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ARTS

WEEKLY WEEK REVIEWS AND ARTS FEATURES

Varsity

VARSlTY

Vol. 58 No. 4

CAMBRIDGE, SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1966

6d.



VARSlTY

VARSlTY

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1948

VARSlTY

Saturday, October 10, 1970
Quayside,
Magdalene Bridge,
Cambridge.

Volume 71 No 1

Rock of the week #2: Alkali Basalt



Exotic
Jet adores
alkali basalt

VARSlTY



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Wyverns garden party backlash

The Wyverns Garden Party stirred opinions with its first garden party without wrestling

by Varsity News Team

The Wyverns garnered more controversy this week as guests were invited to ride a large inflatable penis at their annual Garden Party. Various Cambridge feminist figures have criticised the decision. Nina de Paula Hanika, who created the petition to ban jelly wrestling at the event, told *Varsity*: 'They're free to define themselves however they wish, I'm just unsure why they would choose, of all possible options, a giant inflatable penis.' Susy Langsdale, Women's Officer for CUSU, called it an "aggressive, pathetic, ignorant decision."

Both women have expanded on their position online on tumblr and Facebook. In a tumblr post Nina wrote: 'We obviously all have better things to be getting on with than worrying about a hydraulic dick... Well fucking done. Slow clap to you. You're so outrageous! I applaud you in your startling ability to stick exactly to what is expected of you. You, The Wyverns, have literally manifested the leering, drunken, immaturity of exactly what I was questioning in a move you clearly thought was hilariously provocative. It wasn't, boys. It was pretty much the laziest, most boring thing you could have done.'

Susy Langsdale, commenting in the CUSU Women's Discussion Group on Facebook, said: 'They have fucking

invoked the symbol of the patriarchy to say that, no matter what we as feminist women do, they still have the power. I would even go as far as to say it relies on a history of sexual violence and rape of women - the physical manifestation of the power of the phallus- in that it suggests the violence that can be done to women who resist.'

The reaction by the Women's Campaign in Cambridge is not shared by all Cambridge students and attendees of the garden party. One female partygoer, who didn't wish to be named, told *Varsity*: 'I really don't know what the big deal is. I understand why people could perhaps be offended, but the feminist movement within Cambridge seems to have had a wildly disproportionate response.'

Charles, a first year lawyer who attended the party, told *Varsity*: 'I disagreed with the petition to end jelly wrestling because I think that women have the right to choose what they do with their bodies.'

The same reasoning applies here. If people don't want to attend the Garden Party they don't have to and to be outraged by a rodeo and a pool of jelly is ridiculous.'

The Garden Party also had a paddling pool of jelly with a sign nearby reading: 'Please refrain from wrestling in our jelly.' Some male partygoers jumped into the jelly but there was no female jelly wrestling or alternative.



HELEN CAHILL



Fantastic fireworks!

Check out our reviews and photos from the May Balls inside. **Reviews 7, Photos 26**

"You cannot and should not expect Cambridge students, after months of lectures, supervisions, classes, practicals, presentations, revision and exams, to just stop and relax"



James Evans
Comment, 10

News Cats go missing!

Sport Cardboard boat race

Quiz Quiz of the year

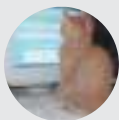
Rock of the Week

Theatre Smashed Shakespeare

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What are you doing after May Week? *Sabina Dewfield* takes a look at this summer's top festivals

Giving 'Feminism' a bad name?: *Georgina Phillip* discusses how feminism means different things to different people and why that's ok.



Lad goes out. Lad gets laid: *Hannah Wilkinson* tells us how the Lad culture is damaging for all students.

Multiculturalism in Cambridge: *Sam Dalton's* response to the recent events at Woolwich.



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The highlight of the Cambridge rowing calander delivers more than its fair share of drama.



DON'T FORGET

To apply to be on next term's *Varsity* team!



EDITORIAL

Trashing results

When we worry about results, it appears that many of us forget what the value of going to University is. Anxiety originates from the commonplace assumption that we work throughout the year to achieve high marks in our exams. This outlook is entirely appreciable. Such a goal-directed attitude is what you need to get into Cambridge - after a sea of, in most cases, fairly easily achieved A*s the idiosyncrasies of the Cambridge examination system can be mystifying to say the least. However, by only considering our Tripos achievements, we forget about everything else we've gained that has made our time here worthwhile, the less tangible but more long-lasting markers of our learning. To bastardise Mark Twain, we should stop letting results interfere with our education.

Whether you're a science, art or humanities student, it's the development of certain skills and an original outlook that's important. Sometimes exam results reflect this, sometimes they don't. Your marks are indicative of your performance on the day - your social life, whether the areas you're strongest in were tested or how you were feeling in the exam hall - all of these likely alter your grade as significantly as your academic ability. If you didn't get the grade you wanted, it doesn't mean your academic year was unsuccessful.

For first years who may have missed their personal targets, working hard to achieve them will develop the discipline and attitude you need to succeed next year. For final years, it is more preposterous to judge the significance of your degree on what your certificate says. Reading and analysing difficult academic material for three or more years teaches you far more than a couple of digits in a lacklustre email could ever suggest. Only a small part of it will have been assessed when you were scribbling furiously on your exam script in the Senate House or Guildhall.

The ultimate test of the success of your degree is whether you can see beyond bland numbers on a page.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It had been reported in the week before the event that there would be a 'custard tussle' event to replace the jelly wrestling but this didn't occur.

The issue originally began when a first year Magdalene student, Nina de Paula Hanika, started a petition demanding that the Wyverns cancel jelly wrestling on the basis that it was 'sexist, misogynistic and completely inappropriate.' The Wyverns haven't personally responded to Nina regarding the petition - despite a popular counter petition being created which gained 1,135 almost as many as the 1,173 which Nina's petition achieved.

Nina referenced the lack of communication between her and the Wyverns in her most recent tumblr post saying: 'I want more. I want to hear a proper 'fuck you'. I want to hear why exactly you hate me so much. I want to hear a proper, lucid, explanation of why you are so incensed that I, a woman, should call you out on your sexist bullshit and win.'



Alternative forms of entertainment were provided to replace jelly wrestling at the party

Post

To Print or not to Print?

Re. The recent cuts to print issues of the *Varsity* publication.

Dear Editor,

It has come to my attention that *Varsity* has recently reduced the number of print issues per term. Unfortunately, I believe this shift from a weekly publication to a fortnightly one is not only a travesty for historical archiving but also a dramatic move away from the professionalism that we have come to expect from Cambridge publications. With constant competition from *The Cambridge Student* I am aghast as to why you would deliberately sabotage your ideal market; a group of individuals who I imagine are very rarely online at all (if my own experience as a student is anything to go by). At this rate you will be reduced to the likes of *The Tab*-condemned to the meagerness of a lonely online presence with little to no palpability at all.
REED KEYS, Reading.

State school applications soar, despite tuition fees

The latest admission statistics from the University show a further increase in state school admissions

by Luke Sweeny
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Admissions statistics released this month by the University show a large rise in the proportion of state school students admitted to the University, but still show mixed results with regard to regional and economic disparities in admissions.

The statistics, released by the Cambridge Admissions Office, show a rise of four and a half percentage points in the proportion of Home admissions from state schools, from 58.8% to 63.3%. This is slightly above the target range of 60-63% agreed with the Office for Fair Access, and, according to data provided by Student Beans, is a higher proportion of state school students than were admitted to Oxford, Durham, Bristol and Imperial College London last year.

There are still discrepancies between school types – applicants from independent schools had a higher success rate than from state schools (33.7% compared to 27.1%) – and within different types of state schools. While applicants from grammar schools were equally likely as applicants from independent schools to be successful, applicants from comprehensives and other types of state school were significantly less likely to gain a place.

In addition to the discrepancies between types of school, there are



CLARE COTERILL

Is this the end of Cambridge as an old boys club?

58.8%

Of admissions were from state schools

regional differences in success rates. Applicants from London and the South had high success rates, as did students from Northern Ireland, while

students from Scotland and Wales were less likely among UK applicants to be successful. The differences between UK and overseas applicants are even more stark – overseas applicants have an average success rate of 12.7% compared to an average success rate of 21.9%.

The statistics showed some improvement with regard to the socioeconomic backgrounds of admitted students, with 3.6% coming from the lowest quintile of higher education

participation, up from 2.7% the previous year. However, the Cambridge intake remains socioeconomically undiverse, with 53% of students admitted coming from the top fifth of

'The Cambridge intake remains socioeconomically undiverse, with 53% of students coming from the top fifth of postcodes'

postcodes in higher education participation, a measure which is strongly correlated with housing, social class and income.

Success rates also differed greatly between each of these groups, with applicants from the top social quintile having a success rate nearly 50% higher than applicants in one of the bottom two social quintiles – meaning the differences cannot solely be attributed to the number of applications. The University also lags behind other universities in broadening participation – nationally, 28% of students admitted were from the top social quintile while 13% were from the lowest quintile – a much less steep drop-off than exhibited at Cambridge.

ADMISSIONS: THE STATISTICS

58.8%
Of Cambridge admissions were from state schools (out of Home students) in 2011

63.3%
Of Cambridge admissions were from state schools in 2012

33.7%
Of independent school applications were successful in 2012

27.1%
Of state school applications were successful in 2012

12.7%
The success rate of overseas students when applying to Cambridge, the overall average rate is 21.9%

53%
Of students admitted were from the top social quintile

28%
Of students admitted to Universities nationwide are from the top social quintile



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£63 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR NEW CENTRE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

CAMBRIDGE The University of Cambridge has received £63 million to fund the creation of the Maxwell Centre. It will be a centrepiece for industrial partnership in the physical sciences on the West Cambridge Science and Technology campus, taking its name from the physicist James Clerk Maxwell.

The new centre will house around 230 people, in addition to research laboratories, seminar rooms, interactive areas and dedicated hubs for industrial partners. The new building is part of the Cavendish Laboratory's long-term development programme, expected to open in the summer of 2015.

The funding for the project was a combination of philanthropic gifts from the Winton programme, Hitachi Ltd., Toshiba Ltd., the Wolfson Foundation, the Sackler Foundation and Tata Steel, as well as other industrial contracts. In addition to this, a major contribution was made by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) for providing £21m.

LEGENDARY AUSTIN 7 PRANK RECREATED ON JESUS GREEN

CAMBRIDGE Jesus Green played host to a recreation of a legendary University prank, exactly 55 years after a cohort of Engineering students hoisted an Austin 7 car onto the roof of Senate House without power equipment in the dead of night.

Onlookers watched the University Officer Training Corps lift an identical car 20 feet into the air with the aid of a gyn, a three-legged structure of ropes and pulleys.

A full re-enactment at Senate House itself, or with a 70-foot platform on Jesus Green to stand in for the eighteenth-century building, was planned but abandoned due to traffic and safety concerns.

The original stunt, assisted by both the cover of darkness and female students lifting their skirts to distract passers-by, was intended to serve as a novel distraction to rowers during May Bumps Week. The modern version, on the other hand, was "a useful learning exercise", according to Lt Col Alex Macintosh, commanding officer of the UOTC, who also said that they "raised quite a lot for our chosen charities, Combat Stress and Jimmy's Night Shelter."

TAB'S "WORST COLLEGE" SURVEY HACKED BY GIRTON STUDENTS

CAMBRIDGE The *Tab's* recent survey for the worst College in the University of Cambridge has been rigged by a group of hackers from Girton College.

The survey, posted almost two weeks ago on *The Cambridge Tab's* website, offered visitors a choice of six colleges of the total thirty-one. After a brief period of alternation between different colleges, Girton began to receive a large percentage of the votes and gained a majority.

In response to this, two Girtonians created a computer program to repeatedly vote for all of the other colleges on the poll. The program, which ran for five days, amassed a total of 49,352 votes across the five other colleges.

The percentage of total votes that these Colleges held rose to around 19%, while Girton eventually dropped down to holding only 6% of the votes. *The Tab* claimed to be just 'slightly bemused and impressed by their misguided College pride.'

Student celebrations intolerable for university bureaucrats

Students were filmed by proctors while waiting for friends to finish their exams, even before cava spraying began

by Louise Ashwell
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Students have had to curb their traditional end of exam celebrations this exam season after complaints and interventions by University officials.

The traditional dousing of friends in champagne, after their last exams, has been under surveillance, with staff standing outside exam venues to warn against excessive celebrations.

In one incident, Senior Proctor Dr Owen Saxton found himself caked in flour outside New Museums Site after getting caught in the crossfire of one Pembroke student's prank on a friend. The second-year has been levelled with

'Senior Proctor Dr Owen Saxton found himself caked in flour after getting caught in the crossfire of a prank'

a fine. A *Daily Mail* photographer was also on hand to capture Saxton deliver a public dressing down to a Trinity Hall second year caught spraying a Natural Scientist friend with Cava.

The university officials outside exam halls warned students not to block pavements or cause damage to public property and littering. They left boxes to deposit used bottles of Sainsbury's Montoya Cava, students' drink of choice with which to spray their friends.

The University board of examinations introduced the new end of exam

1967

Year Champagne was first 'sprayed' as a celebration by F1 driver Dan Gurney

regulations last November in response to complaints by members of the public of 'over-exuberant' celebrations from students leaving exam halls in the centre of town.

The regulations read: "Candidates shall have regard for the welfare of others, including the general public, at the end of examination sessions (both their own sessions and those of others)." It goes on to add that "in particular they should avoid: noise that might disturb active examinations or other work nearby; littering or damage, especially with food or drink; and obstructing highways or thoroughfares."

Colleges have also been advocating restraint to their students in their end of exam celebrations beyond exuberant alcoholic displays. Senior Tutor of St Catharine's, Dr Paul Hartle, in an email to the college's JCR and staff, noted that "Whilst the release of tension rightly involves celebration and whilst that celebration for many involves alcohol, I did just want to ask you to remain sober enough to keep your wits about you, so that you avoid dangerous situations, such as alcohol poisoning, falling off tall buildings, falling in the



CALLUM HUMPHRIES



Draconian enforcement failed to stop some of the more mischievous students



river, indeed doing anything which might lead to injury to yourselves or others, or cause damage or mess which others have to clear up", adding a plea that students "please look after any of your friends fatuous enough to ignore this advice."

Dr Owen Saxton, when approached by *Varsity* for comment, responded that "The Proctors have been taken by surprise by the frequency and ubiquity of excessive celebration post-

'Exam term is hard enough as it is here; surely we deserve to let our hair down some of the time'

exams this year, which are not part of any Cambridge tradition." He added, "We have tried to respond to reports of problems from those working nearby in addition to our normal visits to individual exams, and have been glad to find most students responding sensibly to our request not to forget other

people entirely in the excitement. It would be unfortunate if reports of the unrestrained behaviour of a few undermined efforts to encourage wider application for places at the University."

A University spokesman told *Varsity* that "The excessive post-exam celebrations, caused by a small minority of students, seen over the past two weeks which caused disturbance to the wider community are unacceptable for the Collegiate University. There is no tradition at Cambridge of celebrating outside exam rooms in the anti-social way that has happened this year."

Many students have suggested that the University response has been excessive. "It's just harmless fun", said one Emma third year. "Exam term is hard enough as it is here; surely we at least deserve to be able to let our hair down some of the time."

Another student from Murray Edwards, who asked not to be named, suggested that this year's crackdown was an indication of the University's increasing concern for the image of it that is conveyed in the tabloid press. "The idea of students spraying each

other with £42 bottles of Bollinger, as reported in the *Daily Mail*, does portray a fairly despicable image of elitism. The problem is that it's not based in fact."

