

ISSUE 10
LENT 2007

GRADUATE'S OWN MAGAZINE

The University of Cambridge Magazine for Graduate Students

AMERICAN POLITICS
THE OTHER AMSTERDAM
SCIENCE AS A BRAND
FREE TRADE COCAINE
CU WINE SOCIETY

own

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British director, Paul Andrew Williams, makes his debut feature: *London to Brighton*, with great critical acclaim, winning several prestigious awards. There is no denying that the film is engrossing, the pace well measured and the spectacle of violence very gripping, but I consider this film to be more an 'adrenaline hit' that seems to glory in its own gritty nature, than a profound film of bleakness.

The start of the film certainly sets the tone: 3.07 am. A panicked woman and child burst into a graffiti-covered public toilet. The girl is cry-

ing uncontrollably. The woman, her face swollen and disfigured from some recent beating, tries to comfort her. The two decide to escape to Brighton. The audience is left to learn what they are running from as the narrative's style unfolds.

Flashbacks are used to reveal how the older woman, Kelly (Lorraine Stanley), is a prostitute whose pimp is the manipulative Derek (Johnny Harris). Derek is called upon by rich, gangland man, Duncan Allen, to find a very young girl to satisfy his needs. Kelly, who reluctantly agrees

Paul Andrew Williams

LONDON to BRIGHTON

to find a runaway at Derek's bidding, comes across Joanne (Georgie Groome); she convinces herself that the girl is more street-wise than she seems. Nonetheless, she is repeatedly reminded that the girl is just a frightened child trying to look tough and in control. When Duncan is found dead in a pool of his own blood after the girls' visit, the hunt for vengeance, led by Duncan's menacing son Stuart begins. Clearly feeling guilty for helping to corrupt this girl and involve her in this violent world, Kelly takes on a maternal-like role and works throughout the rest of the film to protect her.

In the more tranquil scenes set in Brighton, believing they are free of their pursuers, Joanne marvels at the sight of the sea and tries to win toys in the arcade. Kelly, meanwhile, goes off to earn money by curb-crawling so Joanne can buy a ticket to Devon to live with her grandmother. The most poignant scene is when Joanne gives Kelly one of the teddies she has won and insists they name them. Joanne calls it after her mum who died and Kelly is coerced into naming hers'. Her expression hints at her own troubled past which she has long since blocked out. In this scene, as in the rest of the film, the performance of these two actresses is impressive. Stanley brings great depth to her troubled character and Groome is mesmerising. Nonetheless, I find it rather disturbing that such a young actress was

brought in to play such a distressing role. Although the director, whom I interviewed about the film, kept assuring me that she (Groome) had fun turning the tears on and off and was not aware of the ugly 'reality' she was portraying, I am left feeling uneasy at this deliberate fragility amidst brutality being offered up to us as entertainment.

I am not someone who only likes candy-floss-sweet films (I consider *Baise-Moi* and *Red Road* to be a fantastically powerful works) but *London to Brighton* fails to have anything substantial to say. It is therefore unlikely to stay with you after the credits go up.

London to Brighton	
Director:	Paul Andrew Williams
Cast:	Lorraine Stanley Johnny Harris Georgia Groome Sam Spruell Alexander Morton
Year:	2006
Country:	UK
Time:	85 mins
Format:	English

A Big Shift in American Politics

Written By Tristan Brown, Designed by G. Y. Min

In November of 2004 George W. Bush was re-elected with a sizeable margin of victory. That same year, Republicans increased their power in the Senate (by four seats) and in the House of Representatives (by three seats). Many Democrats were shocked. They couldn't understand how the American public could not only re-elect George W. Bush, but also increase the Republican majority in the legislative branch of government.

Following the election, top Republican strategists gleefully advanced their plans to expand their "permanent majority" by continuing to increase Republican control of government at every level. But by 2005, political pundits were starting to wonder if the Democrats could actually capitalize on Republican mistakes and mishandlings. Could Democrats gain enough political momentum to beat back the tremendously formidable Republican campaign machine that had been increasing Republican control in government for over a decade?

In the 2006 election, Democrats would be defending 18 seats, while Republicans would only be defending 15. Of those, Democrats would have six difficult races while Republicans would only have two. Even though Republican blunders were making things look rosy for Democrats, the big question seemed to be whether the Democrats could avoid losing seats in an election where they had to win

almost all of the close races to avoid ceding even greater control of the government to Republicans.

Self Destruction

One year out from the election, however, Democrats smelled blood. Jack Abramoff, a top Republican fundraiser, lobbyist, and friend of Washington's most powerful Republican leaders, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to bribe a member of Congress and other public officials. Just weeks earlier, the Vice President's top aide, Scooter Libby, was indicted for obstruction of justice and perjury – charges that stemmed from an investigation into the Bush Administration's revealing of the status of a covert CIA agent. The agent's husband, Joe Wilson, had challenged the Bush Administration's claim that Iraq had tried to buy nuclear material from Niger (a false claim that the President used in his 2003 State of the Union speech to support his argument for invading Iraq). Less than a week before that, Republican Tom Delay, the second most powerful member in the House of Representatives, was arrested on charges of money laundering. Just when things couldn't get any worse for Republicans, another party member, Congressman Duke Cunningham of California, resigned and pleaded guilty to federal counts of conspiracy to commit bribery, mail fraud, wire fraud, and tax evasion. By 2006, aides to powerful members of Congress

such as House Majority leader Tom Delay and Congressman Bob Ney, the Chairman of the Administration Committee and the guy who brought "freedom fries" to America, pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges.

Meanwhile, the Democrats were tiptoeing. Their strategy: let the Republican boat sink. Rather than offering alternatives to Republican policies, which the Republicans could then attack,



Just sworn in for his second term, President Bush walks to the White House with the first Lady, 20 Jan. 2005. (White House Photo: Eric Draper)

Democrats simply let the Republicans self-destruct. As the election season heated up in the fall of 2006 it became apparent that the Democratic strategy was working. While Democrats still had a huge uphill battle in the Senate, Republican resignations in the House left the control of the House of Representatives wide open for the Democrats. Republican candidates were busy trying to distance themselves from President Bush, their newly indicted Republican friends, and the Iraq War, and were simultaneously trying to highlight their own meager legislative records. Democrats, on the other hand, simply hammered Republicans on the war and ethics.

A Resounding Victory

By October, Republican and Democratic political pundits were calling the election “a win for the Democrats.” And by the end of October, it was widely assumed that Democrats would actually win control of the House of Representatives. Razor-thin margins in four major Senate Races meant the Democrats could still retain hope, however unlikely it would be, for a Democratic Senate.

On 8 November 2006, the Democrats swept the election. They not only won control of the House and Senate, but also regained control of a majority of state governments – a huge shift in the political pendulum.

