

## Bumper What's On

Pull out and stick on your wall

**Culture 16-17**



Interview  
with  
**Josie Long**



**FREE**  
Take a  
copy

**Features 18-21**

Fun-loving graduate  
**WLTm dream job...**

All singing,  
all dancing?

**Film & TV 28-29**



**Science 10-11**  
**Comment 12-15**  
**Music 26-27**

"It makes sense"  
- Jon Snow

No. 820  
Friday 20th January 2017  
varsity.co.uk

# VARSLITY

Championing independent student journalism in Cambridge for 70 years

## Blues football caught in venue drama

● Squads split over first Varsity double-header

**Sophie Penney and Paul Hyland**

The football teams of Oxford and Cambridge Universities have sparked controversy after a disagreement over the venue for this year's women's Varsity match.

Both the men's and women's Varsity football matches are set to take place on the same day this year at Barnet FC's Hive Stadium, in the first ever Varsity double-header, but the decision has left the Cambridge women's side feeling short changed.

However, contrary to reports that the match was under threat, on Wednesday this week it was announced to the public that the double-header is going ahead on 19th March at The Hive Stadium.

The men's and women's teams of the Cambridge University Association Football Club (CUAFC) and Oxford University Association Football Club (OUAFC), all seem to have had the objective of greater equality for the women's Varsity match, but the teams disagreed on how this could best be achieved.

Oxford's view was that a double-header would give the women's match a share of the great attention that the men's match draws. Cambridge felt that hosting the women's match separately at the Cambridge United stadium would be the best option.

May Martin, Women's President of OUAFC told *Varsity*, "OUAFC thought that a double header would be the best way to achieve the joint aim that we share with Cambridge, which was to promote equality in the sport."

Speaking exclusively to *Varsity*, the women's captain, Gerda Bachrati said: "We felt that playing at Barnet would be riding on the coattails of the men."

"We felt it would be really important to take that opportunity to play at a big stadium [Cambridge United] for the first time, get people interested in the women's game."

CUWAFC recognises that a double-header will bring more media attention, but saw a game on a separate occasion on a big stage as an essential precursor to a double-header: "Once you start making people realise that women's football is actually good, people are more likely to be interested in a double-header in the future."

The location of the matches is the most important concern for the Cambridge Women's team as Bachrati argued that Cambridge United's Abbey Stadium would be more accessible to students, meaning more spectators and attention.

"If Cambridge United had said okay for a double-header it would have been a completely different situation, I think for Oxford too, as both universities would have been more sure and secure of the fan base."

This year it was Oxford's turn to organise the men's match and Cambridge's turn to organise the women's.

At the start of Michaelmas 2016, Cambridge United approached CUWAFC to invite them to play their Varsity match at their stadium, an offer the Cambridge women accepted.

Continued on page 5 ►

**From plodge to politics** Former Clare porter makes bid for Cambridge mayoral role **INTERVIEW 8-9**



## Cantabs march against Trump

**Charlotte Gifford**  
Senior News Correspondent

Protesters are set to rally in cities across the world today, as Donald Trump is sworn in as 45th president of the United States of America.

Cambridge is among over 20 UK cities where protest marches have been spurred on by Trump's inauguration. The marches are a response to the President-elect's history of xenophobic and misogynistic remarks, which many fear will translate into policy once he takes office.

A rally to celebrate a diverse and multicultural Cambridge and stand up against racism will be held by Cambridge's branch of the campaign group Stand Up to Racism in Market Square on Saturday at midday.

When asked about their reasons for protesting Trump's inauguration, their co-ordinator Richard Rose told *Varsity* of his concerns about the negligence that anti-racists had shown recently, and spoke of the necessity of speaking out against Trump.

"One of the reasons racism in Cambridge may be lower than in surrounding areas is because anti-racists have been constantly vigilant, not letting any example of racism go unchallenged," Rose explained. "That's why we need to make a fuss about Trump here and in London. Anti-racists have been on the back foot for a few months now - it's time for us to go back on the offensive: we are the vast majority!"

The Cambridge rally will be attended by the MP for Cambridge, Daniel Zeichner.

In a press release, Zeichner said: "As Donald Trump is sworn in as president of the United States on the back of a campaign which fractured the country and too often descended into the politics of hate, I am proud to join this campaign in saying that Cambridge welcomes multiculturalism and diversity."

"Sadly, following the EU referendum, we have seen a rise in hate crime in Britain and it is important that Cambridge stands together as one, united behind the common values that make our city so great: tolerance, diversity and internationalism. We should be building bridges not walls."

More than fifty Democrats, including civil rights campaigner John Lewis, will be boycotting the inauguration at

Continued on page 4 ►



# EDITORIAL

## Not impressed

In this, *Varsity's* 70th anniversary year, we are looking back. In our new, weekly From the Archives feature, for example, we are delving back through the paper's archives. It's not always pretty: this week's selection (p. 8) seems funny, until you remember its out-and-out misogyny is just that – no irony.

But we are also looking to the future. We may be passionate about what we're doing now – more video content than ever before, a weekly email newsletter launching today, a brand-new blog, *Violet*, coming soon – but with 70 years now under our belt, we are also keen to ensure that *Varsity* can continue to flourish over the next 70 years, once we have moved on.

And this is why I find the Section 40 press reforms – the provision made after the Leveson Inquiry for libel claimants to have their legal costs covered by the papers, whether or not they win – so difficult.

As a student paper, giving a voice to the underdog is a big part of what we do. Our core readership may be privileged in many ways, but it is also, on the whole, young, which is not always easy. Yukiko Lui discusses this theme in more depth on p. 14, in the first of her new column, *Pale, Stale, Male*. Young people are new to salaries and budgeting; new to adult relationships and living alone; new to democracy. What *Varsity* does – and has been doing for the last 70 years – is allow these nascent adults to have their say.

Similarly, allowing those with fewer resources to take on big media organisations when they have been wronged is, in theory, something to get on board with.

But the reality for small papers like us is that we simply could not afford what Section 40 proposes. A law which allows people to sue indiscriminately, with no financial repercussions if their suit is unsuccessful, would be crushing. Would we have published last term's important intermissions investigation, for example – which prompted discussion and changed attitudes within the University community – had Section 40 been in force? Maybe not.

Print journalism may never be the same if and when these reforms are introduced, but certainly it would be crushing for smaller papers like *Varsity* – a sad, sad prospect indeed.

**EDITOR** Millie Brierley [editor@varsity.co.uk](mailto:editor@varsity.co.uk)  
**DEPUTY EDITOR** Anna Menin [deputyeditor@varsity.co.uk](mailto:deputyeditor@varsity.co.uk)  
**MAGAZINE EDITOR** Daniel Gayne [magazine@varsity.co.uk](mailto:magazine@varsity.co.uk)  
**DEPUTY MAGAZINE EDITOR** Patrick Wernham [deputymagazine@varsity.co.uk](mailto:deputymagazine@varsity.co.uk)  
**ONLINE EDITOR** Harry Curtis [online@varsity.co.uk](mailto:online@varsity.co.uk)  
**EDITOR-AT-LARGE** Louis Ashworth [editoratlarge@varsity.co.uk](mailto:editoratlarge@varsity.co.uk)  
**BUSINESS MANAGER** Mark Curtis [business@varsity.co.uk](mailto:business@varsity.co.uk)  
**NEWS EDITORS** Sam Harrison & Sophie Penney (Senior); Matt Gutteridge, Aoife Hogan & Caitlin Smith (Deputy) [news@varsity.co.uk](mailto:news@varsity.co.uk)  
**SENIOR NEWS CORRESPONDENTS** Ankur Desai, Charlie Fraser, Charlotte Gifford & Merlyn Thomas  
**INVESTIGATIONS EDITORS** Tom Richardson (Senior) & Monty Fynn (Deputy) [investigations@varsity.co.uk](mailto:investigations@varsity.co.uk)  
**COMMENT EDITORS** Peter Chappell (Senior); Noah Froud, Matt Green, Emily Robb & Sarah Wilson (Deputy) [comment@varsity.co.uk](mailto:comment@varsity.co.uk)  
**INTERVIEWS EDITORS** Keir Baker, Anna Fitzpatrick & Joel Nelson [interviews@varsity.co.uk](mailto:interviews@varsity.co.uk)  
**SCIENCE EDITOR** James Alvey [science@varsity.co.uk](mailto:science@varsity.co.uk)  
**FEATURES EDITORS** Anna Hollingsworth & Anna Jennings [features@varsity.co.uk](mailto:features@varsity.co.uk)  
**CULTURE EDITOR** Ellie Howcroft [culture@varsity.co.uk](mailto:culture@varsity.co.uk)  
**FASHION EDITORS** Elizabeth Huang & Flora Walsh [fashion@varsity.co.uk](mailto:fashion@varsity.co.uk)  
**THEATRE EDITOR** Molly Stacey [theatre@varsity.co.uk](mailto:theatre@varsity.co.uk)  
**MUSIC EDITOR** Ben Haigh [music@varsity.co.uk](mailto:music@varsity.co.uk)  
**FILM & TV EDITOR** Pany Heliotis [reviews@varsity.co.uk](mailto:reviews@varsity.co.uk)  
**SPORT EDITOR** Paul Hyland [sport@varsity.co.uk](mailto:sport@varsity.co.uk)  
**SPORT REPORTERS** Devarshi Lodhia (Senior); Andrew Derrett & Imran Marashli (Deputy)  
**SUB-EDITORS** Jay Vinayak Ojha (Chief); Hannah Jones, Imran Marashli & Sara Rasul [subeditor@varsity.co.uk](mailto:subeditor@varsity.co.uk)  
**PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR** Lucas Chebib [photos@varsity.co.uk](mailto:photos@varsity.co.uk)  
**VIDEO EDITOR** Charlie Thorpe [video@varsity.co.uk](mailto:video@varsity.co.uk)  
**ARTS EDITOR** Jade Cuttle [arts@varsity.co.uk](mailto:arts@varsity.co.uk)  
**BLOG EDITOR** Danny Wittenberg [blog@varsity.co.uk](mailto:blog@varsity.co.uk)  
**RADIO EDITOR** Nick Jones [radio@varsity.co.uk](mailto:radio@varsity.co.uk)  
**Varsity BOARD** Dr Michael Franklin (Chairman), Prof. Peter Robinson, Dr Tim Harris, Michael Derringer, Talia Zybutz, Callum Hale-Thomson (VarSoc President), Louis Ashworth, Richard Berg Rust (*The Mays*), Millie Brierley

© VARSITY PUBLICATIONS LTD, 2017. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior permission of the publisher. Varsity, 16 Mill Lane, Cambridge CB2 1RX. Telephone 01223 337575.

Varsity is published by Varsity Publications Ltd. Varsity Publications also publishes *The Mays*. Printed at Iliffe Print Cambridge – Winship Road, Milton, Cambridge CB24 6PP on 42.5gsm newsprint. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. ISSN 1758-4442.

## News

# Trump victory thwarts King's choir Mexico show

● *The final stop of the choir's annual tour was to be Mexico City, but will now be Midland in Texas*

**Merlyn Thomas**  
Senior News Correspondent

The annual international tour of the King's College Choir was set to end in Mexico City, but has been relocated to finish in Midland, Texas due to the economic difficulties caused by Donald Trump's victory in the recent US elections.

The Mexican promoter has "withdrawn the invitation in light of the economic climate in the country following the US election result", according to the email sent out to the choristers.

The e-mail announcing the change to the tour, which is scheduled to leave on Wednesday, 22nd March and return on Monday, 3rd April, gave no further details to the members of the Choir.

The world-renowned choir was set to perform concerts in Berkeley, Vancouver, Seattle, Logan (Utah), and Salt Lake City, finally ending the tour in Mexico City. Coincidentally, the move to replace the Mexico City concert with one in Midland, Texas, significantly reduces the amount of travel.

Intermusica, the company that organises the Choir's tours, confirmed to *Varsity*, "The concert by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge on 1 April at Festival del Centro Histórico, Mexico City, has been cancelled, due to a change in the Festival's funding circumstances."

The Mexican cultural celebration Festival del Centro Histórico, which takes place every year to bring together artists and shows from all over the world, has already seen financial difficulties in recent years.

In 2015 more than 5 million pesos (approximately £185,000) was cut from the festival's budget, resulting in cancellations. At the time, financial difficulties



were blamed on the very low value of the Mexican currency, due to falling oil prices and a stronger dollar.

Intermusica, the company that is running the Choir's tour, has been responsible for organising tours for the group in the past. In summer 2016 they organised a return tour to China after their debut in the country in October 2010 and in the same year they also set up concerts in Sweden in recognition of the 80th anniversary of their first ever international tour to Stockholm in 1936.

The last time the King's College Choir toured the US was in 2015, when they visited New York City, Washington, St Paul, Chicago and Dallas.

▲ King's College Choir choristers walk in front of their iconic chapel

(LUCAS CHEBIB)

### SCIENCE IN SOCIETY

## Relationships, politics and life outside the lab

**James Alvey** and **Polly Evans** look at the role of science in our cultural and political interactions. In an era of immediacy, the way we collectively approach decisions and tasks can shape the world. Science's role discerning fact from fiction and educating non-specialists can clash with its utility in technology which promulgates 'fake news' in a post-truth society.

Page 10 & 11 ►

### THE NEXT STEP FOR STASH

## St John's signet rings – stash gone wrong

The St John's signet ring is the latest stash trend to hit Cambridge but **Anna Jennings** isn't convinced. She argues that they represent a step backwards in the continuous battle against elitist stereotypes, questioning where the demand for them has come from. Jennings confesses what many Cambridge students are bound to be thinking but never say: that stash is actually quite weird.

Page 15 ►

### GOING FOR GOLD

## How Team GB dominated Olympic cycling

Team GB raised plenty of eyebrows at last year's Rio Olympic Games, winning twelve cycling medals between them. **Paul Hyland** speaks to one of the people who helped to make it happen: Professor Tony Purnell. The Trinity Hall fellow and chief engineer of Team GB Cycling spills the beans on just how big a part technology has had to play in a dominant few years for his team.

Page 34 & 35 ►



# JOIN THE ENERGY



## INTERNATIONAL LEGAL CAREER?

### APPLY FOR A SUMMER 2017 VACATION PLACEMENT AT VINSON & ELKINS' LONDON OFFICE

Applications to be made online at: [www.apply4law.com/VinsonElkins/](http://www.apply4law.com/VinsonElkins/)  
by 31 January 2017.

For more information see:  
[www.velaw.com/Join-Us/London-Legal-Recruitment/](http://www.velaw.com/Join-Us/London-Legal-Recruitment/)

## Vinson & Elkins RLLP

Vinson & Elkins RLLP Attorneys at Law Austin Beijing Dallas Dubai  
Hong Kong Houston London Moscow New York Palo Alto Richmond  
Riyadh San Francisco Taipei Tokyo Washington [www.velaw.com](http://www.velaw.com)

# Do more...

inspired travel adventures  
from 1 week to 1 year



apply  
online! [www.frontier.ac.uk](http://www.frontier.ac.uk)

find 5 friends and go free!

# FRONTIER

500 experiences . 100 destinations

## Cambridge International Academy Ltd



CamIntAc specialises in developing educational  
programmes with China and seeks:

- Part-time subject tutors for our summer and winter programmes in Cambridge
- Full-time teachers for our 'English public speaking and debating skills' courses in China (A generous expatriate package is available for our teaching positions in China)

Are you a Cambridge graduate or undergraduate?  
Are you looking for interesting opportunities  
in Cambridge and / or overseas?

Then visit us at [www.camintac.co.uk](http://www.camintac.co.uk) ,  
write to [jon@camintac.co.uk](mailto:jon@camintac.co.uk)  
or phone 01223 881943 for further details before  
February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017.



## News

# Trump march in city centre today

*Students and residents join protests in London and Cambridge as Donald Trump is sworn in*

► Continued from front page

the White House. Meanwhile, here in the UK, more than 50 public figures, including shadow cabinet members Diane Abbott and Clive Lewis, have signed a statement encouraging Trump's "growing opposition" to protest against him.

Perhaps the most prolific strain of the marches taking place this Saturday are the Women's Marches. Hundreds of these have sparked up in cities across the world, including the Women's March on London.

Organisers of the London strand are adamant that "the politics of fear and division have no place in 2017", and have gathered support from such groups as Amnesty International, the Women's Equality Party, and Greenpeace.

The CUSU Women's Campaign will be sending a contingent to join the Women's March on London.

"Engaging in protests like these can be cathartic as well as effective," Audrey Sebatindira, CUSU Women's Officer told *Varsity*. "Marching in solidarity with others who are equally as angry as you about the state of the world – refusing to let that anger be silenced – is an important part of liberation and sends a message to others that we won't allow our interests to be threatened without a fight."

The organisers of the first march, in Washington, had clearly intended others to follow their lead, calling for a global response: "individuals and organisa-

tions committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion" have been encouraged to join them "in representing the rights and voices of progressive people around the world."

Although the marches will unite individuals against Trump across the world, there has been some division amongst the marchers. The March on Washington released a "statement of inclusivity" in which they acknowledged that some women did not feel "adequately represented" by their march. They said to these individuals, "we want to state to you clearly: we see you, we hear you, and we understand."

However Sebatindira, CUSU Women's Officer, was clear that the Women's Marches encompassed many different issues: "we're certainly hoping that issues concerning racism and other forms of marginalisation won't be ignored by the marchers and organisers."

Similarly, The Women's March on Washington has been eager to reiterate the overriding purpose of the marches. "The work of this march is not only to stand together in sisterhood and solidarity for the protection of our rights, our safety, our families and our environment," they announced, "but it is also to build relationships and mend the divides between our communities."

In November 2016, Cambridge students hung dozens of brightly coloured tags, carrying messages of hope and solidarity, outside the Alison Richard Building at the Sidgwick Site in a stand against hate and xenophobia.

► When Trump won the election in November, students hung 'messages of hope' from trees on the Sidgwick Site (LUCAS CHEBIB)



## #LoveTrumpsHate Trump and the world

Ahead of Trump's inauguration today, Cantabs around the world spoke to *Varsity* about the prospect of his presidency.

Some were worried about the political consequences. Anya Draycott, a third-year AMES student in Jordan, offered a sense of the fear many are experiencing: "One teacher said she was happy because America would destroy itself instead of the Middle East," she told us. "At the same time my homestay mum said she was scared and had a friend whose daughter lives in the US who is absolutely terrified."



▲ Donald Trump is the least popular President-Elect in modern history (MICHAEL VADON)

Declan Amphlett, a third-year MML student in Paris, was worried about the rise of right-wing populism, saying that a lot of people fear "what may happen if Marine Le Pen wins, so he is most definitely in the French public consciousness."

Others expressed their horror at his comments about women. Meredith Ford, a third-year MML student, spoke of a palpable sense of fear in Alicante, Spain. She told us: "I think the marches are a great show of protest and woman-to-woman solidarity."



## Looking for work this summer?

**4 July – 19 August 2017**

The University of Cambridge International Summer Programmes is offering challenging paid work for Cambridge undergraduate and graduate students. As one of a team of ten **Cambridge Student Assistants** you'll need customer-care and administrative skills, initiative and tact.

For full details and an application form, call network: 60850 or 01223 760850 or email: [intenq@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:intenq@ice.cam.ac.uk)  
Closing date for applications: 20 March 2017.

**Aoife Hogan**  
Deputy News Editor

Chinese company 'Ofo' have announced plans to launch its bike-sharing scheme in Cambridge this March, allowing users to hire bikes through an Uber-style smartphone app. The self-standing yellow bikes can be dropped off and picked up from publicly accessible locations, with each trip estimated to cost under £1.

Cambridgeshire County Council transport officer Hilary Holden expressed the Council's eagerness to "continue to develop a leading transport network for the future" in partnership with Ofo. Speaking to *Cambridge News*, she asserted that "the City Deal will continue to work with partners in the community, higher education, and business to ensure that our transport system is fit-for-purpose and uses opportunities from new and emerging technology."



▲ Previous bike-sharing schemes have struggled

(MICHAEL VADON)

Founded in 2014, Ofo currently have 10 million registered users in China, and claim to be the first company in the world to operate a 'non-docking' bike rental system online. Ofo is available in 24 cities and 200 universities in China, with plans to also expand to Singapore

and Stanford University, California in 2017.

A similar scheme, the Green Bike pick-up-drop-off, was introduced in Cambridge in 1993. However, it was abandoned after six months as most of the bikes went missing after the launch.



# University sends out first offers under new assessments

**Caitlin Smith**  
Deputy News Editor

Cambridge University has sent out its first offers to have been made following pre-interview entrance exams in thirty years.

Following the introduction of admission assessments for the majority of degree courses, many of the applicants who received their offers on Saturday had had to sit a test as well as the traditional interview.

Until they fell out of favour in the 1980s, entrance exams used to be mandatory for all Cambridge applicants invited to interview.

The change was announced in a letter sent out to UK schools and colleges last year by Dr Sam Lucy, the University's Director of Admissions. In the letter, she explained that the change was a response to "teacher and student feedback, a desire to harmonise and simplify our existing use of written assessments and a need to develop new ways to maintain the effectiveness and fairness of our admissions system during ongoing qualification reform."

Speaking to *Varsity* this week, Dr Lucy said that the University was not yet in a position to comment on the outcomes of the assessments, but "initial indications were positive."

However, it has been suggested that privately-educated students are likely to perform better than applicants from state schools, thanks to more intensive coaching from their teachers.

An applicant currently attending an independent school told *Varsity* that "no one knew anything about what the test would be like because there was only



one practice paper so it was really difficult to revise for." They added that an applicant's performance "depended on how self-motivated he/she was because there wasn't any teacher help and it relied a lot on extracurricular reading."

