wimbledon five times, reaching the doubles quarter final in 1926. He also represented India at the 1924 summer Olympics and in the Davis Cups of 1925 and 1926. The run of representative appearances for his country must have more than made up for his frustration at being denied the Light Blues' tennis captaincy on account of his nationality.

Hadi also had a lengthy, if somewhat on-off, first class cricket career, which provided him with ample sporting diversion in his thirties when he was no longer playing tennis at top level. In the mid thirties he was the first batsman to score a century in the Ranji Trophy, the regional championship series which is still a major part of first class cricket in India today. Representative cricket for India could be a somewhat unofficial affair in the years before independence, but this did not hold Hadi back. When an Indian team toured England in 1936, Hadi, then in his late thirties, played several games; likewise he took the field for the Indians in unofficial tests against Australia. He did not retire from top flight cricket until 1941, which saw his last season with Hyderabad in the Ranji Trophy.

"Rainbow" Hadi, as he was known for his multi-disciplinary expertise, could not leave sport behind when he retired from playing. The Cambridge man returned to education as a PE instructor, and founded Hyderabad's football and cricket associations. After a distinguished career in public service, he eventually rose to be Joint Secretary of Education in the Indian government. He died in Hyderabad in 1971.

Cyclists in fine form for Varsity

BUCS results set the pace for Varsity match this weekend

Edmund Bradbury

Sports Correspondent

The past two weekends have seen the UK's best university cyclists compete in two time-trial events, in team and individual format, with Cambridge riders dominating both events. With victory over Oxford in each of those events, the stage is now set for the official Varsity match, on 26th April, which takes place as part of the BUCS 25 mile time trial.

On the weekend of 12th-13th April, the BUCS team time trial event saw the Cambridge men win BUCS gold for the 5th year in a row. Cambridge also won gold in the women's event (as they have done in five of the last seven years). All the men's teams beat the Oxford first team, with the Cambridge firsts beating them by nearly 10 minutes over the 50 kilometre course, and even the Light Blue third team beat the Oxford firsts by over a minute.

Then, on 19th April, Cambridge University Cycling Club (CUCC) President Edmund Bradbury took gold in the BUCS 10 individual time trial, setting a time of 20.40, 23 seconds clear of second place. The men also won the



Hayley Simmonds sets a new women's course record in the BUCS 10 individual TT

Team Gold (combined time of the fastest three riders' times).

The women's event was won for Cambridge as well. Former CUCC President Hayley Simmonds, one of the fastest riders in the country at present, set a new female course record. The Cambridge women also took the Women's Team Gold.

For the climax of the competitive season, CUCC, a venerable sports club (founded in 1874) races at top level across the country in the guise of its new "Cambridge University RT - Hunter Gibson - Chain Reaction Cycles" race team. However the club, a very large one, also takes casual and novice cyclists. BUCS competitions,

including next week's Varsity spectacle, cover a range of challenges including different time trials, road racing, hill climbing, track cycling and mountain biking.

The club has been one of the most successful university cycling clubs in recent years. Cycling enjoys Half Blue and discretionary Full Blue status.

Ups and Downs for Cambridge in Swedish Orienteering Varsity

Zuzana Strakova

Sports Correspondent

The map was almost blank, except for a half-centimetre wide winding strip that the athletes were meant to follow.

So started the training tour preceding this year's orienteering Varsity match in Stockholm. Those who had never orienteered in Sweden were truly thrown in at the deep end. Even for those who had, it was for most of the time a struggle simply to stay out of the blank areas and on the designated route.

The Wednesday training, planned by junior world champion Gustav Bergman, gave a taste of what lay in wait for the Varsity competitors: a week of outstanding orienteering, awe-some forests, and rather frequent feelings of desperation at being totally lost in the wooded landscape. Despite it all, the week was to offer up a victory for the Cambridge women and only a narrow defeat for the men.

