





# EDITORIAL

## Take care of yourself

This is it. Exam term is here. If you listen really carefully, you can just about hear the soft hum of collective weeping in the air. It is an eternally cruel fact that exams tend to hit just as the weather starts to improve. Stretching ahead of us now are weeks of gazing out of library windows at sunny days and tourist-crammed punts, while our chins hover reluctantly over essays we stayed up too late writing and notes we don't remember taking.

In such a time as this, people may go one of two ways: either they spend their days cursing their former selves, wishing they'd gone to more lectures, taken out more books, and generally worked harder. Or they push back against the pressure quickly mounting upon them, decide it's too late anyway, and pretty much wing it.

So far in life, as my friends will attest, I have more often fallen into the latter category. I successfully took my mind off first-year exams by binge-watching *Desperate Housewives* from the beginning, even though I'd seen it all before. In second year, I gave myself a generous amount of time off from studying.

All this is to, rather euphemistically, say that I didn't work hard enough. Everyone knows their minds, the way they work, what they need (at least better than others will). There are points, looking back, where I know that taking my foot off the pedal was the right move. At others, I know I was just being plain lazy.

The most important thing is to strike a balance. In my fourth and final year now, I know that, as far as buckling down is concerned, it's now or never. That is a daunting prospect, as I attempt to trawl back through my memory of the year and piece together some coherent revision. But I know that, even though I really do need and want to work harder than ever now, self-compassion must not go out the window.

It is easy, in the frenzy of exam term – particularly in the high-stakes environment of Cambridge – to lose sight of what is important. Exams and grades are not nothing – we, of all people, know this – but they are also not everything. If you are not in your final year, you have time to get things right. If you're a finalist, you will, I am sure (and am certainly hoping), discover that there are things more important and more urgent than getting whichever grade you are striving for ●

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### GENERAL ELECTION

# 2017

# City braces for slew of elections, as Lib Dems seek to re-take seat

*Cambridge residents will be called to three votes in the coming months, as Labour battles to keep its parliamentary place*

Matt Gutteridge and Louis Ashworth

Cambridge is to face a series of elections over the coming months, with PM Theresa May's snap election in June overshadowing elections for the County Council and inaugural Mayoralty of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough set for the 4th of May.

For the majority of students, who spend only a few years in the city, the focus will be upon 8th June, when Cambridge will select its Member of Parliament. The current MP, Labour Daniel Zeichner, is facing a tough contest from his predecessor, Liberal Democrat Julian Huppert. With Labour polling poorly nationwide, Huppert looks set to take back the seat, but history has shown Cambridge can throw up surprises.

The two other votes, one to select County Councillors and the other to pick a regional Mayor, may be of less direct interest to Cantabs. The Conservatives are anticipated to gain the Mayoralty, and to take control of the County Council, where they have been narrowly short of a majority since 2013.

**General Election**

The majority of British students at the University will be eligible to vote in Cambridge. After parliament dissolves on the 3rd of May, Daniel Zeichner will have to change his Twitter handle, drop any 'MP' branding and re-embrace candidacy. Zeichner has already been out campaigning for his re-election over the last few weeks, hosting a visit from Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretary, Emily Thornberry last Saturday.

His main rival will be Liberal Demo-

### Cambridge Parliamentary constituency results

8th May 2015 | Turnout 62.1%

	Votes
<b>Lab</b> Daniel Zeichner <b>36%</b>	18,646
<b>Lib Dem</b> Julian Huppert <b>34.9%</b>	18,047
<b>Con</b> Chamali Fernando <b>15.7%</b>	8,117
<b>Green</b> Rupert Read <b>7.9%</b>	4,109
<b>UKIP</b> Patrick O'Flynn <b>5.2%</b>	2,668

### Projected results for 8th June election

(Based on Electoral Calculus model)

	Votes
<b>Lib Dem</b> Julian Huppert <b>37.7% (+2.8)</b>	19,506
<b>Lab</b> Daniel Zeichner <b>30.2% (-5.8)</b>	15,645
<b>Con</b> Unknown <b>25.5% (+9.8)</b>	13,222
<b>Green</b> Stuart Tuckwood <b>6.7% (-1.2)</b>	3,494
<b>UKIP</b> Unknown <b>0% (-5.2)</b>	0

▲ Swing data from national polling gives the Lib Dems a lead in Cambridge for 8th June election (LOUIS ASHWORTH/MATT GUTTERIDGE)

crat Julian Huppert, who was Cambridge's MP from 2010–15. Huppert is the bookies' favourite to re-take the seat, with odds of 1/5 that he will win. Only recently, Huppert had become a founding director of the Intellectual Forum, a research centre focused on wide-ranging political issues based at Jesus College. As a result of the snap election, he has temporarily stepped down. On Thursday, Lib Dem leader Tim Farron arrived to offer Huppert his support.

Though the election in Cambridge is expected to be fought mainly between Labour and the Lib Dems, the Conservatives, who placed second in the seat in 2010, could make a strong showing. Voting predictions based on analysis by the website *Electoral Calculus* put the Conservatives within five percentage points of Labour. The Conservatives have yet to announce a candidate.

Cambridge is a unique seat. The tightest Labour/Lib Dem marginal in 2015's election, it is also one of the strongest Remain areas outside of London. With just 599 votes separating the parties last time, the student vote could be crucial, as could votes for smaller parties like the Greens, whose candidate Stuart Tuckwood is an NHS nurse. All the main candidates will be looking to appeal to the constituency's dominant Remain-voting population, so Brexit is likely to feature strongly in any upcoming hustings.

Many students are likely to vote in their home constituency, especially those who are from other marginal seats, or who plan to vote Conservative. A *Varsity* poll in the build up to 2015's election found that around one in six students planned to vote at home.

Students at Homerton have a slight-







(Top) Julian Huppert, left, is joined by Lib Dem Leader Tim Farron; (Left) Emily Thornberry joins Daniel Zeichner MP and Kevin Price; (Right) A Labour member canvasses in Romsey ward (ALL PHOTOS: LOUIS ASHWORTH)



ly different proposition facing them. Homerton is in Cambridge's southernmost ward, Queen Edith's, which is currently part of the South Cambridgeshire constituency. Its current MP is Conservative Heidi Allen, who holds a majority of around 10,000 votes. New boundary changes, which will come into effect in 2018, will make Queen Edith's part of the main city constituency, but until then Homertonian students may find their votes do not carry the same weight as those at central colleges.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mayoral Election

Within the University, all attention has focused on Clare College Porter Kevin Price, who is aiming to become the first Mayor for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

Despite the excitement that Price, the Labour candidate, has generated among students, victory seems a remote possibility. Labour have been traditionally unpopular in rural Cambridgeshire, even in periods when the party's position was much more favourable nationally than it is now. Without strong performances in the two cities, Cambridge and Peterborough, Price could well end up third.

Conservative candidate James Palmer will start as the runaway favourite. Every district electing the inaugural mayor except Cambridge City Council have strong Tory pluralities, and of those, all except Cambridge County Council are majorities. The support enjoyed by the Conservatives in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire, where they respectively hold 34 and 36 seats out of 39, suggests that a large majority in these areas is likely.

The potential surprise package is Liberal Democrat candidate Rod Cantrill. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough authority as a whole voted to remain by 52 per cent to 48 per cent, an interesting reversal of the national trend; however, there was a real spread of results – 74 per cent of voters in Cambridge chose to Remain, while 61 per cent in Peterborough voted Leave. Remain-inclined Conservatives may well defect to Cantrill, who has run his campaign closely alongside Julian Huppert, widely expected to take the Cambridge Parliamentary seat.

Cambridgeshire County Council

The Conservatives need three more seats to return a majority on the County Council, and will be looking to claw back ground lost to UKIP now that Article 50 has been triggered. UKIP majorities of just 86 votes in Littleport, 11 in Roman Bank and Peckover, and only five in Chatteris should make them easy pickings for the Tories as they seek to take control.

All of Labour's seats on the County Council come from city wards, and the prospect of gains elsewhere is bleak. National polls suggest that that Labour would do well to hold on to all their existing seats, but many Cambridge wards have been staunchly Labour for years, so it would not be a surprise to see Labour maintain the seven seats they won last time. They may even stand a chance in the wards of student-heavy Castle and always ultra-marginal Market.

The Lib Dems will seriously fancy their chances. Conservative stronghold South Cambridgeshire produced a strong Remain result (60-40), while East Cambridgeshire was only just in favour of leaving (51-49), and is also dominated

by Tories. Disaffected voters may well be tempted to switch allegiance to the Lib Dems to protest, or even prevent, Brexit.

In Cambridge itself, the Lib Dems are most likely to profit if Labour's worst fears are realised. Wards such as West Chesterton, Arbury, and King's Hedges have been solidly Labour in the past, but could fall if Corbyn proves as unpopular as the polls suggest he is.

UKIP will feel vulnerable – resignations and by-elections since 2013 have cost them two seats and more are threatened as the party struggles to reinvent itself after the Brexit referendum. Strong majorities in Fenland and Huntingdonshire may prove difficult to overturn, but voters deserting UKIP for the Tories make further gains unlikely.

In some city wards, students will hold the balance of power, but others are actually fighting for election themselves. Conservatives Connor MacDonald, Henry Mitson, and James Mathieson are standing in the Chesterton, Market, and Cherry Hinton wards respectively, and Labour candidate Joe Dale is hoping to be elected in Newnham.

▼ Emmanuel JCR President Connor MacDonald, who is standing in Chesterton, garnered some high-level support last week when Boris Johnson came to visit (DYLAN COLL-REED)



NEWS

Amatey Doku takes Vice-President position in National Union of Students

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In Memory of Richard Berg Rust (1963-2017)

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Richard Berg Rust, Development Director at Hughes Hall and a Director of Varsity Publications Ltd. Richard will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Our deepest sympathies are with his family.





## News

# Higher Education Bill passed by Parliament

**Monty Fynn**

Deputy Investigations Editor

The Higher Education and Research Bill completed its torturous passage through Parliament yesterday, introducing sweeping changes to the higher education sector.

The Conservatives – who first promised the reforms in their 2015 manifesto – have championed the bill as much-needed reform that streamlines regulation and increases competition within the sector, but its critics argue that the new law allows the ‘marketisation’ of education and risks damaging the UK’s universities.

Following the announcement of the snap election, government ministers came to a compromise with Labour in order to clear opposition and attempt to pass the bill before Parliament is dissolved next week. With Labour agreeing to withdraw previous opposition to the bill, the government’s new amendments were swiftly approved by both the Commons and the Lords.

Earlier this week the Commons rejected many of the amendments made by the Lords to the bill, including one to remove students from immigration statistics. However, ministers agreed to defer a proposal to link rises in tuition fees to a university’s results in the Teaching Excellence Framework until it has been evaluated by a further review, in response to a Lords amendment which severed this link.

TEF will allow participating universities to raise fees in line with inflation, with the highest rated being permitted to charge higher fees.

The TEF was severely criticised in the Lords, including from the government benches, Lord Lucas calling the gold, silver and bronze ratings a “ranking system for turkeys”. Lord Watson of Invergowrie, the Labour Party’s education spokesman in the Lords, cited the University of Cambridge’s criticism that the proposal to link the TEF to fees 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”.

Before the ministers’ concession, Universities Minister Jo Johnson had told the Commons that the Lords amendment would “render the TEF unworkable” and that “for the TEF to work properly... there must be reputational and financial incentives”.

The government’s final amendments to the bill mean the link between the TEF and tuition fees will now only be introduced in 2020 and requires an independent review of its impact to be presented to parliament after it commences. Any fee increases linked to the TEF will only take place after the independent review.



◀ **Viscount Younger speaking at the House of Lords yesterday**

(PARLIAMENTLIVE.TV)

The Lords had also passed an amendment to the bill that removed international students being classified as long-term migrants in official migration statistics, but the government removed the amendment.

Speaking to *Varsity* about the bill’s passage through Parliament, Roberta Huldish, CUSU Education Officer, said that she was “disappointed” with the outcome, which “showed great disregard for the impact of these reforms and students’ and academics’ vehement opposition to them. This bill takes us a huge step away from an education that is public and accessible towards a system of privatisation and artificial competition.

“However, we did manage to win on some points, including the concession that the link between the Teaching Excellence Framework and differential fees will be delayed for another year, while an independent review of TEF is conducted.”

She insisted, “we need to continue voicing our discontent with the Government”.



**Breaking news, around the clock**  
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# Doku slate triumphs

**Sam Harrison**

Senior News Editor

Shakira Martin’s slate of candidates for NUS positions, of which CUSU President Amatey Doku was a prominent member, has won five of the six positions it contested on the NUS National Executive Committee at this year’s conference.

Martin won her campaign for the presidency of the union, Doku was elected Vice-President for Higher Education, and Izzy Lenga, Robbie Young, and Emily Chapman won the positions of Vice-President for Welfare, Vice-President for Society and Citizenship, and Vice-President for Further Education, respectively.

The final candidate on the slate, Matt Grange, narrowly lost to Ali Milani in his bid to be elected Vice-President for Union Development.

The new committee will take up its positions on July 1st.

The slate does not formally adhere to any political ideology, nor does it constitute a faction within NUS, although it has been dubbed the ‘Student Union Fightback’: its candidates all stress the need to bring NUS’s focus back to the concerns of students. Doku and Martin have both talked about the opportunities which education offered to them and their families, and in his speech to conference before the election, Doku said: “If it matters to [students], if it matters to you, it should matter to NUS.”

After being elected he added that he would work to “make sure that NUS truly represents students views and fights on the issues that matter for students.”

Significantly, he also criticised the way in which the NUS under Malia Bouattia, the president since last July, has conducted its campaigns, saying that there had been “plenty of noise, but distant, disparate, dim.” The slate is characterised by opposition to Malia Bouattia, whom Martin defeated for the presidency.

Richard Brooks, the outgoing Vice-President for Union Development who in January was secretly filmed discussing organising internal resistance against Bouattia, tweeted shortly before the presidential result was announced that



▲ Doku’s tenure as CUSU president will end in July, when he will begin his NUS VP role (NUS UK)

unless Martin and her slate were elected, in a year’s time there “may not be an NUS”. Robbie Young was considered an ally of Brooks when the latter publicly stated his opposition to Bouattia.

With Doku replacing steadfast Bouattia supporter Sorana Vieru, who had served her limit of two terms in the role as Vice-President for Higher Education, and Lenga replacing another prominent adherent of the toppled president, Shelly Asquith, as Vice-President for Welfare, the NEC has been all but cleared of Bouattia’s radical left-wing faction.

Milani, who was supported by a number of Bouattia’s left-wingers, including Vieru, Asquith, and Cambridge’s Josh Jackson, will replace Martin adherent Richard Brooks, but his central campaign pledge of reuniting the NUS chimes with Martin’s own rhetoric while campaigning, which might make him easier for Martin’s team to work with. The group hopes that the election will bring greater unity to NUS’s policy-making, a significant move away from the

# Braving Brexit – how will leaving the EU affect the University?

**Caitlin Smith**

Deputy News Editor

Throughout the Brexit saga, members of the University community have been outspoken on both sides of the debate. With the triggering of Article 50 last month, and the surprise general election announcement just weeks later, *Varsity* examines what leaving the EU will mean for the University and its students.

In Cambridge, the most striking feature of the Brexit process is just how strongly residents were opposed to it. Market Ward in central Cambridge, which encompasses eight University colleges, returned the highest Remain vote in the country in last June’s referendum. Within the University itself, pro-EU sentiment seems no less potent: prior to the

referendum, over 300 academics signed an open letter in support of Remain. This is perhaps fuelling the ardently pro-EU Liberal Democrats’ confidence of victory in Cambridge in the General Election.

In the run-up to the referendum, Remain supporters repeatedly cited the potential financial impact of Brexit on the higher education sector, whose research projects benefit from European Union funding. In June of last year, Professor Ross Anderson, Professor of Security Engineering, wrote to *Cambridge News* predicting a total loss of £100 million for the University as a result of leaving the EU, including £60 million of EU funding.

Asked by *Varsity* if he stood by this claim in the light of recent events, he said that foreign institutions started “freezing UK ones out” of grant applications.

Catherine Barnard, Professor of Eu-

ropean Union Law at Trinity College, also identified the loss of European grant funding as a major concern for academics. Despite a recent report from the House of Commons Education Select Committee urging the government to “commit to Horizon 2020 and future research frameworks,” the government’s negotiating position on the issue is unclear.

In March, the government rejected an amendment to the ‘Brexit Bill’ added by the House of Lords which would have guaranteed residency rights for EU nationals living in the UK.

Vice-Chancellor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz has re-

peatedly stressed the important contribution made by EU nationals “to the University of Cambridge’s success, to the diversity of our community, and to our values of openness, inclusion and mutual respect.”

In a statement following the triggering of Article 50, he committed the University to continuing to urge the government “to protect the rights of EU nationals in the UK” and to seek “assurances regarding their future status after Brexit is completed.”

Professor Anderson told *Varsity* that, as a “global” university, Cambridge would struggle to



find “hireable” staff to fill its research positions if visa regulations were tightened for EU nationals. If such changes were made, he said, “it’s hard to see how we can stay in the top three worldwide, or even for that matter in the top 50.”

While Britain remained a member of the European Union, students from European countries were eligible for British financial aid, such as loans and grants, and were not subject to the same uncapped fees as other international students. Last week, the government announced that there would be no change in the funding arrangements for European students enrolling in British universities in 2018, but the arrangements for later application cycles is unknown.

◀ Professor Catherine Barnard has spoken extensively about Brexit



# at NUS conference



division which has plagued its NEC over the last year, and allow it to redirect its energies into small-scale reforms.