Sara Williams, a pupil at a comprehensive school who applied to study Engineering, said: "I struggled a lot more on the engineering section of the test as the questions were written in a style which I had not come across before, and it involved an application of maths and physics which I haven't learned in such detail yet." Preparation, she said, had been difficult: "We worked through the specimen paper on the Cambridge website and some of the PAT papers [the Physics Aptitude Test used by Oxford University]. My Director of Sixth Form gave me some resources as well

▲ The students who received offer letters this week had an extra hurdle to overcome

(SAM GUTTERIDGE)

but I didn't work through anything with teachers in school."

Mature applicants are not required to take the admission tests, in part due to concerns raised by Professor Sir Richard Evans, president of Wolfson College. He stressed that mature applicants may be less accustomed to taking exams than their younger counterparts, as they are likely to have spent an extended period of time out of formal education.

## How hard can it be?

Some sample questions from the assessments were released last year, including:

- Must all revolutions fail?
- Discuss whether the recent European migrant crisis has challenged or reinforced racism.
- 'There are some ideas so wrong that only a very intelligent person could believe them.' Discuss.

# Controversy over Varsity football

► Continued from front page

In September 2016, the Oxford men's football team applied to Barnet FC to see if they would host the men's Varsity match, which they agreed to do.

The idea of a double-header has been raised before but it has previously not been followed through. Laurence Wroe, captain of the Oxford Men's Blues team explained to *Varsity* that "both OUAFC and OUWAFc have viewed the double header as the future of the football Varsity for the past couple of years, but this is easier said than done due to difficulties in getting a prestigious ground to host two fixtures on the same day."

Given this long-term aim, the Oxford committees contacted Barnet to ask if there was a possibility of a double-header, which Barnet FC also agreed to.

The Cambridge women's committee did not attend the meetings discussing with Barnet FC the opportunity of a double-header at The Hive Stadium. Bachrati explained that this was because they were so "firmly" settled with Cambridge United at that point, and stressed that they did not discourage the men from these talks as they had every right to hold them. Once Barnet had confirmed that a double-header was possible, CUWAFc tried to convince OUWAFc to stick to the original plan of playing at Cambridge United.

However, Cambridge United then backed out of their agreement with CUWAFc, saying that a double-header at their stadium is impossible and instead encouraged CUWAFc to take up the offer of the double-header at Barnet FC.

Speaking to *Varsity*, Wroe explained the financial background to Cambridge United's decision: "The women's deal was that Cambridge United would host the women's Varsity for free. Cambridge United reversed their decision to host the game when they heard that OUAFC and OUWAFc had found a financial alternative to a double-header."

With the option of playing at Cambridge United no longer available, it was agreed on by all committees that Varsity would be hosted as a double-header at Barnet.

CUWAFc confessed to being not fully content with this final decision, "We are still upset that there's still that loss - potentially a situation where fewer people come to watch our game at Barnet. That's still very difficult for us to digest and consider."

Both committees have agreed to make a concerted effort to address this key concern. CUAFC men and women are keen to provide transport to Cambridge fans.

Despite her disappointment, Bachrati did stress that this was a mutual decision: "Towards the end it was a decision between us and the Oxford women's team. It's Cambridge's turn to host, but it's important to develop a meaningful relationship with them to make women's football bigger."

Wroe confirmed this: "The issue has now been resolved amicably between all the clubs involved."

# Higher Education Bill battles through Lords

**Harry Curtis**  
Online Editor

The government's plans to link the fees that universities can charge with teaching quality came under attack in the House of Lords this week, as the Higher Education Bill continues its turbulent passage through Parliament.

The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) allows participating universities to raise fees in line with inflation, and will also see institutions being awarded gold, silver and bronze ratings which will dictate the fee limit a university is allowed to charge.

On Wednesday, Lord Watson of Invergowrie, the Labour Party's education spokesman in the House of Lords, spoke against the parts of the Higher Education Bill that enable the implementation of the TEF, saying it was "a clear example of the Government's view that the Bill is as much a question of consumerism as it is about education."

He went on to cite the University of

“  
*A ranking system for turkeys*  
”

Cambridge's view that links fees with teaching quality was "bound to affect student decision-making adversely and in particular it may deter students from low-income families from applying to the best universities", saying that he remained "unconvinced" of the government's commitment to improving social mobility.

The theme of social mobility was picked up by Baroness Deech, the former Principal of St Anne's College, Oxford, who said that allowing the top-rated universities - in her estimation, likely to be Oxbridge and other Russell Group institutions - to charge higher fees would create a "reinforcing division" between them and other universities.

The proposals for a gold, silver and bronze rating system also drew criticism from the government's benches, Lord Lucas, who has previously called it "a ranking system for turkeys".

"If someone is choosing a university," he said, "they will look at what is going on on a course. They will not experience the university quality of teaching; they

will experience what is going on on a course. That is the level at which they need data."

The TEF has drawn widespread criticism for the way in which it proposes to measure teaching quality, with student satisfaction determined by the National Student Survey (NSS) likely to be an integral metric. This has led to calls from the National Union of Students for students to boycott the NSS.

However, Lord Willetts defended the proposed metrics, saying: "These are not perfect measures. We are on a journey, and I look forward to these metrics being revised and replaced by superior metrics in the future. They are not as bad as we have heard in some of the caricatures of them, and in my experience, if we wait until we have a perfect indicator and then start using it, we will have a very long wait."

On 9th January, the government was defeated on reforms that would have granted for-profit colleges the right to award degrees. The Lords will continue to debate the Higher Education Bill on Monday.



Breaking news,  
around the  
clock  
varsity.co.uk



## News

# Student actors to sleep on the street for charity

*Sleepout will submerge the actors in the world of their play's protagonist*

**Ankur Desai**  
Senior News Correspondent

The cast and crew of the forthcoming play *Stuart: A Life Backwards* are to stage a 'sponsored sleepout' this weekend in order to raise awareness of homelessness in Cambridge.

The group will sleep rough near Mill Lane lecture theatre from Saturday night through to Sunday morning.

They will also be raising money for Jimmy's Night Shelter, an emergency shelter in Cambridge, and are working with Wintercomfort, a support centre for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness. The team is hoping to raise £1,000 through donations.

The play is an adaptation of a book by Alexander Masters, an alumnus of St Edmund's College. It tells the life story of his friend Stuart Shorter, a "chaotic homeless" man who lived in Cambridge. The adaptation itself was penned by Pembroke graduate Jack Thorne.

Speaking to *Varsity*, producer of the show Tom Bevan said: "We wanted to do something that would raise a load of awareness and money for Jimmy's and we are all incredibly excited."

"One aspect of being homeless is

sometimes sleeping rough – others live in hostels and attend day centres – and we wanted to experience, even if incredibly briefly, a number of different places in which people live in the city.

"I am hoping that the whole cast and crew will learn just how incredibly scary and cold sleeping rough really is and wake up empowered and angry to help change a system which creates and scapegoats so many homeless people."

In preparation for the play, the cast met with guests at Jimmy's, seeking their guidance on characterisation and publicity for the show. Bevan said: "We really wanted to involve local homeless people right from the beginning of the project – designing our publicity images and meeting our cast and crew – to the very end when we will perform the show at Jimmy's Hostel and invite staff and guests along to the post-show talk on opening night!"

He added: "Meeting people at the hostels has had a huge effect on how we as a cast and crew have thought about homelessness. The complicated, frustrating, sad, inspiring, traumatic stories behind every person who we lazily label as 'homeless' are remarkable... Like Alexander in the play, we have had our preconceptions smashed and have been



▲ The number of people sleeping rough in Cambridge is growing (LUCAS CHEBIB)

reminded that what we value as middle class students is so often hollow and comes with gross levels of privilege."

Jimmy's is named in memory of Jim Dilley, a man who died of lung cancer in 1995 after spending much of his life sleeping rough in the Cambridge region.

It offers emergency accommodation as well as a range of other services, including a controlled drinking project on Newmarket Road, supported housing, and budgeting advice for those at risk or renewed risk of homelessness.

Cambridge City Council has recently stepped up efforts to tackle rough sleeping, but has been criticised for stigmatising the homeless by publicising advice not to give money to beggars.

Between 2015 and 2016, it was estimated that the number of people in Cambridge sleeping rough was 152. The number of households without permanent accommodation was estimated to be 418, which represented almost a tripling of the number from 2011-12.

*Stuart: A Life Backwards* will run at the Corpus Playroom from the 31st of January to the 4th of February at 7 p.m. Attendees will be able to donate to Jimmy's and Wintercomfort at the door, which the cast encourage them to do.

# TONBRIDGE SCHOOL

(HMC; 780 boys Boarding and Day; 13-18)

## GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Tonbridge School is one of the leading boys' boarding schools in the country and highly respected internationally. The school aims to provide a caring and enlightening environment in which talents of each individual flourish.

Our Graduate Assistant programme is in its fourth year and we are proud to say that year-on-year the programme has gone from strength to strength. These roles are offered annually on a fixed one-year basis to recent university graduates. The programme is designed to give our resident Graduate Assistant an all-encompassing experience of school life working in an independent school.

- Share your passion for your subject with enthusiastic, bright pupils
- Regular meetings with subject mentor who is an outstanding practitioner
- Continuous professional development
- Wide range of sporting and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pastoral responsibility

An ideal opportunity to assess whether a career in teaching is right for you.

**Salary: £21,500** and accommodation is provided

For further information please attend Drinks at the Hawk's Club on Tuesday 31st January @ 7 30pm. RSVP: [jkm@tonbridge-school.org](mailto:jkm@tonbridge-school.org) or visit: [www.tonbridge-school.co.uk](http://www.tonbridge-school.co.uk)

Completed applications to:

**Headmaster, Tonbridge School, High Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1JP**  
**01732 365555 • [hmsec@tonbridge-school.org](mailto:hmsec@tonbridge-school.org)**  
**Closing date: 13th February**

*Tonbridge School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service.*



# Nominations open in NUS delegate by-election

**Charlie Fraser**  
Senior News Correspondent

Nominations have opened for the election of the final Cambridge delegate to the National Union of Students (NUS) National Conference in April.

The election, which will run for two weeks from midnight on Thursday 19th January, will be the final stage in the process to select the five delegates who, along with the CUSU President Amatey Doku, will attend the conference in late April.

Elections for the four existing delegates, Jonty Leibowitz, Josh Jackson, Roberta Huldish and Eireann Attridge, took place last term. While Leibowitz and Jackson are new to the NUS, Huldish and Attridge are both currently members of the CUSU Sabbatical Team. Huldish was also a delegate at last year's conference.

In 2014 the NUS passed a new rule which states that at least 50 per cent of any delegation at the conference must be self-defining women. This 'Fair Representation on NUS Conference' policy means that, as the total delegation size is six and the maximum of three male

▼ Roberta Huldish (top) and Eireann Attridge (below), the non-male CUSU delegates chosen last term  
(LOUIS ASHWORTH)



delegates has been reached, this by-election is only open to candidates that identify as female, though it can also be filled by an individual identifying as non-binary.

The position is open because CUSU initially only received enough applications to fill two of the three female/non-binary places.

The conference will debate a variety of issues under five key policy categories: Further Education, Higher Education, Society and Citizenship, Welfare, and Union Development. It will also elect the organisation's new leadership.

CUSU's delegation will be among over 600 sent from the student unions of universities all over the country.

This annual conference is particularly significant after a dramatic year for the organisation. In May, individual student unions began a wave of referendums to disaffiliate from the NUS, after the newly-elected president of the NUS, Malia Bouattia, was accused of making anti-Semitic statements.

More recently, the NUS was shaken by a sting operation which recorded NUS Vice-President Richard Brooks calling Bouattia a "racist" and discussing the internal opposition to her leadership.

LETTUCE EAT LETTUCE

## Clare Lettuce Club to launch this week

On Monday, Clare College Cellars will host the first Annual General Meeting of the 'Clare Lettuce Club'. The meeting, which has been advertised on university ticket website Agora, will see students attempt to eat an entire head of lettuce in an hour.

Whoever finishes their lettuce the fastest will assume the presidency of the unique society, and be responsible for organising the following year's meeting. Speaking to *Varsity*, inaugural Clare Lettuce Club President David Wesby said, "it's gonna be littuce fuck".

TATE WADHAM

## Rejection letter made into art

As thousands of students receive the result of their Oxbridge application this week, one unsuccessful applicant took the news in an unusual way. Claudia Vulliamy, who had applied to Wadham College, Oxford, converted her rejection letter into a piece of abstract art. Vulliamy told the BBC she made the work, which has been re-Tweeted over 50,000 times, because "it's not often that you get a letter dedicated to you from Oxford. It's very meaningful, so I thought it would be funny if I made it into something."

WHO WOOD'A THOUGHT IT

## New progress towards building a wooden skyscraper

A Cambridge professor has made a breakthrough that could lead to the construction of wooden skyscrapers. Professor Paul Dupree, of the university's Biochemistry Department, has discovered how cellulose and xylan, the two most common naturally occurring polymers, bind together in plant walls. It is hoped that Professor Dupree's research will aid the development of super-strong timber to replace steel and concrete in buildings. Plans have already been drawn up for a wooden skyscraper in the Barbican.

"URINAL WAITING TO HAPPEN"

## New statue honours creation of official football rules

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a sculpture commemorating the first game of Association Football. The work will be inscribed with the original eleven 'Cambridge Rules' drawn up at Trinity College in 1848, and go on display on Parker's Piece, where the first game of football was played. Of the original rules, which contain a primitive offside rule, only two are no longer in the game. However, one critic of the sculpture called it a "urinal waiting to happen".

Independent variables welcome.

DE Shaw & Co  
www.deshaw.com



## Interview *Kevin Price*

# “ It should be about more than just existing ”

● *Anna Fitzpatrick speaks to the Clare porter who wants to become mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*

**Anna FitzPatrick**  
Interviews Editor

When I told people I was going to study at Cambridge, they were usually quick to comment on 'how posh' it would be. I was invited to imagine that everyone would wear tuxedos instead of pyjamas and eat gold leaf for breakfast. When I recall this to Kevin Price – Cambridge City Council's Executive Councillor for Housing and representing the Labour Party in the upcoming mayoral contest for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough – he laughs. I persist in telling him, though, that I think Cambridge is 'posh'. He laughs again and echoes me – “It is!”

But having grown up in Cambridge, worked at Clare College as a porter for ten years and devoted himself to representing local people, it is clear that Price understands that this is not the whole story. “The perception of Cambridge being very posh and very wealthy”, he tells me, “is, of course, a gross misconception.”

He is right. Although tweed-wearing boffins tend to be the public 'face' of Cambridge in art or the media, research shows that 90 per cent of the people who go to Jimmy's Night Shelter are locals. “Parts of it are very wealthy” he continues, “but I represent a ward [King's Hedges] in the north of the city that is the [city's] most deprived. And I hate using that term, because, you know, I've talked to people who say 'I don't like being that term'”. He explains to me that people feel like they are being catego-

ried, undermining what he describes as the desire to feel that “Although I'm not a multi-millionaire, I have my life, I live my life – I do alright”. It interests me that he feels as though people compare themselves to 'multi-millionaires'. I ask him if he thinks there is a social division as stark as the 'town versus gown' phrase suggests.

This too, he highlights, is a misconception. “You know, not every student is from a very wealthy background and has a butler at home”, he points out, musing that “stereotypes work in a great many ways.” He recalls his time as a porter: “When I first got the job I thought – this is not gonna be for me – posh people coming in and looking down their noses at me. But it's just not like that, it really isn't. That's a worry for a lot of students coming. It's not just a lot of posh people in bow ties – it's a lot of young people, having a good time, socialising and getting dressed up for it. There's nothing wrong with that”. I ask him if this was the case in the past. “I don't hear of many incidents of what they used to call 'grad bashing' in the sixties and seventies where students would be picked on... never say never, but that's not as apparent to me as it was then. It's partly because there are more working class people coming to Cambridge University, so there is an understanding of what real life is like. I think that helps.”

He further elaborates that many students can and do try to pierce the image of an academic 'bubble'. “We have local councillors that were and are still graduate students. They've crossed that 'divide', if you like, and they've joined in

with the city... They're coming here and getting involved. When I got re-elected in 2011, I was astonished at the numbers of students who would come out on a Saturday or Sunday and come canvassing in the ward”.

“It's important that people don't just have enough money to pay their rent – that's what the living wage was all about. It should be about more than just existing”

In his bid to be elected a mayoral candidate for a devolved Cambridgeshire and Peterborough authority, Price is continuing his fight for a seemingly unacknowledged poverty to be part of the discussion. He says that he wants to “put social justice at the heart of the devolution deal”. I ask him what this means. As well as “improving transport and local democracy” one of his key priorities is to ensure that people are not forced into homelessness through the provision of affordable housing, “by setting rent levels at what they call a 'local housing allowance rate', [meaning] anyone renting those homes, if they were on benefits, for instance, their benefits would cover the rent. If people are in employment it means that they still have money to actually live with, because it's important that people don't just have enough money to pay their rent – that's what the living wage was all about. It should be about more than just existing.”

The recent words of Theresa May – that ‘if you're young, you'll find it harder than ever to own your own home’ – echo in my mind. I ask Price if he feels that her emphasis on home ownership is helpful. “No it's not – it's not helpful at

“ I think the people of Cambridge are unique ”



all”, he confirms. “Not everybody has that opportunity, certainly in a place like Cambridge, where 40% of the population earn £22,000 per year or less. The average price of a house is approaching half a million. It's not do-able.”

It makes sense, then, that he would recall that a major concern of people in his ward is that of council housing. “The private sector has never built enough housing. The only times when enough housing was being built was when local authorities and housing associations were building alongside developers”, he continues, highlighting the £70 million ring-fenced for building council housing in Cambridge city as part of the devolution deal.

“Now, these are people that are al-

From the  
archives...  
Varsity at  
70

## The art of love

30th January 1954 • Dr Kay

Men don't like clever women... so you need to be very charming and immodest to be forgiven. If possible you must contrive (even in examinations) to appear just that little bit more stupid than they are.

A free and easy attitude towards men can lead to too much friendship and not enough love... or the reverse! Be feminine, not feminist, and above all, never,

never try to establish a man-to-man relationship with a man. This can only lead to misunderstanding.

There are other ways to subdue him! As wild beasts are tamed by the warmth of human regard and the promise of food... so men are conquered and kept in happy captivity by the radiance in a woman's eyes.

Don't give way to the temptation



to show off... the seductively drooping gown, the off-the-shoulder blouse and the risqué story are out of place in the lecture room. You must learn to conquer without appearing to lose your modesty.

Let them think you are there to listen to the lecture! But it is quite permissible to use the subtle language of smiles which can drive a man to desperation, the trembling hesitation as to where you will sit, the warm scent of perfume in your wake...

Do not believe people who say that a little kiss is of no importance. A careless caress can create complications! The way to captivate a man is not to allow yourself to be captivated.

“ Time spent in capturing a man is time well spent! ”

Every woman has a natural power of attraction, compounded of youth, the possibility of seduction and femininity. It is dangerous to overestimate this power but it is equally foolish to ignore it.

Time spent in capturing a man is time well spent! It is exciting to fight your own way in the world... but why bother when there are so many men willing to cherish you and carry you into the upper income brackets! Remember that woman is made for love...

Found by Ted Mackey

After better advice? Try our resident Agony Aunt. Every Monday at [varsity.co.uk/violet](http://varsity.co.uk/violet)



Interview



ready housed, well housed, but their concern is about the next generation, other people not having anywhere or a decent home,” he says of his ward.

With this in mind, I probe Price to look to the future, asking him what his prediction for the British political climate might be. He thinks for a while, before settling that “It’s not easy to predict.” Eventually, he reflects that “when people are hurting, when people feel that the government is doing everything it can to make life harder for them, you know – when they can’t get into their hospitals, they can’t get to see their doctors – the natural direction is the Labour party.”

In the same speech, the Prime Minister stated that there are “no easy an-

▲▼ Kevin Price in Clare College and with Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn (ANNA FITZPATRICK; KEVIN PRICE)

swers” to the question of how to ease the pain of social oppression.Price, though, tells me he believes that there are answers. “Well, there are easy answers” he resolves. “One is in the realms of housing and how you make that genuinely affordable for people. One is about pay levels. People’s pay has stagnated over the past five or six years but everything else has seemed to increase in value. Corporate tax not being paid. The government will spend a lot of money investigating what they see as ‘benefit fraud’ and very little looking at tax evasion, when tax evasion takes far more money out of the economy than benefit fraud. That’s in no way saying that benefit fraud is okay, but they concentrate on the people at the

“There are more working class people coming to Cambridge”

bottom instead of making major companies, major organisations pay their fair share of tax.”

Finally, I ask Price what Cambridge means to him. “Well, first and foremost, Cambridge is home: it’s my hometown. I was born here, a lot longer ago than I’d like to admit”, he laughs, “and it’s important to me. I like the people of Cambridge, I think the people of Cambridge are unique because they have

had to live alongside this perception of wealth and privilege.”In reference to that very perception, Price reminds me to broaden my focus to beyond the city of Cambridge to wider Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

As a self-absorbed student, it’s easy to forget that this is an area which exists outside of the Union’s debating chamber. Chatting to Kevin reminded me of that.

The new Mayoralty of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Everything you need to know

Why is Cambridgeshire and Peterborough going to have a Mayor?

The new position is part of the government’s devolution drive. Initially it wanted to create an East Anglia Combined Authority to encompass 22 local authorities, but this was vetoed by local councillors across the region, and so the plans were changed. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will combine just 8 local authorities in a much smaller area. To sweeten the deal, the government also offered the new combined authority £600 million over 30 years to support economic growth, and £170 million for housing.