The concluding paragraph of Dr Hartle's email would appear to corroborate

£42

The cost of the Bollinger which Cantabrigians are allegedly disposed to dousing each other in.

this concern for how the University appears to the wider public: "As a secondary but still important issue", he wrote, "try not to behave in public in ways which cause distress or disgust to other citizens and which allow the ever-eager press to persist in their caricature of the Cambridge student as an over-privileged drunken lout (of either gender). And try not to live down to that caricature."

Cat-astrophe strikes again

Students left devastated as beloved college cat disappears, leaving her sister behind

by Charlotte Keith
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

LL staircase has smelt of cat food for as long as anyone can remember. Pembroke College has had more than its fair share of feline frights this year. The saga began last September, when Kit Smart – named for Pembroke's famously cat-loving alumnus, poet Christopher Smart – passed away. She had come to Pembroke as a stray, 'in 1996, probably aged two', according to the College Registrar, Dr Becky Coombs, and is now buried in the College orchard.

The loss of Kit left a cat-shaped hole in the hearts of the Pembroke community, which was finally filled by the arrival of new kittens Marie and Millie,

both black domestic shorthairs. The new arrivals were introduced to students in February, as the 'Pembroke's miaowest members, the latest in a long line of illustrious Pembroke cats', according to a message posted on the College website. The kittens are named after two of Pembroke's most generous benefactors: Marie, for the French noblewoman Marie de St Pol, who founded the College in 1347; Millie, for Mrs Sarah Millicent who bequeathed the Barham estate, which she had inherited from her husband, to the College c. 1807.

During Lent Term the kittens were often seen playing in the sun, and seemed to be settling in well. On May 2nd, however, Marie was announced missing. A message was sent round

asking students to check rooms and cupboards for the missing kitten; 'this is slightly complicated', the email acknowledged, 'by the fact that Millie is still pottering around College and looks very like her sister!' No news of the missing kitten has been heard since. Queens' College have also lost a suspiciously similar looking black cat; the police have yet to comment on the existence of a cat-napping crime ring operating in Central Cambridge.

The College has not been left entirely bereft, though, as a friendly tabby named Milo now regularly commutes from his home on Hills Road to enjoy the delights of the Pembroke's gardens. He has been thoroughly immersing himself in college life, and assisting the JPC Welfare Team in supporting

students through exam term. The cat even enforced regular revision breaks for one particularly highly-strung theologian, miaowing loudly outside his room until let inside for a cuddle.

Milo also brought some much-needed relaxation into the College library itself: even the most diligent student would struggle to work with a cat sitting on their books. This was, by all accounts, one of the most exciting things to happen in the library in quite some time.

May Week, however, doesn't seem to suit Milo so well. He appeared unimpressed by the Idlers' Garden Party on Suicide Sunday, putting in only the briefest of appearances before retreating to his favourite chair in the Tutorial Office.

LORD MILO

Lord Milo, the tabby that has been visiting Pembroke this term, has also been making appearances at a number of other colleges. Corpus Christi College, Clare College, Trinity College, Garden House Hotel, Church and St John's College have all been graced by his presence. He's also been spotted relaxing on Little St Mary's Lane, Trumpington Street and in Market Square. Milo's lifestyle seems to be far less cat-atonian than his average fellow feline.

Visit his Facebook page to track his every move and report his whereabouts (<https://www.facebook.com/LordMilotheCat?fref=ts>).

You can check out photos of him being chauffeured home, which is sometimes necessary when he wanders too far and can't find his own way back.

Students have been posting photos of his adventures on the page, including one of his visit to the library in St Catharine's and his dramatic battle with a magpie in Pembroke.

Milo has 110 friends on Facebook and is often captured on video by the official Pembroke College Facebook page which also provides regular updates about his whereabouts.

His particular interests appear to be walking, sleeping in students' rooms (or the porter's lodge) and sunbathing on the lawn. Milo is one cool cat.



The original Pembroke Kitten (second from left) has mysteriously disappeared. Students are being comforted by a visiting tabby, 'Lord Milo' from Hills Road, whose regular library visits helped finalists through this difficult time of exam stress.

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Varsity alumni dominate Independent editorial team

by Alice Udale-Smith & Fred Maynard
NEWS CORRESPONDENTS

Amol Rajan has been appointed editor of the Independent this week, making him the first non-white editorial head of a UK national newspaper. Rajan has previously been editor of *Varsity* in 2005. At the Independent he was previously Comment Editor, and before that was a columnist and advisor to newspaper owner Evgeny Levedev.

Rajan's promotion to Editor was not the only change at the *Independent*. Oliver Duff, another previous *Varsity* Editor, has also been made editor of the *i* paper, the Independent's sister title.

The appointments are particularly unusual because the men are so young, as both are currently 29 years old, although they have both been at the *Independent* for several years. At 29, Rajan is one of the youngest national newspaper editors in the recent past – although not the youngest; that title belongs to Piers Morgan who was named Editor of the *News of the World* in 1994, aged only 28. They are joined by fellow *Varsity* alumnus Archie Bland, the deputy editor of the *Independent* and a similarly youthful presence at 29.

Rajan read English Literature at Cambridge University and after graduating worked for the *Evening Standard* and Channel 5, before moving to the *Independent* as a news reporter. He was then promoted to editor of *Independent Voices*, the newspapers comment section, just four months ago.

Duff also studied at Cambridge and



Independent big wigs: Amol Rajan (above) and Oly Duff have been appointed Editors of the *Independent* and the *i* respectively

was editor of *Varsity* before Rajan. He has worked at the independent for nine years as both a reporter and editor of the gossip column. He later became news editor and helped launch *i*. The *i* newspaper is a 20p smaller version of the traditional daily newspaper, that was launched in 2010. However it has soon become one of the biggest selling national papers and in October 2012 increased circulation by almost 8% month on month, consequently passing the 300,000 sales mark.



Their appointment was first announced by Levedev on Twitter shortly after 10am on Monday 17th June and was widely considered to be a surprise to journalists. The previous editor of the *Independent*, Chris Blackhurst has also been promoted, being made group content director across all four of the titles owned by Levedev.

In a tweet, Lebedev wished the new editors luck and said of Blackhurst: "I thank him for all his work and leadership as editor of @Independent. Look

forward to creating a 21st century media company with him."

Ever since Greg Dyke's comment that the BBC was "hideously white" in 2001, the status of non-white media executives has been increasingly under scrutiny. A charity founded in 2012, Creative Access, has been attempting to increase the number of high-level media internships available to ethnic minorities, on the basis that "media cannot reflect society if society is not reflected in the media".

EDITOR'S AGES THROUGH THE AGES



CP Scott was the editor of the *Manchester Guardian* from the age of 26 until his retirement in 1929 at the age of 83



Piers Morgan was the youngest Fleet Street editor in history when he was appointed as editor of *The News of the World* at he age of 28



Archie Bland is currently one of the youngest senior editors in the country at the age of 29

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

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

Positions on the team include:
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Science Editor, Theatre Critic,
Music Critic, Classical Critic,
Film Critic, Visual Arts Critic,
Literary Critic, Food Critic,
Photographer, Illustrator

Varsity



Review: the Murray Edwards Garden Party

Why spend all your money on balls when garden parties come in at a fraction of the cost? Garden parties are now the best way to spend your time, money and energy in May week

by Francesca Hill
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Murray Edwards Garden Party is not cheap. But boy, do they make £25 go a very long way. When many of Cambridge's garden parties leave you wondering exactly what you paid for (Union Society, take note), this college where few normally venture has got student entertainment down to an art.

Let's start with the basics: food and drink was varied and kept coming for

'Cocktails, beer, falafel and hog roast are all to be expected at a June Event, but at a third of the ticket price they put on a comparable spread'

hours. Cocktails, beer, falafel, burgers, hog roast, ice-cream and crepes are all to be expected at a June Event, but at a third of the ticket price, the Murray Edwards JCR team had somehow managed to put on a comparable spread.

There was also a wide range of music, with acts including Polar Collective, Laurie Lewis and the Bon Bon Bons covering everything from upbeat retro numbers perfect for dancing, to acoustic tunes suited to the late afternoon lull in energy levels.



The Murray Edwards Garden Party committee's attention to detail paid off in spades

£25

The cost of the Murray Edwards Garden Party

Someone had clearly put a lot of

thought into the finishing touches; it's hard to make a large concrete block of a building look aesthetically pleasing, but with walkway hangings in line with the "Summer of Love '67" theme and quirks like trees hung with vinyl records and collections of bottle openers, the college grounds looked almost sophisticated.

The main downside was the typical garden party queuing, which was

'The main downside was queuing, which was particularly bad for some of the food stalls'

particularly bad for some of the food stalls and smaller scale entertainments like the photo booth, t-shirt tie-dyeing

and shisha tent. Given how many people present lacked wristbands, you had to wonder if greater control on gate-crashing would have helped keep the queues down.

Still, the relaxed atmosphere and attention to detail left a surprisingly positive impression. If you haven't made it up the hill yet, then do: it's not so much a garden party as a really cheap June Event.



HELEN CAHILL

Balls, booze and bopping: May Week so far...

by Christina Sweeney-Baird
NEWS EDITOR

The annual string of Cambridge May Balls has been a staple of any student's calendar for decades, with balls famed for their grandeur, decadence and unrestrained revelry. For many undergraduates, May Balls provide the welcome relief at the end of a term dominated by revision and anxiety.

There are of course many reasons why Cambridge is superior to Oxford, but

surely the existence of May Week is one of the most convincing reasons to be glad that you're here and not strolling down a quad on your way to a tutorial.

May Week is sometimes hijacked by the national press as an excuse to emphasise the false Oxbridge toff stereotype. But undoubtedly it's a wonderful opportunity for Cambridge students to make the most of our beautiful surroundings in the very brief period when supervisions and reading lists don't dominate our psyches and

conversations.

May Week so far this year has seen a party of a scale unmatched almost anywhere in the world at Trinity whilst Robinson has provided an amazing night on a budget. The huge range of garden parties put on by societies and colleges alike make May week one of the most valuable things about Cambridge. It's like freshers week without the fear, nervousness and obligatory drinking of bad wine. Face the *Daily Mail* photographers with pride. You've earned it.



With the stress of supervisions and exams gone, students can relax in style

Robinson

Robinson always has a reputation for being a budget ball, and to some extent this is true. But with entertainment and comedy as good as Robinson routinely books, this doesn't ever seem to matter. The food was good - a typical May Ball affair with burgers, fajitas, and all the usual ice cream, sweets and popcorn. Similarly the drinks were plentiful, and there were small queues - one of the most important things to get right if you're trying to please the revellers at a May Ball. *AUS*

Emmanuel

The London theme proved perfect for the night as guests moved seamlessly from Pimms buses to getting Sex Pistol inspired nails or a shave in 'Chelsea', to afternoon tea in the garden. Photo opportunities were abundant: from taxi cabs to photobooths to Tower Bridge. The headlining band Spector were a disappointment, being predictable and boring, whilst Truly Medly Deeply were playful and exuberant as ever. All in all, a capital time was had by everyone. *MM*

Jesus

Jesus Ball lived up to its reputation of being a good value ball. Food was varied with the surprise addition of kangaroo and ostrich burgers (if you could get to the front of the queue and drink was plentiful with a large selection of cocktails. Main act Maverick Sabre proved popular with a full tent. Worthy too of note was Riot Jazz who entertained the crowd with their jazz band renditions of hits such as "living on a prayer". Overall, entertaining with much to do. *TN*

Clare

Bottomless champagne, kaleidoscopic doughnuts, chocolate fountains, and colourful cocktails. Clare May Ball not only delivered the food and music we all expected, but additions such as the "infinity room", crazy golf and dodgems meant one constantly felt like a puppy chasing Ferraris. Whisky tasting was a personal favourite, though it was a shame they only had three to try. I'm used to a much larger range, but it didn't alter my enjoyment of the event. *HP*

Trinity

Famously given the accolade of the 'third best party in the world' by *Vanity Fair*, Trinity was as decadent and grand as to be expected but failed to live up to its own hype. The entertainment was faultless with Example, Basshunter, the University Celeidh Band and many more keeping partygoers dancing well into the morning. The queues for ride and drinks however were at times unreasonably long and there were points in the early hours when no food was available. *CR*

OXFORD FAILS IN UK "GREEN" LEAGUE TABLE

OXFORD A Green League Table of UK universities published by The Guardian placed Oxford 132nd in the country for environmental standards, dropping 13 places since last year. 143 higher education institutions were analysed in the ranking, which was topped by Manchester Metropolitan University, followed closely by Plymouth.

The ranking, compiled by environmentalist website "People and Planet", took into account factors such as Environmental Policy, Energy, Waste and Ethical Investment. Oxford was given a "fail" for its efforts across a whole range of these areas.

In particular, Oxford fared poorly in the "Ethical procurement and Fair Trade", "Waste and Recycling" and "Carbon Emissions" categories. Stronger points included "Ethical Investment" and "Student and staff engagement". In total, Oxford Scored 22 points out of 70. The University of Cambridge was ranked slightly above, at 113th, whilst London Business School and Heythrop College trailed at the bottom of the table. *Max Long (Cherwell)*

BOMBS SCARE AT ST HUGH'S

OXFORD A controlled explosion has occurred at St Hugh's after a "suspicious package" was discovered. Students have been evacuated from half of the College, and confined to the college hall, and have been told by college staff that there will be a further controlled explosion in the next hour.

At around 12.30, St Hugh's students were denied access to their rooms, and around half moved into the college hall, whilst the first controlled explosion took place, around 50 minutes later.

The package was found close to the College's Maplethorpe building, adjacent to the President's Lodgings.

Whilst police and a bomb disposal squad were at the scene, onlookers said they looked calm, and appeared to be working through a standard procedure, and students have reported that armed police officers are currently securing the perimeter.

The nature of the suspicious package has not been revealed to students, as according to the College's principal, it could be used to trace the culprit.

The incident has led to chaos for those preparing for exams, as students have been unable to gain access their rooms to change into subfusc.

EXETER COLLEGE JCR MOBILISES STUDENTS TO BOYCOTT CATERING FACILITIES IN COLLEGE

OXFORD According to a Facebook group set up by several Exeter students, including Edward Nickell, JCR President, participants "will not purchase any food or drink from Hall or the Bar, for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Instead, food will be provided in the JCR for a small contribution — very small compared to Hall."

The boycott took place on Monday, for one day only. However Alice Nutting, a first-year English student, told *Cherwell* that "there has been a discussion about plans for a strike that could last weeks" at the start of Michaelmas.

Nickell claimed in a written JCR proposal to the college that "Exeter has the highest net redeemable catering charge in Oxford, by a margin of £116 per term. Colleges with smaller catering charges, for example New College, allow the entirety of the amount to be spent on meals eaten in hall."

Varsity's yearly news round up

From protests to shark fins, it has been a busy year at the *Varsity* news desk. Here are some of the stories that caught our eye.

by Emily Chan
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

JULIAN ASSANGE (AGAIN)

The Cambridge Union was left embarrassed last November after WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange pulled out of taking part in a controversial Q&A session. While the reason given for the cancellation was "technical difficulties", it later emerged that Assange would be speaking to the Convention Camp conference in Hanover, Germany on that day instead.

The Union's decision to offer Assange — who is wanted in Sweden for questioning over rape and sexual assault allegations — an opportunity to speak via video link from the Ecuadorian embassy, where he still remains, was heavily opposed by the CUSU Women's Campaign. A petition to revoke the invitation was signed by more than 900 people.

Assange has been taking refuge in the Ecuadorian embassy in London since June last year to avoid extradition to Sweden. He has given a number of interviews and has often addressed the press from the embassy balcony. In January protestors gathered outside the Oxford Union in response to Assange being invited to speak at an event, again via video link. An article in *The Independent* last weekend revealed that Assange would be collaborating with a Puerto Rican alternative hip-hop band called Calle 13.