CUSU delegate Roberta Huldish, who

is also its Education Officer, complained in a Facebook status on Wednesday that conference had voted to kill a number of motions which it had not had time to discuss, including two on including more apprentices in NUS and the NSS boycott, in order to prevent them from going in front of the NEC. She claimed that this was the work of “certain people within NUS” who distrust the NEC and did not want the motions to be “discussed by an elected body that may have disagreed with their positions”, and said that it showed they “have no interest” in the work of ordinary students towards the ends that matter to them. Martin, Doku and the ‘SU Fightback’ have defined themselves against this kind of internal strife.

Doku's personal triumph was a comfortable win as he took 320 votes in comparison to Niall Hamilton's 122 and Ana Oppenheim's 110. His policies focus on reducing the student debt burden by providing maintenance support to disadvantaged students, ensuring that all students have access to a university-funded ombudsman to handle complaints against each institution, and publishing a students' White Paper detailing their priorities on Brexit.

Upon his election Doku highlighted the need for the NUS to fight for a “stronger voice on a national level” given Brexit and Higher Education reforms.

## FANTOM MENACE

## Drink can gives burglar away

Cambridge Crown Court has sentenced a burglar to four years' imprisonment after he left a Fanta can at the scene of the crime. A DNA test matched him to the finger prints on the Fanta can left during his raid on a home. Jason Turner had stolen £37,000 worth of silverware, jewellery and currency, as well as a Land Rover from the house. He abandoned the latter at a nearby church along with the jewellery boxes. Judge David Farrell said that Turner was a professional burglar who had been caught only thanks to "pure luck and one slip-up".

## | PORTRAIT AUCTION

## Porters' portraits sold in auction

Portraits of nine head porters at Cambridge colleges have been sold at auction. They are the work of Louise Riley-Smith, who said that porters deserve “more glory” for the work they do, describing them as “unsung heroes”. She said that, whilst being painted the porters “often talked about pastoral care – if the students were depressed or upset or drunk, which was very often, they look after them.” The other 17 portraits were bought by Sidney Sussex, Clare Hall, Corpus Christi, Jesus, Trinity Hall, Homerton, Newnham, Gonville & Caius and Churchill Colleges.

## CAMPAIGN COCKER-UP

## Tim Farron: 'Smell my Spaniel'

While Theresa May managed to smuggle the phrase “strong and stable government” into PMQs six different times this week, Tim Farron has managed to coin one of the more unusual election slogans: “smell my spaniel”. While visiting Cambridge to support Julian Huppert’s campaign, Farron was distracted by Bonny, who appears to be a labradoodle. Farron invited Bonny to “smell my spaniel, maybe”. One Twitter user said: “let he who is without sin smell the first spaniel”.

## FAREWELL TO TOASTIES

## History Faculty café shut down

The café in the Junior Combination Room of the Faculty of History has closed due to lack of demand. An e-mail from the Chair of the Faculty, Dr Lawrence Klein, informed students that the café had been closed as a result of its “financial viability”, which he said had “long been questionable” in spite of “various consultations” with students to improve its services. History students are being drawn to the ARC Café, Law Faculty café, and the Buttery, meaning that the café had become a “drain on resources”.

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## News New Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy

# Is the new sexual harassment policy fit for purpose?

**Aoife Hogan** takes a detailed look at the changes the University has made to its procedure for handling allegations of harassment and sexual misconduct

**Aoife Hogan**  
Deputy News Editor

In January, the University made a number of changes to its procedure for dealing with allegations of harassment and sexual misconduct between students, as well as cases involving both students and staff.

The reforms were drawn up in collaboration with CUSU and with the support of the General Board's Education Committee, the Senior Tutors' Committee, and the Committee on Student Health and Wellbeing.

The new procedure would allow the University to impose preliminary sanctions on students accused of harassment and sexual misconduct. It creates a formal process for investigating alleged incidents and finding a resolution through mediation or direct punishment.

One of the reforms was the creation of the central Office for Student Conduct, Complaints and Appeals (OSCCA) in December, established to offer guidance on a range of student issues, and providing students with the option to submit formal harassment and sexual misconduct complaints involving other Cambridge students, and pertaining to members of staff.

The updated procedure is one of a number of ways in which the University and the Higher Education sector have responded to concerns about the prevalence of harassment and sexual misconduct on campus. In mid-March, it was also announced that the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) would invest an extra £87,000 in prevention and support of students who have been affected by sexual har-

assment over the next year.

However, as a result of the collegiate structure of the University, individual colleges also have their own procedures for dealing with allegations of harassment and sexual misconduct.

The OSCCA allows students to freely seek advice from "trained advisors" and, if they wish, to submit a complaint about harassment or sexual misconduct which will not appear on any student record and can be retracted at any time. Separate online reporting forms are available for allegations involving students and cases involving staff. An anonymous reporting platform also exists for third-parties to report incidents.

The OSCCA website states that the system is primarily intended for use in cases involving students from multiple colleges and in cases of sexual misconduct, and that in cases of alleged harassment involving students from the same college, the individual college's autonomous protocol will likely be employed: "if your complaint relates to harassment you will normally be expected to use a College's procedure". Students will also be unable to use the University procedure if they have already lodged a complaint with a College procedure: "The University and College will not both investigate the same matter under the harassment and sexual misconduct procedures." In some cases, therefore, students will not have access to the updated procedure.

There also appears to be some confusion in the University's public explanations of the new policy. In an introductory video on the OSCCA website, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education, Professor Graham Virgo states that an investigation "requires the consent of both parties, the party bringing the com-

plaint, and the student against whom the complaint is being made". A full document describing the policy elsewhere on the website, however, suggests that the consent of the accused party is not required for an investigation, and indeed "the investigator may still continue with the investigation in the absence of the Respondent's cooperation."

Speaking to *Varsity*, a spokesperson for OSCCA confirmed that "an investigation can take place with or without the agreement of the student who is the subject of the complaint". This would not necessarily be immediately clear, however, to a student seeking to report sexual misconduct.

Concerns have also been raised about the procedure's requirement that the consent of both parties, the accuser and the accused, must be given before a formal investigation can be instigated. Enquiries are undertaken by trained investigators, who are required to be objective and will, with consent, consult both parties and others if necessary. The investigator subsequently compiles a report, which does not make any findings or ascertain whether the harassment or sexual misconduct actually took place. A course of action will be recommended, and the report "can be considered by various officers in the university to determine what the most appropriate response might be". However, the investigator is not authorised to enforce a course of action.

Both parties must also agree to the proposed resolution, options for which include "no further action", mediation, conduct agreement, intermission or a behaviour awareness assessment. However, if the accused student does not agree to the suggested actions, or



▲ The new policy was introduced in January (LOUIS ASHWORTH)

the accuser does not find the outcome befitting the situation, the case "could", with the approval of the accuser, proceed to the University Discipline Procedure, where actions "can be imposed".

The OSCCA also has a platform for students to report alleged cases of harassment and sexual misconduct involving members of staff. The body's website states that unless a complaint is "frivolous or vexatious", students will never be put at a disadvantage for filing a complaint. Even if an allegation is dismissed or disproven, the University will "ensure that you will not be assessed or taught in a small group with that member of staff."

But the system may deprive the student involved of information about their allegation. According to the guidelines, staff discipline processes will be imposed "depending on the nature of the complaint" and the staff member's "right to confidentiality" will be prioritised.

## Flowchart

1. Initial incident of sexual misconduct occurs



2. Complaint filed to OSCAA

## The University must go further



**Aoife Hogan**  
Deputy News Editor

The University has made significant strides towards treating allegations of harassment and sexual misconduct with the seriousness they deserve. Survivors have deemed the new procedure "comforting" and "promising", but

its effectiveness in practice remains to be seen. There is a danger that these well-meaning changes are all too shrouded in "ifs" and "mights", and a lack of clarity in the explanation of the policy. On the University's part, there has also been a lack of assertive actions to provide the same, decisive information to all students and staff.

The new set-up affords students a choice of which procedure best suits their needs, as, in the words of one survivor, "reporting harassment or sexual violence is difficult enough without being forced into a particular course of action." The provision of a course of action less "serious" than immediately reporting to the police or directly to the Disciplinary Procedure is productive in



▲ Senate House (SIMON LOCK)

a social environment where "victim-blaming is rife."

The introduction of a central reporting and investigative body seems, at face value, a valid attempt to rectify difference in treatment based on which college you attend. However, OSCCA still encourages students to use college procedure in cases of harassment. Also, because the University and college will not both investigate the same matter, if a student has already filed a complaint through college and has not reached an outcome that they are comfortable with, it logically follows that they cannot pursue further action through the University's centralised procedure. This means that identical allegations could still receive different treatment at dif-

ferent colleges.

The lack of set guidelines for enforcement presents another issue. Survivors have pointed out to me that while this might make more people comfortable with coming forward, because they can regain even some sense of the control and autonomy that was forcibly stripped from them, it may deter those seeking certainty. The trauma of relaying one's story is taxing enough without the possibility of having no real action taken. If the ramifications of harassment and sexual misconduct are not made entirely clear to students, how can we expect to see them taken seriously?

"It feels like it's just ticking a box", said one victim.

It's not the only box that may have



# New Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy News



## Interview Nathalie Greenfield

*The recent Cambridge graduate and Huffington Post writer talks about her personal experience of dealing with the sexual misconduct policy at the University and how it encouraged her to write about consent.*

Title IX of the 1972 US Education Amendments states: “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

“The UK never caught on to Title IX”, Nathalie tells me. OSCCA’s focus on recommendation rather than enforcement is, in her eyes, “always going to be the case in the UK higher education system, because I’m not sure that it is or ever wants to be equipped to deal with, from my experience, allegations of a criminal nature – that’s not their job, that’s not what they’re there for. But, if you’re looking out for the welfare of a body of young people, then there are things which do fall within your remit.” It is for this reason that OSCCA is, in Nathalie’s eyes, “a preventative measure at best”.

Speaking of her own experiences,

she said “he was convinced that I had the wrong idea, that I’d made it up”.

Nathalie sees promise in new training programs for key staff. “If they have no idea how to respond, and if their first reaction is ‘How much did you drink?’ and ‘What were you wearing?’, you may as well be speaking to no-one.”

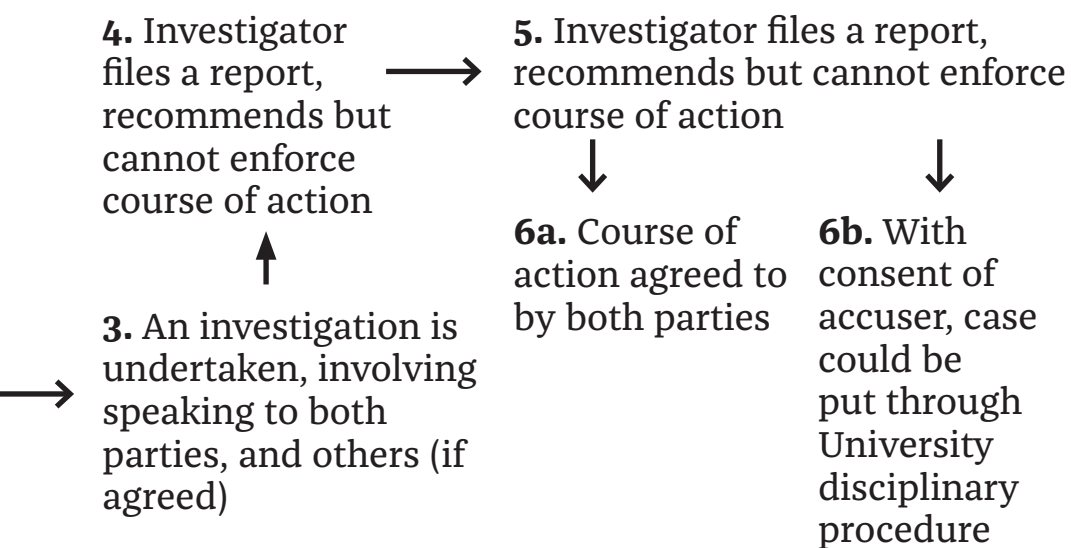
She is reassured by the treatment of issues at a University rather than college level, but suggests that colleges’ roles in the procedure should be limited: “It’s illogical, and completely counter to the idea of having a University-wide policy that everyone can rely on and draw upon. Colleges each have their own policy, or lack thereof. It’s quite disconcerting”.

While she sees the office’s establishment as “encouraging”, it remains to be seen how things will work in practice, and how students will consult and inform themselves with the new policy. “Implementing it and making sure things are used properly is a whole different kettle of fish. But not having anything written down in the first place, not even having a stance on something, is unacceptable.”

“The introduction of something, anything, is definitely reassuring.”

“If their first reaction is ‘How much did you drink’ and ‘What were you wearing’, you may as well be speaking to no-one”

## How the University will handle complaints



been ticked nonchalantly. As a fresher this year, I attended my college’s consent workshop. Yes, we discussed consent, but I do not recall hearing anything concrete, in Freshers’ Week or thereafter, from my college or the University, about OSCCA.

The University claims that the procedure has been publicised. A spokesperson for OSCCA told *Varsity* that all staff and students were notified about the establishment of OSCCA “through The Reporter, and then through the launch of an external website, and through liaison with College Senior Tutors.”

But while the Reporter, the University’s official internal journal, can be accessed online, it is not actively circulated to, nor widely read or even recognised

among, the student body. This places responsibility of awareness with the student, as does leaving the responsibility of informing students in the hands of the 31 autonomous colleges. If potential victims, and above all, potential perpetrators are not made aware of the system, what is it, beyond a token of action – a box ticked?

The University should be commended for taking a serious step to work sensitively and collaboratively to face this troublingly prominent issue on University campuses. But students, staff and the University alike ought to probe the new policy and fill its gaps, so every student can rest assured that a transparent and decisive process stands if they are ever victimised, or risk victimising another.

“It feels like it’s just ticking a box”



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## Science

# Climates, cultures and quakes Two PhD

## Earthquakes in Makran

**Camilla Penney**  
Science Correspondent

The Makran: a thousand-kilometre stretch of desert at the northern end of the Arabian Sea, it was hostile enough to kill Alexander the Great's army, mired in geopolitical complexity, and on the Foreign Office "advise against all travel" list. Not the first place you would think of as a field area for an Earth Sciences PhD.

From a geophysics perspective, however, the Makran's inaccessibility makes it an interesting challenge. As part of my PhD I have been looking at the possibility of a large earthquake and tsunami in the region. Although I haven't been able to go there on fieldwork (the "advise against all travel" issue), by combining techniques based on remote observation – from Google Earth to global measurements of earthquakes – with precise GPS measurements made by colleagues in Iran, I've been able to make progress in understanding how the area works.

The Makran is a subduction zone – where one tectonic plate is pulled be-

neath another. In this case, the Arabian Plate, which makes up the floor of the Arabian Sea, is being pulled, "subducted", beneath the southern coasts of Iran and Pakistan. There are lots of interesting questions associated with subduction zones – but the most important one for people living in the area is: can this subduction zone produce large earthquakes? (If you're interested in the other questions have a look at my recent paper.)

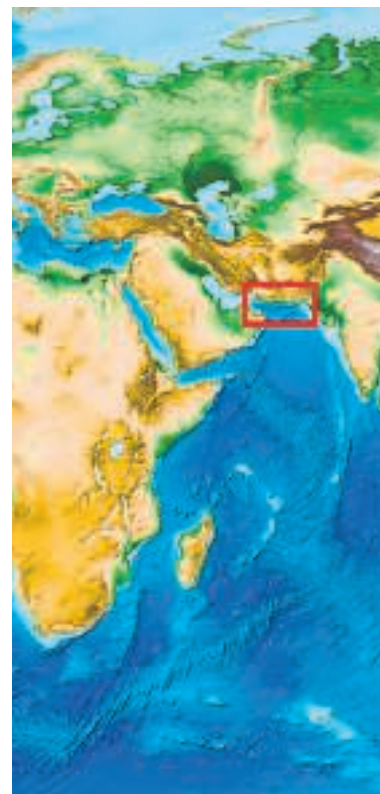
Earthquakes happen in subduction zones because, as one plate is pulled beneath another, the surfaces do not slide freely. Effectively, two massive pieces of not-necessarily-smooth rock are sliding past each other. If these rocks get stuck, then stress starts to build up. At some point, the rock will break, causing the plates to jerk past each other, and this is what generates an earthquake.

The reason why earthquakes in subduction zones are important, even for people living as far away as the opposite side of the Pacific Ocean, is the waves they generate. A subduction zone earthquake moves the whole seafloor, displacing a huge quantity of water and starting a wave with a wavelength much deeper than the ocean. These 'tsunamis' do not lose energy as they travel, so can cause devastation even thousands of kilometres from their source. This is what hap-

pened after the Boxing Day earthquake in Sumatra in 2004, when tsunami waves caused deaths as far away as Somalia.

The Sumatra 2004 earthquake was a magnitude 9. An earthquake 10 times smaller than this (magnitude 8) happened in the eastern (now Pakistani) Makran in 1945, but we don't have any historical record of earthquakes occurring in the western (Iranian) part of the subduction zone. However, we also know that historically few people have lived in the region, so it's possible that there have been earthquakes, but no one to write about them. Much of the Makran's interior is still sparsely inhabited, but the coastal regions, and those of other countries bordering the Arabian Sea, are not. Karachi, at the eastern end of the subduction zone, is a fast-growing megacity with over 27 million inhabitants and could be threatened by both a subduction earthquake and any associated tsunami. The at-risk population, and potential economic costs, look set to increase in the near future as China invests in Pakistan's coastal infrastructure and India in Iran's.

