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Boris: "A-levels failing in the Darwinian struggle"

»Academic dissatisfaction with the A-level
»Cambridge Pre-U receives mixed response

**ALICE WHITWHAM &
LIZZIE MITCHELL**

Boris Johnson, Shadow Minister for Higher Education, has exclusively told *Varsity* that "A-levels seem to be failing in the Darwinian struggle".

The Conservative MP's bleak judgement on the future of the A-level comes in the wake of a report published in *The Times* this week which stated that over 100 independent schools have expressed a strong interest in the new Pre-U qualification. The Pre-U, currently being developed by Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) and scheduled to be launched in 2008, has been lauded as a credible alternative by critics of the A-level. As the Shadow Minister argued, "It's only natural that other means of testing academic merit should be used".

In the week leading up to the start of Cambridge admissions interviews, similar concerns about the A-level have been voiced within the University. Geoff Parks, Director of Admissions for Cambridge Colleges, spoke of the "general concern about the lack of stretch and challenge in the current A-level system" and "the concomitant lack of differentiation at the top end".

Parks' comments reflect the wider doubts of academics across the University. While Philip Ford, Professor of French and Neo-Latin, said that "A-level language courses have for some time been an inadequate preparation for degree courses in Cambridge", Professor Rosamund McKittrick described the A-levels as "leaving too little room for independent thinking". Master of Trinity Hall

and President of the Royal Historical Society Professor Martin Daunt argued, "there are too many small modules which do not allow a sense of long term change... or sufficient time for reflection as a result of the pressure of assessment". Another suggested that the A-level system may be to blame for the fact that "our current first years in English didn't have a single Shakespeare play in common among them".

Support for the Pre-U as an alternative to the A-level has predominantly come from the private school sector. Headmaster of Dulwich College, Graham Able, criticised the present A-level examination for its "modularity", "mechanical coursework" and "lack of open-ended questions". He emphasised that the loss of teaching time as a result of the introduction of the AS-level in 2000 was a major cause for concern. He believes that "the 'one size fits all approach' inevitably leads to unsatisfactory compromise". Able told *Varsity* that in contrast the Pre-U "will give back our teaching time and allow more open ended questions... the syllabuses will be a little fuller and are being designed by experienced subject teachers in conjunction with university subject admissions officers". Harrow and Eton are amongst other top independent schools to have similarly declared their preference for the Pre-U as against the current A-level qualification.

The Pre-U diploma will involve the study of four subjects, at least three of which would be carried on to principal subject level. It also contains a core element in the form of a 3-4000 word research report as well as a course in Global Perspectives. There will be no

coursework and no chance to re-sit exams. Kevin Stannard, Director of International Curriculum Development at CIE, stated that its strength will lie in providing "a chance for students and teachers to be re-inspired and re-excited by learning".

But the Pre-U is not without detractors. Its status as a syllabus designed primarily to meet the requirements of prospective university students, the threat of a two-tier system of independent and state schools, and the anachronistic structure of the syllabus have all been identified as flaws in the new qualification.

A former teacher from one of London's largest comprehensive schools, Holland Park, described the Pre-U as "precious" since it "ignores the needs of all but a select elite".

Indeed, while 805,698 students sat A-level exams last summer, only 405,369 went on to higher education. This suggests that if the explicitly university-orientated Pre-U were to replace the A-level nationwide, it would neglect the needs of half of the students taking it.

The potentially divisive nature of the Pre-U was highlighted by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). A spokesperson stated "At the moment, if a state school wanted to offer the Pre-U, that wouldn't attract funding from the government, so they would have to find alternative funding". Not until the Pre-U is afforded status on the government accredited section 96 list of qualifications will it be available for state schools. For the purposes of Cambridge admissions, Parks said that "a key consideration will be

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Boris Johnson calls for new means of testing at sixth form level



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Newsdesk

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In Brief

Police warn of laptop thefts

Police are warning students to take extra security precautions after American student Stephen Neld was almost burgled last Thursday when thieves tried to climb a ladder and through a window on Warkworth Street. This is the latest in a series of burglaries in colleges and comes in the wake of police statistics that reveal seven to eight attempted laptop thefts taking place in Cambridge daily. **Katy Lee**

Papworth plans threaten basic healthcare

Plans for a £6 million specialist unit at Papworth Hospital, the nation's leading hospital for heart and lung transplants, have been met with dismay by campaigners trying to protect basic services at nearby Hinchbrook Hospital. Faced with a £29.9 million deficit, Hinchbrook may lose key facilities, forcing Huntingdon residents to travel to Addenbrooke's. Its administrators believe the new unit is essential in maintaining the hospital's prestige. **Andy Ryan**

New bursaries on offer for interns

The Careers Service is launching a new bursary scheme funded by a group of 120 organisations who regularly recruit at Cambridge. Ten £500 bursaries are on offer for Cambridge students to undertake unpaid "public interest" vacation work in the UK and abroad. The awards are not financially means tested nor awarded on academic performance. Students from all courses and colleges can apply. Details will be available from the Careers Service stand at the Interns Event on Friday December 1 in the University Centre. **Jo Trigg**

Appliance testing charges down

Student-organised resistance has brought about changes to new appliance testing rules at Magdalene College. Students complained about the cost of the new, compulsory procedure, which could see them paying up to £20 each to have electrical appliances safety-checked. The college's JCR highlighted that several other colleges included the testing in room rent. In response, second year George Pender launched a facebook group encouraging students to hide their appliances in friends' rooms to avoid charges. The college Bursar has now agreed on a flat rate of £10 per year. **Tom Moriarty**

Researcher wins award

Danielle Turner from the University's Department of Psychiatry has won the Times Higher Young Researcher of the year award. With over 90 universities taking part in the awards, there was fierce competition. Yet Cambridge was nominated in six out of the eighteen categories, and achieved another triumph when Professor Lisa Jardine, an honorary fellow of King's and Jesus, was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award. The former Cantabrigian is currently Centenary Professor of Renaissance Studies at Queen Mary, University of London. **Lucy Turner**

Expert warns against extremist applicants

»Cambridge Muslims condemn "farcical" and "impractical" proposals

JO TRIGG

A leading intelligence expert has advised universities interview all applicants to prevent students from entering higher education with the intent of spreading religious hatred. Professor Anthony Glees' proposals come in the wake of the publication of new government recommendations for preventing Islamic extremism on campus.

Professor Glees, of Brunel University, criticised Higher Education (HE) providers for being "driven by the need to earn money from students and reluctant to do relatively simple things which might make campuses less comfortable for extremists". He told *Varsity* that "HE providers dropped their guard in the rush to fill places; this made campuses spaces in which extremist activity could be conducted without let or hindrance. Political correctness was used as an excuse to avoid facing the issue".

Glees was invited to meet Higher Education Secretary Bill Rammell at the end of October to discuss a report he published last year about the risk of extremism on campus. He

Professor Anthony Glees



BRUNEL UNIVERSITY

suggested that HE providers vet overseas students, interview all students to test their suitability for higher education as well as train campus security officers to undertake basic observations and collection duties. These include knowing who is on campus and removing extremist literature and DVDs. Glees cited "historical evidence suggesting some twenty plus campuses have generated extremists", and claimed that "Just as paedophiles hang around outside school gates, so extremists hang around campuses". After his meeting with government ministers he believes that "the advice to HE providers relies quite heavily on what I've written".

The guidance from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) was published last Friday, one month after a draft of the report was leaked to the

Guardian. After the criticism that the leaked report attracted, Amar Latif, Media Officer at the Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS) told *Varsity* that the new guidance was "certainly an improvement". The document explains how to recognise "violent extremism in the name of Islam" and gives examples of scenarios of and responses.

But Latif still expressed concern over the guidelines. He told *Varsity* that he was "not happy that they concentrate on only one type of extremism" and believed that they may "lead to the differential treatment of Muslim students". Furthermore, he highlighted how FOSIS were involved in similar guidelines produced by Universities UK (UUK) over a year ago, which focused on a wider variety of religions. "I don't see what these new guidelines bring to the table that wasn't previously addressed by the UUK", he argued.

Cambridge University Islamic

gation of extremist media is farcical".

Glees' proposals attracted even greater criticism. Latif described his research as "anything but that of an expert... not even a university student could get away with such a flawed report". He denied that Glees had produced any credible evidence of extremism on university campuses, adding that his opinions "border on the racist".

Cambridge students and lecturers were equally sceptical. CUSU Anti-racism Officer Ali Alim-Marvasti claimed that the suggestions are "impractical" while CU ISoc's Ahmad argued that "The idea is absolutely crazy... such a measure would lead to discrimination on the basis of race". Although outraged that "the general position seems to be that university students are docile idiots who need to be protected from the rantings of religious extremists", Arif Ahmed, Lecturer in Philosophy, concluded that the proposals may not be necessary. He told *Varsity* "Holding extreme religious views is a good indicator for stupidity or at any rate intellectual spinelessness. So I'd expect that our admissions system already discriminates indirectly against such people."

But Glees maintained that "the guidelines should have gone further". Although he estimated that "the pastoral care and tutorial involvement built deep into the Oxbridge system makes these universities more secure," he said of the guidance that "all HE providers must do this, because if some don't they will be targeted".

"Political correctness an excuse to avoid facing the issue"

Society (CU ISoc) Vice-President Umar Ahmad was more critical. He believes that the document "adds to a climate of mistrust whilst achieving very little, if anything" and was sceptical about the risk being addressed. "Any would-be terrorist stupid enough to get caught by his DoS, college librarian or bedder isn't likely to pose a threat to national security", he told *Varsity*. Ahmad added "the presupposition that this monitoring would somehow prevent the propa-

»"Elite" Pre-U criticised

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

whether the Pre-U is available in UK state schools".

The Pre-U system of examinations has been criticised as "a step backwards" by Anne Barnes, Principal Examiner for AQA (Assessment and Qualifications Alliance). While Head Master of Wellington, Anthony Seldon, saw this as a positive case of moving "forward to the past", the former Holland Park teacher described the new qualification as "a return to the fifties".

The National Union of Teachers (NUT) blames the current government for such division in the examinations system. In 2002, the Tomlinson report recommended the government to introduce new marking criteria, a restriction of the powers of the exam board and the institution of an independent regulatory committee for the QCA. But an NUT spokesperson argued "A significant problem has been created by Tony Blair's own refusal to look seriously at the Tomlinson report and his jumping the question in advance of the Tomlinson report being published".

Despite Johnson's comments to *Varsity*, the Conservative party has yet to formulate an official policy on the examinations system.

In spite of Parks' open criticism of the A-level exam, along with other Russell Group universities such as Durham, Bristol and Oxford, Cambridge at present has no official position on the Pre-U qualification.

"the Pre-U ignores the needs of all but a select elite"

805,698 students sat A-levels in 2006

50% of these students did not go on to higher education

Let there be light



Market shoppers had an illuminating experience as the Cambridge City Christmas lights were switched on last weekend.

ALEX CONSTANTINIDES

Newsdesk

Chief News Editors: Joe Gosden and Jamie Munk
Tel: 01223 353 422 Email: newseditor@varsity.co.uk

Sculptures damaged in night of New Hall carnage

»Alcohol blamed for destruction

»Wine banned at formal hall for rest of term

TOM PARRY-JONES
News Editor

New Hall has banned alcohol from the remaining formal halls this term after a “substantial amount of damage” was caused following the formal on the evening of Tuesday 21. This comes amidst a raft of other restrictions that have been deemed necessary after 30 people were “asked to leave” and damage amounting to thousands of pounds of damage was caused.

Eyewitnesses described scenes of drunken chaos, with formal-goers “pissing themselves and vomiting everywhere” in stairwells. Two girls required help from the JCR Welfare Officer. In the JCR bar heating pipes were snapped, the repair of which will necessitate the lifting of the entire floor. One of three large bronze dung beetles, on loan to the college and valued at £15,000, lost an antenna and had its back “badly scratched” when it was dropped down stairs. The weight of the beetle, which forms part of “Studies for the Dung Beetle Sculpture at London Zoo” by Wendy Taylor CBE, was so great that it chipped chunks of marble from the New Hall staircase as it fell. One student expressed sympathy for “those poor beetle sculptures” and suggested that someone “threw them down the stairs”. The college has also closed the bar prior to hall and banned formal swaps for the remainder of the term.

Freshers involved in a formal

swap that evening between New Hall and Homerton have denied any responsibility for the damage. In a phone call to *Varsity* from an untraceable number, a Homerton student present at the event admitted that the group had been kicked out of the formal for “rowdy behaviour” between dessert and coffee, but said that they had left by 9.30pm to go to Ballare. But a New Hall porter who was on duty that evening suggested that this was “rubbish”, and that the bar was still busy at that point. One of the New

“pissing themselves and vomiting everywhere”

Hall students on the swap admitted that the group had been kicked out, but was certain that there had been “no damage done by the New Hall girls”, as they had drunk so much that “there was no way we were capable of causing any”. Another confessed to *Varsity* “I can’t remember anything”, whilst Facebook saw panicked wall posts on the morning after. One read “The Homerton boys were crazy. They have quite possibly destroyed our formal hall with their antics.”

Owen Saxton, Senior Tutor at



The beetles that were damaged in Tuesday's chaos

JAMES KEELING

New Hall, told *Varsity* that drunken trouble had not been a problem at the college before this term and that Tuesday was a “most unusual occasion”. He had decided upon the penalties after “consulting the Tutors, the Dean and the JCR”, as well as the “Bursar and the catering department”. “We’ve never had an alcohol ban before” he said, but hoped that hall next term would return to a more “relaxed pattern”. On the subject of the damage, he added that he had “no information on who’s responsible” but expects “they will be identified”, and that he will “certainly” try to recover the costs from them. He argued that you cannot ask donors to support students “if money gets lost in this sort of way”. A CCTV camera is

trained on the beetles, but college staff contradicted each other over whether it was in operation or not.

There has been an unfortunate number of cases of art vandalism in the past at New Hall, which houses the world’s second largest collection of women’s art. Dr Saxton recalled a painting in the hall having been “pelted with food and wine,” but this was a “long time ago”. Taylor, who at the time of going to press had not been informed of the damage by the college, told *Varsity* that the dung beetles were “much maligned creatures” and that they were notoriously difficult to move. She added, “I hope that in the moving of them someone got a good poke in the testicles” from one of the legs.

Students campaign to save the Sino Tap

EMILY PARTINGTON

One of Cambridge’s best kept secrets is set to disappear. The Sino Tap public house on Pound Hill is currently subject to a planning application by Punch Taverns Plc. to carry out a major refurbishment project. The move, which is provisionally scheduled to commence in the new year, would see the existing establishment renamed The Punter and may include a 150-seat restaurant.

The proposals have provoked outrage amongst Cambridge students, who form the bulk of the establishment’s clientele. One 3rd year English student from Fitzwilliam College described the Sino Tap as “like a home from home” and was effusive in his praise of the late-night Chinese food that is served. “On many occasions I have found myself hungry at one in the morning,” he mourned “with my only hope of satisfaction being a quick trip to the Tap for a spicy pork soup”.

The threatened loss of the Sino Tap

has prompted concerned students to start a campaign to save the pub.

JJ Waters, who is leading the campaign, explained that it would involve letter writing as well as requesting support from Clare College Master Professor Badger. Waters told *Varsity*, “We are hoping that with enough objections we can stop these plans going through”, adding that “the Tap is one of the few pubs in Cambridge that is truly special and the only one to have its own dog... Being a country boy I feel that the presence of a pub dog is of the utmost importance.”

The Sino Tap has had a colourful history. It was originally called the Rose and Crown, before becoming a gay pub, the Town and Gown. After a brief interlude as the Rope and Twine it was transformed into the current Sino Tap in late 2004. The current planning application has been granted an extension until December 3. Waters has encouraged as many students as possible to voice their opposition.



The Sino Tap, where there may be no New Year celebrations

EMILY WRIGHT

State of the Union

JOE GOSDEN

Nominations closed yesterday for the Cambridge Union Society elections to decide positions and committee membership for Easter 2007. Although the majority of positions were contested, the nominees for the President and Ents Officer will run unopposed. This is the fourth time that this has happened in as many years.

Just over a year ago (Issue 628, November 18 2005) *Varsity* investigated the state of the Union, drawing comparisons with Oxford’s apparently-greater success in attracting membership, sponsorship, big-name speakers and electoral nominees. Twelve months on, both President Luke Pearce and Secretary Nick Hartman assured *Varsity* that “the Union is moving in the right direction”.

Despite an anonymous email sent to Cambridge student media outlets this week, detailing alleged criminal activities and misuse of presidential power, both Pearce and Hartman were keen to assure *Varsity* that recent in-fighting would not jeopardise this term’s achievements. Pearce listed amongst these “£22,000 raised in sponsorship”, the “highest level of fresher recruitment for four years” and emphasised that Shut Up And Dance! has been the Union’s “most successful Ents programme in years”. Hartman added that the bar refurbishment was complete and that the Union debates had finally reverted to “having more guest speakers than students”.

Although both sought to play down rumours of internal conflicts, serious concern was voiced at Pearce’s use of the Presidential Fines system. The anonymous email detailed an apparent controversy surrounding a fine imposed on a member by Pearce for having written defamatory comments on a Union whiteboard. Hartman criticised the “lack of restraint” demonstrated in imposing fines, while a Union member who did not wish to be identified complained that “Pearce just slaps fines on anyone he wants... the system is really open to corruption”. Pearce refused to comment, telling *Varsity* that “this is an internal disciplinary matter relating to a threat against a member that is still in the investigation phase”.

But support for Pearce was forthcoming from several ex-Union Presidents. One explained to *Varsity* that “other people are too concerned with aggrandising their own roles in the Union... Luke is the President and they should let him get on with it”. Yet the same former President admitted that “Luke needs to be more resolute in resisting internal pressure” adding that “what they don’t realise is that the outside world just doesn’t care”. He also commented that “Hartman should really get a life too”.

Polling for this term’s Union election will take place next week.



Varsity Issue 628, November 18 2005

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Lab rats hooked on cocaine

»Research to combat drug addiction attacked by animal rights groups

NIKKI BURTON

Cambridge scientists working on research aimed to combat substance addiction have run into opposition from animal rights groups. The researchers, working at the Department of Experimental Psychology, have given a colony of rats access to an almost unlimited supply of self-administered cocaine. In response, Animal Aid, an organisation campaigning for an end to animal cruelty, has presented the researchers with a "Mad Science" Award, labelling the work as both "pointless and grotesque".

In the experiments rats were given doses of cocaine as a reward for pressing a lever. They were able to self-administer up to 30 doses in the three-hour sessions that took place over several days. They were then given two experimental drugs intended to remove the craving by "preventing the expression of a specific gene that is involved in memory stabilisation". Barry Everitt, Professor of Behavioural Neuroscience, explained that "the drug limits the stimuli that cause us to crave". For instance, "a smoker may attempt to quit smoking" but in certain places, such as "the pub", or at certain times, "such as after dinner", the addict may feel greater pressure than normal to succumb to the craving. The drug "seeks to disrupt this association between the stimuli and the addictive substance so that these factors do not continue to stimu-

late cravings". This is achieved by "exposing the subject to the stimuli once more", and administering the treatment when the association with the addictive substance is active in the brain.

The experiments have provoked outrage from animal rights groups. Anita Singh of PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) issued a statement saying, "Overwhelming evidence shows that most animal experiments... certainly don't help in unlocking the causes and cures of a uniquely human phenomenon like drug abuse". Everitt counter-argued that rats are useful in terms of behavioural experimentation, as "animals will self-administer addictive substances as humans do when given the opportunity".

Caroline Lucas, Green Party MEP for South-East England and Vice-President of the RSPCA, told *Varsity* that "An increasing number of doctors and toxicologists have come to the conclusion that animal research for testing into human medical treatments is often misleading, and sometimes produce dangerous, false, negative results". In addition, PETA argued that animal testing is only accurate for humans "five to twenty-five percent of the time". They condemned it, saying "That's not science. That's gambling." Everitt said that this percentage "wouldn't be a bad outcome", although questioned the validity of the figure. He defended the use of animal testing, saying that "you simply cannot do this in humans, nor can



The Department of Experimental Psychology

EMILY WRIGHT

you study behaviour in cells". The law demands that where a method exists that does not involve animals it must be used. A University spokesperson confirmed that animals are only used in testing when there is no alternative.

Animal Aid's "Mad Science" awards have been criticised for seeking to diminish the value of scientific research. Everitt described the organisation as having "an unjustifiable stance". Barbara Davies of RDS:

Understanding Animal Research In Medicine told *Varsity* that Animal Aid has "no scientific credibility", and commented that "if Animal Aid really believes that the University has breached the strict controls on animal research, then it should take its case to the Home Office rather than mount cheap publicity stunts." Animal Aid were unavailable for comment, and have since removed publication of the "Mad Science" awards from their website.



Emmanuel

Another minute of ungodly acts

Our spy was shocked to learn that an unsuspecting Emmanuel student had an unwelcome set of visitors last week. On returning to his Old Court bedroom late one night, he discovered a copulating couple making thorough use of his bed. When he finally managed to untangle the pair he identified the girl as a first year medic at Emma, usually known for her Christian sobriety, and the boy as a visiting squash player who had become engaged (to a different girl, of course), just the week before. But the couple were enjoying themselves enough to ask for "another couple of minutes" before being kicked out of Old Court.