Does class still trump brains?

ELITISM AND OXBRIDGE

The issue of university access has once again been making the headlines, with an article in *Time Magazine* arguing that Oxbridge has an elitist image problem.

It was suggested that both Oxford and Cambridge were guilty of "institutional bias" against black and ethnic minority applicants, after a Guardian report suggested that white applicants with the same A-level grades were more likely to gain places at Oxbridge. These claims were firmly rejected by the University of Cambridge.

The latest admissions figures for 2011-12 show that only 16.8 per cent of applicants were from ethnic minorities, which is a slight drop from 17.5 per cent the previous year. The gap in the success rate of black applicants to Cambridge remains stark, with 14.7 per cent gaining a place last year compared to 30.8 per cent of white students.

In January David Willetts, the Universities Minister, argued that white working-class boys should be targeted by universities in the same way as ethnic



Julian Assange speaking at the Union before he was placed on house arrest

minority groups.

SUPERVISIONS AND TEACHING

Large disparities in the number of supervision hours offered to students at different colleges were exposed in a *Varsity* investigation earlier this year. For first-year economics students, the gap was as much as 71 hours: a student

115

Average supervision hours per student at Newnham

at Newnham received on average 115 hours over the year, compared to 43 hours at Sidney Sussex.

In May, it was revealed that the Faculty of English would be cutting supervision hours across all colleges. Figures obtained under the Freedom of Information Act found that students currently receive on average between 58 to 108 hours. The new changes will mean that it will be the norm for students to receive around 49 hours a year. A spokesman for the Faculty said that one of the aims "to level the playing field and make sure that students receive a consistent level of supervision regardless of the College to which they belong."



Campaigners from Fin Free Cambridge called for a ban of shark fin products



Arsalan Ghani was removed as President of the GU

SHARKING - IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK

Last October two campaigners from Fin Free Cambridge arrived at the Guildhall dressed as sharks to deliver a petition calling for the City Council to speak out against banning shark fin products. The petition, which received more than 3,500 signatures, led to Cambridge City Council becoming the first council to condemn the sale of shark fin products. The campaigners are now setting

3,500

Signed the petition about shark fins



Why do you need feminism event on King's Parade

their sights on the rest of the country and have since set up a group called Fin Fighters UK.

THE PROBLEM WITH WOMEN

A *Varsity* investigation found that women remain underrepresented within academia. Figures obtained under the Freedom of Information Act found that at Queens' College only 17 per cent of fellows are female, while the figure is also less than one in five at Selwyn and St John's. There is also a gender pay gap: the average salary for a male employee is £39,698 compared to £31,023.

The Cambridge Union again faced criticism last term — this time for its choice of female speakers, namely the French far-right leader Marine Le Pen. Around 200 demonstrators gathered outside the Union in protest against the invitation.

Gender issues were highlighted by the "I need feminism because..." campaign on King's Parade run by the CUSU Women's Campaign and the Anglia Ruskin Feminist Society.

THE GRADUATE UNION

Arsalan Ghani, the elected president of the Graduate Union, was voted out of office by the Graduate Union Council in May following a vote of no confidence. A petition that called for Ghani to publicly apologise and resign received more than 200 signatures.

Ghani's tenure was filled with controversy. Last September, an article in Pakistan's leading English language newspaper, *The News International*, suggested that the former president was the "victim of racial discrimination after a campaign was orchestrated to marginalise him in the union". The claims were rejected by Ghani's predecessor Liv Watson. Ghani told *Varsity* that he had made an official complaint to the University, but had not known that *The News International* had been informed.

A number of unsubstantiated claims were made about Ghani, including the suggestion that the former president had been involved in the disappearance of £1,000 from the Union's safe. Ghani strongly denied this.

The motion of no confidence argued that Ghani had "conducted himself in a manner not befitting his office" and "repeatedly used the constitutional problems as a defence for his actions, and, indeed, through his conduct, slowed the process for resolving the crisis."

Making sense of nonsense

Seemingly nonsensical and trivial acts are a necessary part of survival for the human race, explains **Becky Jordan**

Walking through Cambridge during recent summer days, I often find myself observing those around me (in a non-creepy way); people enjoying post-exam punt trips, reading novels, juggling, and making daisy chains, and - perhaps most inexplicably - tourists taking close-up shots of inconspicuous brick walls with expensive cameras. As often happens when I have nothing better to do, this got me thinking about our species, and reaching the usual conclusion: humans are weird.

One of the strange things about us is that we do things that appear to have no particular evolutionary value. For all animal species, the brain is designed to promote behaviours resulting in receiving primary rewards - food, water and sex. Rewards such as power and money allow greater access to these primary rewards. This increases the chances of survival and reproduction, and hence the passing on of genes.

Humans alone on the other hand seem to have evolved to do seemingly pointless things: why does anyone watch soap operas? Why does my sister collect stuffed toy monkeys? And why on earth do I enjoy listening to ragga drum 'n' bass? The simple answer lies in the neurochemistry of reward. Dopamine is the chemical released in the brain when a primary reward is received - whenever a rat is given a Froot Loop, for example (scientists like to give lab animals such types of quirky rewards - a rat with a Froot Loop is pretty cute).

The dopamine release drives learning of whatever behaviour lead to the receiving of the E-number crammed cereal - the same principle behind training your dog to do silly things using treats.

Recently, brain imaging has shown

that dopamine may also underlie the reason we desire the more abstract rewards. Enjoyable pieces of music cause dopamine release in the brain. This in turn is understood to coincide with the pleasant 'chills' experienced

"Aimless fun could be an effective exercise for the brain"

while listening to music. I'm not too sure about 'chills', - but for me this at least mechanistically answers my long-pondered question of why I excessively enjoy the dropping of the bass.

So, our brain has mechanisms that make supposedly useless things biologically rewarding in the same way as food or sex. Why is this, when the same energy could be put into, for example, furthering career success? Why, this week, will you go on fairground rides in King's College dressed as some freakish demon, or submerge yourself in the rat-infested Cam among the sodden shreds of that cardboard boat you spent all night constructing?

One answer could be in the size and complexity of our brains. Many young animals play games and do silly things, which presumably promote the development of proper adult behaviour. Perhaps humans need more this kind of novel stimulation and for longer periods of time?

Aimless fun could be an effective exercise for the brain in a culture where most primary rewards needn't be fought for any more. This could explain the existence of adrenaline junkies, and the common love for rollercoasters and horror films - our ancestors would have likely experienced the same kind of neurochemical thrill daily in their fight to

survive in the wild.

The importance of any brain-engaging activity may reveal itself in situations where it is denied to people: when people aren't allowed access to new and stimulating things, the brain appears to fill in the gap itself.

Those experiencing sensory monotony for extended periods (e.g. sailors with only an endless seascape in sight, and experimental subjects in sensory deprivation chambers) may begin to experience vivid visual and/or auditory hallucinations. These are often as real, novel and surprising as watching a nonsensical movie (i.e. an effect known as 'the prisoner's cinema'). Continual sensory change is thus a basic requirement of the brain, however trivial it may appear. So readers - go ahead and enjoy May Week with the vague idea that the ridiculous things you do are as necessary for your mind as the preceding year of academia.



Punting: one of the many seemingly nonsensical acts enjoyed by those in Cambridge

Rock of the Week

PEGMATITE

It's your lucky day, Rozzi: pegmatite is one of the most exceptionally crystalline of rocks, a veritable treasure trove of sparkly goodness. If your particular chunk of igneous hardness doesn't look like it's going to yield the world's largest crystal, it's best to remember that size doesn't matter: there's every chance that it could contain any number of lesser treats, from rare earth minerals to gemstones like aquamarine and topaz. Trading glittery glam for practicality, it could even end up helping to form commercial granite to be used in interior design.

What's a girl to do with such versatility?
Rory Williamson

TOM PORTEOUS



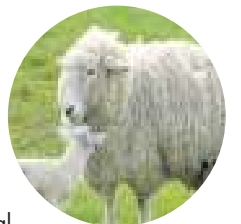
Nature's Essentials during May Week

Indulge yourself

... in some brewer's yeast, known as *Saccharomyces Cerevisiae*, which is essential for producing the alcoholic drinks around which revolves the over-indulgence that is May Week.

Suit up!

... with some *Ovis aries*, the common sheep providing the wool for traditional black tie suits. May Balls would have a different feel if everyone came in jeans.



Punting galore

Trees providing the mahogany wood that English punts are traditionally constructed from, are called *Genus Swietenia*. May Week just wouldn't be the same without jaunts on the Cam.

Fizz

One of the major cultivated grape species is the *itis vinifera*, notable for including the Pinot noir variety often used in the production of May Week fizz.



Hangover cure

Willow trees from whose bark salicylic acid was first isolated, the *Genus Salix* is a key component of the aspirin needed to kill off the post-Ball hangover.

Beiber and Hawkings: two peas in a pod?

Beyond their die-hard fans and aura of mystique, similarities abound, says **Ben Sharples**

If you made a Venn diagram of Beliebers and people that have read *A Brief History of Time*, you would expect to have two distinct circles. They would probably be as far apart as they possibly could be. Reputedly, Hawking's modern classic is the least read bestseller of all time - an interesting, if completely unsurprising bit of trivia. It's the archetypal intellectual poseur's coffee table tome.

However, if you look past the fans, there are some substantial similarities between them. Both figures have a cult personality; the conceptions of them in the public consciousness go beyond

ethereal objects, albeit at opposite ends of the spectrum. Justin Bieber is often taken as the paradigmatic case of contemporary inanity, and Hawking as the reverse - a stereotypical modern genius.

But why does Hawking occupy this privileged celebrity position? An easy answer would be that he has made an incredible contribution to scientific knowledge. However there are plenty of modern theoretical physicists whose phenomenal achievements are comparable to Hawking's. Why hasn't Steven Weinberg made an appearance on Star Trek? Where is Martin Rees' *Futurama* episode? It is obvious that Bieber's name signifies more than his achievements, - but we don't think about Hawking like that

Clues come in the title of one of Hawking's biographies, 'An Unfettered Mind'. Hawking has come to represent a disembodied mind since his diagnosis with a motor neuron disease, grasping at the fundamentals of the universe with nothing more than the power of mathematical reasoning. He is, in his own words, peering into the 'mind of God'. Very 'unfettered' indeed.

However, such a description tells us

more about how the public view scientists, rather than anything about Hawking himself. We like to think that they are lone geniuses, operating

"Bieber is often taken as the paradigmatic case of contemporary inanity, and Hawking as the reverse - a stereotypical modern genius"

free from the prosaic distractions that befall ordinary people. The cognitive dissonance of science and basic human carnal desires is what makes the satirical *Daily Mash* headline 'Science is fanny central, claims Prof Brian Cox' funny.

Hélène Miallet's book *Hawking Incorporated* challenges the idea that Hawking's mind is uniquely unfettered. She followed Hawking for years, interviewing his complex network of nurses, assistants, students, colleagues and journalists to produce an ethnographic study of the physicist. It is the collective

effort of his support group that forms the basis of his science. Indeed he is very much a product of this network - a diverse range of specialities among his research students give him a quasi-Achimedean approach to problems, a unique personal secretary sorts the data he processes according to his interests.

Just as Bieber is an embodiment of the vacuousness of PR consultant driven celeb-culture, Hawking's work demonstrates the collaborative nature of modern science. Rational reasoning is only one aspect of science - it is much more complex than we would like to think. If the physicist archetype is so reliant on interactions to produce knowledge, what does this say about 'normal' scientists?



Obama meets science celebrity Hawking

10m

Number of copies sold worldwide of Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*

a firm association with any corporeal reality. Both have made it past that boiling point on the thermometer of fame - a cameo on *The Simpsons*. As household names they represent curiously

The myth and the reality of the May Week pull

Harry Prance tests out the practicalities of trying to pull at May Balls and finds them wanting

One of the most pervasive and notable myths associated with May Week is the phenomenon of the May Week pull. As a fresher, a seemingly more knowledgeable or at least fortunate third year had informed me of the inevitable sexual gold rush which would await. At the end of two May Weeks and if, as likely, the trend continues, a third, this faint and distant dream has and will remain unfulfilled. But how plausible and even desirable is a May Week Pull?

May Balls exacerbate and extend all of the worst aspects of a typical club pull: at the end you are inevitably more tired, more inadequately dressed

'It'll be far more reminiscent of The Inbetweeners than Maurice.'

for the trek home and less likely to be able to get it up. An eroticized ball is simply Cindies, Life or whatever other den of mediocre music and worse air conditioning which you typically inhabit, tarted up in a neat new frock. It is the proverbially unpolishable turd. In the average student's imagination, there is something romantic and chocolate-boxy to the May Week liaison but in all likelihood it'll be far more reminiscent of *The Inbetweeners* than *Maurice*.

The sheer mechanics of an erotic conquest at a Ball make it undesirable for all except perhaps the most impressive of budding Casanovas. Trapped in the grounds of one college for roughly nine hours (if you're going



Black Tie is only a thin layer of disguise between a May Ball and a pool of sweat

to get your money's worth) there are only so many places to hide if things go wrong...

Even if things go right, how many of us are capable of entertaining another person for all that time? I normally get bored of pulling within the first five minutes, let alone five hours. If you find yourself up to the task, the focus required ruins all other aspects of the ball. Honing in on one person and their pleasure for an entire evening, by its nature, unless you are a joy sponge, cannot help but leave you slightly unfulfilled.

More than that, it gets to the heart of what the point of a ball even is. Why

the average hard-up student bothers to lay down one hundred and fifty pounds of their own well (or not so well)-earned cash. A ball expended on the distant possibility of inadequate sexual sparring, at the cost of time well-spent with friends, is a ball wasted. The number of activities which become an aesthetic impossibility in hotheaded carnal pursuit cannot but help suck fun and value for money out of the evening's entertainment: silent discos, any form of inflatable slide and even oysters, the supposed aphrodisiacs, are unthinkable.

The easily realised and immediately obvious joys of an evening whiled away

'I normally get bored of pulling within the first five minutes, let alone five hours'

in the company of those you most likely have not only booked tickets with but spent your year(s) here with, form a fitting conclusion to a year of inevitable peaks and troughs. A decorative and, at least in theory, unproblematic bookmark to the vagaries of the Cantabrigian calendar.

Perhaps, however, the myth of the may week pull is a necessary

fiction: our natural cynicism, in exposing the distasteful realities of its operations, actually obfuscating the carnivalesque ideology it embodies. Its flirtatious fantasy and romanticised nature is an important component in the hagiographic construction of May Week itself. Three years here and the consistent pitfalls of sexual achievement which they have entailed may have taught me otherwise, but a more naive and maybe more likeable part of me will persist in its dreams of erotic ecstasy. The reader had just better hope not to be the target of my somewhat lacking conjugal confrontations.

May Week: a social exam?

James Evans asks if we're really taking a break at all

This week when I was casually asked to write a 'fun and breezy' article about May Week in Cambridge - the pinnacle of leisure and a promised reward for all our hard work - I was reassured that the writing process would be no effort at all.

Perhaps, I was told, it might even be enjoyable. With this in mind, I found myself two hours before the deadline sitting on my bedroom floor and beginning to feel those familiar pangs of stress. Having done this 'chilled out' May Week thing for two years now and about to subject myself to my third, is it possible that May Week is actually just

'I love and dread May Week precisely because it's bloody stressful'

as stressful as any Cambridge term?

Cambridge students play as hard as they work and, as an institution, Cambridge likes to fancy itself as bigger and better than its fellow university peers. We are told to aim for better results, write more essays, have ten times more extra-curricular opportunities, and generally do everything with just a little bit more 'oomph' than is generally expected of us as students. Love it or hate it, this is what our university prides itself on,

and it is somewhat unavoidable.