Working with colleagues in Iran, I have been using a range of different techniques, in particular GPS, to try to work out whether the Arabian Plate is sliding smoothly under the Iranian coast,



▲ The Makran is at the northern end of the Arabian Sea (JESSE VARNER/CAMILLA PENNEY)

or is stuck and could produce an earthquake. The GPS we use is essentially a more accurate, fixed-location version of the technology in smartphones and can be used to measure how fast the surface of the Earth is moving to within about a millimetre per year. By modelling what velocities we would expect from the freely-sliding and stuck scenarios we concluded that our measurements are consistent with the plate being stuck.

Putting out GPS stations in the Makran is a difficult task, so at the moment we can only say that all the data are consistent with the Makran being able to produce an earthquake as big as Sumatra 2004 if the whole of the Arabian Plate were to slip in one go. Without a historical record we can't say how often such large earthquakes might happen, so it is important that people living in the Makran and near the coast are prepared for the worst case scenario.

A tsunami warning system is in place in the region, and a test in 2014 for a magnitude 9 earthquake along the Makran is a step in the right direction. By continuing to work with colleagues to refine our understanding of this area and ensure that the public, as well as the government, are aware of the hazard, I hope we can prevent any future earthquakes in the Makran from becoming disasters.

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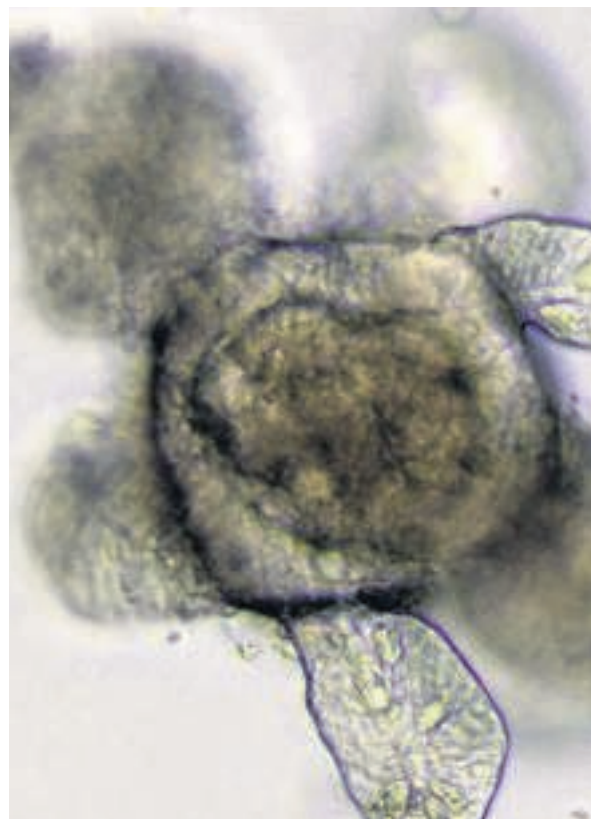
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*Are you up for the challenge?*



# students tell us about their work



▲ Intestinal organoid grown from Lgr5+ stem cells  
(MERITXELL HUCH)

## How to grow organs in a dish

**Megan Eldred**  
Science Correspondent

Medical therapies have been developed in the lab for years. But there have always been limitations as to how translatable the results are – how much like the real thing are these cells, when they are being grown in such an artificial environment? Researchers often need to test in animals to validate their results in a representative environment. But there are still differences between animals and humans. Organoid technology has recently provided an alternative to this. Organoids are groups of cells, grown from stem cells, that have acquired the correct identity and spatial organisation to resemble that of an organ. This technology has taken the biological and medical research field by storm.

Organoids are not easy to grow. They require different cocktails of nutrients, growth factors and hormones, and some require scaffolds to grow on. Despite these challenges, researchers have discovered how to grow a number of dif-

ferent organoids, including those for the liver, heart, retina, and even the brain.

Recently scientists developed an organoid that models human cardiac injury. By growing heart cells and then injuring them, they discovered that young human heart cells are capable of regenerating after injury. From this we can begin to investigate how to make the adult human heart regenerate after a heart attack.

The recent epidemic of Zika virus has created a huge need to understand how the virus prevents the proper development of the brain in infants of infected mothers. Using brain organoids, researchers can infect them with Zika virus and look at how the virus affects brain cells. Then, they can investigate potential ways to intervene in the process.

These organoids have clearly unlocked huge potential for better understanding the normal development and functioning of organs, but also how they go wrong in disease. But as with everything in medicine, nothing is perfect. The main caveat is that these organoids lack vasculature, a way to perfuse blood through the structure. This means that when the organoids get too big or complex, the cells are not getting appropriate nutrient and oxygen exchange as they would in the body. This is the biggest challenge

that researchers working with organoids must overcome.

It's useful to isolate individual organs to study how they work, but organs in the body don't always work alone, some signal to each other to carry out their correct function. Researchers are also investigating these interactions and one lab has recently grown an entire female reproductive system. This consists of the different organoids, such as those representing ovaries, interconnected by tubes, acting like a blood system transporting hormones and nutrients from one organ to another. Using this they are able to simulate the entire 28-day cycle. Researchers and doctors are now better able to understand how different organs interact with each other, and how this process is altered in disease.

The speed at which this technology is being developed is incredible, and exciting. It provides an opportunity to move away from the use of animals and to more accurately test medical applications, but it comes with its own ethical considerations, too. For instance, to what extent should we regulate the growth of these organoids? They are grown from human cells and represent human tissue, after all. We should think carefully about how this technology is developing and put regulations in place as appropriate.

“Organoids are groups of cells, grown from stem cells, that have acquired the correct identity”

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## Comment

# Comment

## Nepotism is unavoidable here. But is it so bad?

*Nepotism is everywhere as a student at Cambridge, but it's not all negative, argues Harriet Phillips*

For most unsuspecting sixth-formers, the word 'Cambridge' conjures ideas of academic prestige, intellectual stimulation, and unparalleled teaching: basically all the meaningless buzzwords the University fires at prospective applicants in order to tempt them into applying. School students are assured they will have ample time to engage in rewarding extra-curricular activities and socialise with like-minded people, all the while completing their academic work to a high standard. Ha.

Before setting foot in this place, I had vague notions of time spent leisurely punting along the Cam, consuming vast quantities of wine and reading the (occasional) book. Sadly, I had no idea what I was letting myself in for – such illusions were well and truly shattered by the end of Michaelmas Week One.

“We must retain a sense of who we are, and how we got here”

There is obviously the crippling workload, not to mention the appalling nightlife and routine humiliation in supervisions. However, to be perfectly honest, the thing which has shocked and surprised me the most is the nepotism.

It's everywhere. Whether it's a committee, the Union, or the ADC, you will undoubtedly find a friend who can put in a good word for you. Then, of course, there is a host of tantalising opportunities dangling in front of the newly graduated Cantab, if they choose to avail themselves. GradLink, anyone? And I know I should be thoroughly against such shameful old-school preferential treatment, I do. But, to be perfectly honest, I'm quite enjoying it.

It's rather nice to be invited to free drinks with prospective future employers, receive subsidies and funding for trips, and meet the occasional famous

person. It's also the sort of treatment to which you can grow accustomed very quickly. This is of course a reality for Cambridge students, but worlds away from the experience of most people.

Had I made sound financial choices in my naïve and not-so-distant youth, I would probably be studying in Scotland right now. My sanity would still be intact and I would be able to chug cheap alcohol on a regular basis, without a care in the world. I would be free from the crippling guilt all Cambridge students must suffer when not spending all waking (and sleeping) hours working.

Of course, there's traditionally recognised nepotism, when Hugo is looking for a comfy desk job complete with a six-figure salary, and is chosen over better-qualified applicants, simply because he's a 'good chap'. This behaviour is clearly unacceptable.

However, I do think there is a case to be made for nepotism in certain situations (hardly surprising that I say this, given that I am on the receiving end), for example informing a friend about a vacancy because you know they are well-qualified and will do a good job. This raises another serious issue in itself. Due to the cyclical nature of nepotism, the same dull people always end up with the same dull jobs. Even if they are young and bright-eyed to begin with, this doesn't last long. New blood quickly becomes old and any ideas that were vaguely fresh are soon stale. Were I studying at another university, I would most likely condemn the never-ending Oxbridge nepotism cycle. Would the desire to voice such thoughts be motivated by outrage at social injustice, or unashamed jealousy? I'm afraid I do not know. Be honest, you probably don't either.



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## Politics without emotion is a privilege

*Yukiko Lui Pale, Stale, Male*

It feels like we live in a more partisan society than ever before. The ideological gulfs between left and right, races, genders, sexualities, ability, and classes seem to have grown so large that even the most basic courtesies are forgotten. Politics has become a battleground not only for policy but for identity as well. Identity, intensely personal and emotionally fraught as it is, has made discussions of politics much more personal. Many have lamented the death of an era when people were supposedly able to converse with someone who happened to have differing political views without the conversation descending into belligerence. But that view is one borne, at least to some extent, from privilege.

One of the things that is often offered up as a reason for increased



partisanship and 'PC sensitivity' is the supposedly blinkered worldview that being on the internet can generate. It's argued that we can now aggressively curate the content we consume online, giving the impression of a diversity of opinion while actually reinforcing a specific worldview. But this ignores the fact that the ideological bubbles forming around certain spaces afford us a brief respite from the potential traumas of other media.

In the freedom and security being in friendly territory can afford us, it can be easy to forget what the world is actually like. However, the idea of being safe around those who share your worldview is nothing new, and nothing bad. The affirmation, validation, and support offered to us in is of immeasurable importance. The only time the existence of these semi-closed, affirming spaces is attacked is by those who want to be granted entry into them only to berate and insult their members.

This line of argument misses the point. If the existence of online spaces for the ability to curate the content we read for our own well-being makes you feel ostracised, then you have a glimpse of what it feels like to live as a marginalised person. Outrage over online 'bubbles' like this is better channelled into the creation of a media which does not outcast or degrade the marginalised.

Mainstream media has, for so long, been dominated by one worldview. The stories we have been told have not been representative at all of the fullness of real diversity. But different identities have existed for ages. They are only now being reported, shared, and tweeted.

To wish for a time when the world wasn't always tearing at each other's throats over politics is to ignore the oppression and struggles on which the mainstream has for a long time neglected to shine its spotlight. As politics enters further into the realm of identity and attempts to police, make illegal, or marginalise the core beliefs of a particu-

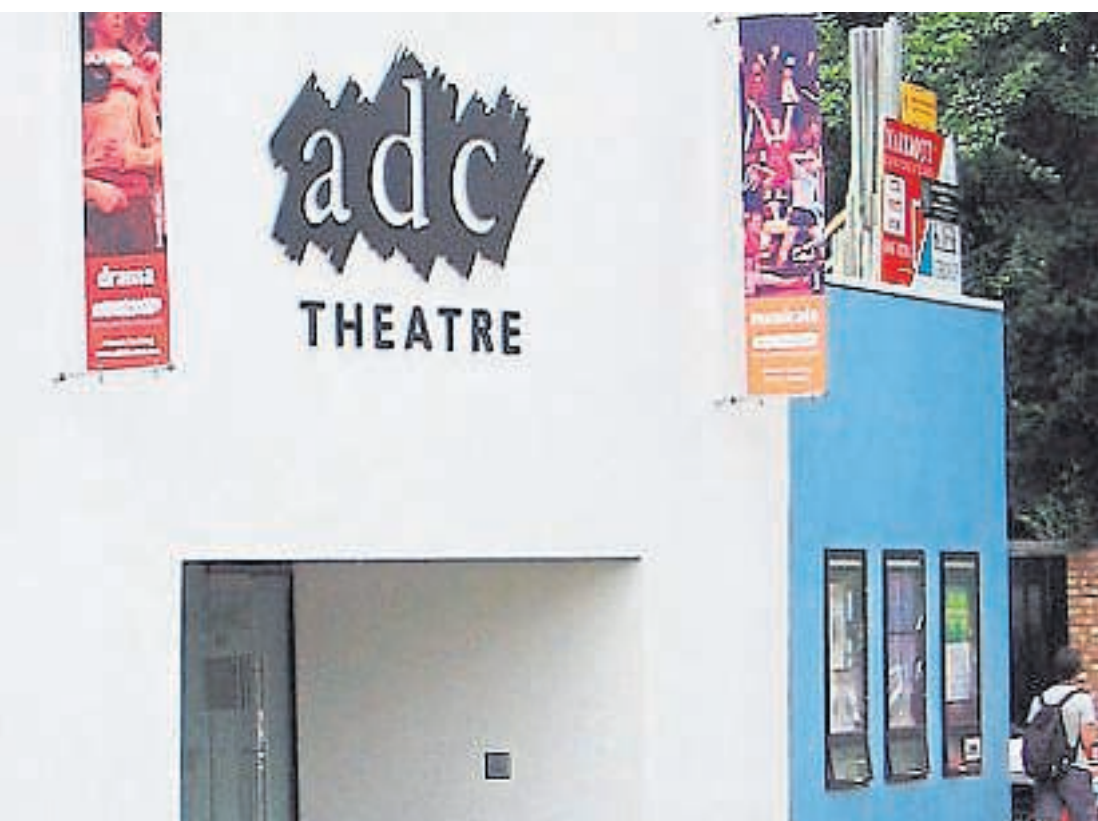
“Mainstream media has, for so long, been dominated by one worldview”

lar groups of people, the intense emotional reaction felt is entirely natural. Laws that criminalise homosexuality constitute an outright attack on someone's humanity and dignity.

A blow like that cannot be neutralised with the dismissive refrain of 'it's just politics'. As we collectively become more aware of different identities, some of us have become less willing to accept such attacks on our identities. We aren't entering an age of over-sensitivity, we're entering one of conscientiousness. Those whose identities are not under attack from politics, and whose identities might even be affirmed by it, are often unable to fully understand exactly what is at stake in the game.

This doesn't mean they can't engage in political discussion or action. It just requires recognition that the consequences of politics on people who aren't white, male, middle-class, cisgender, able-bodied or straight are sometimes more severe.





The ADC (▲ ANDREW DUNN) and the Cambridge Union (▼ CMGLEE) are often accused of nepotism

However, I do think there is a solution to this problem. We should take advantage of the opportunities which the University offers us – and be grateful for them – but retain a sense of who we are, and how we got here. Many of us have fought for the right to receive this education: it would be pointless to refuse such help, purely based on principle. As long as we know that we're doing it for the right reasons, and not for the gratification of a merciless and mercenary establishment, then we can sleep easy. Unfortunately, this process has already begun for most of us. From the moment we step through the metaphorical gates of this 'institution of excellence' (CU Prospectus, 2018) we are prodded, pinched and poked until we fit into the Cambridge mould, produce the perfect essays and become the ideal job applicants. Those who are brave enough to resist this treatment often end up ostracised from the bubble, intermitting or dropping out. It is a cold and thankless system. In this respect, it would be easy to argue that we are submitted to



nepotism involuntarily, without consent. Any creativity is sacrificed for the sake of conformity to the Cambridge model. It is ironic, given that the quality which the University values most in its applicants is 'independent thinking'.

Cambridge has become an overbearing pushy parent, demanding that we achieve, achieve, achieve, offering no support in return: there is no room for those who want to make their own way in the world, propelled solely by their own passion and enthusiasm.

# I'm not interested in your grammar school experience

It's irrelevant when the whole system breeds inequality, says **Danielle Howe**

The grammar school issue is a touchy subject in Cambridge, where a large most students come from a grammar or private school backgrounds.

The truth is that those like myself, arguing against the incredibly biased funding of grammar schools, don't care about your individual experience. We don't care if you feel you got in on merit, if you want to reassure yourself that, if you didn't have money, you would still be at the university you are now. And we really don't want to hear about how you personally never experienced or witnessed any discrimination, how you 'had that one poor friend', and how you never treated them any differently.

We care that the system is institutionally classist, racist and ableist. It was formed to widen the divide between rich and poor while giving Oxbridge a scapegoat for access, able to bundle grammar schools into their state school statistics, when really it is no reflection on their efforts to increase diversity. From 2012 to 2014, one in five of the state school students admitted to Oxford were from a grammar school. When you compare it with the fact that only five per cent of students in the UK attend grammar schools, the perspective is shocking.

Researchers have found that the new government funding scheme diverts funds away from the most deprived students. Meanwhile, grammar schools currently admit just three per cent of students on free school meals as opposed to the national average of 18 per cent, and yet still claim to be the ladder holding together social mobility. According to a recent report, they are still dominated by the wealthy and middle class. One grammar school in Derby refused to let students bring in their own lunch, forcing parents to pay for the expensive lunches prepared on site. Extra tuition, with a lower limit of £20 an hour, was not just recommended but expected. This is hardly an environment in which students struggling even to attend will thrive.

Meritocracy has become the rhetoric for justifying such schools, but this is nothing more than a pipe dream. Labour policies entrenched an abundance of education types: grammar schools, comprehensives, faith schools, academies, independent schools – while Tory policies siphoned funds away from the struggling schools to those producing the best GCSE results. In a system of

such disorder and chaos, meritocracy is used as a weapon against the poor. The failure of the schools is no longer the fault of government policies or spending but the individual student, forced to carry full blame for missing opportunities never presented to them.

This is far more about the culture of classism than the fees themselves. They are often inaccessible to lower-class families, minority families, and immigrant families, because there is an extensive rhetoric that these places are just *not for them*. If we are being realistic here, what parents that are struggling to feed their children are going to push them to apply for grammar schools at the age of 10? If they have already faced a poor to unacceptable standard of primary education, it's unlikely.

