



BoGS

1. *n pl* wet spongy areas of land.
2. *Slang* toilets
[Gaelic bogach swamp]
3. *Cambs* Board of Graduate Studies
(we visit the office...)

Money matters: Scholarships & living costs

Alex Broadbent: New plans for the GU

Lacrosse: Cambridge beats Oxford

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**UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

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Over the past 12 months, I have met three visiting scholars: a French Linguist, a German Lawyer and a Turkish Natural Scientist. It has been refreshing to discuss what people who are new to “the system”, and who already have the experience of 2 – 3 years of study as PhD students in different environments, have to say about Cambridge. More interestingly, it was fascinating to note how their opinion evolved over the 3-6 months that they spent in Cambridge.

I have realised that at Cambridge, we take much of “the system” for granted. Take, for example, the facilities provided by departments: the Turkish scientist explained enthusiastically that he “really, really like(s) Cambridge, because things are better. I want to stay here, he said, and become an academic...”. He explained that while the academic laboratories of Turkish Universities probably have all the facilities available at Cambridge, there were political or procedural barriers which would come in the way of students, thereby limiting their progress. So should Cambridge be complacent about its arguably excellent facilities?

In his *Letter from Singapore*, Muipong Goh reports on how much money is invested in academic institutions in Singapore, how much funding is available to students and how the elite of American Universities are setting up campuses in the island-state. It doesn't take much to realise that Cambridge is still lacking in many areas, compared to its leading American counterparts, and the growing competition from South-East Asian universities; a problem which is mainly related to the general scarcity of funds in British Universities. But the future is bright for Cambridge, as it launches its most ambitious fund-raising campaign to date, linked to its 800th anniversary. One can only hope that some of the money will be spent on better facilities for graduates, especially in the areas of accommodation and work space.

Much of the political and procedural side of Cambridge, which the visiting scholars are not aware of, but which are very familiar to all students, start with the application sent to the Board of Graduate Studies. Much frustration often ensues by the apparent lack of organisation and deadlines by which to expect replies. Afia Aslam and Jane Ding met Dr Laurie Friday and their article sheds light on the monumental duties of the BoGS.

Gown was founded in Michaelmas Term to provide a platform for students to discuss graduate life in Cambridge, and inform of matters that are of interest to graduates. I hope, as I write my last editorial, that our readers will agree that we met our aims. There is still much to investigate and write about and I hope that many of you will consider joining our new editorial team which will take over in the new academic year. Thanks are due to our core team, many of whom have been supportive of the project from its inception, and all the writers which have made it possible to publish **Gown**. I also thank Dr Robert Macfarlane, our Senior Treasurer, for his support and advice over the past year.

Arnaud Bonnet
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Letter from Singapore

Muipong Goh is a PhD student at Cambridge, and recently moved to his home country, Singapore, for a field trip. He reports on several aspects of life and compares the approach of academia in Singapore to that in Cambridge

For a couple of days in July, international media attention was paid to a small committee in Singapore. The members of this committee had the envious task of being courted by various dignitaries, with the likes of Prime Minister Tony Blair and Senator Hillary Clinton amongst others. In case you had been away from the rest of the world for the couple of months – the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was taking a decision on the venue of the Olympics Games 2012.

However, what is Singapore really like, other than being the venue for the IOC? Singapore is an island-state: it is only about 640 sq km - try imagining an island of approximately 32 km by 20 km and you will have a rough idea! The island has a population of approximately 4 millions, a quarter of which are permanent residents (think of the UK's "Leave to Remain Indefinitely").

The climate is warm and humid all year round with approximately 28 °C. However, this can be misleading as most buildings, subway (or "MRT" as it is known in Singapore), buses, homes..... are air-conditioned. Indoor temperatures often range from 18 degrees to about 25 degrees (which is considered on the warm side).

Singapore is a very prosperous city-state as a financial centre, manufacturing base and increasingly, as a research centre particularly in the life-sciences. Its low tax rate, high standard of living, general low cost of living and openness towards foreign talent attracts a very large foreign population. It is also helped by the fact that English is the main language used (though all students are expected to be at least bilingual and be proficient in their "mother tongue" depending on their ethnicity).

There are many fascinating things to write about Singapore. Take for instance, transport.