Who will it be?

It’s too early to say. Each political party intending to run in the election will hold a vote amongst its local members to nominate a candidate. Kevin Price and County Councillor Fiona Onasanya are competing for the Labour nomina-

tion, pitting Cambridge against Peterborough. For the Conservatives, the choice is between leader of Cambridge County Council Steve Count, leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council James Palmer, and Roger Harrison, who has a place on the executive of Huntingdonshire District Council. The Liberal Democrats have already chosen their nominee: Rod Cantrill, who is currently councillor for Newnham Ward on Cambridge City Council.

What powers will they have?

The position will be able to allocate a lot of funding: £170 million for housing projects, and £20 million per year to boost economic growth. They will also work with the government to produce a new National Work and Health programme, which will focus on those with a health condition or disability, and on the long-term unemployed. These powers might well be expanded in future.



ApoMorph Sales & Marketing Consultants



Apomorph Consultants – Cambridge

Apomorph is a Marketing Consultancy for the Life Sciences.

We are looking for individuals with Email Marketing Campaign and Social Media skills, preferably from a Life Sciences background. Flexible working hours available.

Interested in applying?

Please contact [suzanne@apomorph.co.uk](mailto:suzanne@apomorph.co.uk)

[www.apomorph.co.uk](http://www.apomorph.co.uk)



## Science

## Science in Society Relationships,

## Dr Sam Gregson

“People don’t accept that being wrong isn’t necessarily a bad thing”

James Alvey  
Science Editor

There is a great deal of stigma attached to scientific teaching. People often have particularly strong views on the subject. Science is far more than school laboratory benches and battered textbooks. It is certainly not memorising the colours of various solutions simply to write them down in an exam or building the same electrical circuit in physics year after year. If those are your preconceptions of the muddled scientific waters, the perspective of Dr Sam Gregson can be refreshing.

His show – which is entitled *Ministry of Sense: Hunting the Higgs* and set to hit the Cambridge Junction on the 25th January – has its origins at CERN: “I was doing a PhD at the Large Hadron Collider three years ago and an email went around the lab about a science comedy evening called Bright Club with the task being to explain your research in a stand-

up format. I decided to do one of these a couple of years ago, and *Ministry of Sense* sprung off the back of that.” It is a show aiming to develop the audience’s intuitions, with Gregson noting that while “you get a bit of science from it... more importantly, it asks why science matters”.

Gregson takes this further, though: “you have to present the scientists themselves in a good light”, he suggests, noting this is something which is often neglected. In this case, the vehicle is stand-up, in a similar vein to Bright Club. Unlike Bright Club, however, *Ministry of Sense* focusses on the scientific method, something that Gregson feels is “far more applicable to a complete range of backgrounds and experiences”.

The premise behind the show brings up an interesting point – it asks what is the scientific method really for and invites audiences to question what exactly science means to them.

For me, science is everything from a day-to-day activity at home and uni-

versity, to a way of life and a thought-process that genuinely shapes how I make decisions and carry out tasks. The scientific method, then, does not only feature in the context of a laboratory but far beyond.

Gregson’s perspective is different, a combination of nuance and pure logic. To him, science is “the best framework so far that we’ve devised to determine fact from fiction. If I want to know whether something is more likely to be true than false, the best framework to apply that is the scientific method. I want to believe as many true things as I can in my life. If you ask me whether I am 100 per cent certain of something, the answer is no, however, you have to operate on a day-to-day basis as if this uncertainty doesn’t exist. You have to keep reapplying the method as this goes along.”

What comes out of this, then, is not simply a laboratory practice, but a lifestyle choice – something that moulds political, ethical, and emotional decisions.

Indeed, Gregson notes that “one of the best things a scientist can do is have something they truly believe in be proved false. Indeed, the problem we’ve seen this year with Brexit etc. is that people don’t accept that being wrong isn’t necessarily a bad thing.”

So how does one go about teaching the scientific method? In his show, Greg-

◀ Sam Gregson, CERN researcher as well as stand-up comedian (SAM GREGSON)

son encourages the audience to “get real data from CERN using an app, and then learn to analyse, model, and conclude based on the observations”. But this is just a drop in the ocean; the real challenge lies on a much wider scale. He recalls the view that prevailed during his PhD that “when you work in science, no time or credit is given to go and speak to the public. In fact, it’s actually negatively viewed by supervisors.” The example of Brian Cox springs to mind, whose lectures usually sell out in Manchester, a rarity in the field. And yet, his contribution to science is still somewhat questioned.

This brings us full circle back to the role of the scientist in educating laymen and potential students about scientific method. If communicators are viewed as being unapproachable and unenthused, then can we expect the students to generate their own enthusiasm? Gregson suggests the answer is no, and that we have to remove this so-called “ivory tower”.

Within the current system, the path towards this understanding is admittedly not an easy one. Gregson spoke at the TEDx Conference two years ago about the role of science in society, acknowledging that this way of thinking “isn’t taught at school, and it takes a big jump to get over that knowledge gap. People have a very tough time thinking against their natural bias.”

Bringing the discussion to a close, I’m reminded of a quote by Albert Einstein: “education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.” It certainly applies here, prompting thought about what we prioritise in our life.

For Gregson, science and its methodology provide the platform and inspiration to “tune out what is wrong or inefficient, gradually refining my view”. For me, the real question is this: what really matters, learning what to think, or learning how to think about it?

● Dr Sam Gregson will be performing his show, *Ministry of Sense: Hunting the Higgs*, at 8pm on Wednesday 25th January 2017 at The Cambridge Junction.

“One of the best things a scientist can do is have something they truly believe in be proved false”



For more like this, visit  
[varsity.co.uk/science](http://varsity.co.uk/science)

## Managing the outbreak of ‘super-bugs’

Zi Ran Shen  
Staff Science Writer

Recently, a woman was killed by superbugs which resisted every available antibiotic, even colistin. We are living in an era that no longer has a failsafe antibiotic. The emergence of antibiotic resistant bacteria was always a threat, but now it’s finally arrived.

The story of antibiotics began with a boy in a shipping office. Alexander Fleming was all but resigned to such a job for the foreseeable future. He did not have to stay after receiving enough inheritance from his uncle, however. During

WWI, Fleming worked as a medic and saw many soldiers die from infected wounds. Back then, the only way to fight infections was to use antiseptics such as ethanol, iodine, and hydrogen peroxide which can worsen wounds when used in excess. When he returned home, he concentrated all efforts on finding an antibiotic to address this. After many years of successful research but little progress on the antibiotic front, Fleming woke up to an agar plate unfortunately contaminated with fungus. He noted, however, that no bacteria were growing next to the fungus, and the further away the bacteria were the healthier they looked. He extracted the contaminating fungus and purified the substance he called “mould juice”, now known as penicillin.

This awakened a new era in medicine. Countless people were now prescribed a cheap and easy drug for what used to be a deadly problem. Got an inflammation? Have some antibiotics! Have a viral cold? Have some antibiotics! Alongside



▲ Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin in 1928



Gourmet roast meats, fresh artisan bread, poutine, sides, craft beers and excellent coffee.

All to eat in, take away, or delivered via Deliveroo.

Vegetarian, intolerances and allergies all catered for.

Open every day from 11.30am.

Student night from 5pm Wednesdays

Bread & Meat, 4 Bene't St, Cambridge CB2 3QN  
[www.breadandmeat.co.uk](http://www.breadandmeat.co.uk)



# politics and life outside the lab



Polly Evans

## Clickbait culture changing politics

New technologies have entered every aspect of our lives, from our dating habits to what we eat, promising to make everything quicker, easier and more efficient. In 2016, we've witnessed the political repercussions of making information bite-sized, manifesting itself through Britain's divisive Brexit campaign and Trump's victory. Both of these relied on juicy gliblets of truth being shared before they were ever properly cross-checked. Often these were propagated in the form of witty memes, 140 character responses and sensationalist Facebook posts.

The Oxford English Dictionary didn't name 2016's word of the year 'post-truth' for nothing; these campaigns are both testament to the notion that facts are no longer relevant unless they are compressed into an easily accessible package. According to information gathered in a 2015 study by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, 18-24 year olds are the most likely age group to gather news from 'any online source', supporting the assertion of this clickbait culture. But what are the long-term consequences of this, and how can we prevent ourselves being complicit?

I've been guilty of sharing un-

“A simplified and increasingly polarised type of politics”

verified facts – recently I emailed my mum a picture that some of you might be familiar with. It portrayed a younger Donald Trump with the quote: “If I were to run, I'd run as a Republican. They are the dumbest group of voters in the country. They believe anything on Fox News. I could lie and they'd still eat it up. I bet my numbers would be terrific.” My mum sent it to her friends, and one of them replied saying that Trump had never actually said this. I immediately felt embarrassed to have shared something false. Yet it's also unrealistic to expect everybody to fact check all the information we come across, so whom do we hold responsible for regulating the information we share?

Olivia Solon recently wrote a brilliant article in *The Guardian* exploring how the proliferation of fake news affected the American general election. In it she notes how Facebook shirks responsibility by labelling itself a 'neutral technology platform', not a media company. It seems that Facebook has not yet reconciled its public perception as a legitimate media source with its inability to regulate information. Part of the problem with using Facebook as a source of information is that your newsfeed becomes simply the like-minded opinions of those around you. In this sense, there is little space for opposition. This results in a simplified and increasingly polarised type of politics which is insular and divisive.

I can't help but wonder whether there is something democratising about the way new technologies circulate news. For the first time, thanks to platforms like Twitter, everyone can be a journalist, regardless of their background. Behind a screen, race and physical location cease to be barriers and there's a political platform as long as you have an iPhone.

There is something incredibly powerful in the idea of a group of people from disparate communities

▼ Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook is a key platform for one-click news (TECH-CRUNCH)

unified by one hashtag – BlackLivesMatter to name one. It's also never been easier to record and live stream events across the world – everybody is a witness. Does this bring us closer to an era of truth than ever before?

Of course, footage can be manipulated and quotes taken out of context, and engaging in one-click political discourse doesn't necessarily relate to practical engagement. This is one of the main criticisms levelled at what has been dubbed 'slacktivism' – how many of us ever actually check whether the motion we signed up for went to parliament?

There have been studies which contest this notion that Facebook merely engenders political laziness. One of these, published in *Nature*, supposedly proves that around 340,000 extra people turned out to vote in the 2010 US congressional elections because of a single reminder. We might also think about what 'activism' means – if helping to build a global consciousness counts

as being politically active, then we might have cause for optimism. Leo Mirani vehemently supports this. In one article he argues: “if activism extends to changing the minds of people, to making populations aware of what their governments are doing in their name, to influencing opinion across the world, then the revolution will be indeed be tweeted.”

I'm not convinced by the embarrassing 'smart phones, dumb people' mantra, often bandied around in response to these questions – of course we are smart, but how do we stay 'woke'? Do we train ourselves to become immune to obvious click bait news and untrustworthy sources? Do we register which media platforms we can trust? Or should we rely on the regulation of media platforms like Facebook? It feels like it's getting harder to know exactly what we can trust, but I've learnt the embarrassing way that Facebook memes probably aren't the best source. And to be honest, neither is this article, but I'll leave you to make up your own mind. If you do, send me a tweet.



(IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM)

the mass over-prescription of penicillin, many other antibiotics were discovered. And with the wealth of alternatives, humans for the first time felt invincible. But this safety did not last. The first case of penicillin resistance was reported in the early 50s, only 10 years after its introduction, with others following. In 2007, we no longer had any resistance-free antibiotic.

Bacteria who have picked up the ability to metabolise antibiotics can transfer such information to other bacteria through many means. Unlike higher order organisms, bacteria can absorb other bacterial genetic material from its surroundings. Bacteria can easily latch onto travelling vessels and move to a new location to proliferate and amplify the gene of interest. Two living bacteria can also exchange genetic material via the donor bacterium building a bridge to the recipient bacterium and transferring genetic material.

Although daunting, antibiotic resist-

ance should not cause panic. Even rare cases of multi-drug resistant superbugs can be treated. That is not to say that preventative measures can't be taken. There are some things that anyone can do to limit the spread of antibiotic resistance including taking the antibiotics to term as per the prescription. Also, unnecessary overloading of your system with antibiotics only benefits the resistant bacteria, which only enhances their proliferation and spread.

Antibiotic abuse is the leading cause of the alarmingly rapid onset of resistance. There are no more failsafe antibiotics on the market. New research is constantly trying to find the answer to this difficult problem. Leading scientists around the world are discovering possible compounds as we speak, and we may soon find a new solution. However, let us not forget the path that took us here and use antibiotics with care.

● Read the full version at [varsity.co.uk/science](http://varsity.co.uk/science)

Learn to build a business plan

Win £10,000 seed funding

Get expert advice

Learn more

Thurs. Jan 26 @ 7-9PM

Bateman Auditorium

Gonville & Caius

[ventureacademy.mckinsey.com](http://ventureacademy.mckinsey.com)

@McKinseyVentureAcademy



# Comment

## Talking about millennials' love affair with technology

*Sarah Wilson is tired of pointless millennial bashing and wants to have a proper debate about social media*



Sarah Wilson is Deputy Comment Editor and studies English at King's College

If 2016 was the year of political upheaval and social unrest, it was also the year of 'Wise Men On The Internet'. You'll have seen at least one. These men love nothing more than to stand in front of a camera, gesturing wildly, and giving their Very Clever hot takes on the world and its various problems. You probably only have to head over to your mum's Facebook to find primary offender Jonathan Pie, who apparently stopped the UK in its tracks with the big 'the Tories might actually be bad' reveal. Pie's favourite activity involves rebelliously flouting the orders of his imaginary producer, Tim, because *fuck your rules, Tim, I've got to tell these guys that the news is actually a huge conspiracy of lies*. Pie, however, is like an enthusiastic A-level student after his first politics lesson. He is largely benign, if a little irritating. No, the very worst of his type are those that have turned their attention away from political issues to blame the world's woes on everyone's favourite punching bag: the millennials. The big kids so addicted to their phones that it is now, apparently, *literally impossible* for them to make any meaningful connections with other human beings. At least, according to Simon Sinek, whose faux-scientific rant on 'exactly what is wrong with this generation' went viral around the end of December. His overarching theory is that millennials are selfish, unfulfilled, and unsociable, and it is technology, that is to blame.

What really irritated me about this video going viral was the veracity that viewers and sharers so readily awarded to the claims Sinek was making. Frequently during the video, he makes plain statements about millennials without any substantial evidence to back himself up, and at one point flippantly states 'their words, not mine'. Whose words? The man clearly thinks that one conversation with a 25-year-old he once had can be claimed as the voice of an entire generation.

One of the main hurdles he really stumbles at, however, is one that comes up time and time again in discussions and viral videos such as these, mean-



ing that it becomes impossible to have a reasoned debate about technology's impact on a generation. It is a fundamental, perhaps even wilful, misunderstanding of the way that social media networks and technology actually function. It seems that he and other grumbling baby-boomers have got the impression that when millennials scroll through their Facebook, Instagram and Twitter feeds, they are engaged in an activity of mindless self-absorption. I hate to be the one to point out the obvious, but these networks exist for interacting with other people. Sinek claims that a 'friend' on Facebook carries the same semantic meaning as 'friend' in the real-world sense. But we millennials have always perceived a very obvious difference. In fact I've never met a person my age who would sincerely proclaim that they had '500 friends'; this world view has been entirely fabricated by people like Sinek and projected onto our generation. He suggests that millennials can no longer forge meaningful relationships because their friendships exist solely online, without pausing to consider that networks like Facebook are now the main platform for organising events and meet-ups *in real life*. One form of socialising doesn't replace another, but augments it. This wincingly patronising man in a hat goes as far to suggest that social media has made all millennials literally want to be their idols, unable to tell the difference between reality and a filtered Instagram post.

There is one basic, universal rule of being a human being: *everything in moderation*. Sinek points out that likes,

“If I had a pound for every time I have read 'post-truth politics'”

and attention on social media, release dopamine in the same way that smoking or having an alcoholic drink does. But doing these things infrequently does not make one an addict. Nothing made this clearer to me than a period of having no smartphone for two months last term, as I found neither the total spiritual rebirth nor the total agony of separation that much commentary had told me I would experience. I was more productive, but I missed meetings because of the incapacity to check my email. My anxiety subsided a little, but I missed being able to take photographs with ease. What this period did make me do was evaluate my own personal habits of use, and this was the really important part. I concluded that social media was a distraction, but fun to use sometimes, and that having a smartphone was vital for keeping up with the world, but that I didn't always want to. It is lazy and hyperbolic to imply that access to the internet has demolished our generation's capacity to socialise properly, but we can't suggest it has had no effect.

What is clear is that technology and social media are here to stay, and indeed are often prerequisites of working life for our generation. But instead of making mass, un-nuanced generalisations about technology and its younger users, Facebook's favourite 'thinkers' would do well to encourage users to evaluate their usage for themselves, to open up more productive conversations about the pros and cons of switching on and off. After all, let's be realistic: I'm sure Sinek definitely checked his own likes at least once.

▲ (YOUTUBE/ JONATHAN PIE)



## Flora de Falbe Union lineup disappoints

It's been over a year since Cambridge students were in the national news for campaigning to 'no-platform' a Union speaker. For a while it was a trendy topic, but journalists soon returned to mocking safe spaces and trigger warnings, claiming that 'snowflake' students can't handle 'free speech'.

The Cambridge Union have just released their Lent 2017 term card, and I am disappointed. Not because I'm a member (I can think of better ways to spend £200), but because they're affiliated with my university and have once again failed at maintaining a gender balance. The line-up is 68 per cent male, and only two of the 15 individual speakers are women. In a university working to dispel its reputation for lack of diversity, this makes the Union painfully regressive.

In the 'no-platforming' debate, this matters. Refusing to listen to a viewpoint doesn't make it go away, but we need to think carefully about which viewpoints are being privileged over others. The debate has never been about free speech: that would involve government censorship. The student body has a right to feel angry when the views with which they are presented come overwhelmingly from the same, privileged groups.

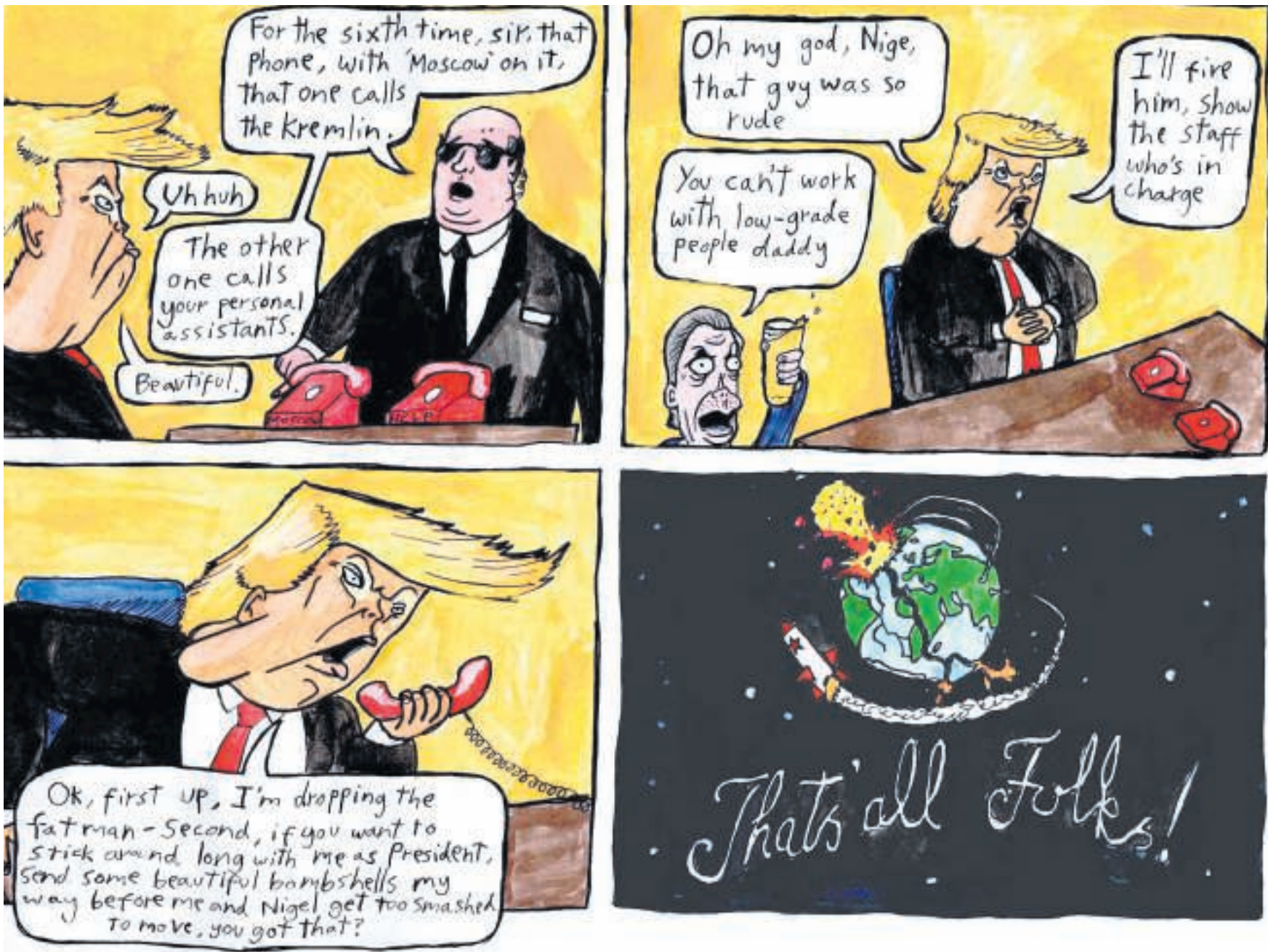
In the last two years, 61 per cent of speakers have been male, with this term's line-up the least balanced. This is more disappointing when you consider that the percentage of women is boosted by female-dominated debates on 'women's issues': on non-gendered topics the gap is much greater. Particularly concerning is the upcoming debate on prostitution, in which five of the eight speakers are men. We should not only blame the Union: after all, most of those in high-powered jobs are male. But this will not improve if organisations like the Union don't make more of an effort.