Sainsbury's

Bronze Horse takes a cheeky canter

As our spy quietly ambled down the milk aisle on Saturday he happened to overhear a young gent mid-boast to his female companions. He proudly proclaimed "yeah, I rode the Jesus Horse last night" before adding "but I didn't get caught like that other girl". Shocked and appalled to hear Morland dismissed in such terms, our spy was about to interject and enquire as to why the gent had not been reading *Varsity* with greater attentiveness. Alas before the matter could be pursued another shopper had barged through, allowing the vagabond to vanish into the crowd.

King's Parade

Cash for Questions



The Oxbridge Essays Recruitment Team arrived in Cambridge on Wednesday in a bid to attract new talent. Within the first couple of hours a plethora of students eager to alleviate their debt ridden bank accounts had signed up. Our spy was, however, interested to note that the young, single and male recruitment team appeared to specialise in trying to sign up young, attractive females. Shame the lads hadn't ordered an essay on how to charm Cambridge ladies before opening thier sets.



Cambridge cycles to lead CO₂ monitoring

PARISA RAZAZ

Cambridge cyclists are to act as guinea-pigs in a nationwide project to monitor pollution levels. MESSAGE (Mobile Environmental Sensing System Across a Grid Environment) propose to introduce pocket-sized sensors which detect carbon dioxide and can be worn by cyclists.

Michael Simmons, Transport Programme Manager at the

"a great opportunity to learn more"

Cambridge Science Centre, described the project as "revolutionary". "Information is collected by mobile devices, as opposed to the conventional stationary devices", he explained. He added that "data on pollution has never been collected systematically before" and that "nobody really knows how pollution behaves". He concluded that such information would be crucial in determining how cities might be designed.

Dr Eiman Kanjo, a Research Associate at the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (DAMTP), emphasised the importance of technological development in measuring pollution. He said,

"Nowadays, technology such as mobile phones, tracking devices and environmental sensors give us a great opportunity to learn more about this issue". Professor Peter Landschoff, a researcher on the project in Cambridge told *Varsity* that the plan has attracted "big names such as Nokia and O2."

The MESSAGE consortium involves several businesses and five universities. Cambridge's position is unique as people rather than vehicles will carry the monitors.

The plan should go ahead in the next three years, but current efforts are directed towards its successful inauguration. According to Dr Eiman Kanjo, Cambridge cyclists will be sporting the sensors "within a couple of months". Outspoken, a bicycle courier service, have been asked to participate in the project and it is hoped that the rest of the country will



Reinventing the wheel? JOE GOSDEN



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Condoms secured after “tampering” rumours

AMY HOGGART

King's College Student Union (KCSU) has this week taken the unprecedented step of ordering secure and free condom vending machines. The machines will be installed in time for the start of Lent Term. The move follows rumours circulating throughout the University this week alleging that complimentary condoms provided in JCRs and Welfare Offices had been tampered with.

KCSU Welfare Officer Andy Corstorphine told *Varsity* “I have heard it on good authority that there have been incidences of condoms being pierced with pins in Cambridge colleges and it is as a result of this that King's has had to take steps to secure the supply of contraception to their students”. CUSU Welfare Officer Sam Rose described such attacks as “unnecessary, inappropriate and almost certainly designed to harm others”. He explained that CUSU is currently conducting an investigation into who might be responsible and looking into the application of “serious punishments”.

The rumours come a year after the supply of condoms at Trinity College Oxford, was tampered with. The Trinity JCR was forced to “send out emergency emails letting everyone know as soon as the sabotage was discovered”, as well as to “offer to subsidise anybody who wanted to

buy a morning after pill”. In Oxford no one has so far claimed responsibility, although it has been alleged that anti-contraception and pro-life groups may have been involved.

Madeleine Teahan, president of the Cambridge University Pro-Life Society, denied knowledge of any such activities in Cambridge, although she told *Varsity* that she was aware of “general discontent amongst some students regarding the distribution of free condoms”. She speculated that those responsible were “most likely to be no-sex Christians, pro-life supporters or both, believing that promiscuity should be discouraged”.

Teahan explained that many members of the Pro-Life Society “find it quite insulting that it is assumed all students will inevitably engage in sex”. The fact that “JCR Welfare Officers hand out condoms as if they were just free sweets”, she continued, apparently makes light of the serious issue. Speaking as a Cambridge student she reasoned that “giving out free condoms is a way of encouraging promiscuity. Thus by piercing condoms they are demonstrating their opposition to a student culture which promotes and condones casual sex.”

A meeting of college welfare officers is set to take place this week to discuss the possible instalment of condom vending machines in all colleges in an effort to combat further problems.



It is rumoured that some free condoms may not be safe to use

Ross Anderson slams Home Office stance on biometric ePassports

JOHN WALKER

Ross Anderson, Professor of Security Engineering at Cambridge, has spoken out against Government policy on new biometric forms of identification. Biometric ID is currently being used in UK passports issued since March 2006, which have been equipped with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip. This contains data such as the facial biometric details of the holder and is planned to form an integral part of the proposed ID Card scheme currently under discussion.

Professor Anderson said “The ID card scheme wastes money, undermines public trust...and risks very unpleasant side-effects”. The Home Office argues that biometric ID is central to its proposed schemes to combat the threat of terrorism. Their website states “One of our major priorities is the launch of the National Identity Scheme... central to this will be the introduction of biometric ePassports”.

But Professor Anderson argued “The main way in which criminals can get a hold of a UK passport is via pre-issue fraud [applying for a passport in this country to use as ID for a foreign

criminal]. The move to RFID chips isn't going to solve this problem”. He added “The people who carried out the 9/11 and 7/7 attacks all had perfectly acceptable forms of ID. ID was not a critical factor in these operations.”

Elaborating on the Government's

“sloppy attitude by the Home Office”

response after September 11, Anderson said “Increasing the budget [of security services] was reasonable, however spending £20m on ID cards is not”.

Last week the *Guardian* reported that Adam Laurie, Technical Director of security company A.L. Digital Ltd, was able to read and copy information from the new passports.

The Home Office states that the data on these chips is protected using “advanced digital encryption techniques”. But the key to accessing the

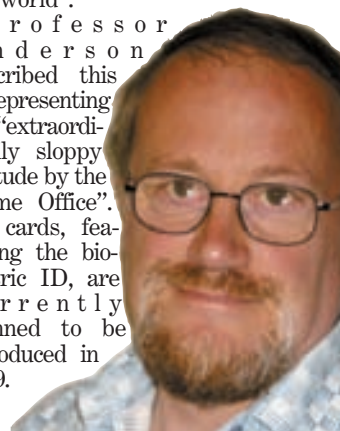
data is composed of the displayed passport number and expiry date, in addition to the holders' date of birth.

Laurie used an enhanced RFID reader, available for under £200 on the internet, to transmit information from the passport to a laptop.

In a statement to *Varsity*, the Home Office argued “It is hard to see why anyone would want to carry out the procedure described... The British biometric passport has been introduced to internationally-agreed technical standards, and is one of the most secure in the world”.

Professor Anderson described this as representing an “extraordinarily sloppy attitude by the Home Office”.

ID cards, featuring the biometric ID, are currently planned to be introduced in 2009.



Professor Ross Anderson

Funding threat claims are refuted

» Worries that elite universities could lose millions

TOM PARRY-JONES

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Russell Group of elite British universities have spoken out against claims in Tuesday's edition of *The Times* that HEFCE funding aimed at widening access will be increased to the detriment of research. The article highlighted concern over the forthcoming government spending review and raised questions about why the best British universities attract so few students from less affluent backgrounds.

The article claimed that Britain's “elite research universities” could “forfeit millions of pounds”, due to a HEFCE, after “shake-up” redirecting funds from research to universities that take poor students. But speaking to *Varsity*, HEFCE spokesperson Roger Gringer suggested that *The Times*' education correspondent had “got it wrong”, and that they had actually been setting out existing policy when talking to her. He stressed that whilst widening participation was “a funding priority”, this would not be

detrimental to research, which is also “a top priority”. He suggested that although government research funding was in a “ring fenced budget”, as the HEFCE give their funding as a “block grant” universities are free to decide how to use it.

“Undergraduate education is under-funded”

Michael Carr, Executive Director of the Russell Group, was equally critical of the report. Although *The Times* appears to align the Group with their own position, Carr told *Varsity* “I genuinely believe that *The Times* are making a story out of old information”. He added that there is “no way on this earth” that HEFCE would say something as radical as the article suggests, or that cuts in research funding are inevitable. But he admitted that research universities are

understandably “very concerned” about the Council's forthcoming spending review and the financial power they wield.

Six of *The Times*' ten worst universities for attracting students from “poorer households” were in the Russell Group; Carr admitted difficulties in addressing this problem. Whilst he argued that most Russell Group universities “spend far more than they're given” on widening participation, often using student fees to fund bursaries, he added that they are still obliged to take the most able candidates. He was also anxious that the universities should not appear to be “finishing schools for the rich”, but argued that it was difficult to “positively discriminate” on a regular basis. A spokesperson for Cambridge refused to comment on research funding in relation to the spending review, but asserted that “undergraduate education is underfunded”. He did, however, identify “perceived barriers” as a major obstacle to attracting students from non-traditional backgrounds, but praised the University for addressing this through its “extensive widening program”.

Cross Campus

The best of the rest from around the country

Kaplan to award degrees for profit

American education company Kaplan is bidding to become the UK's first private, for-profit university. Kaplan University will offer online courses and evening classes after the Government's relaxation of the law on degree-awarding powers. The company has revenues of over \$1 billion and trains the largest amount of accountants in the UK.

Allcock's Climbing Record

An Oxford Brookes student has beaten the world record time for climbing the height of Everest. Ben Allcock, 22, completed the challenging climb for charity in five hours 48 minutes earlier this month at the University's indoor climbing wall. Allcock must have climbed the 14m wall at least 232 times to succeed.

Aberystwyth stub out smoking

The University of Wales, Aberystwyth has proposed a ban on smoking inside university buildings, near windows and entrances. This would include halls of residence and bars. The university's Senate will decide before Christmas whether the restriction will be enforced. Smokers on campus have been left fuming by the plans.

Exeter CU threatens lawsuit

The Christian Union at the University of Exeter is threatening legal action against the student guild, after its bank account was frozen. The guild took action against the CU because their policy of forcing members to sign a declaration of “faith in Jesus Christ” contravened the guild's equal opportunities policy.

Universities solve sticky situation

Queen's University, Belfast and Manchester University have been awarded £500,000 by the Department of Trade and Industry to develop a method of removing gum from pavements. Using “super solvents” and natural enzymes developed at the universities, councils could save tens of thousands of pounds a year on steam cleaning.

Chester-Nash convicted of murder

»Former Cambridge resident jailed for stabbing woman to death and stealing sandwich
»“Had spent time” at New Hall and other colleges in 2003

JO TRIGG

Gary Chester-Nash, a notorious criminal in Cambridgeshire and Cornwall, was jailed on Wednesday for a minimum of 30 years for the murder of a Cornish cleaner in October of last year.

Homeless Chester-Nash, 28, who was barred from all Cambridge University property in May 2004, was found guilty of stabbing 59 year-old cleaner Jean Bowditch nine times in a property in Carbis Bay near St. Ives. The owner of the property, 80 year-old widow Catherine Alexander, found the body on her return from a shopping trip.

Truro Crown Court, where Chester-Nash was convicted, heard how he displayed “chilling arrogance” and believed himself to be beyond the law after leaving Mrs Bowditch to bleed to death. Chester-Nash had, apparently, originally entered the property with the intent of committing theft. He had been released from Pentonville Prison only one week earlier after serving a sentence for burglary.

Chester-Nash was Cambridgeshire Police’s chief suspect for a series of

drive-by stabbings in 2004 and was thought to have spent nights in New Hall in 2003. New Hall Senior Tutor Dr Owen Saxton told *Varsity* last year that “Cambridgeshire Police asked New Hall students in May 2004 to let them know if Chester-Nash was seen in the college, as they were investigating several incidents involving him”.

“He believed himself to be beyond the law”

He added that “He was known to have been in St John’s, Pembroke and Downing as well as New Hall”.

It has also been suggested that, when in Cambridge, Chester-Nash attempted to get a job at local nightclub Coco’s (now renamed the Soul Tree) in order to be in close proximity to female clubbers. But he was banned from every bar and club in the country

after 9pm as he was considered a “danger to women”.

After stabbing Mrs Bowditch on October 12 2005, Chester-Nash was arrested at Truro railway station on the same day after being found with blood on his shoes. But Chester-Nash told the court that a foreign squatter named Angel had admitted carrying out the attack to him. He attempted to explain the stains on his shoes by saying that he had lifted the wounded Mrs Bowditch and held a telephone to her mouth to try to prove that he was not the attacker. He also claimed that he had no knives on him, but did admit to two burglaries and the theft of a sandwich in Cornwall, for which he received a two-year sentence.

A shocked New Hall student expressed relief that “such a dangerous criminal has finally been convicted”. She told *Varsity* “It is unnerving to think that we had a murderer wandering up and down our corridors asking girls to go for a drink... but I’m glad that the college took the measures they did. We can now sleep in peace.” But a college porter who had caught Chester-Nash “snooping” wasn’t quite as satisfied. He claimed “he’ll



Varsity's coverage of the matter in October 2005

Real trainees, honest opinions *Get the truth about Eversheds*

‘As trainees ourselves we understand what it’s like to be contemplating a career in the law. With the help of our colleagues, we hope to answer your questions about what being a lawyer is all about. Visit the Eversheds website to see what we have to say.’

Tom and Adele
Trainees, Eversheds

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News Investigation

Dyslexia provision examined

REBECCA LESTER

An increasing number of students are being diagnosed with dyslexia either before they come to university or at some stage in their Tripos courses. But dyslexia remains a condition that is not fully understood by many. Ease of access to this support varies between colleges, and the University's Disability Resource Centre (DRC) lacks the resources to coordinate University-wide provision.

In the most recent statistics available, the total number of Cambridge students with dyslexia had risen from 185 to 209. This figure represents just over one per cent of a University population of eighteen thousand, compared to a national figure of five to ten per cent. But the DRC has had to cope with this increased demand for services without an equivalent increase in staff. "We do not have enough resources... the pressure to deliver is huge", said Judith Jesky, a DRC Disability Adviser.

Jesky stressed that "students who will eventually come to Cambridge are usually very able, capable and bright, therefore weaknesses are often not significant enough to mean that students are unable to gain A grades at A-level". But "the intensive eight-week terms at Cambridge often highlight weaknesses that previously go unnoticed".

Dyslexia falls within the umbrella term of Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLDs), which also include dyspraxia, dysgraphia and dyscalculia, and it is under this name that records at Cambridge are compiled. The Tripos allows for up to 25 per cent extra examination time for dyslexic, dysgraphic and dysorthographic students on submission of a report by a qualified psychologist and a form completed by the student. In 2005/2006, examiners were notified of 280 students reported as having SpLDs. The University's Board of Examinations does not, however, distinguish between the constituent difficulties.

Homerton Senior Tutor Peter Warner warned against over-simplification of the problem, telling *Varsity* that because "learning difficulties are so varied", the practice of "lumping them altogether under dyslexia is just not adequate". Homerton is one of the few colleges that explicitly states that they

provide specialist tuition for students with SpLDs; most colleges merely advise students to "Discuss your needs with your tutor". Dr Warner added "The problem is that solutions for Specific Learning Difficulties are also varied. Strategies for coping can be highly individual."

The University online undergraduate prospectus refers to ongoing support for dyslexic students including help with exam preparation and guidance, the use of specialist study skills and liaison with tutors and departmental staff on a case-by-case basis. Students experiencing difficulties are advised to first contact their tutor, who will then refer them to the DRC for an interview and Preliminary Diagnostic Assessment. In order to qualify for extra time in exams and to receive extra resources including laptops, software and recording equipment, students must undergo a Full Diagnostic Assessment with an accredited educational psychologist at a cost of £250. Students can apply through the Government-sponsored Access to Learning Fund to cover the cost of the psychological assessment, but the application process can be lengthy, and many students may receive no contri-

£250
cost of full
diagnostic
assessment

280
students
reported having
an SLD in 2006



ROSIE IBBOTSON

Dyslexic students can get up to 25 per cent extra time in exams

bution from the fund until after they have taken and paid for the test. At present, Magdalene is the only college that openly offers a full subsidy to cover the £250 assessment fee. Maz Kemple, JCR President at Magdalene, said "It's a very obvious thing for colleges to do. I thought that most colleges would have a similar procedure in place and I'm surprised they don't."

Although testing is centralised within the University and coordinated by the DRC, actual provision of equipment such as laptops and special software is organised through the LEA of the individual student. Even if a student has already been diagnosed with a SpLD, he or she must undergo an additional assessment to determine exact needs in terms of extra resources. Cambridge's own guidelines

for students with SpLDs highlight the possibilities for confusion in this process, stating that "This is not a linear process. You can enter at different points in the process and be at more than one stage at once."

Sue Flohr, a spokesperson for the British Dyslexia Association (BDA), told *Varsity* "I don't think people have the right conception of dyslexia. Employers still think it's just difficulty with reading and writing". The condition, defined in the BDA's handbook as "a combination of abilities and difficulties that affect the learning process in one or more of reading, writing and spelling" can affect an individual throughout their life. Common symptoms include the "presence of differences in the anatomy, organisation and functioning of the brain". There is also

a "tendency for the condition to be hereditary". Yet despite this, two very important elements of dyslexia are that it is "not at all related to levels of intellectual ability", and that "each individual's experience of the condition is different and unique."

CUSU Welfare Officer Sam Rose told *Varsity* "Our real problem is the variability between colleges. At the moment, we are trying to collect information from all the colleges, but stressed the importance of the need for students to contact CUSU if they are having problems with their departments due to learning difficulties."

www.bda-dyslexia.org.uk

Additional reporting by
John Walker

Anna*

is a graduate Veterinary Medicine student diagnosed with an SLD last year. "In a supervision last year my supervisor suggested that I may be dyslexic. I was quite upset about it at the time, but my college has been unbelievably supportive and my supervisors have been so patient. Sometimes I get the impression that when people find out I have extra time in exams that it gives me some kind of advantage, but it doesn't; it's there to put me up to the level I deserve to be."

Robert*

is a second year Theology student diagnosed with an SLD last year. "I think there's always the danger that people see you as a dyslexic rather than a normal person. I don't think people are fully aware of all learning difficulties, but that is not necessarily a problem. People are more aware that such things are genuine. I'm in the process of applying for a DSA [Disabled Student's Allowance] but they seem to be continually putting hurdles in the way—they don't just give you the money."

Elizabeth*

is a second year Natural Sciences student diagnosed with dyslexia in sixth form. "I wrote a letter to my Director of Studies before I came to Cambridge notifying her that I'm dyslexic. Since I've been here I've had no help, I receive money from the DSA for extra study sessions but I don't know how to organise them. I think colleges need to take responsibility and provide more support for dyslexic students. For those who come to the University knowing they have dyslexia, the provision for help is not as good."

*all names have been changed

Varsity Asks



So how much do you want to save the Sino Tap anyway?

- I'll be chained to the roof the day the developers come.
- My supervisor is proof-reading my letters of complaint.
- I might send an email, but the days of student activism are so gone, man.
- Burn the bloody place, I hate grotty student pubs anyway.



Vote online at varsity.co.uk



The rumour mill grinds on, peppering us all with intrigue, consternation and malice... Dispatches from the centre of Cambridge report that a certain musical long-haired lothario has taken to splicing his comedy routines into his bed-time dirty-talk. During a recent liaison with an ingenue of our acquaintance, he apparently gave a running commentary of every caress received and every barrier

breached, in a style not dissimilar to Alan Partridge. Although his tryst with said person sadly did not terminate in an orgasm (perhaps due to giggles), we at the Bishop wonder whether, in other circumstances, our leonine hero might have cried "Aha!" at the moment of climax, and quenched his thirst with a glass of Blue Nun. The challenge is there to any who might want to brave his advances in search of the (obviously comedic) truth.

Students also seem to be finding new and inventive ways to inject fun into their banal existences. One young plucker has found that taking his stress

out on punting tourists is a great help. Saving his finest, er, waste products in cling-film and waiting until the opportune moment, he flings them out of the window of his riverside room, not waiting to see the fatal package explode in the laps of the innocent tourists; who, with nowhere to go and no way of pointing the finger, simply have to acquiesce in their pungent fate and maybe have a little cry. As Norman Mailer might have said, Cambridge is just a way of raising everyone's suffering to a higher level...

Send your confessions to
thebishop@varsity.co.uk

Editorial

Email: editor@varsity.co.uk Tel: 01223 353422
11-12 Trumpington Street, Cambridge. CB2 1QA

Comment

Comment editor: Lowri Jenkins
Email: comment@varsity.co.uk

Varsity
Social Evolution

It is difficult to believe that 2006 might (almost) be over. Though there is a full month of festive mirth and merriment before the singing of Auld Lang Syne, we in Cambridge seem to do everything a bit early. Whenever we do it, and from whichever vantage point we choose to measure it, “looking back” is a strange phenomenon, and one not to be mistaken for atavism.

For there is nothing useful about doing something just because that’s the way it has always been. The furore over reforms to the Oxford University financial system this week concided with the debate over the new Pre-U exam, but to borrow Boris Johnson’s analogy, the “Darwinian struggle” has to result in survival of the fittest, not of the most established. We belong to an institution that has often been dubbed stubbornly conservative in its attitude to change. In reality this is not so; just because we still wear gowns to formal hall does not mean that we still shoot Scotsmen at dawn. We can still revel in our traditions (and for your formal of choice see our pull-out) without letting these hold us back. Though some old dogs will never learn new tricks, we do not have to join them in the pound.