The precision and extent of the efforts which go into our balls is a reflection of the relatively herculean efforts most Cantabs put into their academic work. It may be bloody depressing when talking to a friend from x university about their first essay of term in fifth week, but how many of students of the type x go somewhere prepared to construct bridges and canals for a party?

However, while I (of course) like a bit of the old 'go big or go home' philosophy towards success and achievement, this attitude problematically extends itself into the execution of May Week. Instead of all-night essays, it's all-night May Balls. It's no surprise that we call it 'May Week': we can't quite believe that we've left the month of May, and exams, behind us. May week is often dismissed as a bit of a nostalgic carnival but that nostalgia is perhaps far more related to academic rather than historic pangs of loss. I love and dread May Week precisely because it's bloody stressful.

The transition from exam term to May Week is in actuality quite blurred. In truth, I don't actually know when exams end and the celebrations officially begin, and I think that's essentially the point of May Week. You cannot and should not expect Cambridge students, after months of lectures, supervisions, classes,

practicals, presentations, revision and exams, to just stop and 'relax'.

It seems as though May Week is an invention made to provide a safe structure that channels all the excess, habitual stress into something 'fun'. After a year's worth of hard work, why on earth have I signed up for multiple plays, garden parties, balls and even writing this article? I would go mad if I didn't because I would actually have time on my hands and Lord knows that's not a feeling I've experienced for the last three years.

I cannot imagine anything more tiresome and dull than if the Cantabrigian year were to end with a whimper and not a bang. If all the end of a year of academic head-banging yielded was a bland taste of relaxation and the tiresome opportunity to scurry home.

I'm sure I speak for many of us when I say God forbid that May Week didn't exist and we were all left to our own, for once surprisingly incapable, devices...

'I don't actually know when exams end and the celebrations officially begin, and I think that's essentially the point of May Week'



This onslaught of baked goodies fails to provide a relaxed approach to dining

Decadence shines through at May Balls?

Saskia Goldman thinks moral standards are taking the backseat this week

The nostalgia craze is big business. There are 'Keep Calm and...' slogans on mugs, tea towels and iPhone cases in every gift shop window in Cambridge. The royal wedding, the jubilee, and the social ideal of wartime community spirit have led to a (lucrative) investment in nostalgia, communicated largely by cupcake stands, Cath Kidston and liberty prints.

Are our May Balls in Cambridge just another part of this craze? Yes, they've been going on for a while, but I feel like we're becoming dangerously nostalgic, clinging to a faded and decadent past. Are our efforts for May Week just as futile and misdirected as the way we keep telling ourselves to 'Keep Calm and Carry On' – a slogan that was never even propagandized during the war?

Is there something so lacking about our own cultural touchstones that we can do nothing but helplessly and depressingly inadequately regurgitate the cultural spolia of bygone eras?

"Why worry?" you might ask. After all, aren't we all just having fun? Well, I have a growing suspicion that through all the glitz and glamour of May Balls, we're not only playing out a past that never really was, but actually threatening others' fun. And, if the glamour really was all that, we're merely emulating a past we can, and should, never connect to.

I have a friend who, during the exam

period, would dress up beautifully – hair, make up and pencil skirt – to sit in her room and revise. She ended up looking a lot more like Joan from *Mad Men* than a typical student in mid revision blackhole. In doing so, she channeled something of the seriousness of her attire and expectations of the impending exams – for she sat her exams in a similar manner, impeccably

'We all forget our social and moral codes for one night and pretend we're at some Gatsby-esque orgy'

dressed.

This all matters in May Week because, as I have observed with many Cambridge archaisms over three years, when you dress up like you're living in the roaring twenties, you start to behave like you might be, or how you think you might have behaved – a very vague interpretation of our Cantab forefathers' lives. I stress fathers because, of course, where were the women?

Many balls take on themes of past decadence; in my first year I jumped aboard Jesus' Orient Express for a night of indulgence. At my first May Ball of this year, the lovely Robinson, I wasn't



A battle-cry for decadence...

exactly transported back in time to the Great Exhibition of 1851, but the theme itself is indicative of the make-believe we indulge in.

When we're dressed in white or black tie and a collection of ball gowns and vintage dresses, some of us seem to forget the day and age in which we live. At Robinson I experienced the way in which decadence can permeate a person, and how all the glitter around us can make us forget that this is the twenty-first century, and that women have been at this university for a while now. Yes, I'm sort of talking about the way drunk men treat drunk

women, but more than this, I'm talking specifically about the way in which we all forget our contemporary social and moral codes for one night to pretend we're at some Gatsby-esque orgy.

I love to plunge into the fantasy world of May Balls as much as the next person, but all that glitters is not gold. If people feel they can behave in such socially unacceptable ways at these nostalgic affairs, maybe we should pay attention to the impact of nostalgia on us all. If the prejudices of the past can so seamlessly resurge, are we merely refusing to admit that our decadence might now be outdated?

Black tie: an elegantly covert straitjacket

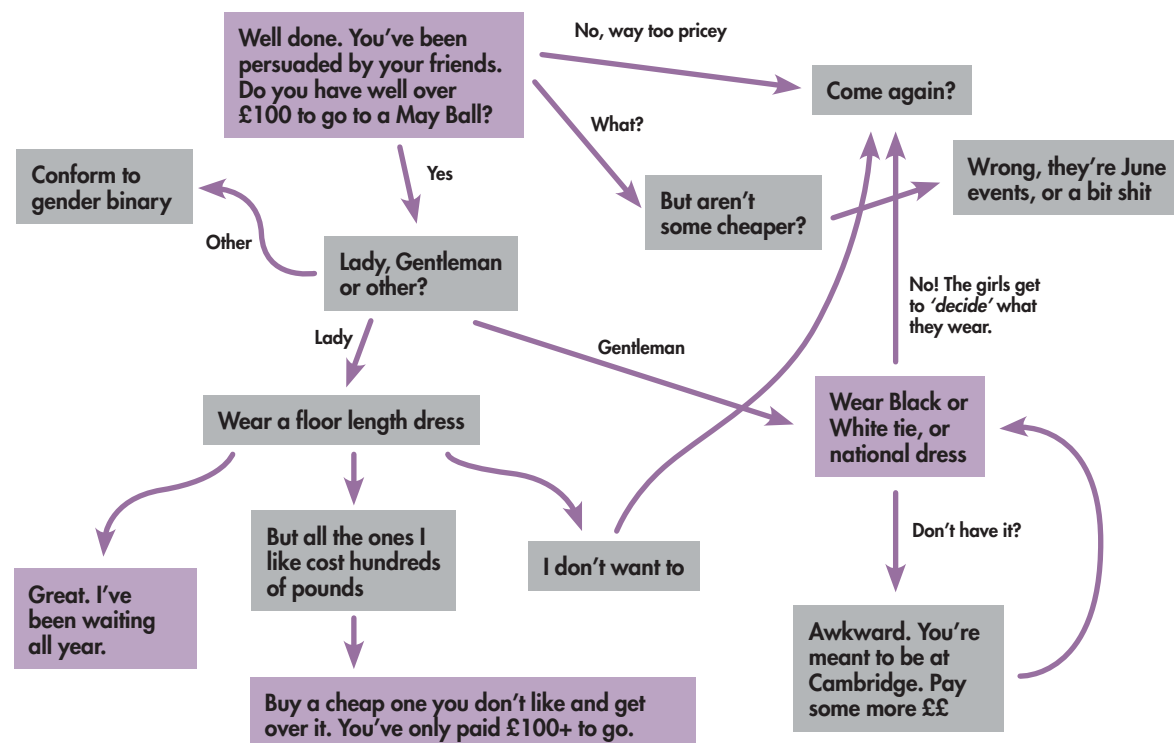
Roger Poolman questions the uniformity dress codes impose on us all

One hundred years ago at Queens' the fellows approved the first 'May Week dance' – the 'fulfilment of a fond hope' which 'ended its existence as a mere idea and became a living reality'. Fortunately not much has changed since then. This year Queens' centenary ball will welcome thousands of guests (quite literally) to a night of glamour and corporeal excess. Unfortunately, the dress code has not only stuck but has been conservatively reimagined: the dress code has reverted back to White Tie, from what must, at some point, have been a reasonably revolutionary switch to black.

Magdalene's states "Ladies: Full-length ball gown; knee- or calf-length dresses will not be deemed acceptable" while at Trinity "those who are not properly attired will not be allowed entry into the Ball". This message seems to have permeated. A female friend has asked around before each May Ball she has attended about whether she can wear trousers. Every time she has felt pressured into borrowing a dress from a friend. The suffragettes had something to say about such crap and that was at the turn of the century (not surprisingly enough of this one but the last, despite the best efforts of ball committees).

Let's say you have been persuaded by your friends that you can't miss the highlight of the year. Luckily for you, I've simplified this in a fantastic diagram. Try it out for yourself and see just how frustrating a process it is.

For the woman who loves to party, she may have to choose three floor-length dresses. You can hunt out the lesser-known brands or go straight to individual designers, but unless you've



hundreds of pounds you're unlikely to go through May Week without bumping into someone who shared your exquisite individual taste. It's just that dresses that meet the May Ball guidelines are a pretty niche market. With no new flexibility in the dress code, women will continue to fight over who chose x pair of opera length first and turn up in dresses they've barely committed to let alone love.

As a man, I envy the choice of 12 May Ball dresses (with extra colour combinations) that would be in my price range were I a woman. OK, it's a lot cheaper to be a black tie wearer,

but it doesn't exactly fill me with excitement. Sure, there's an element of James Bond that excites my inner adolescent, and you can play around with the trimmings, but I've never seen a GREAT black tie.

I'm not the worst off by any means though. If you've a penis but don't want to wear black tie, or a vagina but don't want to wear a long dress the great thing is it's simple! Your only option is to embrace that gender binary and flirt with the instrument of your oppression. What a mature, sensitive dress code. Let's just hope your friends at college don't tell you it's just not an

issue and that you should just pipe down and pop a dress on for the night.

It is not hard to see how these dress codes have developed and become reinforced in Cambridge. They represent an aesthetic that many people expect or some aspire to when they arrive – the 'Brideshead Revisited' effect – or more ominously/realistically: the public school effect. However, they do not reflect or respect the diversity of those they invite.

There is no 'fond hope' in clinging to dress codes that appear copied from a Wikipedia page. There is no choice. There is no fun. Not so Sebastian Flyte.

My May Week Moment

CLAUDIA BLUNT



The most intriguing thing about May Week is the manner in which the Cambridge game seems to change overnight. Undergraduates move from the competitive meritocracy of the Tripos to suddenly dealing in social capital again.

Which garden parties to be seen at, how much money has been drowned on the regalia that accompanies the balls and the gold rush of trying to tally up end of year conquests seem to take over our lives.

May Week has always been a somewhat bittersweet time for me. Having consistently underperformed in my exams throughout my degree, the sublime decadence of living on a diet that consists almost entirely of champagne for the last week of each academic year has always felt totally undeserved.

The sheer splendour that surrounds the post-exam frivolity is invariably overwhelming for the troubled Cinderella, who is left consistently questioning whether she really did do enough essays to deserve to be at the ball. I regularly find myself sitting and watching all the other revelers with a sense of enormous pride at their ability to do what to me has always been somewhat out of reach.

The struggles of academic life and then the icy mountain path that is exam term culminate in a university-wide week long bender where the student population attempts to fit in as much fun as all their national compatriots have had all year in the space of a few days. It is mania with an extravagant edge.

On reflection, the moment which encapsulated the enchanting nature of May Week for me occurred during Trinity Ball in my first year. It pissed it down with rain to the extent that a friend's beautiful white ball dress was thigh high in mud. No matter, she continued the night quaffing oysters and downing champagne with the self satisfaction of anyone else who had survived a year of academic turmoil.

The rain continued into the extraordinary fireworks display. It was at that moment, with multiple hundreds of hushed voices watching the jiving flames in the sky, all huddled under umbrellas, that my then boyfriend tapped me on the shoulder, and drew my attention away from the spectacular night sky display. He pointed to the roof of the Wren library where, silhouetted against the dim twilight, were the figures of all of Trinity's fellows.

The memory will stay with me forever, a small battalion of academics surveying the sodden, drunken giddiness below. It felt as if those supervisors, professors and lecturers were acknowledging the bloody hard work, some of us at least, had done throughout the year. Seeing those figures there in the night sky was truly the pinnacle of my 'only in Cambridge' moments. It was at that very instant that I realised what it was like to be at the best university in the world.

Is Cambridge's image in the press fair?

Felix Nugee analyses the press coverage of Oxbridge, arguing that by portraying the students as drunken, elitist layabouts, the media helps to reinforce the problems it chooses to attack



Word cloud based on Oxbridge-related articles from the national newspapers over the last three months

What do you think is the effect of Cambridge's portrayal in the media?

"Cambridge is famously lambasted by the media as an inaccessible and elitist organisation. However, they also jump when Cambridge students do something normal, like getting drunk, saying that it's unacceptable that these students should be acting in such an undignified manner. In this way, they put Cambridge in a double bind and continue to perpetuate the idea of Cambridge as something inaccessible and other."

Tim Squirrel, 20
Churchill College

We all know that Oxbridge has an image problem. I've tried to quantify just how much of a problem there is by going through national newspaper coverage about Oxbridge for the past quarter. After searching through news articles for descriptions of Oxford, Cambridge, Oxbridge or their students, it has been possible to weight the descriptions in the infographic above based on frequency.

The findings show that - almost without exception - the national media has nothing positive to say about undergraduates at either university. Cambridge or Oxford students (or universities) were never described as either "hard working" or "bright". "Drunk", on the other hand, comes up several times, as do "posh", "privilege" and "private school".

Interestingly, the undergraduates are portrayed differently from the institution they belong to. Compliments are reserved for the latter or their already-famous alumni: "prestigious", "world class" or "elite".

It may be the case that the media is simply reflecting the national view on Oxbridge, rather than shaping it. Certainly some parts of society would think of Oxbridge as posh or elite even if there was almost no negative coverage of it, but when there is no positive coverage of the undergraduate body then these opinions are unlikely to change.

In my memory, the only positive coverage of undergraduates and their lifestyle at Oxbridge has been when a Gutterplan or a Gail Trimble

singlehandedly wins University Challenge. Even that praise is usually backhanded; lauding them for their intelligence, whilst at the same time laughing at how weird they are.

The effect that this has is to give two views of Oxbridge that are equally negative in their connotations: the

'Interestingly, the undergraduates are portrayed differently from the institution they belong to.'

first of an elite university that is the preserve of the privileged and the second of students, who probably don't deserve to be there, acting in a manner that shows their disrespect for their great institutions. This inevitably leads to real problems in terms of access, and who believes that they will fit in here. Having been involved with access at my college I know how much of the time the various campaigns spend simply trying to dispel the myths that abound about Oxbridge.

The worst two culprits in this area appear to be the *Daily Mail*, whose annual coverage of Caesarean Sunday is laughably similar every year, and the *Guardian*, who have a section online entitled "Oxbridge and Elitism". Even though there have been four articles in that section in the past year, the fact that they feel it is necessary to have a separate section for it betrays their mind-set on this issue.

This is not to say that Cambridge is necessarily doing enough for access, that Cambridge students do always behave lawfully and respectfully and I'm not calling for the media to congratulate us just for being here. However repeatedly telling the same two stories of elitism and misbehaviour make it harder for Oxbridge as the universities try to modernise and become more open.