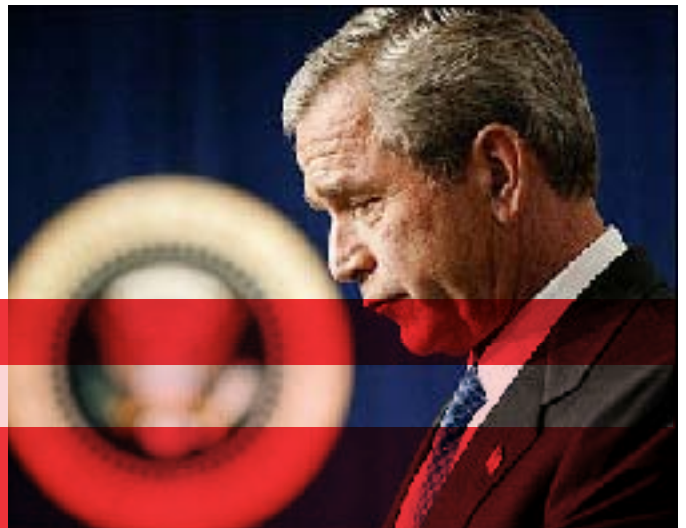
The End of Bush’s Presidency

The win for the Democrats was an horrendous blow for Bush’s presidency. His entire legislative agenda, including his major goals to overhaul in Social Security and Medicare, to make his tax cuts permanent, and to “win the war on terror,” will be nearly impossible to fulfill. President Bush’s only hope to create a positive legacy for his Presidency is to sign legislation that Democrats create – legislation which he and most of his Republican supporters have staunchly opposed.

Meanwhile, Democrats find themselves in a perfect position leading up to 2008. They will only be defending 12 Senate seats compared to the 21 seats Republicans will need to defend. Moreover, three sitting Republican Senators will have an incentive to retire since their prospects for regaining control of their committee chairmanships in 2008 are already minute. Such retirements would only exacerbate the Republicans’ very poor chances to regain control of the Senate in 2008.

In the House of Representatives, all 435 members will be up for re-election. Democrats will again have the advantage. They will control the agenda in the House and will have the power of the Committee Chairmanships to blast the Bush administration for any of its mishandlings or unpopular policies. Moreover, Democratic leaders in the House are keenly aware of their tenuous position of power and are doing their best to bolster the accomplishments of the new Democratic Representatives who won tightly contested races in 2006. House leaders have crafted a plan to ensure that all House Democrats who face competitive elections in 2008 are given preferential treatment by the leadership – ensuring that the new Representatives are able to show their constituents that they have accomplished much and deserve to be sent back to Washington in 2008.

Mr. Brown is a Gates Scholar reading for an MPhil in Environmental Policy. He was a Lloyd Meeds Policy Fellow at Preston Gates Ellis & Rouvelas Meeds LLP, one of Washington D.C.’s top lobbying firms, and has worked on various political campaigns for EMILY’s List, the largest political fundraiser in United States.



*President Bush in the White House Briefing Room.
(Associated Press Photo)*

Global Anti-Americanism

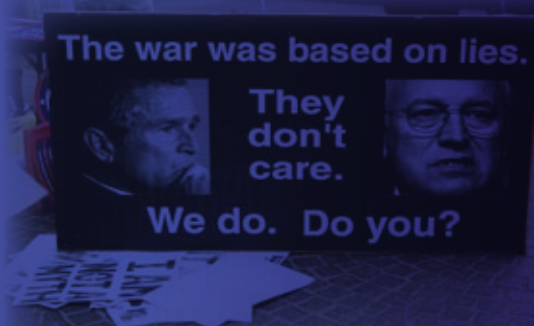
What is anti-Americanism exactly? There are no other countries that elicit a negative prefix, no counter-Frenchness or anti-Britishism. So what's special, or especially bad about the USA? The phrase is certainly in common parlance today; type it into Amazon, Google or Cambridge Online Journals and watch hundreds of hits come up showing blogs, books, websites and academic articles. So the concept is certainly widely used and most of us could probably have a pretty good attempt at defining it. However the reality is that anti-Americanism actually encompasses a complex, tangled knot of different attitudes that are often dependent upon context.

Although the term 'anti-Americanism' was coined relatively recently (1948), there has been passionate opposition to the very idea of an American republic even before it was founded. In what seems to have subsequently grown into a national sport, the French Lawyer Simon Linguet warned in the 1870s that 'the dregs of Europe would build a dreadful society in America, create a strong army, take over Europe, and destroy civilization'. According to Paul Hollander, who literally wrote the book on the subject, this example would illustrate what he describes as the irrational, emotive, hostile predisposition and generalisation that is at the core of anti-Americanism and any other form of negative stereotyping such as sexism or racism. But is anti-Americanism simply just another form of bigotry, another -ism? One interpretation is that anti-Americanism is more than simple opposition to what the United States does, but actually represents

opposition to what the United States is — what it stands for. But what does America stand for? What are these features, which on the one hand neatly summarises a nation of over 300 million people, and then on the other, elicits such a powerful backlash? What is this Americanism that so many people are anti-?

One word coming out of the White House repeatedly since 9/11 is 'freedom'. Nine days after the twin towers fell, the President asked 'why do they hate us ... because they hate our freedoms' and since then we've heard about freedom on the march, enemies of freedom and freedom's fight. George W. Bush has repeatedly stated that terrorists, Al Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden all hate freedom. Now, I'm not about to touch the debate on what freedom might mean, what a terrorist is or if Osama Bin Laden hates freedom. I do however question the idea that one man, the President, can say what a country as large and diverse as America truly stands for.

For starters, Bush only won the 2004 election by less than 3% (3.5 million votes) implying that less than a quarter of the total US population actually voted for him. It's certainly true that the President seems to be the lightning rod for anti-American sentiment across the globe. Surveys from the 2004 Pew Global Attitudes Project found that the majority of people in every country, but the US, had an unfavourable opinion of the President, with 57% negative as opposed to 39% positive ratings in Britain. Negative ratings were as high as 85% in France and Germany.



Written by Louis Coiffait
Designed by G. Y. Min

It is unfortunate that one man seems to be able to provoke such a volume of anti-American sentiments when he represents only some of his countrymen and has one voice among many (albeit a loud one) when it comes to deciding US foreign policy.

Some of the more academic writers on the subject have attributed the unique flavour of particular forms of anti-Americanism to particular countries, regions and groups depending upon differing historical, socio-economic and political contexts. The French are supposed to fear the soulless, work-obsessed and mechanised nature of American mass production. The British apparently feel culturally superior to a country without history or proper English. By all accounts Europeans, in general, have a distrust of American religiosity and commercialism. The developing world is meant to envy the economic success of the States, while loathing the capitalist system it epitomises. Unfortunately all these sweeping generalisations are nothing but widespread beliefs and yet they are hopelessly simplistic. Alas, America cannot be that easily reduced.

We certainly have a lot to thank America for. In the last century, the USA has helped the UK to victory in two world wars and the cold war. The technologies, practices and ideas coming from the States have been the biggest drivers in a revolution of modernity and rising living standards. America is our single biggest trading partner (though not as big as the EU, the latter being an amalgamation of countries). Our nuclear weapon capabilities

are only possible because America is our ally. So regardless of how you may feel about America, they have been instrumental in making the UK, and the world what it is today.

I'm not arguing that America is universally good or benign. I certainly have my criticisms of some American policies, some American people and some American Presidents. However the term anti-Americanism is used too often, both as a political device for silencing any criticism against America and as a simplistic dismissal of the only remaining world superpower. As a country we should not have any pretensions to having a 'special relationship' with the USA, instead we should concentrate on being a strong part of a strong Europe. But as individuals, in our professional and personal lives, we should try to be fair and even-handed in dealing with any other country – especially those that are large, diverse and powerful.