Yet change for the sake of change can be just as damaging; perhaps there’s some wisdom in the old adage “fools rush in”. Failing to pause and appreciate the present can be as much a reason to stumble as too many glasses of champagne by the first stroke of midnight. Walking down King’s Parade this morning, perhaps the realisation may strike you how lucky we are, simply to watch the sun rise behind King’s Chapel, to sit in a library with access to every book in print, to meet friends for a drink at the end of the day. Perhaps if you are struggling to identify the landmarks in our Features quiz, you are missing the attention to detail that makes life all the richer. It is only through valuing the moment that we can look to the future with confidence, and make decisions about change and continuity. Otherwise we risk living in some imagined new year rather than a more real, and accessible, today.

The end of year review lists, the Arts and Features Quiz and the impending *Varsity* 100 might leave us singing the swan-song of 2006, but let’s not forget that the year’s not over til its over.

When your number’s up...

Next Friday sees a new event in our calendar: the Varsity-Mensa IQ test. What’s not to hate? An apparently elitist publication, in an apparently elitist institution, working with an apparently elitist organisation, to find an intellectual elite. The idea of sitting in a hall for two hours fills some with smug glee, whilst imbuing others with what is, at best, moral disgust and at worst a bitter defeatism. What kind of indulgent purpose is served by finding the highest IQ in Cambridge? If we are to look at it from a new angle, perhaps it is simply another way of learning about oneself. If we can see the process of ranking according to number as an objective, rather than a personal issue, then we can appreciate other people’s natural ability, whilst seeing our own from a new perspective. They say you can never truly know yourself, but knowing yourself a little better certainly helps. The editors only pause on this premise to wish fifteen numbered, light-blued boys the best of luck at Twickenham next month...

Varsity

The Independent Cambridge
Student Newspaper since 1947

Varsity has been Cambridge’s independent student newspaper since 1947, and distributes 10,000 free copies to every Cambridge college and ARU weekly. *Varsity* is proud to be the holder of numerous student media awards and a vast number of alumni now working in international media. *Varsity* also publishes *BlueSci* magazine, *The Mays*, and an online edition at www.varsity.co.uk.

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Design Jessi Baker and Jonny Ensall **Illustration** Beautiul Jules x, Tim Drake, Mary Bowers and Fiona Scoble **Production** Cassell Carter, Mike Yue Yin and Georgia Argus **Chief Photo Editor** Amica Dall *photoeditor@varsity.co.uk* **Photo Editors** Emily Wright and Alexandra Constantinides *photos@varsity.co.uk* **Business Manager** The Shain *business@varsity.co.uk* **Production and Chief Designer** King Derringer *production@varsity.co.uk* **Technical Director** Michael Derringer and Chris Wright *technical-director@varsity.co.uk* **Company Secretary** Patricia Dalby *secretary@varsity.co.uk* **Intern** Emily Partington
*some names have been changed out of pure and utter idle boredom

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Reuben
Bard-
Rosenberg

Brick in the wall
The unsolved problem of access

Whether we are flagellating ourselves over the under-representation of state school students, or whether instead Cambridge is being attacked from outside as a bastion of privilege, the discussion over access always seems absolutely centred on the University, in particular its admissions policies and public image. In a sense this seems logical. Yet the narrow focus on what Cambridge does and what it looks like distracts attention from some of the wider factors behind our misrepresentative intake.. Perhaps most importantly, the secondary school system and its role in reinforcing inequality of opportunity should form the centre of the discussion.

The front page of the CUSU website’s Access section refers to the “myths about applications and life at Cambridge” which stop many people from applying. The issue of attitudes towards applying here dominates the Access pages, and to some extent the work of the Campaign. This is undoubtedly important work. Myths do exist about Cambridge that definitely need to be broken down. Yet changing perceptions and attitudes is not alone sufficient. If somebody is unable to buy their way into a private school, then making them want to come here is useful, yet leaves us a million miles from a level playing field.

We may insist that coming here is both possible and desirable but the

organisation of secondary schooling leaves people with fundamentally different opportunities. Little needs to be said about the role played by private schools. The fact that parents shell out thousands of pounds reflects the head start given to pupils in small classes with abundant resources. Less discussed is the effect of selective schooling within the state sector.



ILLUSTRATION: FIONA SCOBLE

When I was 10 or 11 a significant minority of my classmates suddenly started receiving private tuition ,with the aim of getting them through the tests set by grammar schools. Through mechanisms such as these, people with money to throw into their kids’ education have the choice not only to enjoy private schooling, but also to get their kids into the most

prestigious state institutions.

The ability of both private schools and grammar schools to pick and choose their students in turn has the effect of skewing the intake of comprehensives. It is because such schools have the luxury of selection, that children with behavioural and educational problems are significantly over-represented in comprehensives. This is why it aggravates me when people simply declare comprehensives to be “awful”, as if the problems faced by schools such as mine are some uncontrollable act of God.

My worry is that Access seems to exonerate private and selective schools from the massive role they play in creating an uneven playing field. The image of comprehensive students being held back from applying simply due to attitudes towards the University, allows us to ignore the fact that such students are, in the broader view, offered a fundamentally unequal education.

While CUSU should continue its good work in encouraging applications, the Access Campaign should also take on a genuinely campaigning role. If it is committed to bringing about equal access, then it should publicly take a position on a secondary school system which renders that task virtually impossible This would provoke the ire of all those who have asserted that CUSU should be ‘non-political’. Yet in my opinion this issue demonstrates how problematic it is to draw a dichotomy between so-called ‘student’ matters on the one hand, and ‘politics’ on the other.



Catherine
Hall

Smells like Christmas spirit
The hell of yuletide commerce

Christmas is in the air. Ominous signs are appearing, from lights twinkling on Kings Parade, to the offers on mince pies in

Sainsbury’s. Tinsel has been entwining itself around shop windows for at least a month. And, (insert suitable horror music) with the slowly slithering tinsel comes the recruitment of retail staff.

Having worked in a Lush soap shop just off Oxford Circus in the run up to Christmas, I can safely say that Dante was wrong. There is no inferno in hell; there is soap. Smelly soap. Fire would be a blissful relief. He should have tried experiencing irate cash-strapped customers throwing you out of the way in their scramble to capture the last ‘Hula Hoolah’ giftbox in a manner highly reminiscent of a particularly frantic version of *Supermarket Sweep*.

Add *The Very Best of Twree: Abhorrent Christmas Carols On A Loop Designed To Drive You Mad*, a job stacking skidding bath bombs, and glitter in your mouth, eyes, ears and nose to the mix and you can see why I’m not such a fan of the festive season (insert your own Scrooge-esque rant against the commercial nature of this festive celebration here).

To be fair, there were some advantages to Lush. The 50%

staff discount didn’t hurt (guess what all my family and friends received that year), and believe me, you do get used to the smell after a while.

“Dante was wrong. There is no inferno in hell; there is soap”

Do not underestimate the fun that can be had getting the Tube in the rush hour on the way home from work when smelling of a delightful combination of jasmine, patchouli oil, lavender, and ginger, and being covered from head to toe in glitter. Simply lean gently against the nearest Armani-clad businessman, shake your hair and watch as a scattering of glitter coats him, whilst the perfumed stench infiltrates his clothing. Then imagine his explanation to the wife that evening. The thought never ceases to amuse me.

Nevertheless, I would advise anyone against working in the retail sector in the run up to

Christmas. The pay is rubbish, the hours are long and the customers unfailingly rude, snotty and denigrating. Apparently the moment I donned my oh-so-sexy apron, my IQ fell by a hundred points. Customers felt the need to enlighten me on how difficult their lives were, as they shelled out £300 on...soap. (Insert another rant against commercial spending here if you want).

My finest moment came when asked in a highly-patronising manner by an over-fed, over-dressed and over-accented City git which ‘college or polytechnic’ I attended. It’s surprising what the mention of an offer from a top British university can do to alter others’ perception of you.

So will I be working in retail this year? Screaming with the emphasis usually reserved for addressing a grinning two-year-old holding a hairdryer above your bath: NO! I shall be doing all my Christmas shopping online from the safety of my nice office computer, being paid for the pleasure. Take it from me, offices are employment Utopia. Whatever Dante may have you believe, Hell truly hath no fury like a carrier-bag laden Sloane being informed at 7pm on 23rd December that the next delivery of ‘Honey I Washed The Kids’ soap will be on the 28th December. Happy shopping!



ILLUSTRATION: TIM DRAKE

**Mike
Kiely**

Our slice of American Pie

Has British culture bitten off more than it can chew?

You never know what your history is going to be like until long after you're gone. No, that is not a misprint, mistake or even an example of a declining standard in student journalism. It is what the world knows, rather wearily, as a "Bushism"; a painfully comic line from the President that we all love to hate, the democratically-elected head of the superpower that knowingly dominates Western culture. In his sheepish manner, however, Bush alludes to an historical truism: the future will judge us for how we are acting now - by living in the American shadow, we all exhibit a narrow-mindedness that is both wasteful and dangerous. It is time for us to look further, culturally as well as politically, and open up to a wider world demanding our attention.

Tracing a definably "British" identity has become an increasingly troublesome occupation for politicians and commentators alike. Grandiose initiatives like "Cool Britannia" are certainly symbolic of this, but so too is the average student who trudges down to lectures in drooping Levi's and hooded, idly checking their phone as they chew some gum and listen to 50 Cent on their walkman. Even the "what-ho"

bubble of Cambridge is under the American influence. For all its cobbled streets replete with twee little tearooms, bookish dons who have not seen a TV since before the war and theatres that show "classic" drama, not even Cambridge speech can escape Americanisms. We must have all noticed that rising inflection towards the end of our sentences. How can anyone quickly forget "this one time, at Band Camp..."?

Without one sinking into either a eulogistic vein recalling Bush's uninformed patriotism, or just another wet-blanket liberal encomium, America has been seen as a force for a freedom that so much of the world still craves. The spread of its cultural symbols has increased as its stock as a world power has risen, and in general these dynamic mediums have edified, rather than corroded, our cultural variety. Modern life would be a whole lot sadder without Microsoft and Apple, jeans and T-Shirts, Friends and The Simpsons. Homer nearly makes up for the other dumb American male that routinely graces our screens.

Yet, under the overwhelming influence that America has over every other potential source of cultural influence in our lives, a gap is opening between our narrowly Western perception of the world and actual global realities that are

undergoing continual change. The Iraqi "disaster" Tony Blair referred to in his interview with al-Jazeera has profoundly undermined the model of American military and political supremacy in the Middle East and beyond. New powers such as China and India are rising economically, simultaneously asserting a new confidence in traditions that have lain dormant under the pressure of what Benjamin Barber pointedly termed "McWorld".

"Tracing a definably 'British' identity has become an increasingly troublesome occupation"

This cultural impact is being felt in Britain. Chicken Tikka Masala has long been our national dish and now to see the label "Made in U.S.A.", let alone its quaint British cousin, is something of a rarity on any manufactured product. Yet it

feels more like an undercurrent: a phenomenon that we choose to ignore as the checkout attendant swipes our card. Those Levi's may have been made (or even designed) in Thailand, but we still buy them with a desire to conform to a definitively American notion of "cool". As Asian countries rise in global influence, we are retrenching into an exclusive cultural sphere, divided from the radical otherness that surrounds it. It is this elitism, furthermore, that foments the growing distrust now radiating towards apparent Western hypocrisy from the Middle East and beyond.

A globalised world should mean more than just an Americanised one. In Britain, the homogeneity of our material possessions seem to embody a more profound obsession with our neighbour across the Atlantic that serves to undermine our own sense of identity whilst, more importantly, alienating us from learning different and perhaps better modes of thinking and living. Wearing a sari or learning Mandarin are not just visible symbols of an inclusive mode of thought, they are actions that invite us to embrace a culture divergent from our own, to learn a little more about our common humanity. In this new century, it is simply not enough to dream of "Californication". There is a wider world, exciting as well as troubling, that requires another look.

Ethics Girl

A Green Christmas



Initially, my proposed questions for Varsity's Christmas Quiz began: "How many people die annually from human induced climate change?" and "What percentage of Africa's population live below the poverty line?" That sounds really fun.

Luckily, Will came to the rescue. "The dinner party's finished: there are lots of dirty dishes. Which uses less electricity: (a) a dishwasher on economy cycle or (b) washing the dishes by hand?"

The answer, unexpectedly, is (a). Green as I am, I was surprised. But this just goes to show: solutions to problems - on whatever scale - should never be taken for granted. The little things really can make a difference.

According to Friends of the Earth's new Green Christmas Guide 248,000 trees could be saved if Britons recycled, rather than threw away, the estimated 744m Christmas cards sent annually. Another 50,000 could be saved if the 83 square kms of wrapping paper thrown away in the year 2005 was recycled in 2006.

Why does this matter? Waste requires landfill or incineration: environmental hazards. Moreover, trees absorb CO₂, helping combat climate change. Only last week a new report estimated that melting ice has resulted in a 22 per cent decrease in the number of polar bears surviving their first year.

It's difficult to square Western lifestyles with those in countries battling with AIDS pandemics, civil war, natural disasters, famine and other catastrophes. Christmas, inextricably connected with purchase and abundance, only highlights the disparities between rich and poor.

This makes it easy to feel that we cannot make a difference on a big scale. But imagine if everyone did their bit. FoE's guide already shows the huge number of trees that could be saved. So, I'm setting myself some goals this year. Here are a few to try that didn't make FoE's list.

Don't flush too often: as well as saving water, Auntie Mabel will never (ever) come over for mince pies again.

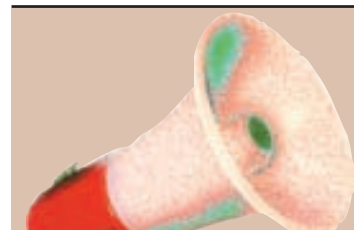
Alternatively, wrap yourself in recycled newspaper with a sign saying "I'm yours". That way you reduce manufactured clutter and provide your boy/girlfriend with the best present (s)he's ever received. (Do not do this in the family home. You will seriously confuse your grandmother should she wander into your bedroom thinking it's the kitchen. It's been known.)

Get outside and try egg throwing (like "catch" but with eggs) instead of watching the Queen's speech. Just think of the electricity saved if everyone did that. It's really something when the thought that you might get yolk all over your face is more exciting than listening to the monarch address her nation.

Finally, have that dinner party Will was on about: just remember that, actually, the answer is neither (a) nor (b). True green ones would have opted for (c): get your guests to lick the plates before they leave.

Have a lovely Christmas.

Tess Riley



Right to reply

Do you have something to say?

email comment@varsity.co.uk



» Message from Milan



Nischa Pieris

Milan's metro is one of the places to observe the city's obsession with image. It is a city where it is never too early in the day or late in the season to wear black, where there is no such thing as fake fur, where it is not considered ridiculous to wear sunglasses after sunset or on the metro because it usually means you're hungover, one of the many ways of proving that you are cool in a place where it is social suicide to stay in for more than one night in a row. As a passive observer, I of course initially found these protocols absurd, until one morning last week I went to work still drunk, and preferring to feel preposterous and unprincipled rather than have a blonde in a power suit look at me in disgust for having puffy eyes, I kept my oversize shades on when I got on at my stop and can assure you I would have provoked more looks with them off.

In a city where the 'model-mortal' proportion is high, many are seen floating about the city, towering over the rest of us. A German model I met who lived in London told me how she hated the superficiality that Milan oozed. 'In London' she complained, 'you could walk about wearing a potato sack and nobody would bat an eyelid'. This may seem rather exaggerated, but comparatively true. Walk down the streets of Milan, and just one strand of hair out of place is enough to get looks of disapproval.

While they spend thousands on beautifying themselves and their homes, the rich Milanese seem all but reluctant to give anything towards cleaning up their city. Urban development is painfully slow, from construction workers improving the pavements so they are 'temporarily' out of action, to the 'temporary' canvas sheet over the Duomo's Gothic façade that has been there for two years now. In Milan, 'temporariness' seems to be ironically, a constant state, and a regular excuse for the general dysfunction of things.

Consumerism can be seen at it's rawest in the richer shopping districts in central Milan. I took a stroll down one of these districts and came across a lifestyle shop that dedicated its window display to washing machines. I have no need whatsoever for one, but I just stopped and gazed at this display as if it were a spiritual revelation. Only the Milanese, I thought to myself, have the capacity to make a washing machine look sexy.

»Letter of the week

“After hours of royal blue torture at ADC clubnights, I finally lost it and attacked with scissors, needle and thread”

Dear Sir,

I very much enjoyed Jamie Munk's article last week about the horrors of stash. Having been involved in the-atre since my first term here I was always staunchly proud of my 'no stash' policy, and spent many a happy self-congratulatory hour as they only person in an auditorium not to look like they worked in a holiday camp. This was until I joined the ADC committee, and stash became a job requirement rather than an option.

After hours of royal blue torture at ADC Clubnights I finally lost it and attacked with scissors, needle and thread. What emerged was my first 'stash-dress', and a realisation that stash could be fun.

It seems that I am by no means alone in this view; I sat cheering the Closer cast earlier this term as they ripped and slashed their t-shirts creating different necklines and styles, and if you catch a glimpse of anyone involved with The Bald Prima Donna

in the first two sections of the exam. In fact, being able to produce the past historic is not on the A-level, or even the AEA, syllabus - all that is required is recognition.

I understand that this article is also about the gap between A level and the first year of Tripos, and thus does not entirely blame the students or teachers for their ignorance, but nevertheless I think you have seriously misrepresented the difficulty of what you asked your candidates to do.

And as for the gap between A level and Tripos - does it exist because the A level is inappropriate or because Tripos is not keeping up with the times?

I can only speculate on this, as I am a Classicist, but from my memories of A level French, it was rarely "recreational" as Professor Ford says. GCSE certainly was, but A level focused on news reports (both written and spoken), articles, and other serious pieces. To do well at A level,

wandering around town this week then be sure to cast a few admiring glances in the direction of their glitter glue emblazoned hats.

Much as I mock the constant stream of ill fitting and bizarrely coloured hoodies that are paraded around the university, at least they give me something to read in lectures, and offend me considerably less than school leavers hoodies or college scarves. As such I am tempted to see stash as a challenge rather than lost

students need to be able to discuss, by speaking or writing, a range of serious current issues. I am completely in favour of reinstating the literature side of things, because I think it is a valuable aspect of any language, but do not believe that the French which most French-speaking people use every day should be a "spin-off".

Katherine McDonald
Pembroke College

Dear Sir,

I read with great interest the Features Front on Climate Change in last week's issue. It is an area I feel very strongly about, and George Monbiot's contribution in particular left me with plenty to think about.

I agree that the individualisation of modern society leads us all to become 'Apathy Boys', reinforcing our lack of activity by our autonomous cultural positions. However it really pisses me off when energy-saving matters

cause, and who knows, maybe one day I'll even design some myself.

Bethan Bide
New Hall
ADC Designers Rep

Tell *Varsity* what's on your mind - each week, the best letter will win a specially selected bottle of wine from our friends at Cambridge Wine Merchants, King's Parade



of common sense are overlooked by the supposedly gifted and intellectual students of Cambridge.

How much effort does it take to turn off a light bulb? Or shut the window when the radiator's on? These actions are not globally-motivated, effort-requiring demonstrations or misguided campaigns: they are functionally obvious and both economical-ly and ecologically benevolent.

So what's our fucking problem? Maybe to change the world we don't need bombastic Live Aid extravaganzas, or tree-killing flier upon flier from Greenpeace: we need a little self-respect. Honour your own rational capabilities and you'll find that those tiny things like switching off the lights make more of a difference than Apathy Boy thinks.

Yours sincerely,

Lowri Jenkins
Fitzwilliam College

Cambridge Crisis: answers to your problems

»“Will our relationship survive outside the Cambridge Bubble?”

Dear Varsity,

I met my boyfriend at Cambridge, and being a first year, I am concerned about how our relationship will survive when we have broken out of the Cambridge Bubble over the long Christmas break.

He lives in Scotland and I am far away in Devon, and I don't realis-

tically think that I will be able to see him over the holidays, due to work and seeing family. I know we will be able to keep in touch via phone and internet, but it still seems a really long time. We've been together since Freshers' Week and we've got really close very quickly. Our friendship group is the same, and I'm scared if we did split up, I would lose all my

friends as well as my boyfriend.

I really like him, but I'm not sure how well we will cope going from seeing each other every day to having a long-term relationship for six weeks. I'm also worried he might meet someone at home, or having time away from our relationship might change his mind about how he feels about me. I

really don't want to lose him; its making me dread the end of term and going home!

I've tried talking to him about it, but he just seems to think everything will be fine, and it's not too long a break. Am I worrying too much?

Rachel

You in turn must resist the efforts of your worried parents to tempt you from your romantic reveries with dumplings and cream, and do your best to ignore their anguished confessions to friends that their daughter has fallen in with someone from Beyond Exeter.

Survive this and you will know that your relationship was built to last. If, on the other hand, McDarcy reverts to a life of revelry and Hogmanay excess, and worse still his phone is switched permanently to messages, you can count yourself lucky that you found out before it was too late.