This term, the President, Vice President and Speakers Officer are all female, while in Lent 2016 – where the balance was almost equal at 52/48 – all three were male. Privilege is complex and intersectional, and maybe the women at the Union don't feel that sexism affects them personally. But living in a comparatively progressive environment doesn't mean that we should stop noticing inequality, and, importantly, trying to change it.

Sarah Wilson



Cartoon by Ben Brown



Opinionated?  
Sign up at  
[varsity.co.uk/  
get-involved](http://varsity.co.uk/get-involved)

# Your conspiracy theory is anti-Semitic

Miikka Jaarte 28 per cent fear

"Hillary Clinton meets in secret with international banks to plot the destruction of U.S sovereignty in order to enrich her donors"  
- Donald Trump (2016)

"The nations of the West are being brought under international control at political, military and economic levels."  
- Protocols of the Elders of Zion (1903)

A secretive group of people controls the banks, the media and the economy. They're the Illuminati, the Freemasons or blood-drinking lizard-people from the Alpha Draconis star system, if you're feeling adventurous. The main point is this: they control the world, subvert democracies, and possibly want to turn the world gay by putting chemicals in the water.

I hopefully don't have to tell you that this is all horseshit. But I might have to tell you that these conspiracy theories, while not always explicitly anti-Semitic, tend to be deeply rooted in Nazi propaganda. I'm not saying that all people who believe

in the global control of the Illuminati are anti-Semites. The fact that the anti-Semitic content is hidden deep into the conspiracy's mythos is one of the real dangers of such propaganda.

The most famous and influential case of such anti-Semitic propaganda is a 'document' called *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, released in 1903. It is supposedly the recorded minutes of a secret society of elite Jews, who gathered together to non-specifically discuss how they control the media, the banks and the world (you'd think such a mission was fairly complicated, but it mostly involves sinister laughing and robes). Its goal, some historians have argued, was to turn the attention of the emerging revolutionary movement away from the actual Russian ruling classes and towards the Jews. Despite it promptly being shown to be plagiarised from a satirical novel from 1864, the Nazis used it as a central piece of propaganda.

That the Nazis were uncritically anti-Semitic might not be news to anyone, but millions of people still believe *Protocols* to be a genuine document. Due to its obvious anti-Semitic content, it isn't presented as an entry-level piece

of conspiracy-lore. But digging deeper into the Illuminati-narrative, *Protocols* almost always comes up. Following the trail of conspiracy articles disturbingly often leads to the conclusion that our sinister rulers are at least disproportionately Jewish.

Even when it is not explicitly referenced, its influence shows itself passively. The most sinister of all bankers always tends to be George Soros, and the primary Illuminati-owned media-outlets are *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, both founded by Jewish families.

On the other hand, the defenders of the common people, those who refuse to be cogs in the Illuminati wheel, tend to be people and groups who aren't too friendly with Jews - Vladimir Putin and conservative 'news' sources like *Infowars* and the Ku Klux Klan. This is hardly an accident.

Though I suppose it is flattering that 'international Jews' (I have lived in more than one country and go to the synagogue once a year, so I think I qualify) are thought to be smart enough to control the global economy by being both communists and ruthless neoliberals, seeing the harassment of Jewish reporters and

"Jewish people are built from 28 per cent fear"



politicians and a whole new genre of memes describing the murder of myself and my family doesn't exactly fill me with hope.

The motive for releasing the *Protocols* in the first place was to divert attention away from the ruling classes. There is of course no reason to believe this is happening in any coordinated way now - but their original function still holds. Blaming 'The Jews' is attractive to many because of the sheer simplicity of assigning blame for the evil in the world to a small group of people, but also because it leaves everything as it is.

As awkward as it may seem, we should call out conspiracy theories like this them as what they are - thinly veiled anti-Semitic propaganda. While your distant cousin Jeb calling you a sheep and linking you a documentary about *The Truth They Don't Want You to Know About 9/11 and the Rothschild Family* might be uncomfortable, this stuff is important. An old Yiddish proverb states that the Jewish people are built from 28 per cent fear, 2 per cent sugar and 70 per cent audacity. I'd love to believe that the fear is no longer necessary.





## Comment

# BuzzFeed has played Trump's game – and lost

*A former stalwart against fake news has lost its way and fueled Trump's media narrative*



Eduardo Baptista  
studies History at  
Jesus College

This week's allegations from BuzzFeed of Trump's ties with Russia represent yet another case of a growing tendency within liberal media: a concerted attempt to smear Trump using the same tactics as the man himself.

Reacting to the election of someone as divisive as Trump can be difficult. The sombre mood in the Union on election night was indicative of the shock and dismay felt by many students. However, it is important that Cambridge and other left-of-centre hubs around the US and the UK leave aside the knee-jerk moral outrage of election night, and rationally assess what happened. A panel discussion organised by former MP Julian Huppert on Trump's Inauguration Day, entitled 'How did we get here and what does it mean?' signals Cambridge's first step in this direction.

Unfortunately, liberal media outlets such as BuzzFeed seem to be moving in the opposite direction. Reading the infamous article, their attempts to dress up their dissemination of fake news as a noble venture to allow Americans to "make up their own minds" seem laughable at best.

A note in the article, asking readers to send tips on these allegations to [trumpstories@buzzfeed.com](mailto:trumpstories@buzzfeed.com), suggests BuzzFeed is suffering from 'confirmation bias', a need for evidence that supports their pro-Democrat, anti-Trump stance. As the title of the email address suggests, they want stories, not facts.

The worst thing about BuzzFeed's poorly disguised engagement in 'fake news' is the hypocrisy behind it. Only two months ago, BuzzFeed was part of a trend within established media outlets that reported on the connection between 'fake news' and Trump's election victory. BuzzFeed published articles on 'hyper-partisan' Facebook pages, Macedonian fake news websites and an article on the overtly "pro-Donald Trump" nature of fake election stories.

Ben Smith, BuzzFeed's Editor-in-chief, followed up the publication of the dossier with a statement that defended the publication as an act of journalistic transparency in a hyper-partisan era. However, this goes against BuzzFeed's previous, and more ethical, tendency of simply highlighting the lack of fact-based reporting in certain areas of the Internet. Furthermore, in spite of Smith's moral justifications, there is a clear trend that BuzzFeed's actions fall within.

Shifting between criticising those

“  
BuzzFeed  
is suffering  
from confir-  
mation bias  
”

▼ Soon-to-be  
inaugurated  
President-elect  
Trump (GAGE  
SKIDAMORE)



who pass off unsubstantiated allegations as 'news' and then passing off this very behaviour as 'news' has been observed throughout pro-Democrat media outlets in the few months following Trump's election.

The most notorious example was the Washington Post article on Russia's cyber-hacking of the American election that spread like wildfire, as CNN and other pro-Democrat news outlets jumped on these allegations to publish their own material against Trump.

A consequence of these high-on-sensation, low-on-fact controversies was that they spawned the creation of other articles based on unverified allegations. The Post article was used as a source for other articles of an anti-Russia slant which in turn created more stories, all sensationalist and all insinuating the credibility of their allegations by citing previous allegations. BuzzFeed's actions therefore have a clear precedent.

Granted, BuzzFeed does not pass off the allegations as truths, distinguishing it from often pro-Trump websites claiming that Bill Clinton is a child rapist.

Circulating allegations about Trump only feeds into the rhetoric that allowed him to win in the first place. By instigating the belief amongst millions of Americans that the political system was 'rigged' in favour of the Democrats, Trump was able to portray himself as an outsider, a victim, and thus all the more righteous in his campaign to 'Make America Great Again'.

With the help of pro-Trump outlets such as Fox News, he was able to react to any negative coverage from pro-Demo-

crat outlets such as CNN resorting to this rhetoric of victimhood. After one of Alec Baldwin's hilarious sketches of Trump in *Saturday Night Live*, Trump tweeted the next morning: "totally one-sided, biased show – nothing funny at all. Equal time for us?"

There is thus a very serious consequence in the contagious spread of allegation-based reporting within the liberal media. The rhetoric of victimhood has become a self-fulfilling prophecy – one that Trump has all too gladly accepted.

Trump's first press conference since his election on Wednesday proves this. His response to a CNN reporter's attempt to ask a question, "You are fake news", was followed up by a tweet: "We had a great News conference at Trump Tower today. A couple of FAKE NEWS organisations were there but the people truly get what's going on."

Notice how Fox News' Sean Hannity reinforced the populism in Trump's tweet by describing the press conference as "the single greatest beat down of the alt-left, abusively biased mainstream media in the history of our country." Irrespective of CNN's intentions, it is clear their involvement with BuzzFeed has only added fuel to the fire of Trump's populist appeal.

By responding to post-truth politics with post-truth journalism, liberal media outlets such as BuzzFeed are not only contributing to the corrosion of journalistic responsibility, they are legitimizing the 'Trump tirade' on how the whole world is against him. An argument that augments Trump's messianic appeal as a champion of the excluded in America.

Eduardo  
Baptista

## Age is more important to identity than ever

Yukiko Lui Pale, Stale, Male

Is there something inherently different about being young, as opposed to being left-wing, or BME, or trans, or any other label we use to categorise ourselves?

Looking back at the car crash that some would call 2016, it would seem so.

Last June, young people voted in favour of remaining in the European Union, and the breakdown of voted cast in the US Presidential election have shown the younger masses voting for Hillary Clinton.

It seems that we are, more than ever, living in a world divided – not only along the familiar lines of gender, race, class, or sexuality, but also by age. It is an identity factor we can no longer ignore when considering our politics, both personal

and partisan.

This divide is not completely new, however. We've used age to delineate borders in art and culture for a long time.

In the 1960s, when rock and roll was just appearing on record players around the world, some conservative older folks decried the booming, hip-swinging beats as the devil's work. Similarly, though the occasional EDM-loving dad bursts with unprecedented success onto the meme scene, you'd probably be hard-pressed to locate a large contingent of middle-aged ravers.

This raises other questions, especially regarding the quality and artistic or cultural weight we attach to art made by and for young people – some say modern pop music is vulgar, arrhythmic, a real cultural dumpster fire. Tellingly, it's mostly older people who recycle these refrains, generation after generation.

We like to see our identities as constant and resilient things, able to outlast the fickle parts of us. But I think we've fed ourselves a small untruth.

When we look properly, it becomes clear that there is something inherently different about the identities of young people compared to those of middle-aged or older people, whether it was an embarrassing pop punk phase, or a tween obsession with K-pop bands. The

“  
We like  
to see our  
identities  
as constant  
and  
resilient  
things  
”

compulsion to lump large swathes of the population into Generations X, Y, and Z is also evidence of this. There is undoubtedly a tangible difference in outlook and perspective as you move up and down the age scale.

If age is a legitimate factor in assessing art and culture, then it's no stretch to say that it might also affect the political leanings of different generations.

In the wake of last year's surprise election outcomes, disparities in age were quickly pointed out as instrumental to understanding the confusion and frustration voiced by younger people all over the world. It was pointed out after the EU referendum, for instance, that if the 16-17 age group could have voted, the outcome would have swung the other way.

Does this mean that we should lower the voting age to include younger people? Or that we should enforce an upper age limit on voting for those who won't be around to bear the full brunt of their decisions?

Regardless of what the 'right' answer to the referendum was, we're still faced with the problem of an ostensible democratic deficit and a lack of representation. I hesitate to advocate for any drastic measures, but the recognition of the crucial factor age plays in political identity means we definitely need to reconsider how we conceptualise politics. We need

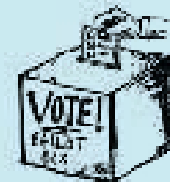
▼ LIZZY O'BRIEN

to warn our politicians against falling into the trap of forgetting their responsibilities to the only true silent majority that exists: the electorates and populations of the future. Sometimes, compromise in politics must involve deferring to the judgement of those in the future whose shoulders will actually be supporting the weight of our decisions.

This view of the world necessarily presumes a narrative of difference rather than unity. Barring the discovery of a fountain of youth, it says that there will always be an irreconcilable difference between the young and the old. Coming to terms with the inescapability of large scale social divergence, quite honestly, makes me nervous.

The inevitable nature of the disparity makes it scarier than the existence of other ideological differences. But as the steady march of time is unavoidable, so is the fact that we live in a society which is as potentially fractious as harmonious.

But if we recognise that age is a legitimate and significant contributing factor in diversity of opinion, maybe we can better understand the roots of our disagreements, and do better at coming up with better solutions which more faithfully represent the adults of tomorrow.





# SOAS students are right to favour Eastern philosophy teaching

*In a globalising world, wanting to study non-European thinkers isn't just political correctness*



Esther Raffell studies HSPS at St. Catharine's College

Esther Raffell

Misinformed educational conservatism has hijacked the free speech argument to shut down a discussion we absolutely need to be having: why we study who we study. *The Telegraph* not only misinformed its readership that SOAS's student union had "demanded" the removal of philosophers from its curriculum "simply because they are white" but also asserted that the idea of questioning a predominantly white curriculum might be "political correctness getting out of control."

Naturally, rather than considering the possibility that the School of Oriental and African Studies might actually want to prioritise the study of African and Oriental philosophers, it looks like the right-wing press is looking for another excuse to bash students for challenging and critiquing the status quo. Not only are the 'special snowflake' assertions tired and boring, they're utterly unfounded.

The unthinking rush to defend the likes of Kant and Plato, whilst constantly attacking students for hypersensitivity and censorship, is plain and simple hypocrisy. The *Daily Mail* and *The Telegraph* couldn't be more offended. Vilifying and exaggerating SOAS's calls to decolonise its curriculum is the British establishment getting defensive. Feeling like Western values are being placed under critical light, their response is to simplify the debate into one about skin colour and miss the point completely.

Ironically, our so-called free speech warriors are attempting to neutralise a genuinely interesting and important discussion. English philosophers like John Stuart Mill, who championed open debate for both societal freedom and personal growth, would not be pleased. This is not only a debate about black or white, colonial or post-colonial – it's also about education. What might be

the reasoning behind our curriculum, and do universities have a responsibility to justify it?

There is little doubt that philosophers like Kant and Plato have made invaluable contributions to the canon of Western political thought. Having been lucky enough to come across other enlightenment thinkers like Hobbes and Rousseau as an HSPS student, I would never suggest their names be wiped from the map. They have provided ground-breaking, foundational ideas about sociability, democracy, and the nature of the state.

That being said, given the explicit racism and sexism in their writing, I've found the lack of substantial post-colonial and feminist criticism on my reading lists frustrating. There is a sense that since the prejudices of these authors were so ingrained and widespread, to highlight them would be to detract from the goal of gaining a basic understanding and analyses of some very complex ideas. There is probably some truth to this, and SOAS Students' Union's discussion should remind other universities that there is a balance to be sought in our critical approaches.

Philosophical excellence does not warrant a kind of hero worship which permits us to overlook racism, sexism and a host of other prejudices. Their writing should be understood within its context, but also rigorously critiqued by exposure to contemporary perspectives. It is insufficient to simply excuse these thinkers based on their time of writing. Mill, who wrote less than a hundred years after the enlightenment period, made a case for the perfect equality of men and women long before gender equality became a mainstream Western value.

Our time on a three-year undergraduate degree is limited, but there is a discussion to be had about the philosophers and perspectives we prioritise. White

Western philosophers frequently spoke of a 'civilised' West, and 'primitive' East, and almost exclusively theorised about men. A challenging education should demand critical engagement with these issues, and the opportunity to consider them in contrast to philosophies elsewhere. Instead, free speech is being used as an excuse to defend a narrow and obstructive philosophical education.

Sir Anthony Seldon showed us this in his response to the SOAS Students' Union's motion. He claims that "there is a real danger of political correctness getting out of control, we need to understand the world as it was and not to rewrite history as some might like it to have been." It's almost as if he was worried that, were we to shift our focus from Western philosophy, we would find nothing but blank, empty space. This is exactly the problem that SOAS wants to address.

The student union's website states that deconstruction of the "myth of the universal truth" in Western philosophy is at the heart of its campaign for decolonisation. Prioritising the exploration of non-Western philosophy is a challenge to the conceptual dominance of Western

“Excellence does not warrant worship which permits us to overlook racism”

▼ Philosophers like Confucius are ignored by curricula (KEVIN-SMITHNYC)

Europe. It shows us that different experiences produce different philosophical and political models, broadening our understanding of the world and strengthening our capacity for critique.

"To understand the world as it was" must surely be to demand more from higher education that just the narratives of white Western men in colonial Europe. Their lived experiences are not unimportant, but they are limited.

It is not only more interesting to place the thought of enlightenment thinkers at odds with non-Western philosophers like Gandhi or Confucius, but necessary to a well-rounded education.

SOAS's student body places a large focus on post-colonial studies, which would be natural given its regional focal points. It matters that while white Western philosophy predominates, there is a student body challenging its intellectual authority, and calling for a greater diversity of thought. That, after all, is what free speech is all about.

There is an alternative, additional discourse within academia, and the voices of the SOAS's student union should be welcomed in contributing to it.



# John's signet rings are a symbol of elitism



Anna Jennings studies English at Clare College

Anna Jennings

I'm going to begin this article with a confession. I find college stash weird. Really weird. Perhaps it's because I come from a bog-standard comprehensive, the name of which no one would want on their back to parade around in. It's a strange phenomenon that one can't buy the 'Cambridge University' sweatshirts because in some unwritten rules these are deemed touristy, but college stash is wholly acceptable because it is specific. It confounds me as to why so many people delight in buying branded sweatshirts, teddy bears, and even bottles of port in order to broadcast their college identity to the outside world.

Signet rings emblazoned with the charming St John's College crest are the just the latest addition to a long line of increasingly ridiculous stash. Part of the question, I suppose, is the age-old chicken and the egg. Does college stash exist because students are desperate to

“Can your college identity really be equated to individual or familial identity?”

buy anything they can get their hands on which asserts their college identity, or because colleges are always on the lookout for more ways to capitalise on their students? In other words, does the market fuel demand, or vice versa? The relationship seems symbiotic, with each comfortable to feed the other's desire.

There is a further use of college stash: presents. I think a lot of us are guilty of giving a mother/ uncle/ grandmother/ godfather (delete as appropriate) a college-themed gift – and yes, chapel choir recording CDs do count. When you sit down to think about it properly, this is quite odd. It's an attempt to give a loved one something personal, something to make them think of you. But a really well-considered gift, or giving them something you genuinely love (a favourite book, for example), is a much better way to do this than a bottle of wine with a sticker of your college on it.

Let's think a bit more carefully about

signet rings in particular. Wikipedia tells me that signet rings date back to Ancient Egypt as personal seals – a way to attest an individual's identity. In today's European tradition, signet rings are generally associated with old families and their coats of arms. Can your college – a place where you spend three years – really be equated to this kind of individual or familial identity?

General consensus would be that it can't. And that is why there is a different word for rings that are worn by students and alumni to commemorate their university. They are called class rings. While this seems to be a broadly American tradition, the conscious choice of John's to instead market their ring as a signet ring ties it to a masculine tradition of elitism rather than becoming part of an established educational custom.

The other facet of this whole John's ring malarkey that really got to me is a detail at the end of the email: order

forms for the rings "must be authorised by the Domestic Bursar". The signet rings can only be bought by college members, and John's, it seems, are taking this seriously. They wouldn't – God forbid – want someone to *pretend* to be a Johnian. At £65 a pop, it would be quite an expensive hoax. Quite why someone would want to pretend to go to John's is another question altogether.

I was really conflicted in writing this article. Irresponsible journalism on this theme which capitalises on sensationalist headlines and lazy stereotypes does little but perpetuate and give a platform to the nasty, elitist underbelly of college identity: it literally is advertising.

But ignoring the issue won't make it go away. As Cambridge students, I believe we have a moral duty to speak up against the persistent ugly facets of this institution if we are to combat the elitism which year upon year leads talented students to turn elsewhere.