Louis M M Coiffait's political work history includes lobbyist, MP's researcher and Cabinet Minister's policy aide. He is researching anti-Americanism among British foreign policy elites at the Centre for International Studies and will be running for Labour in the Cambridge local elections.



Fair Trade Cocaine?

Raju Raman, Clare College

“Drugs are bad for you, so don’t take them.”

Young people, have been fed this message for years, with very little effect. It’s not hard to see why.

There are the obvious problems with the patronising “don’t take them” side of it. There is no better way to tempt a young person to rebel.

However, there are also problems with the “Drugs are bad for you” side of the message. The first is that, in spite of being “bad for you”, drugs also happen to make you feel absolutely great— and this is especially true of the “harder” drugs like heroin and cocaine. If this isn’t acknowledged openly in drug education, we are simply hiding part of the truth - why should the target audience buy any other part of the message? But the message is also flawed on a more fundamental level. Yes, drugs may be bad for you – and if it was just about you, that might be the end of it. But it’s definitely not just you the user who’s involved. In the age of fair trade, this message may turn out to have more mileage in it than we think.

Consider cocaine. The principal growers of coca leaf are Bolivia, Peru and Colombia. It is in many ways a simple agricultural industry: the leaves are harvested and crushed into a paste, which is then converted by a simple sequence of purification and chemical modification into cocaine powder. Colombia is the biggest grower, and the high profitability of the industry makes the drug an excellent source of funding for the various “rebel” and “paramilitary” groups that operate in the country. The decades-old civil war between the supposedly Marxist FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – the largest rebel group) and the government, complicated by the emergence of right-wing paramilitary groups in the 70s, has long been funded by cocaine export. Indeed, whilst this started as a political conflict, it is now better seen as a conflict over the territory in which coca can be grown and cocaine produced. Both the rebels and the paramilitaries, and a vast array of corrupt officials at every level, are heavily involved. Who bears the brunt of the violence? Unsurprisingly, it is largely local peasants who step on the landmines planted in the fields.

Then there’s the cocaine export: Most of the cocaine used here in Europe has been shipped via Brazil. From the growing regions, cocaine traverses Brazil and funnels into the favelas of the big cities such as Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, where it is distributed, repackaged and

sold on by heavily armed drug factions. These factions recruit children to work as packagers, look-outs, dealers and "soldiers". They carry guns, and may be shot, or caught and tortured by rival factions. Between 1987 and 2001, 467 minors were killed in the conflict between Israel and Palestine; 3937 children were killed by small arms fire in the city of Rio alone.

How aware are the British consumers of cocaine of where these drugs have come from or how much blood has been spilled to get it here? How many kidnappings, landmine victims, militarised childhoods and shot bystanders have paid the price in the process? Ask these questions of a potential user, and you have a message that just might work. This, at least, is the philosophy behind "Fair Trade Cocaine?"

We are a small group that aims to add a wider ethical dimension to drugs education in Cambridge. For younger teenagers (13-15) we give interactive workshops on the cocaine trade and its consequences for the people of Latin America. For 6th form students we give short

presentations followed by discussions and at the University, we screen films such as *City of God*, *Maria Full of Grace* and *Favela Rising*, followed by short presentations and discussions. Our events are greatly enhanced by the participation of people from the countries involved, particularly from Colombia and Brazil.

The big question, of course, is "Does it work?" As yet, we have no idea. From our observations, however, this is certainly not a message which people have heard before. The schools we have been to have asked us back; and encouragingly, it's the students, not just the teachers, who have been asking!

Finally, as cocaine gets cheaper, the number of users is increasing steadily. Britain is the largest consumer in Europe. We believe that someone reading this article probably takes cocaine, or at least knows someone who does. Think about it.

If you would like to volunteer with us, or if you have any contacts in schools that would be willing to host our workshops, please email fairtradecocaine@hotmail.co.uk

Layout Designed by Louise O'Brien



A close-up of a hand with a glowing orange stamp that reads "SCIENCE AS A BRAND". The background is dark with vibrant red and blue light streaks and a glowing red sphere on the right side.

SCIENCE AS A BRAND

Nikola Tesla, the Croatian Genius and the Modern Prometheus

Words: Mico Tatalovic

Design: Simon Ford

It is an exciting time for science. Amid the dangers of over-commercialization in the globalized world, with large corporations' monopolies in the funding of research and heavy competition from areas like intelligent design, science is walking a thin line. Science education and the popularization of science play crucial roles in conveying the importance of scientific achievements, in order to maintain wide interest and support for scientific research. Thanks to science degrees and science communication courses at universities, science film festivals and a variety of science magazines, the importance of science is still easily communicable. New approaches in teaching science, like the recent publication of university science lectures in podcast/blog form on the Internet, mean that students of the 21st century have 24/7 access to science education. Traditional approaches to teaching science are also being challenged by Wikipedia style websites that allow everyone who has an Internet connection to freely share knowledge and information. More and more websites are being set up to allow free access to scientific research. Also, Cafe Scientifique organises coffee meetings around the globe where everyone is welcome to share opinions about cutting edge science for the price of a cappuccino; it's a sort of low cost airline in the scientific world, where ideas are flying high at low cost. Science is stepping into a new age. Will this be for the better or for the worse though? Whatever the answer to this question may be, the fact is that science has a variety of uses. In a more traditional view of science, the individual genius like Tesla or Einstein may make a creative discovery, resulting in the widespread development of what becomes an everyday technology. In this way, science may save lives, for example by finding a vaccine for an otherwise life-threatening disease. However, recently another application of science has been knocking on its door. This is the use of

science in the marketing of a country and the promotion of tourism.

The many uses of science, most notably in medicine and technology, are some of the most important tools in the development of modern societies. The idea that science may be used as a brand, a sort of trademark, may sound strange, but this is exactly the use some countries have been putting their sciences to. Take South Korea for example, where cutting edge stem cell research was becoming a source of pride for the nation. This was then spoiled by fabricated stem cell research by Dr. Hwang, one of the leading scientists in the field. This shows how misconduct of an individual can have negative effects on the nation as a whole as well the public's perception of science. But individuals' enthusiasm and effort can also have positive effect on their nation and the science.

So it is not only «groundbreaking», science that a nation can be proud of. Nikola Tesla is the man who is often said to have invented the twentieth century with his revolutionary inventions such as alternating current motors (allowing electricity to be widely used and transmitted across large distances), radio, X-rays, neon lightning and remote controls. Many of these he didn't patent and others who were doing similar work at the time got the recognition as the originators. For example Marconi was considered the inventor of the radio technology until a court ruling in the thirties gave Tesla back the recognition as the inventor of radio. Tesla's most productive period was towards the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of twentieth century. However, in 2006, the 150th anniversary of his birth, his home country Croatia (although he was also a citizen of the USA) announced «the Nikola Tesla Year» not only to celebrate his work but also to use his scientific achievements for the promotion of Croatia and its tourism industry.

Special TV and radio shows, science articles, special postage stamps, exhibitions, the unveiling of new monuments, science conferences and the opening of a new museum in Tesla's home town are just some of the events that marked the «Nikola Tesla Year» in Croatia. It is ironic that Tesla's inventions made electricity widely available to (almost) everyone and yet his home town and the house where he was born were still without electricity at the beginning of 2006. The reasons for this are probably the relatively isolated position of the town in Croatia and the effects of the war in the 1990s.