"I think it's unfair that Cambridge is shown as socially elitist when there's a real mix of people. Why should we get judged for having fun after working hard the rest of the year"

James Hutt, 19
Pembroke College

"Eight people from my school had offers [from Oxbridge], but they all rejected them - coming from east London, they got the impression they wouldn't fit in"

Hannah Neal, 23
Southampton

"The consensus in the media seems to be that Oxbridge is dominated by a privileged elite. I don't think this is correct, but regardless this presents an important problem for the university, in terms of encouraging people from diverse backgrounds"

Jonathon Hazell, 20
Pembroke College

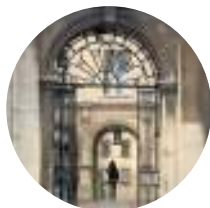
MAGAZINE

QUIZ

The Great Big Varsity Quiz

Test your knowledge of the events
that happened this year.

15



FASHION

White Out 22

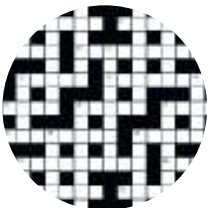
Tom Rasmussen attacks this season's
hottest trend, showing our readers how to
wear white



PUZZLES

Game on! 25

Spot the difference, crosswords and more.



LISTINGS

PULL OUT AND PIN UP ON YOUR BOARD

Wednesday
19th

Thursday
20th

Friday
21st

Saturday
22nd

MUSIC

Trouble in Tahiti

TRINITY COLLEGE CHAPEL, 2PM/4PM

Set in an era of consumerism, anti-communism and the Beat generation, this opera shows us the hurdles which married life must overcome, accompanied by a West Side Story-esque score.

Gondoliers on Gondolas

ST JOHN'S WATERFRONT, 1PM/6PM, £5

The Cambridge Gilbert and Sullivan Society performs 'The Gondoliers' on Gondolas, on the river Cam. The arrival of the Spanish aristocracy presents a royal revelation and a serious identity crisis to the Gondolieri and their brides.



Symphony Orchestra

WEST ROAD CONCERT HALL, 7:30PM,

The City of Cambridge Symphony Orchestra will be performing one of its six annual concerts this Saturday, including Beethoven's Violin Concerto and Tchaikovsky's Symphony no 6. Perfect for fans of Classical music.

FILM

Therese Desqueyroux

ARTS PICTURE HOUSE, MULTIPLE SHOWINGS

Claude Miller's interpretation of François Mauriac's morally provocative novel. Two wealthy families form a rocky marital alliance in 1920s France. Starring Audrey Tautou and Gilles Lellouche.



Before Midnight

ARTS PICTURE HOUSE, MULTIPLE SHOWINGS

Starring Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy. Set nine years after his former film *Beyond Sunset*, the final episode in Richard Linklater's trilogy retains its core simplicity: two lovers discuss their lives and love during a single day.



DAY

Midsummer Fair

MIDSUMMER COMMON

Midsummer Fair is Cambridge's most ancient garden party, with this being its 802nd year. Stalls, rides, food and fun for all. Recommended if you're keen to escape college-based celebrations for the afternoon.

Chinese Soc Garden Party

SCHOLARS GARDEN, ST. JOHNS, 2-6PM

The activities on offer range from the fairly standard (a gladiator duel area), to the impressive (unlimited beers from around the world) to the frankly bizarre - there's a wedding area. 'Let's all have a sweet family!'



Sidney Arts Festival

SIDNEY SUSSEX, 2-9:30PM; STUDENT £18.50

Sidney Sussex gardens plays host to music, poetry, visual art, film, dance and theatre performances, centering around a staging of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

VIEW

As You Like It

SELWYN GARDENS, 3PM, FREE

Shakespeare's brilliant comedy comes to the gardens of Selwyn College, in a production that explores the play of opposites and the nature of acting in Duke Senior's pastoral court.

We're Just Ordinary People

CAIUS COURT, GONVILLE AND CAIUS, 4.30PM

In the historic setting of Caius Court, the audience follow a day in the life of a teenage boy - meeting the 'ordinary people' he encounters along the way. This original production will bring laughter, tears, dreams and poetry to May Week.

Twelfth Night

CLARE FELLOWS GARDEN, 8PM, £5

As dusk falls in Clare Gardens, a swirling euphony of comedy, confusion, music and beauty finds its way out of the bushes. Balanced between merry chaos and the shadows of sadness behind it, 'why, this is very mid-summer madness'.

RED

CORPUS PLAYROOM, 7PM, £5

This play explores the psyche of Rothko, one of the twentieth century's most controversial painters. Winner of six Tony Awards on its 2010 debut, John Logan's meditation on art and death is already set to become a contemporary classic.

STAY IN

POD: Risk and Chance

DOWNLOAD ON THERSA.ORG

Download a talk given by risk experts David Spiegelhalter and Michael Blastland at the RSA, explaining how we can get better at understanding and dealing with uncertainty. Particularly relevant to imminent graduates.



SUBMIT: Aviary

CONTACT AVIARYEDITORS@GMAIL.COM

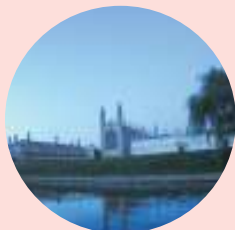
As the final issue of the academic year, SILVA themed Aviary is set to be a tantalizing treat. Send in your notes, poems, recipes, illustrations, etchings, thoughts by 24th June.

Revel in the Exhaustion

WARM AND SOFT LOCATIONS PREFERRED

We're well into May Week - if you're staying in, it's probably because you're falling asleep mid-sentence. Part of the joy of this time is the freedom to do absolutely nothing, so lie back and enjoy.

NIGHT



Midnight Punting

THE RIVER CAM AWAITS

This is one activity which seems to be on almost everybody's bucket list. Take a picnic, some wine, and snuggle in a boat. Don't forget the blankets, and cross your fingers for clear skies.



ESCAPE: Terrace Party

THE LAMBETH, BRIXTON RD., LONDON, 4PM-4AM

2 roof terraces, 1 hottub, 4 soundsystems, AV immersive visuals, BBQ, dancers, circus, action camps and a great lineup right in the heart of Brixton.

Emma
May
Ball
2013

Antonia Stringer



1 Some of the more controversial visitors to Cambridge in recent years have come from across the Channel. Following DSK in 2012, which senior French politician spoke at the Cambridge Union Society in February?

2 Oxford have had their fair share of speaker-based outrage. Who stormed out of a debate in Hilary (that's Lent, to filthy Tabs such as ourselves) and why?

3 Perhaps surprisingly, there were queues for the burgers at Churchill Spring Ball. Why might some revellers have been put off the prospect of eating the fast food favourite? (And we're assuming those with special dietary requirements weren't interested in a burger in the first place)

4 One pillar of Suicide Sunday has been altered (and probably for the better). What was missing from the 2013 end of year celebrations?

5 Aside from site-specific The Paradise Project, Cambridge theatre was a bit less conventional than usual in Lent. What was unique about BATS' sell-out latest show?



6 This year's Boat Race was not the site of class-based protest, so what was it about the Oxford team's behaviour that had them called in for criticism?

7 Parity has been secured for women and men's rowing at university level, but in what year will the Women's Boat Race join the Men's on the Thames?

8 The new Master of

Magdalene, alongside previously being spiritual leader of the Church of England, is into his fantasy novels, but which ones in particular take his fancy?

9 An institution for some, popular swap spot The Mahal shut this year - but in which month?

10 Peterhouse, the penultimate college to admit women, launched its feminist group, in February. What's its name?



of Cambridge in October 2012 with instruments for the expression of the general public. Name the instruments.

14

Which college lost its May Ball for the third year running after a controversial decision made by its fellows in October 2012?



carrying.....?

17 Varsity conducted a finance issue in

Michaelmas term 2012, exposing the disparities that aren't displayed for applicants or incoming freshers. Which two colleges reportedly have the cheapest rooms available, at a mere £650 per term each?



decision which came up against serious dispute and produced an extensive response from the CUSU Women's Campaign. He did not end up speaking in the end: what was his excuse?

21 The Fitzwilliam Museum acquired a new, exciting piece for its vast collection early on in this academic year. Name the artist of the painting. Bonus points for getting the name of the painting too. A drink on me if you can explain to me why this was so important.

22 The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge finally visited their Dukedom in November 2012. How much did the visit approximately cost? And what gift did a member of the public give William that will come in handy in less than a month's time?

HELEN SIMMONS

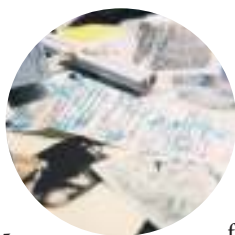


23 The third oldest college in Cambridge welcomed two new additions to its college in February. But what are the names of the Pembroke kittens?

18

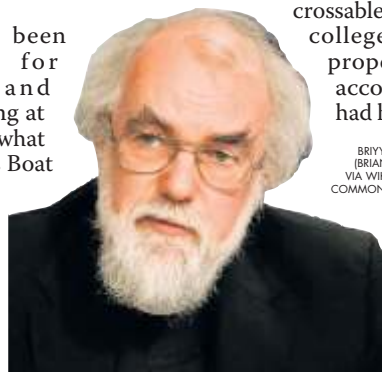
Last November, the Living Wage increased amidst scandal that several colleges were still (and probably still are) paying several members of staff below the living rate. What is the current living wage?

15 One particular play took centre stage last November for having King's Chapel as its venue. It was an awe-inspiring choice, and yet the acoustics made it a little hard to distinguish the 'thees' from the 'thous'. What was the play?



12 Many students returned to Cambridge last October to find Robinson's bop room in desperate need of repair, Jesus Green uncrossable, and several colleges with damaged property and unusable accommodation. What had happened?

BRIYYZ (BRIAN) VIA WIKI-COMMONS



13 As part of the Festival of Ideas, artist Luke Jerram filled the streets

16 It was a night of many dedicated all-nighters, and the Union Society even opened its doors to house those who wanted to watch the blow-by-blow action together in solidarity. Yes, it was the American Election. But can you remember the swing state that no Republican had ever managed to win the election without



19 Alongside Neil Gaiman and Cantab Olivia Colman, which recent star of movie musical *Les Miserables* came to this year's Watersprite Film Festival?

20

The Union Society invited Julian Assange to speak in Michaelmas 2012; a



The Great Big Varsity Quiz

So much has happened this year - how much can you remember?

Nothing's Changed

From sex polls to stereotypes, **Rory Williamson** finds continuity between *Varsity* past and present

The musty, bound collection of papers that comprise *Varsity's* archives are a unique and often surprising resource. Browsing editions from the 40s to the present, the initial experience of social difference begins to give way to an unmistakable sense of déjà vu.

Perhaps the most noticeable difference across time is the position of women in the university; it is worth remembering that women were not admitted as full members of the university until 1948.

Editions from the 60s and 70s are full of news stories and opinion pieces on women's changing status at Cambridge, as older colleges began to admit women and the female student population began to claim a voice.

When nestled among reviews of ADC shows that reappear year on year (*more* May Week Shakespeare in college gardens? How adventurous!), the proximity of a time before mixed-sex colleges is made unsettlingly clear.

It is possibly unsurprising, then, that the attitudes that produced the 'Girl of the Week' feature (see Figure 3) seem to have persisted in such forms as 'Tab Totty' and, up until this year, jelly wrestling at the Wyverns' Garden Party. On a more serious note, surveys on the disparity between the proportion of men and women getting firsts have been an almost unchanging fixture in *Varsity* for decades.

Indeed, many articles from 20 years ago (and before then) could be reprinted today without raising too many eyebrows. This might just seem to indicate the fatiguingly

unimaginative character of this paper through the ages. More than that, though, the presence of the same jokes about 'thesp' clichés, the same college rivalries (Churchill was still unpopular in the 70s, it turns out) and, yes, the same insufferable verbosity of the *Varsity* hacks make our university experience seem all the more bizarrely microcosmic.

Of course, we are not merely repeating the ridiculous lives of our predecessors. However, the uncanny resemblances between Cambridge student papers past and present suggest that, for better or for worse, parts of the 'Cambridge experience' have had a fairly constant template over the past 50 years.

Here's to 50 more years of unimaginative journalism, weird fashion shoots and cracking typos.



THE VARSITY HACK
(*Verbosus Magnus*)

HARTST: the Varsity offices, any freebie going

CHARACTERISTICS: intelligent, charming, good-looking, helpful, kind to small furry animals, winning smile, endearing personality, generous to a fault, sincere, *sans peur et sans reproche*, heroic, fishing, cute, photogenic, creative, nicely manicured toenails, complete inability to tell the truth

FOOD AND DRINK: pizza
MATING INSTINCTS: as soon as we finish
checking over spellings

THE LEFTY
(Sinister Berrille)

HABITAT: Market stalls (to show solidarity with 'the masses'), King's bar
CHARACTERISTICS: constant craving to march for no apparent reason, distinctive dropping — pamphlets, posters and working-party convenor-led oppressed-within-the-oppressed-status self-help collectives

FOOD AND DRINK: no food — they're fasting in sympathy. Drinks include Boddington's and Guinness (the workers' drink)

MATING INSTINCTS: With lots of guilt at phallocentric oppression



THE RUGGER-BUGGER
(*Solarus bloccusoutus*)

HABITAT: rugby pitch, the bar, the Miter, the Pickeral, (see all on page 7 plus several dozen others) the college bar, the next college bar, the one after that (continue *ad nauseum* — they do), hunched over your toilet.

CHARACTERISTICS: second worst chat-up lines (w/ nabobs), leery grin, missing teeth, bog-brush haircuts, hairy legs, hemic disregard for personal hygiene

FOOD AND DRINK: Anything that's not raked down, unsuspecting females (see chat-up lines)

2 MATING INSTINCTS: Too right

THE THESP
(*Self-amorous extremus*)

HABITAT: ADC bar, Muiyflower bar, wherever anyone will listen to them
CHARACTERISTICS: Flailing arm gestures, misquotation of 'the Bard', lots of *terribly* in-jokes, use of the word 'luvvy'

FOOD AND DRINK: Pimms, or other expensive drink, vegetarian for purely cosmetic reasons.

MATING INSTINCTS: under the stage at the ADC, whilst being watched by security camera. (They then circulate copies to Michael Winner.)





Diane Kent is a nurse at Addenbrookes, where she works in the Children's Ward. We think this is something of a waste, because she doesn't look very childish to us. How would you like having your diapers changed by Diane? Photo by Rupert Hardy

3

8. Have you had sexual intercourse?		
Yes	47%	45%
No	53%	55%
If "yes":		
(a) at what age did you first have it 16—	10%	1%
16	5%	7%
17	30%	14%
18	24%	39%
19	17%	23%
20	7%	15%
21	6%	0%
22	1%	1%
(b) Why did you do it then?		
(a) Sexual appetite	48%	13%
(b) In love	26%	59%
(c) Curiosity	8%	13%
(d) Drunk	3%	7%
(e) Other	15%	15%
If "no":		
(c) Which of the following reasons has applied most?		
(a) Lack of opportunity	39%	5%
(b) Lack of interest	3%	3%
(c) Moral or religious reasons	30%	59%
(d) Fear of pregnancy or disease	3%	7%
(e) Respect for partner	15%	5%
(f) Other	10%	21%
9. Have you had sexual intercourse in a Cambridge College or Hostel?		
Yes	36%	38%
No	64%	62%
10. Would you say that, by and large you have sex twice a term or more often?		
Yes	33%	35%
No	67%	65%
11. Has college discipline interfered with your sex life?		
Yes	21%	16%
No	79%	84%
14. Have you ever in Cambridge kissed (yes 71% 95%) gone out with (yes 74% 94%) a member of the opposite sex? (Barring mothers, etc., of course!)		