'No one fails an exam because they are poor'. Perhaps this would be true, if students in poverty weren't forced to take up part-time jobs to help support their family, or they weren't directly billed for the cost of a retake exam. Maybe this might be accurate if grammar schools, and the specialised teaching they supply, were accessible for all. But this isn't the case. This toxic mindset blatantly supports the idea that poor people are deserving of their economic status, that they are poverty-stricken because they are uneducated and never 'worked hard enough'. People don't just fail exams because they are poor, they fail school. They have to work to support their families, so their attendance is low. They feel sidelined in schools because they are lower-class, a minority, and can't afford the books to work or the compulsory trips. They find themselves in social situations in which they are being constantly told that they can't achieve, they can't go to a good university, and that their only options are poverty, crime, unhappiness and illness. Those who will later attend these grammar schools sit through private tutoring for the 11-plus, while working-class children are sitting in overcrowded classrooms in a school that can't afford printing costs for classroom resources. How can grammar schools be a path to a middle-class paradise when some students weren't given the basic tools to pass the entrance exams?

So no – I don't care about your personal experience. If anything, you're merely revealing your state of privilege within an already privileged system. But you should care about our experiences, our struggles, about the discrimination that the people who supply your elite education are inflicting upon anyone deemed 'less than'. You should care that your school, dubbed as the path to class mobility, is cutting off the large percentage of the population they claim to aid. By denying the institutional corruption of grammar schools, all you're doing is shining a light on your own privilege.

▼ Justine Greening, the Secretary of State for Education (DFID)



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**Laura-Jane Foley**  
Writer and art historian

VARSlTY



## Comment

# Stockholm syndrome: is the Nordic model in peril?

*The Nordic model produces some of the world's happiest citizens, so what can Brexit Britain learn from it?*



Carl Wikeley  
studies Music at  
Trinity Hall

Carl Wikeley

Last week, LBC's Ian Collins compared the Nordic model to communism. Collins claimed that Jeremy Corbyn's free school meals policy is 'Maoist', and that the same policy in Sweden is taking a big leaf out of China's very own *Little Red Book*.

But it does seem that the Scandinavians have it better in nearly every way. Norway and Denmark top the OECD happiness charts; people feel safest in Scandinavian countries; these nations enjoy low gender and income inequality. The only country to top Denmark for the 'best sense of community' is New Zealand, too far away for us to even bother with. So what is the 'Nordic model', and why does it work so well for Scandinavians? Could it work for us? Why and how did they develop seemingly such a more sophisticated, egalitarian society? Is there anything wrong with the Nordic model?

Type 'Nordic model' into Google, and you'll see a number of images of beautiful women. So let me explain: the Nordic model is a loosely-defined system of governance employed by Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland (Iceland

“Right-wingers are obsessed with the idea that coalitions hinder efficiency, but the fact is that they work”

to a lesser extent). The classic Nordic model combines 'universalist' welfare aimed at promoting social mobility with an economic system which promotes free-market capitalism, with workers' interests mediated by the government. Sweden and other countries maintain a definite commitment to privatisation and free trade.

Crucially, the Nordic model also embraces proportional representation (PR), meaning that *every vote counts*, as opposed to the UK's 'first-past-the-post' model. This means that nearly every government formed in Scandinavia is a coalition. Right-wingers are obsessed with the idea that coalitions hinder efficiency, but the fact is that they *work*.

Lane Kenworthy of the University of California suggests that the Nordic model can be understood as a form of social democracy which promotes as egalitarian a society as possible within a capitalist framework.

What does this mean for citizens? It means free education and universal healthcare, strong workers' and individual equal rights, admirable equality, safety, cohesion and ultimately a society within which every organisation and in-

dividual works well together. And do not believe the recent lies being spouted by right-wing news organisations such as Breitbart, claiming that Sweden has numerous 'no-go zones'. There is no debate or interpretation here: all the Scandinavian countries have homicide ratings far better than the OECD average, and citizens of Sweden and Denmark report that they feel safer walking home alone at night than in other countries.

So why is there so much misunderstanding about the Nordic model? Right-wing politicians, press and public figures link the likes of Jeremy Corbyn and Bernie Sanders to Scandinavia, and eventually conflate the Nordic model of social democracy with communism. This is incredibly ignorant given that the Nordic model has one of the best free trade and free product market rankings, and clearly advocates a capitalist system with very little regulation.

We must not only dispel myths about the Nordic model, but also consider its failings. Happiness ratings are sky-high in Scandinavia, yet the Nordic model still prides itself on unregulated free markets, which you don't have to be a diehard Marxist to be uncomfortable with. True

gender and income equality will never be achieved through capitalism, but even I have to admit that, for a flawed system, the Scandinavians' equality and happiness ratings might be the best that we can hope for.

Racist tendencies also tend to manifest themselves with more seats for far-right parties in countries with proportional representation. Accordingly, the Danish People's Party gained 37 seats at the last election. They advocate banning halal meat and the burka.

The Nordic model has a specific applicability to only Scandinavia. The nations are generally cohesive, and have promoted a fertile environment for Nordic equality for hundreds of years, as the influence of Lutheranism has carefully fostered a caring and egalitarian society, albeit one which is deeply conservative with a small 'c'.

Should we make the switch to the Scandinavian system? Yes, I believe it is as important to observe the failings of a system as it is to advocate its benefits. As such, the Nordic model is not perfect. In a world facing the prospect of a G7 including Trump, May and Le Pen, it's as close as we can get.

# How to talk about Israel without being anti-Semitic

Miikka Jaarte 28 per cent fear

Talking about Israel and Palestine might be the biggest conversational minefield in global politics, so much so that most of us refrain from doing it on principle. But in the interest of those who do want to enter the minefield, but not stigmatise the Jewish population of the entire planet, I have some tips and tricks.

**'Jews' aren't 'Zionists'; 'Zionists' aren't 'pro-Israel'**

Let's get the obvious out of the way: criticism of Israel or the political ideology of Zionism is not inherently anti-Semitic. Anyone who tells you otherwise is trying to peddle a political agenda and cheapening the real significance of anti-Semitism. Someone who is pro-Israel approves of the actions of the current Israeli government. A Zionist is someone who believes that there should be some kind of Jewish state somewhere in their ancient homeland, which might not look anything like the current state of Israel. A Jew is... Well... That's more complicated.

Crucially,

there is no necessary connection between the three. Noam Chomsky is a Jew who isn't a Zionist or friendly to Israeli policy (to say the least) – a great deal of conservative Christians are Zionists and friendly to Israeli policy. Any combination you can think of between the three, there's probably someone fulfilling it.

When you refer to a university with a large Jewish minority as a "Zionist outpost", or when you assume that every Jew or Zionist agrees with current Israeli policy, you are being both ignorant and offensive. So don't.

Know your anti-Semitic tropes – and don't use them

Do you think that Israel-friendly foreign policy in the West is due to a large, nefarious "Jewish lobby"? Do you think Zionists control the media? Did you call Israelis vampires, or insinuate that they eat babies?

**On being called out for anti-Semitism, just listen for a while**

Claims of a Jewish "blood libel" and media-led conspiracy have dominated anti-Semitic propaganda for millennia. The strange part is that use of these tropes in some anti-Israel or anti-Zionist rhetoric without their users having any idea of their historical significance. Though there certainly is a pro-Israel lobby (comprised in large part of conservative Christians), there is no 'Jewish lobby' that is dominated exclusively by members of Jewish descent. I probably don't have to tell you that we are not vampires or eat babies of any kind either. To avoid being inadvertently anti-Semitic, educate yourself about

“On being called out for anti-Semitism, just listen for a while”

the history of anti-Semitism, and don't mindlessly repeat arguments.

**Good intentions only go so far**

I know most people don't intend to vilify all Jews everywhere by criticising Israel. I appreciate that someone calling "The Zionists" the source of all conflict in the Middle East (and possibly everywhere else) probably doesn't mean to rehash age-old anti-Semitic tropes. But actions have consequences. Just like everyone else, you are obliged to educate yourself so that you don't end up, in action or argument, vilifying Jews who have no necessary connection to the politics of Israel and Palestine.

On being called out for anti-Semitism, just listen for a while. Sometimes the accuser will merely be trying to shut you up. But sometimes you, ever the paragon of progressive virtue, might have actually said something that perpetrates prejudice against 14.4 million people. And you might want to apologise.

**Don't compare Israel to the Nazis**

Just don't. A thing can be bad without it being literally "just like Hitler". You may have gathered that the Nazis are something of a touchy subject for Jews. Call Israel whatever else you like, but just don't go there.

**Just because your cause is just doesn't mean you can be racist**

I'm horrified by the state of Israel daily. I despise its leaders, its politics and its disregard for innocent lives. The importance of the struggle for Palestine can seem so urgent that inadvertent anti-Semitism is a minor transgression in the



▲ Outgoing NUS President Malia Bouattia has been accused of anti-Semitism (FACEBOOK/MALIA BOUATTIA)

grand scheme of things. But it's not just wrong, it is strategically wrong-headed. Jews, especially those living in Israel, should be an integral part of the process for peace. But calling someone a vampire is not the best way to get them to join you.

Organisations like Jewish Voice For Peace have thousands of members, especially among young Jews, and work tirelessly for Palestine. Even those who hold political stances you hold abhorrent don't deserve racist abuse.

Just because your cause matters doesn't mean you can treat individual Jews like they don't.







◀ Jeremy Corbyn (right) has refused to engage with the Brexit question (LOUIS ASHWORTH)

# Labour must embrace a second Brexit referendum



Jacob Telfer  
studies HSPS at  
Wolfson College

Jacob Telfer

The Labour leader's continued refusal to engage with Brexit, merely giving it a passing mention in his first campaign speech, is a regrettable reminder of Corbyn's unwillingness to deal with contemporary circumstances.

This is all the more disappointing when, among fear and expectation of Labour's further decimation in June, a strong position on Britain's exit from the EU holds so much potential. Two such positions are plausible or, at the very least, more plausible than the expectation that sidestepping the issue will prove successful – taking ownership of the process or advocating a second referendum.

If Corbyn was only ever 7/10 on the EU, anyway, then surely he has his reasons. Arguments from the Left can be made regarding its role in facilitating corporate interests, its strict imposition of legislation on its newer members, or its treatment of refugees at Europe's outer borders. The case for Lexit can be made, but nobody, certainly not Labour, seems to be making it.

Another option would be to provide a channel for those that would welcome a second referendum, a chance for voters

to have their say on the matter when the details of leaving are more clear. Again, however, the Labour leadership was quick to dismiss this and, in doing so, may have given up on its best chance of a successful campaign.

Becoming the party of a second referendum would be uncomfortable. Allegations of disrespecting the 'people's choice' would be easy and frequent and the Leavers in the Labour 'heartland' would not be best pleased. It would also not provide a guaranteed route to success given that it would require Conservative Remainers to back a potential Corbyn premiership, something I accept is nigh-on impossible.

However, not only can claims of an 'undemocratic' second referendum on the final deal, when the consequences of leaving the EU are more transparent, certainly be challenged, but much of the Labour 'heartland' also currently seems as unachievable for Corbyn as those Tory Remainers. Proposing a second referendum may be an unlikely route to victory, but Labour are hardly facing an abundance of promising campaign approaches with the election six weeks away, and taking this one off the table could prove costly.

Brexit will define British politics over the next five years more than anything else. This election has been called over how the country handles this issue specifically (May's spin, not mine) and, given these circumstances, all positions on Britain's exit from the EU must be fair game.

Putting the question of leaving the EU back into play could not only tempt 16,000,000 people to the polls, a backing that would have won every election in British history, but also offer the most promising basis of any 'progressive alliance' among parties that otherwise don't share as much as is frequently assumed.

If the election did end up being something of a referendum on a second referendum (OK, I can see why Brenda's fed up), Leave voters would turn out in large numbers too. The result would come down to whether there are more pro-EU Conservatives voting Liberal Democrat or Labour to stop Brexit than there are Eurosceptic Labour voters that would swing to the Tories.

As it stands, the alternative seems to be a limp Labour campaign filled with stale references to the Nasty Party and working people. While anti-austerity

policy may be enough to win my vote, there is no reason to believe that it would win any more than it did for Miliband in 2015.

Corbyn has built his reputation on offering a true channel to those that feel disenfranchised by decades of politics. He is bold in the face of norms, the hundreds of times he voted against the party whip worn as a badge of honour by his supporters. The election is likely to provide his biggest but also final chance to prove himself worthy of both that reputation and the responsibility that comes with leading the opposition. Making the biggest issue of contemporary British politics work in his favour, either by shaping its direction or by offering a second referendum, can only help that cause.

The Prime Minister's declaration that the election serves the primary purpose of achieving the conditions to "make a success of Brexit" is cynical and contrived, but it is also an open invitation to deny her what she explicitly claims to seek.

Given the lack of promising alternatives, Labour may do well to take the bait – it could be the only way of mounting serious opposition.

“London may do well to take the bait – it could be the only way of mounting serious opposition”



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# VARSITY

# Looking forwards, looking back



EDITORIAL MILLIE BRIERLEY

When I showed my mum around the *Varsity* offices last term, as she pored over the front covers and team photos which adorn the walls, spanning the paper's 70 years, she turned to me and said: "You must have such a sense of history here."

It's true - I do; it's difficult not to, with a young, typically surly-looking Jeremy Paxman, former Editor, looking down from on high as I work - but never has this sense of history been more keenly felt than in this, *Varsity's* 70th year.

Since becoming a regular publication in 1947, *Varsity* has achieved a great deal. It was the first news outlet in the UK to announce the discovery of DNA (see page 26). We gave Lord Snowden his first photography job (before firing him...). We have featured the student writing of Sylvia Plath, David Mitchell, Michael Winner and countless more (see pages 30-31).

It hasn't all been so rosy, however. The first attempt at getting *Varsity* off the ground saw the Editor challenged to a duel. In the 1970s, the paper briefly went bankrupt. And as recently as 2012, we temporarily cut back our print edition to once a fortnight, as we adjusted to print journalism in the digital age.

And not only a turbulent history, but a varied one. *Varsity* has had more logos than would seem reasonable (some of which are showcased on the pages of this anniversary supplement). We've variously been a serious newspaper of record, a true Cambridge tabloid (Page Three Girls and all) and a radical student soapbox. Our look has changed with every Editor, not all of whom seem to have had an eye for design.

Now *Varsity* is thriving, having defied the print journalism doomsayers and returned to weekly print editions. But we are also embracing new technology: we launched a second radio show on Cam FM last term; we have a thriving video team; and this year has seen the launch of our *Violet* blog (see pages 32-33).

Last term, our coverage of the CUSU elections was so extensive it would have looked at home in a national paper. The term before that, we shone a much-needed spotlight on

the University's intermissions process and its failings, which has led to the beginnings of real change. And, with 41 days to go until the general election, the new term's team will apply all of *Varsity's* well-known scrutiny and rigour to helping you get informed.

All this is to say that I am extremely proud of what *Varsity* - a team of student journalists, all juggling degrees alongside their roles here - achieves. But I do not pretend that we are without fault.

As we have looked back through our archives while putting together this special anniversary edition, that aforementioned sense of history has not always been pleasant to confront. There is plenty, going back, that does more than smack of misogyny - sadly unsurprising, although it is something we've made vast progress on in recent years.

We have further to go, however, when it comes to matters of race. Again, there is plenty in the archives to make you squirm in this regard, but even now, we don't always get our coverage of race right. The 70 years of the paper's existence have seen a welcome transformation in the representation of women, both in its pages and on its staff, but this has helped white women far more than it has women of colour. I would like to see this change. I know that it will.

I know this because *Varsity* has a long, rich history of getting better - from an editorial duel in the 1930s has come true multimedia journalism today. Editing this wonderful paper has been the utmost honour, allowing me to work with a host of fantastic, passionate young people, who can only give me confidence, even when the world seems eternally on the brink of disaster.

I hope you enjoy this anniversary supplement - a whirlwind tour of the last 70 years, as seen in the pages of this newspaper. And I hope you continue to read, follow, watch, listen to *Varsity* as we embark upon the next 70 years. Our story so far has been one of change, and, with such a young, vibrant base, this can only continue. I hand over to the next Editor, Patrick Wernham, confident that *Varsity* will for ever be changing, adapting, improving and delighting - a truly exciting prospect. I hope you continue to experience this with us.



Clockwise from top left: Girton Suffragettes out in force in 1949 (BARRINGTON-BROWN); an anti-Apartheid protest outside Senate House in 1988 (PHIL SHIPLEY); students protest the proposed introduction of 'top-up' loans in 1988 (CYRUS DABOO); the Cambridge Committee to Stop War in the Gulf march in 1991; Cambridge students and residents unite on King's Parade in opposition to Trump's immigrant ban in 2017 (FREDDIE DYKE).





## 70th Anniversary Supplement



## Cantabs march against...

*Cambridge has seen countless protests over the past 70 years. We take a look back at some of the more memorable demonstrations Varsity has covered.*



Also turning 70 this year...



**DAVID BOWIE**

The much-missed Starman would have turned 70 in January this year, had his death from liver cancer not kicked off 2016's year of tragedy.



**HILLARY CLINTON**

Will a 70th birthday bash this October be enough to make up for missing out on the US Presidency last year? We suspect not.



**INDIAN INDEPENDENCE**

The Indian Independence Act received Royal Assent in July 1947. Before then were the 'good old' colonial days some would seemingly have us return to.