The cost of car ownership is very high, and while the public transport system is reasonably affordable and efficient, many still aspire to own a car. To keep the car population down, aspiring car owners not only have to pay for the car itself (which has a tax of about 100% of its value), but also enter an auction for a "certificate of entitlement" (which allows them to drive the car- and it costs about £8,000-£10,000 depending on the bidders and the size of the car), pay road tax, and electronic road tolls. This means that a "toll" is automatically deducted from the driver's cash-card (all cars are installed with a cash-card reader and drivers would have to ensure that they have sufficient funds on a cash-card in order to drive on many of the main expressways and roads in the "city" area). (The cash value in a cash-card is legal tender and can be used for payment at some shops and many car parks – think about a highly effective Octopus Card).

One of the favourite past-times of Singaporeans is to eat. In fact, a Singapore Food Festival is on as I write this article. There are "foodcourts," found almost everywhere, and they provide a wide selection of food such as Hainanese chicken rice, herbal pork-ribs soup, fried oyster omelette, curry fish head, sugar cane juice, Malay Mee

Sotong (chicken noodles), Indian "roti prata", and assorted kinds of desserts (usually cold). Yummy! I should devote a whole column to food available in Singapore to give it some justice!

Yet, the area that holds the most interest for me is the educational sector. After all, I'm a graduate student and I am curious to know how the educational scene compares to that of Cambridge or UK more generally! Singapore is increasingly becoming an educational hub in Asia with campuses of universities like the Chicago Graduate school of Business, INSEAD and Duke University (medical school).

Boston of Asia.

For many of these universities, especially those from the USA, the Singapore government underwrote many of the costs as an added attraction. For instance, the government underwrote a new US\$310 million graduate school for Duke Medical School and gave the entire budget to Duke, allowing Duke to have complete control over fees, staff, student and curriculum!

The costs of enrolling in many of these universities are not cheap. For instance, Chicago Graduate School of Business charges the same tuition in Singapore as in Chicago - approximately US\$38,800 for 10 classes in 2005- 2006. The EMBA course at Chicago (Singapore) will set one back by US\$103,000 and INSEAD's EMBA will you set one back slightly further by US\$108,000. Cornell also charges students in Singapore the same rate as at its US campus.

The three main local universities, National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University are extremely well-funded (from government and private funding) with very impressive facilities in terms of com-

puting, library and scholarships/ bursaries. There is only a very small fee difference between the local and foreign students. However, many of the foreign students are given full or partial scholarships to attract them to the schools and hopefully to attract them to be permanent residents in Singapore. Graduate students are generally well provided for financially and the graduate training emphasises both research and teaching skills (as per the US Ivy-League graduate school system).

Nevertheless, as is usual in Singapore, the three universities are currently on a drive to increase their endowments to be more competitive internationally. For instance, SMU raised



The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard College, Wharton Business School, Cornell, Stanford, Georgia Institute of Technology, Technical University of Munich, Technical University of Eindhoven and Shanghai Jiao Tong University all have a presence in Singapore whether through joint-degree programmes or offering a specific degree programme with one of the three main local universities. There is also a small private medical hospital run by the John Hopkins Medical School. The Indian Institute of Technology- Bangalore is also establishing an executive MBA programme in Singapore. Singapore's ultimate aim is to be the

more than US\$120 million for its business school in 2004 from a single private foundation (with a 3-1 matching fund from the government) alone. Incidentally, the same foundation, the Lee Foundation, is also involved in some philanthropic work in Cambridge e.g. the Lee Seng Tee Hall and the Lee library at Wolfson College!

With lavish funding, the local universities are able to afford many frills. For instance, computing equipment is subsidised so that everyone can afford a lap-top or other gadgets such as personal digital assistant (PDA)! Provisions are also made for about half of the undergraduates to spend at least one semester overseas in the USA, in Western Europe, in Japan or booming markets such as China and India.

There is also an increasing number of private schools offering external degrees or "distance learning" programmes. While a few of the private schools have reasonably equipped campuses (for instance, one of them has a campus costing about £6 million), they are generally thought of with considerably less prestige and are often not formally recognised as full qualifications (even if the certificate is issued from a foreign university) in the government sector. The programmes offered by these schools, unfortunately, tend to be from universities in the UK such as the London School of Economics and Political Sciences (LSE), the University of London, the Strathclyde Business School and the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST), some Australian universities and second-tiered US public universities, thereby creating a public perception, rightly or otherwise, that the UK universities are just trying to make money from their degrees, without much attention to the students.

Although I have only been back in Singapore for a short while thus far, it seems as if there have been many changes especially in the higher education sector since I was here last. Much of it has to do with the fact that there is a tremendous amount of resources being poured into the educational sector (though it is still not as lavishly funded as the life-sciences industry but this will be future story). Without adequate funding, it is difficult to attract strong faculty and students or to even have a well-equipped campus.