5

Women still get fewer Firsts

THE TABLE below shows the allocation of Firsts for men and women in nine degree subjects. The results in brackets where given are the results of an investigation carried out by *Varsity* last year into the widely varying achievements of men and women in Tripos exams.

The overall results from the *Reporter* are as follows: 20.6 per cent of men gained Firsts, whilst only 12 per cent of women gained the top honours. 41.5 per cent of men gained 2.1s, as against 48.5 per cent of women; and 21.1 per cent of men gained 2.2s, compared to 28.1 per cent of

BY DOROTHEA GARTLAND

women. 6.1 per cent of men got Thirds, compared to 4.7 per cent of women.

In 1987, the University stopped publishing exam results broken down by gender and subject. Although this information continued to be compiled, it was no longer published in *The Reporter*. Following last year's research, which *Varsity* conducted entirely independently, the University has begun to publish results again according to gender and subject.

Men's and women's Firsts, 1992 and 1993

Subject	Mens' Firsts 1993*	Total men	Womens' Firsts 1993*	Total women
Economics Pt I	10.7% (9.3%)	121	5.0% (12.8%)	60
Economics Pt II	17.5% (16.8%)	120	7.0% (5.8%)	43
Engineering Pt I A	22.1% (20.1)	256	12.2% (8.0%)	48
Engineering Pt I B	21.8% (22.3%)	237	8.3% (5.1%)	48
Engineering Pt II	26.6% (18.8%)	139	3.7% (10.7%)	27
English Pt I	13.9% (11.4%)	72	6.6 (4.0)	121
English Pt II	21.2% (23.1%)	81	18.8 (19.0%)	120
History Pt I	15.9% (16.3%)	107	2.2% (0%)	93
History Pt II	21.4% (18.5%)	133	7.4% (10.1%)	81
Law Pt I A	16.8%	113	5.8%	104
Law Pt I B	7.1%	156	3.0%	135
Law Pt II	15.2%	146	9.8%	122
Maths Pt I A	20.6%	216	10.8%	37
Maths Pt I B	32.5%	157	15.7%	51
Maths Pt II	35.5%	141	29.0%	39
Mod. Lang Pt I	15.9%	107	15.1%	241
Mod. Lang Pt II	18.8%	53	7.8%	116
4 Sciences Pt I A	29.6%	392	18.5%	185

4

The death of May Week

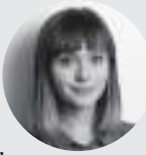
6 *Daily Varsity's* diarist demands a return to Victorian values

HOW THINGS (DON'T) CHANGE

- 1 – As this shoot from the 60s shows, *Varsity's* fashion pages have always had a vision some might describe as questionable and that is certainly obscure. The fierceness of bear-Carolyn is indisputable, but things get weirder when hunter John stands on her in his 'elephant-cord trousers' (unpictured). The possibility that her 'den' actually referred to one of the women's colleges, at this time tucked safely out of town, is very likely in the context of 60s *Varsity*.
- 2 – It seems that even decades ago we were getting comedy mileage from the same stereotypes. 'The Varsity Hack' is perhaps the most truthful piece of journalism we've published, and the 'craving to march for no apparent reason' is definitely recognisable from occupations and protests in recent years. It's good to know that the sometimes carciaturish Cambridge 'personalities' are also reincarnations of older archetypes, and that getting a kick out of our own navel-gazing in-jokes is a common feature of *Varsity* and Cambridge through time.
- 3 – Bad news for *The Tab* – looks like we pre-empted 'Tab Totty' by a good 40 years. It seems that this dear paper might not always have been a bastion of glorious liberalism through the ages, but at least here it manages to give its 'Girl of the Week' feature an edgy spin. The disturbing hint of infantilism in the suggestion that Diane might change our diapers could just be horrifically misguided, but it's (ahem) more likely designed to undermine the casual sexualisation it participates in. Nowadays, of course, we have replaced this feature with the much more risqué 'Rock of the Week'.
- 4 – Aside from the astonishing suggestion in this piece that student journalism managed to affect wider goings-on in the university, this article is a disheartening reminder of how much room there is for improvement in Cambridge's (and Higher Education in general) gender-equality credentials. We may no longer restrict women's contribution to the paper to modelling in 'May Week Babes' shoots, but we're still reporting on an important disparity that has been consistently noticeable for many years.
- 5 – Ah, the sex survey, a staple of student papers in which 10s of respondents lie about their sex lives and we lie even more flagrantly to get publishable results. The left-hand column is responses from men and the right-hand column women's answers; the two are mostly similar, though the insatiable male 'sexual appetite' contrasting to the women's sexual motivation as being in love plays nicely into old clichés. It's nice to know that we're still obsessed with the number of anonymous virgins among our peers, and that such trifles as 'fear of pregnancy or disease' were never high up in our sex-obsessed minds.
- 6 – An uncannily accurate oracle and general bringer of the party. Sounds like *Varsity!* It's comforting to find us sounding the May Week death knell so presciently, and we still firmly stand for trading Bollinger-induced vomathons for stilted tea parties and discussions of the artistic merits of May Week theatrical productions.

Busy (Actually) Doing Nothing

CLAIRE HEALY



There's nothing to do in Cambridge. And isn't it great? This is the single period of our time as Cantabrigian-Under-Graduands-or-whatever that legitimately denotes the pursuit of sweet, sweet nothings. Change is good, but the transition from the world of manic and panic to one of freedom and light can be a perilous crossing. The fact is, Cantabrigie students aren't used to doing nothing. Even during the post-exam period we feel compelled to use up the rest of our multicolour post-its, to render Stickies upon Stickies a consistent desktop feature, and to continue writing daily Filofax notes to oneself ('Got Milk?', 'May Ballin'!!!', 'Graduation – try not to miss'). Organisation, then, is as key to a successful May Week as it is to a successful revision session. So if, in the wise words of Yolanda, you're truly going to be free to do what you want to do...you had better make sure it all gets done.

But what kinds of nothing are on offer? Here's some top TO-DOS for making the most of your freedom. From the innocent first year, mewling and puking in the queue for Cindies, to the jaded finalist - there's something available for everyone

Read! The last thing you may wish to pursue after three terms of hefty tomes (and even heftier fines) is more of the same. In my book, however, freedom should mean freedom to read without learning very much at all. Revisit Roald Dahl, get turned onto the graphic novels of Chris Ware, or, like me, take delight in perusing *Straight Up: The Real Me In My Own Words* by Danny Dyer.

Have a makeover! It's that time of year again: as the sweet scent of freshly cut grass mingles with a distinct waft of hairspray, fake tan and perfume, it can only mean its makeover season. Whilst I stopped short of a spray tan for the third year running, going to the hairdressers and donning some One Direction nail stickers were enough to prompt a Princess Diaries style musical montage (in my own mind, at least).

Go fancy! Now's the ideal time to discover a fancier side of Cambridge that doesn't involve formal hall and overzealous port quaffing. You can guilt trip your parents/significant other into a trip to the Michelin starred Midsummer House, or the chef-training Restaurant at the Park, which offers fine dining for a mere tenner.

Play games! Playing video games à la sexy Lana has been amongst the more regressive discoveries of these recent weeks of idleness. The repetitive movements of Crash Bandicoot, Spyro the Dragon et al are strangely comforting - especially when hangers rear their ugly head.

And one big DON'T: 'Da club' Just seriously don't you guys. Take the usual club-regular suspects, add in those usually indifferent to the cause, and then on top of that vouch for the Cambridge contingent who only go out post-exams...and you've got a recipe for a Hieronymus Bosch painting viewed through the acid green hues of a VK bottle. Bish, bash, bosch.

So, there we have it – whilst you won't find me in da club, you may, happily, find me on the sofa. Does nothing come of nothing? Perhaps. But if nothing lasts forever, then I'd rather stay right where I am – 'til graduation at least.



Summer Days

Contributors: Louise Benson, Thea Hawlin, Antonia Stringer, Madeleine Morley, Rowan Evans, Rory Williamson



Playground

HELEN CHARMAN

Don't worry: I'm not about to talk about the exclusivity of Cambridge theatre. This will continue to be a hot topic for as long as people like talking about other groups of people (i.e. a very long time), and, frankly, I'm far too busy YouTubing Emma Thompson and pretending to know how the stresses in iambic pentameter work to get involved. I like that argument, though: yes, it's boring, it's clichéd and can cause real offence, but it reveals the phenomenal amount of emotional energy people here put into their extra-curriculars. How interesting! How affirming: despite how frazzled and busy we are, how apathetic our generation can seem, we all still care about things.

For a university of such general intensity, it's bizarre that there are so many people eager to get involved with theatrical activities that consume hours of rehearsal time and, in show week, an entire week of your life (and sanity). The hours devoted to rigging up lights, painting set and sorting out sound design aren't because of a longing to be power-tools trained and therefore sexually irresistible, however thrilling it is to spend twelve solid hours jigsawing plywood.

The fact that there are currently casts all over Cambridge giving up precious hours of May Week slumber to rehearse, and that legions of luvvies are heading up to spend a soggy month handing out flyers to unimpressed tourists in Edinburgh is further testament to this: the most important thing about theatre in Cambridge is that people do it because it's so much fun, and if you love something it's worth your time. So go ahead, argue, disagree with the reviewers, explain why your production of *Othello* with an innovative usage of a wheel of brie is the most important thing to happen to theatre since Peter Brook: anything is better than apathy.



May Week theatre

Rivkah Brown ponders why we spend more time at balls than plays in May Week

Amidst the decadence and spectacle as the May Week circus pulls into town once more, there is a hidden wealth of underrated entertainment. I'm talking about May Week shows. I say "hidden" because, as they are often organised in the brief interlude after exams and before May Week, these shows are rarely subject to the same haranguing publicity as those that take place during term-time. Though these shows may require some seeking out, they are well worth the hunt.

Although, I know from experience this is easier said than done: last year, I attended zero May Week shows. Having booked myself back-to-back for Balls and June Events, as many of the similarly profligate of you will have done this year, I essentially became nocturnal, with no daylight hours during which to sample the week's theatrical offerings. Some of you reading this, however, may have found yourself with a relatively empty May Week, woefully regretting your austerity as your friends prance off to hedonistically blow another couple of hundred quid. I am in this seemingly unenviable situation myself.

However, every cloud: though I may not be going to Queens' John's, or Trinity May Ball (in that order of disappointment), I hope to find myself happily in Queens' College Cloister Court, St John's College Waterfront, and even Trinity College Chapel for shows which promise a far more affordable alternative to their evening counterparts.

Perhaps the biggest selling point of May Week shows is their locational license: making the assumption that May Week = sun (though the drizzle

that has just begun to fall suggests otherwise), directors and producers relocate outside, mostly to the various collegiate Fellows' Gardens to which access is a rare treat.

Whereas your ball-going friends will inevitably begin to tire of hog roast and champagne after a couple of days (not that you or I should be bitter), this year's May Week shows have diversity to offer: plays range from raucous Shakespearean comedy to the Gilbert and Sullivan Society performing on Gondolas on the Cam. Joyous.

'As the May Week circus pulls into town once more, there is a hidden wealth of entertainment'

Perhaps most pleasingly, original writing will be making an appearance, in the form of *We're Just Ordinary People*, written by student Marissa Green and performed at Caius College. Yes, the camdram blurb may be elliptical to the point of non-existence, but polish and publicity aren't what May Week shows are about: they're about having fun and trying things out in an environment where the audience is so up for it that very little can go wrong.

Being ticketless during May Week is, I have realised, a blessing in disguise: there is such a plethora of thespy stuff going on during the day, all of which you could attend for around half the price of a May Ball ticket. If your exam term has seen a dearth of theatre, here's your opportunity to rediscover the fantastic resources of Cambridge theatre, and to delight in the unlocking of unlikely dramatic spaces.



JENNY BAINES



OCTAVIA SHEEPSHANKS

Various shows in rehearsal for May Week: clockwise, L-R *As You Like It*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Medea*, *Twelfth Night*

Summer Previews

Varsity presents its tips for the summer shows that are not to be missed

As the content of these pages continually reiterates, Cambridge has the most vibrant and diverse student theatre scene in the country, with the sheer number of shows put on each week here, at the ADC and other venues, outnumbering the dramatic output of most other universities in an entire term. Unsurprisingly, that doesn't draw to a close with the academic year: Cambridge actors, directors, producers and techies are eager to spend at least some of their three months of summer treading the boards of theatres outside of the CB postcode. The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is a perennial favourite for aspirational thespians to try their luck: this year is the Cambridge Footlights' fifty-first at the Edinburgh Fringe and, as has become traditional, there will be many other Cambridge shows flying the Royal Mile this August, but there are also shows heading much further afield, as well as some sticking closer to home.

LONDON

As has become something of a trend in the past few years, several shows that have been successful in their Cambridge runs are transferring to London theatres for performances there. This summer, shows from Lent and Easter theatre seasons have moved to London for previews: following in the (blood) footsteps of George Johnston's adaptation of Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* that has just finished its run at the Arcola Theatre in Dalston, *Can't Stand Up For Falling Down*, which was originally on in February at the Corpus Playroom, will be at the Courtyard Theatre from the 24th June.

There's a different kind of Fringe, too: Bethan Kitchen's *Gender the Elephant*, a piece of original writing, will be at the Camden Fringe from the 14th August, and also the Brainchild Festival in Canterbury from the 5th to the 7th July.



The 2012 Pembroke Players Japan Tour visit Seikei Primary School and learn about generic hand gestures!



MADELINE HEYES



LOUISE SPENCE

Smashed Shakespeare

Pete Skidmore, director of *Smashed Shakespeare: Hammered Hamlet*, offers his top tips on how to desecrate a Shakespeare production

1. Get the actors monumentally pissed – I know what you're thinking. You love Shakespeare, all his comedies and tragedies and casually racist ones. But sobriety is so dull! We're going to rectify that. Each day during *Hammered Hamlet*, we're going to randomly select two actors from a cast of six, and then get them extravagantly plastered.

2. Cut the play to an hour – frankly, Shakespeare plays are bloody long. We dispensed with all the unnecessary nuances, soliloquies and character development, focussing instead on the important elements, like stabbing and sex.

3. Use sock puppets – there comes a point in every director's career when he thinks to himself, "there are too many human actors in this play. I want to use socks". This happened to us five days ago. Unfortunately, the one scene which we allocated to sock puppets was also the one scene where there's actual sex. Now there is sock puppet sex.

4. Make it all about sex – this article has so far used the word "sex" five times. Six now. We've included more innuendoes in our show than you can shake a penis at, so don't be surprised when Hamlet's rapier gets handled a bit too vigorously.

5. Set it to an electro-swing soundtrack – the main musical instruments Shakespeare had to work with were the lute, the hurdy-gurdy and the screams of burning Catholics. We've updated this slightly, with an original set from Cambridge electro-swing DJ, Red Violin.

6. Make the actors dance – lovely choreography man Sam Rayner (*Aida*, *Nine*) is contributing to some big dance sequences. Because the only thing better than dancing in a play, is dancing drunk in a play.

7. Cut unnecessary subplots – do you remember Fortinbras? Or Cornelius? No-one fucking does, but they're all in the original. We took a hacksaw to the script with the criteria of "if they sound like a Harry Potter character, they're out". Oh, and we've planned a spin-off called *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Cut*.

8. Give the Daily Mail fodder – this is the kind of shit the tabloids will lap up as if they were self-righteous kittens. We might as well come clean now; all of us went to Eton (including the girls), we've eaten several swans during the rehearsal process and the proceeds are going towards peasant-proof glass for the Tory headquarters. We're also all leaders of tomorrow.