Some of the organisers of the »Nikola Tesla Year« hoped that it would raise public awareness, not only of his work but also of the region of Croatia he came from and the need to invest to improve the facilities and infrastructure for those living there today. Others wanted to use the events to highlight the needs of minorities in Croatia, especially the Serb community. Tensions still exist among civilians ten years after the war-time atrocities and both governments and individuals need to strive to ensure that different nationalities and religions can live together in peace and understanding in Croatia, and, in the modern age of worldwide conflicts, throughout the rest of the world. The importance Tesla placed on harmonious co-existence is demonstrated by his famous statement: «I am proud both of my Serbian nationality and of my Croatian homeland».

Other people involved with the «Nikola Tesla Year» want to improve the funding and facilities for science education in schools: if there is another Tesla at one of Croatia's schools today, they argue, he or she should be able to work in Croatia and not have to move to the States. Nowadays many European scientists are affected by the fact that funding for science is much more readily available in America.

Tesla is considered to be one of Croatia's greatest ever scientists. He singlehandedly changed the world as we know it by developing his visionary electrical motors and other devices into safe and usable reality. Tesla's story has been told in a variety of books and films, given names like Nikola Tesla-the master of lightning and Nikola Tesla-the genius who lit up the world. He lived a vibrant life filled with adventurous twists, which lent itself to being told in a feature film, The secret of Nikola Tesla by Krsto Papic).

After studying in Croatia, Austria, Budapest and Prague he tried to develop his idea of an alternating current motor in Europe despite being told by his professors this would be impossible. As he couldn't find anyone responsive to his ideas he went to New York with some small change and a letter of recommendation in his pocket. The letter was addressed to Edison saying: «I know two great men. One is yourself. The other one is the young man standing in front of you». However, although Tesla initially admired him, Edison betrayed Tesla's trust by not paying him the promised amount for his short term work. Also, Edison wasn't exactly thrilled by Tesla's ideas on alternating current, since he was making a profit from his own production of direct current, which was very expensive and difficult to transport. This eventually resulted in the «war of the currents», which Tesla and Westinghouse (who

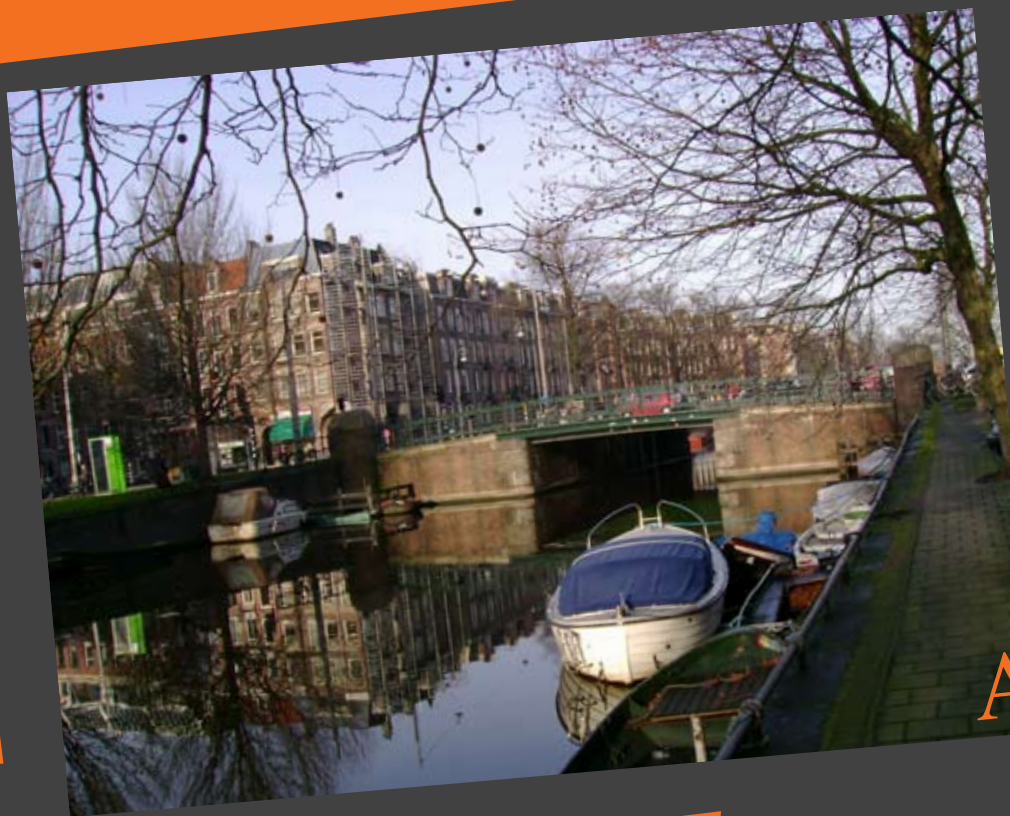
bought Tesla's patents) eventually won. Tesla also allegedly refused to share the Nobel prize for Physics with Edison in 1915, and the prize was given to someone else.

Tesla's work also involved wireless transfers of information and electricity. His dream was to produce electricity from renewable resources, which he believed could be found in cosmic radiations. This idea of so-called «free energy» is still being researched today by enthusiasts around the globe. Tesla also wanted to transfer electricity through the atmosphere and/or through the Earth's surface. He claimed he was close to achieving these dreams but failed to secure the funding to continue research; some think this was because his investors started making money from selling electricity and therefore had no interest in supporting research that would potentially make the electricity free of charge. If you think free electricity sounds surreal, think of radio-communications, remote controls, X-ray and neon lightning: all of these were just as surreal before Tesla's research and patents made them reality. Tragically for him, Tesla always invested all of his money in new research, he never cared about personal gain as his main concern was to give something to humanity. He achieved this by giving us electricity which is, at least anecdotally, comparable to Prometheus giving fire to humans.

Today, 150 years after he was born, most Croats and Serbs alike are proud to say Tesla was a Serb from Croatia. Tesla was proud to have also gained American citizenship. As far as the science is concerned, if this use of science as a brand is going to do any good, it will depend on how many people get inspired by the heroes of the past and decide to dedicate their work to the global good. I guess the history of science has a role to play in modern science, and its popularization must be a positive thing, even if the promotion of other causes is also a factor.

References and further reading

- 1) Official website of the «Nikola Tesla Year»:
<http://www.nikolatesla.hr>
- 2) Books about and by Nikola Tesla:
<http://www.tfcbooks.com/mall/booklist.htm>



The Other Amsterdam

Written by M. P. Gallen
Designed by Jitka Holcova

Famous for the lenient laws on drugs and prostitution, Amsterdam is popularly known as the original sin city, an apt claim since nestled amidst the canals and dykes of the Netherlands is the Red Light District of De Wallen, an internationally reputed haven of sex and intoxication.

However, there is another Amsterdam awaiting the traveller willing to seek them out, – a Centre of the arts with well-stacked museums, a rich cultural heritage, and a compelling history with magnificent architecture and beautiful sights.

The best way to experience the other Amsterdam is by taking a canal cruise of the city's famed waterways. With canals and rivers intersecting the city to a degree only exceeded by Venice, Amsterdam is certainly a unanimous choice for a boat tour. Diverse companies offer these cruises, with differing itineraries, one of which will certainly agree with your interests and time constraints. You could choose between museum trips or hour-long expeditions to historical neighbourhoods such as the Jewish Quarter, which has the famous home of the tragic Anne Frank. The captain of your ship will probably provide multilingual information about these sites, with special reference to the architecture. One particular highlight of the boat tour is *the Amsterdam*, an impressive replica of an eighteenth-century sailing ship.