While Cambridge has the advantage of a proud tradition, it cannot rely on past glory to fuel its future ambitions. As its 800th anniversary approaches and the university prepares for a major fund-raising campaign later in this year, it is paramount that its campaign is a resounding success. Only then can Cambridge, once again, compete more effectively on an equal footing with many of its more well-en-



dowed peer universities in the USA and increasingly, in Asia. Until then, we will continue to have to put up with the poor provision of electronic resources available from our libraries in Cambridge, grumbling faculty members (on their low pay and heavy workload) and, most irritating of all, the distraction caused by the endless search for more graduate funding. Welcome to the 21st Century, Cambridge!

The Mystery of the Graduate

Alex Broadbent, Newly-elected
President, Cambridge University
Graduate Union

Graduate students comprise around a third of the student population at Cambridge. In almost every subject, we supervise more than any other single group (including University Teaching Officers and College Teaching Officers) – often by a considerable margin. Graduates contribute directly to the research activities of the University, and to its research reputation. Our activities also influence departmental and project research grant allocations. And our financial contribution to our colleges, in the form of the College Fee, is substantial. In short, graduates underpin the distinctive teaching methods and the research excellence of the University.

“The University is becoming aware of how important graduate students are. Now graduate students themselves need to become aware of this.”

But the graduate profile on the University stage is often rather low. The majority of college social events seem – despite occasional protest to the contrary – to be designed primarily to attract undergraduates. The student newspapers are run largely by undergraduates, and the news they carry tends to be dominated by undergraduate concerns. But graduates are certainly not Senior Members, and do not enjoy the associated privileges. Graduates don’t have many parties, but nor can they walk on the grass. On paper, the graduate student is an essential component of this institution; in practice, the impression is forgivable that she is an inessential adjunct, just passing through. This is what I mean by the mystery of the graduate.

I have been wondering for some time why it should be this way, and I think there are several

reasons. First, we are very diverse. Graduate students range from people who are staying on for an extra year after their undergraduate degree, to career academics with published work who are on the verge of getting an academic job. Representing a group like this is very hard, and establishing any kind of cohesion is even harder.

Second, we are not a mutually attractive bunch. Many of us feel we are on an established career path, or want to be, and only blushing refer to ourselves as students. The people we want to be hanging around with are probably people from the next tier up, or at least people who show promise of moving up to the next tier soon. Put bluntly this sounds like snobbery, but more kindly viewed I think it is simply a consequence of the fact that many graduates are mature and serious people, dedicated to a particular path or career.

Finally, I think our importance to the research excellence and distinctive tutorial system of the University has only recently crept to our attention – and to the attention of the University. This is probably due to a gradual increase in graduate numbers, a trend that is likely to continue.

And it really does seem that at present, awareness of the central contribution of graduates to the fortunes of the University is coalescing in the institutional consciousness. At the Graduate Union, we have seen a marked increase in interest on the part of the University, prompted partly by the fears of collapse in the latter part of 2004. Many in the University realised that, without a Graduate Union, they would lose their only real handle on this large, diverse and important group. Consequently, and thanks also to the hard work of my predecessor Ruth Keeling, there has been a surge of goodwill towards the GU. The Vice Chancellor herself has taken a personal and very supportive interest in us. The importance of the GU is now much more widely recognised than it has been in the past, and I think this is motivated by a wider awakening to the importance of graduates.

This brings me to the coming academic year, and its challenges. The University is becoming aware of how important graduate students are.



Now graduate students themselves need to become aware of this. It is not the case that we are just along for the ride: we are an integral and essential component of this institution. Without us it would not be able to do what it does: it would have to abandon or seriously revise the undergraduate supervision system and it would have to seriously reconsider its research objectives and financial standing. I have the impression that few graduates think of themselves in this light – more commonly we regard ourselves as on our way somewhere else. And so we lose out, I believe, on much of what is on offer, not least from one another.

I think the GU's job over the coming year is dramatically to raise its profile among graduate students. This will give the GU's voice more authority when we seek to represent graduate students' interests and views. It will also, I hope, help to raise awareness among graduates that they are central to the University of Cambridge, and are not add-ons.