9. Write an article for Varsity as a thinly veiled publicity stunt. Meta.



James Evans (Horatio) and Fred Maynard (Hamlet) in rehearsal – sober



Hellie Cranney (Gertrude) in rehearsal

EDINBURGH

There are far too many Cambridge shows going up to the Edinburgh Fringe this year to possibly do them all justice here: if you are going to be in Edinburgh at some point, a Fringe programme is a must. Alongside the usual Footlights suspects there is also a free smoker every evening, as well as solo stand-up shows from familiar faces. CUMTS is putting on Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins*, and the CUADC Atri Banerjee's translation of *Six Characters in Search of an Author*.

Perhaps the most exciting thing about Edinburgh this year is the amount of new student writing: Alex MacKeith's *Oresteia*, Alec Gibson's *Are You Sitting Comfortably*, Daniel Henry Kaes' *Way Back* and Tom Powell's *The King and Queen of the Universe* are all going to be gracing the boards (and bars) of Edinburgh in August. Also new writing, Ryan Ammar's adaptation of Roald Dahl's *Esio Trot* will be going up as a children's show, sandwiched happily between the 'The Enormous Turnip' and 'Father Christmas Needs a Wee' in the programme. Finally, Charlie Bindels and Lizzie Schenk's acclaimed *Snap Out of It* will be taking its sensitive and moving exploration of mental health issues to the fringe: a must-see.



The Royal Mile: home of theatrical magic (and a man balancing a ladder) for the entirety of August

THE BIG WIDE WORLD

It is now traditional for America to face an onslaught of Cambridge students in September, peddling their theatrical and comedic wares, and 2013 is no different. The Cambridge American Stage Tour is now in its fourteenth year, and this year will be taking *Measure for Measure*, directed by Charlie Parham, across the country. The Footlights International Tour Show will, surprisingly, not be travelling to its namesake, Canada. However, after their Edinburgh run, the Footlights will take the show on an extensive US tour including stops in New York, Pittsburgh, Boston and Philadelphia.

The Pembroke Players will be visiting even more adventurous shores: the Japan Tour is now in its seventh year, and Charlie Risius's gender-bending *Two Gentleman of Verona* will be heading to Japan at the end of September, performing in Tokyo and other locations around the country. Both CAST and the PPJT will have home-runs at the ADC at the beginning of Michaelmas, so don't worry if your overdraft doesn't stretch to a flight to Sebastian River and save your pennies for an exciting, Shakespearean start to next term.

MADAME TATA

Madame Tata is a world renowned clairvoyant, astrologist and fashion stylist. She has been consulting the industry off-cuts for her fashion horoscopes for over 27 years. She lives in Iceland with herself, where she is currently designing her couture luxury cheese range in collaboration with Kurt Geiger and Jose Mourinho.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

You better put that petite little foot on the brake, sister. With May Balls and jelly (love to wrestle!) making a dent in your ever dwindling bank account, maybe it's time to bring in a few austerity measures in the wardrobe department. But don't panic, sweetie, nipping in your expenditures doesn't mean you have to be a drab drag.

AUSTERITY TIP

Why not use up your left over revision stationery and tap into this season's ORIENTAL trend by making yourself a dress out of paper? Perhaps a little bit of Origami paper folding will unfold your true destiny.

THIS WEEK...

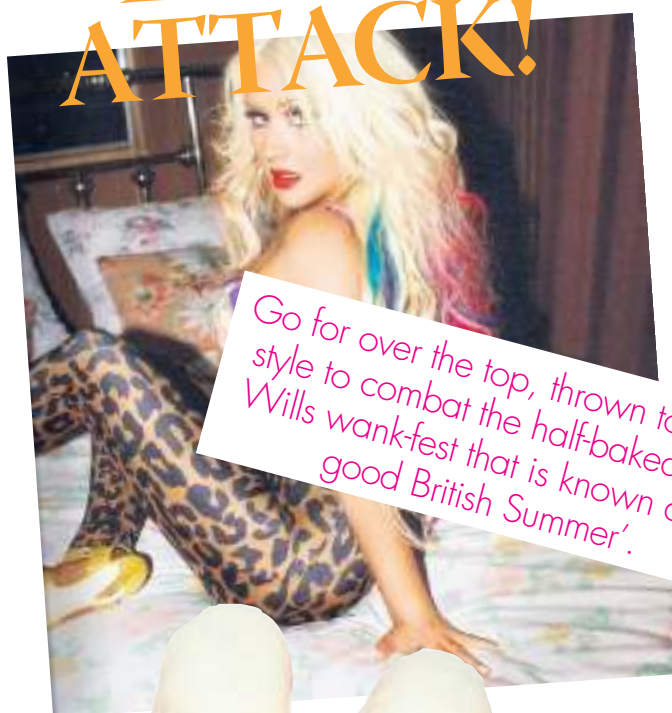
The strength of Mars' current gravitational pull will make it nearly impossible to avoid those choccy treats you love so much. AVOID THEM. They will leave you weighed down with the only type of light that doesn't make you shine: cellulite. Predictions for the month: If you have a skin tone or eyes, then blue is not your colour. Updated prediction for 2013: Even the best of us (like me!!) get things wrong sometimes. As Jupiter ascends into Saturn it has become apparent that my previous prediction to beware sheep disease should actually have been a warning against cheap cream cheese.

Beware of half price Philly, you never know where it might lead you...

XOXO Madame TaTa



TRASH ATTACK!



Go for over the top, thrown together style to combat the half-baked Jack Wills wank-fest that is known as 'A good British Summer'.



CdG acrylic nails for the finishing touch!



Croc Earrings, £18, asos.com



Metallic leather plunge dress, £120, asos.com



Embellished glasses, A-Moris @ farfetch.com

Palm Springs temporary tattoo shop





WHITE OUT.

PHOTOGRAPHY Thurstan Redding **STYLING** Tom Rasmussen
MODELS Decca Muldowney and Charlie Parham
DECCA AND CHARLIE WEAR All Clothes *Topshop and Zara*

The Festival Fallacy

ALLEGRA LE FANU



As the days get longer and the drizzle gets lighter, the British high street unveils its various 'Festival collections', a fallacy if we ever heard one. Much as high-end bikini designers seem to have never gone swimming, so the designers of 'festival wear' seem never to have been to a festival: 2013's collections exhibit a familiar parade of pastel crochet, lamé maxi-dresses, swinging fringe and a whole lot of feathers. Some of them rather lovely, yes – and none of them remotely in touch with what it means to stand outdoors in the British summertime.

It all started with Coachella – an event now annually chronicled by the glossies. We're fascinated with Hollywood's A-listers getting into off-duty hipster costumes and performing an artfully tousled parade through dappled Californian sunlight. The identikit ensembles uniformly consist in pristinely beachy, centre-parted hair, crochet shorts, giant jewellery and perhaps the most baffling of all twenty-first-century 'we're having fun' semiotics, Native American headwear.

It is no use pretending that the British can hope to replicate this heavily-varnished faux-Bohemia: the first time we tried it was the early noughties, when, attempting to replicate Kate Moss's Glastonbury denim shorts and waistcoat combo, we spent the summer fighting off galloping pneumonia rather than moshing with abandon. Our summer festivals are not bathed in the Californian glow of Coachella, but in rainwater, and hence mud.

This is not a joylessly mumsy plea for the festival-going population to zip up a fleece and not take it off, but rather the opposite. Festivals, like fashion, are at their best when they are escapist, absurd, and very, very silly; things that Britain and its musical heritage are very good at anyway.

Rather than anxiously detangling yards of fringe or daintily picking our way through sludge in a pair of cowboy boots artfully worn in on a factory floor, we should relax, let nature's course distress our denim for us, and de-stress ourselves with a spot of mud-wrestling.

We know what fun is, and it's dancing in a wet field, not spending a long weekend combing mud out of a fringed crop top.



Eagle Hoodie, £220,
Jeremy Scott for
Adidas

Lengthen those lashes: Mascara
in Zest, £24, Chanel



Perspex satchel,
£99, The Cambridge
Satchel Company



Gloss it! Lip Gloss, £3, Barry M

10 ways to ruin May Week for your friends

Millie Steele and Helen Cahill have had enough of being popular. They like losing friends, and tell us how it's done

It's coming up to the end of term and I know what you're thinking: "wow, I've managed to accumulate a lot of friends this year. This is a bit unsustainable – I should probably get rid of some of them". Sometimes we all need a bit of a Facebook cull. What better way to do it than ruin the week of the year that they've spent hundreds of pounds on, and many months looking forward to? Here are a few tips to help you do just that. So try them out, work out your score and see how unpopular you have become.

10 POINTS FOR COMPLETING EACH TASK, AND THERE ARE BONUS AVAILABLE FOR THE BRAVEST COMPETITORS

1 Freak out about a May Ball running out of alcohol and drink as much as you can as quickly as possible, resulting in a friend taking you home at 1am. It helps if you're obnoxious about being taken home too. You've ruined their night and they've wasted around £100, all round win.

20 extra points if...the next day you insist they make you breakfast and let you watch films in their bed until you're feeling better. Use their credit card to buy 'things that you need' e.g. pizza and a masseuse.

10 extra points if...you blame it all on them and say you'd like them to reimburse you for a fraction of the ticket price.

5 extra points if...you spew hog-roast on their fancy May Ball attire.



Say goodbye to moments like this...

2 If you've slept with two people that will be at the same event, use your friend to try and avoid both of them all night. Whine at your ex-lovers about your friend being so needy, e.g. 'oh sorry I can't talk right now, –insert name of friend– made me promise to spend time with them.' Then your innocent friend will be even more annoyed.

20 extra points if...you complain about the difficulties of being so attractive. Say how stressful it is that no one understands, "if only I had more attractive friends that would get what I'm going through."

10 extra points if...you tell your exes that your friend fancies them and is trying to isolate you because they're jealous.

5 extra points if...you convince them to hide with you in a bush for over an hour.



They won't be smiling for much longer...

7 Spike a friend's drinks with laxatives so they spend their whole night queuing for toilets – no one likes queuing. Especially not for portaloos. They may get the posh ones in for balls, but it's bloody hard to take a loo that flushes blue seriously. The underlying terror that it might just fall over should add a needed frisson to the evening's otherwise bland entertainment options. Shit and disinfectant; this year's premier May Ball scent.

20 extra points if...you insist that it's an infectious disease and get them quarantined.

10 extra points if...you complain loudly in the queue about their bowel problems. Include the phrase "it's like that scene from *Bridesmaids* but worse"

5 extra points if...you say you'll wait with them, but spend your time talking on the phone.

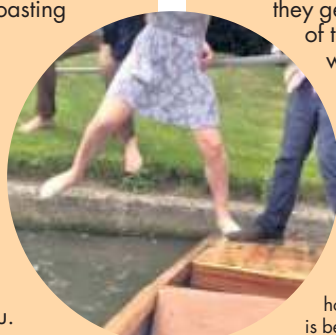


6 Suggest a late night punt and then push a friend in the Cam. The longer you leave them in for, the higher the chances of diarrhoea and vomiting for several days. Bonus points if they get bitten by a number of the surprisingly vicious water rats. Wind in the Willows, the Cam is not. If they break something on an abandoned trolley or punt pole, that would be ideal.

20 extra points if...your friend has to be hospitalised. May Ball chic is best accompanied by one of those particularly fetching paper gowns they hand out.

10 extra points if...you repeatedly offer them a hand and then drop them in again. If all else fails just shove them in again.

5 extra points if...they're wearing black tie at the time. Try explaining that to the dry cleaners.



5 Irritate a bouncer by asking them what their IQ is. Demand to know what school they went to, and look incredulous when they tell you they have no idea what Eton fives is. Be even more obnoxious by boasting about how clever you are and declaring that if you don't top tripos, Cambridge was clearly a waste of you and your supervisors' time. Drag your mate into the row by claiming they won University Challenge and are even cleverer than you.

20 extra points if...the bouncer punches your friend and kicks them out.

10 extra points if...you abandon your friend when they try to defend you.

5 extra points if...you have to be dragged away shouting abuse.

10 Cut all of your friend's hair off in the middle of the night. Less subtle than no. 9, but with the added benefit that they'll think you're a psychopath, and never sleep easily again.

20 extra points if...you constantly tell them they look terrible with short hair, and that only people like Keira Knightley can pull off that look.

10 extra points if...you fashion a bracelet out of their hair and wear it until they notice.

5 extra points if...you leave their hair in a pile next to a note claiming it was an accident.



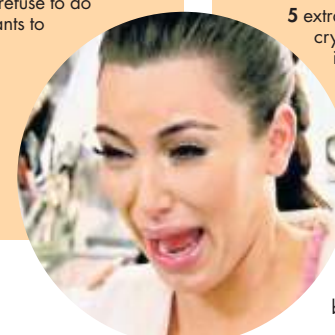
Do you really want friends like these?

4 Cry for an unexplained reason, for a very long time. If there isn't mascara or bodily fluids all over your mate's face, clothes and crepe, go home, you're not doing this right. Simple, but effective.

20 extra points if...after talking to whatever vaguely disappointing headline act the nitwits on the May Ball Committee have conjured up, they are too upset to play. Not that anyone wanted to see them anyway.

10 extra points if...you make a staff member cry, preferably a bouncer with a BMI of at least 50.

5 extra points if...your friend starts crying. Even better if they vomit in the process. Bigger win still: if they vomit on a member of staff. Essentially the ball should begin to resemble a budget slasher flick.



You can do better than this...

8 Tell your friends that you can help them sneak into the ball that you're working at, then direct them to the entrance of Queens', which is guarded by Alsatis. When they call worried about the potentially ravenous canines, tell them they dogs are decorative, and like to be stroked.

20 extra points if...you inject the dogs with adrenaline 10 minutes before your friends arrive. Chuck them a steak if it looks like they need encouragement. Laugh loudly and point as the dogs maul them.

10 extra points if...you plant drugs on them as well. The ball should more closely resemble a scene from Singapore customs than a summer evening in Cambridge.

5 extra points if...you warn the bouncers beforehand so they're ready to catch your friends. Offer them sexual favours if they help you out.



9 Put a small amount of hair removal cream in your friend's shampoo a week before May Ball. Their hair will gradually fall out and they'll have no idea why.

20 extra points if...you scare them into going to the doctor to find out what's wrong.

10 extra points if...no one will talk to them because it's so disgusting.

5 extra points if...you pull out clumps of their hair and laugh.

300-240 points

THE EXILED UNDERGRAD

Probably best to go to another university, if you haven't been put in jail. People that don't know you hate you too.

239-180 points

THE SOCIAL REJECT

Your friends won't talk to you anymore, but if word hasn't got out about your antics you could make some more next year.

119-60 points

THE DRUNKEN DEVIANT

If you beg for forgiveness and blame it on the booze then you'll be alright.

179-120 points

THE RELATIONSHIP WRECKER

You'll have to do something special to make amends, but your relationships can still be salvaged. Random, outlandish acts of kindness should work – try buying your friends a couple of cars, or an elephant.