# **VARSITY**

# **No Cindies, no Churchill, no women receiving actual degrees**

*Anna Hollingsworth takes a look back at Cambridge life in 1947*

**V**arsity went into print with a bang: “Huge New Science Centre Planned” isn’t exactly an insignificant first headline. In 1947, Varsity was taking baby steps, and the Lensfield Road building – the fine brick complex for Chemistry – was at the blueprint stage, waiting for final approval “before becoming a brick-to-mortar reality.” The science complex wasn’t the only thing that wasn’t quite reality 70 years ago: there was no Cindies, no Churchill College, no known structure for DNA, and no women receiving actual degrees. But a lot was about to change – 1947 wasn’t a bad year to kick off a newspaper.

Varsity surfaced in a Cambridge that was still living through the aftermath of WWII but at the same time was waving goodbye to wartime restrictions. Cambridge as a town – it was still four years away from city status – was starting to bloom, developing as a regional administrative centre, with an influx of civil servants and undergrads alike. Fitzbillies’ had been churning out Chelsea buns for over 20 years at Trumpington Street, and the Eagle pub had been quenching thirst for several centuries. It wasn’t known as the DNA Pub yet, though – Crick and Watson had not yet “discovered the secret of life” – and the graffiti by WWII airmen that tourists now flock to see was still quite fresh.

Food was still rationed, and life in general was on the austere side of things. At Newnham, heating meant coal fires and personal hygiene equalled baths limited to two per week. Issues with communal bathrooms were already there, though: Katharine Whitehorn, journalist and Newnham undergrad from 1947-50, recalls in a *Daily Mail* interview how “one girl had one every day, correctly guessing that half of the girls never bathed at all.”

The bulk of undergrads coming up would be used to challenging surroundings, though. The UK still had compulsory military service, and 90 per cent of undergrad places had to be filled by ex-service applicants. Men in general did their service first: those who left school in 1946 were unable to do come up before 1948 – talk about gap yah experiences.

But limited food and personal hygiene, or a stint in the military, did nothing to stop applicants from trying their hand at Cambridge entrance exams – it was written exams back in the day – and the University was experienc-

ing a considerable rise in student numbers: in 1946-47, there were 5,865 undergrads, and the number of research students hit 578. The numbers may have seemed big at the time, but bigger expansions were only looming in the future: Murray Edwards, Churchill, Robinson, Darwin, Wolfson, Clare Hall and Lucy Cavendish hadn’t been conceived of yet, while Hughes Hall, St Edmund’s, and Homerton were waiting to be recognised as colleges.

The increase in student numbers has, at least partly, access to thank – turns out access was a big word already then. The Ministry of Education increased the number of State scholarships for universities in 1947, and Local Authority awards became more generous. Social extremes were starting to level off in post-War Cambridge, but at the same time greater access to scholarships meant greater competition for places. Some writers of the time note how this was reflected in an increasingly hard-working and decreasingly rowdy student body – with the exception of the Senate House window being smashed by an explosive charge on Guy Fawkes’ Day in ’48.

It wasn’t all work and no play, though: there was an increased interest in religion; writers noted the high standard of Cambridge drama – even if the ADC wasn’t exactly a new kid on the block, having produced plays for over 90 years at that point – and the Pitt Club – “a social organisation” as the first Varsity put it – was moving into new lodgings on Jesus Lane.

Where rationing was still in place, Cambridge was definitely not lacking food for thought. Francis Crick was working away in the Strangeways Research Laboratory, having just made the transition from physics to biology – good career call there – while Rosalind Franklin had got her PhD from Cambridge two years earlier and moved to France, and James Watson was only 19 and hadn’t set foot in the UK yet. Iris Murdoch was doing her philosophy postgrad at Newnham, and popped into a Wittgenstein lecture – by, not about, Wittgenstein, who had recently left Cambridge. Bertrand Russell was still holding fort at Cambridge. Dr Jennifer Trusted recalled her ’40s encounter with the philosopher to Varsity in 2008: “Once I was locked in a room with Bertrand Russell, it was completely accidental. I was awestruck of course, but he was

a real sweetie – he didn’t try anything on.”

With all the intellectual rigour hanging about, things like gender equality can easily take a backseat. “Women’s Status in University Still Uncertain”, the first Varsity told its readers (the piece was given one column, with the bulk of the front page given to the new science building). The women studying at Girton and Newnham did all the work their male counterparts did, but were only awarded ‘the title of a degree’ for their efforts. However, in December 1947, after an unopposed vote, women were admitted to fully equal status with men, and Girton and Newnham became colleges of the University.

It wasn’t all emancipation and equality, though: there were no mixed colleges, and visitors of the opposite sex were under curfew – 10.30pm for Trinity, and 10pm for Tit Hall. However, students weren’t exactly rising to the barricades before or after women were admitted. Sylvia Hallam started at Newnham in ’45, becoming part of the first cohort of women to receive a proper degree in ’48. She recalled her time at Cambridge during women’s admission at an alumni event: “There was so much else demanding our time and attention. For me there was the whole new experience of being away from home; the strange social milieu of older neighbours from different worlds; the full timetable of lectures and labs and library work and essays and tutorials involved in a science course.”

To be fair, there was definitely enough going on to keep students’ minds off work and questions of gender equality. May Balls had already been shifted from May to June a while back, but at least they still stayed true to the ‘ball’ bit of their name. The ’40s balls had traditional dance orchestras as headliners and ballroom dancing as their main acts. It wasn’t all steeped in tradition, though: dance cards from John’s May Ball show students’ expanding dance preferences, with ball-goers partying away to the foxtrot, samba, tango, and quick-step – definitely involving more skill than my silent disco antics. The menu cards at the same ball were printed in French up until the middle of the century because of the popularity of French cuisine. So much for midnight burgers and pizza for breakfast.

Cambridge may not have known the structure of DNA, but it did know how to work hard, play hard – and make headlines out of it.





## 70th Anniversary Supplement



Snapshot of another era

Clockwise from top-left: *Varsity's* first front page; college kitchens at St. Johns; Some ardent collectors face the camera during the Poppy Day Rags on Sunday; 'bullfighting' on Parker's Piece; a *Varsity* advertisement for photographers.

## Also turning 70 this year...



KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR

A man of many talents, Abdul-Jabbar remains the all-time leading scorer in the NBA, but is remembered best in the *Varsity* office for his classic cameo in *Airplane*.



FRISBEE

A favourite of students who aren't very good at real sports, *Varsity* feels a special affinity with the frisbee.



JOHAN CRUYFF

Another genius taken by 2016, Johan Cruyff was perhaps the greatest footballer never to win a World Cup, and was the pioneer of 'Total Football'.



# VARSLITY

## From *Varsity* to *Vogue* Suzy Menkes is looking to the future

The International Editor of *Vogue*, and former Editor of *Varsity*, chats to current Editor *Millie Brierley* about Instagram, British creativity and what's important

Suzy Menkes has just come in from Paris this morning – “I was doing a lot of different things. I saw an exhibition of art, extraordinary art, really, from Africa”. We speak on FaceTime, her trademark Pompadour hairdo – high, neatly-coiffed – bobbing out of the top of the frame as she grapples with the phone.

As International Editor of *Vogue* – a role created specially for her when she left the *International Herald Tribune* in 2014 – Menkes writes for 21 international versions of fashion's most well-known magazine. She travels extensively – from Paris today, but to Oman two weeks ago, to New York soon, to Cambridge (slightly closer to home) this week, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of *Varsity*, the paper she was the first woman to edit back in her student days in the '60s.

As she rattles off all the things she is doing, seeing, thinking about, the places she is going, the designers she knows, the projects she is working on, I am exhausted. And I am but a student. Menkes, on the other hand, is 73, a long and successful career behind her, now a grandmother of six. No signs of slowing down, though.

“You know, a lot of people were surprised because –” She pauses a second to work out how old she was when she left the *International Herald Tribune*, her home of 23 years, to join *Vogue*. She might have been 70, or perhaps 69, she can't remember. Either way, there was an expectation she might take the opportunity for a quiet life.

“It would seem absolutely obvious to everybody that I was going to retire and write a book about what happened in the past. But, you know, that's just not my thing. I'm much more interested in what is happening now, and what is going to happen in the future.”

That is why, she tells me, she takes so much pleasure in Insta-

gram. “I find it fun,” she says. “I like the speed of it.” In fact, she verges on prolific: as I speak to her, she has posted 17 times in just the last 24 hours, tokens from her France trip. It is mostly shots of the art she has enjoyed there, but there is also an obligatory Instagram sunset, as well as a snap of her grinning behind a colourful array of frosting-laden cakes.

Of course, this technological revolution – whereby a successful woman can chronicle her travels, but also whereby a budding photographer, stylist or designer can take their work straight to the public, via social media – is something Menkes has seen emerge only during the later years of her career. She is firm in her approval: “Things are so much better, and the world is open so much more to potential designers.” She adds: “If you have got talent, you really can put it out to the world now, which must be a good thing.”

As we talk, I am struck by a fascinating divide in Menkes's approach. Unlike many in her world, she refuses free gifts from designers, determined to retain her independence as a critic. (“I'm not talking about flowers and chocolates – jolly, they're very welcome. I'm talking about actual clothes and things.”)

This, she tells me, is down to her Fleet Street training (which is in contradistinction to many others writing about fashion): before the *International Herald Tribune*, she was at *The Times*. “All these papers had absolutely rigid rules about accepting any gifts. It just got into my bloodstream, really.” She is admirably old-school in this regard – in fact, she calls herself “a bit of a dinosaur”.

And yet she has



◀ Suzy Menkes is currently International Editor of *Vogue* (DIJANE ALSUWAYEH)

### A life in fashion

1962

Suzy moves to Paris  
to study dressmaking

1966

First female Editor  
of *Varsity*





## 70th Anniversary Supplement



▲ Suzy in her Varsity days (SUZY MENKES)

thrown herself into new technology. She is high-on effusive about it, and the way it has democratised the fashion industry. "It is a wonderful thing now if you are fascinated by fashion and you're living in Hungary" – a country plucked out of nowhere – "and you don't have any fashion college, you don't have your St Martins [Central St Martins, London's renowned art college] round the corner, whether you've got money to go there or not, and now you can do so much more online in every way."

She is not just talking about social media now, but online courses, too, and her words stem from a pressing concern for British fashion. When I ask her about this, she is quick to remind me that she does not just write about British fashion, but fashion from all over the world. But she is worried about the effect of government cuts on creativity in her native Britain – a country which she says has long been "a really creative seedbed of creativity".

"My concern about British fashion is not that there aren't creative people around, but I do think that the increasing amounts of money that parents, or perhaps the students themselves, have got to pay in order to do these courses is a real and major blow to fashion in Great Britain."

This is the Suzy I have become acquainted with via her writing – direct, plain-speaking. She warns me that celebrated British designer Alexander McQueen, the son of a taxi driver, would not have got into fashion school had he come through a few decades later – his family "didn't have this kind of money".

I think I have identified a strong whiff of social critique. I put this to her – can she identify a class issue in fashion? – thinking she has surely already answered my question. But I am surprised. "No," says Menkes, "I don't think you can identify it very clearly." At this point, she thinks she may have been too negative in her answers so far, so she promptly turns the conversation to the wonders of the internet. Not *not* an answer to my question, but I am left wondering how concern for students from poorer backgrounds not being able to afford tuition fees can be separated from the idea of class.

This is a running theme in our conversation. In many ways, Menkes is an interviewer's dream – warm, charming, forthcoming – but there are certain contradictions to be found in some of her answers.

Later on, we discuss what she calls the new trend for "vulgarity". I ask her how she defines this; she talks about "showing off", "sexual over-production in clothes" and "revealing clothes". She draws a line from this to Donald

“  
I care  
very much  
about my  
family  
and  
friends.  
When  
we talk  
about  
‘work-life  
balance’,  
that’s it  
”

Trump's election to the American presidency last year: "it's rather intriguing to try and put these things together and say: 'was fashion a precursor of what was going to happen in the world?'"

Again, I think I've identified a more serious point she is making. Does fashion have some kind of social function that is often overlooked? "I think it's a bit of a big claim. You know, fashion is fashion, when it comes down to it."

I detect no hint of disingenuousness here – Menkes speaks conscientiously and passionately about fashion, the subject she has devoted her life to; no sooner have I asked her what she's been doing recently than she launches into a heartfelt, unprompted discussion of fashion ethics ("people are being exploited, often really badly treated, paid very poor amounts of money, in order that people can have cheap clothes, and this is something that intelligent people should think about") – but she is certainly reluctant to portray fashion as anything but what it is.

The industry, as she puts it, "trundles along, and it's quite a, what you might call, frivolous exercise, in relation to so many other things that are going on in the world".

We come to the end of our slot, and I am mindful of Menkes's fiercely busy schedule. I am beginning to thank her for her time when she interrupts me to add something that is "really, really, really important" to her – again, entirely unprompted. She tells me how important family is to her. She lost her husband, fellow journalist David Spanier, in 2000 – she tells me about him, her three sons, and her six grandchildren.

"Although I may be at my advanced age, very silly, putting up jokey Instagrams," she tells me, "I also care very much about my family and my friends. You know, when we talk about the 'work-life balance', that's it – it's getting that right, I think. It's more important than getting the best and newest fashion scoop."

And on that note, we bid goodbye. I am left with the impression of a warm, generous character, who engages with issues intelligently, and yet also refrains from taking the fashion industry too seriously. And, as the latest in now a thankfully long line of female Varsity Editors, I am in awe of my predecessor, that first pioneer – of her energy, her enthusiasm, her talent and her wit.

● Suzy Menkes will join fellow former Varsity Editors Lara Prendergast and Laura-Jane Foley for a panel discussion tonight (Friday 28th), 7-8.30pm, Mill Lane Lecture Room 3, Cambridge. Free entry.

1966

First fashion job, at  
*The Times*

1969

First book, *How to be  
a Model*, published

1988

Joins *The International  
Herald Tribune*

2014

Made International  
Editor of *Vogue*





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All students with a passion for journalism are encouraged to apply. No previous experience at *Varsity* is necessary.

**Deadline: 5pm, Saturday 10th June.**

## VARSLITY

# We're taking a short break...

As usual in Easter term, our next print edition will be in May Week.

But don't worry – we'll still be online.

Keep up with all your the breaking news, the latest comment and your favourite columnists at *Varsity* online.

[varsity.co.uk](http://varsity.co.uk)  
[facebook.com/VarsityUK](https://facebook.com/VarsityUK)  
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## VARSLITY

### Violet

By VARSITY

## ADVERTISEMENT

# Cambridge Bible connections

The city of Cambridge has been intimately associated with the Bible over the centuries. Here are just a few of the city's many connections with the textbook of the Jewish and Christian faiths.

### Cambridge University Press

The University Press (founded in 1584) has been printing Bibles in English since 1591, when the University Printer, John Legate, published an edition of the Geneva translation of the Bible. This popular Bible was published in Cambridge in an unsuccessful attempt to break the monopoly of the London-based Queen's Printer, Christopher Barker.



The Geneva Bible (GFDL)

This was the first

complete Bible to be printed in Cambridge, and it pre-dated the King James Version by just 20 years. Today, the University Press still publishes a wide range of Bibles, and these quality products continue to sell in large numbers all over the world (see [www.cambridge.org/bibles/](http://www.cambridge.org/bibles/)).

### King James Bible translators

Not long after James I came to the throne of Great Britain after the death of Elizabeth I in 1603, he ordered that a new translation of the Bible should be undertaken – we know it today as the King James, or Authorised, Version. On the advice of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Richard Bancroft, the King commanded that the translation work should be divided between six companies of scholars, two of which were in Cambridge. Of the 48 men appointed by the crown, 14 were members of the Cambridge companies. This means that a considerable proportion of the Authorised Version was translated in Cambridge. Prominent among the Cambridge-based translators were Professor Andrew Downes, perhaps the

foremost Greek scholar of his day, and Rev. John Bois, the Rector of the village of Boxworth. There were also a few 'Cambridge' men who worked in the London translation companies, including Bishop John Overall, a former Master of St. Catharine's College, and Bishop Lancelot Andrewes, who had been Master of Pembroke College.

As recently as 2014, the work of these Cambridge scholars has had further light thrown on it by the discovery, in



Cambridge University Library (CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY)

the archives of Sidney Sussex College, of a notebook containing the work of one of the translators, Samuel Ward. The significance of the notebook is described by Jeffrey Miller, the scholar who iden-

tified it: "It points the way to a fuller, more complex understanding than ever before of the process by which the KJB, the most widely read work in English of all time, came to be".



The Gutenberg Bible (NYC WANDERER (KEVIN ENG))

### Cambridge University Library

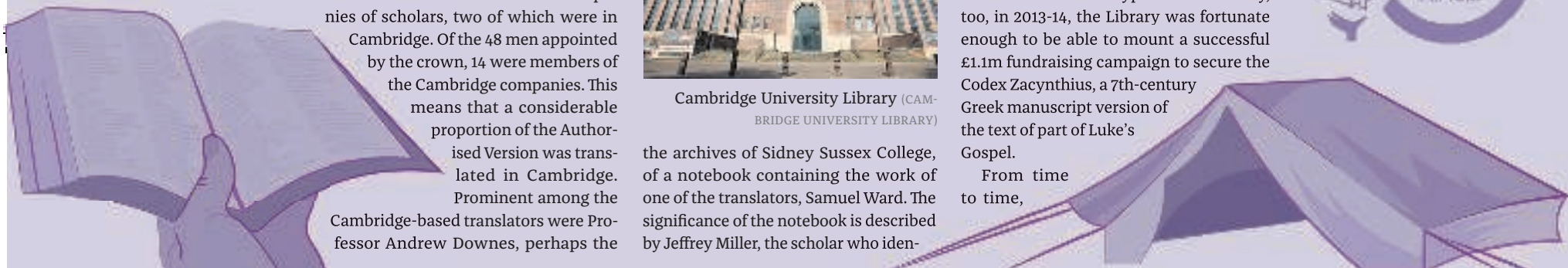
The 'UL' houses one of the most extensive and valuable collections of Bibles in the world. Since 1984 it has been home to the Library and archive of the (British and Foreign) Bible Society, which contains at least 40,000 Bibles. The Library's own Bible collection is full of rare and interesting items, and it has been strengthened over the years by many generous gifts, such as the 150 Bibles donated in 1933 by Arthur Young – a gift which included a fine copy of the Gutenberg Bible of c.1455, the first book ever printed by the use of movable type. More recently, too, in 2013-14, the Library was fortunate enough to be able to mount a successful £1.1m fundraising campaign to secure the Codex Zacynthius, a 7th-century Greek manuscript version of the text of part of Luke's Gospel.