Here are some concrete ideas. First, we are seeking to increase the use of GU space – we have a lovely lounge, centrally located, with newspapers, where all grads are free to come and relax. There is already a stationary shop offering thesis binding and gown hire services. Now plans are underway to open a coffee shop here. We hope that this will help to create a real graduate social space. True to my manifesto, I am also seeking to licence the premises for sale of alcohol, in the hope of opening a graduate-run occasional bar – on the model of Darwin or King's Vac Bar, but on an intercollegiate basis. We are also applying for a live music licence.

On a more political front, I also stand by my manifesto commitment to establish a graduate students' charter to guide the relationship between the graduate and the supervisor. When it works, this relationship is fantastically productive; but when it doesn't, there is little indication – neither for research student nor supervisor – as to what to do. There are a string of unanswered

questions: does a supervisor have to read a PhD thesis? – an MPhil thesis? – how often does she have to meet the student? – what happens if a supervisor leaves? There is no particular advantage to leaving these questions open, for either party. And it is notable that the Cambridge student-supervisor relationship is one thing which graduates coming from abroad, and sometimes even from other UK universities, have trouble getting to grips with.

I am also keen, as I mentioned in my manifesto, that the GU should be active in helping Colleges reallocate unused accommodation. Work has already begun on a secure on-line system which will allow Colleges to advertise their rooms to graduate students and will put potential tenants and potential landlords in touch.

The manifesto point I have not mentioned concerns visas for international students. In my view, the recent price increases are unjust and unwise. I think the University agrees and I will be seeking to work with the University to ensure that provision for graduates in financial difficulty as a result of visa payments is available. As far as changing the policy goes, I have to say that I do not see an obvious way of pressuring the government to reverse it. The idea of a “visa strike” has been mooted but the logistical difficulties are prohibitive, and the personal risk to individuals is high. Nevertheless if anyone has any bright ideas (which don’t involve graduates risking deportation) then please get in touch. This issue re-



mains a serious concern for me and I am looking for ways to pursue it effectively.

I hope you now have some sense of my understanding of the situation of graduate students here: central, yet often overlooked. I hope this will change. I am President of the GU because I want it to change, and because I hope the GU can help to bring that change about: partly through the various projects I have described, and partly through being vigorous and outward looking in general. I would be delighted to discuss ideas – mine, yours or others – with anyone who is interested. I am looking forward to an exciting year!

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The GU is best entered from Silver St, just opposite Ede and Ravenscroft. Come in through the blue door which is to your right as you walk under the arch.



Graduate Funding in Cambridge

Muipong Goh

"Where is the University?" "Is this Cambridge University?" - these are some of the common questions that bewildered tourists have asked me over my time in Cambridge. Explaining how the University works with (i.e. the collegiate system and the decentralised administrative structure) can be daunting for the day-tripper. What about us who are in the system itself? Do we graduates actually know where to apply for funding support for our graduate work in Cambridge? To answer this question, we have to divide the student community into 2 broad groups: EU and non-EU.

We are probably all acquainted with the Cambridge Trusts (Overseas Trusts/ Commonwealth Trusts), the Gates, Overseas Research Trusts/ Domestic Research Studentship and possibly others like Marshall and Shell, Chevening or even Pegasus. Others might know about ESRC, AHRB, BBSRC and the other RCs. Where do we go for all these funds?

An informal survey among some of my PhD friends shows that many graduates do not understand how the overall system works. Here in this issue, we hope to consolidate some of the collective wisdom culled over numerous hours of interviews with some of the insiders and people who have been here longer than the average students.

Funds can come from a variety of sources. The diagram attached shows the main sources of funding for graduate work

(MPhil/ PhD) in Cambridge. By the very nature of the university, it is impossible to explain thoroughly how the funding system works. It is important to state that the picture only provides a rough approximation of the where your application forms are sent but NOT necessarily, the group that makes the decision of whether to support the application.

Before we examine the various sources of funding, it is important to make two short comments. First, broadly speaking, your discipline (e.g. political science, medicine, architecture) will be the first factor in assessing the kind of funding you are eligible for. This is especially the case for the sciences where the supervisor often holds to some funds due to his/her collaborations with industry or with the research councils. Colleges can also have some funds.