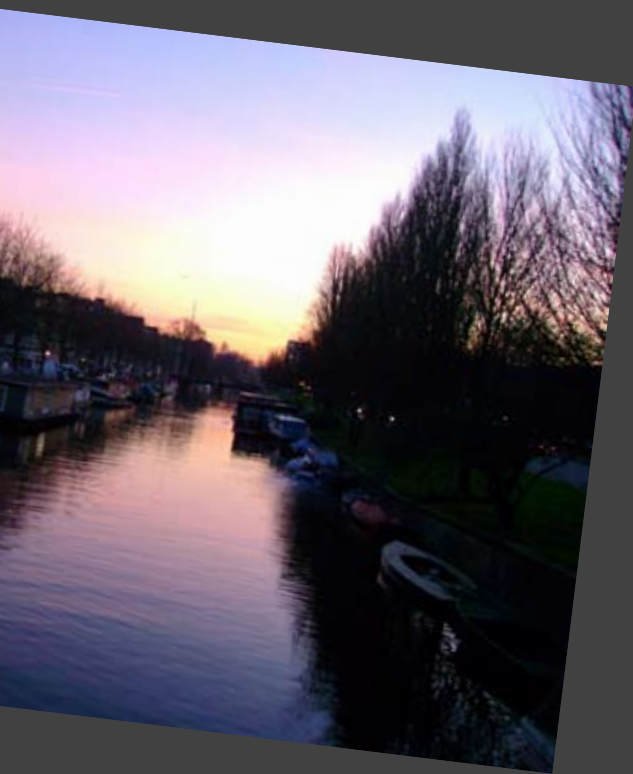
Floating across Amsterdam's waterways, one develops an appreciation of the centrality of water to the Dutch experience. As Simon Schama wrote in his cultural history of the Netherlands, *The Embarrassment of Riches*, Dutch identity was moulded by the process of converting marshes into inhabitable land,

as well as the struggle against flooding. If you are interested in further exploring this aspect of Dutch history, you can consult the magnificent Amsterdam Historical Museum which is now housed in a former orphanage. Even though this museum relies excessively on paintings to convey information, there are great exhibits on the evolution of Amsterdam from utter wetlands to a unique urban metropolis.

Perchance the paintings in the Historical Museum awaken the art lover in you? Then seek out the Van Gogh Museum! Although you would never guess from the blandly modernist exterior, the museum contains a permanent collection of more than 200 paintings by the most famous Dutch painter. It also features works by Impressionist painters such as Paul Gauguin who either worked with or were inspired by Van Gogh. The museum also offers insight into



All photographs © Mike Gallen



with the country's current libertine reputation. Founded by the Rev. Leendert Schouten, the Museum houses his ministerial gowns, apart from painstakingly constructed models of Biblical temples, Old Testament era antiquities, archaeological finds and collections of Bibles.

It is easy for travelers to overlook the proximal coexistence of this other Amsterdam with the more decadent twin. On the way to the docks for a river cruise, I walked past numerous smoke shops, as well as the world-famous Amsterdam Sex Museum. Whilst sauntering past one of the canals and taking in the scenery, I paused and was startled to find that I was standing right in front of a brothel, complete with women who started to gesture

the life of Van Gogh and his art. Audio guides in various languages are available for purchasing and these offer informative commentary on the collections, the mechanics of Van Gogh's art and the use of brushstrokes and colour. Some exhibits also explore the relationship between Van Gogh's art and his tortured psyche. The paintings are examples of the vast talent of the artist. For instance, *The Cottage* (1885) is a realistic work that clashes with the traditional conception of Van Gogh as an impressionist.

Although not as informative or breathtaking as the Van Gogh Museum, the Bijbels Museum offers an interesting perspective on Dutch culture, reminding us of the Calvinist heritage of the Netherlands – a strict moral tradition which contrasts



wildly when they realised I was looking at them.

Keeping this in mind, it is important to give some thought to where to stay in Amsterdam. Apart from a price which won't leave the wallet considerably lighter, students are also recommended to investigate the hotel. Many low-budget establishments cater to those who travel to Amsterdam specifically for using drugs or sexual experimentation. Needless to say, appreciating an art museum might be difficult if one has been kept up all night by a drug-fueled party!

Fortunately, a market has risen for cheap hotels that cater to families and non-partiers. Located within walking distance of the Van Gogh Museum, and near the tramlines, the Van Ostaade Bicycle Hotel (www.bicyclehotel.com) offers bare-boned yet acceptable rooms for as little as fifty Euros per night. The staff is quite friendly and their continental breakfasts are superb.





I am sitting at my desk dealing with the usual 200 emails and the small mountain of mail appears on my desk each day, when my boss walks in and says: “grab a coffee, we need to chat ...”

I work as an Alumni & Development Officer for a College in Cambridge where I do both, fundraise and friendraise. A major part of my working week is spent planning reunion events for Members of College. This can include anything from an informal Drinks Reception to Formal Black Tie Dinners for 300 people. Let me give you an idea of the upheavals that my office will suffer to make all these events happen.

All images @ Stewart Koenig and Koon-Yiu Tse

SIT

I am sitting with the Director of my department who is telling me what is required for this planned event, the coffee gets put on the side and my A4 500 page notebook gets opened. The Master of College has decided that we should have an Anniversary Dinner for a group of students and their guests, so can I “look into what is required for this to happen”? In other words go and plan the event and come back when you have the details for the Master of College to approve.

I move from the Director and go and speak to the Database Manager in my office and we perform a “data run” on the College Data base: we are look for the Year of Matriculation (this is the year they started College) Title, Name, Address. On completion of the run we sit down and remove the Members who have passed away, any duplicate entries, and those who do not wish to be contacted for whatever reason. With the data that is left, we transfer it onto an XL spreadsheet and use it for our initial mailing run. With this information filed on my computer and saved, I then move onto to my next department.

I enter the office of the personal assistant to the Master of College and discuss with her the available dates for the function to be held in six months time. Together we look at available dates to ensure the Master is available and that the College is free to host a reunion for the Matriculation Class of 1999.

We select a couple of Saturday Evenings for the Master to consider and I leave this with the p.a. to decide within 24 hours on the preferred date of the Master.

The following morning I receive an email from the



p.a. informing me that he has settled on the 24th May.

As the date for the event has now been approved, I take a walk across to the College Bursar and ask to have the Rooms within the College reserved for my sole use on that evening. I request that this is entered in the College Calendar so everyone is aware that a Formal Function is going to take place on the 24th May.

I run back across College to speak to the Catering Manager to discuss what is required for the Dinner to be held in May. Even though this event is more than 6 months away we have to start to pull things together now. After discussing the outline of the event with the Catering Manager and telling him my intention of venue, we leave things pencilled in with the details to be confirmed later.

As my College is in the centre of Cambridge and Parking is limited, I have to go and speak to the Head Porter to find out how many parking slots I can use for the event; this is pencilled in and we agree to confirm number nearer the time.