Dr David Summers
Department of Genetics

Dear Rachel,

I know. You're worried and you're looking for support, but I'm not going to give you any. You're a first year and you don't know anything. But I do. Listen to my knowledge.

The seeds of doubt have already

settled in your head. Allow me to fertilise them.

You know what it's like between you and your boyfriend better than I can tell from the CCTV camera I put in your room last night. You wouldn't be thinking so strongly about your boyfriend leaving you over the holidays if you didn't know in your hearty heart of hearts that he's not really interested.

Oh sure, he says it'll be fine – but that's just his way of saying he's already shagging someone else, the bastard. If you couldn't see any problems you wouldn't have written to me and my agony pals. Therefore there are problems. Big ones. Like, it's not going to be okay. It's going to be agony.

You've got this endearing comedy couple thing going with the Devon and Scottish accents, sure, but that's not going to tide you over the dangerous Christmas holidays. New Year's Day? Dump the Devon Girl Day, more like. You know I'm right. I always am.

Chin up,

Tom Kingsley
Cambridge Footlights

Dear Rachel,

If minced pies, mulled wine and carol singers at the door aren't

enough to replace that glowing feeling inside you get having your boyfriend around or enough to warm you up on those cold winter nights, you're just going to have to make the effort and pay him a visit.

Devon to Dundee might seem long-distance compared with that midnight stroll across the old courts to his stair, but it's hardly transatlantic. If the phone and the internet just can't compete with seeing him in person, put your work aside, book that budget flight to Scotland and celebrate Hogmanay under the stars together.

You said you were worried about him meeting someone new back home, but if you've managed to get through the frantic first eight weeks of your time at Cambridge together, while you're both meeting new people and getting involved in University life, a few weeks at home in the highlands should be a breeze. If anything, the Christmas break is the perfect time to take stock of the good things in life, and appreciate what you have.

Just don't forget the popular adage can be true, 'absence makes the heart grow fonder'

Mark Jobson
Captain, Cambridge Mixed Lacrosse Team



ILLUSTRATION: JULES HUNT

Games



Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

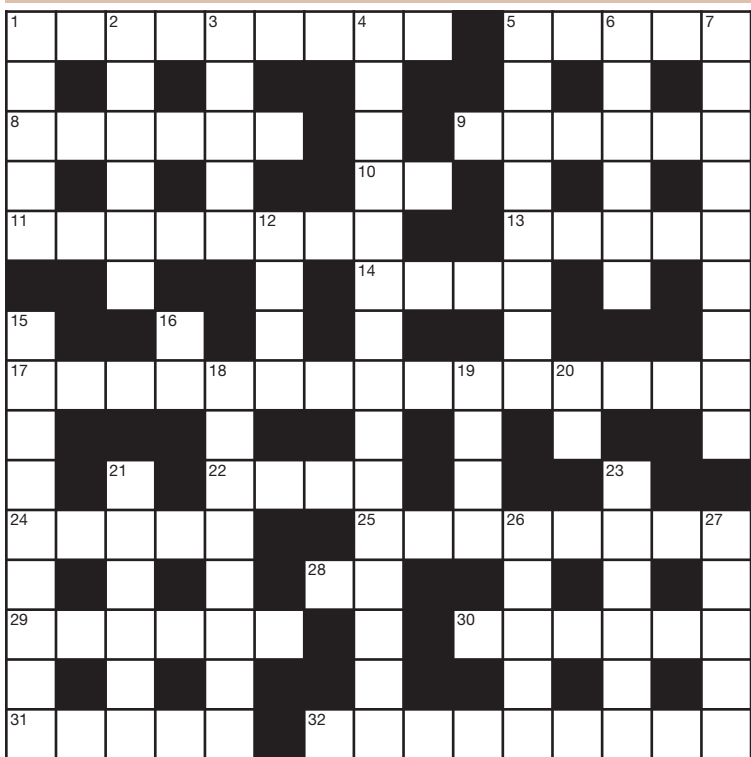
- 1.Supports rate getting rid of character (9)
- 5.Stage support in Maori's error: (5)
- 8.Cry, cripple with New Testament. (6)
- 9.Synchronicity within stairs. (2,4)
- 10.Slow heart with exclamation (2)
- 11.A brute will shortly emit a topic for study (8)
- 13.Headless seer – that is creepy. (5)
- 14.Spoon - turn it round, initially? (4)
- 17.Wild elation accompanies boat's trimmer (7,8)
- 22.Frisbee, for example, is in direct current (4)
- 24.Man with front of bicycle was elsewhere (5)
- 25.Dream ruined after UN Hospital is fine (8)
- 28.Be conjugated in the morning (2)
- 29.Freezer one church will fight (6)
- 30.Unoccupied, I leave via hypocrisy. (6)
- 31.Cool two hot drinks, inside? No! (5)

- 32.Valuable lice tumble into news. (9)

DOWN

- 1.Degree by which stripped Elsa's makes model material. (5)
- 2.Hundred back research facility - my ride, for example (6)
- 3.Oddly, ship nigh everything with scorch. (5)
- 4.Unruffled at vegetable temperature (4,2,1,8)
- 5.Bean, raised, earns consolation prize (6-2)
- 6.Test with anger at comedy (6)
- 7.Volunteer, with evil inside, returns to refill (9)
- 12.Time I became small (4)
- 15.“No, tear it!” I crazily repeat. (9)
- 16.Fashionable waste receptacle rejects note. (2)
- 18.Car and Conservative - sound related? (8)
- 19.Turner without work gives you a measure of things. (4)
- 20.Italian flower is in stump over hill. (2)
- 21.Deprive saint after jumping into pool (6)
- 23.Stab demon beer (6)
- 26.Open to brotherly love (5)
- 27.Fruits are an integral part of history (5)

Varsity crossword no. 459



Corrections and clarifications

»Varsity's ever-popular cryptic crossword was unfortunately unsolvable last week, since it had been printed with the clues from crossword no.457. Disappointed readers can rest assured that this no.459 is printed, in full, below.

»The mysterious identity of Apathy Lad can now be revealed. Varsity wishes to apologise to George Grist for failing to credit him for his excellent column.

It is Varsity's policy to amend all significant errors as soon as possible in the digital edition on varsity.co.uk and in the archives. Please email any errors to corrections@varsity.co.uk noting the issue and page number(s). Or telephone the business manager on 01223 337575 between 9:30am and 5pm Monday to Friday.



»Exclusive bedroom podcast from Cambridge band The October Game

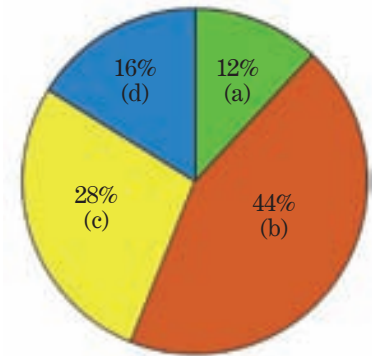
»Know someone with talent? Upload your nominations for the Varsity 100

»The editors blog from abroad

Varsity asks: Poll Results

We asked: So how much do you cost your college any-way?

- a)The Bursar has my bank details on the wall.
- b) I have a marvellous collection of formal hall china.
- c) Last winter we were forced to burn the furniture.
- d) The Master still owes me that tenner from last year.



Go to varsity.co.uk for games solution and to vote in our poll

Features & Arts

Friday November 24th 2006 | Issue 648



Quiz Time

Features

» Science, News, Ethics, and Fashion in the Features quiz

P 14-15

Interview

» A lovely day out spent with *Guardian* columnist Jon Ronson

P 17

Arts

» Music, Visual Arts, Classical and Theatre in the Arts quiz

P 18-19

Reviews

» *Varsity* picks its top ten albums of 2006

P 21

Features Front

With a little bit more time on your hands towards the end of term, why not have a go at the *Varsity* Christmas quiz? Nearly a 100 questions on current affairs, lifestyle and culture. Answers on page 24

The News Quiz

Set by Joe Gosden

1. What is the name of the Indian Prime Minister?

- a) Mahmoud Singh
- b) Manmohan Singh
- c) Michael Singh

2. CUSU's "premier" new club night, Crowd Control, shut down after how many people allegedly attended?

- a) 4
- b) 40
- c) 400

3. How many students has *Varsity* reported as having ridden the Jesus horse this term?

- a) 2
- b) 3
- c) 4

4. What percentage of Cambridge students admitted to writing their essays using Wikipedia?

- a) 26%
- b) 52%
- c) 81%

5. In her annual address, V.C Alison Richard promised to:

- a) Turn Newnham into a convent
- b) Prioritise undergraduate teaching
- c) Introduce an undergraduate course in Synthetic Biology

6. What was the attendance of KCSU's anti top-up fees demonstration?

- a) 16 protesters, 15 pigeons and Luke Pickering
- b) 40 protesters, 2 bikes and a CUSU banner
- c) 22 Japanese tourists, Lianna Wood and a small tortoise named Sam

7. A selection of male drinking societies posed in a fashion shoot for which U.S. magazine?

- a) *Playboy*
- b) *Vice*
- c) *Gay Times*



The Ethical Quiz

Set by Tess Riley

1. Select which statement George Bush has *not* (yet...) said:

- a) "I just want you to know that, when we talk about war, we're really talking about peace." – Washington, D.C., June 18, 2002
- b) "Do you have blacks, too?" – to Brazilian President Fernando Cardoso, Washington, D.C., Nov. 8, 2001
- c) "I thank God every day for the invention of dictatorship." – during a Dec. 2002 Oval Office meeting with Rep. Tom Lantos

2. Baby Australian Crab Spiders eat what when they are born?

- a) Their mothers
- b) Their siblings
- c) Tofu

3. What are scientists warning might increase in Britain in the next 50 years as the climate warms?

- a) Numbers of Scorpions
- b) Numbers of Sharks
- c) Instances of West Nile Virus

4. Ruminating cattle (on beef and dairy farms) are among the highest generators of:

- a) Carbon dioxide
- b) Methane
- c) Nitrous oxide

5. It's the world's second most used metal; it can be recycled over and over again without any loss in quality; it does not rust when exposed to water or the atmosphere. What is it?

- a) Aluminium
- b) Iron
- c) Steel

6. Which of the following are currently being used to generate electricity?

- a) Chicken and pig excrement
- b) Chicken and human excrement
- c) Chicken, pig and human excrement

7. You're mowing your lawn. To ensure you're producing the least amount of greenhouse gas emissions, what should you do with the grass clippings?

- a) Take your clippings to a landfill site
- b) Don't use a catcher when mowing and allow the clippings to scatter over the lawn
- c) Mix the clippings with the compost heap in your garden

8. What colour is a polar bear's skin?

- a) White
- b) Brown
- c) Black



PHOTOS BY EMILY WRIGHT AND ALEX CONSTANTINIDES

1



2



3



The Science Quiz

Set by Udayan Bhattacharya

1. Which Cambridge don is also the present Astronomer Royal?

a) Martin Ryle
b) Martin Rees
c) Arnold Wolfendale
2. Which creature's eye is bigger than its brain?

a) Shark
b) Squid
c) Ostrich
3. What is the most common solid tissue transplanted throughout the world?

a) Bone marrow
b) Cornea
c) Skin
4. Besides the Richter scale, what else is the intensity of earthquakes measured in?

a) Mercalli Scale
b) Mulliken Scale
c) Allred-Rochow scale
5. Menkes Syndrome is the deficiency of which mineral?

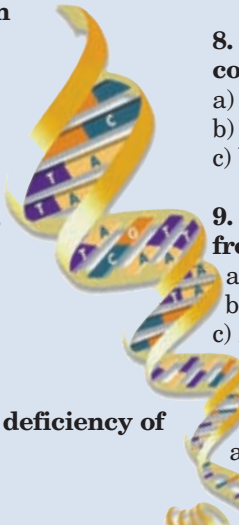
a) Magnesium
b) Sodium
c) Copper
6. Actinology is the study of what?

a) Insects
b) Tropical diseases
c) Effect of light on Chemicals
7. How many sides does a tetrakaidekahedron have?

a) 14
b) 24
c) 40
8. What is Pantoheric acid more commonly known as?

a) Vitamin B5
b) Bile
c) Urea
9. If you stretched out your entire DNA from just one cell, how long would it be?

a) 2 millimetres
b) 2 centimetres
c) 2 metres
10. Which planet could, theoretically, float in water?

a) Mercury
b) Mars
c) Saturn
- 

The Fashion Quiz

Set by Rosanna Falconer and Olivia Johnson

1. Which of these female pop stars has *not* established her own clothing line?

a) Beyoncé
b) Gwen Stefani
c) Britney Spears
2. Which fashion house created the Birkin bag, as famous for its four year waiting list as its high price?

a) Chloe
b) Chanel
c) Hermes
3. Which of the following is *not* a type of heel?

a) platform
b) needle
c) cigarette
4. Which model notoriously said, "I don't get out of bed for less than \$10,000 a day"?

a) Christy Turlington
b) Linda Evangelista
c) Naomi Campbell
5. How many years old is British Vogue this month?

a) 75
b) 80
c) 90
6. Which of the following is *not* a cult designer bag?

a) The Chelsea
b) The Paddington
c) The Kelly
7. Who famously fell out of her towering Vivienne Westwood heels on the catwalk?

a) Cindy Crawford
b) Gisele Bundchen
c) Naomi Campbell
8. Which famous fashion guru was educated at Cambridge?

a) Lisa Armstrong
b) Harriet Quick
c) Suzy Menkes
- 

The Food & Drink Quiz

Set by Katie Craig

1. Which of the following is *not* a type of British cheese?

a) Cornish Yarg
b) Stinking Bishop
c) Basingstoke Blue
2. Which of the following is a process used in the making of wine?

a) Maceration
b) Micturition
c) Hydropathy
3. If I ordered a Mint Julep, what would I be drinking?

a) An Iced Tea
b) A Cocktail
c) A Liqueur
4. Which of these is *not* a variety of pasta?

a) Farfalle
b) Finestra
c) Fettuccine
5. "Kloß" is a type of German...

a) Sausage
b) Potato Dumpling
c) Wheat Beer
6. Who were the first people to drink chocolate?

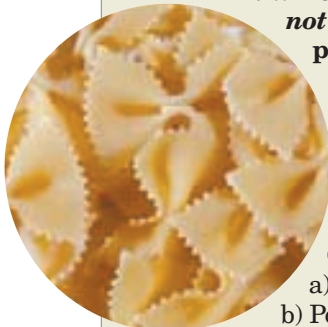
a) The Aztecs
b) The Anasazi
c) The Chacoans
7. Who founded the McDonald's chain?

a) Chuck McDonald
b) Ronald McDonald
c) Ray Croc
8. Which of the following Indian Restaurants does *not* exist in Cambridge?

a) Curry Garden
b) Curry Lord
c) Curry Queen
9. "Mince Pies" is Cockney rhyming slang for...

a) Eyes
b) Thighs
c) Lies
10. If I asked for a portion of "Criadillas" in a Spanish restaurant what would I get?

a) Broiled chorizo
b) Tomato Soup with sheep's tongue
c) Bull's testicles



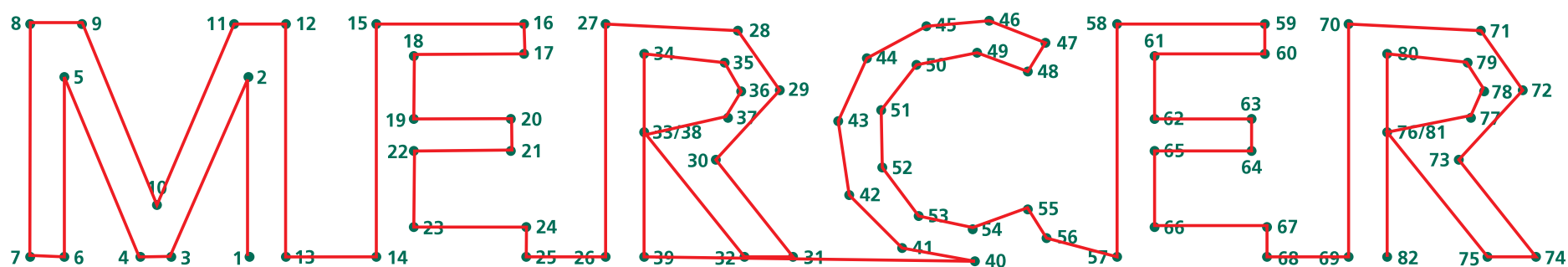
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5

Picture Round

Think you know Cambridge? Look closely at these five images and see if you can work out what they are and where they are in the city



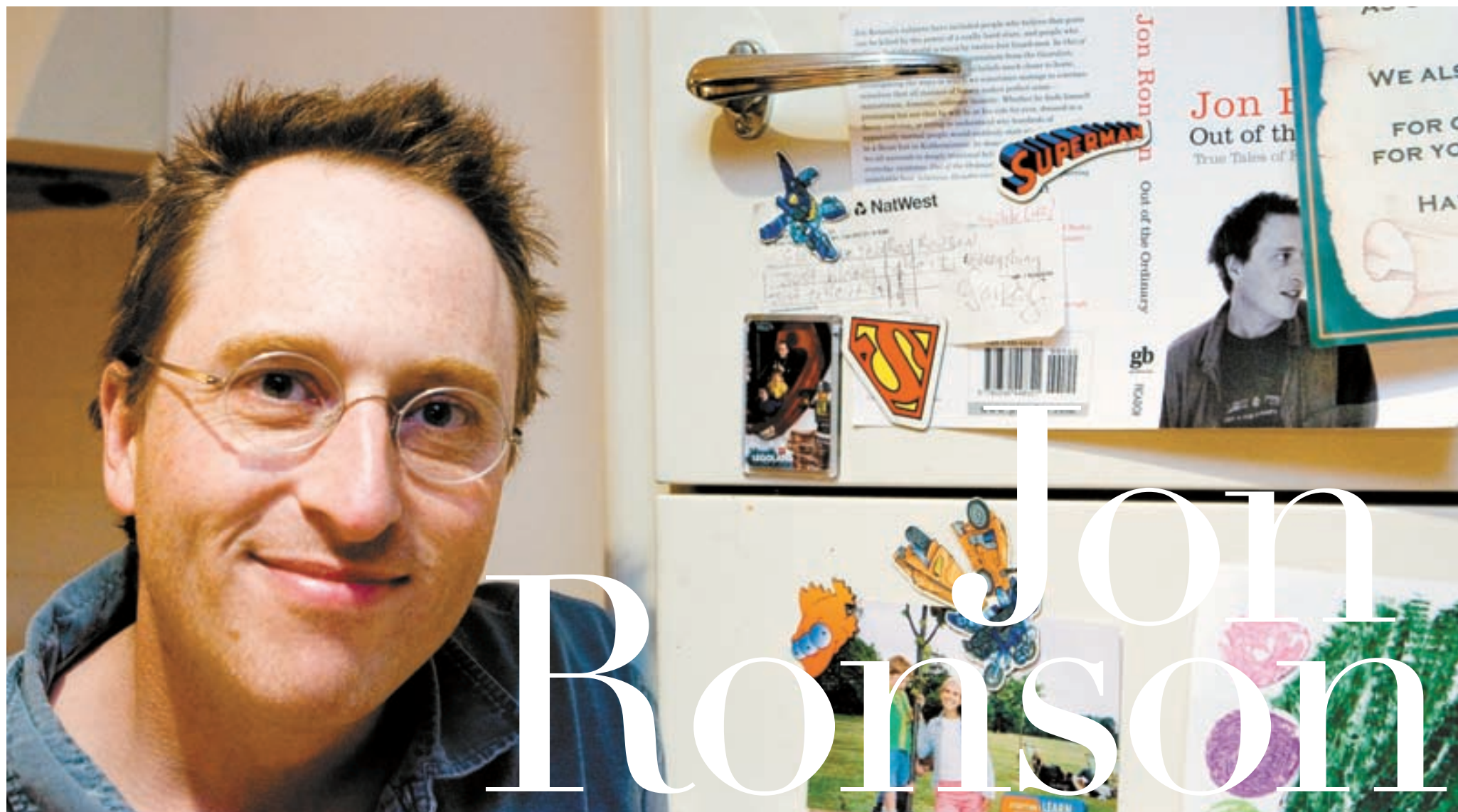


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Interview



Mary Bowers meets up with the author, film-maker and *Guardian* columnist **Jon Ronson** for a cup a tea and a walk in the park

Standing outside Jon Ronson's front door, nerves suddenly gripe. Like many other readers of his weekly *Guardian* column I subconsciously feel I know him, his long-suffering wife Elaine, and eight-year-old son Joel. I feel fully qualified to speak about his opinions on good parenting, climate change, or any other topic. But now, I'm not so sure. I begin to fear that Jon Ronson, the thirty-something Jewish columnist, writer and documentary film-maker, might be only a figment of the imagination, and the man beyond the welcome mat might be a balding, stubbly middle-aged bachelor, living in a basement in Islington with pot-noodle wrappers, a computer and its grimy keyboard. When my cautious door-knocking is repaid with a cheery "coming!", and I am led into a basement kitchen with teapot, stove, and Joel's colourful scribbles pinned up to the fridge, relief suddenly descends. This, thank goodness, is the Jon Ronson I know. "I was a bit worried when I saw this one," Ronson muses, staring at a huge black scribble that looks like some kind of maniacal black eyeball, "but then, I was told it was a record...of course." There is a cheque there too, made out to his wife for "£everything – Just bloody take it – take it all! The whole lot".