It is fitting that Oxford and Cambridge go to Sweden to orienteer, as the sport originated there. In Britain relatively few people know the difference between orienteering, as a fast-paced sport that requires excellent fitness, quick thinking and sharp decision making, and hillwalking with a map. But in Sweden it's a national sport. Right in the centre of Stockholm, one sees orienteering kites (markers that are at control points) dotting the roadside.

The usual "follow a course drawn on a map" task is made all the more complicated, because in Sweden, what is shown as a distinctive path on a map often turns out to be a hardly noticeable



Cambridge's Mark Salmon brings it home in the individual race

track in reality. Add the exquisite contour detail and the general vagueness of the terrain and you have a perfect recipe for making a big mistake and getting lost for at least 10 minutes.

After four days of training, the teams were ready for battle. For Varsity, six people made up the men's team, with four to count, and five made up the women's, with the three best counting. The women have won for three years running, whereas the men have lost out to the Dark Blues recently.

In the event, the Women won over Oxford in a clean sweep by a wide

margin of 70 minutes. The Oxford team were not even saved by their own Scandinavian runner. Cambridge's Katrin Harding, Carrie Beadle and Jess Mason took the top women's spots, with Harding the winner. The Men did not quite match the Women's efforts, losing by ten minutes overall, although a virtuoso performance from Cambridge's Matthew Vokes saw him beat Oxford's elite runner Aidan Smith to secure first place in the individual race for Cambridge. Harding, Vokes and James Hoad then won the relay for Cambridge.

Kickboxing title is Light Blue once again

Raz Jabary

Sports Correspondent

Cambridge University kickboxers defeated their rivals from Oxford in their Varsity match before the break, making it their fourth consecutive win.

Anna Lappala and Francesca Benzi were the first to step into the ring for Cambridge and did well against heavier and more experienced opponents. Despite what promised to be relatively straightforward wins for the Oxford fighters, the two Cambridge women put up great performances that fell just short of a win in each case.

Prithvi Sridhar was the first Cambridge fighter to win his bout. Using his fast legs he was successfully able to keep his opponent at bay for most of the fight. Fellow Light Blue Tim Williamson then stepped up and controlled most of his match, to win in his own unique style.

Fighting an opponent who was heavier and more experienced, Raz Jabary showed fighter's spirit by dominating the second and third rounds of his fight after being knocked down in the first. Fast combinations of punches and kicks saw Jabary take command, with his opponent eventually slumping onto the ropes.

Krav Maga convert Dom Lentrodt then narrowly lost a thrilling contest, finding himself unable to continue. With three fights each, Varsity glory was taken for Cambridge by Kostas Ziovas. After three rounds, the judges scored his bout even and it was decided to move into an additional fourth round decider. Ziovas took victory on points after exploiting his superior stamina.



The great boat race debate: aye or nay?

The boat race is a fearsome athletic challenge for sure. But does it merit its status as a spectator event, and as the undisputed high point of the Varsity sporting and social calendar? Matt Worth and Jon Haines battle out each side of the case...

I'm not going to defend the boat race as a mass sporting experience on the basis that it's a phenomenal test of athleticism and skill. It is, and I acknowledge that some of the event's unique status does derive from the fact that it's one of the sports where university athletes most obviously reach truly elite level. But let's face it, most of us who watch the race have never stepped anywhere near a riverbank in anger, and each year thousands are drawn down to Putney and Chiswick who, as they would often happily admit, can barely tell one end of a boat from the other. Most who enjoy the thrill of the boat race can't really appreciate the high levels of technical skill on display, and so the popular appeal of the boat race really isn't actually about sporting excellence at all.

My case is that we love the boat race because it's simple. Simple in the absolute sense that you don't actually need to know anything whatsoever about the sport to follow and enjoy the event. All you need to know is which way the boats are pointing, which one is yours, and which one is in front. It is an

absolutely straightforward and completely binary way of knowing whether we are or are not beating, or have or have not beaten, Oxford, and entirely conducive to being followed from a pub garden while facing away from the river and craning to see a TV. You don't have to pay much attention to it to get out of it the deep sense of collective joy that is trying to

give the other place a hiding. And that's the other way in which the boat race is simple and great: it appeals to our deeply held desire, as humans, to identify our

tribe and cheer for them against some "other". A lot of us live out our days trying our best to be intellectuals, so it's good to get out of the box once in a while and just harmlessly hoot and holler.