I now have to find a window in the diary of Director to sit down and inform her of what has been arranged so far, and discover she only has a spare 15 minutes after lunch. I draft up a quick plan of action for her to consider. We meet just after 2 pm and between fielding phone calls about Development and Overseas Events and the odd interruption from undergraduates who come into our office to seek advice or enquire about help in running an event for the Boat Club and the Dramatic Society. The salient points are laid out and the Director is happy things are moving even though we still have 6 month till the event starts.

I now go back to the XL spreadsheet with the details of Members of College who matriculated 1999. From this data I raise a warning letter to be sent out to them, informing them of the Anniversary Dinner that is being planned, along with an insert listing several Hotels in the area where I have negotiated a discounted rate. I ask the volunteers who work for my office to come in that afternoon to help with the envelope stuffing, and after about three hours the letters are ready to be mailed out. I go back to the database manager and ask him to list the event on our web site for members to see.

Over the next month, returned mail keeps coming in saying that this or that person no longer lives at the stated address. We then prepare the Formal Invitation Letter to be

sent by the Master of College to Members who responded that they are interested in attending.

We now have five months until the event takes place. We pull together the Formal Invitation to be sent out to the Members, this includes a Formal Letter of Invitation from The Master of College, a proforma requesting Dietary and any special requests such as Disabled Parking, the Formal Invitation Card to the Member and guest. We also enclose a form that asks the Members to fill out details of Work, Hobbies, Awards, which will be published in the Year's "Who's Who" for the Members on the evening so they can read up on what their contemporaries are up to. We now have 4 Months' till the event takes place.

We have the privilege of having a Michelin Star rated Chef who is the Executive Head Chef in the College. I make an appointment and go across to discuss the Menu for the evening. After an hour we settle on food for the event. Then I go to track down the Wine Fellows in College to ask them for a selection of Red & White Wine with Claret to finish.

The filled out proformas start to come back in confirming whether they are coming or not and listing their requirements dietary, parking, who they would like to sit with. These are filed in an A to Z folder. We now have 3 months till the event takes place.

PREPARE

With all the data that has been returned to the College from Members, we can start to prepare for the Anniversary Dinner Seating Plan. This starts with grouping the Members into their Subject of Study or anyone who has asked to be seated next to a specific Member. We also mix among the tables Fellows and College Officers who attend the function to support the College and support the Master of College in making the event a night to remember for the returning Members. A member of the returning Year is contacted and asked if they would be prepared to say a few words on behalf of their Year, such as light hearted tales of College Life followed by a toast to the College. We now have 2 months left until the event takes place.



The details that have been sent in for the "Who's Who" publication are compiled and the Printer is contacted to bind the document that is to be handed out at the Dinner.

The Catering Manager is contacted and informed of approximate numbers for the evening so that Chef and the College Barman have an idea of how much food to prepare and how much wine ought to be brought up from the Cellar for the evening.

Name badges are made for the evening so people can identify each other, and the Fellows and College Officers know who they are talking to. Members will have the Matriculation Year added onto the Badge. A set of place cards is printed for the Table, and the Table Plan is made ready but not published. We now have one month to the event.

The "Who's Who" is delivered by the printers and stored ahead of the Dinner. An event brief is compiled for the Master of College, including the proposed seating plan, the current A to Z of who is attending, The Menu, The Wine Selection, The person who will be saying Grace, and the person who will be making the Speech. We now have two weeks till the event.

The event is closed and the final numbers are passed to the Catering Manager so the Chef can be made aware of numbers Dining. The Catering Supervisor will be briefed on how many will be attending so he can ensure they have enough waiting staff to cover both the Drinks Reception and The Formal Meal.

The Master's Housekeeper is informed of how many people will be attending the Drinks Reception so enough glasses are available in the Lodge that evening. We have seven days till the event.

ATTACK

It is the day of the event we have added the people who have phoned up telling us "I forgot it was this weekend" or "the dog has eaten my invite so can I RSVP". Although it is an Event Manager's nightmare numbers being added at the last moment, we always prepare for a couple of extras. We have six hours till the event.

I pick up the emails and listen to answer service that say if anyone has dropped out so the seating plan can be moved up at the last moment to show we have no gaps. The "Who's Who" are placed on the chair for the Member to find before the sit down for Dinner. The name badges are moved across to the Masters Lodge along with a hand out that will be given to each guest listing who is attending the event that evening. The Porters' Lodge are kept informed, to confirm they are aware who will be using Disabled Parking, who will be staying over night in the College guest rooms. We now have three hours till the event.

We all shower and change into Formal Dress. We walk the function route and inspect everything to make sure things are ready to go. The Catering Supervisor is informed who is saying Grace, who the Speaker is and if any special dietary request has been asked for. The corporate gift is placed on the Masters chair and we move to the Master's Lodge to await the start of the event. We have one hour till the event starts.

The Fellows and College Officers arrive at the Master's Lodge for the start of the function where they are given their name badges and attendance sheets so they are ready for the start. We have 30 minutes before the event starts.

As usual the event starts at 7 pm but someone has

turned up 6:45, this is nothing new in event management. We invite them in issuing them with their name badge and direct them into the Master's Gallery for a glass of Champagne. They are greeted with a warm welcome back from the nearest Fellow or College Officer in the Room.

The clock strikes 7 pm and Members and guests start to enter the Master's Lodge. After they have all been badged and given the list of attendees, they enjoy a glass of Champagne. The gong is sounded and the Master of College welcomes back to College the Members and Guests and asks them to finish their drinks and head across to Old Hall for Dinner.

While the Master makes his speech I move to Old Hall and make sure the staff know who has any special dietary request so we are set for the Members and guests and the staff are aware of any last minute changes.

This part of the evening is an Event Managers Dream as people are going into a splendid Hall that dates from the 1450's with a large fire that sends a warm glow around the Hall.

After the Members and their guests are seated as per the Table Plan, a gong will sound and the Dining Hall Supervisor will ask the Hall for silence for the Grace to be said by a returning Member or from the College Dean of Chapel. As the grace is said in Latin a copy of the Grace is left on the Member's Chair just to refresh their memory or to act as prompt for them.

Grace has now been said and we all sit down, introducing ourselves to the people next to us and across from us. Within moments the College Catering Staff enter the Hall with the starters and proceed to serve the whole event.

The Wine waiters follow the staff with the starters pouring either the Red or White wine.

After an acceptable amount of time has passed the staff will return to clear the dishes and promptly follow it up with the Main Course.

While we are having Dinner the fundraising begins as we interact with the Members informing of them of what the benefits of being a Member of College are from High Table Dining twice a term to using the College Chapel for weddings, blessing and christenings etc. As the main course dishes are cleared business cards are swapped and a mental note is made to follow up early next week.

The sweet is served and the wine glasses are topped up one more time.

The gong is sounded and the Master of College asks everyone to stand to say the closing Grace. After this, he calls for a toast to H M The Queen, who is the Patroness of the College. So the toast is to "The Patroness". We sit back down and the waiting staff serve Cheese and biscuits with Coffee, while the wine waiters place the Claret Jugs and the Port with the jugs and decanters going anti clockwise as tradition requires.

A gong is sounded and a Member of the returning year will stand and make a speech to the College. A lighthearted six minutes follow, touching on old times and remembering those who are no longer with us. On completion of the speech, the Master will stand and thank the Member for his or her kind words and present them with a small-engraved gift as a gesture of thanks.

The Master will now address the event. They are being welcomed back to their former College and made to feel they are part of the College family. And, the Master also informs them about what has been happening in the College with such things as redevelopment, funding, and future plans and how we intend to fund these multi million pound projects.