Sitting down in front of teapot and dictaphone seems strange: for Ronson, the journalistic shoe is normally on the other foot. He has questioned the US military on a secret policy that required one hundred goats to be deprived of their bleat

and kept with their legs in plaster in a hanger in North Carolina. He has been chased across Portugal by "shadowy henchmen" with David Icke, a man who believes the world to be run by a panel of shape-shifting lizards. He interviewed Jonathan King during his trial for six child-offence charges, investigated the "Jesus Christians" who donate their kidneys to strangers on the internet and quizzed Major Charles Ingram on those famously well-timed fits of coughing on

» She's really sweet...unfortunately she's also a neo-Nazi.. I've always thought that if I wasn't married, and Rachel didn't believe that Jews were mud people, maybe just maybe, you know..."

"Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"

Yet what sets Ronson apart from the Louis Theroux school of humorous investigative journalism is his constant attempts to humanise the inhuman, to open up the strangest minds and find out how they are wired. In *Them: Adventures with Extremists*, he explains "I thought that perhaps an interesting

way of looking at the world would be to move into theirs and stand alongside them while they glared back at us." That process includes driving Islamic extremist Omar Bakri to Office World to do some photocopying (and worrying whether this counts as aiding his Jihad), and exchanging e-mails and Christmas cards with Jonathan King from Pentonville Prison. He's interested, he says, in "the human dynamic". He takes himself out of his own mindset and takes on theirs. Being in Piccadilly Circus with Bakri and his followers was "like I'd never been there before... its about seeing the world through their eyes and seeing it as just as warped and nuts and irrational as we see them." Behind the small, slightly hunched figure picking the wood from his own kitchen table is a man with an innate desire to do precisely what journalists are accused of not doing: of empathising tirelessly with his subjects until he understands their actions. "With Jonathan King its 'here's a man crumbling and what does that feel like'" he explains, "and with Bakri 'here's someone who lives amongst us and is trying to destroy us by collecting for Hamas in big Cola Cola bottles.'"

Sometimes he is able to laugh at the extent of his empathy. He mentions Rachel, the daughter of Randy Weaver, an ex-Green Beret in the US Special Forces who, believing he was being chased by the government, moved his family (and his gun collection) to a log cabin hideout atop a mountain in Idaho. "I liked her a lot. She's really sweet..."

unfortunately she's a neo-Nazi. I've always thought that if I wasn't married, and Rachel didn't believe that Jews were mud-people just maybe, you know..." he giggles, then sighs and shakes his head. "But it is not to be."

We take a walk through London and Ronson stares around him with bug-eyed curiosity. This is his natural enthusiasm for the world, the excitement that turns every moment into a wonder. He marvels at a pattern of coloured plastic cups squeezed into a fence spelling a tag name; he wants road humps back in Islington – and plans to make a personal lobby for them. He wants to know what its like to go to Cambridge, to be an ex-Evangelical Christian, and what I want to do after I leave. I am beginning to wonder whether Ronson's patience and enthusiasm might be believable or banal. Then, right on cue, we are forced backwards to avoid a white van swerving around the corner. "Can't he fucking signal?" he shouts, waving his umbrella, and then reminds us both that he meant to write that strongly-worded letter to the Council.

Jon Ronson will be appearing in Cambridge to give a talk and sign copies of his new book, Out of the Ordinary: True Tales of Everyday Craziness on Thursday 30th November at 7pm at Borders, Market Square. For more information call 01223 306188.

The Music Quiz

Set by Katy Wells and Freya Johnson-Ross

1. Ex Guns 'n' Roses headcase Axl Rose has been working on his solo album for nigh on ten years. What is it titled?
a) Chinese Democracy
b) Chinese Takeaway
c) Chinese New Year

2. Before she became an indie-pop starlet, Long Blondes lead singer Kate Jackson worked where?
a) A record store
b) A clothes boutique
c) A meat market

3. Which band were accused in the *Daily Mail* of encouraging teenagers to join "dangerous cults"?
a) Panic at the Disco!
b) My Chemical Romance
c) Westlife

4. Which album won the 2001 Mercury Music Prize?
a) PJ Harvey – Stories from The City, Stories from the Sea
b) Ms. Dynamite – A Little Deeper
c) Badly Drawn Boy – The Hour of Bewilderbeast

5. Of whom did mouthy popstar Lily Allen say, "he's obviously convinced he is God or something"?
a) Robbie Williams
b) Pete Doherty
c) Carl Barat

6. Which just-the-right-side-of-mental popstar is married to video artist Matthew Barney?
a) Bjork
b) Amy Winehouse
c) Fergie from the Black-Eyed Peas

7. What was the name of Elton John's first spouse?
a) Renate Blauel
b) Trudi Stimmer
c) Brigitte Holz

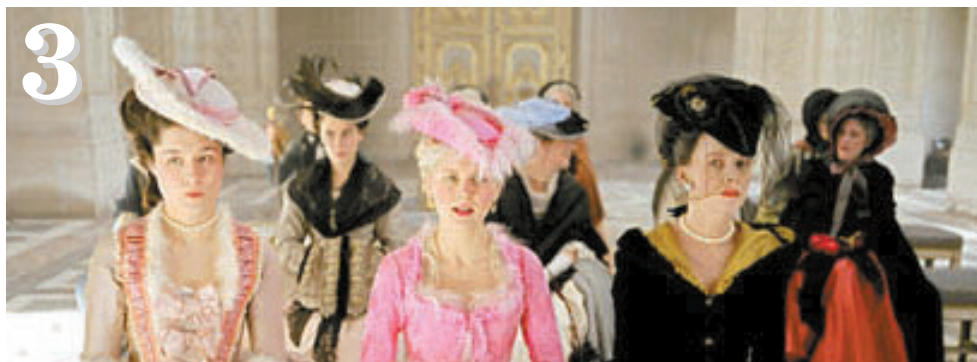
8. Which European city is home to Morrissey?
a) Rome
b) Lisbon
c) Cardiff

9. Beck is a member of which celebrity-endorsed church?
a) Kabbalah
b) Scientology
c) Russian Orthodox



Picture Round

Identify each of these five films, all big hits from 2006



The Theatre Quiz

Set by Catherine Spencer

1. How many of Shakespeare's works will have been performed by the end of the RSC's "Complete Works" festival?

2. Which recent west-end hit, an adaptation of the 1980s film, was pooh-poohed by one stuffy male critic as "soft porn for girls"?

3. Name the wunderkind actor causing a stir by indulging in some naked frolicking – with a horse – for a Peter Schaffer production next month?

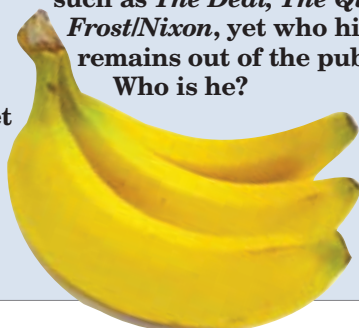
4. Which of Virginia Woolf's novels is currently, and somewhat surprisingly, being staged at the National Theatre?

5. Tickets for this Ballet were described as being "like gold dust" – but whose music was causing all the fuss at the Royal Opera House?

6. Often cited as the only modern dramatist to rival Shakespeare in greatness, but with the added cachet of more bananas, he would have celebrated his centenary this year. Who?

7. '___' and '___'; those two tricksters in the play staged at both the National and the ADC this autumn? Their names and the play?

8. He's one of the most prolific writers at the moment, who portrays public figures in his docudramas such as *The Deal*, *The Queen* and *Frost/Nixon*, yet who himself remains out of the public eye. Who is he?



The Literature Quiz

Set by Hermione Buckland-Hoby

1. Which literary lady was voted one of the world's best-dressed in this month's *Vogue*?
a) Zadie Smith
b) Germaine Greer
c) Carol Ann Duffy

2. Keira Knightley is set to star in the big screen adaptation of which novel?
a) *An Outrageous Affair* by Penny Vincenzi
b) *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy
c) *Atonement* by Ian McEwan

3. How did dystopia don, J. G. Ballard, make his literary debut?
a) With a sonnet cycle in *The Mays*
b) With a short story in *Varsity*
c) With a pompous letter to *The Times*

4. Name that old queen of a poet whose portrait hangs in Pembroke hall?
a) Ted Hughes
b) Edmund Spenser
c) Philip Sidney

5. Whose "auto" biography is said to be penned by *Guardian* fashion journalist, Hadley Freeman?
a.) Victoria Beckham
b.) Cheryl Tweedy
c.) Peaches Geldoff

6. Who wrote that there is a new England where "chicken tikka masala has replaced fish and chips as the No. 1 take-out dinner."
a) Brian Sewell
b) Kiran Desai
c) Salman Rushdie

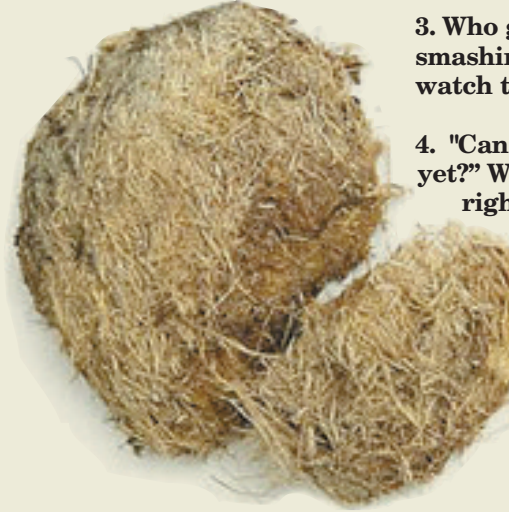
7. According to a fictitious global poll, what is the greatest work of fiction ever?
a) *Riders* by Jilly Cooper
b) *Finnegans Wake* by James Joyce
c) Hard to say really...



The Visual Arts Quiz

Set by Jonny Yarker

1. Which lucky man won a "shed" load of money at the Tate back in January?



2. Whose "False Start" cost someone a cool, and record-breaking, \$80 million?

3. Who got Nick-ed for a smashing Chinese? Clue: watch those shoelaces.

4. "Can you see what it is yet?" Which Sheila got a right royal make over?

5. What a load of shit: who got crap from the charity commission for buying crap?

One quiz isn't enough so here's even more fun for you. And, this time it's cultural. Answers on page 24

The Classical Quiz

Set by James Drinkwater

1. Whose *Oceanic Symphony* elicited the Shavian quip that it merited its epithet only "in respect of not being fresh, and of being drenchingly copious"?

2. What is the name of Lucifer's female adversary in Arthur Sullivan's (enthusiastically-received) 1886 oratorio, *The Golden Legend*?

3. Which composer was once attacked one his way home one night by a student for "having maligned his bassoon"?

4. How would you play a "tromba marina"?

5. Which "bad boy of music" composed the *Ballet Mechanique* (1924) for forces



FORMAL HALL REVIEW 2006



ILLUSTRATION BY JULES HUNT

Martha & Mathilda muse on the ethos, history and execution of the classic formal

The breezy, after-hours glow of formal is a rarity to be sampled every night at Cambridge – do not neglect it, for where else can you digest the notable niceties of wine and multiple courses under the benevolent gaze of the Puritan fathers? Portraiture by the old, artistic Masters, and ample port flowing from the cellars of the new, college Masters – what more could one ask but the long oaken tables and crystalline ring of silverware against glass? This rite of passage is the single most important thing that you can bring out to impress your relatives at any time of the year (not just Christmas), and if you ever decide to become a representative of Scudamore’s, the more florid and arcane your formal hall knowledge, the more tips you will definitely garner.

This said however, do not be unware of the dangers inherent in the Formal Hall. Societies stalk the tables, pockets stuffed with the gold sovereigns commonly used for pennyng. The formal wine (c. £2.95/bottle) is sadly often far from fine, and metal poisoning can perhaps be considered symptomatic of the large copper constituent of an acerbic merlot. Furthermore, unless your gown is made of little knitted penny pockets – which they are at Emmanuel, a college that incidentally invented the “penny” when Christopher Wren accidentally dropped a gold sovereign in a delicate white, thus reversing years of alchemy and ushering in a new age of scepticism – or you have fitted yourself with some form of formal fanny-pack, you are weaponless and must prepare for inebriation forthwith. Incidentally, a college survey revealed that Caius have the fanciest gowns, sporting a lovely royal blue, with a velvet trim. They are, however, murder on the laundry bills. Transparent gowns are available from all good retailers; they do look rather like cagoules, but on the plus side, they have a giant picture of King’s above the

embarrassingly americanized “Cambridge-U” typeface, and on the back a lion rampant with the head of Edward the Confessor. Cambridge formal penny-packs come in a shade of light blue, with two unicorns leonine, holding the coat and arms of Queen Victoria.

» Everybody slides off chairs and benches into a contented state of fed, drunk, and about to climb the college landmark

The typical formal consists of a plush hall, dim to bright lighting, and a troupe of glittering undergrads, which soon degenerates into a mass of breadcrumbs and lost napkins. If you are on a swap you will probably alternate boy/girl, but, more notably, the most interesting people will

either be absent, or if they are there, you’ll be suspiciously separate from them.

Formals are not about social interaction with strangers. They are about songs. Everyone likes a charming college-themed song, especially at Christmas. The choir doesn’t count – if the choir do sing, it is usually in the college books that every true college member must drown them out in an approximation of Handel’s Messiah, set to words such as: name of college, college animal, porter, pass the porter, boat, and famously, latin phrase. After several courses – and if there are candles, burnt hair and a lightly roasted sleeve – everybody slides off chairs and benches into a contented state of fed, drunk, and about to climb the college landmark. Incidentally, the cupola of St. Paul’s originated in the after-dinner banter (in antiquity there were no mints) of Sir Christopher Wren and a couple of undergrad architects, following the accidental mid-dinner razing of London to the ground, in turn following a particularly bad spate of metal poisoning. And then the age of scepticism. In any case, be prepared.

CHRIST'S 43/60

At £4.70, Christ's formal is relatively cheap, with a lively traditional atmosphere. Charles Darwin is among the many portraits twinkling down on surprisingly good food. A long suffering statue of Milton is kissed on birthdays, but the raucousness only officially starts after the fellows leave the hall for cheese. **Elie Yoo**

Starter:	6/10	Atmosphere:	8/10
Main:	7/10	Service:	8/10
Dessert:	7/10	Value:	7/10

CHURCHILL 18/60

Buffet Service, a salad killed with vinegar, a main course that it was not possible to finish, a dessert worthy of a motorway service station; Churchill failed to fulfil any of the normal expectations of a formal hall. Our necessary trip to a well known kebab van afterwards was better value, had better service and provided considerably better company. Churchill: dine there at your peril. **Joe Gosden and Jamie Munk**

Starter:	4/10	Atmosphere:	5/10
Main:	2/10	Service:	2/10
Dessert:	3/10	Value:	2/10

CLARE 37/60

Clare Friday formal is a welcome opportunity for pasty grads to get out. Highlights this week included a large group of vodka-drinking Russians and the now weekly feature of a lavishly camp-sounding dessert: this time, ta-dah! "Spoonmata!" The night ended as always; in the MCR bar, drowning in whisky. **Claire Humphrey**

Starter:	5/10	Atmosphere:	7/10
Main:	7/10	Service:	8/10
Dessert:	2/10	Value:	8/10

CLARE HALL 55/60

Intimate atmosphere, fine dining, free flowing complimentary wine, cheese course, intellectual cultured conversation about fine art, opera, ballet and exhibitions. Not one for the drinking societies, but wonderfully Cantabrigian! **Catherine Hall**

Starter:	10/10	Atmosphere:	10/10
Main:	9/10	Service:	9/10
Dessert:	8/10	Value:	9/10

CORPUS 48/60

An excellent formal. The rich carrot soup delighted all on a cold winter's eve and was complemented by the pork and roast potatoes that followed. Fast, cheerful service and a jovial atmosphere furnished a generally pleasing ambience that represented outstanding value on the £7.30 investment. **Mike Kielty**

Starter:	8/10	Atmosphere:	8/10
Main:	9/10	Service:	8/10
Dessert:	6/10	Value:	9/10

DARWIN 40/60

Nothing particularly fancy but not bad at all – food is not “adventurous” but done well. They can be a bit militant with clothing. Blasé about gowns but turn up without a tie at your peril; wear jeans and you'll be lucky if you get to eat. Candlelit with receptions before and after. Solid. Like a Volvo. **Oli Robinson**

Starter:	5/10	Atmosphere:	7/10
Main:	8/10	Service:	6/10
Dessert:	6/10	Value:	8/10

DOWNING 45/60

If it is a formal meal that you're after, Downing is your place. Going to the loo or arriving late during the meal is strictly forbidden and can result in a formal ban. The candlelit atmosphere and food are, however, excellent. Tender racks of lamb, fresh bread rolls, delicious chocolate mousse and fun dinner banter. Downing: a formal of great food and company. **Jossie Clayton**

Starter:	7/10	Atmosphere:	8/10
Main:	7/10	Service:	9/10
Dessert:	8/10	Value:	6/10

EMMA 36/60

It wasn't clear if the meat was beef or lamb, but it was very tough. The people at the end of the table weren't too generous with the portions of vegetables which left me irritatingly shortchanged. Climbing over a bench to sit down and then being squashed between two people was another negative. **Cassell Carter**

Starter:	8/10	Atmosphere:	5/10
Main:	4/10	Service:	5/10
Dessert:	7/10	Value:	7/10

FITZ 44/60

Crinkle cut carrots make me angry. Cheap alternatives to real flavours borne of "cooking" makes me angry. Feeling that Fitz cooking staff do know what a nice meal should consist of, but haven't the ingredients or funding to put it into action, makes me livid. Dessert, however: consistently delicious. **Jack Dentith**

Starter:	6/10	Atmosphere:	8/10
Main:	6/10	Service:	9/10
Dessert:	8/10	Value:	7/10

GIRTON 36/60

The main course was a mixed bag, the duck being nice 'n' greasy but accompanied by a placenta... sorry, polenta that squirmed when moved and reminded me of human flesh. The creme brûlée for dessert seemed to be the same stuff, but tasted a lot better. Brilliant setting for a formal, though. **Calum Aikman**

Starter:	7/10	Atmosphere:	8/10
Main:	4/10	Service:	8/10
Dessert:	7/10	Value:	2/10



MICHAEL DERRINGER

CAIUS 34/60

To start with, I were presented with a bowl of warm salty water masquerading as vegetable broth, which was fortunately soon replaced by a butterflied chicken fillet with garden herbs, crispy jacket potato wedges, buttered sweetcorn and mixed salad. Then a sherry trifle, which I, feeling full, passed on to Stephen Hawking. **Jessica King**

Starter:	6/10	Atmosphere:	7/10
Main:	6/10	Service:	5/10
Dessert:	3/10	Value:	7/10

HOMERTON 42/60

Homerton's formals are themed, but menus go out weeks in advance. Lively atmosphere, and the service was good. Quite expensive, but includes wine, and the portions are big. As gowns aren't worn, people make an effort to dress up, making it a special night of the week. **Cassell Carter**

Starter:	6/10	Atmosphere:	8/10
Main:	7/10	Service:	7/10
Dessert:	7/10	Value:	6/10

HUGHES HALL 49/60

Formal at Hughes is pricey, but I wasn't complaining. The creamy spiced mushrooms starter and chocolate and raspberry torte were of top restaurant level. The marinated turkey steak main was a little disappointing, but Hughes Hall regulars seemed equally unimpressed indicating higher standards normally. **Adam Edelshain**

Starter:	9/10	Atmosphere:	8/10
Main:	7/10	Service:	8/10
Dessert:	9/10	Value:	8/10

JESUS 48/60

A suspicious-looking first course was followed by much better fare in the second and third (with a more than adequate vegetarian option). An intimate atmosphere was fostered within the impressive setting of the hall. The evening stayed just on the right side of riotous, and was enjoyed by all. **Helen Fry**

Starter:	6/10	Atmosphere:	10/10
Main:	8/10	Service:	8/10
Dessert:	9/10	Value:	7/10

KING'S 52/60

The King's formal is like no other, in that there is no official dress code, no Latin prayers, and no silly rituals for the fellows. You are not only allowed to get up, but mingling is positively encouraged between tables. Due to the absence of the “penny-gestapo” present in other colleges, raucous drunkenness is a common feature by the time coffee is served. **Larry Hench**

Starter:	8/10	Atmosphere:	10/10
Main:	9/10	Service:	9/10
Dessert:	8/10	Value:	8/10

LUCY CAV 39/60

Lucy formals are usually fairly sedate and always quite informal and friendly affairs. For the many live-out students it's a rare opportunity to socialise in college. Vegetarians and other special diets are well catered-for, though as ever there are complaints about small portion sizes. At £7.93 for junior members it's good value. **Carol Atack**

Starter:	6/10	Atmosphere:	5/10
Main:	6/10	Service:	7/10
Dessert:	7/10	Value:	8/10

MAGDALENE 38/60

Three courses and silver service for £3.75 isn't bad, but when two courses are poor the value's questionable (still, the tap water was nice). Legendary kitchen king Gary Love's crusade against pennyning was particularly impressive: candlelight was lovely, but so dark I could barely see my food, let alone pennies **Elie Yoo**

Starter:	5/10	Atmosphere:	8/10
Main:	7/10	Service:	7/10
Dessert:	3/10	Value:	8/10