59-0 points

THE MAY WEEK NUTTER

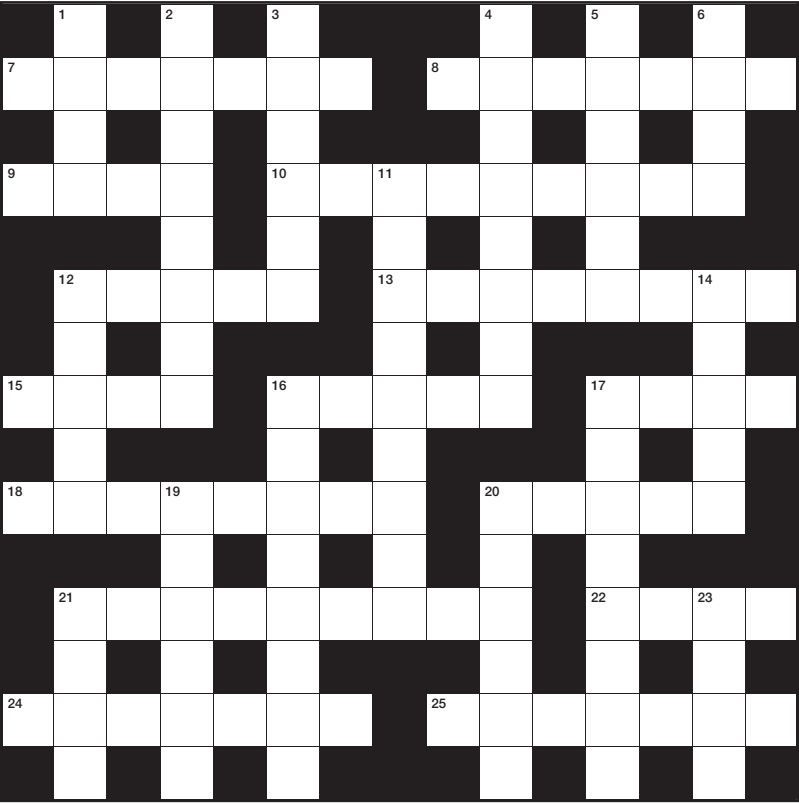
Things may be a little awkward, but you'll get away with it if you lie low for a while. You're friends probably just think you're weird.



Varsity Crossword

Set by Rizla

CRYPTIC



ACROSS

- 7/8 Chick jams alone, becomes musician (7, 7)
- 9 Charge one for ride in this (4)
- 10 Little sister spoilt, becomes a self-absorbed person (9)
- 12 On return, TV chef felt ill (5)
- 13 Taking off west, birds serenade voyage of ferry (8)
- 15 North African wasteland (4)
- 16 Odds, or otherwise (5)
- 17 Starts to make offensive comments known (4)
- 18 Supporter of Tarantino character doesn't have energy to dance (8)
- 20 Drink black thick liquid (5)
- 21 Saints die, however clean (9)
- 22 Wild animal rearing? Run! (4)
- 24 Moving quietly, hope to eradicate legendary bird (7)
- 25 Substitute cooked carp with eel (7)

DOWN

- 1 Mail redistributed in Peru (4)
- 2 Suspenseful story told by 7 8? (8)
- 3 After chaotic start, relented and stopped (6)
- 4 Marx's revolutionary son gets weapons (8)
- 5 Bits of thread and end of fleece wrapped in papers (6)
- 6 Throw party for a lot of people (4)
- 11 Salacious female singer in Seoul dancing (9)
- 12 Smell of a football club (5)
- 14 Small compartment hidden in supersonic helicopter (5)
- 16 Scientist has a beer in Germany (8)
- 17 Activity pioneered by Armstrong and 7 8? (8)
- 19 Professor gets answer sheet for fool (6)
- 20 Pester animal (6)
- 21 Look after that part of London (4)
- 23 Fortune found in upcoming geek culture (4)

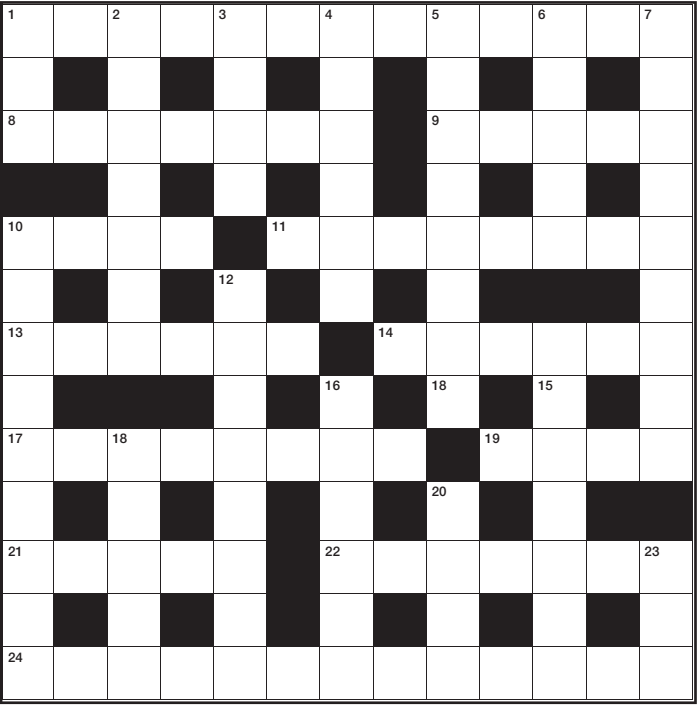
Connecting wall

Try and sort the 16 boxes into 4 groups of 4. The elements in each group should be linked thematically – e.g. “Green, Silver, Park, Market” are all streets in Cambridge city centre. Watch out for red herrings!

City	The Tempest	Go	Hamlet
Week	Pole	Orient Express	Risk
Chess	Village	Town	Bumps
Midsummer's Night	Ball	Othello	Post-Apocalyptic

	CONNECTION				
Group 1					
Group 2					
Group 3					
Group 4					

QUICK



ACROSS

- 1 Breed of cattle from Scotland (8, 5)
- 8 Set against (7)
- 9 Customary (5)
- 10 Type of Japanese noodle (4)
- 11 A smoking gun, for example (8)
- 13 Real (6)
- 14 Mystic (6)
- 17 Snowstorm (8)
- 19 Encourage (4)
- 21 Flower (5)
- 22 French Post-Impressionist painter (7)
- 24 Actor most famous for playing Mr. Bean (5, 8)

DOWN

- 1 Fuss (3)
- 2 Take advantage of (7)
- 3 Twilight (4)
- 4 Salad vegetable (6)
- 5 Waterway (8)
- 6 Type of elementary particle (5)
- 7 Character from Looney Tunes (9)
- 10 Capital of Mongolia (4, 5)
- 12 Almond-flavoured confection (8)
- 15 Disconnects (7)
- 16 Terror (6)
- 18 Relative by marriage (2-3)
- 20 Japanese mountain (4)
- 23 Religious woman (3)

QUIZ ANSWERS FROM PAGE 14-15:
1. Marine Le Pen, head of Front National 2. George Galloway during a speech made by Eylon Asla did "not debate with Israelis"
3. The horsemeat scandal made the average meat consumer pretty wary (for a week or two, at least) about what was in their food 4. Lack of jelly wrestling at the Wyverns' Garden Party 5. For Colored Girls, (dir. Justina Kehinde) was the first show in Cambridge to feature an all-black, all female cast 6. Oxford cox, Oskar Zorrilla, was heard swearing pre-watershed on national television several times 7. 2015 8. Dr Rowan Williams is, apparently, a Game of Thrones man 9. A notice was dated the 30th November, but many students didn't realise until December 10. The Beard Society 11. CCP (The Cambridge College Programme), run by Taryn Edwards 12. Floods – one of the wettest summer in 100 years according to the Met office 13. Fifteen Street Pianos 14. Catz 15. Thomas Kyd's *The Spanish Tragedy*, (dir. Niall Wilson) 16. Ohio 17. Pembroke and Peterhouse 18. £7.45 19. Eddie Redmayne 20. Technical issues with the video link equipment in the Ecuadorian Embassy 21. Nicolas Poussin, Extreme Uncction, achieved by the Museum following a nationwide campaign to muster the necessary £3.9 million) 22. Over £60,000, a babygro 23. Marie and Millie

CONNECTING WALL ANSWERS:
1. Settlements: Hamlet, Village, Town, City
2. Board game: Othello, Go, Risk, Chess
3. May --: Ball, Week, Bumps, Pole
4. Themes of May Balls: The Tempest (Pembroke), Orient Express (Darwin), Midsummer's Night (St. Edmunds), Post-Apocalyptic (St. Catharine's)

Spot the difference

Spot the difference in the photographs, both taken from a Wyverns Garden party. Answers will be posted online soon.



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Picture perfect: May Balls in photos

Contributors: Tom Porteous, Helen Cahill





Students went all out to make their vessels. Top left: **Tim Gordon, Maria Newsome, Rebecca Coombs and Ewan Macpherson.** *Varsity* were impressed by teams that made their boats look beautiful too.



'In fairness, our waterproofing was quite effective. Hardly any water got back out of the boat and into the Cam'



Edward Hall
Magdalene

'Cambridge students love absurdly difficult tasks. I guess the only difference about us after exams is that we find failure amusing rather than stressful'



Catharine Allen
St. Catharine's

Soggy students compete on Suicide Sunday

Cardboard contraptions ranging from small rowing boats to giant rafts hit the Cam as over thirty teams take part in the annual DIY disaster

By Christina Sweeney-Baird

The 5th annual Cambridge Cardboard boat race took place on Sunday 16th June starting just off Jesus Green. The racers had to make it to Magdalene to pick up a mystery item before returning to the starting point. The race, sponsored by the St. Edmund's May Ball Committee is 500 metres in total with very few boats surviving the entire course.

The rules are simple: all boats must be made entirely out of cardboard, PVA glue and gaffa tape with other materials only allowed if they are only there for aesthetics. The vast majority of boats unsurprisingly sank almost immediately. The winning team's boat, however, with James Wright, Daisy Gomersall, Adam Dougall and John Grenfell-Shaw, was still standing hours later. All four

are rowers from Trinity and some member of the team are engineers.

One competitor in a team which spent an hour and three quarters on their

'The vast majority of boats unsurprisingly sank almost immediately. The winning team's boat, however... was still standing hours later'

boat, Tom Johnson, a first year computer science student, said: "We sank. Twice." One team, whose boat was still floating (see picture top left) an hour after the start of the race, comprised of Tim Gordon, Maria Newsome,

Rebecca Coombs and Ewan Macpherson. Rebecca told *Varsity*, "Our boat took four days to build. Now off to Granchester!"

There were some questions raised by locals over the amount of cardboard left on the banks of the Cam following the race. One spectator, a twenty-eight year old historian said, "I think it's all just a bit of fun really. If we were throwing up on the streets it would be different but everyone is in good spirits."

The race has grown each year that it is run with over thirty teams competing this year and over two hundred spectators. Some teams spent over a week on their boats whilst others hashed it together in just over an hour. One team had to throw their boat out of their second floor window in order to get to the race at all having built the boat inside and then finding the door was too small.

FACT BOX

What's the prize?

A free pair of St. Edmund's May Ball tickets

What was the highest number of competitors in a boat?

Ten

How many boats were reclaimed and sailed after the end of the race by members of the public?

One

What was the best named boat?

Not the Titanic

How many teams competed?

Just over thirty

Which college were the winning team from?

Trinity

What can be used for propulsion in the race?

Anything. Seriously.

Clare women end Downing domination

Clare seizes the women's headship from Downing, while a strong Caius retains its lead in the men's divisions

by Alice Udale-Smith
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

The undisputed highlight of the Cambridge rowing scene, this year's May Bumps, once again managed to deliver more than its fair share of the unpredictable with temporary changes in headship for both the men and women.

On the women's side, Clare, which started the week sitting fourth on the river, was expected to do well as it had five university level rowers in the boat alongside next year's CUWBC President, Esther Momcilovic, as cox. With such a strong starting lineup, it was therefore unsurprising that they

'With several blues, lightweights, and trialists in the boat, Clare were always going to be strong this May Bumps'

bumped up on the first three days, defeating Pembroke, Newnham and Jesus. To claim the headship, however, Clare would also have to bump Downing on Saturday, no easy chance as Downing has held the headship fairly comfortably since the first day of May Bumps in 2011. Nevertheless, the Clare crew was unstoppable, catching Downing on the final day to secure Double Blades (for gaining the headship as well as bumping every day). This was the first time that Clare has taken the headship.

On the men's side, it was largely

£80

Is what Selwyn M4 will have to pay for getting caught urinating in front of some unsuspecting bumps spectators

assumed that Caius would hold onto the headship, since taking first position on the second day of May Bumps 2011. Indeed the Caius crew was so strong that they actually finished quicker than both the CUBC lightweights and the victorious OUBC lightweights at the Varsity boat races at Eton Dorney this year.

For the first two days there was little action at the top of the men's division. It was therefore incredibly unexpected when Caius's rudder came off during Friday's race, leading Caius to crash into the bank and Downing to sail past them with ease.

The Downing celebrations were cut short however, as an emboldened Caius crew triumphantly took back the headship on the final day, leaving little question as to their status as the undisputable dominant crew on the Cam.

FINES OF THE WEEK

Amongst all the usual fines for failing to provide marshals, excessive bank parties, dropped bungs and doing a cheeky extra practice start, are a few more unusual fines from CUCBC. Here, for your pleasure, are our favourites:

Caius M4 - Dangerous coxing, hitting a stationary crew - £50



Clare W1 chase down Downing W1 for the women's headship on the Saturday of May Bumps, in front of the excited crowds at the Plough pub

BLADES

Peterhouse M1
Christ's M2
Queens M2
Hughes Hall M1
Jesus M3
Clare M5
Churchill M3
Clare W1
Peterhouse W1
Magdalene W2
Churchill W2

Away from the headship, the battle for bumps was just as fierce. Peterhouse had a particularly successful week with both their first boats claiming blades. Similarly, Clare was also impressive fielding a massive number of 10 boats over both sides of the club.

This led to a bit of intra-college rivalry

'Despite bumping, LMBC M4 were disqualified after boasting on twitter about not having done enough outings'

on the final day when the Clare men's 5th boat managed to double overbump their own 4th boat to go up 5 places in a single race and claim blades. Churchill was also impressive as all five of its boats managed to avoid being bumped and two sets of blades, leaving it with a purely positive record at the end of



Clare celebrate after a very successful bumps campaign for the entire club

the week.

The picture was not so bright for other colleges. Firth and Third, one of the larger and usually more successful clubs on the river, had four of their boats get spoons, and only their W1 managed to bump at all during the entire week. Similarly, Robinson also had a poor week with two boats getting spoons and their W2 having to pull out after just two days, following several

injuries.

Unusually this week also saw a disqualification. Despite bumping, LMBC M4 (St John's college boat club) were disqualified after boasting on twitter about not having done the number of outings required by CUCBC to ensure all crews have trained enough in order to compete safely. The tweet has since been deleted.



Queens M2 get their blades on Saturday

SPOONS

Trinity Hall M1
Downing M2
First and Third M2
First and Third M3
Fitzwilliam M2
Wolfson M2
First and Third M4
Robinson M2
Kings M3
Pembroke W1
Robinson W1
Homerton W1
Trinity Hall W1
Pembroke W3
First and Third W2
Hughes Hall W2

Selwyn M4 - Urinating in direct view on the towpath - £80

Murray Edwards W3 - Mid race breather - Bring a picnic for tomorrow

Girton M2 - Expertly executed log clearing spinning while marshalling - Half of the offending article as a trophy

Christ's M2 - Displaying their row

strength in dragging the log onto the bank - The other half of the offending article as a trophy

Caius M1 - Urination in front of spectators - £80

Emmanuel M4 - Murdering 'Jerusalem' - Sing S Club 7 instead

Hughes Hall W1 - Failure to get

onto station - Coxing kit to include a grappling hook

Jesus M5 - Drinking while in charge of a water craft - A bottle of port for the umpire

Pembroke - Incompetent marshal (failure to locate Riverside) - £10 + a map

St Edmund's M1 - Excessive foliage - Plant a tree to replace to one you defoliated

Magdalene Supporters - Referring to Magdalene as "Maggie" - Attend tomorrow's Stomp

Magdalene M4 - Grunting offensive language during pushes - Be subjected to birth simulation technology.

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TREVELYAN, CONNOLLY – pages 5 and 7
SCULPTURE 67 to 70 – page 12

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