From time to time,

items from the Bible collection are publicly exhibited (see, for example, <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/exhibitions/KJV/index.html>).

If you are interested in the History of the Bible and what this special book contains, why not come and look at the Bible In A Tent exhibition on Parker's Piece from 24th May to 3rd June? For more information go to [www.bible-tent.co.uk](http://www.bible-tent.co.uk)

Reg Carr  
Deputy Librarian  
Cambridge University Library  
1980-86





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## STOP PRESS

# Nothing new under the sun

*Think you've had an original thought? You haven't.*

### The union is still shit

Too expensive. Replete with cliquey hacks who love nothing better than stabbing each other in the back. Full of Tories. If these criticisms of the Union sound familiar, there's a reason for that: they're the same ones that students have been making for generations. *Varsity's* front page in November 2005 slammed the Union for "its serious dearth of high-profile speakers, its relatively modest membership figures...and most importantly, the marginal role that it plays within University life". A 2001 editorial moaned that "as long as Cambridge is the university that it is, there will still be poor fools willing to hand over £85 in Freshers' Week to have a ready-made, debonair and destined-to-be-successful set of acquaintances, only to find a group of overgrown adolescents typical of a substandard college bar." Blimey.

### College catering is still problematic



Pembroke made national news recently after students complained the naming of a dish "Jamaican stew" was insensitive. One student made light of the issue by claiming the Yorkshire puddings weren't, well, as good as in Yorkshire. Turns out this hasn't always been a joke. In 1950, a Yorkshireman from Downing was so irate about the substandard Yorkshire puddings served in Hall that he took a pen and erased the word 'Yorkshire' from the menu, breaking the rule that pens must not be used in Hall.

## VINTAGE VARSITY

### Bedding Emma

16th November 1963

"The beds being installed in Emmanuel North Court are narrower than those used previously. Asked whether this reflected new college policy on the subject of ladies, Dr DHM Woollam, the Domestic Bursar, said: 'I will leave you to decide for yourself.'"

### Varsity is still self-obsessed

Don't think that Cambridge's oldest student newspaper would be spared. Cropping up time and time again in our trawls through the archives were...previous *Varsity* journalists trawling through the archives. Student journalism eats itself.

## 70 years of reviews in *Varsity*...

The one who does it for a living

### East 17 - Live

by Alexis Petridis

The Guardian's chief music critic showed that he was just concerned about the sanity of Cambridge's pre-teen population as he was about the tunes. Describing the adulation that greeted East 17, Petridis asks the reader to "imagine a fluffy puppy dog with nine penises snaffling a hundredweight and having its first multiple orgasm on your leg." He struggled for explanations for the phenomenon, asking "who transformed them from nice children called Julie and Trisha into sexsational shag nasties with dangly bits on the brain?".





## 70th Anniversary Supplement

**Corpus is still puritanical**

In February this year *Varsity* reported on the extraordinarily strict rules in place at Corpus Christi that make student relationships so difficult. It seems that they were at it even in 1992, with students at Corpus's Bene't St Hostel complaining about early morning visits from the Head Porter, and the threat of heavy fines if they were found with someone who wasn't supposed to be there.

**Love raids at Corpus**

Porters' early morning visits provoke student concern over invasion of privacy.

**Cambridge is still nosey**

In 1950 *Varsity* took on the role of Facebook in sharing with students the most entertaining and eye-roll worthy snippets of overheard conversation. While we might still be saying embarrassing things in the queue at Sainsbury's, the days of listening in at the college baths have long gone.



Think you can be the one to do something different? Sign up at [varsity.co.uk/get-involved](http://varsity.co.uk/get-involved)

**ADC is still full of pretentious narcissists**

Many of us might think that the world of Cambridge theatre is full of competitive drama queens who love themselves even more than they love each other. Well, we are not alone in thinking such a thing. Trevor Nunn, no less, in 1961 wrote that "at present we are narcissitic, we have no sense of proportion". And he's Trevor Nunn.

**Also turning 70 this year...****DR. MARTENS**

A favourite of punks, skinheads, and edgy HSPS students alike, these patent leather classics were listed in 2006 with the Mini, Spitfire, and World Wide Web as British design icons.

**DAVID LETTERMAN**

Retired icon of the late night genre, David Letterman has spent his time post-Late Show producing documentaries on Climate Change.

**SALMAN RUSHDIE**

Winner of the Booker Prize for *Midnight's Children*, Rushdie was a student at King's College in the 1960s.

**The one that became an all-time classic****The Birds**

*Varsity* has never been afraid of tackling sacred cows, as was the case with Alfred Hitchcock's 1963 film. "The film itself, however, is so dull," said *Varsity*'s reviewer, "that one could most charitably conclude that Hitchcock is congratulating his sense of humour with the thought of captive thousands writhing in anti-climax...given ready material for the logical and potentially terrifying conclusion of the bird parliament, Hitchcock jettisons it for one of his interminable sequences of cinematic machination. The gap between peaceful co-existence and direct confrontation is too wide for even the master himself to bridge."

**The one who quit and became a Labour MP****Blur** *by Rupa Huq*

The sitting Labour MP for Ealing Central and Acton, and then *Varsity* music critic, went to see Blur in their early days at the Corn Exchange. While impressed with the gig as a whole and the enthusiasm of the crowd, it seems she took a particular shining to Damon Albarn, saying "the Blur sensation almost entirely revolved around lead singer Damon, whose schizoid personality displays make compulsive watching...with their mixture of danceable rhythms and Damon's veritable shaggableness, there really is no other way: Blur is what the popkids want." I always preferred Graham Coxon myself.



# 70 years through Cantab eyes

1953

## Discovery of DNA

James Watson and Francis Crick's discovery of the structure of DNA, perhaps one of the most significant discoveries of the 20th century, was covered by a 130-word announcement in *Varsity*, with the understated headline "X-Ray Discovery". *Varsity* was one of the first papers in the world to cover the story.

"X-Ray researches by Dr. J. D. Watson and Dr. F. H. Crick at the Cavendish Laboratory in connection with work carried out at King's College, London, on hereditary characteristics have been hailed as 'the biological equivalent of crashing the sound barrier.'"

"Their researches have looked into the structure of deoxyribonucleic acid (D.N.A.) a substance previously known to be present in dividing cells. For the first time an explanation in terms of atoms and molecules can be given for cell duplication."



Marjorie McCarthy

1960

## 'Majority in favour of Europe'

How times have changed, or perhaps they haven't – a January 1960 issue of *Varsity* reports that a Cambridge poll on our relationship with Europe found that "answers to the most important question, 'Are you in favour of closer economic and political association with Europe' showed that 52% were" – Yes, that's 52 per cent.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Labour and Liberal voters showed themselves to be mostly in favour of closer economic and political ties with Europe – although even the proto-Brexiteers seemed sympathetic to our European neighbours, "Britain must realise that she is European, before the head of the Commonwealth, though the latter must be maintained if possible," was one comment.

The author goes on: "Labour voters, although not very good at writing, were the most consistent in their views." Is this fake news?

In a move that will shock nobody, *The Express* labelled the results "A Blow to Empire!" (although the author notes that the results were covered "with more reserve" in *The Guardian*.)



Evans1551

## 1963 First mixed college

On October 5th 1963, *Varsity* reported that a "University College" for graduates of both sexes had been proposed. Sporting the headline "They're mixing it", the article did not predict significant opposition to the idea of a mixed college. This proposal would later lead to the founding of Darwin College, the first to be mixed and graduate-only, in July 1964.



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Ted Mackey and Charlie Stone punt their way through a turbulent period of history, looking at how Cambridge reacted

Still making news.  
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reporting at  
[varsity.co.uk/news](http://varsity.co.uk/news)

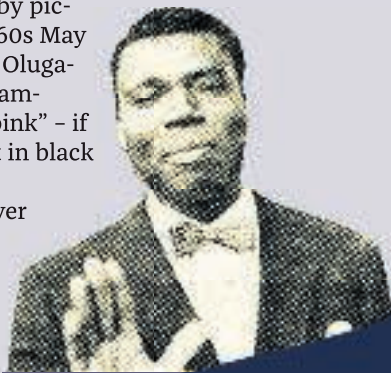


## 1969 Summer of '69

They say if you can remember the sixties, you weren't really there. Luckily we have *Varsity* to record what one can only imagine was a May Week to remember. "Manic weather, freezing winds, pale faces and vilely self-conscious drunkenness," writes one *Varsity* correspondent, while "politicians insist on being political even after the CUCA elections."

In an article surrounded by pictures of students in classic 60s May Week attire, we see "Moses Olugbo, best-dressed man in Cambridge, looks incredible in pink" – if only the photograph wasn't in black and white.

Plans were made and never brought to fruition. "There was a plan to punt down the cam in an inflatable sofa that never came off." And, as always, drinking societies were out in full force. "Jim Monaghan, the rugger blue, clambering onto a table dressed in a leopard skin during the Disraelians' cocktail party" seems an all too familiar image. Some things never really change.



## 1989 Berlin Wall falls

"Cambridge Students Head for the Greatest Party Ever", read the front page of *Varsity* on 17th November 1989, as students flocked to witness the historic fall of the Berlin Wall. *Varsity* published various accounts and photographs of students present in Berlin, some positive and others cautious. As one account read, "Being able to buy Sony Walkmans in West Berlin should not divert the pressure for democratic reforms in the East German republic".



## 2017 Trump elected

The mood across Cambridge was low on the morning of Wednesday 9th November 2016, as it emerged that Donald Trump had been elected President of the United States. *Varsity* ran a front-page editorial lamenting the rise of an "abusive, mean-spirited politics" which had allowed a "racist, bigoted, misogynistic climate change denier" to find his way into the White House.





# You saw them here

*Many famous faces have passed through Cambridge, and made their first appearance in Varsity...*



## VANESSA REDGRAVE

THESP (1961)

When she wasn't treading the boards, Vanessa Redgrave seems to have been an advocate for unilateral disarmament. In a 1961 piece she explained the motivations of Bertrand Russell's Committee of 100, though some of the Cambridge residents she spoke to were less than supportive.



## JEREMY PAXMAN

HACK (1972)

Former *Newsnight* presenter and all-round grumpy sod, Paxman edited *Varsity* in 1972. He also wrote a column for the paper, though in his autobiography he admitted that a Fellow's criticism that he was just "playing with words" was a fair one.

## STELLA CREASY

POLITICIAN (2001)

We might be more used to students standing as council candidates these days, but it was the sitting Labour MP for Walthamstow who was the first to do so. In 1998 Stella Creasy, then an SPS student at Magdalene, stood as the candidate for Lexden in Colchester, becoming the youngest ever person to stand for a Local Government election in the UK.



## MICHAEL HOWARD

POLITICIAN (1961)

The former Tory Party leader is well-known as having been part of the 'Cambridge Mafia' during his time here alongside Ken Clarke, Norman Lamont and others. What's less known is that in 1961 he resigned from CUCA after they invited fascist Oswald Mosley to speak.





# first

## TOM HIDDLESTON

THESP (2001)

He might have won a Golden Globe, but *Varsity* didn't make much of Tom Hiddleston in the Greek Play *Electra*. Slamming the play as unintelligible, *Varsity* said that "the expression 'It's all Greek to me' suddenly begins to make hideous sense. Which is more than can be said for the play." Hiddleston didn't escape criticism, with his character of Orestes apparently looking and



Mholland

Gage Skidmore

## Word Up

### A whale of a time

COLUMNIST GEORGIE THORPE



*Varsity* is turning 70, and it's time to celebrate. Crack out the balloons, cut yourself a slice of cake and settle down for a look at some celebratory idioms.

At 70, *Varsity* might be getting on a bit, but that doesn't mean we're incapable of having a good time. How we express having fun can be slightly odd, though – why, for example, are we having a whale of a time? Whales aren't exactly known as shining examples of excitement and joy. They are, however, very large, and so 'a whale of' something is simply an intensifier. 'A whale of a time' might be the most common use of this structure, but it's possible to encounter the phrase in other contexts, too, positively or negatively.

Around the time of its origin in the early nineteenth century, it was more usual to meet a 'whaler' of something; one Glasgow newspaper uses the phrase "whaler of a fib" in 1832. By the late nineteenth century, this had started to move towards what we know today, becoming 'a whale on' something. In novels, examples can be found of characters describing themselves as being 'a whale on' something, much in the same way that we might describe ourselves as being 'big on' something to express enthusiasm.

It wasn't long until this then shifted to 'a whale of'. A dictionary of American student slang by Willard C. Gore records 'whale' in 1895 as "a person who is a prodigy either physically or intellectually", or "something exceptionally large", giving the example "a whale of a time" to demonstrate the phrase's "jolly" connotations. By the beginning of the twentieth century, it had started to enter common parlance, and has stuck around as a way to express enjoying oneself.

Still, even if we are having a whale of a time, by usual standards *Varsity* is somewhat over the hill these days. Which hill, though? Well, there's no specific hill – it's simply a slightly gentler way of saying that someone is going a bit downhill in their old age. The phrase originated in the early 1900s in England and works around the idea of an 80-year life span. The first 40 years are spent going up the hill, developing and growing and generally being young and sprightly. It's only after 40 that everything takes a turn for the worse, and the journey downhill – and towards the grave – begins, to last another 40 years.

*Varsity* is still going strong, though, and that's certainly something to be happy about. You might even be on cloud nine about it, but it turns out there are actually a lot more clouds you could visit if you're feeling happy.

There are a lot of claims about why we say we're on cloud nine when we're feeling ecstatic – that cloud nine in a 1950s cloud clas-

sification referred to cumulonimbus clouds, which are generally considered fluffy and pretty, or that it's one of the stages of enlightenment for a bodhisattva in Buddhism – but neither of these really work. There are 10 types of cloud in that classification, and 10 stages in the Buddhist enlightenment, so why would the penultimate stage be chosen to express the pinnacle? More importantly, the phrase was originally cloud seven.

In 1960, *The Dictionary of American Slang* provided the first printed definition of the term as: "Cloud seven – completely happy, perfectly satisfied". It's thought that 'cloud seven' can be linked to 'seventh heaven', but there are also recorded cases of cloud eight and even cloud 39. It seems that the number is actually rather arbitrary. We probably ended up at nine just from people trying to intensify seven, just as it's now common to say you're giving 110 per cent to something.

The important part is the clouds themselves, which have long been associated with dreaminess and ambition (and drunkenness, actually) – think of phrases like 'head in the clouds' and 'building castles in the air'. Which ever cloud you're on, the idea of being on a cloud moved in the twentieth century from daydreaming to feeling extremely happy, giving it the meaning it has today.

No celebration is complete without etymology, of course, so you can now return to your parties satisfied. Happy birthday, *Varsity*!



To have a 'whale of a time' is a phrase dating back to the nineteenth century. But what about 'on cloud nine'? (TUOVER)



# Seventy years of salacious stories

Violet, the freshest face in the Varsity family, picks some of the more sensational articles from the archives. Violet Columnist, *Anna Hollingsworth*, goes straight to the climax

In an unnamed college, there's a media room hidden away in a corner of the bottom floor of the library: with a lockable door, no CCTV, and plenty of leather-topped tables to get to work at – you know, to study the human anatomy, recite emotive poems, or attempt to defy the laws of gravity. It provides the perfect setting for ticking sex in a public space off your bucket list.

A few years ago, a couple of kinky freshers took up the challenge, and achieved something of a BNOC status for doing the thing without anyone – apart from all their fellow students – finding out. Or so they thought.

Now, I'm not saying I'm the porters' pet, but getting on with the right people gives you certain benefits – geez, not like *that* – rather, like knowing that Cambridge's take on Christian Grey's playroom does in fact have CCTV, and that the fresher hanky-panky was streamed live into the plodge. A refreshing change from watching students puke the contents of their formals into flowerpots, I should've thought, but the porter on duty at the time turned the screen and let them get on with it. How considerate and liberal-minded!

Nothing new there: *Varsity* has been reporting on increasingly liberated sexual values for decades. The results of the 1972 'Varsity Opinion Poll on Sex' were published under the headline 'Cambridge getting sexually more permissive'. Some 47 per cent of male and 45 per cent of female undergrads said they'd done the deed, compared to 43 per cent as reported in a survey four years earlier in the late '60s. But students weren't exactly embarking on a horny rampage, either: as "a measure of promiscuity", *Varsity* reported that only one in eight singleton students was having sex twice or more per term – it's great how everything is done on a termly basis.

Not so in 2008, when *Varsity* re-visited students' bedchambers, ranking colleges on a promiscuity table. Homerton came top with an average of 6.9 sexual partners per Homertonian – I guess the thighs evolved from long-distance cycling float quite a few boats – dominating the likes of Corpus with an average 3.2 partners per Corpuscule. Apparently first-class activity in the sheets doesn't translate into equally up-and-coming exam performance, though: the survey points out how Homerton came 26th in the Tompkins Table and Corpus eighth. Even more active than Homertonians were Medics with 8.2 partners per person. By the sounds of it, Medics can diagnose their patient in more contexts than one.