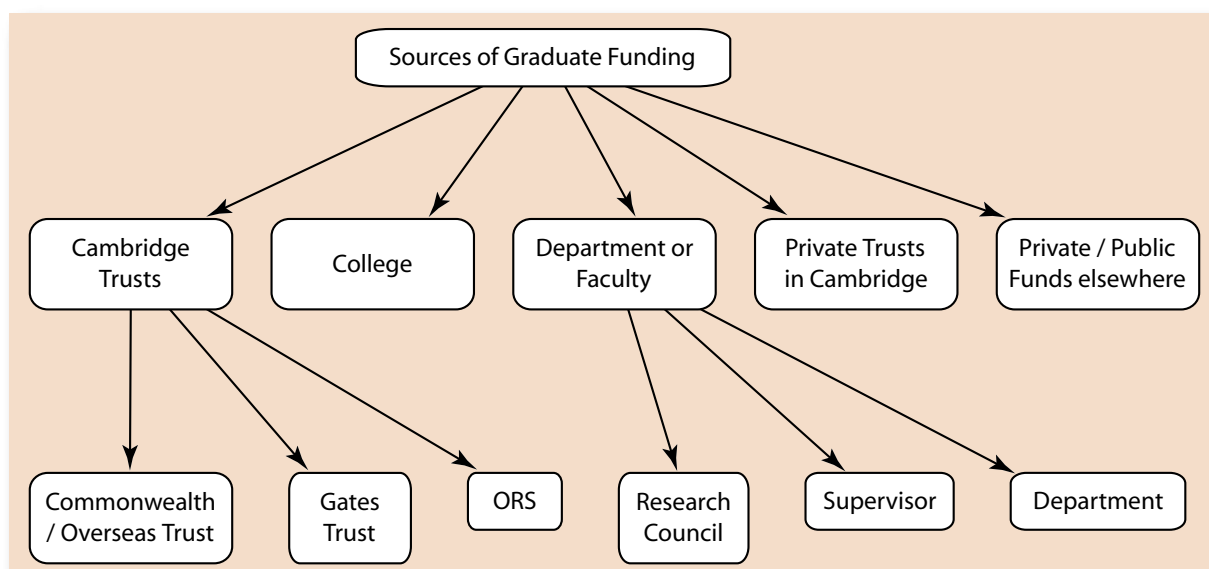
Second and this is a point mentioned earlier, Cambridge is a collegiate university. This means that many decisions and administrative matters are decentralised and can be seen as very inefficient for those coming from Asia or North America. Unlike most universities in Asia and North America, application for financial assistance is quite separate from the admission process. For instance, for graduate studies (e.g. PhD) in North American universities and at some Asian universities, international PhD candidates have to pay fees and provide for their own maintenance. One does not automatically get a stipend and in the UK, opportunities to be a teaching assist-

ant (TA) or research assistant (RA) are scarce. Some students will supervise undergrads during their time at Cambridge, but the money obtained from supervision cannot be used to prove to the University that you will be able to fund yourself.

Universities in UK are public universities as opposed to most of the Ivy League or top universities in North America e.g. Harvard, MIT and Princeton, where international students pay the same rate as "home" students at the undergraduate level. This is also the case for certain Asian universities e.g. National University of Singapore and Singapore Management University. Alumni in North America or parts of Asia tend to support their universities more than people do in the UK, so that these universities arguably have more money for investing in new students.

The Cambridge Trusts

The Cambridge Trusts serve as the de facto scholarship administrator for the university. The main funds they administer are the Commonwealth Trust and the Overseas Trust. The Cambridge Trusts are funded by different organisations, and in the past years, it has become increasingly difficult to support an increasing number of students. Nevertheless, many graduates receive some funding from the Cambridge Trusts at one point or another (usually approximately £1,000 to £5,000), especially for study trips and conferences.



A strong caveat- I personally have not been successful in getting any funding from the Commonwealth Trusts, so one should not take this source of funding for granted.

Colleges

Although it is true that the college normally plays a smaller role in the life of graduates as opposed to undergraduates, it remains to be said that the college can add richly to one's experience in Cambridge. The reason for this smaller role is because many graduates stay out of college or simply spend a longer time at the laboratories or faculties. However, a good college with an active MCR (and supportive graduate tutors) can help encourage the college to help its students.

Different colleges have different amount of funds for supporting various activities for their members e.g. travel grants, book allowances and hardship grants. Some colleges also have "general funds" to support graduate students (e.g. a studentship in any subject) or specific ones (e.g. funds given specifically to graduate

students of a particular faculty or field of research).

Since many colleges are reluctant to release their financial figures to the outside world (and often to members of the colleges themselves), it is difficult to have an accurate idea of the amount of resources available in each category. Much of it depends on anecdotal evidences. We are often left to ponder over the meaning of the terms "numerous", "some" and "considerable" that colleges use in their prospectuses. Scholarships tend to be advertised on the College web-site and it is thus useful to keep checking for updates. Perhaps this could be an area that the Graduate Union could help to collate information more systematically? One suspects, however, that the larger Colleges, such as Trinity, Jesus, Caius and St John, will have relatively more funds than other colleges to help in financial matters such as college fees or research expenses.