Week

1

Poetry in Motion  
ADC Theatre  
24th–28th January,  
7:45pm

As the ADC’s biggest dance show of the year, ‘Poetry in Motion’ should appeal to ballet and flamenco fans alike

2

T2 screening  
+ discussion  
Picturehouse  
31st January,  
6:30pm

Irvine Welsh and the original cast return for more drug-fuelled fun (maybe) in the sequel to the iconic 90s film

3

This UL exhibition reveals some of the more bizarre objects in its collection, all starting with a mummy gifted to the University in 1743

Curious Objects  
University Library  
Finishes 21st March

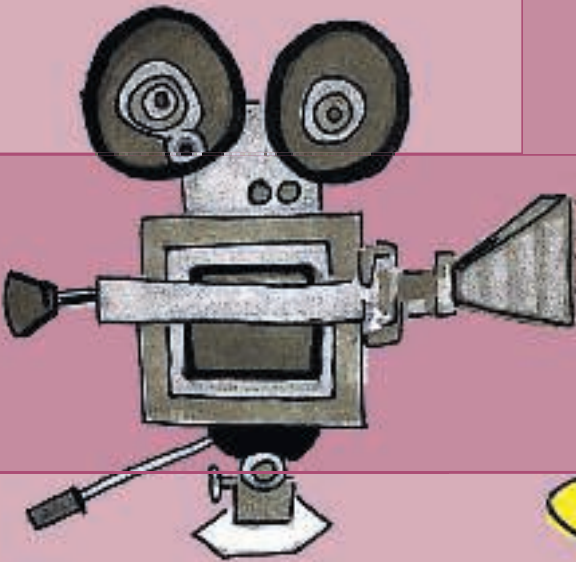


‘London Road’ explores the impact on the residents after one of its inhabitants is convicted of murder

4

5

Cambridge Shorts  
ADC Theatre  
21st February, 11pm



After its success last term, Joe Shalom returns to present a selection of Cambridge students’ best short films in collaboration with Cambridge Film Association

What’s on  
this term

Vulture’s guide to the best events,  
helping you keeping it cultural this Lent





# Vulture

**Footlights Presents**  
**Corpus Playroom**  
25–28th January  
11pm

Some of Cambridge's finest comedians present a brand new sketch show to kick off the term

**Illustrations**  
by Lizzy O'Brien



In a one-woman production, Footlight Luisa Callander delivers an hour of comedy 'starring some characters who all look just a smidgen like her'

**Doppelgangers**  
**Corpus Playroom**  
30th January,  
9:30pm

**London Road**  
**ADC Theatre**  
7th February–11th February,  
7:45pm

There might have been controversy, but this year the organisers are promising the biggest and most immersive show yet

**Macbeth**  
**TBC**  
21st February–  
25th February,  
7pm

Directed by Saskia Ross and with an entirely BME cast, this production takes place in a sprawling urban landscape and looks set to be an entirely original take on the Scottish play

**Postmodern Jukebox**  
**Corn Exchange**  
28th February

They've got nearly 500 million views and over 70 different cast members, and now the cover-making collective come to Cambridge

**The Zero Hour Musical**  
**ADC Theatre**  
8th–11th March, 11pm

A wholly improvised musical, the creators are promising that every show will be shaped by the audience that night

In their biggest headline show to date, the Oxford indie band are touring their acclaimed 2016 album 'How to Be a Human Being'

**Glass Animals**  
**The Junction**  
13th March

6

7

8





# Soulless Sellouts

says *Peter Chappell*

# Success Stories

says *Felix Peckham*

*Navigating the corporate careers divide*

The path to finding a career is like the path to finding someone you love. It involves acceptance, and rejection; hope, and loss. It requires perseverance and knowing when to let things go. Strange career passions appear in your early or mid teens. You fall for the clichéd options; you want to be a footballer, a dancer, a pop star. Around the same time, you might fall for that girl or boy in school with all the friends or the hair that falls in exactly the right way.

As you move on, your tastes start to refine. You realise that actually you really do hate chemistry, and history just isn't for you. You fall into a group of friends based on what you have in common, and you form an identity. Around the same time, you may lose your virginity, and realise that it's really not all that it's cracked up to be. Once again, your priorities change and you get that there is more to love than flirty texts and glances down the corridor. You understand that being with someone is just as much about what you want from them as what they want from you.

You are accepted into university and fall in love with a whole new group of friends. The things you were taught in school are swept away by a torrent of exciting new ideas. Similarly, you start to fancy people from places far from where you grew up, or from backgrounds very different to yours. Your view of what you like – what your tastes are, what makes you happy – changes again.

And then, abruptly, it comes to choosing a career. Like choosing a partner, choosing a job is a colossal test of self-knowledge. It is a moment when you are called upon to have a profound understand-

ing of where your skills lie, what makes you happy, and what lifestyle you want to lead in 40 years' time. The cold truth is most people don't have a true understanding of who they are, and that's why most people end up in jobs they hate.

Paradoxically, job-choosing is hugely personal and yet hugely impersonal at the same time; only you can make this decision, and know what is right for you. However, this has to be balanced with the impersonal practical considerations of salary, location and experience. A similar paradox exists in how we choose our lovers.

Like in love, choosing a career can be a matter of instinct, and this shouldn't be ignored. Many factors cloud our judgement; one look at the CamCareers internships page will make anyone who doesn't want to do banking or marketing balk. On my last check, there were 149 opportunities for "Accounting and Finance", and 245 for "IT". There were 39 for "Media" and 17 for "Publishing". Is everyone going into IT? No, and even if they were, that wouldn't matter. This is where imaginative and varied work experience and internships are vital for exploring what is and isn't for you. See it as the job equivalent of experimenting sexually.

I think there is a dismal failure of imagination on the part of our generation. We're still living in the careers equivalent of the pre-

Sexual Revolution; people think they sign up for a job and that's them sorted, forever. It is unsurprising because millions of pounds

▲ **Different jobs, different dress codes** (Lucas Chebib)

are spent by banks and consultancy firms to convince us of their definition of success. Don't be fooled. It is not just direct job advertisement they spend money on. You should understand that this goes a lot further than that; banks will fund dinners, societies, events, lectures, student ambassadors. They do everything they can to love-bomb us. Crucially, never undersell yourself. You are worth a lot, and you have the world at your feet. Consider your options wisely.

If you happen to choose a corporate career, know that you may have the opportunity to lead a happy and fulfilled life. Such careers can be hugely creative, rewarding, and intellectually stimulating. But let's be clear: if you are doing it "until I pay off my debts" then very soon afterwards you will be using the same excuse til "I pay off my mortgage". It will become, "I just want to make enough not to worry any more". When you have kids it will be "I'm doing it for my family". In your cynical 40s and 50s you will echo your parents; "What, that? Just a student fantasy."

It sounds old-fashioned and naive to ques-

**Like in love, choosing a career can be a matter of instinct, and this shouldn't be ignored**



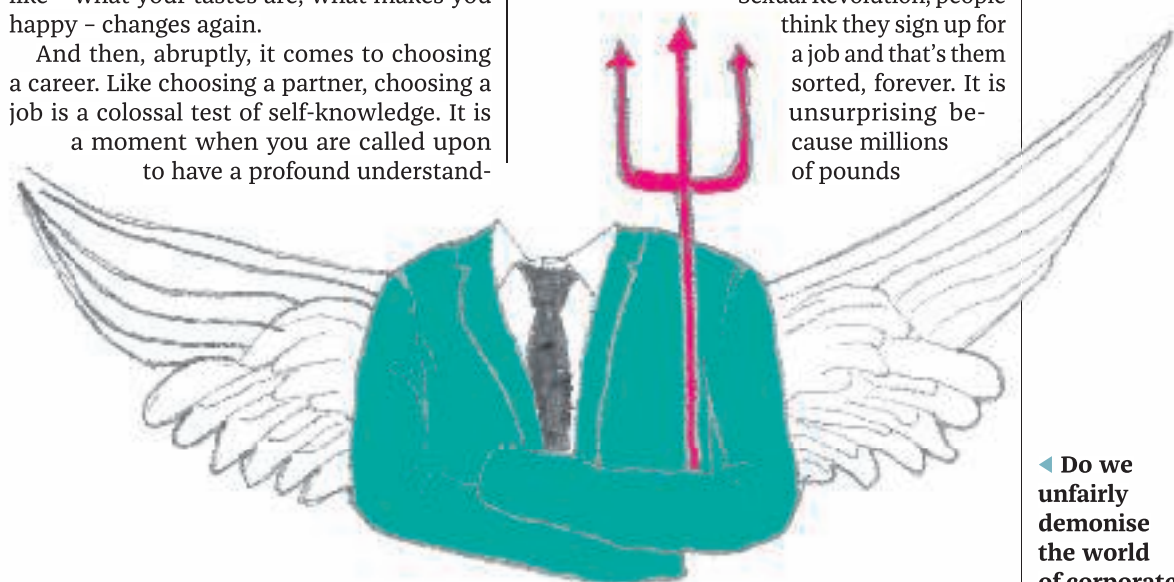
**Thinking forwards: does it matter anyway?**

Career plans for our generation are going to be very different from ever before: we're going to have to factor in whether the job we want will actually exist in a few years' time. Thinking of selling your soul to a corporate job or a bank for "only five years until I make enough to retire at 27"?

Well, you might not have to worry about getting trapped in that world for much longer because chances are you'll be replaced by a machine pretty soon anyway. Okay, so maybe we're not that close to replacing the corporate bureaucratic world with computers, but it's no longer a question of it maybe happening because it definitely will.

Perhaps many of us at Cambridge won't be affected by this technological revolution. Most of us will aim quite high and graduate with qualifications good enough to get us into jobs that won't be facing computerised replacement any time soon. But many people who will end up in the lower end of corporate jobs, jobs that are routine, repetitious and bureaucratic, will find that those positions simply won't exist in the near future.

◀ **Do we unfairly demonise the world of corporate careers?**







tion whether a job is worthwhile or moral anymore. Take a moment to consider how much the taxpayer has invested in your life. Your hospital, your school, your safety. Ask what you can do to repay that profound debt to society.

I sometimes think competitive Times Top 100 grad schemes are like those achingly beautiful people in high school that everyone wants. Soon you may realise that there's no substance to them, or maybe when you finally meet face-to-face you just don't click. It isn't surprising that we pursue our job search like we do our search for romance.

We even use the same language; the 'dream job' is like 'the One'; job sites often have all the judgmental awkwardness of a Tinder encounter; we flaunt our internships right above our relationship status on Facebook. Would you marry someone you weren't absolutely sure about? No. It sounds obvious, but isn't. Don't do a corporate job if it isn't right for you; have the unfashionable qualities of faith, imagination and the individual resolve to be yourself ●

Peter Chappell

To be quite honest with you, I am perplexed by the swathes of young and idealistic graduates from universities across the country who embark upon the journey to work for the giants of corporate and financial skulduggery: Goldman Sachs, Price Waterhouse Coopers, British Petroleum, Credit Suisse, and so on.

These are companies that play a central role in some of society's prevalent social and economic ills – the repercussions of the 2008 financial crisis are still alive in households across the UK, and yet executives at these corporate hegemony remain unrepresentative, unaccountable, and grossly overpaid.

Despite this, four per cent of Goldman Sachs's analyst class of 2016 were educated at Cambridge. Can corporate jobs really be the paragons of soulless work, or is there more to them than strenuous hours spent as an underling to faceless multinational firms?

The working conditions at big banks and corporate businesses often receive a lot of negative attention: exceedingly long hours have led to mental health conditions and, in some cases, suicide. However, while many jobs will be strenuous, challenging, and at times unsustainable, such an environment is not alien to many students who have spent years working hard, long hours to get to university, and then to graduate with the best degree possible.

Such an atmosphere of pressure and expectation is known to most millennials, and many have learnt to thrive off of it. Perpetuating this in the workplace may well be an incentive for some, who believe that their greatest work and output is achieved under these circumstances. Indeed, they may even find a less pressured environment to be stagnant and insufficiently stimulating.

The world of big business is an electrifying place to work. I suspect working in Whitehall, or Parliament, had once the same atmosphere to it – the sense of action and power being palpable. Now, in the corporate and financial bubble, men in tailored suits hold great power and responsibility. Working for a vast and sprawling organisation with offices around the world is exciting in a way that careers such as the Foreign Office aren't any longer. Increasingly these corporations and individuals pull the strings of governmental policy and have immense leverage over the political sphere.

The world of big business is an electrifying place to work



The executives that emerge from glass-clad skyscrapers the world over have politicians on speed dials and are responsible for employing thousands of people. Being accessory to that, and indeed potentially being the puller of said strings, is tempting. These corporate titans really are in high demand: the next US Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, is the former CEO of ExxonMobil. Status and power are irresistible.

No analysis of the merits of a corporate job would be complete without a mention of money. It goes without saying that a career in the corporate and banking sectors can yield vast riches for eager graduates. In 2015, investment banks offered the highest average starting salary for graduates at a substantial £45,000 per annum. Needless to say, the ceiling on potential earnings across a career is rather higher. The CEO of Goldman Sachs, Lloyd Blankfein, earned a healthy \$23 million in 2015. Money talks, and, when compared against the charity sector for example, where the median salary for CEOs in 2014/2015 was £55,500 per annum, it becomes a persuasive factor. For graduates saddled with student debts and a habit of counting every penny, the prospect of a vast salary is a powerful incentive.

Finally, the question of mundane repetition, lack of fulfilment, and sheer boredom has to be addressed. This is sometimes used as a criticism of the corporate world: can anyone really enjoy being a banker or consultant? Investment banking clearly involves skill and intelligence; after all, the bonuses offered in the industry are presumably distributed on merit. The application of expertise in any industry or career will inevitably be fulfilling and rewarding in its own particular way.

Equally, consultancy is about problem solving and creating solutions to the needs of companies and individuals. Most jobs fundamentally concern the application of problem solving, whether it be understanding how Glaxo Smith Kline can better target the UK consumer market, or Oxfam attempting to solve world hunger, the fundamental deployment of brain power is the same – ethical differences aside.

Ultimately, job satisfaction and enjoyment will come down to an individual; for an economist, investment banking is undoubtedly a fascinating practical application of years of studying, and the designing of complex financial models will be simultaneously interesting and rewarding. While this may not appeal to English literature graduates, it doesn't necessarily mean that it is not a worthwhile and genuinely fulfilling career choice.

That said, attempting to make the case for pursuing a corporate job is something of a Boris Johnson moment to me. Just as Boris deployed arguments, slogans and statistics that he is alleged to have questionable belief in, and commitment to, I similarly have pitched an argument which I cannot truly believe in.

While I do feel that some of the criticism directed towards the corporate sector, and those who pursue careers in it, are hyperbolic, if not unfounded, my overwhelming sense is that graduates are motivated by financial reward – effectively greed – and not because they have some innate calling to become a consultant.

Graduates from all walks of life should think carefully about how to deploy their 30 or 40 years of working life that they have to offer, whether that be in the corporate sector or somewhere providing a sense of moral satisfaction as well ●

Felix Peckham

And it isn't primarily corporate and financial careers either – jobs in the legal sector, even the medical sector, might be affected. There are already programmes that can write editorial copy and then pull it into a publication, removing any demand for human copy editors.

Consider the future of self-driving cars: removing the risk drivers represent means a diminishing motor insurance industry. Without the kinds of problems humans can encounter while driving such as poor sight, distraction, drunkenness, sudden illness and tiredness, there will inevitably be less accidents. Fewer accidents mean fewer police monitoring motorways, and less pressure on hospitals to deal with car-related injuries. The future of technology does not just replace jobs, it renders them obsolete.

But none of this has to be a bad thing. The future of technology does not signal the end of the world if we accept it. Jobs that will no longer exist will create new ones instead. If there are jobs that can be replaced by machines, surely there is some benefit to the

humans who work like robots every day.

This isn't quite like the Industrial Revolution either, where skilled labour was replaced by steam engines and new factory machinery. Then there was a loss in hand-made manufacturing, in human skill. This new technological rise will see the loss of a bureaucratic world that has run its course anyway.

It's possible that we'll see another 'Luddite' revolution: workers threatened with unemployment rising against the machine. This is obviously understandable, natural even. To prevent this, we need a better understanding of the technology that's coming in.

What is going to happen to all the workers who will be out of a job most likely won't be answered until the jobs are actually replaced. Hopefully we'll see a growth in creativity and in science. More jobs will open up that don't require robotic repetition, so perhaps there will be a rise in collaboration, in innovation. There must

be a rise in the number of people working in the technology industry in order to keep up with the machines we're putting out there.

What is so hard about this, as I guess was hard during the industrial revolution, is how to know what happens next. The hope is that the bureaucratic jobs that are no longer useful will be eradicated, but any damage caused by subsequent unemployment is minimised.

As a generation we enter the workplace amid a revolution. So far it's a quiet one, it creeps up on us one new machine, one new programme, one new algorithm at a time. But it's there and it's happening. We just have to work out what to do with it once we get there ●

Mollie Semple





# From pencil skirts to proper breakfast

**Lizzy Brown** on how to survive your internship

Illustrations by **Oliver Baldock**

As I write this, I'm almost at the end of a two-week mini-pupillage at a law firm. Despite the fact that this is my second internship to date and that intern-ship is something that one is meant to improve at with time and experience, I still don't think I've figured out how to do it properly. At least I've managed to pick some golden nuggets of knowledge (read: charred lumps of coal) up from my unpaid glory days.

First – what to wear? As I pored over my wardrobe on a Monday morning, my mind was burdened singularly by a terrifying factoid from the *Daily Mail*: apparently, employers take six and a half minutes to decide if they'll hire you. Hence, I came in on my first day dressed to the nines, my white blouse tucked tightly into my pencil skirt and my kitten heels primed to clack loudly against the parquet floors. I was a powerhouse corporate vision, plucked straight from the set of *Mad Men*. After sharing a Firm and Professional Handshake with the barrister I'd be shadowing, I sat down in a corner of the office, ready to get my hands dirty. What I'd forgotten was that I'd safety pinned the back of my skirt,

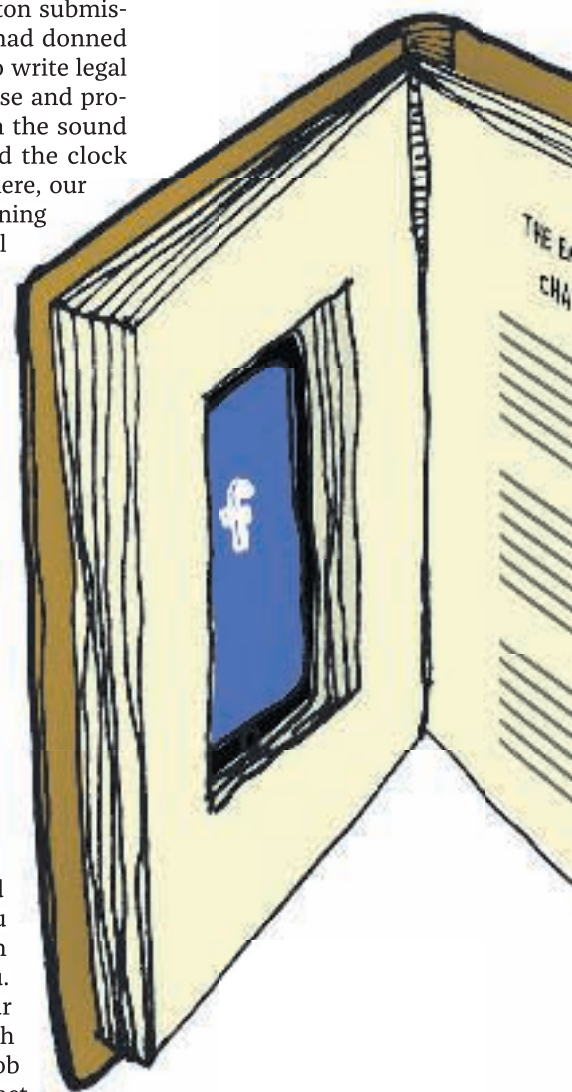
and plonking myself down confidently onto a low chair somehow undid the clasp. The pin rammed itself into the back of my thigh and I leapt up like I was being exorcised. What to take away from this experience? Dress for the job you want. But don't injure yourself doing it, for God's sake.

During my stint, I would often feel like more of a nuisance than a helpful presence in the office. For me, this was confirmed when the barrister I shadowed tripped over my backpack and spilled the contents of his coffee mug onto the wall. I tried to counteract my obviously superfluous role in the machine by looking super busy and engaged. Sometimes, I found myself simply waiting around for a new task. My advice? Slack off, but be smart about it. I don't need to remind you to keep a legitimate task open in a readily accessible window, to mute your Facebook chat sounds, to use an *FT* article on oil prices as a failsafe. Ultimately, if you are fortunate enough to take on real responsibilities as an intern, complete the task to the best of your ability. But in the instances where everyone is too busy to micromanage you, amuse yourself but cover your tracks.

Important tip – eat! Breakfast! I was instructed to put together a skeleton submission, meanwhile, the barrister had donned headphones to get in the zone to write legal advice. The atmosphere was terse and productive, the room enveloped in the sound of our keyboards clattering and the clock ticking. Right then, out of nowhere, our silence was broken by the deafening roar of my gut. Not a hollow growl to convey its emptiness, rather, it emitted a moist, insipid sort of squelch, as the acids in my breakfast-deprived stomach tossed and churned on each other in the absence of morsels to digest. The barrister removed his headphones slowly and turned quizzically towards me. “Do you need to excuse yourself, Cordelia?” he asked curtly. Never again.

You hear stories of interns making themselves so indispensable to the company that they're hired straight off the job, and it's hard to see yourself in that narrative when you're wedged between the walls of a toilet cubicle to steal a quick nap before your 12:30 lunch break. Capitalise on the fact that, as an intern, you're not supposed to have all the answers, but you can try to find them. Traffic in people's low expectations of you. Be a freeloader, and accept your boss's offer to pay for your lunch and transport. Ultimately, your job is to learn, and to make your impact on the company as close to positive as possible. No pressure ●

“Slack off, but be smart about it.”



## Is it true that money can buy happiness?

Growing up, I often repeated the naïve maxim “I’m not going to care how much I earn as long as I’m doing a job I love.” Looking back, I realise I was able to say this only from a very privileged standpoint: my family never had to worry about putting food on the table or paying the rent – in fact, growing up abroad my sister and I attended private international schools and travelled widely. I didn’t care about money because I didn’t have to, and if I ever have children, I want the same for them.

So my childhood plan of becoming a writer takes backseat as I begin to think more realistically about my future career. But beyond earning enough to live comfortably, does it really matter how much I earn?

An oft-cited 2010 study by Daniel Kahneman and Angus Deaton seems to prove so. Kahneman and Deaton plotted household earnings against well-being. Unlike previous studies on this topic, they distinguished between two types of well-being: emotional well-being (the emotions we

experience in our daily lives) and life evaluation (what we think about our life when we sit down and think about it). What they found was that income and education are more closely related to life evaluation, while other factors such as health and loneliness are stronger predictors of emotional well-being.