The 2008 survey was also bolder in penetrating more aspects of students' sex life than its '70s predecessor. While the *Varsity* journalists behind the latter were interested

in the near-existential question of why students had sex (the answer was 'sexual appetite' for 48 per cent of men and 'in love' for 59 per cent of women), their millennial counterparts were more curious about the 'where?' question – both in the geographical and anatomical sense (let's just say that 60 per cent of respondents had enjoyed the great outdoors).

What both surveys shared was discretion and anonymity. The survey from the late '60s was conducted using face-to-face interviews. Very observantly, in 1972 *Varsity* noted that in the earlier survey "subjects were often embarrassed by the questions and tended to give dishonest answers, or none at all." Gosh, I wonder why?

'But why do we care what other people get up to?' I hear your inner prudery raise its head. Well, why not, because the colleges certainly do. While in 1972, 36 per cent of men and 38 per cent of women answered in the affirmative to 'Have you had sexual intercourse in a Cambridge College or Hostel?' and only 21 per cent of men and 38 per cent of women said college discipline had interfered with their sex life, the consequences of being found in action could be severe – and I don't mean a good ol' spanking here.

In 1961, a female undergrad – or 'undergraduate' as the parlance of the time would have it – at St Hilda's, Oxford, was sent down after she was



## Can you detect the fake news in these real

With the popularisation of 'fake news' (yet another thing to thank our lovely President over the pond for) it seems as though nowhere and no one is safe from the call-out.

Accusations of fake news are ripe. Even Cambridge, our dear little town, is full of deception and deceit. Does calling it 'Cindies' instead of Ballare count as fake news? Or calling it 'Kuda' instead of Life? Or calling it the 'best three years of your life' instead of three years of isolation, celibacy and misery count?

*Violet*, *Varsity*'s lovely little vibrant plat-

- How to get your bedder hooked on smack
- Secret Porter 'Fight Club' discovered in Newnham
- Six more weeks of hell
- Strange erection on Queen's Green
- Baffled tourists confuse Law Faculty with Stansted Airport



## 70th Anniversary Supplement

found in bed with a man. A comment piece in *Varsity* stands up for the girl, asking if “Cambridge dons [would] behave with any more wisdom and tolerance than their Oxford counterparts?” Some things don’t change: earlier this year, students at Corpus rose to the barricades about the college’s policy on guests visiting their rooms, with allegations of bedders informing on students and relationships having to be publicly declared. I guess that answers the ’60s comment writer’s question.

It’s not only porters and bedders monitoring what enters where at Cambridge, though. Our loyal friend the *Daily Mail* made national headlines of Newnham antics in 2010 when an email from the then JCR president Lizzy Cole was leaked. All Cole was asking for was some peace and quiet after numerous complaints about noise in the college: “I’d just like to politely remind everyone that Newnham corridors funnel sound and walls are very thin in some buildings. Therefore, please remember to be discreet in your activities, especially during late/early hours of the day.” Instead, she got nationwide coverage of a college where life is, as Madonna would have it, like a prayer.

But it turns out that stories from Newnham – shock horror – are as versatile as the alleged naughty nuns. Writer and broadcaster Joan Bakewell, a Newnhamite in the ’50s, told the *Mail* of kisses over cream cakes from Fitzbillies and of rolled blankets in beds to cover up for nights spent in all-male colleges.

Professor Mary Beard, graduating from Newnham in 1977, shared an anecdote of a French visiting student for whom it took a year to realise that Newnham was actually an all-girls’ college. At the same time, sexual appetite was dampened by the prospect of being sent down if discovered, the difficulty of obtaining contraceptives, and total catastrophe in the form of unwanted pregnancy – and as another ’50s Newnhamite, author Jessica Mann, says, “because nice girls didn’t.”

From not-so-private media rooms to nunneries – sorry, Newnham – fetishised in the media, Cambridge has found its way to satisfy its desires through the decades. And through the decades, *Varsity* has been there to report who does what and what goes where – who ever claimed student journalism was dry?

## Varsity headlines?

form, excels in the satirical and cheeky pieces. Yet, *Varsity* in the olden days could have given us a run for our money. The editorial team spent the best part of an afternoon flipping through the archives and weeping at the headlines of past editions. From the iconic “Why can’t a good man be sexy? Why can’t sexy man be good?” (I feel ya, sis) to “Who Killed Kennedy?” the archives offer a great perspective of Cambridge life back in the day. Take a look through our favourite headlines to work out which is fake news or not. The Onion had better watch out

by Sienna Hewavidana & Simon West

Real: a, c, d. Fake: b, e

**Violet**  
By VARSITY

Can’t wait for more?

For witty columns and unmissable food reviews go to *varsity.co.uk/violet*



## Birthdays are no child’s play for us silver foxes

COLUMNIST WILL HALL



When I was younger, I wondered what the tipping point would be. You spend all your early years yearning to be older, only to look up and see adults trying to pass off as younger. I’d contemplate where the intersection lay: when do you stop growing up and start ageing?

I’m sorry to say that I think I finally have the answer. My epiphany came to me a few months ago when I was having my hair cut, and the hairdresser stopped cutting and moved his face close into my head...

A bit of backstory: it was the day before my 21st birthday. We had people coming over and my hair was deemed inappropriately long. It was, however, a Sunday and the only place open was a rather fancy-looking salon. Still, I thought: needs must. (I would later rue that expression.)

I first realised something was amiss when I walked in and was greeted by a kind lady at the door.

I had only had my hair cut in my local barbershop before (and once, memorably, by my mother. We managed to get most of the hair off the kitchen floor, but I think some of the tears remain) so I was not used to this kind of restaurant-style service. Next thing, I thought to myself humorously, they’ll be bringing me a wine list!

And then they did. Literally. They came and offered me a drink. Fuck, I thought, as I realised that I had accidentally stumbled onto Millionaires’ Row. The more I looked, the more it became clear. Every single customer was tall and beautiful. Or at least, their eyebrows were, as that was all I could see poking above the copies of *Vanity Fair*. Occasionally an eyebrow shot up, presumably because they’d just spotted themselves.

The seats were not mere chairs but leather thrones. I – being unglamorously short – had to be hoisted up to mirror level. When I had adjusted to the new altitude, I was now apparently tall enough to qualify for my silk-stocking coiffing. Kind Lady One disappeared and was replaced by Kind Lady Two, who was there to “talk me through my haircut”. At this point, fearing for my bank balance, I thought I should leave. But of course, being British, that wasn’t an option – I was in too deep now. Besides, I thought as I sipped my Chardonnay, it would look rude.

Finally, Kind Lady Two left, and I (now robed) was walked over to get my hair washed. Since being able to do it, I have always taken the rather pioneering decision of washing my own hair. As my neck was jammed into the porcelain cradle (turns out millionaires have slimmer necks, too), I could see why I’d always opted for self-service. They

offered me a head massage and I thought: in for a penny, in for a grand. This turned out to be the least relaxing thing which has ever happened to me. I sometimes still have flashbacks.

I was wheeled back to my original seat, where Kind Man One now appeared, scissors in hand. He brought with him an un-thumbed copy of *Esquire*, which I tried in vain to read over the now-oppressive noise of my overdraft weeping. It was about two-thirds of the way in when he zoomed in on my penurious locks.

He plucked from my head a lone (that’s an important detail) grey hair, and held it aloft, looking on in both disgust and awe. The whole room went silent. The *Vanity Fairs* came down. Kind Ladies Three to 12 spilled out from behind mirrors to see what had happened. A grey hair? This was unprecedented.

Eventually he finished cutting: I re-mortgaged my parents’ house and got up to pay. As I walked across the silent room, the other customers tilted their heads in sympathy. Today had been a bad day for this junior pensioner, and they knew it.

So I’d like to apologise to all the family friends who got a quieter, more introspective birthday boy that day. It wasn’t your fault. I was just busy worrying about whether I’d remembered to record *Countdown*.

And should my younger self ever ask me at what age you start to age, I can answer. Twenty-fucking-one. Or maybe that’s just me.



Will Hall had the shocking realisation he was getting old while sitting in the barber’s chair (SKITTERPHOTO)



# VARSITY

From ‘wenches’ to women...

## How we’ve – sometimes terribly – covered women’s sport over the years

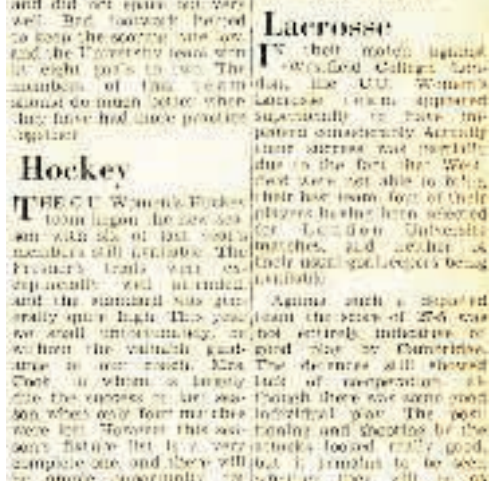
NOVEMBER 29TH, 1949 ▼

Here’s the first evidence of a report on women’s sport of any kind in the Cambridge student press: a laconic number from January 1949, entitled ‘Netball victory’. Floating in a sea of articles on soccer, boxing, rowing and golf, the report itself is just 19 words long.



OCTOBER 20TH, 1950 ▼

That year’s first women’s sport feature: ‘Some ladies waste passes’ described the women’s lacrosse team as ‘lacking cohesion’ whose stick work ‘showed signs of neglect’. ‘But this fault may be remedied with practice,’ it says.



NOVEMBER 4TH, 1950 ▲

One week later they introduced “The Women’s Corner”. Two short columns relegated to the far right hand side for lady-like pursuits of hockey and lacrosse. , and the caption above the photo: ‘Out of my way, wench!’ didn’t help much either. The feature didn’t last the year.

OCTOBER 31ST, 1953 ▼

“While no one would go so far as to assert that a greater proportion of women at the University show interest in outdoor games than that of men, those women’s clubs that are active this term have such achievements to report that Varsity can no longer afford to ignore them.” The column lasted three weeks.



APRIL 25TH, 1964 ▼

1964 marked the inaugural annual Women’s Boat Race. The event is given just three paragraphs, one highlighting Cambridge cox Ruth Kidd’s sartorial selections as she led her crew across the line dressed in a parka.



FEBRUARY 5TH, 1977 ▲

“To educate the uninitiated,” he says, “netball is, or so one is led to believe, a game for young ladies, played in teams of seven,” says Joe Sinyor. “Most of the onlookers consist of players’ boyfriends, not all of whom attend voluntarily.”



# Starting blocks Sporting Cantabs who first appeared in *Varsity*



## DAN ROAN

**BBC SPORT EDITOR (1998)**  
**“Out but not down” – 28th February 1997**

Anyone who’s ever seen the BBC’s sports coverage will surely be familiar with the cool, authoritative style of Sport Editor, Dan Roan. One of sports journalism’s finest, the Fitzwilliam alumnus, who graduated with a degree in Social and Political Sciences in 1998, cut his journalistic teeth at Varsity before embarking on a career that’s taken him to the lofty heights of Sky Sports News and the top job at the Beeb. Roan’s biting, unwavering interviewing style helped to make headline news in a famous hour-long interview with disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong in January 2015.

That famous, take-no-prisoners editorial

flourish was clear to see as early as this, Roan’s first feature for the Varsity sport section. Talking to newly-appointed England Rugby Union captain, Phil de Glanville, Roan grills him on his omission from that year’s British Lions tour squad, whether he deserves the England captaincy, and even whether the newly-professionalised sport overpays its stars:

“Whatever the reasons for de Glanville’s omission [from the Lions squad],” wrote Roan, “the fact is that his talents have been dealt a startling rejection. He knows, as do we, that the England captain really should be able to command a place in a 60-man British squad. But does his ability warrant selection? Is he as good as Townsend, Bell, Gibbs or Guscott?”

“Yes, is the immediately, and slightly defensive answer.” With such a knack for killer questions, it’s not hard to see why the Cambridge alumnus has done quite so well.

## STEVE PALMER

**FOOTBALLER (1989)**  
**“Pro Palmer joins rare breed” – February 10, 1989**

Cambridge hasn’t just produced some great sports stars, but also some of this country’s finest sports reporters. Sometimes both collide. Cambridge has produced one Premier League footballer – Steve Palmer, who graduated with a degree in software engineering from Christ’s College in 1989. Palmer’s career saw him make over 500 professional appearances in the club game for clubs from Ipswich Town to Watford and Queens Park Rangers. Here he is in profile a term before his graduation:

“Brains and football are frequently, and unfairly, often distanced and with most Football League players leaving school at sixteen to be signed up as apprentices, those who have

gone on to do degrees are set apart, Steve Heighway, Tony Galvin (degree in Russian) and Steve Coppell (Economics at Liverpool) among them.

“Palmer has already been watched by Bobby Robson, that much maligned manager, in his role as guest of honour at the Varsity Match. He had many kind words to say about the player, who incidentally models his style on current England captain Bryan Robson, which is possibly the worst kiss of death any player can receive as Glenn Hoddle, Peter Beardsley and others will testify. Hopefully Palmer will avoid Robson’s coaching and make a successful professional career, thus encouraging others not to forget their academic potential and give university football a welcome boost.”

**The eagle eyed among you might have spotted the by-line, belonging to a certain Matt Dickinson. That term’s Varsity sport editor is now the Chief Sports Writer at The Times, and this year was honoured by the Sports Journalists Association as the Sports Columnist of The Year 2016.**



## NOVEMBER 25TH, 2016 ▼

An interview with Cambridge full-back Alice Middleton, a hattrick scorer in the inaugural Varsity Rugby double-header about her second Twickenham outing. Cambridge went on to lose that day 3-0.



## MICHAEL ATHERTON

**CRICKETER (1989)**  
**“Atherton’s first-class ambition” – April 29, 1988**

The educated cricketer’ they call him. Michael Atherton, captain of the English national team from 1993 to 1998, the Downing alumnus clearly had the makings of something truly special when he arrived at Cambridge in 1986. Earning a full Blue for the Cambridge University Cricket Club at the age of 18, he made his first appearance for Lancashire in his second year. Going on to captain the University team before a glittering international career, Atherton had caught the attention of the national press before he’d even graduated with a degree in history. His profile in a 1988 edition of Varsity shows how Cambridge knew

exactly what they had on their hands:

“After pre-season trial nets and a trial match at Fenner’s last Sunday, Atherton feels that he now has the best eleven student cricketers under him, the team including Atkinson, Bail and Fenton from Cambridge with Durham, Loughborough, Exeter and Oxford providing the remaining players.

“Despite any problems he is likely to face as regards his own or the side’s performances, the Light Blues’ leader is a man who most definitely enjoys his cricket and finds it almost inconceivable that anyone else, given such an opportunity, could do otherwise. Perhaps this consideration, above all others, is the one that most justifies the maintaining of first-class cricket at Cambridge.” With the Light Blues having produced an England captain, I think the case for first-class cricket at the University was a good point well made.





# Kulture

Guide to culture in Easter term

## 1

### The Flick

ADC Theatre  
10th-13th May, 11pm

Way, way back in Lent 2016, *The Flick* was gearing up to be the show of the term. Following three minimum wage workers in a old school cinema in Massachusetts, the show was pitched as a beautifully wrought, charmingly wry look at small lives against the backdrop of the big screen. Tickets were snapped up and Cambridge (or, at the very least, 'Cambridge Theatre' Facebook page) was abuzz with excitement for Avigail Tlalim's (SWALLOW) ADC directorial debut, which promised to put the audience on the

THEATRE



▲ Katurah Morrish and Os Leanse (Johannes Hjorth)

stage while the actors inhabit the auditorium in which the story unfolds. But then disaster struck. As the run was due to begin, issues relating to rights to the script forced the whole production to be cancelled. This story, however, has a happy ending. With "rights back in hand" and "by re-arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.", as producer Tom Bevan put it, *The Flick* returns to the ADC stage this Week Two. Featuring the original 2016 cast—who have since become some of the most in-demand actors in Cambridge – *The Flick* is almost certainly due to reach the same levels of hype the second time round. The worry won't be whether they'll make it to the theatre, but whether you will – nabbing your tickets now is strongly advised ●

## 2

### Anglia Ruskin School of Art Fashion Show

Cambridge Junction  
14th June, times TBC

Whether you know your Cavalli from your Calvin Klein, or you're just looking to get some May Ball inspiration before the annual week of performative partying finally gets underway, Anglia Ruskin's Graduate Fashion Show at Cambridge Junction is the go-to event for all fashion-forward Cantabs.

Graduate designers from Anglia Ruskin's prestigious School of Art will be showcasing their designs at 'The Last Word'. Notable pieces from last year include Jenny Segal's soft, minimalist layering work and the feminism-inspired 'Woman Up!' collection by Micaela Sapinho.

One complementary drink is included in the price of every ticket ●

FASHION



◀ (YouTube/Anglia Ruskin)

## 3



▲ (Flickr: Paul Hudson)

### The Magic Gang

Portland Arms  
8th May, 7pm

Taking their cues from 90s college rock and the recent success of Mac DeMarco, The Magic Gang featured on pretty much every 'One to Watch' list of 2016 and 2017. They return for a nationwide tour this year, hitting every O2 Academy venue across the country – so this is your chance to see them in the 200-capacity venue of Portland Arms (which, bar Clare Cellars, is about as close to an underground music scene as we get) ●

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Another term, another slew of celluloid confections to rot your teeth and textbook-addled minds. That's right, kids, we are approaching blockbuster season, and this summer provides you ample opportunity to cast your minds onto more fantastical shores, replete with enough bangs to shut down a cartoon toy gun store. This season's offerings provide us with something of a sliding scale of tent-pole cinema, oscillating between the high-brow and the, anticipatorily speaking, shit.