Private Trusts in Cambridge

More information on some

of these trusts can be found in the special edition of the Reporter that is published annually. A word of caution though: there are hardly any full-cost scholarships or bursary from private sources. One would need to piece a few of these grants to get something decent especially in the case of international students where the fees are about 3-4 times higher than a home student.

Public/ Private Funds Elsewhere

These refer to the Marshall, Chevening, and Shell. Generally the application for these awards is made in one's home country prior to one's application to Cambridge.

An important source of funding for many international students is the ORS.

Overseas Research Students Award Scheme (ORS)

The Overseas Research Student Award is currently undergoing some changes, and you are advised to stay up to date by checking the website <http://>

www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/ors/

The Overseas Research Students Award (ORS) is administered by Universities UK on behalf of the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). There are about 800-850 awards given out annually across the whole of the UK. The two criteria for the award are academic ability and research potential. The other factors such as financial ability, nationality, ethnicity, religion/ belief, marital status or any other "inappropriate distinctions" are not taken into account. There is also no restriction on the research area.

Awards meet the difference between the home and overseas level of tuition fees only and do not cover maintenance costs. They are initially made for one year but can be continued for a second and third year, subject to the progress of the award-holder.

Cambridge has traditionally dominated the awards with appropriately 130 applicants and 114 awards (a success rate of 88%) in 2004/2005 (out of 1553 applications all across UK and 924 awards). Statistics from previous years are shown on the table below.

Source: Various annual reports of the Universities UK; Annual Report of the Board of Graduate Studies 2001.

It seems that there is a quota system as to the number of applications that each university can receive (cf. paragraph

"Annual Report of Board of Graduate Studies for 2003" available on <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/2003-04/special/17/3.html>). It also seems that there has been a gradual decline in the number of applications that Cambridge can submit. It had also been reported in the earlier Annual Report of the Board of Graduate Studies for 2001 that "a quota of 162 nominations for ORS Awards was forwarded for consideration... and 127 awards were offered". Of these 127 awards, 31 new awards were made to graduate students already in residence and 96 to potential new entrants. The Board of Graduate Studies in 2001 had also reported that "in 2001, Universities UK reduced the Cambridge quota for nomination by 10 (6%) and the number of awards by 24 (16%)."

There is not much information as to how the different faculties in Cambridge decide how many students to nominate for the ORS and how they rank these students. It is also not certain as to whether all faculties are allowed to have an application. However, it seems that in recent years, the other awards (e.g. Commonwealth Trust or Overseas Trust, Gates Scholarship) have used the receipt of an ORS award as a yardstick to gauge the quality of the applicant. Nevertheless, thankfully, the receipt of

an ORS is not usually a criterion for the award of other scholarships or funds.

Funds awarded for hardship from Board of Graduate Studies

Again, given the federal nature of the university, it is difficult to know as to the overall percentage of students who have been awarded scholarships or who have managed to obtain any grants. However, based on the Annual Report of the Board of Graduate Studies, about 62 graduate students received some form of hardship grants (from its General Funds and the Lundgren Fund) to a total value of £57,333 in 2003. 20 full or partial Domestic Research Studentships (the equivalent of 12 full-cost awards) and 3 Millennium Scholarships were awarded in 2003. 17 offers of partial maintenance awards (Allen, Meek and Read and Le Bas Scholarships) were also made.

Based on the other Annual Report that I was able to obtain (the 2001 report), the Board of Graduate Studies awarded 83 graduate students who found themselves in unforeseen financial hardship and a further 75 students who received help with thesis and other minor expenses. The equivalent of 30 full-costs Domestic Research Studentships and 6 Millennium Scholarships were awarded in

Year	No. of Applicants from Cambridge	No. of awards from Cambridge	Total No. of Applicants in UK	Total Number of Awards in UK
2001	162	127	Unknown	Unknown
2002/2003	156	138	1,547	1,083
2003/2004	135	116	1,550	908
2005	130	114	1,553	924

Live in or out of College?

Think costs and flatmates!