Citing this study and others of its kind, journalists often quote \$75,000 (£61,500) as the cut-off point: up to this level of household income, more money does make you happier; but as soon as you’re earning over \$75,000, an increase in salary won’t make you happier. This simplistic interpretation of the study misses a few key details: firstly, Kahneman and Deaton used a logarithmic scale for house-

“My childhood plan of becoming a writer takes backseat as I begin to think more realistically about my future career”

hold income. This is due to something called Weber’s law, or in other words, due to the fact that the effective stimulus for the perception of change is the percentage change, not the absolute change.

In layman’s terms: a salary increase of \$1,000 will mean a lot more to someone earning \$20,000 than someone earning \$100,000. Previous studies made the mistake of using a



▲ How important is money when it comes to choosing a job? (Louis Ashworth)

linear scale, making it seem like happiness stops increasing at a certain point, when in fact this was simply because the larger your salary is, the larger an increase in salary you need to make any considerable difference to your life.

What Kahneman and Deaton found is that your life evaluation improves as your household income increases, and continues to improve no matter how large your household income gets. They also found that the more you earn, the better your emotional well-being, but only up to \$75,000 – a fairly middle-class income level.

These strike me as findings that Stephen Pollan, author of *Die Broke*, would approve of. In his popular personal finance book, Pollan argues that we should treat our jobs merely as money-making methods. We shouldn’t use our jobs to find enjoyment or fulfilment, he argues. Instead, our jobs should provide the money we need to find those things elsewhere: in our family life, or hobbies, or nice holidays abroad.

However, Pollan’s book is now a few decades out of date. Professionals nowadays seem to spend an increasing number of hours in the office – and even when they come home they are expected to check their emails and catch up on reading. If we are spending more time at work, and have less free time in which to spend our hard-earned money, surely it’s important that we enjoy the way in which we’re earn-





## COLUMN

GABS  
MCGUINNESS

On whether  
turning  
21 really  
means  
adulthood



I am 21 years old and about to embark on my penultimate term in my final year at Cambridge. I am pretty certain this should feel like some sort of a landmark point in my life where big things happen and grand decisions are made. But nothing has happened since turning 21 that has transformed me into an adult. I'm not considering adopting a child or driving a lorry any time soon. Despite being allowed to drive since age 17, I've still not passed my test. The age limit on drinking hardly stopped anyone sneakily drinking Glen's vodka years before they were 18. Nor did turning 16 inspire me to get married. And so nothing is different but, to reconfigure the philosophical musings of the modern prophet, Kylie Jenner: 21 for me has more been the age of realising things than it has been about becoming an adult. Or it's the year of realising that becoming an adult does not actually change anything about you at all. And I'm OK with that.

In short, I was probably a better adult when I was 11; I only knew of about seven jobs in the world, which made picking a career much easier, and I hadn't yet been led astray by the power of wine. The Holy Grail of a 'healthy sleeping pattern' will probably still mystify me for decades to come. I hate Tinder and yet I still cannot bring myself to delete the app from my phone, largely due to a sadistic part of myself (one that I am ashamed of) that enjoys rejecting men for the thrill of it. After a few weeks of brilliant budgeting I reward myself with a shopping trip that sends me flying close to my overdraft. I leave it till the last possible moment to do my laundry, and I rarely wash out my coffee mug under the false pretense that it cleans itself because 'black coffee is basically just murky water.' But even if continually messing up and picking myself back up again like a human Flappy Bird is the face of adulthood in my twenties, then I don't really mind too much.

But it does feel like there is a rush to ensure a smooth transition from university into the adult world, especially when you remember that, at age 20, Bill Gates had dropped out of Harvard and co-founded Microsoft. Adele had already released 19 and had just begun writing 21 when she was my age. Stevie Wonder was signed by Motown when he was just 11, while Mozart's operas were already being performed professionally when he was 14. At 16 years old, Malala Yousafzai received a Nobel Peace Prize nomination. In stark contrast, when I was 16, I was awarded my Silver DofE. Zadie

Smith finished writing *White Teeth* during her final year of studying English at Cambridge – a degree she received a First in. My goal for the end of this year is just to leave Cambridge with my sanity vaguely intact.

And where do I go after this place? The current plan is a Master's course – partially because I am not sure if I can function outside of academia but also because I do love my subject. I am idealistically hopeful that I will naturally gravitate towards my dream career through postgraduate study. Taking into consideration that I am the sort of person who cannot even pick the sandwich I want in a meal deal, I do not think it is sensible for me to rush things and apply for a graduate scheme. It's hard to assess the situation rationally when it feels like there is an expectation that we are all meant to subscribe to a similar idea of success and thus follow a similar path. When you ignore what Adele and Bill Gates were doing at this age, 21 is still super young and there is a juicy 44 years of work ahead of us. That accommodates time for failure, change, and diversions.

Most of all, I've been in a competitive educational environment for pretty much my whole life, and I need the time away from it to shake off bad habits and take things at a slower pace. When I graduate from Cambridge, I will finally have some time to work on myself holistically rather than academically. I want to spend some time learning about self-care, establishing a foolproof skincare routine, and watching those TV shows I never got round to



▲ By the time of graduating Zadie Smith had written a novel (David Shankbone)

seeing. I'd love to travel more and have a go at properly learning a language or two. There'll be time to take more baths, go on long walks, or to write and draw for fun. I'll actually be able to devote proper time for friends away from all the stress and essay deadlines. I'll learn the best way to respond to people when they say something that upsets me and when it's better for my health to ignore them. There's time for learning to enjoy my own company. If our twenties are about finding our feet in the world, then they are just as much about working on our happiness levels as they are about finding a job that pays £50k a year ●

ing money.

Another factor to consider as well as salary is career progression. This is due to the adaptation phenomenon: while a raise may seem fantastic at first, we soon get used to having more money, and need another raise to get that boost of happiness again.

It seems then that our potential to earn more is as important as our starting salaries. Lots of graduate jobs out there offer this: for example, the Civil Service Fast Stream offers a starting salary of £28,000 which could go up to £55,000 after four years.

So, after all my research, what am I looking for in a career? A good life-balance (for my emotional well-being), a salary which would allow me to live a comfortable middle-class life (for my life evaluation), a job with good opportunities for promotions and salary boosts (to deal with that pesky adaptation phenomenon) and a job that I enjoy (as I'll be committing many hours a week to it).

While I have an immense amount of respect and admiration for those who choose to pursue riskier, creative careers, I've decided that life path is not for me. While I'm not going to go after a career in banking or consultancy just to bring in the big bucks, I have decided to consider my potential earnings when making career choices, a decision which would truly shock 13-year-old me ●

Katherine Ridley

# MEE and I

ASIAN TAPAS & NOODLE BAR

Student favourite Dojo is back  
with a new name and new location!....  
10% student discount with all cash orders  
Just show your University ID card!



Mee & I Noodle Bar  
45/47 Castle Street Cambridge CB3 0AH  
Tel: 01223 363666  
Email: meeandi@yahoo.com



# Culture

## Josie Long

### ‘Women comedians are like the canary in the mine for sexism’

**Rhiannon Melliar-Smith** chats politics, progress and positivity with the award-winning comedian ahead of her performance at the Cambridge Junction in February

The events of the last two years are enough to make most on the left of the political spectrum want to crawl under a rock and stay there. Not Josie Long. She is setting off on a 2-month tour of the UK with her new show, *Something Better*, in an attempt to spread her infectious optimism. Her philosophy? “Basically people have an obligation to, you know, not be a twat”.

It feels wrong to begin an interview with someone so positive by asking them about the likes of Trump and Brexit, but Long has been able to take the turbulent political climate and turn it into something equally hilarious and comforting. Noting the activist nature of her stand-up, I ask whether she thinks that comedians have a duty to talk about politics, or if she has simply found that her personal interests marry well with her creative outlet. Long admits that, for her, comedy is a “companion” which becomes a way to interpret and understand the world around her – whether it is the struggle to be a functioning adult or the rise of the far-right in Europe.

Having always admired her for how she has used her platform to promote kindness and equality, it surprises me when Long talks about her struggle to be as good a person as possible. Noting her despair at the 2015 General Election result, she mentions how she felt “intensely and desperately urgent” to talk about politics, for fear of “letting everyone down”, including her children who – she adds – do not even exist. She used to be angry when she saw other comedians ignoring the real world in their work, but now, it does not bother her: after all, she admits, “we need every flavour of ice-cream in the pack”.

Long’s attitude is refreshing for a comedian just coming to terms with 2016. “The only obligation is to be real,” she says of the role of the comedian, pointing out that it is great that some people use their platform to talk about important issues, “but we also need someone who will empty yoghurt over their head”. And

she is, in my experience, the perfect cross-section of these two styles of comedy.

Long has certainly established a crowd who keep coming back for more, leaving it easy to think she is one of a number of political comedians simply preaching to the choir rather than changing the world. Yet, for her, “political comedy isn’t changing minds and winning elections. Or, at least, it hasn’t changed enough minds, from what last year showed”.

She recognises that her crowd know what they’re in for – “most of the time,” she adds with a laugh – but prefers to think of her comedy as having a consoling, healing effect for those who feel alone in a world which, too often, feels riddled with hatred and worry. “If my stand-up can help people keep going to do better things... that’s the best thing in the world,” she says.

It feels an apt time to mention that, having seen her stand-up in 2012, a card she handed out at the end of the show about not feeling limited by class had been pinned over my desk for 4 years and had served as inspiration to work hard and achieve goals.

Seeming genuinely touched by this, she reflects on her time at Oxford University: in 2010, she told *The Independent* her biggest regret was not ‘having done better’ in her degree, and I ask her if this feeling has changed with age. It is surprising, and a little disheartening, to hear someone so interesting and successful talk about the stresses of feeling academically inadequate, but Long admits that the “attainment mentality” promoted by Oxbridge, and many secondary schools, is “intense” and difficult to get over, even for people in their 30s.

Nonetheless, Long is still able to put a positive spin on a feeling all too familiar to Oxbridge students, noting she went to Oxford with a plan to find her “crowd”, engage with her subject and learn to read critically – and managed to do just that. She is comfortingly frank, explaining how she “had an amazing time” but cannot help the negative feelings which come from the academic side of things.

I turn the conversation towards women in



“People have an obligation to, you know, not be a twat”

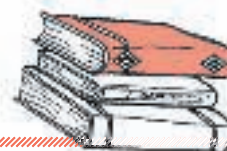
comedy, and ask her whether she thinks women comedians can come out of 2016 stronger than ever. Long talks passionately about the pride she feels as her contemporaries, such as Bridget Christie and Isy Suttie, continue to break the glass ceiling. “The thing is,” she says, “women comedians are like the canary in the mine for sexism”.

Comedy, according to her, reflects society as a whole; there are a few at the top who make millions, there is a small wedge who can get by, and there’s the majority at the bottom of the pile, struggling. And there is sexism. “They don’t like your voice, the attention you get or the opinions you have. But stand-up isn’t

◀◀ Josie Long got involved in comedy as a student at Oxford (Above: Giles Smith/ Left: Phil Chambers) )







Find more cultural content online at:  
[varsity.co.uk/culture](http://varsity.co.uk/culture)



## COLUMN

# WORD UP

**Georgie Thorpe**  
 looks  
 at the  
 origin of  
 'spirits'



This year, I spent New Year's Eve on a freezing beach in Cornwall with my parents. It wasn't exactly a night of wild festivities, and the craziest thing that happened was finding a fish washed halfway up the shore. Others, however, weren't quite so tame, and I'm sure plenty of people enjoyed a few drinks that evening. Depending on your alcohol of choice, you might have had some spirits.

Those of you drinking spirits were probably too busy celebrating the end of 2016 to be thinking about etymology, but after my parents went to bed early and I was left alone with a dead fish and a drunken man making sand angels, I found myself with plenty of time to contemplate such things. It's not difficult to hazard a few guesses as to where the name 'spirits' comes from, and my first assumption was to do with the fact that drinking spirits tends to cause intoxication, or 'high spirits'. That doesn't hold up, though, with things like methylated spirits, which contain methanol to make them unfit for drinking. So, where does the term originate?

Other forms of alcohol have more obvious etymologies; 'liquor' comes from the Latin 'liquere', meaning 'to be fluid'. 'Booze' comes from a Middle Dutch word, 'būsen', meaning to drink excessively. Both of these terms refer solely to alcoholic drinks, and it makes sense that their etymologies would derive so directly from this. If you look at the origins of 'spirits' outside of the context of alcohol, it comes from the Latin 'spirare', meaning to breathe, and giving rise to the notion of ghosts. The paranormal appears to be far removed from vodka shots, but according to some, the two are more connected than you might think.

Ever done something while under the influence that you regret horribly the next morning? Don't worry – if you subscribe to this explanation for the origins of 'spirits', then it's not you, but some malevolent ghosts to blame for your actions. If we follow this logic, which is still popular among some believers in the paranormal today, drinking distilled alcohol lowers your body's natural barriers against possession, allowing any nearby spirits to take control of your body and cause the state identified as drunkenness. This, in turn, is said to have led to the drinks responsible being referred to as 'spirits'. Ghosts may be a handy excuse for any questionable behaviour, but it's also a niche belief, and certainly not popular

the exception", she notes, highlighting the problems for women in STEM and the music industry too. "Change is slow and incremental", she points out, "but it's happening".

Long's optimistic view of the future is the perfect remedy for anyone hoping to leave 2016 in the past. Her show promises to inspire, educate, and maybe, just maybe, put another crack in that glass ceiling.

Josie Long will be performing her new stand-up show, *Something Better*, at 8pm on Wednesday 8th February at the Cambridge Junction. Student tickets cost £13.50.



▲ A vital part of any student's term  
 (Wikicommons: Angie Garrett)

enough to be the reason behind the name.

At the other end of the scale is a theory which combines ghosts with a bit of science. A liquid like water has very high surface tension, which gives the appearance of a skin forming on the top of the water. Spirits, on the other hand, have a much lower surface

tension, which means they don't give the appearance of having a film, and look a lot more shimmery. One theory suggests that this shimmering was once considered ghostly, meaning that the appearance of the liquid itself was what led to the name 'spirits' linking these alcohols to the paranormal.

The widely accepted explanation, however, derives from not what spirits look like, but how they're made. The crucial thing about spirits is that they're all forms of distilled alcohol, made by heating a liquid and then collecting and condensing the vapour created. This process is actually very similar to the method Middle Eastern alchemists once used while attempting to create medical elixirs, and in which the vapour given off would be called the spirit of the material being heated. The similarity of the processes meant that the alcoholic results of distillation took on the name of 'spirits', too, and it stuck. The word 'alcohol' actually derives in almost the same way from an Arabic term for kohl and other powders that could be created through the process of sublimation (turning something directly from a solid to a gas, missing out the liquid stage); 'al-kuhl', meaning 'the kohl', came to refer to any distilled alcohol sometime in the 1600s.

It's not as exciting as ghostly possession or paranormal drinks, but at least you can head into Refreshers' Week knowing that you're (sort of) engaging in alchemy. And, if it comes to it, that cringeworthy drunken text? Blame it on the ghosts ●

## KINGSWAY CYCLES

**STUDENT BIKES - NEW FROM £130 including lights & lock**

We are a shop based in the heart of the traditional cycling city of Cambridge. Established in 1978, we are a family run business catering for all your cycling needs.

**KINGSWAY CYCLES - WHAT WE OFFER:**

- ★ **Great Customer Service** – We don't want to sell you the most expensive cycle, we want to advise you on what bike is suitable for your needs.
- ★ **Great variety** of cycles from **Dawes** and a new exclusive range of **Peugeot** cycles and more.
- ★ We are **Dawes touring bike specialist**, one of the 25 in the country.
- ★ We are also part of the **cycle to work scheme**, so call in for a quotation.
- ★ Cycles **repairs** from small to extensive.
- ★ Cycle **hire** from daily to monthly at **reasonable rates**.

**Come in and see us!**

Our shop is located at  
 8 City Road, Cambridge, CB1 1DP

Tel: 01223 355 852 or visit [www.kingswaycycles.com](http://www.kingswaycycles.com) for info

**LARGE SELECTION OF SECOND HAND BIKES FROM £65**



# Fashion



Today, a hefty price tag is likely to be the only barrier standing between us and our sartorial dreams, but for most of history, sumptuary laws prevented all but an elite handful from the ability to even consider buying exclusive garments. Purple was reserved for the upper strata of society, whether this was the nobility (as in Ancient Rome), or royalty alone (as in Elizabethan England).

▲► Elizabeth I reserved the colour purple for royalty (George Gower), but Kate Middleton has changed the rules on power dressing (Reveal.co.uk)



Check out Varsity Fashion's Instagram photos: [instagram.com/varsitycambridge](https://www.instagram.com/varsitycambridge)



“The polarisation of the nation's wardrobes was absolute”

Early modern England saw a detailed stipulation matching certain colours, materials and places of manufacture to their 'appropriate' social standing: even exemption from an Elizabethan Act of Parliament requiring all men over the age of six to wear a woollen cap on Sundays and holidays was dependent on being a member of the clergy or holding a university degree.

However, using clothing to negotiate status was certainly most prevalent in the wealthiest classes of society: peasants could not even consider protesting about what they were allowed to wear when they struggled to put food on the table. At Mary I's coronation, her half-sister Elizabeth was dressed to emphasise her inferior position, and Charles II's restoration saw a plethora of sumptuous garments, lest anyone needed reminding that he was the rightful monarch. The monarchy included clothing in the salaries of their servants, and gave away pieces from their personal collection as favours. The aristocracy meanwhile would also make provisions in their wills for their most valuable garments. The polarisation of the nation's wardrobes was absolute: the average early modern labourer would have had one outfit made of sheepskin or wool, yet James I frequently spent at least £4 million a year on his wardrobe to maintain his stately image.

Fast forward to today, and the association between class and clothing has been diluted considerably: it would have been unthinkable for royalty to wear skinny jeans even 20 years ago, yet the Duchess of Cambridge is often spotted wearing a pair (and

even once paired them with Superga trainers!). A-listers and the high street have also formed an unlikely coalition: Gigi Hadid has sported H&M; Hailey Baldwin and Kendall Jenner are happy to switch Louboutins for Kurt Geiger, and Olivia Palermo even wore Topshop to London Fashion Week in February 2016. By proving style is far more about how you wear an outfit than how much it cost, they earn extra fashion kudos from fans, too.

Switching luxury labels for affordable attire can be done far more discretely today than in the nineteenth century. Since the invention of the sewing machine and synthetic dyes in the 1860s, it's a lot harder to tell who can afford to spend thousands on one coat, and who has just bought a whole new wardrobe from the sales: a good cut and quality fabric can be found on the high street, making it a lot easier to dress well and impress others on a budget.

The only unbreakable bond between status and class is the power of the designer logo: a recent study has shown that wearing a visibly branded item of clothing can make you appear wealthier, more trustworthy, and more professional than others. A tiny embroidered logo adds nothing to the practicality of a garment, yet bestows status on the wearer. Perhaps this explains why Polo Ralph Lauren can charge up to £145 for a shirt. Class perception through clothing has, of course, come a long way since the reign of Elizabeth I, yet our perceptions of class, power and status remain, if a little more subtly, firmly attached to superficial sartorial cues ●

Ellie Mullett



## OXBRIDGE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

LIVE. WORK. PLAY.

### Summer Opportunities in Cambridge Seeking Teachers & Staff

Summer teaching and administrative positions are now available on Oxbridge's well-established (est. 1995) summer programmes in Cambridge, which bring together high-achieving secondary students from over 50 countries for an unforgettable month of study and cultural enrichment.

Learn more and apply at

[www.oxbridgeprograms.com/employment](http://www.oxbridgeprograms.com/employment)

Application Deadline: Monday 13 February 2017

*Inspire a new generation of scholars!*

## Trendspotter LFW Men's AW 17

London Fashion Week Men's (LFWM) Autumn/Winter wraps up for another year, having showcased the best of British menswear over the course of four whirlwind days. Many LFWM designers reflected on the political turmoil that pervaded 2016, and incorporated this turbulence into their work.

Despite the sombre undertones, LFWM also showcased optimism, promise and unprecedented energy. With emerging talents Phoebe English, Edward Crutchley, Grace Wales Bonner and Craig Green, Britain is reaffirming its position as a forerunner in the fashion industry.

► Liam Hodges' collection presented an image of resilience (FOXES Magazine)

**The highlights:**

**Christopher Shannon, Liverpoolian designer-of-the-moment:** bold colours, patchwork stitching and retro vibes. His use of torn EU and British flags was a nod in the direction of post-Brexit despair.

**Liam Hodges, 'Dystopian Lives' collection:** hard wearing outer layers, camouflage prints, and biohazard suit-like trousers. Hodges' work was inspired by spoken-word artist Hector Aponysus' quote: "Looking for a vocation in the decline of civilisation". His models looked like they were dressed for survival.

**Charles Jeffrey Loverboy:** monstrous papier-mâché creations were dark symbols of sinful psychological undercurrents. His controversial collection highlighted fashion's ability to be an expressive, emotional outlet despite dividing the opinions of critics ●

Olivia Darby





# Theatre



More reviews are available online at:  
[varsity.co.uk/theatre](http://varsity.co.uk/theatre)



FEATURE

## A beginners guide to producing

“Interfere with everyone else’s job,” answered Cameron Mackintosh (of *Cats*, *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon* fame) when asked in a recent interview what his job as a producer actually involves. Although at risk of implying that my producing prowess is equal to that of Cameron Mackintosh, I agree. Producers are in overall control of a show: from applying for a venue, rights, and funding, to running an eye-catching publicity campaign and balancing the budget. Ultimately, producers don’t really *do* much of the show-creating themselves – but we recruit a team, enable communication between team members, and make sure a strict timetable and budget are kept to.