NEW HALL 42/60

Great atmosphere, lots of drunken groups of both men and women in the scenic surroundings of the dome. Great starter, vegetarian main course a disappointment, but special note should go to the gingerbread Pudsey bears and ice cream for dessert. **Catherine Hall**

Starter:	7/10	Atmosphere:	7/10
Main:	6/10	Service:	8/10
Dessert:	8/10	Value:	6/10

NEWNHAM 28/60

Despite scintillating company, the food was a bit grim. The hall itself looked a bit like a school canteen, and the mandatory half a bottle of wine each was preposterous. But I managed to share a gag with a porter after he neglected to punish some ridiculously drunken exploits, so there were some enjoyable bits. **Ben Reekes**

Starter:	3/10	Atmosphere:	3/10
Main:	6/10	Service:	9/10
Dessert:	4/10	Value:	3/10

PEMBROKE 51/60

Pembroke can boast fairly delicious architecture and an impressive menu of beef with capriciously cubed potatoes and a starter rather daringly involving butter-nut squash. All this to the backdrop of candlelight and banter of a charming, nay, delightful, quality. Somewhat curious pennyning and no-one ate the brussel sprouts, but nonetheless, chin chin! **Guy Staggs**

Starter:	6/10	Atmosphere:	8/10
Main:	9/10	Service:	10/10
Dessert:	8/10	Value:	10/10

PETERHOUSE 44/60

An effervescent atmosphere (with afros and dubious beards galore) was worth the modest asking price of £4.85 on its own. The excellent mackerel starter was followed by enjoyable, if somewhat more run-of-the-mill, dishes. The service was slow, but considering it was a week night, Peterhouse had much to recommend it. **Mike Kielty**

Starter:	9/10	Atmosphere:	9/10
Main:	6/10	Service:	5/10
Dessert:	7/10	Value:	8/10

QUEEN'S 44/60

Queens' formal is wisely organised on the assumption that by the time you hit pudding you are too sauced to notice. The food definitely got progressively worse, but the service was delightful and the hall scrubs up nice. They put on a good show and I was even asked to read Grace, which is nice. An excellent evening. **Bea Hunter**

Starter:	9/10	Atmosphere:	7/10
Main:	7/10	Service:	8/10
Dessert:	5/10	Value:	8/10

ROBINSON 44/60

Starter was a lovely and gooey risotto, followed by chicken wrapped in prosciutto, which was enjoyable but forgettable, with a rustic bread-and-butter pudding to finish. A tastefully reserved atmosphere was undermined slightly by the ugliness of the building. Pricey but better value than any restaurant. **David Brown**

Starter:	9/10	Atmosphere:	7/10
Main:	7/10	Service:	8/10
Dessert:	6/10	Value:	7/10

SELWYN 51/60

Conducted by candlelight in the wood-panelled hall, formal at Selwyn is a silver service yet relaxed and genial affair. Deliciously gooey baked camembert, followed by rich beef bourguignon made fine winter fare. A cute peach melba rounded off a great meal. **Rachel Cooper**

Starter:	9/10	Atmosphere:	9/10
Main:	8/10	Service:	9/10
Dessert:	7/10	Value:	9/10



SIDNEY47/60

ST EDMUND'S40/60

TRINITY39/60

WOLFSON35/60

Sidney hall is small enough to feel cosy without feeling oppressive and, being fairly full, the atmosphere was lively the night I attended formal. I was impressed by the printed menu cards, warm rolls and the selection of good wine on offer from the college. Service was fairly slow but unintrusive and the food was nicely presented and of good quality. **Jo Trigg**

Starter:	8/10	Atmosphere:	8/10
Main:	7/10	Service:	7/10
Dessert:	9/10	Value:	8/10

The pre-formal drinks established a fun mood for the evening and later the vibrant ambiance emanating from every table served as confirmation of this. Whilst the first and second course were uninspiring, the apple crumble was outstanding and had everyone digging into the large, steaming bowls for more. The wine was superb. **Sarah Wilkinson**

Starter:	5/10	Atmosphere:	8/10
Main:	5/10	Service:	7/10
Dessert:	9/10	Value:	6/10

The first course, pâté and garnish, was rather successful in truth. Second course, fish pie was precarious at the bone-less of times and the ice cream and chocolate sauce to finish was entertaining if unambitious. Despite the charming company and the grandiose architecture, the food and general dinginess were somewhat disappointing. **Monty Stagg**

Starter:	8/10	Atmosphere:	8/10
Main:	5/10	Service:	5/10
Dessert:	6/10	Value:	7/10

The formal cost £15.10. Although this included a glass of “champagne” on arrival, and some other complimentary alcohol, it still seemed overpriced, especially as the food wasn't worth the extra cost. The Kings and Wolfson Football teams were the only diners under the age of 50 but the service was very friendly. **Kirsty Dootson**

Starter:	9/10	Atmosphere:	4/10
Main:	7/10	Service:	8/10
Dessert:	5/10	Value:	2/10

ST CATZ34/60

So the food was crap – fishy soufflé and strange meat I didn't rate too highly – but the liberal attitude to penning and the inclusion of a cheese course went some way to making up for it. Catz hall is a nice setting for an evening meal, and though some felt it a little extortionate at £7.50 a head, a great night was had by all. **George Grist**

Starter:	4/10	Atmosphere:	8/10
Main:	4/10	Service:	9/10
Dessert:	6/10	Value:	3/10

ST JOHN'S37/60

As one of the cheapest formals in Cambridge, John's is certainly the college to visit if you're feeling skint. You get what you pay for with reasonably basic, slightly ropery fare, but the beautiful hall and friendly waiter service make up for this. Definitely worth a try. **Emma Inkester**

Starter:	6/10	Atmosphere:	6/10
Main:	3/10	Service:	7/10
Dessert:	7/10	Value:	8/10

TRINITY HALL30/60

The restrained classicism of the candlelit hall promised much, but sadly neither the food nor the cauliflower-spilt-in-lap service delivered on this. The combination of camembert fritters (no matter how tasty) with over-peppered steak and greasy-spoon mushrooms, followed by ridiculously rich mocha pots, left us feeling more than a little bit queasy. **Jane Reeback**

Starter:	7/10	Atmosphere:	6/10
Main:	4/10	Service:	6/10
Dessert:	3/10	Value:	4/10



MICHAEL DERRINGER

THE RANKING

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- CLARE HALL
- KING'S
- PEMBROKE
- SELWYN
- HUGHES HALL
- CORPUS CHRISTI
- JESUS
- SIDNEY SUSSEX
- DOWNING
- QUEEN'S
- ROBINSON
- PETERHOUSE
- FITZWILLIAM
- CHRIST'S
- HOMERTON
- NEW HALL
- DARWIN
- ST EDMUNDS
- LUCY CAVENDISH
- TRINITY
- MAGDALENE
- CLARE
- ST JOHN'S
- GIRTON
- EMMANUEL
- WOLFSON
- GONVILLE & CAIUS
- ST CATHERINE'S
- TRINITY HALL
- NEWNHAM
- CHURCHILL

Catherine Hall offers an extended review of Varsity's best formal in Cambridge: Clare Hall

From the complimentary drinks reception before dinner to the free lift home, Clare Hall formal was an example of all things wonderfully Cantabrigian. We arrived at Clare Hall and were swiftly escorted to a reception area with a wide range of newspapers for our perusal, from *Le Monde* to *The Times*, before being greeted by our hostess for the evening, Clare Hall bursar Joanna Womack. Complimentary drinks and introductions to a range of fellows and graduates followed, and we were treated to some pre-dinner chat including a short history of the college, its projects and its ethos. The sound of a musical gong (no common or garden banging of gongs here, this was a full on symphony!) summoned us to dinner.

The formal hall was conducted in an intimate atmosphere, with approximately fifty diners at tables of ten people, lit by candlelight and without the stigma of a top table. Graduates, fellows and guests were mixed to provide varied and scintillating conversation, and dinner topics included politics, fine art (Russia's possession of Impressionist art featured prominently), opera, exhibitions and galleries.

The food was delicious, with a selection of gourmet breads, smoked salmon and cheese mousse for starter, and guinea fowl with a selection of honey-glazed vegetables for main. Service was swift and with a smile, free wine flowed from carafes on the tables and the dessert of “Eton Mess” (meringue, cream and fruits), was followed by an impressively varied cheese course.

Every effort was made to entertain us, from the selection of fruit teas on offer to non-coffee drinkers, to the generously stocked fruit baskets in the lounge we retired to after the meal, to the introductions to interesting people with anecdotes about Cambridge in the 1940s. A truly delightful evening, and we were even driven home.

Varsity discusses the success of the Clare Hall formal with bursar Joanna Womack

What makes Clare Hall formal so special?
We only have one formal hall each week. We have no hierarchy so everyone eats together – emeritus and honorary fellows, visitors, students, all enjoying good food and good conversation. We use fresh ingredients and cook everything on the day. We have a very international community so the menus reflect our interest in food from different parts of the world. This week we have an Italian meal for example. Two weeks ago we had German Week. Variety is the spice of life!

How do you organise the Clare Hall kitchen?
There are just two chefs and the work is shared out. They have worked together for many years with their kitchen assistants so no time is wasted. There is a real team spirit. The Kitchen is open-plan and everyone knows what to do without any argument or discussion.

How do you cope with the problem of serving high quality food to large numbers of people?
The kitchen is close to the dining hall. Quality control is essential. We also rely on very good waitresses, who work well with the chefs. We know that timing is really important.

How about maintaining food standards over time?
Two years ago Clare Hall outsourced its catering to Baxterstorey Limited, who also run the catering for Cambridge University Press and provide very high quality food for many other professional and commercial organisations. It helps to have the support of a larger catering company, which has big purchasing power and which is able to bring in extra staff for special occasions.

The Varsity ranking for Cambridge formals is worked out as the total of six scoring criteria. In the event of a tied total, we favoured the formal hall given a higher score for the main course. If still tied, we then favoured atmosphere, then value.

Reviews

VIEW FROM THE GODS



**Catherine Spencer
& Moya Sarner**

Out with the old, in with the new: in Cambridge terms it's practically time to be turning over a new leaf, but if theatre is making any resolutions for 2007, it should keep in mind what will soon be last year's news. The ADC has treated us to what has been its greatest line up in a long time, fully justifying its place at the centre of operations, and proving that it isn't just a place to go get bladdered. Turns out it does really good drama to go with the G&Ts. A refined Shakespeare kicked things off, for once not tarting things up too much (although Spencer Hughes' topless fencing as Orsino has not passed unremarked) followed by a trio of incredibly tight, well-acted productions. Together *Closer*, *Blasted* and *The Alchemist* have set a new benchmark for the creative standard of mainshows. Rumours abound that Osh Jones's *Blasted* was so effective, audience members passed out and vomited – that's got to be pretty hard to top. Special praise to those shows with weighty reputations that demonstrated there can be life in an old dog – Rob Icke's *Alchemist* made believable the scholarly trope that Shakespeare's contemporaries preferred Jonson to him. This freshness even found its way into the ADC musical, with *See What I Wanna See* taking rape, murder and incest as its subject matter ("See What I Don't Wanna See", as one audience member quipped.) From some serious drama, on to some seriously funny comedy and then back to serious again. But still funny, the *Grow Up* kids really gave us something to laugh about, with well-written sketches brilliantly performed against a backdrop of technological mastery. Whilst not every sketch of this term's Smokers got a laugh, those by the Footlights committee were consistently first-rate. The real treat from Luke Roberts however was his first "straight play", *1, 2, 3, 4, (5)*, featuring the most shocking onstage moment this god has seen in her life – and there's been a lot of rape around, so that's saying something. Particular praise goes to Rory Mullarkey, who was both endearing and repugnant in his "straight acting" shoes – more of this please – as he fed the tragicomic seeds sewn in the triumph that was *The American Dream* at the playroom. Finally, to the king of tragicomedy, Beckett, whose banana-tastic *Krapp's Last Tape* was a One Night Stand nobody would regret. Could we, perhaps, in one term, have had it all – genuinely excellent new writing, a bit of experimentation, sublime farce and extreme tragedy?

King Lear Pembroke New Cellars

★★★★

King Lear is, using Kent's words, "cheerless, dark, and deadly" to any director. It is impossibly hard to stage: how do you perform a mental breakdown in a thunder storm or someone having their eyes plucked out without descending into melodrama? Overall however, in the face of these difficulties, director Alex Dawson and his cast have done a good job. I admit that I have always imagined *King Lear* to be set in an huge and echoing hall so it was a shock to watch the play in such an intimate setting as the New Cellars. This meant that the action was decidedly more exciting close up, as swords came dangerously close to your nose, and some front seat audience members were virtually splattered with Gloucester's blood. Acoustically though, it did not help Spencer Hughes deliver the animalistic

roars of Lear when, for example, he evokes the elements in the storm scene. Nevertheless his portrayal of Lear was

» Some front seat audience members were virtually splattered with Gloucester's blood

strong and tireless. I felt he escalated too quickly in the opening scenes of the play and some important lines were lost in delivery, yet he gathered strength as the play progressed, climaxing in the final moments which were simply beautiful. Vivienne Storry and Stephanie Bain as

Goneril and Regan were superb with their perfected curled lips and serpent-like delivery. Also impressive was Jamie Everest as the Fool, whose tireless energy kept the pace going. I had hoped that Edmund would be more Richard III in his blatant and savage seduction, but nevertheless Alex Bluett provided a sound interpretation of the role which made a good contrast to Ade O'Brien's Edgar. There are a lot of difficulties in staging a play with such a huge cast in a small and intimate area. Unfortunately the acoustics tend to swallow the noise rather than project it, but despite this Alex Dawson and his cast are to be commended for a production that is gripping, moving and most importantly (and literally) bloody fun.

Bel Trew

Faust ADC

★★★★

In the ADC/ Footlights pantomime, hell is a place where leather-clad demons sing and dance, where torture is listening to gap-year stories and where men are women – despite their best efforts to prove otherwise. The audience is thrown into the pantomime spirit with the cringe-worthy jokes coming thick and fast from the word go. The enthusiasm of the entire cast is so infectious and palpable that the audience soon finds itself laughing and joining in.

The script, written by Henry Eliot, Luke Roberts and Tom Sharpe, wholeheartedly fulfils the requirements of a pantomime, with, as the narrator says at one point, plenty of opportunity for "obeying simple instructions given by actors". The writing does also, however, provide witty and intelligent dialogue for the talented cast and this pantomime thankfully resists the temptation to sink to the lowest possible denominator.

Each actor clearly enjoys being on stage, none more so than Tom Williams, whose cloaked Satan prowls around the stage as the epitome of a panto villain. Although Fongphu Tran's Mrs Topeles steals the show with her (or his) amazing gravity-defying costume, "Corný" Cornelius (played by a wonderfully droll Alastair Roberts) supplies much of the more subtle humour in this production, with his character providing many of the laughs. Faust and his friend Robin, played by Anna O'Grady and Helen Cripps, provide a classic double act, which is complimented by the play's narrator – the Mouth of Hell (literally) who, oddly enough, has a strong resemblance to Oscar the Grouch.

There are too many well-expressed jokes to list here, as Eliot, Roberts

and Sharpe strike a carefully judged balance between classic pantomime moments and more original comedy. James Gilder and Tom Sharpe's music keeps the action moving while contributing to the panto atmosphere with eminently crafted and memorable scores, "Hell, Hello, Welcome to Hell" being a particular high point of the show. All the elements of the production: costume, set and sound, work together to create a startling vision of hell and the chorus bring this vision to life with their insatiable

energy. I think it is safe to say that the vocal talents of the actors are good on the whole but this production's strength lies in its chorus work.

Pantomime can easily be done badly but Henry Eliot's production is so frivolous and energetic that you can't help but laugh. *Faust* provides the perfect antidote to life at Cambridge whilst reminding you why you came here.

Elizabeth Davis



ALEX CONSTANTINIDES

Online » It's definitive: Olly Riley Smith takes us through the Top 10 Films of 2006

Brit Art Prints

Cambridge Contemporary Arts

Britart has come to Cambridge, in a show of work by Hirst, Emin, Opie and the Chapman Brothers. But here you won't find any sheep in formaldehyde, unmade beds, or defaced Goyas. This is a selling exhibition of prints and photographs by some of Britain's most famous living artists and they are quite clearly cashing in on that notoriety. None of the artists shown are well-known as printmakers. Only Julian Opie's cartoonish figures are instantly recognizable in their flat colour

» Fifteen years ago it would have seemed unthinkable that Hirst and Emin would exhibit in a provincial commercial gallery

and clear line as screen-prints. None of the other artists explore the possibilities of etching as a medium – the prints either reproduce the artists' drawing style or function as crude analogues to their paintings. Most of the prints make explicit reference to common tropes in the familiar work of each artist with Damien Hirst, for example, reviving his early experiments in brightly-coloured "dot" and "spin" paintings.

Fifteen years ago it would have seemed unthinkable that Hirst and Emin would one day exhibit prints in a provincial commercial gallery. In the early days of Britart when artists concentrated on producing installations in a variety of unusual media, it wasn't clear how dealers could make the works financially viable. In practice Charles Saatchi often functioned as a one-man market. He is now reaping the rewards. Hirst's famous shark was sold by Saatchi last year for £7 million, but in 1991 Saatchi paid the artist just £50,000 for it – a steal when you consider the £6,000 Hirst spent buying the

beast. The work that made the Britart-ists famous has never made them rich. As recently as 2000, Saatchi paid less than £150,000 for Emin's *My Bed*; not a fortune for one of the most important installations of the last decade. Even the smallest work on show in Cambridge is going to make considerably more. £1,200 for Emin's etching of an owl might not sound like much, but it is from an edition of three hundred copies and therefore stands to make a total of £360,000; not a bad earner, particularly when you take into account an unknown number of additional artist's proofs. This might seem like a new phenomenon, but it is a trick



artists have used for centuries. In the late 19th century popular painters such as W. P. Frith and Holman Hunt painted images specifically to be engraved for a mass market, and dealers paid more for their reproduction rights than for the original paintings. Yet individually these Victorian prints were inexpensive whereas contemporary prints have a commercial value similar to the original art work. This is in part due to the "celebrity" profile of contemporary artists; it is no surprise that photographs by Mario Testino are included in the show. Similarly, last year, Hirst topped *ArtReview* magazine's list of the one hundred most powerful people in the art world. One effect is that the artist's signature on an image, any image, transforms its value. That a given picture is "authored" by Hirst becomes its primary characteristic, before and beyond any of its visual qualities.

The commercial value of the Britart prints also depends upon shifting notions of reproduction itself. The Marxist critic Walter Benjamin argued that the ability to accurately reproduce the appearance of paintings in photographs made reproduced images ubiquitous, permanently altering the relationship between the viewer and the original artwork. For example, the primary meaning of the Mona Lisa is in it being the original to which postcards, fridge-magnets and t-shirts refer. What is rarely commented upon is the flip-side of this process; that the proliferation of photographic duplication of artworks prompted a reassessment of earlier modes of reproduction, such as etching and engraving. Here the presence of an interpretative and artistic hand adds a value above the mere mechanical facsimile. The Britart prints are dishonest. They aren't reproductions of oil paintings, they are derivative designs enabling bogus assumptions of authenticity and uniqueness to adhere to what are in fact mass-produced products.

Richard Foster

Starter For Ten

Dir: Tony Vaughan

This point in term, when we all want to go home, is a good time to see *Starter for Ten*, the film adaptation of David Nicholls' bestseller. The great success of this film is that it makes you fall back in love with university; the freedom, the people, and yes, dare I say it, even the intellectual challenges of your degree. Set in the mid 1980s, it follows the gauche, slightly incoherent, socially inept Brian as he heads off to Bristol University, armed with a bookcase full of pretentious literature he's never read, a fetching cord jacket and a love of general knowledge.

It is this love of trivia, and the wishes of his now dead father, that motivates Brian to audition for the University Challenge team and it is during the audi-

tion test that he falls for Alice, who is all blonde hair, black leggings and "drama, darling". Predictably, the course of true (student) love never did run smooth, and

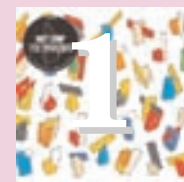
» Everyone looks about ten years too old and way too beautiful

his pursuit of Alice is littered with some horrendously cringe-worthy moments, as is his appearance on University Challenge. The script is, for the most part, funny and realistic, and the occasional lapses into rom-com cliché are forgivable, although the race through cob-

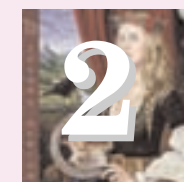
bled streets in the pouring rain to deliver a proclamation of love is perhaps pushing it too far. *Starter for Ten* does fall into the trap of many films which revolve around the lives of students, in that everyone looks about ten years too old and way too beautiful (think Dawson's Creek), although the scenes showing Brian carefully arranging film posters in his room and day-dreaming in a tutorial will seem all too familiar to some. This film isn't going to win any awards for originality, but it reminds all students that these might just be the best days of our lives, and we should make the most of them – just don't audition for University Challenge.