You couldn't follow any other sport in the same manner. I think the fact that most people who arrive in Cambridge had not previously given a fig about rowing actually helps. Football fans arrive with deeply held loyalties to their existing clubs, but rowing is different. Rowing is purely, simply and uniquely about being Cambridge. In quite an immature way. Amen to that.

MATT WORTH

I'm certainly not rubbishing the boat race as an athletic endeavor. Obviously it's hugely demanding, and merely to row in it is a massive achievement at elite level. But let's face it, actually watching people row is fun for a tiny moment at best. I think to enjoy watching the boat race, you really have to feel a different kind of allegiance to the one I feel to Cambridge University. My allegiance is mainly to my college, first and foremost – I get involved in sport there. I don't really feel much connection to Light Blue teams and I would have to say that Oxford v Cambridge, as a theme, doesn't mean very much to me. Unless you're actually competing – in which case it's about your own achievement – then who cares? Myself, I probably had more of an interest in Varsity loyalty before I came to Cambridge, when I was an aspiring Cantab, than I do now I'm here.

I suppose the boat race can be a good day out in its own way, and I have been once. But to be honest, if anyone I was with actually watched any of the rowing that day,

then I missed that. The logistics of rowing mean it's hardly an ideal spectator sport even if you can get a good view, which you probably can't – unless you're watching TV. I feel that Mark Twain's adage about golf might be adapted, here – the boat race is essentially a good way to ruin a nice day drinking by the river.

There's also a social cachet to following the boat race that it helps if you're into – and I'm really not. Let's face it, boaties – the good ones – as well as being great athletes are beautiful, beautiful people. I'm not denying that. A lot of people do find enormously cool, while having them that we often have towards elites.

Rowing has a clique effect and following the boat race gives us all our chance to join the exclusive clique at least for a day. For a lot of people this is fun, and I'm not knocking it, but as I don't really buy into the "cool" image in the first place, it is all a bit lost on me.

To be honest, my parents like the boat race a lot more than I do.

JON HAINES

boaties

Rowing has a clique effect and following the boat race gives us all our chance to join the exclusive clique at least for a day. For a lot of people this is fun, and I'm not knocking it, but as I don't really buy into the "cool" image in the first place, it is all a bit lost on me.

To be honest, my parents like the boat race a lot more than I do.

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Sport



Unsung Blues

Telling the overlooked story of an Indian cricket, tennis, polo and chess legend...



Cambridge cyclist Edmund Bradbury on his way to victory in the BUCS 10 individual time trial

Cambridge man Hoad stars at London marathon

Su-Min Lee

Sports correspondent

Amid the media attention on the elite race at the London Marathon on Sunday, it would have been easy to forget that within the 30,000 strong field there was also a strong Light Blue contingent. They were competing for charity and a new PB, as well as in the BUCS and Varsity marathon competitions, which are folded into the London event.

The story of the day for the Light Blues was Cambridge runner James Hoad's time of 2:26:17, good enough for 15th place in the non-elite category, and a stunning time for a marathon debutant. Hoad finished just 18 minutes behind Britain's Mo Farah.

Hoad's run set a new Varsity marathon record and was more than fast enough to allow the Cambridge orienteering captain to add a marathon Full Blue to the one he gained for cross country in December. It also ensured Cambridge a silver medal in the BUCS championship. The key to Hoad's performance was a strong second 13 miles, much of which he spent overtaking from just outside the top 30.

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Historic win for modern pentathletes

Men take first Varsity crown in 18 years, as women retain title

Archie Myrtle and Ali Simon

Sports correspondents

History was against the Cambridge men, going into the 57th Varsity match. Oxford had won a total of 35 Varsity matches against Cambridge's 21, and more importantly there had not been a Cambridge victory since 1996. Furthermore, the Oxford team contained three current or former GB pentathletes. Things were a little different for the women, who were looking to defend 2013's title, but the facts and figures were not promising for the Cambridge men. What a turnaround it was to prove.