Usually I start by making sure each person, from the director to the publicity designer,

►► **Producing: theatre fun that won’t leave a bitter aftertaste.**  
 (Tian Chan)

knows what is expected of them, arranging various meetings to discuss the production. Then I step back and let these talented individuals do their thing... until I have to remind someone of a deadline, or respond to a request for more budget in one area, or make sure the production designer and director agree on what the set is going to look like. This term I am producing *Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons*, Sam Steiner’s fantastic debut play. As it is a Week One show this has involved lots of emailing, Facebook messaging, Doodle polling, and spreadsheet-making over the holidays.

Having this overall responsibility for a show and being able to watch it grow from an idea in a director’s head to a fully fledged production that people will actually pay to see is extremely rewarding. The sense of solidarity created between everyone involved in a show is irreplaceable – and while it is often stressful and time-pressured and frantic, this only enhances the ecstatic mixture of relief and pride and adrenaline you are rewarded with when a show goes well. Furthermore, getting involved in any aspect of student theatre is a great way to get to know people at other colleges and in different years from you. While college-based friendship groups are certainly invaluable, it can be nice to burst the college bubble and get to know people I would never otherwise

have met.

As well as the relatively short-term benefits of friendship and fun, producing also helps you tackle the employability monster that constantly threatens to overshadow our university experience. Producing really does cover all the bases – need to show teamwork? As a producer, you manage a large team of people working on a specific project. Need to prove you can use excel spreadsheets and manage money? As a producer you could manage budgets of up to several thousand pounds. Need to show organisation? Communication skills? Initiative? Producing’s got your back.



If you love theatre, enjoy doing admin, and want to meet new people there’s no reason why you shouldn’t take up producing this term. You can start by applying to assistant produce a show to learn the ropes, then move up to producing yourself. Maybe you’re already involved in student theatre, as an actor or stage manager? That’s no problem – lots of people start producing shows after being involved in student theatre in some other kind of role. So what are you waiting for? Follow in the footsteps of the great Cameron Mackintosh and start interfering ●

*Katherine Ridley is producing Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons, which runs Tue 24th January - Sat 28th January, 7pm at the Corpus Playroom.*

## Opening in Week 1

**Monday 23rd**

*Pity Laughs*  
 Corpus Playroom  
 9:30pm (one night only)

**Tuesday 24th**

*Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons*  
 Corpus Playroom  
 7pm (\*til 28th Jan)

*Poetry In Motion*

ADC  
 7:45pm (\*til 28th Jan)

**Wednesday 25th**

*Footlights Presents: Bread*  
 ADC  
 11pm (\*til 28th Jan)

**Friday 27th**

*Simone’s Speaking Service*  
 ADC  
 9:30pm (\*til 28th Jan)

## NOTES FROM THE STAGE DOOR



“Who on earth would want to do lighting?”  
 (Flickr: Shehal)

‘Let there be lights!’

Darkness had fallen, yet just enough light spilt in from the next room to illuminate the white plug socket. Three of the six holes were covered by a safety guard: this was something off-limits, forbidden.

Was it the danger that drew my hand to the switch? Or the promise of the light which lay dormant inside the bulbous night lamp, just waiting to be invited into the empty space, to fill each corner of the room with incandescent glow?

I reached out into the darkness for the switch, and something clicked.

This was the moment that I first knew I wanted to turn on lights, sometimes.

Flash forward (by way of a haphazardly timed blackout to cover the boring, unimportant bits) to a world of excited chatter and invented Camdram credits; to blown fuses, unsaved lighting software and forgetting to turn on the mains switch in the first place; to collective dinners, day-long tech rehearsals, kinetic warm-ups; and to me, sitting in a corner, more concerned with running out the door than running through any of the lighting cues.

To quote myself (because no one else will) on any opening night, “why on earth do I want to do lighting?” In some ways, it’s in my blood. I’m pretty sure that for the last three generations my family have been switching on lights.

Or some residual negative energy might be left, reverberating through my veins, from that time I electrocuted myself with a string of fairy lights. Oh, eight-year-old me, you should have run from the light.

But truly, from the day we arrive on the planet, we, blinking, step into the sun. There is more to see than can ever be seen... and so many productions to make you feel well and truly done with the lack of recognition afforded to lighting techies.

Yes, any person and several high functioning primates could do our job. But we need to open our eyes and recognise the potential energy of the humble lighting techie.

Instead of encouraging children to switch off lights and think for themselves, we should be teaching them to waste energy and remain completely silent for hours at a time in dimly lit corners, following cues set by others!

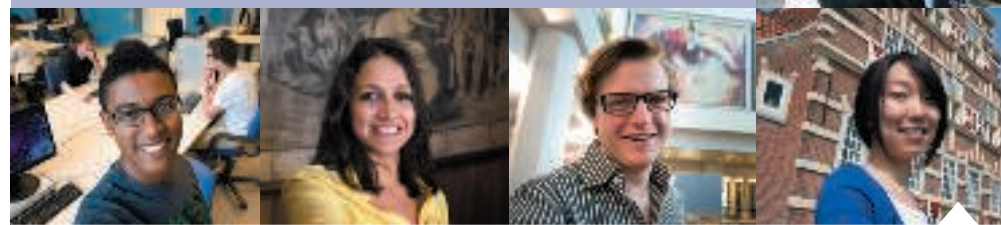
Yes, catch them while they’re young – before they realise that there is definitely a fully automated computer program which could replace this already rare breed, invisible save when an actor gestures vaguely in their direction as the applause dies: the elusive, strangely self-important, lighting designer. Without whom, we would all be left in the dark... at least, until someone else decides to switch on the lights ●

*Claire Sosienski Smith*

## Is Leiden University the next step for you?

Close to home, yet on the doorstep of Europe, more than 200 English-taught master’s programme specialisations are on offer at one of the world’s leading universities. If you dream of continuing your studies abroad, apply now, or visit us in person/online to learn more.

[en.mastersinleiden.nl](http://en.mastersinleiden.nl)



Universiteit  
 Leiden  
 The Netherlands

Discover the world at Leiden University



# Music



## Vulture TUNES

with **Alice French**



More suited for mellow afternoons in the library than it is to pres, Alice French's playlist ranges from the sexy, empowering and uplifting 'Get to Know Ya' by Nao to The Japanese House's dreamy 'Clean'. Special mention goes to Prides, whose electro-ballad 'Messiah' never fails to lift the mood of a long revision session.

Clean Firefly  
**The Japanese House** **Mura Masa (ft. Nao)**

Get To Know Ya Station  
**NAO** **Lapsley**

California Indecision  
**Childish Gambino** **Shura**

Messiah Pressure  
**Prides** **The 1975**

Fuck With Myself Iron Sky  
**Banks** **Paolo Nutini**



### Pick of the Week: Banks - Fuck With Myself

If I could fill this playlist with tracks by just one artist, it would be Banks. The haunting vocals and clever lyrics of 'Fuck With Myself' make it a particular favourite of mine.

Got your own **Spotify playlist**?  
Email it to [music@varsity.co.uk](mailto:music@varsity.co.uk)

## REVIEW

# 'Tell me this time you've changed'

The xx have returned triumphantly from their four year hiatus, writes **Fionn Connolly**



**I See You**  
The xx  
Young Turks, 13 January  
★★★★☆

The xx's eponymous debut album and sophomore effort *Coexist* were both met with critical and popular acclaim, with their minimalist indie pop and emotive lyrics creating a hypnotic sense of catharsis that cemented the band's place in both the charts and the hearts of their fans. Songs like 'Intro', 'Crystalised' and 'Angels' quickly became iconic. But while these releases largely showed continuity in terms of sound, much has changed on their third album *I See You*. From the very beginning,

“  
Their sound  
still has the  
power to  
envelop us,  
their lyrics still  
draw us in  
”

Jamie xx's presence is far more prominent. Although the usual husky vocals in octaves are still present on 'Dangerous', the first song on the album, Jamie's drum tracks and horns mark a departure from their previously guitar-based sound. This is in no small part down to Jamie's solo success, with his work on his debut album *In Colour* (which reached no.3 in the UK charts in 2015) having clearly affected his approach to the band's sound. This is particularly evident on the single 'Say Something Loving', which begins with a sampled intro and offbeat guitar reminiscent of tracks on *In Colour*. Once the vocals come in, the syncopated guitar begins to make rhythmic sense, and we are hurled straight into the new sound of The xx.

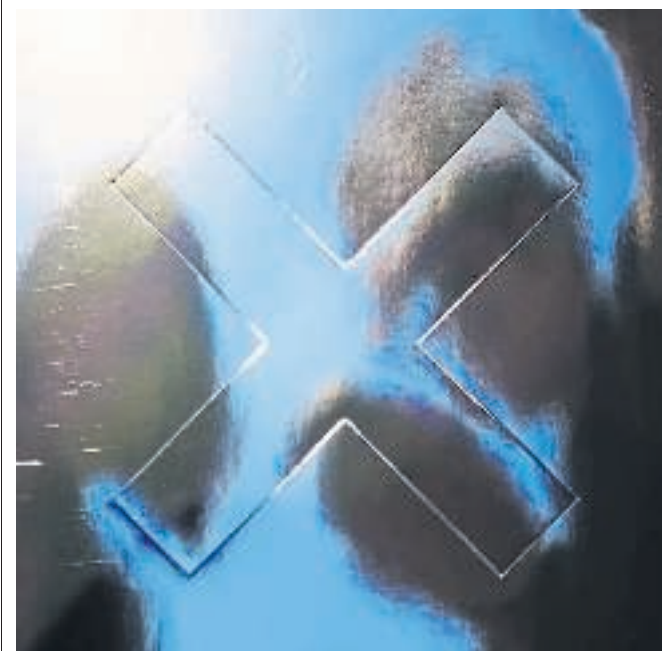
The track 'Lips' marks the strongest union of the band's traditional vocals and guitar and the drum-oriented influence of Jamie xx. A choir-like harmony introduces the song and returns throughout, as the guitars and drums build to a magical peak around the three-minute mark. As Romy Croft sings "My name on your lips / you're wearing my lungs / drowning in oxygen", the band's sombre nature takes a sexy turn, and we too feel "high

▲ The xx will be embarking on their UK tour on the 4th March (NRK P3)

▼ 'I See You' marks something of a change of sound for the band (Young Turks)

on intimacy". Their sound still has the power to envelop us, their lyrics still draw us in. But the record's most poignant moment is yet to come. The closing track 'Test Me' starts with odd-sounding parallel fourths in the piano, but the chorus ditches the weirdness in favour of smooth bass and subtle horns, alongside the stunning lyrics "Just take it out on me / it's easier than saying what you mean / test me, see if I break / tell me this time you've changed". The lyrics are intensely vulnerable, sound beautiful, and give the whole album a feeling of closure.

*I See You* is not perfect by any means. Songs like 'Dangerous' jar with the imprecision of combining different timbres, while tracks such as 'A Violent Noise' fade slightly into forgetfulness. But the singles 'On Hold' and 'Say Something Loving' are strong, 'Performance' and 'Brave for You' are subtly charming, and 'Lips' and 'Test Me' are so stunning that they largely redeem the album's small discrepancies. *I See You* provides a welcome relief to the xx-shaped hole in the charts and the understated beauty of this new record is unlikely to disappoint fans ●







To listen to Alice French's playlist, find our account:  
**musicvarsity**



## FEATURE

## While you were away



Seemingly unaffected by *Varsity* having been out of print since the end of Michaelmas term, a host of artists dropped new releases over the Christmas break. Two enormous acts put out albums on the same day in early December: **Childish Gambino** and **The Rolling Stones**. While their styles could not be more divergent, both records proved excellent. Gambino's *Awake-*

▲ **Little Simz released 'Stillness in Wonderland' in December (Ollie Stabler)**

*en, My Love!* is a sprawling funk soundscape which spawned the ubiquitous single 'Red-bone', while The Stones' *Blue and Lonesome* is a crunchy set of covers that exhibits Mick Jagger's skills as a blues crooner.

**J. Cole's** 4 *Your Eyez Only* spun a personal story of the life of the rapper's childhood friend James McMillian Jr and featured the standout tracks 'Immortal' and 'Deja Vu', but was littered with forgettable songs and unnecessary moments of spoken narrative. By contrast, *Stillness in Wonderland*, a Lewis Carroll themed album by UK rapper **Little Simz**, was a far more compelling piece. Simz, who's been tipped for success by Kendrick Lamar, came through with a moody, atmospheric album filled with standouts such as the swaggering 'Shotgun'. Singer-songwriter **Mahalia** also released *Diary of Me*, a cheery album perfect for mellow Sunday afternoons.

Perhaps the most anticipated release of the vacation period was *RTJ3*, the third album by US hip-hop duo **Run the Jewels**, which dropped two weeks early on Christmas day. Backed by thumping beats, Killer Mike and El-P spend the album's first fifteen minutes relentlessly proclaiming their superiority to the rest of the rap scene. Lyrics suggesting that they're a better pairing than peanut butter and jelly may approach self-parody, but the songs are so loud and powerful that this rarely matters. In fact, the album's only real problems appear when Mike and El-P take themselves too seriously: the midsection lags

as the duo's desire to make serious political points saps their humour and wit. Fortunately, the album ends with a blistering verse from Rage Against the Machine frontman Zack de la Rocha, closing a braggadocious record from two of rap's elder statesmen.

The releases continued after Christmas, with **Brian Eno's** twenty-sixth studio album *Reflection* appearing on new year's day. A single track running to almost an hour in length, *Reflection* is a peaceful, meditative experience in the style of Eno's iconic *Ambient* series. **London Grammar's** new track 'Rooting for You' is a similarly tranquil affair, made exquisite by Hannah Reid's gorgeous vocals.

Released on what would have been **David Bowie's** 70th birthday, the brief EP *No Plan* featured some of the last songs he ever recorded. The title track is the best of the three new songs ('Lazarus' is also included); more than a year after his death, Bowie's vocals are poignant and moving, as is the haunting saxophone solo which plays as the song fades away. The heavier, *Station to Station*-style 'Killing a Little Time' could also have made a great addition to Bowie's final album, *Blackstar*.

Tipped for a Glastonbury headline slot, **Ed Sheeran** announced his upcoming album ÷ with two new singles. Elsewhere, shoegaze legends **Slowdive** released their first new song in 22 years; 'Star Roving' is a frenetic guitar attack which will leave fans hoping for a new album in 2017 ●

Ben Haigh

## The week in music

### Saturday 21st

*Mahler Symphony no.3*  
King's College Chapel  
8PM

*The Music of John Williams, by The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra*  
Corn Exchange  
7.30 PM

### Wednesday 25th

*Two Door Cinema Club*  
Corn Exchange  
7PM

### Thursday 26th

*Britten's The Rape of Lucretia*  
Palmerston Room, St John's College  
8PM ('til 28 Jan)

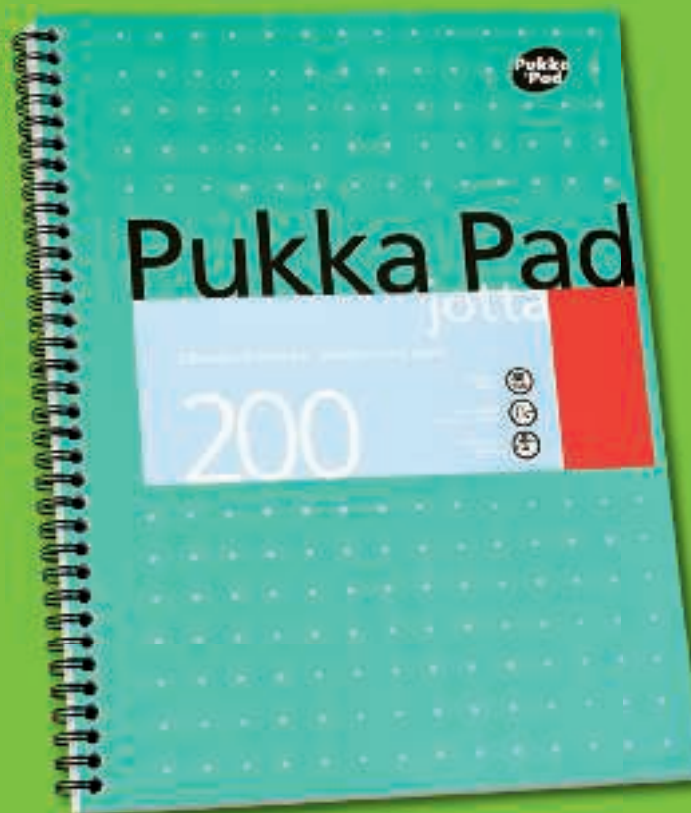
Ryman

13:50

**Ryman**  
stationery EST. 1893

**BETTER THAN  
HALF  
PRICE\***

\*Selected lines only



**Pukka A4  
Metallic Jotta**  
200 Pages

Now  
Only  
**£2**  
each  
Was £4.29

SHOP YOUR WAY: IN STORE | ONLINE | MOBILE | TABLET

**ryman.co.uk**

7 Fitzroy Street  
53 Sidney Street

\*Offer subject to availability. Offer ends 10th October 2016



# Film & TV

FILM

## Finding Love in 'La La Land'

Can romance survive amid the toxic ambition of Hollywood? Pany Heliotis, finds out

Dir. Damien Chazelle

In cinemas now

★★★★★

Authenticity and artifice, romance and heartbreak, musical and drama: *La La Land* is a film concerned with duality, the tussle between the disparate, the merging of the oppositional. And what better concerns to have when telling a love story? You'll hear a lot about *La La Land*'s retro-stylings this awards season, but what makes this musical truly sing (sorry) is the neurotic romance at its heart.

Imagine Alvy Singer's adventures in Hollywood and you'll come close to the masked scepticism and contentious courtship in Damien Chazelle's third picture, his protagonists trying to balance love and ambition amid LA's toxic splendour. Gaudy colours abound, primary and pastels, Chazelle tipping his head to your *West Side Story*-s and *Singin' in the Rain*-s. But they're used to paint over a

“Both leads voices are strained like small birds”

darker canvas.

Gosling and Stone deliver as artists fooled by the facade. Stone, wide-eyed and withered, captures the bristling desperation of the invisible actress clambering over ginger clones to be seen. Gosling, coming off *The Nice Guys*, continues his quest for clown status. His jazz pianist gesticulates with the coiled intensity of a self-elected masochist, wilfully suffering for his art. But their fragile exteriors mask steely ambition and this is when their entanglement gets, well, entangled. The characters are forced into bitter compromise and frustration. Like 80's Woody Allen, separation anxiety, self-loathing and creative ennui fills the air like a melancholy soundtrack.

Speaking of, as I write, it plays in the background

▲▼ Stone and Gosling falling in love in the City of Angels (Lionsgate)

it looks as though they think they are being danced for rather than with.

Chazelle's camera moves like a ballet dancer, pirouetting in and out of the action in a dizzying fashion. Hypnotic fades and percussive cross cuts allow the director to show his hand, building on the language he developed in his sophomore effort, *Whiplash*.

But he is also the film's hindrance, the dialogue at times drifting into the trite and mawkish.

But this is small criticism for a film with such complex ambitions which, for the most part, it achieves.

An ode to the difficulties of mixing ambition and relationships. *La La Land* is a fresh spin on the fractured romance – neurosis with melody ●

## Television of the grotesque in Steven Knight's

Taboo

TV ROUND-UP

Writ. Steven Knight, Tom Hardy, Chips Hardy  
BBC 1, Saturdays, 21:15  
Episodes 1 & 2

The arrival of *Downton Abbey* and Steven Knight's *Peaky Blinders* demonstrates how period dramas have taken on new shape in recent years. While once an escape for those with little interest in the flashy superficiality of reality TV, British period drama has begun to entice the nation with a world of darkness, lust and deceit. They have succeeded in capturing our imaginations with the graphic use of blood and gore, explicit sexual references and raw human emotion; a

reminder that life in the past was both vastly different and yet not so different at all.

Steven Knight's latest, *Taboo*, is no exception. Along with Tom Hardy and his father, the late Edward 'Chips' Hardy, he has constructed a rich tale portraying grimy Georgian London, the war with America, and the East India Company. The return of the presumed-dead adventurer James Delaney is a major game-changer in both the lives of his family and Britain's political situation.

Visually, *Taboo* is exceptional. The smoky cinematography and attention to historical detail reflect the harshness of eighteenth-century London: the sharp flashes of flesh being cut and organs being pulled out; the bustle of a brothel; and the far-from-glamorous characters who are dirtied and worn. This is how a period drama succeeds: by generating a theatrically grotesque atmosphere that is more

evocative of the lives of people in 1814 than any history textbook.

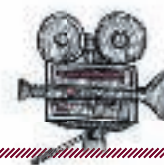
Jonathan Pryce stands out in the first two episodes as the detestable Sir Stuart Strange, a representative for the dark dealings and colonial injustices of the East India Company, which he chairs. Alternating from formality to rage, Pryce is truly frightening to watch, and convincingly demonstrates the corruption of the EIC. Tom Hardy was equally enjoyable as antihero James Delaney, particularly in the first episode, where his brooding character sets up a suitable air of mystery. Nonetheless, by the end of the second episode, Delaney started to seem simply moody rather than mysterious and his lack of disclosure bordered on frustrating. However, provided next week's installment moves a little faster, he should remain an intriguing figure.