Britt Peterson

Moving out of college – it seemed so alluring that afternoon in May, when I stepped out of my room to find a strange boy, who had passed out in the hallway, stinking of booze and sweat, immobile body stretched across the threshold of the toilets (I nudged him with a toe to make sure he was alive, then stepped over him as he grunted and smacked his lips). As graduate students, aren't we a bit old to be sharing toilets? Doesn't it seem infantilising to have to store food in a mini-fridge the size of a shoe box, with no freezer? After all, plenty of people our age have real jobs, make real money, and live in proper flats, with multiple rooms, walls on which they are permitted to stick tacks, and beds large enough to fit two full-size people in them without one of them having to hang his or her arms and legs off the side all night. It's no surprise, then, that many Cambridge students choose the alternate route and find flats or rooms of their own.

I took a totally unscientific

"As graduate students, aren't we a bit old to be sharing toilets?"

survey of people I knew, and the people they knew, who moved out of college, and found that, across the board,

those who took the leap were glad that they had. *Alison Mc-Minn*, an MPhil candidate in Epidemiology, moved directly into a flat with her boyfriend when she arrived from Edinburgh last fall. She reports that, although the rent seems expensive compared to her rents in Scotland, in Cambridge it's "one of the cheapest flats available." Still, she's happy enough with the flat that she and her boyfriend, who works in Cambridge, plan to stay there next year when she begins her PhD. Alison enjoys the independence of living out of college, as does *Nathaniel Heisler*, an MPhil student in English, who also said he appreciated getting to know Cambridge outside of the "really limited stomping grounds" of his college. "Living in college reduces the scope of your knowledge about Cambridge," he said. "When you live where you work, it begins to get claustrophobic."

Kitchen space and saving money on food was one of the most commonly mentioned advantages to living out of college. Nathaniel says the kitchen facilities in the flat he shares with his girlfriend are "far better" than any he's seen in college accommodation. *Catherine Zentile*, an MSci candidate in Physics, used to eat often in the dining hall when she was an undergrad. Now she cooks in her flat, and says that she "pays much less" for food.

Beyond the increased independence, privacy, and better

2001. 29 offers of partial maintenance awards were made. In 2001, 155 awards were made to graduate students from 51 countries.

While the data seems sketchy, it does seem to suggest that there has been generally a decline in the overall amount of financial assistance available for graduate students. The Gates Scholarship was probably the most recent boost in terms of funding opportunities but even then, it seems that there has been a decline in the number of Gates Scholarships since the start of the Scholarship.

Other private / public funds

Depending on where you are from, especially if you are from the United States, there are sometimes scholarships available. For example, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation will accept nominations from accredited universities in the States for applications for graduate scholarships tenable even in non-US universities. (http://jackkentcookefoundation.org/jkcf_web/home.aspx?page=Main)

In many other countries, especially in Asia, scholarships or grants are awarded to bright students to study abroad though there might be conditions attached (typically a contractual obligation to work for a specified number of years for the sponsoring company or government). The conditions for such scholarships or grants vary tremendously e.g. the value of the scholarship and the universities where these scholarships are tenable.

eating arrangements, however, people mentioned several downsides to living out of college. Everyone I talked to drew my attention to the paucity of good, cheap flats and rooms in the Cambridge area. "The hardest part of moving, by far, was finding a place," said Nathaniel. "To get a semi-decent room or a flat for an acceptable price anywhere close to the university was near impossible." Most renters live a substantial bike ride away from city centre, in Cherry Hinton or Romsey Town, for example, and organize their lives carefully in order to minimize trips back and forth.

Moreover, to my surprise,

almost no one said that their cost of living had gone down when they moved out; utilities, internet, and furniture, among other expenses (and there are always more than you can anticipate), more than made up for the savings in maintenance fees and kitchen charges. The average cost for a room appeared to be about 200-300 pounds per month, not including utilities, etc., while the average cost of a flat for a couple or two flat-mates was about twice that. While the majority of the people I talked to said they found their rent to be fair, many complained about the hidden costs of flat-living. Alison told

me, "Be aware that deposits for flats are generally two months rent so you need quite a lot of money to start with. That came as quite a shock to me as previously flats I've rented only required one month's rent for the deposit."

Still, despite these cautions, not one of the people I spoke to regretted moving out of college, or thought they'd move back in the future. So long as you can handle the vagaries of landlords, potentially cruel flat-mates, and the daily back-and-forth cycling slog (it's good for you!), moving out of college seems to be a good option.

British Postgraduate Studentships

Ria Kioupritzi

Eight major funding organizations offer scholarships to British students; these include scholarships which both meet University fees and pay a maintenance fee to students.