This is when some Members indicate they would like to be more involved more with a project or a fund raising idea.

We approach Midnight and the Master says good-night and the Members and guests start to leave thanking us for a wonderful evening.

I enter the Kitchen and thank the Catering staff in person for the time and effort they have put in for the event. I then walk back to my office with the Director and we briefly discuss the evening. It is now getting on for 1am and we both of head home pleased that the event was successful.

Monday morning, and the Members who were not able to attend are sent a copy of the Year's "Who's Who". A formal letter of thanks is sent to the Departments who were involved, and to the Speaker. We discuss who was spoken to and who will follow up on any request made by the Member. We discuss if anything was not right or whether we need to adapt things for the future.

We all meet up with the Director of Development for the second part of the event. As I mentioned earlier, my role is a dual role for the College, I friendraise and fundraise. The friendraise has just happened by bringing back old Members for a splendid Dinner in College. They have met some old friends, had a laugh about how much weight they had put on or what had happened to all the hair they used to have.

With the data that has be collated for the "Who's Who" and the Business Cards that have been exchanged, we draw up a list of people for us to contact and engage with to reinforce again the statement made by the Master of College of our intended development and funding.

At no time will we ask for a said amount of donation or help. We call it a "soft ask". The reason for this is two fold. We don't want to scare our Members away by asking for money straight out and to discourage them from attending another event where they might feel they will be asked

for money. Secondly, and more importantly, why ask a millionaire for £5 when they would be more than happy to donate £50,000. I know of cases elsewhere in the Development Area that this has happened and the organisation lost out considerably with what could have been a large life-changing donation.

The Members' are contacted and we await the replies to come in, it must be remembered that that people have different agendas in life and it might not be a good time for them to be involved in a donation right now, though this may well change in anything from 18 months to 10 years. By keeping this in mind we can monitor when it will be right to contact them again and pursue the idea of making a donation to the College.

Although it is nice to sit back and smile when you land a large donation, it must always be remembered that the Member who donated £50 should be thanked just as warmly as the Member who was happy to pledge £1 million. With these entire small amounts trickling into the account it will soon grow into a healthy sum.

With any donation that you take from a Member or from the public, remember and ask them to fill out a "Gift Aid" Form for the Tax. If you don't, you will loose money on your return and the HM Tax Inspectors will be laughing at your mismanagement of your organisation's Funding & Development.

It is Tuesday morning and the Director walks in saying: "get some coffee, we need to chat about ..." Oh, dear, I wonder what event the Master would like us to arrange now!

Who said Event Management was boring, The only thing to always bear in mind with an event is that no matter how big or how small, always be prepared for the unexpected. The day you are not will be bound to be a bad day at the office for the Events Management Team.

We increased jelly bean sales by 35%.
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The Brokenhouse



Written by Rantej Bali
Designed by Jitka Holcova

An unseasonable downpour from the skies painted a veneer on this incident as with most incidents in England. I am the fire that burns in the Middle Combination Room (MCR) of Brokenhouse College – one of Cambridge's most prestigious.

As the silent witness of the many travesties committed by lads who went on to become famous I ought to be feared and respected. I keep these secrets safe – as I have for the last few centuries.

Tonight, for the first time in all these years, a voice has flared from within and I declare that I feel deprived of the pleasurable company of inebriated and misbehaved disciples of Cambridge.

Trust decorum to keep one and all equally unhappy. The MCR where I have thrived has now been converted into a Senior Combination Room (SCR) and I am left in the cultured company of the college fellows.

No longer do I hear the roars of laughter, the gossip and the occasional filthy repartee. I'm fed with fine firewood, but I miss the titbits of Cambridge Reporters and anything vaguely representing the organization – fires are addicted to blasphemy. Nobody pours wine into me – and wine in fire is like pain during love.

I even miss the tasteless cardboard boxes thrown into me that made me fume and left the lads coughing and scampering around. It's all gone, and for the most part because of one gentleman – Dr. Milder Worms, an authority at Brokenhouse.

One rainy evening, Dr. Milder Worms walked into the SCR, and was surprised to see his old collegemates Dick Carton, now a practicing lawyer and playboy-businessman Klint Hog. They were not members of the SCR and did not have the privilege to simply walk in – but they did it anyway.

'Hello Milder! How have you been?' said Carton in his warm commanding voice. Milder was taken aback 'oh hello, its Dick isn't it? What a surprise to see you here. You haven't become a fellow, I hope.'

'Of course not Milder, I'd never qualify to be a fellow, though Klint might just about – presumably you remember him.'

'Good evening Klint, don't even think about messing about here. This is not the MCR anymore, thanks to the prudence of our fellows.'

'So we noticed Milder, but tonight I'm on a mission to save this place from your civilized fellas' said Hog with his usual candidness.

'Well, now that you're here, would you like some fine Port – a reminder of the good old student days in this former MCR?' Given any situation, Milder could always play a good host.

Let the fire say a few words of wisdom here. Graduate students come in all shades of grey, but are largely preoccupied with getting by. Life of a graduate student is like sitting in an airport lounge for hours, watching aircrafts come and go. All you can think of is your own flight, which is not due for hours. Some however, never take that flight, choosing instead to merge into the airport – whether it's the fear of flying or a desire to serve, we shall never know. Most of them have a practiced patience, and are themselves preoccupied getting by. This difference however, was apparent in the vibes that evening.

'That's not the Port we had for our formals, though it does taste better, it doesn't feel the same.' Carton was not only a man of taste, but also of sentiment.

'Quite right Dick, it's Port reserved for fellows, students still get their Ruby Port. Say, what brings you two here today?'

'We just happened to be passing through town. Klint had some legal difficulties – not surprising for a man of his stature, and despite my busy schedule, I thought I'd look into it. And since we were here, we thought we'd drop by the college. Haven't been here in years.'

'Well as you can see, even Cambridge changes a little. Not that we needed a reason, but we ought to have rescued the MCR long ago, this fine room has been abused for centuries.'

‘You were always the brute, Milder. You seem to have made a rescuer out of yourself’ Klint piped in.

‘Students don’t particularly deserve such a fine and ancient room. They’re just a fire hazard’ said Milder condescendingly. ‘You too were a student once and quite an arsonist’ said Hog bluntly, ‘nearly burnt yourself down trying to light the fire.’

‘That’s what you say, I don’t think it ever happened’. Milder depended on a selective memory.

‘How would you remember? A couple of pints and started playing with burning coal’ Carton remembered.

‘It’s only a room and we have built them another one, with modern gadgetry. Anyhow, the less time they spend here, the better. This place breeds indiscipline’ Milder said didactically.

‘But surely Milder, fellows could do with a bit of indiscipline’

‘And I could furnish it, peppered with debauchery if you like’ said Hog, who obviously couldn’t resist.

‘What is your business Klint?’

‘I furnish accessories – the dodgy and kinky stuff you wouldn’t be seen in public with but it’s a bigger market than anyone imagined. It may be fair to say that I survive on the hypocrisy insidious in society. Of course I quite enjoy it and am not in it just for the money. Can I supply you with indiscipline Milder? There’s even a free introductory offer.’

‘I’m sure you’ve got barrels of it Klint, thanks but no thanks’ said Milder trying to brush Klint off.