The modern pentathlon comprises the four events of fencing, swimming, horse riding and a combined run/shoot, making for a broad and difficult combination of disciplines to master. Each of the men's and women's teams comprises six athletes. The competition takes place over two days; this year the venue for the Varsity showdown

was Tonbridge School in Kent.

As expected, the fencing produced the most intense atmosphere, with two pistes crammed into a tiny hall. This is the only discipline where points can be gained by one team at the expense of the other. The first round is always eerily quiet, with fights on the two pistes taking place intra-team, Oxford vs Oxford and Cambridge vs Cambridge.

And then comes the noise. As Round 2 got underway with the first inter-team fights, the cheering and chanting of the supporters grew. In the men's competition, Cambridge took an early lead of three hits over Oxford in the round, which was retained in Round 3. The charged atmosphere dissipated briefly for Round 4, the second spate of inter-Varsity bouts. Round 5 commenced with an even greater barrage of noise, but this only resulted in Cambridge increasing their lead by one hit.

In the final round Oxford came back convincingly by five hits to finish one hit ahead of Cambridge (translating to a lead of a mere 40 points). Meanwhile the women's team dominated the opposition, leading by a 13 hit margin. Cambridge President Henny Dillon won the women's fencing; Susie Benson came second with 15 hits.

The swimming went like a dream for

the women, with a plethora of personal bests [PBs] and a new record. Dillon continued her four year supremacy in the water by swimming 200 metres in two minutes and seven seconds to break her own record. The Cambridge women led by over 2,000 points in total

"AS EXPECTED, FENCING PRODUCED THE BEST ATMOSPHERE"

at the end of the first day. For the men, however, the swim was the discipline where Oxford had the greatest lead on paper. In the event, five Cambridge men got personal bests, with Brad Dixon winning the event ahead of Oxford's GB pentathlete Tommy Lees. Overall, the swim was effectively damage limitation, and the Oxford men led by just 192 points overnight on Friday.

Saturday saw the riding phase take place in the morning, with each Blues athlete riding an unknown horse over a series of 12 show jumps. Historically the ride is the discipline where Varsity teams tend to lose the competition. This year though there were relatively

few upsets. Clear rounds from both sides meant the women's event was close, but Cambridge won the ride by 136 points, with Amanda Plowman the individual winner of the round. The men had a clean round, losing out narrowly by 24 points to Oxford.

The men therefore went into the final event with a deficit of 216, equal to 9 seconds per man. This was the closest points difference that any Cambridge team had achieved at that stage in recent years. The irrepressible Lees came home first in the event, but the Cambridge team, led by James Alexander, dominated the remaining placings. The Light Blue crowd erupted as the first Cambridge Men's victory since 1996 was announced. Overall the Men scored 29,844 points, a Cambridge team record, and each Cambridge man scored over the required 4,640 point barrier to earn a full Blue. Brad Dixon was Cambridge's strongest individual performer, in third place overall.

Oxford's women edged the combined phase but by nowhere near enough to threaten Cambridge's commanding overall lead. Light Blue Lottie Buttar was second in the event while Ali Simon won the shoot. Overall the Cambridge win was comfortable, with Dillon and Benson both reaching Full Blue scores.

This year saw a big turnout of 16 from Cambridge's Hare and Hounds club. Lorcan Murphy finished 14th in the BUCS race in a time of 2:45:32, despite a recent injury. Not far behind were Bernd Kulhenschmidt (2:55:11) and Tim Roberts (3:02:29). Seb Falk raised well over £12,000 for The Cure Parkinson's Trust, achieving a time of 3:24:36 despite running in a 8ft/5kg replica of the City of London's Gherkin building. Rebecca Taylor led the way for the Light Blue women, in a time of 3:33:14. Nina Rismal and Diane Esson were not far behind.



Wilson Kipsang: Marathon Winner