First, and most exciting, is Ridley Scott's return to the *Alien* franchise with *Alien: Covenant*, after dipping his toe in the quasi-prequel waters of *Prometheus*. *Alien: Covenant* is a direct prequel to the first *Alien* film, and promises to expand on *Alien*'s 'haunted-house in space' stylings, with the early trailers intimating an eeriness that has more in common with the sombreness of Scott's original rather than James Cameron's more bombastic *Aliens*. Perhaps Scott can return the franchise back to sophistication following the abortive efforts of *Aliens* and *Alien: Resurrection*.

Say what you will of the portentous *Prometheus*: it's philosophical ambition can't be

### Kulture's Film rundown

#### The hot

Ridley Scott's  
**Alien: Covenant**

Patty Jenkins'  
**Wonder Woman**

Woody Allen's  
**Manhattan**

#### And the not...

Seth Gordon's  
**Baywatch**

faulted, even if it did fall short of Kubrickian wonder. However, with a little tightening of the script, *Alien: Covenant* promises us a cinematic resurrection. Hell, it's even got Danny McBride in it.

Next, the needle-trembling uncertainty between dire and sublime is DC/Warner Bros.' *Wonder Woman*. Why the ambivalence, Pany? It's feigned ambivalence to be frank. I'm a stone-cold defender of the baroque and somewhat bloated *Batman vs Superman*, and another opportunity to spend time in Zach Snyder's overtly religious cinematic universe fills me with the kind of fervent excitement only seen by the likes of Margery Kempe. If you weren't such a fan of the battle of the caped-Christ's, perhaps *Wonder Woman* will infuse some much needed humour into proceedings. A common complaint (not mine) of *Batman vs Superman* was that it lacked the tongue-in-cheek charm of Marvel's output; *Wonder Woman* seeks to rectify this, and trailers so far suggest an odd dynamic between Chris Pine and Gal Gadot's *Wonder Woman*. Will *Wonder Woman* deliver?

I hope, with every kernel of popcorn in my bucket, it does.

And now to the shit. And by 'shit' I mean: a film I have absolutely no interest in but, to fill



Cultural writing all term at  
varsity.co.uk

4

## THEATRE

## The Merchant of Venice

ADC Theatre  
16th–20th May, 7.45pm

“Shakespeare’s most divisive play comes to the ADC stage, exploring what happens when society steals all it can. In a world where the rich make the rules and chaos is the currency, how easy is it to take revenge when you no longer have anything to lose?”. The Renaissance answer to black comedy turns the ADC stage into a drowning Venice in Week Three. Though the under-rehearsed, outdoor Shakespeare plays of May Week have their charms, this is your chance to see The Bard done high budget ●



► Megan Gilbert and Laura Pujos are set to star as Shylock and Portia



▲ St Vincent makes her directorial debut (Wei Shi)

5

## FILM

## The Final Girls: XX

Arts Picturehouse  
3rd May, 9pm

St Andrew’s Street’s Arts Picturehouse presents a one-night screening of an all-female horror anthology, in honour of Todd Strauss-Schulson’s 2015 *The Final Girls*. The headliner is a fond, feminist poke at horror’s most-loved (and hated tropes). Look out for Annie Clark’s (aka, St Vincent’s) directorial debut ●

“These shows are artefacts of cheese and narrative absurdity”

word count and to do my duty on this, my final article as Film and TV Editor, feel obligated to inform you of. That’s right, we’re talking *Baywatch*. Going where *21 Jump Street* and only *21 Jump Street* prevailed – the ironic comedy reboot of a schlocky 80s/early 90s TV drama. Do I care particularly for a flexing Zac Efron, his body looking like it’s been whittled from a tea-stained candle, going toe to toe with a straight-faced The Rock (yes, I called him The Rock. When you star in trash, you deserve to be called by the moniker of your trash wrestling show)? – No.

I don’t know when studios decided to circumvent originality for ironic pastiche, but let me tell you, these shows never needed ironising; they are artefacts of cheese and narrative absurdity. You’d be hard-pressed to find any writer extolling their merits as though they were Pulitzer-winning drama. If you want a real comedy, keep your eyes peeled for the re-release of Woody Allen’s *Manhattan* (just in case I didn’t make it clear how culturally advanced I think I am) ●



▼ Baywatch brawn (The Rock)

## Revision Playlist

Kulture  
TUNES

“Some upbeat-ish but mellow revision songs (they seem to get me through)”



Best Friend  
**Rex Orange County**

There’s a Honey  
**Pale Waves**

Waking Bliss  
**Flight Facilities**

Alaska  
**Maggie Rogers**

Take Care  
**Blaenavon**

Lullabies  
**Yuna**

Left Alone  
**Flume, Chet Faker**

Cigarette Daydreams  
**Cage the Elephant**

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## Sport



▲ Cambridge lift the 2015 Varsity Match trophy  
(WILLIAM LYON-TUPMAN)

# Varsity double headers: time for a shake-up

*Varsity matches should not be a case of ladies first, argues Paul Hyland*

It was 8th December 2016, and Cambridge had just suffered surprise defeat in the Women's Varsity Rugby match. I was at Twickenham, watching on as the heroes who'd romped home 52-0 a year before were consigned to a 3-0 loss by a single penalty kick. Leaving my desk on the East Stand, I wandered inside to the press enclosure, as visibly disappointed as members of the media are allowed to be. As I step inside, I'm spotted by a well-meaning concierge, evidently part of the Twickenham furniture, who turns to me and asks. "So, who's going to win the big one, then?"

If his meaning isn't immediately clear, he was referring to the men's Varsity Match taking place later that day. After all, the men's and women's matches are



now played on the same day in the same arena. Obviously, the remark was a touch contentious. But what really took me aback was the casualness of the way he dropped that in. He wasn't after a profound discussion as he poured me my *nth* coffee of the afternoon: he was just making small talk. And that's the time we're prone to saying the things we think least controversial: yes, the weather is lovely today; yes, the bus is always late; why, yes, I would like another pint, thank you. To him, calling the men's match 'the big one' was something completely innocent and uncontentious.

The truth is, the increasing number of women's Varsity matches taking place on the same day as the men's risks lulling us into the misconception that equality's now been achieved. Up until recently, Cambridge women's sport was more or less invisible. Before 2015, the Women's Boat Race had never been televised, and the Women's Rugby Varsity had always been contested on University playing fields in Cambridge and Oxford rather than at Twickenham. And until this year, the Women's Varsity Football match had been kept entirely

apart from the Men's, only taking place in a professional arena for the first time when Barnet hosted the event's inaugural double header.

But now that invisibility has been replaced by a new sort of prejudice. Now they're in the centre of attention, but still on the periphery, visible but still often ignored. In short, they're the warm-up act for the main event. And attendance levels at Twickenham in December and Barnet this March attested to the fact that many see the women's matches as nought but an optional extra.

Even with double headers – a step in the right direction – we're only part of the way there. So, what's to be done? I propose a radical new alternative: start alternating the order of the matches.

It's simple, really. When the women are always first, all they'll ever be is the sideshow. So why not introduce a system where the men and women share the main billing between them in alternate years? That way no team – men's or women's – gets to cement their status as top of the bill, which is what we have now. I'm sure as well that the University's men's teams and their supporters, committed to equality in sport as they are, would

have no problem sharing.

Why, for instance, couldn't that work for the Boat Races? Or, as they're officially known, the Women's Boat Race, and, ahem, the Boat Race. And not to forget the Women's Varsity Rugby Match and, oh, the Varsity Match. The same prejudice – that the women's events are a lesser alternative to the men's ones – is couched in the very language we use to describe them, and that goes all the way to the organisational level. Start alternating matches and we'll begin to make it clear that one isn't the alternative to the other, but that *both* are alternatives to *each other*.

Now, listen. As a not particularly athletic bloke I'm not claiming to be the Messiah of women's sport. Even this suggestion can only go so far – though it'd help. When one glass ceiling breaks, there'll always be another one behind it. I'm not selling you a panacea for all of sport's ailments here, just suggesting the next step.

▼ CUAFC took part in the inaugural Varsity football double header last month (LOUIS ASHWORTH)





# Gambling is the final nail in Joey Barton's coffin

**Andrew Derrett**  
Sport Reporter

Some people can't escape the headlines. This Wednesday, highly controversial Burnley midfielder Joey Barton was handed a likely career-ending 18-month football ban, after breaching FA betting regulations during a decade-long period.

The 34-year-old, no stranger to the authorities in fragmented playing career, has also received a £30,000 fine and a formal warning for good measure. The charges relate to incidents from 2006 to 2016, during which Barton admitted to placing over 1,000 bets on football, some of which were placed on himself, or on his own team at the time.

The FA, since August 2014, prohibits anyone 'involved' in England's top eight tiers of football from betting on any worldwide football-related matter.

As renowned sportsmen go, it could be said that Joey Barton does not have a particularly good rep. Comprehensive lists of every misdemeanour exist online, and make for concerning long reading, but a Barton 'best-of' album would sound something like the following.

From 2004 to 2017, he: stubbed a cigar out in the eye of a teammate, mooned the Everton home fans at Goodison,



▲ Barton's career was effectively ended with an 18-month ban  
(BRIAN MINKOFF)

was jailed for six months for common assault, punched, elbowed, kneed and (twice) kicked opposition players while on the pitch, was himself punched on the pitch, was arrested in Liverpool city centre, ignited a 10-man brawl against Doncaster and recently had his Rangers contact terminated after the latest training ground bust-up. And all that with a healthy smattering of club suspensions and vicious online Twitter rows.

Of course, in an ideal world everyone would be able to consider this incident in isolation, and with the evidence in front of them, come up with a reasoned judgement as to the fairness of the penalty. But alas, even in the most mundane of cases, this is rarely the case.

Barton has had too much history, hurt too many people, made too many bad decisions and written too many apologies for the public to sympathise with anymore. If it weren't the case already, this latest hammer-blow sets in stone his reputation as a hooligan, whose endless rushes of blood to the head and law-breaking endeavours cement his place as one of the most controversial characters the sport has ever seen. Any hope of reinvigorating his image long gone, and his playing career done and dusted.

And that is where most, I should imagine, will let it lie. But those of us willing to read into this matter a little more

will quickly realise that, as the severity of punishment suggests, this incident is a little different.

For a start, it relates to a series of gambling events over a much longer time frame, as opposed to the odd moment of madness. Barton has since released a statement on his website detailing his response to the ban, and it raises some key issues relating to the state of gambling in football. He states: "If the FA is truly serious about tackling the culture of gambling in football, it needs to look at its own dependence on the gambling companies, their role in football and in sports broadcasting, rather than just blaming the players who place a bet."

Those of us who have ever been involved to any degree in football won't have had to look hard to see how widespread gambling is in the sport. Most ad breaks will flash up the latest 'live odds' for anyone to easily, in a few taps of the smartphone, place a few pounds (or more) or just about anything they want. For many a trip to the bookies (some of which can be found directly inside stadia) gets their heart pumping that bit more.

What is perhaps less obvious, but eminently more important, is the degree to which gambling takes place among the players. The Professional Players' Federation this year conducted a survey which

concluded that a significant number of Premier League players 'under-perform' due to stresses about potentially dealing with big financial losses. Many high-profile players have since come out to describe the manner in which the 'Premier League lifestyle' lends itself so easily to betting problems, and how more needs to be done to tackle the issue.

It's representative of the FA's crack-down on match fixing and their goal to 'keep the game special'. What with the fiasco surrounding the international body over the last few years, it is all too right that the FA places every ounce of effort into preserving the apparent clarity and honesty that permeates the national sport. Indeed, Barton won't be alone: as it stands 53 other footballers are currently being investigated. Whether they receive a sanction as equal to Barton's I very much doubt (his history won't have helped him on that front), but it is looking very likely that we will see more of these charges being made in the coming months and years.

Barton's conviction will, if nothing else, raise the right questions. Is football's relationship with the gambling industry healthy? Can they live together harmoniously? Are players given the right advice? And, most importantly for supporters, can I trust what I see on the pitch?

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## Football Why Joey Barton's latest indiscretion raises some interesting questions 39

# Sport



▲ Sam Plummer put in a dominant performance across all three days (NO LIMITS PHOTOGRAPHY)

## Jesus student storms Westminster International Canoe Race

**Jon Wall**  
Sports Reporter

Jesus student Sam Plummer has won the singles division of this year's Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Race in a time of 15:54:07.

The 125-mile long Devizes to Westminster race, run annually over the Easter weekend, is one of the most prestigious and challenging races in the discipline of canoe marathon and generally features a strong international field. As the name suggests, the race starts in the Wiltshire town of Devizes and finishes downstream of Westminster Bridge, just opposite the Houses of Parliament.

Competitors in the singles division complete the race over the course of four days, covering around 30 miles each day, whereas the doubles division is raced non-stop from start to finish. And having previously set a new student record time for the race, as well as finishing second in the 2015 edition, Plummer was well equipped for a tilt at the title this year,

arguably starting as the favourite.

The first day of the race runs from Devizes to Newbury, a distance of 34.5 miles, and Plummer, racing in the colours of his home Leighton Buzzard Canoe Club, made a strong start, finishing the day 15 minutes ahead of the next paddler, Matthew Parkes of Bishops Stortford Canoe Club, who was himself ahead of Reading Canoe Club's Radoslaw Zielski by just one minute. While this appeared to be an ideal start to the race, Plummer was wary of history repeating itself, telling *Varsity* that "in my previous attempt at the race, from which I had similarly been leading after the first day, I pushed too hard early on in the second day and paid the price further down the line, losing the lead."

The second day runs from Newbury to Marlow and is slightly longer, at 35.5 miles. Plummer was keen not to let his standards slip: "I knew if everything from then onwards went to plan I should come out on top. I focused on keeping everything flowing as smoothly as I possibly could, and tried not to get carried

away." The careful approach paid off, with Plummer actually extending his lead to 20 minutes over Zielski, with a slow day for Parkes leading to him dropping over half an hour behind Plummer.

The third day, from Marlow to Teddington, is arguably the most testing. This is the longest day of the race at 37.5 miles and the point of greatest exhaustion: as in any distance race, half of the

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**The number of minutes by which Plummer won the race, over the Easter weekend**

battle is keeping mentally tough, as Plummer acknowledged. "A race of this nature is as much a test of your mental ability to cope with the distance as well as your physical ability. It's all too easy when you're running low on energy to lose that belief that you can make it." Another solid day led to Plummer eking out a vital extra couple of minutes

on Zielski, meaning that only injury or severe mishap would be likely to derail the race win.

The final day is a shorter, 17.5-mile run down the Thames into Westminster, though the size and tidal nature of the river at this point means that the primary challenge is keeping the kayak moving and upright. Capsizing at this point, and losing valuable time getting back into the boat, is a potential hazard.

Nonetheless, Plummer stayed free of mishap to finish 23 minutes ahead of Zielski, though full appreciation of the win only came later: "It's a wonderful sight, taking the final bend leading up to the finish. When you see the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Bridge, the end which has seemed so impossibly far away for so long becomes real and is finally within reach. At this point you don't care how you do, you're just happy that you've made it."

Plummer will now continue to work toward the national assessment races over the summer, and the *Varsity* race in mid-May.

**Millie Brierley**

## An ode to the London Marathon

The London Marathon is one of the highlights of my year. I don't run it – at least not yet – but I love watching it on the TV.

This can, in part, be attributed to my entirely indiscriminate fascination with live sports. Give me five minutes watching the darts, and I'm shouting *one-hundred-and-eight-y* along with the rest of them. After just one Grand Prix, I'm tutting at the speed of drivers' pit stops. Judo, football, fencing, rugby, the hammer throw – if it's on, and I've got nothing better to do, I'll watch it. I even once found myself watching the European Bowls Championship.

But, there's more to the Marathon than that. I'm not so fussed about the elite runners. Sure, half an hour into the BBC coverage, I'm chatting about PBs and 'going sub-two-twenty' like I'm Steve Cram. But that's not why I set an alarm to watch it every year.

No, what I love about the Marathon is all the normal people.

I love the people who are running it for the first time, no idea what they're letting themselves in for. I love the old hands who run it every year. I love the police officers running dressed as dish-washers to raise money to fight heart disease. I love the electricians going for the



Watching normal people run brings great, unexpected joy (JULIAN MASON)

world record in running the Marathon while juggling fruit. I love the teachers moonwalking the course in support of Cancer Research. (Maybe 'normal' people isn't the right term...)

But most of all, what moves me about the Marathon – or indeed, really any long-distance race – is all the people who have decided to run it, perhaps on a whim, perhaps after committed pestering from friends, just... to see if they can.

And nine times out of ten, it turns out: they can. One of my favourite things to witness is a middle-aged person hobbling at mile 18 – maybe crying, maybe vomiting, but still going. Some of these people have amazing, inspirational stories behind their run, but I'm not so bothered about those: for me, it's really just about the fact that they're there, putting their body through something truly hideous, because they believe they can, or that they might be able to, or that it'll be a funny story even if not.

I have never run a marathon. I run, and I'd like to think I'll get there one day, but right now, the idea of 26.2 miles is unthinkable. Sometimes, I wonder if it can really be so bad – thousands of people do it! – but then I get to three miles and feel like stopping.

And that's why the Marathon, to me, is so special: it is, by my reckoning, the one thing that thousands of people do that remains extraordinary. It is a feat of human endurance that, year on year, people who've barely run before decide to sign up for. It is inspiring, sometimes gruesome, but really quite magical.