‘But surely you need some relief from disciplining your students’ said Carton, quite enjoying this.

‘By and large, they’re a good lot, handpicked from a large, eager pool of applicants – Brokenhouse being one of the top colleges’

‘And so you decided to condemn them, took away the best that Brokenhouse had to offer’ said Carton, as if to a defendant.

‘Yet another mock trial Dick, you’re a keener lawyer than I thought.’

‘Damn right he is, I’d be serving a few sentences – if not for him’ said Hog and he did owe Dick few favours.

‘He’s quite proud of his legal record, and he should be. Klint could make an endowment to the college if you’re nice to him Milder. That’s what businessmen like him can do.’

‘The college always welcomes endowments from an alumnus Klint. And we honour them in traditional style. As you well know, the list of Brokenhouse benefactors is long and distinguished...’

‘How about a bequest for the Hog’s bar in the JP, licenced 24 hours?’ Hog may even have meant it.

‘I’m not sure if the dean would be too pleased with that.’

‘That’ll make Brokenhouse the choice college though.’

‘That’s not what Brokenhouse represents. This is a sanctum for the intellect – not a dump for the inept.’

At this point the fire could stand it no more, and using the last of my reserve inflammables, I flared up and made a conflagration of myself. My outrage caught the attention of these gentlemen, and they understood what I wanted.

‘Look, the fire is hungry for a heretic’ said Carton quite rightly.

‘Must be you Milder. I could furnish you with the stake since you’re particular about traditions.’

‘Thank you so much, you even make it sound appealing. No wonder you sell all your accessories with profit.’

‘I know you want them Milder, you can order them anonymously on the Internet if you like.’ For an instant those days when Hog and Worms were students flared and then lingered.

‘I’ll think about it, for now I need to be at a formal dinner for members of the council. It was great to see that you haven’t changed much after all these years, and have done well for yourselves.’ said Worms with practiced formality.

‘You haven’t changed much yourself, Milder and dare I say, you appear set to be an illustrious member of Brokenhouse.’

‘We’ll be off to a less civil gathering perhaps.’ Hog was eager for some action.

‘Keep it civil while you’re still within the premises though. Goodnight boys.’

‘Goodnight Milder’

‘Quite a guy, not much of a surprise though’ reflected Carton.

‘Right he is, turned out exactly as we’d have thought, still could do with a stake.’

‘Quite a loss – this MCR was wicked, used to be the heart of Brokenhouse Anyway, those students wouldn’t have taken it lying down. Poor Worms wouldn’t have had it easy.’

‘Rough day, I need to unwind. Thanks for getting me off the hook this morning.’

‘It’s not the first time, and certainly not the last – you owe me a drink.’

‘Let’s go to the JCR, that’s where the action is.’

And thus the fine gentlemen left, but not without having cheered me up. My faith in the human spirit is therefore retained. May those spirited barbarians who have gone beyond the walls of Brokenhouse always prosper. Amen.

Claret or Champagne:

The Wine Society as Muse

Written by Eric Denton

Design by G.Y. Min



The Cambridge University Wine Society is one of this university's oldest societies, underlining to what degree wine is infused into our culture here. Whether you're off to a formal, a party, or just to catch up with a friend, a bottle will never go unappreciated. Daily, scores of us ponder on which bottle to pick out from off the shelf and, when it comes down to it, price, and when it comes down to it price often dictates what we choose. CUWS aims to help reduce your chances of buying something that would be more in a car battery at home at home in a car battery than your palate.

The society holds numerous tastings every term, introducing wines from all over the world. Every tasting is hosted introduced by a representative from the producer who gives us their history, outlines their methods, their ethos and the ideal that they try to capture: wines that reflect the ground they came from and highlight the quality of the grapes. CUWS welcomes beginners and experts alike, so everything is explained in as much detail as the attendees like. Not sure how Champagne gets its fizz or why it can be so expensive? Then just ask. The committee and host make every effort to make sure that no question is left unanswered. Last term's highlights included Château Cantemerle from Bordeaux, who produces excellent wine at more than reasonable prices, a fine selection of vintage Tawny and Quinta ports, and a unique chance to try England's answer to the Champagne region, Chapel Down of Kent, who seem certain to have eyebrows raised at them over the next few years. The calendar was rounded off with a guide to Champagne itself from the Cambridge Wine Merchants, with whom the CUWS has a close relationship, and have proved that lesser known houses can give the big names a good run for their money.

This coming term is set to be the CUWS's busiest ever, with nine tastings so far confirmed. Our annual dinner, which is in the first half of the term, has always been the highlight of the year, with seats in great demand. This year we are very proud to announce that Château Mouton-Rothschild, one of the top producers in the world, a by-word for elegance and opulence, will be our guest and will be showcasing a range of their wines. Lovers of Champagne are also in for a treat

this term as both Pol Roger and Ruinart - one of the oldest houses in the region - will be visiting. Pol Roger was Sir Winston Churchill's favourite Champagne, and upon hearing that the producers had made a cuvee in honour of him, he returned the favour by renaming his horse after them. You could do a lot worse than to come along and see why he held it in such high regard. We also have Château Marquis d'Alesme-Becker, a Third Growth from the Margaux region of Bordeaux, which should help to remind us why Bordeaux is the most prestigious wine-growing district in the world. For the more adventurous of you we have a tasting of delicious sweet wine with Château Doisy-Daëne, and an exposition of experimental wines with the Cazes family, who are best known for their work with the wines of Château Lynch-Bages of Bordeaux. Breaking from the norm, we are presenting a selection of Alsatian wines, the unsung stars of French wine, that defy the misconception that they are placid and demure. On the contrary, the best of them are powerful, bold and dramatic. The CUWS remains committed to fighting stereotypes that dog wine-enthusiasts, principally that wine is not open to everyone and that you have to be an expert to appreciate the differences. There is no hard and fast rule for what's good, and we hope to merely present a wide variety of wines so that you can judge for yourself what you like, and in no time at all you'll come to realise that you start to know what wines appeal, and with some rudimentary facts and tips you will soon be in a much better position to be buying wines to your taste. Add some insider knowledge gleaned from our hosts and you might find some bargains - wine doesn't have to be expensive to taste nice. In a similar vein, one tasting this term will explore which wines match with Indian food, looking for something a little sweet and sharp to cut through the spices. Our garden party will be held in May Week of course, and there is surely no better way to relax before a ball than to bask in the sun with a glass of Champagne, surrounded by friends.

If you wish to know more about what we do and about upcoming events, then visit our website, www.cuws.co.uk, where you can also find email addresses to send any queries you may have, and you can now even join CUWS online.

Hetal's Guide To Thesis Titles

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Written by Hetal Kiran Patel
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Why Bubbles In The Bathtub Are
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Gaseous Effects On Material
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Manly Rangers For 3 Years And
Got A Doctorate Out Of It

Efficient Time Splitting Methods
For Reacting Flow Calculations.

How To Do Your Research And
Still Find Time To Sleep For 18
Hours Each Day

Deconstruction And The Divine:
Literature, Theosophy, And The
Language Of Truth

Life, The Universe And
Everything

The Effects Of Stereotype Threat
And Evaluator Sexism On Women's
Performance In Male-type Work
Domains

Why The Women Rule In a Man's
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Seeing The Future: Predictive Information
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I Drank Too Much Coffee And Now
I Believe that Insects are Psychic

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