What is unclear is whether the issue of race

► Tom Hardy broods with aplomb but where's the mystery? (BBC)



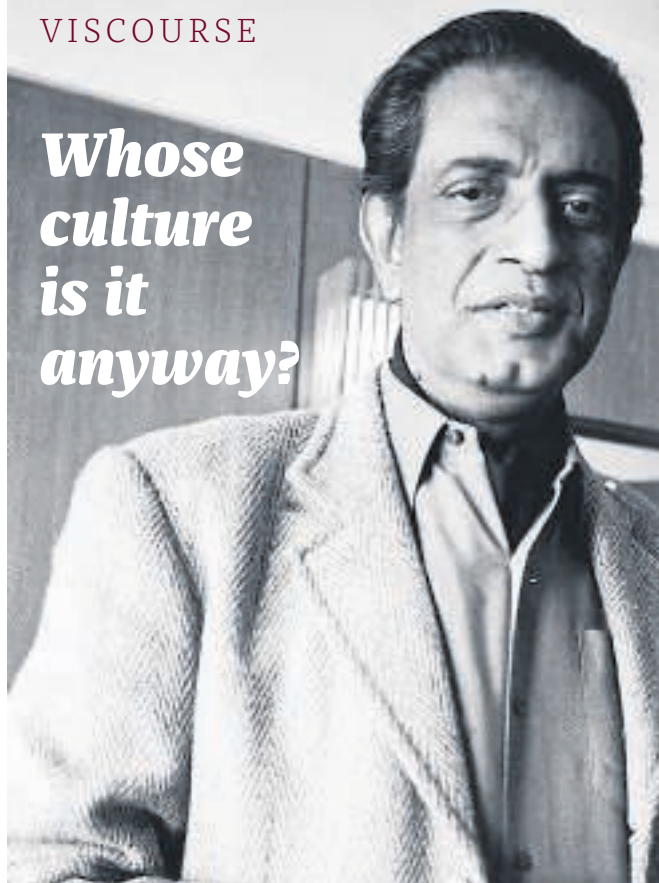




To read more about film & TV, go to:  
[varsity.co.uk/film-and-tv](http://varsity.co.uk/film-and-tv)

## VISCOURSE

### Whose culture is it anyway?



In the latter half of this year, my pastimes began to trouble me. It may be a cliché to view 2016 as a year of unprecedented horror, but it feels like the winds are shifting in a different and dangerous direction, all around the world. As a result, political complacency in words and in actions has started to feel like a morally untenable position. Complacency feels like complicity. So, when examining my own preoccupations, culture being a central one, I started to wonder if it was a particularly self-indulgent substitute for action or activism.

Matthew Arnold justified an exploration of culture as the search for “the best which has been thought and said in the world” which cannot but be valuable, and may help us find insights into a time that feels like the dark ghosts of the twentieth century are rising again. Furthermore, the arts are enjoyable,

▲**Satyajit Ray, an influence on director Akira Kurosawa**  
 (Dinu Alam)

emotive and exciting – and, because lots of people all over the world partake in them, they have potential to represent and possibly even change people’s political views. I concluded my introspection with this: culture is hugely significant, but I must not participate in it unthinkingly. Culture should be engaged progressively and not complacently. Easy, comfortable assumptions must be challenged. Being ‘neutral’ supports a specific status quo. Pluralistic, democratic aspects of culture, the things that can unite us, must be promoted.

Film is the ideal medium in which to illustrate this way of engagement, being so easily accessible and globally widespread as an art form. But there are attitudes towards film and cultural ownership that I consider to be damaging, and want to confront. A few months ago on BBC radio a woman referred to cinema as “Western Culture”. This assertion begs the question: what does “Western Culture” mean? Can a person or group ‘own’ culture when culture is inherently something cumulative and fluid? How does film fit into all this?

Experiments with film began in the 1890s, by pioneering figures like the French Lumière brothers, with their famous work from 1895, *Train Pulling into a Station*, which legend tells us frightened the audience with its unprecedented scale and realism. From the 1890s Japan was producing its own films with technology that was learnt from cameramen that had worked with the brothers and built on an existing Japanese visual culture. Since the birth of film, techniques and ideas were developed all over the world, so it cannot be the invention of a particular camera type alone that makes a medium ‘Western’. Invention is not ownership. Culture is not a commodity to be given or lent from one people to another. Anyone who seriously engages with it can be said to own it.

Film was born in a boom time for rapid travel. Influences from all over the globe are programmed into its DNA. One can track the work of important filmmakers and their influences on other filmmakers across the world.

▼ **The Lumière brothers are credited with inventing motion picture**

“Easy, comfortable assumptions must be challenged. Being ‘neutral’ supports a specific status quo”



Tarantino’s films are shot through with influences from Hong Kong cinema. Wong Kar-wai’s Hong Kong movies owe a debt to the French New Wave. Japanese director Akira Kurosawa was influenced by American cinema, and in turned influenced much American cinema after him. He was also a great admirer of his Indian contemporary Satyajit Ray. This plurality may be because the nature of the medium itself is especially flexible and open. There must be movement, but the rest – music, sound, dialogue, choreography – are all infinitely malleable. Film is a vessel that can even carry other discrete art forms within it. Narrow assertions of ownership are unhelpful when referring to a flexible medium that develops so rapidly in form. After all, the very word ‘film’ has begun to refer to an object that is archaic and now redundant in the creation of movies.

If this is the case, why is it that film culture is misconceived as something ‘Western’? It’s probable that much of this is down to the nature of film as a commercial and not a merely artistic medium, and that most films people in the UK watch are Hollywood films. It is easy to hear of American movies being exported all over the world, and people in distant countries learning action-movie catchphrases, and consequently view film as something ‘we’ export to ‘them’. Such notions are inaccurate and exacerbate partisan notions which are so easy to hold in such a visibly divided and tribal world. In this series, I will examine aspects of the world of film by considering films from all over the world, and from throughout the ages. Unlike the shelves of your local DVD shop, I will include American and British cinema in the category of ‘World Cinema,’ because to separate the Anglophone community from the rest of the world is the opposite of the approach I want to take.

Film is a fusion that can belong to anyone; we must challenge ideas about cultural ownership that seek to further divide us into ‘the West’ and ‘the rest’ ●

*Lydia Sabatini*

## newest period drama



is intended to be eye-opening or whether the exoticisation of people of colour is simply offensive. Delaney’s flashbacks of his time in Africa show a nightmarish world of witchcraft, tribes and ‘savages’. Is this an unfortunate and clumsy reinforcement of archaic stereotypes? Or perhaps Hardy and Knight are using these references as an insight into the discrimination that existed in this period, no matter how uncomfortable it may be to watch. If this is the case, *Taboo* will act to show that the only real ‘savages’ were the EIC.

Knight has succeeded in creating a period drama that entertains while stimulating our intellect. If the race issue is dealt with appropriately and characterisation developed, *Taboo* has the potential to become one of the greats of BBC drama.

But who knows? I wait with bated breath  
 ● *Anna Ellis-Rees*



### This weekend online

**Manchester by the Sea**  
 Review and Response

# ADVERTISE WITH US.

To advertise in any of our print publications or online, please contact our Business Manager:

## VARSLITY

tel : 01223 33 75 75  
 email: [business@varsity.co.uk](mailto:business@varsity.co.uk)  
 web: [varsitypublications.co.uk](http://varsitypublications.co.uk)



## Sport

# “ It’s stone-bonking obvious that

● *Sport Editor **Paul Hyland** speaks to the chief engineer of Team GB Cycling on the role of technology in the sport*

Despite all evidence to the contrary, Professor Tony Purnell would like to make one thing perfectly clear.

“I’m not an academic!” he insists. A visiting fellow at Trinity Hall, with Engineering degrees from Cambridge and MIT (“like having an unbelievable credit card to open doors”, in his words), Purnell is rather more a businessman whose career has never strayed very far from the world of sport. Scarcely having finished a PhD on the dynamics of Formula One cars, he was inventing revolutionary new ways to collect data on drivers’ performances, which led to the setting up of his own business: Pi Research.

“We became the Microsoft of motor racing”, he says. “All of the electronics in the cars came from Pi.” Twelve years in, Ford liked it so much they bought the company, making Purnell the head of the Jaguar Formula One team in 2002. “Except it coincided with Ford going into freefall as a business,” he explains. “In 2005 I sold the business to Red Bull. We didn’t get on with Red Bull at all. At the time they were a marketing company, they didn’t have the first clue how to run a Formula One team.”

Purnell was removed from his position within months, a decision Red Bull lived to regret when the quality of the car he and his team had created became obvious. A stint working alongside Max Mosley at the International Automobile Federation (FIA) was followed in 2013 by an invitation to become head of British Cycling’s famous ‘Secret Squirrel Club’

“*You can be cynical and say the Brits win by spending more money - well, correct!*”

– a team of engineers who help their riders to make the marginal gains that, all together, give them a serious head start on the track.

“You can be cynical about it and say

13 1

**Seconds shaved off team pursuit vs mile run world record in the last 30 years**

that the Brits win because they spend more money – well, correct!”

The mere mention of cycling sparks the fondest of memories. “Working with the Olympic team at Rio was phenomenal. I took a selfie the last second we were in the velodrome. It was a bit melancholy because I thought, ‘I’m never going to have a week like this again.’ As a student I loved May Week. I thought it was fantastic – you work so hard coming up to May Week, then suddenly there’s no work. Rio was a bit like that. It was such hard work, it was like the stuff of nervous breakdowns. Everything went wrong, but we just got everything done in time. Then they [the cyclists] got to Rio and they just smashed it. So the misery made it even better. If it had been smooth I don’t think it would have been as good.”

So why was it such a good Olympics for Team GB? “The bottom line is that it’s funding,” he admits. But that’s no



**Well connected...**

Printers for the University of Cambridge, Cambridge Science Park, Cambridge Rugby Club, The Royal British Legion, and many other Cambridge based companies and organisations.

**LANGHAM PRESS**  
Lithographic & Digital Production

**01223 870266**  
sales@langhampress.co.uk  
www.langhampress.co.uk

## Cambridge Panthers mauled at home

Cambridge	20
Oxford	35

**Devarshi Lodhia**  
Chief Sport Reporter

● **BUCS Midlands 3B League, University Sports Centre**

A fourth quarter comeback was not enough as the Cambridge University Women’s Basketball 2nds (Panthers) fell to a 35–20 loss against the Oxford University Women’s Basketball Club 2nds (OUWBC Twos) in the BUCS Midlands 3B League on Wednesday night at the University Sports Centre.

Having not played a competitive match since their 43–22 victory against Nottingham Trent on 30th November, and having won only one of four competitive league matches this season, the Panthers’ lack of cohesion against the

league leaders was evident. A series of avoidable defensive errors ultimately consigned the Light Blues to defeat and cost them the opportunity to end their bitter rivals’ undefeated league run: the Dark Blues are yet to lose a match since a 44–33 defeat away to Birmingham 1sts last March. Defeat for the away side could have seen them knocked off the top spot on goal difference. As it happened, the Dark Blues took a three-point lead ahead of second-placed De Montfort University.

The opening minutes were cagier than anticipated with neither team able to properly dominate proceedings. OUWBC Twos made the stronger start courtesy of two quick-fire scores and, helped by a number of unnecessary fouls by the Light Blues, established an early lead.

The Panthers managed to peg their opponents back towards the end of the quarter with some fine shooting courtesy of St Catharine’s Eunice Wong who scored all six of Cambridge’s first quarter points. However, a lapse in concentration in the final seconds of the quarter from the Panthers allowed the Dark Blues in for a buzzer-beater to extend their lead,

► Cambridge were defeated convincingly by their Oxonian rivals (DEVARSHI LODHIA)





# technology has a major part to play



◀ Professor Tony Purnell is a visiting fellow at Trinity Hall and head of Team GB's 'Secret Squirrel Club' (YOUTUBE/TOMORROW'S ENGINEERS)

bad thing.

"Do you remember the Tour de France in Cambridge?" he asks, rhetorically. "The number of people who turned up was amazing. It creates aspiration. I think the psychologists would tell you that what motivates people more than anything is aspiration. And fairly ordinary people going to the Olympics and coming back with medals has a big effect on youngsters."

It could hardly have been a better Olympics for increasing aspirations. Team GB brought home six gold medals in cycling – three times as many as their nearest competitors. But cycling is one of UK Sport's most heavily invested events. Twelve medals at the London Olympics lifted British Cycling's funding from £26 million to £30.2 million for Rio. The correlation between investment and return is quite stark.

"You can be cynical about it and say that the Brits win because they spend more money – well, correct!" I wasn't expecting him to be quite this candid. "It works. We have 1,300 professional athletes paid for by the government. If you say to a promising youngster, 'we'll give you a salary, we'll give you coaches, we'll give you physiotherapy all so you can pursue your sport,' and you pit them against the French who turn up at the weekends, who's going to do better?"

But is it *right* that the Brits have the chance to do better?

"The truth of it is that it's not 'fair'," he begins, signing inverted commas in the air with his fingers. "The fact that our athletes get paid to train for four years – how can that be fair? But I'm afraid life isn't fair. If you stagnate it by putting everyone on identical equipment, it alienates the public." He reaches for an example from his other area of expertise: "In the Indianapolis 500, they made

the decision to give everybody the same car, and it was all a level playing field. The public interest since that decision has sagged and sagged and sagged. But in saying that, there's kind of a duty to make sure that everything is accessible and that the more advanced nations help along the weaker nations."

Technology's relationship with sport isn't uncontroversial. But Purnell exalts its potential to change the game. He pulls out an iPad with a graph on the screen. What it shows, he explains, are two different lines representing the amount of time that's been shaved off the world record in two different events over the last 30 years: the mile run, and the men's cycling pursuit. The line for the mile run scarcely moves downward. But the one for the cycling pursuit plummets towards the bottom right hand corner of the screen.

"What this little graph tells me," he says, in full supervision mode, "is that in running the coaching has reached a plateau, and that the pool of people doing running has maxed out as well. Okay, it gets a little bit better probably because more people do it. In cycling, an event that lasts about the same amount of time has taken 13 seconds off world record pace."

“In my eyes, it's a no brainer. It's the technology”

"It could be that we have unbelievable coaches. It could be that not enough people were doing it, so we weren't getting as many 'genetics freaks' that make up the Olympic squad. Or it could be that technology has come in. In my eyes, it's a no-brainer. It's the technology. It's the bikes, the skin suits, the whole package, the position the riders put themselves in, and a little bit of sports science. So this graph tells me that it's stone-bonking obvious that technology has a major part to play."

But these sorts of innovations aren't always intuitive. "Once I didn't think there was any chance of improving roll resistance in the tyres," he remembers. "Then a company came along with some tyres and said 'try these.' And surprisingly they really were a lot better – not a little bit better – a lot better than what we had."

"And what that made me think is that you've got to be very careful about intuition. So you think there's no chance of getting any progress out of something, then somebody comes up with an idea and you think 'Ok, that might work!' And nine times out of 10 those won't go anywhere. But one in 10 can be spectacular. And you have to risk working on those things."

## by ruthless Oxford Twos



leaving the home side with a 14-6 deficit at the end of the first period.

Cambridge started the second quarter with much greater intensity and were duly rewarded for their attacking intent, with Michelle Lim scoring in the opening seconds after a lightning-quick passing move that cut through the Oxford defence. Both sides traded scores as the quarter proceeded with Wong once again providing the Light Blues' main attacking threat, scoring twice more. Basic defensive errors once again proved Cambridge's undoing, as despite dominating the quarter, the Panthers went into half-time 20-12 down.

The third quarter unequivocally belonged to OUWBC Twos as they scored 10 unanswered points to extend their lead to 30-12. Cambridge's defensive weaknesses were once again exposed and Oxford exploited the Panthers' inability to effectively deal with their defensive rebounds. Offensively, the Panthers' movement and passing intensity warranted much more than they got but luck simply wasn't on Cambridge's side in the third period, as they hit the rim no fewer than seven times in a frustrating

display.

The Panthers' attacking perseverance paid off in the fourth quarter though as Kate Burrell scored Cambridge's first points of the half. Cambridge soon, albeit belatedly, got fully into their attacking stride as Aicha Massrali scored after some tenacious work from the tireless Alisha Kasam forced an error from the Oxford team. A late flourish courtesy of Michelle Lim and a buzzer-beater from Lucia Bura ensured that Cambridge finished the game stronger.

Speaking to *Varsity* after the match, the Panthers coach, Kent Griffith praised his team's persistence, stating "the game should've been closer than it was" and that the Light Blues' performance in the fourth quarter encouraged him greatly.

The Panthers won't have to wait long to attempt to exact their revenge as they face OUWBC Twos again on the 25th January, in what will no doubt be a much closer affair.

● Cambridge Team: N. Pratanwanich (Captain), E. Wong, K. Burrell, N. Jessen, A. Segal, E. Ferreira-Bruco, L. Bura, L. Ellis, A. Massrali, E. Widjaja, M. Lim, A. Kasam

## BRAND NEW ALL-INCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP



**Unlimited use of Outlooks Gym including brand new Sauna & Hot Tub**

**Unlimited use of Free Weights Gym**

**Access to ALL Fitness Classes**

**FREE Training programmes**

**FREE Nutritional Advice**

**From only £25 per month**

**01223 462226 or visit us at  
www.kelseyerridge.co.uk**

**KELSEY KERRIDGE**



# Sport

Devarshi Lodhia

Basketball: Cambridge Panthers defeated by Oxford Twos

Page 30-31



## CUHC scrap to share the spoils against unfortunate Oxford side

Cambridge

1

Oxford

1

Imran Marashli  
Sport Reporter

● BUCS Premier A South, Wilberforce Road Hockey Ground

Cambridge University Hockey Club (CUHC) women's Blues dug out a hard-fought 1-1 draw in their opening BUCS Premier A South league game of 2017 against the Oxford University Hockey Club (OUHC) at Wilberforce Road on Wednesday evening. The hotly-contested encounter provided an entertaining prelude to March's Varsity clash, although it was Oxford who were more disappointed to have come away with only a share of the spoils.

Having defeated the Oxonians 2-1 in the away fixture earlier this season, the Light Blues came into the game with a confidence visible from the start. Early Cambridge pressure produced a short corner that was expertly swept into the corner by Molly Buxton. Buoyed, Cambridge exploited the wide channels, with a swashbuckling run from Lucia Corry down the right flank encapsulating the Light Blues' rigorous interrogation of a somewhat rattled Oxford outfit.

Gradually the Dark Blues weathered the early Cambridge storm. The away side began to retain possession and worked the ball across the pitch well, with captain Naomi Kelly orchestrating the tune from the middle. Bearing down more on the Cambridge D, an off-target tomahawk from Shona McNab indicated the inroads Oxford were creating.

But in spite of the mounting pressure, it was Cambridge who had the next clear opportunity. Emily Thorpe's blistering counter-attack burst through the heart of the Oxford team to set up Hatty Darling, whose effort was well smothered by Rachel Dellar in the Oxford goal.

Oxford continued to hunt for an equaliser that, for all their industry, looked like it would never come. Despite winning a series of short corners, a combination of inspired goalkeeping from Freddie Briscoe and dogged Cambridge defending ensured the two teams were level at half time.

The second half continued much in



the same vein. Oxford confidently manoeuvred the ball and used the wide spaces effectively to prowl around the Cambridge D, yet they struggled to convert their territorial upper hand into goals. A succession of short corners came and went without the Dark Blues managing to find the backboard, despite the brains trust of McNab, Sophie Spink, Annie Koehli and Maddie Burnell trying a number of tactical variations to unlock the defence.

The Light Blues remained resolute, often channelling Dark Blue pressure into congested central areas where Oxford's attacking waves broke up against the Light Blues' defensive barriers. Skipper Faye Kidd led by example, commenting after the match that "we're a very tight-knit group, and we put our bodies on the line for each other on the pitch."

It was clear as the second half wore on that Oxford had the upper hand, and Cambridge were restricted to more sporadic periods of offensive play. The one-

▲ Cambridge couldn't hold on to snatch a narrow victory  
(IMRAN MARASHLI)

goal lead looked ever more precarious, and the breakthrough Oxford had been seeking duly arrived. A ball through the middle escaped the Cambridge defence, allowing Sophie Shakespeare to race through and calmly slot past Briscoe for a merited equaliser.

Oxford scented blood, and were a whisker away from snatching a victory in the game's dying moments. After yet another spurned Oxford short corner, a moment of panic in the Cambridge defence gifted Imogen Brown the ball in the middle of the D, but her effort on goal was shut down by the Light Blue backline.

In the match's final play, Oxford pierced through Cambridge's right wing only for Alexa Copeland's effort to trickle across the goal without anyone at the far post to convert, leaving Cambridge hearts in mouths.

Speaking to *Varsity* after the game, captain Faye Kidd reflected: "Our performance wasn't as good this time. We

finally got our new coach, Craig, and it was his first day, so putting into practice things with the new coach has been brilliant. Now we've got 53 days until we play them again and a lot to work on, but I'm generally positive."

She added: "I think Oxford should be worried because we're going to go out there even harder, and our fitness should be immaculate by Varsity." Looking forward, she said: "We'd like to get the ball in the net a bit more. We had really good chances, but we just need to work on our final product in the D."

● CUHC: Briscoe, Bradley, Darling, Kidd (c), Moore, Thorpe, Corry, Buxton, Marsh, Brown, Burrows, Padt, Bevan, Shears, Cox

Goal scorer: Buxton  
OUHC: Dellar, Kelly (c), Spink, Hughes, Donovan, McNab, Stewart, Brown, Koehli, Burnell, Whitaker, Bailey-Williams, Shakespeare, Copeland, Harrison  
Goal scorer: Shakespeare



► The Light Blues struck first blood against the run of play  
(IMRAN MARASHLI)