Rachel Boston

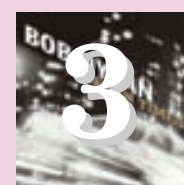
TOP 10 ALBUMS 2006



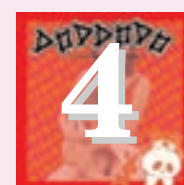
The Warning by Hot Chip
Utterly satisfying slice of disco and funk from these ex-Cambridge students



Ys by Joanna Newsom
Lush and epic masterpiece nabbing five star reviews in *Varsity* and everywhere else



Modern Times by Bob Dylan
His hat trick of excellent albums has almost made us forgive the 80s travesties



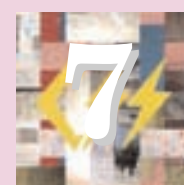
Sample Bitch Story by Doddodo
Cute cut up mayhem, whatever that means, from the Adadaat label



Fur and Gold by Bat for Lashes
Tim Burton-flavoured pop in this year's most exciting debut



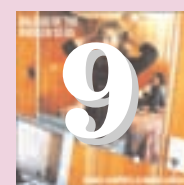
I Am Not Afraid of You and Will Beat Your Ass by Yo la Tengo
A band incapable of producing a bad album



Cansei der Ser Sexy by CSS
Arty Brazilians who sing about Paris Hilton. We're not tired of being sexy



The Eraser by Thom Yorke
Electronica plus beautiful melodies in this tense solo effort



Ballad of the Broken Seas by Isobel Campbell and Mark Lanegan
A bizarre pairing but a what a beautiful result



Whatever People Say I Am... by Arctic Monkeys
Mercury Prize winners; whatever people say...

Careers Service events



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Vacation work and internships are really useful ways to understand organisations and jobs before making a career choice. This is your chance to meet a variety of organisations offering just those opportunities.

Internships Event

Friday 1 December 2006

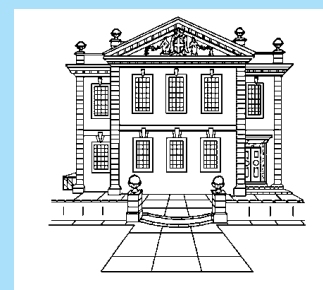
1.00pm - 6.00pm

**ABN AMRO ♦ Baillie Gifford ♦ Bank of America
Barclays Capital ♦ BlackRock ♦ Bloomberg ♦ BNP Paribas ♦ BP
Boston Consulting Group ♦ Cancer Research UK ♦ Centrica
Citigroup ♦ Civil Service Fast Stream (Outreach Programme)
Data Connection ♦ Deloitte ♦ Detica ♦ Deutsche Bank
Dresdner Kleinwort ♦ Eiger Capital ♦ Electronic Arts
Employment Opportunities for people with Disabilities
EMB Consultancy ♦ Ernst & Young ♦ Financial Services Authority
Goldman Sachs International ♦ IBM UK ♦ ICAP ♦ JPMorgan
KPMG ♦ Lehman Brothers ♦ Marakon Associates
Merrill Lynch ♦ Morgan Stanley
Motability Operations ♦ OC&C Strategy Consultants
PricewaterhouseCoopers ♦ Procter & Gamble
QUALCOMM incorporated
Rolls-Royce ♦ RBS, Global Banking & Markets
Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom ♦ Tangozebra
Travers Smith ♦ UBS ♦ Watson Wyatt Worldwide**

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Listings

PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM

Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas
Arts Picturehouse
Fri 24 - Sat 25 Nov, 23.15
Terry Gilliam's chaotic adaptation of Hunter S. Thompson's novel features an outstanding cock-rock and punk soundtrack; Hendrix,the Stones and er, Tom Jones, and a hugely entertaining performance by Johnny Depp as a drug-addled journalist heading to Las Vegas with his unhinged Samoan lawyer Dr. Gonzo (Benicio del Toro). A hilarious, free-flowing drug trip that will make you want to inject gak straight into your eye.

All films showing at Arts Picturehouse unless stated otherwise

Future Shorts 23.00
Spun (John's) 21.00
Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man 19.00, 21.10
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 23.15
Pan's Labyrinth 20.15, 22.45

Sudan Programme: All About Darfur 15.00
The Prestige 18.10
Pan's Labyrinth 20.15, 22.45
Breathless 23.00
Fear and Loathing 23.15

Unseen India & Indian Video Art: 13.00
The Prestige 18.00, 20.45
Breakfast at Tiffany's (John's) 19.00, 22.00
Being John Malkovich (Christ's) 20.00, 22.30

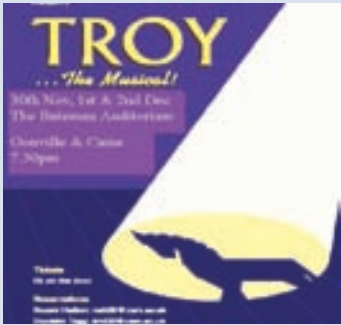
Candy 21.20
Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man 21.00
Pan's Labyrinth 18.45, 21.15
London to Brighton (with Director Q&A) 18.30

Bombon-El Perro 13.30
Candy 21.20
Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man 18.50
Mystery Train 21.15
The Prestige 16.30

Candy 21.20
Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man 18.50, 21.00
Pan's Labyrinth 18.45, 21.15
The Prestige 16.45

Candy 21.30
Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man 18.50, 21.00
Head-On 17.00
Pan's Labyrinth 18.45, 21.15
The Prestige 19.00

THEATRE



Troy: The Musical
Gonville and Caius, Bateman Auditorium Thu 30 - Sat 2 Nov, 19.30. Its for charity so shut up, alright? ALL profits to the Hand-in-Hand children's charity in Ghana.

Bald Prima Donna 19.00, Corpus Playrm
King Lear 19.30, Pembroke New Cellars
Diary of Anne Frank 19.30, Homerton
A Doll's House 19.30 Emma
Antigone 19.30, Robinson
Prometheus Bound 21.00, Forum, Jesus
Something re: Life & Music 23.00, ADC

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Prometheus Bound 21.00, Forum, Jesus
Something re: Life & Music 23.00, ADC

DAY OF WORSHIP...
or you could have a wank and cry. It'll be like 9 *Songs* without the controversy.

Faust 19.45, ADC/Footlights Panto
This will be considerably better than your college pantomime, and less likely to resort to borderline homophobic innuendoes and cameo roles from your financial officer

Side by Side by Sondheim 19.00, Corpus Playroom
Unperformable 19.30, Judith E. Wilson Drama Studio
Faust 19.45, ADC
What's The Story Morning Glory? 23.00, ADC

Side by Side by Sondheim 19.00, Corpus Playroom
Faust 19.45, ADC
Iolanthe 20.00, Robinson College Auditorium
Improvised Comedy Ents present Xmas TV 23.00, ADC

Side by Side by Sondheim 19.00, Corpus Playroom
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MUSIC

Nina Nastasia
Sunday 26 Nov
Junction Shed, 19.00, £10
Nina Nastasia's 2006 album *On Leaving* is somewhat of a departure from her previous albums 2002's *The Blackened Air* and 2003's stunning *Run to Ruin*. Eschewing the rich and varied arrangements of its gothically charming predecessors, her latest takes a more intimate and stripped back approach. You can almost hear the sobs. In any case, she'll be playing a mixture of old an new material, this will be perfect for the intimacy of the tiny Junction Shed.

Jazz at John's
Fisher Hall, 1.00 -00.00, £5
Point Seven Pistol + The Hope
The Loft, 20.00, £4

Windout + The Rubicons
The Loft, 20.00, £4
Fay Hallam Trinity + Fuzzface
Man on the Moon, 20.00, £4

Nina Nastasia
The Junction Shed, 19.00, £10
Minus the Bear
Soul Tree, 19.00, £5
Nice little riffs so you can bob a little bit. but not too much.indie

Primal Scream
The Corn Exchange, 19.30, £20
I would rather pay someone £20 to punch me in the face

The Junction Fiver
The Junction, 19.00, £5
Open Mic Night
The Boathouse, 20.00, £3
the phrase was "artists free" - interpret as you like

The Christmas Soul Treat
Soul Tree, 20.00-02.30, £5
Real boys don't go to this, they got to Ballare and fight while Steps' 5...6...7...8 reeks in the background

Saw Doctors
The Junction, 19.00, £19.50
AC Mars + Comic Book Heroes
Portland Arms, 20.00, £4

EXHIBITIONS

Open Exhibition
Kettle's Yard
Sat 25 Nov - 7 Jan 2007
The Kettle's Yard Open exhibition is back, displaying the work of nineteen exciting emerging artists working in the East of England, with work ranging from painting and photography to film, sound and installation. Works from the exhibition will be available for sale, though no doubt you won't be able to afford them because you spent your whole loan on boozin' and you're gonna go out with your mates and yeahhhh. Just remember Kettle's Yard when you're puking on someone's face.

CU Palestine Film - An Evening On The Separation Wall
Chetwynd Room, King's College, 20.00, a powerful documentary
See www.theironwall.ps

Stella Dina's Compendio: A tribute to Federico Garcia Lorca
Free, 4 Nov - 3 Dec. Exhibition at New Hall. And the posters look a bit electroclash

West African Programme
Arts Picturehouse, 15.00
Figures on Fabric Fitz Museum. Exhibition of beautifully done English 17th C needle-work. Take that real world

CU Biological Society Talk
Pharmacology Lecture Theatre, Tennis Court Road 20.00, £1. Sir Alan Ferscht talks about disease. Accidental narcolepsy

Literary Circles: Artist, author, word and image in Britain 1800-1920
Fitzwilliam Museum. Look at pictures of authors n' shit. THIS IS LIFE

Improvised Comedy Ents present Christmas TV
ADC, 23.00, £3 NOT the Footlights Panto (less hegemonic) blends Christmas TV memories with comic sketches

Unwarranted Aggression,
lurking, everywhere. None of you go to any of these events do you, you little plebeian shits. it will come back and bite you in the ass. THE ASS

GOING OUT



The Christmas Soul Treat
Soul Tree, 20.00-02.30, £5
Wednesday 29 Nov
The last TeNTs event had the atmosphere of a funeral, despite having great bands and great DJ sets. This one will be BRILLIANT. Featuring Ladyfuzz, The Chap, The Resistance, Her Daddy Is a Guru and Shut Up and Dance! DJs. Treat yourself.

Shut up and Dance,
Union, 21.00 - 01.00 £3
Dillinga Clare, 21.00-12.45
Jazz at John's Black Shabbat, Fisher Building, 21.00-00.00, £5

Beatwax ARU Academy, 21.00 - 02.30 £3
The End is Nigh. Kamar, 22.00 - 03.30 £3
Horizontal Life & DJ Axel-tree King's, 21.30-00.45, £2

Sunday Service Xmas Party Club 22, 21.00-02.00, £4
iMac to be given away. Worth it? No.
Songs in the Dark Clown's Cafe, 20.00

Fat Poppadaddys
Fez, 21.00 - 02.00, £4
Pleasingly generic, like a fair trade sweetcorn pasty sold by a liberal

Rainbow Stylin'
Soul Tree, 22.00-02.00, £3
House/RnB/Indie/Alternative
Kinki Xmas Party
Ballare, 21.00-02.00, £3. Have a heinous xmas, from Ballare

Rumboogie
Ballare, 21.00-02.00, £3
Pretty much indefensible
Deeperbreed
Kamar, 21.30-03.00, £2
Glowsticks and psytrance

Urbanite
is killing Cambridge. Still Soultree, 21.00-02.30, £3
End of Term Party
Fez, 22.00-02.30, £2
Drink yourself into next year

The Features Quiz answers

The News Quiz

All answers are b)

The Ethical Quiz

- 1. c) "I thank God every day for the invention of dictatorship."
- 2. a) Their mothers
- 3. a), b) and c). All three are correct
- 4. b) Methane
- 5. a) Aluminium
- 6. c) Chicken, pig and human excrement
- 7. b) Don't use a catcher when mowing and allow the clippings to scatter over the lawn
- 8. c) Black

The Science Quiz

- 1. b) Martin Rees
- 2. c) Ostrich
- 3. b) Cornea
- 4. a) Mercalli Scale

5. c) Copper

- 6. c) Effects of light on Chemicals
- 7. a) 14
- 8. a) Vitamin B5
- 9. c) 2 metres
- 10. c) Saturn

The Fashion Quiz

- 1. c) Britney Spears
- 2. c) Hermes
- 3. b) needle
- 4. b) Linda Evangelista
- 5. c) 90
- 6. a) The Chelsea
- 7. c) Naomi Campbell
- 8. c) Suzy Menkes

The Food & Drink Quiz

- 1. c) Basingstoke Blue
- 2. a) Maceration
- 3. b) A cocktail
- 4. b) Finestra

5. b) Potato Dumpling

- 6. a) The Aztecs
- 7. c) Ray Croc
- 8. b) Curry Lord
- 9. a) Eyes
- 10 c) Bull's testicles

The Arts Quiz answers

The Theatre Quiz

- 1. 40 (37 plays plus two poems and the Sonnets)
- 2. *Dirty Dancing*
- 3. Daniel Radcliffe
- 4. *The Waves*
- 5. The White Stripes
- 6. Samuel Beckett
- 7. Subtle and Face in *The Alchemist*
- 8. Peter Morgan

The Classical Quiz

- 1. Anton Rubenstein
- 2. Elsie
- 3. J.S.Bach himself
- 4. With a bow, it is in fact a string instrument
- 5 George Antheil

The Visual Arts Quiz

- 1. Simon Starling, Turner Prize winner
- 2. Jasper Johns, for his painting "False Start"
- 3. Nick Flynn for breaking valuable vases in the Fitz
- 4. The Queen, in her portrait by Rolf Harris
- 5. The Tate trustees, for buying the work of fellow trustee Chris Ofili, famous for his series of paintings using elephant dung.

Music

- 1. a) Chinese Democracy
- 2. b) Clothes Boutique
- 3. b) My Chemical Romance
- 4. a) *Stories from the City, Stories from the Sea*, P J Harvey
- 5. c) Carl Barat
- 6. a) Bjork
- 7. a) Renate Blauel

8. a) Rome

- 9. b) Scientology

The Literature Quiz

- 1. a) Zadie Smith
- 2. c) *Atonement* by Ian McEwan
- 3. b) With a short story in *Varsity*
- 4. b) Edmund Spenser
- 5. a) Victoria Beckham
- 6. b) Kiran Desai
- 7. c) Hard to say really...

Picture Round

- 1. *The Devil Wears Prada*
- 2. *Little Miss Sunshine*
- 3. *Marie Antoinette*
- 4. *The Departed*
- 5. *The Da Vinci Code*

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Jewel-Tone



In the lead-up to Christmas, there's no reason to be an uncut diamond. As the nights close in earlier, you can afford to be more dramatic with your make-up. Ditch mute tones and look to sapphires, rubies and emeralds for your inspiration with gold and silver accents, letting your frosty make-up mirror the icy temperatures.

These looks needn't cost as much as the jewels they emulate. Buy just one rich eyeshadow and DO NOT use sparingly. Lashings of mascara add drama whatever the colour, we used Max Factor's Masterpiece mascara, £8.99. Keep skin neutral but glowing with Body Shop's Vitamin E Illuminating Moisture Cream, £7.50, or alternatively highlight your cheek and brow bones with a touch of Vaseline, Lip Therapy for 99p.

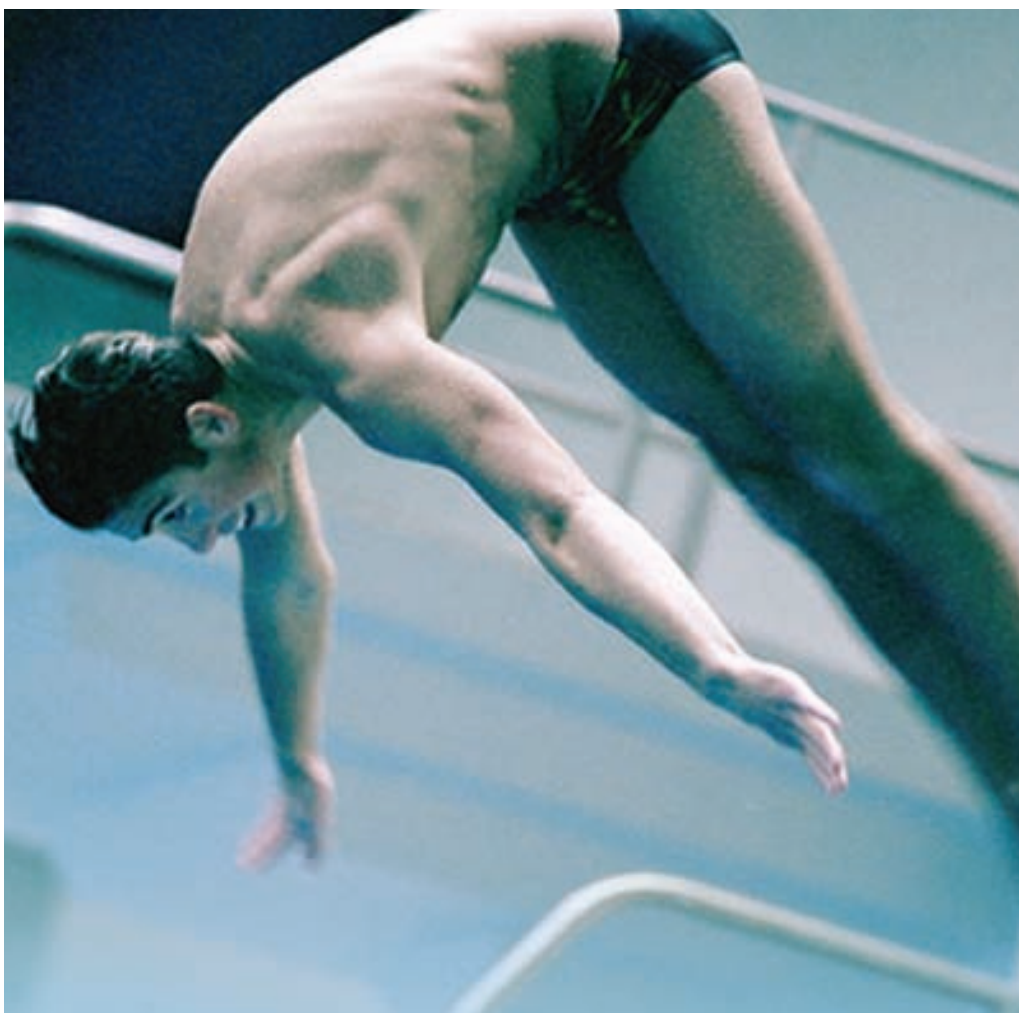
Tor wears "Diamond" using Bourjois Effet Lumiere Eyeshadow Trio in "Les Argents", £6.50.

Hannah wears "Emerald" using MAC eyeshadow in "Sprout", £10, and Body Shop Eye Shimmer in "Gold", £8.

Edleen wears "Sapphire" using MAC eyeshadow in "Freshwater", £10.

Styled by Saskia Payne and Carol Peacock

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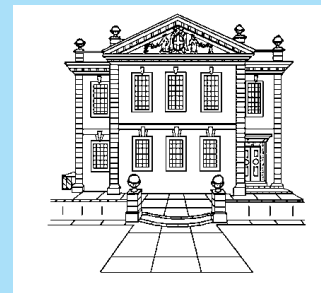
1.00pm - 5.00pm

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Penningtons Solicitors ♦ Pinsent Masons
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Shearman & Sterling ♦ Simmons & Simmons ♦ SJ Berwin
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Stephenson Harwood ♦ Taylor Wessing ♦ Toynbee Hall ♦ Travers Smith
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White & Case ♦ Withers ♦ Wragge & Co

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BORAT (15) (1h45) Daily 10.50* (Sat/Sun Only) 13.20* (Not Sun) 15.30* 18.00* (Not Tues) 20.30 Fri/Sat Late 22.40
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Subtitled screening: **BORAT** (15) (1h45) (NFT) Sunday 26th November *13.20 Tuesday 28th November *18.00

*Audio description is available on these performances - please ask at the Box Office for details

book now on 08712 240 240 or online at www.myvue.com

Next term sees the 10th annual production of **Smorgasbord**, THE festival celebrating the best of Cambridge's new writing and drama scene! The Fletcher Players are looking for fresh and innovative scriptwriters to provide exciting and new short plays to be put on in the Corpus Christi Playroom, as part of Smorgasbord 2007! Scripts will be shortlisted and the best selected for production. We are also opening applications for directors for each play, directors will be in charge of casting and rehearsals for each individual play. We welcome all applicants, no matter how experienced, from old hands to those who want to try it for the first time. All we ask is that you're enthusiastic!

Deadline for the scripts/applications is noon on **Tuesday 5th December**.

Please either email your script, application to direct, or any questions to **Victoria Turnock** (vjt22) or **Miranda Barty-Taylor** (mbb29). Alternatively deliver scripts/applications to the Corpus Christi porter's lodge marked for the attention of Victoria Turnock or Miranda Barty-Taylor.

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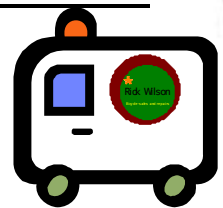
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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



This past term has been a huge success and we are looking forward to next term where we have many exciting events lined up. Look out for our term card in your pigeon hole at the start of next term or check our website for details. To show a little of what's in store, expect to see some of these companies amongst others next term:

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This term has also seen the release of our new and improved society website. Please visit and register to receive our newsletter and up to date reminders about all sorts of careers and internship related events in Cambridge.

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Footballers in the dark

»Cambridge in lead when game plunged into farce by the failing light

PADDY CROFT

Cambridge	3
Wolverhampton	2

Having failed so far to win consecutive games in the BUSA league, the Blues were keen to inject some momentum into their season. They were forced to wait, however, as a problem with the referee delayed the start of the game by almost an hour. Despite leading 3-2, they remain unsure of whether they will take the points, as the final whistle had to be blown several minutes early.

Despite going behind in the first minute the Blues came back strongly, showing exceptional team spirit in difficult, wet conditions, to snatch what should be a victory late on.

Only 10 minutes after failing to defend a bread-and-butter attack just after kick off, the Blues drew level through Matty Gethin, replacing the injured Brendan Threlfall. Making a stake for a more permanent place, Gethin showed his deadly finishing skills in the box for a second time only five minutes later, finishing off a clever move to send the Blues 2-1 up.

Cambridge then enjoyed a period of real dominance, though head coach Alex Mugan will be disappointed that the side was unable to finish off the game. Nick Pantelides was shown



The Blues, playing in yellow, were foiled by the dark

SOPHIE PICKFORD

good dribbling and passing skills on the right wing, and came closest to extending the lead with a header that crashed off the bar. Unable to extend their lead, Cambridge went into half-time looking the better side.

But after the break the Blues allowed Wolverhampton back into the match. The defence that had been so solid and decisive suddenly allowed

the opposition players more space around the box. From one such situation Wolverhampton's pacy striker ran clear and was taken down by goal-keeper James Dean – a penalty was awarded, despite strong protest from Cambridge. But this did not unsettle the penalty-taker, who coolly dispatched the spot-kick into the roof of the net.

After this setback, Cambridge seemed to lose their concentration and patience. Mike Dankis produced some driving runs from midfield but time after time a quality final ball was lacking. Dave Mills, in particular, would have been frustrated at the sloppy nature of his passing. But the Blues received a lifeline when, with darkness approaching, Wolverhampton had their central defender sent off for foul and abusive language, and Cambridge found their feet again.

The Blues showed great energy and fitness, sending men forward and swamping the opposition's box. Eventually their reward came, the extra man counting in a goal-mouth scramble, as Captain Alex Coleman bundled the ball in from close range. Chances were created to finish the match off but Gethin came closest, nearly securing his hat-trick with a shot that flew just over the crossbar.

The end of the match was as gloomy as the near dark surroundings when the players walked off the pitch, but there were many positives to take from this performance. A somewhat questionable refereeing performance was dealt with professional discipline by the players. The team also showed that they could overcome the elements and, despite not playing exceptional football in the second half, managed to secure a tight but richly-deserved win.



The Varsity Vase

It's a bit disappointing really. Division 6 has two promotion places and I just can't see Homerton II and Robinson II relinquishing their spots at the top.

Homerton II are clear leaders, smiling down on the others, probably looking smug having won four out of four. Robinson haven't played any more games, but if they had, they would have probably won.

CCCC are the only other team that could challenge for the title. They've only played twice but finished above both Homerton and Robinson last year. Yet they seem to be struggling to organise all their games; a major problem for a team pushing for the top.

I'd like to say Jesus have a chance and I'll be praying for them but, after two draws and with matches against Homerton and CCCC to come, I just don't think they'll have the fitness.

No other team stands a chance at all. Downing look doomed for relegation having lost three out of three, while rumour has it that Sidney II are in such a state, they are refusing to play games.

That's all for now. The first round of the Varsity Vase is this weekend, so support your college's Third team this weekend. It may not be pretty, and one team may only have 9 men, but there is no shortage of passion and always plenty of goals.

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Gamblers Unanimous

For those of you that have been following our column, you may find it difficult to restrain yourselves from hating us after losing 8 out of our first 9 bets. Whilst it is true we have been reincarnated as Midas' twin brother turning everything we touch into faeces, all is not lost yet. However, we must take our own advice and not "chase our losses" which currently stand at £44.50, and focus on the first two commandments of betting, "winners" and "value".

Last week we gave you an introductory guide to poker and promised to drop by the Union Poker Tournament. Joe managed to make it to the final table and picked up a handy £50 for coming third, not bad for a couple of hours work! Everyone started with 1000 chips and with blinds at 25/25 going up every half an hour, plenty of play was possible without what we like to call a "lottery stage". This is when the blinds (compulsory bets) are so large, one must go "all-in", allowing luck to determine the outcome. We hope to go again in the future.

This week we'd like to share with you some history behind the greatest horses to have graced racing. They were idolised by millions and achieved some of the most spectacular results of all time.

Arkle is regarded by most to be the best National Hunt (fences) horse of all time. He won his first big race, the Sun Alliance Chase, by 20 lengths, going on to win the Cheltenham Gold cup three years running. The legend in Ireland went that Arkle's racing prowess came from his supping of Guinness twice a day!

Horse of the year in both 1971 and 1972, Brigadier Gerard, a French thoroughbred, won 17 out of his 18 races. He won everything from the 2000 Guineas to the Eclipse Stakes, totting up a massive £250,000 in career earnings.

Istabraq, son of the legendary Sadler's Wells, was called by some the "greatest hurdler of modern times". He was painstakingly close to recording an astonishing four straight Cheltenham Hurdles victories but pulled out of the last race early on due to muscle pains.

The Long Shot this week is at the Hennessey Gold Cup at Newbury where we take Distant Thunder to win at huge odds of 12-1. This horse loves Newbury and has one win and one second from three runs. It is also very well handicapped on Saturday. £3 to win could yield a massive profit.

For the Bank Job we are

backing Reading to beat Fulham at Craven Cottage on Saturday. Man City made them look like a pub team last weekend while Reading recorded an impressive victory over Spurs. At odds of 3.5 (5/2) we think this is too good to miss. Put £10 on to get us back in the black.

England may have let us down before but we're putting our faith in them for the "Porters' Tip" this week. The Springboks lack confidence and talent so we take our boys to be winning at half-time and full-time on Saturday. Odds of even money (2.0) is too good to turn down. We've got £7 on to double our stake.

Running total: -£44.50

The Bank Job
Fulham vs Reading.
Reading win.
Stake: £10

The Long Shot
Hennessey Gold Cup
Distant Thunder to win.
Stake: £3

The Porters' Tip
England vs South Africa.
England at half and full time.
Stake: £3

betfair.com

CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Our boys in



JOHN BLAIKIE

With only 18 days to go until the big match, there is a mixture of tension and excitement within the squad. After ten weeks of intensive training and a host of top quality games it all comes down to this one match.

In an era when professionalism is hurting grass roots rugby, the Lehman Brothers Varsity Match remains one of the shining lights in the amateur game. Watched by more than 40,000 spectators, the atmosphere is unique among sporting events. Form and previous results mean nothing. If you win the match, your season has been successful; if you lose, you look forward to next year. It is that simple.

Next Saturday we play Loughborough, with the Varsity team being picked that night. The next day will easily be the most difficult of my captaincy – having to inform players of their selection, or non-selection in most cases. Friendships and loyalties have to be put aside in order to select the “Best Fifteen” players for the match. Having experienced that nervous wait for the knock on the door myself, I know it will be a day of contrasting emotions. For some, dreams will be shattered, for those 15 players selected it will be the beginning of a special 10 days, that will conclude by stepping into the cauldron at Twickenham.

Relatively few have experienced a build-up to a match such as the intense and emotional journey that ends on the 12th. You are acutely aware of who and what has gone before you, and who you represent. So many questions are asked of oneself that the game can easily be lost before a foot is set on the pitch. Having experienced the joy of victory last year I can only imagine what it must feel like to lose.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have come to watch the Blues this season. I know all the players really appreciate having such vocal and supportive crowds. We hope that you all are planning on making the trip down to “Twickers” on the 12th and look forward to your continued support.

Andrew Wheble

Flanker, Number 8

Born:15.02.1987
Height:185cm
Weight:99kg
Andrew reads Engineering at Trinity



Tom Malaney

Flanker

Born:18/01/1984
Height:180cm
Weight:90kg
Tom reads Land Economy at St. Edmund's



Rhys Evans

Scrum Half

Born:02/04/1984
Height:173cm
Weight:82kg
Rhys reads Real Estate Finances at Hughes Hall



Steffan Thomas

Inside Centre

Height:183cm
Weight:102kg
Steffan reads Engineering at Trinity



Tom Woolsey

Hooker

Born:18/09/1986
Height:184cm
Weight:105kg
Tom reads Land Economy at Queens'



John Blaikie

Lock

Born:28/12/1973
Height:195cm
Weight:110kg
John reads Economics at Hughes Hall



Scott Annett

Flanker, Lock

Born:04/08/1985
Height:191cm
Weight:105.5kg
Scott reads English at Clare



Jonathan Murray

Left Wing

Born:21/01/1984
Height:186cm
Weight:85kg
John reads Chemical Engineering



Mike Harfoot

Lock

Born:25/08/1978
Height:195cm
Weight:89.53kg
Mike reads Chemistry at St Catherine's



Didi Akinluyi

Flanker, Lock

Born:17/10/1986
Height:185cm
Weight:95kg
Didi reads Engineering at Christ's



Alex Thompson

Scrum Half

Born:13/07/1985
Height:184cm
Weight:85kg
Alex is studying Zoology at Girton



Johnny Ufton

Fullback

Born:31/01/1974
Height:185cm
Weight:86kg
Johnny reads Geography at St Edmund's



Richard Bartholomew

Flanker, Number 8

Born:09/07/1985
Height:185cm
Weight:100kg
Richard reads Engineering at Jesus



David Akinluyi

Right Wing

Born:10/02/1984
Height:185cm
Weight:99kg
David reads Engineering at Christ's



Peter Archer

Left Wing, Right Wing

Born:11/05/1985
Height:162cm
Weight:62kg
Peter reads English at Trinity



Ryan Harper

Flanker

Born:27/07/1987
Height:186cm
Weight:100kg
Ryan reads Engineering at Corpus Christi



Ed Andrews

Flanker, Number 8

Born:18/01/1985
Height:189cm
Weight:100kg
Ed reads History at St. John's



Ashwin Reddy

Loosehead Prop

Born:12/02/1985
Height:175cm
Weight:96kg
Ashwin reads Medicine at Trinity



Rory Holmes

Scrum Half

Born:02/02/1985
Height:186cm
Weight:87kg
Rory reads French & Spanish at St. John's



Anthony Fitzpatrick

Loosehead Prop

Born:25/06/1979
Height:180cm
Weight:110kg
Anthony reads Biophysics at Caius



Jonny Thompson

Wing, Centre

Born:18/10/1986
Height:177cm
Weight:80kg
Jonny reads Engineering at Christ's



PHOTOS: SOPHIE PICKFORD

The season so far...

n light blue



Nathan Johnson

Flanker, Number 8

Born:02/04/ 1982
Height: 185cm
Weight: 100kg
Nathan reads Real Estate Finances at Pembroke



Chris Lewis

Inside Centre

Born:21/03/1987
Height: 190cm
Weight: 97kg
Chris reads History at St.Catherine's



David Tibbott

Centre

Born:15/10/ 1981
Height: 187cm
Weight: 110kg
David reads Planning at Sidney



Pat Crossley

Hooker

Born:25/09/ 1986
Height: 180cm
Weight: 105kg
Pat reads Geography at Homerton



Joseph Clark

Loosehead Prop, Hooker

Born:09/10/ 1983
Height: 185cm
Weight: 111kg
Joseph reads SPS at St. Edmund's



JJ Waters

Hooker

Born:02/03/ 1985
Height: 179cm
Weight: 95kg
JJ reads Natural Sciences at Clare



Tom Martin

Hooker

Born:10/06/ 1984
Height: 175cm
Weight: 100kg
Tom reads Oriental Studies at Trinity



James Whittington

Loosehead & Tighthead Prop

Born:31/01/ 1985
Height: 177cm
Weight: 111kg
James reads Management Studies



Hamish Murray

Scrum Half

Born:25/04/ 1982
Height: 179cm
Weight: 85kg
Hamish reads Economics at St. Edmund's



Nick Jones

Fly-Half

Born:26/03/ 1986
Height: 178cm
Weight: 71kg
Nick reads Chemical Engineering at Girton



Dave O'Brien

Flanker

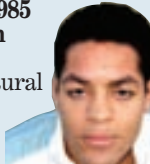
Born:15/11/ 1983
Height: 185cm
Weight: 95kg
Dave reads Real Estate Finances at Hughes Hall



Joe Ansbro

Outside Centre

Born: 29/10/ 1985
Height: 182cm
Weight: 85kg
Joe reads Natural Sciences at Robinson



James Taylor

Flanker

Born: 23/03/ 1985
Height: 182cm
Weight: 93kg
James reads Medicine Science at St. John's



Richard Schwikkard

Loosehead & Tighthead Prop

Born:5/11/ 1982
Height: 180cm
Weight: 105kg
Richard reads Economics at Hughes Hall



Jon Dawson

Tighthead Prop

Born:12/04/ 1980
Height: 180cm
Weight: 118kg
Jon reads Geography at St.Edmund's



Oli Buxton

Centre, Wing, Fullback

Born: 13/12/ 1984
Height: 191cm
Weight: 87kg
Oli reads Engineering at St. John's



Llewellyn Pilbeam

Lock

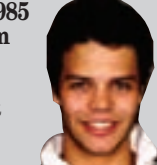
Born:02/11/1985
Height: 200cm
Weight: 110kg
Llewellyn reads Natural Sciences at Trinity



Andy Davidson

Fullback

Born:09/05/ 1985
Height: 180cm
Weight: 81kg
Andy reads Philosophy at Robinson



Chris Gee

Wing, Centre

Born:28/08/ 1985
Height: 180cm
Weight: 85kg
Chris reads Chemistry at Trinity Hall



Trevor Boynton

Lock

Born:03/09/ 1977
Height: 194cm
Weight: 115kg
Trevor reads Economics at Hughes Hall



Cameron Dott

Hooker

Born:25/05/ 1984
Weight: 98kg
Cameron reads Medicine at Wolfson



CTD. FROM BACK

to say that Cambridge have had the better of the top class opposition in terms of results. The Dark Blues were hammered by Wasps A 54-0, whereas the Light Blues put up a much stronger fight only going down 29-13. However, the club sides often put out dramatically different "A" teams from match to match. The scrum will be a key area for both teams. The Dark Blues will probably be fielding four players already holding full Blues, three of whom will be in the pack. Cambridge will most likely field an impressive seven Blues, four of whom will be playing in the tight. In addition, Cambridge will likely be the heavier pack weighing in at 859kg, with an average weight of 107.4kg per player, compared to 855kg and 106.8kg respectively for the Dark Blues. This should give Cambridge the edge in the tight. The Cambridge starting front row is particularly strong and should give the comparatively lightweight Dark Blue front row an uncomfortable time in the set pieces. A potential worry for the Light Blues is the relative strength of the second string front row. An injury to any of the front three early on in the game could prove influential. Key players for the Light Blues start with the Captain John Blaikie. On the pitch, Blaikie commands a Martin Johnson-type presence for the Blues. He's fierce in the tight and happy doing the hard, unglamorous work that lays the foundation for victory. A Cambridge win starts and finishes with his leadership. In the fly half berth, Johnny Ufton will have to be firing on all cylinders to ignite the potential in his backline. Last years "Man of the Match", will have to reproduce the form that saw him kick 14 of the 19 points that sealed victory over Harlequins A two weeks ago. There will be great pressure on him from a light and mobile Dark Blue back row and his pack, and probable half back partner Ross Blake, will have to ensure he gets the best delivery, and time he needs, to control the game. There has been much speculation over the presence of Joe Roff, the Aussie International and World Cup winner, in the thirteen shirt for the Dark Blues. He will no doubt be a key player in their back line. It will be interesting to see which of the two outside centres everyone is talking about after the game. Cambridge's Joe Ansbro has had a superlative season so far in both defence and attack, he has an exceptional work rate and his relentless attitude is perfectly suited to the atmosphere of the Varsity Match. Cambridge are well placed for this year's Varsity Match. They are a strong and mature team, and play rugby with their brains first and brawn second. They must ensure that they play their own game, dictating the terms of engagement to the Dark Blues. Then, and with a bit of luck, the trophy can stay in Cambridge for another year.

27.09.06	Mont de Marsan	Away	23-3
02.10.05	Cambridge	Home	37-5
10.10.06	Bedford	Away	6-7
17.10.06	Nottingham	Home	13-20
30.10.06	Wasps	Home	13-29
06.11.06	Harlequins	Home	19-13
13.11.06	Leicester	Home	34-5
20.11.06	Northampton	Home	18-15

CAPTAIN'S
CORNER

Women's Golf



JO REEVE

How long have you been playing?

I've been playing since I was 14, although I didn't play in my first 2 years here. I only took it up again last year.

What's your handicap?

My handicap is 16 at the moment, but I am determined to get it down before the Varsity match.

How often do you train?

We only have 2 official coaching sessions each term due to the expense of having a professional coach. However, we do go up to the driving range or practise ground as much as possible, at least once a week.

How good is your team?

The overall performance of the team has vastly improved this year compared to last. In Michaelmas last year we didn't manage to win a match, whereas this year we've only lost one match, which is fantastic. However, we need to work hard to improve if we are to get close to the range of handicaps that the Oxford team have.

What's your best bit of advice?

Keep your rhythm. Golf isn't about strength, it's all about timing. Also, relax, golf is about having fun.

What's your funniest golf moment?

It's always very amusing to see electric golf caddies moving across the fairway, and a random golfer chasing after it!

Is golf just for men?

Not at all, golf's a great game for sex.

Rugby Blues preparing for Oxford

»Cambridge on track as the 125th Varsity Rugby Match approaches

TOM MARRIOTT
Senior Rugby Reporter

There is, famously, no form book for the Varsity match. Anything can happen. It is part of the enduring appeal of the fixture; it is, almost every year, an unknown quantity. For the majority of the thirty players jogging out onto Twickenham's hallowed turf at 2pm on the 12th of December, this will be by far the biggest match of their lives. The staff at Twickenham expect a crowd well in excess of 40,000 for the main game; the average Premiership fixture would be doing well to net over 10,000. There are no empty platitudes about taking part. For the losers, it is a failed season; however many games were won in the build up, it is upon that one day, those eighty short minutes, that the team will be judged forever. To the victor, the spoils. To play at Twickenham is to join a very elite band of players. To win there, in a Varsity Match, is to join an even smaller group.

No event in the social and sporting calendar brings the University together like the Varsity match, not even the Boat Race. Admittedly, worldwide, more people will watch the Boat Race, but it is too detached and abstract an event, even for those watching from the pubs of Hammersmith and Putney, to truly foster the atmosphere that makes the Varsity Match special. A win for Cambridge is a win for every student with even a passing interest in getting one over on the "other place". Victory conveys year long bragging rights, not just to the players, but to every student they go out there to represent.

The first twenty minutes of any Varsity Match will be twenty minutes of some of the hardest hitting, brutal rugby at any level; professional or even international for that matter. It is not uncommon for someone to be knocked unconscious and stretched off before the half time whistle. When the whole season comes down to one game, both sides tend to come out of



Cambridge continued their build-up with an 18-15 victory over Northampton on Monday

SOPHIE PICKFORD

the gate bucking hard. It can often mean that for the first half of the game, the skill, maturity and game play that has been so well developed during the warm up games is thrown out of the window in favour of a pre-emptive first strike to show who is boss. This is where the unpredictability of the Varsity match comes from. Both sides tense up, and instead of thinking about playing the game that works for them, go on the defensive and try to beat the other side senseless. If it were possi-

ble perhaps to convince the players in some way that this was not in fact the Varsity Match, we might perhaps see a more relaxed display that represented their pre match form.

This year, Cambridge's form has been impressive: they have played nine, lost four and won five. The last three victories on the trot against experienced Premiership opposition have built up strong momentum towards the big game. More importantly, these games have showed sus-

tained development, and the ability to play different types of game as and when required. The Light Blues refused to allow a disappointing loss to an extremely strong Wasps side mid-season, put them off their stride, and continued to develop. The Dark Blues on the other hand, have played a total of twelve games, but won only six of them; slightly worse than the Light Blue record in terms of percentage won, but not enough to really mean

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

The
Week In
Weather

FRI



SAT



SUN



MON



TUE



WED



THUR

Hitori

Shade in the squares so that no number occurs more than once per row or column. Shaded squares may not be horizontally or vertically adjacent. Unshaded squares must form a single continuous area.

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

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Sudoku

The object is to insert the numbers in the boxes to satisfy only one condition: each row, column and 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 through 9 exactly once.

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

© Gareth Moore

Kakuro

Fill the grid so that each run of squares adds up to the total in the box above or to the left. Use only numbers 1-9, and never use a number more than once per run (a number may reoccur in the same row in a separate run).

				14	21		14	14
		11				17		
		7				8		
				15				
				24				
		18						
		12					16	
		16			17			
		13			12			

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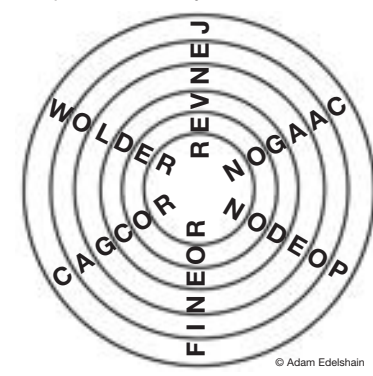


COMPETITION

Win a pair of tickets to the Arts Picturehouse. Tickets available to use Monday to Thursday at any point in the Michaelmas term.



Re-arrange the letters by rotating the discs to create six separate six-letter words leading in to the centre. Email your answer to: competitions@varsity.co.uk



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