There are 8 research councils which offer scholarships to students in the UK, for a standard period of 3 years, with extensions permitted by some of the organizations. They are shown in the table on the bottom of this page.

Of these, only 2 out of 8 offer funding for the Social Sciences. It appears that more emphasis is placed on the physical and biological sciences, which are connected to the generation of new technologies. The knowledge gained from such projects is probably easier to commercialise, thereby attracting more funding. The CCLRC does not fund full postgraduate awards (see their website) but it "runs a highly successful Engineering Apprentice training scheme alongside local

training providers as well as offering placements to undergraduate and postgraduate students".

(source: <http://www.cclrc.ac.uk/Activities/CLRC0405/CCLRCAR0405.pdf>)

It worth mentioning that the above organizations also offer fellowships, which are usually aimed at senior post-doctoral researchers.

The requirements to be met by students are similar for most of the Research Councils and the minor differences can be

1.	Arts & Humanities Research Board	AHRB
2.	Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council	BBSRC
3.	Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils	CCLRC
4.	Economic & Social Research Council	ESRC
5.	Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council	EPSRC
6.	Medical Research Council	MCR
7.	Natural Environment Research Council	NERC
8.	Particle Physics & Astronomy Research Council	PPARC

read on their web-sites. For example a good undergraduate degree (typically a 2:1) will be required. It is more common for applications for funding for the social sciences than the physical and biological sciences to require a research proposal.

Scholarships for PhDs are more readily available than Masters courses, which are not offered by all of the Research Councils. The ESRC, for example, only offers MSc studentships under the condition that the MSc leads to a PhD. Thus the rest of this article focuses on PhD funding.

For the full scholarships (which include maintenance), candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Should own British citizenship.
- Should have been in the UK for at least 3 years preceding the date of the application. Overseas students who lived in the UK to receive pre-University education are not eligible.
- Should have a settled status in this country according to the existing immigration laws.

University fees are covered by the scholarships. The value of the maintenance varies with the place of study. Funding for universities in London can reach the amount of £14,000 *p.a.*, while funding for all other universities is on average £12,000 *p.a.* For Oxbridge students, College fees are also met. Those in the veterinary sciences can earn up to £18,250 *p.a.*

Some additional benefits of the scholarships include **i)** a *Young Dependant Allow-*

ance for those who have the sole responsibility for children under the age of 17 (maximum amount for more than 2 children is £3,370pa), **ii)** an extra allowance for those who are disabled with a value of about £1,525; in some special cases extra funding can be given for equipment (up to £ 4,680 *p.a.*) and / or for non-medical personal helpers (up to £11,550 *p.a.*) and **iii)** grants for field work (the amount of money varies depending on the type of fieldwork and whether it is to be held in the UK or abroad).

Money is often available for conferences (from £175-300) and those who are involved in the sciences have a consumables budget which goes to their departments.

CASE studentships are awards coming from industry, and usually carry more money and perks (for example a close interaction with industry) than funding from the research councils.

It should be mentioned that EU students can be awarded funding from research councils, but this funding does not usually cover maintenance.

Since we all live in the European Union, I personally don't feel happy that EU students don't have the same benefits as the British ones. But as the argument goes, awarding bodies fund students with British taxpayers' money, who are given priority in this race for knowledge.

The writer would like to thank Amanda Fitzgerald for helping with Ruth Keeling's interview in Issue 3.



Interview with Laurie Friday

The Board of Graduate Studies (BGS for short – also affectionately known as BoGS to those who claim that once your documents go in, they never see the light of day again) is an intriguing entity. When passing by its unassuming door in the unassuming Mill Lane, the first thought that usually crosses the mind is, “So that’s where all those *letters* came from...” Letters thanking you for your application, letters reminding you to send in your transcripts, letters confirming that a College has decided to take you in, letters informing you that you’ve been accepted to Cambridge University (or not). Yes, this is the place where you send in your papers and get a Letter in return.

And at the bottom of those letters, a recurrent signature – a quick scrawl (Dr Friday mentions that for most letters, “it’s a machine”, but the letter that tells you that you have got your degree is signed by hand) – ‘Laurie Friday’. Now as any dis-

cerning person would agree, to receive so many letters from one person and not know who she is can throw you a little off balance. Not the sort of thing to keep you up at night or anything, but when you’re having dinner in the Hall and someone mentions how they’ve submitted an application to the Board of Graduate Studies to transfer

to the PhD or to ask for an extension, you might think, “Ah. Dr. Laurie Friday must surely be writing a letter at this point... bless her! I wonder what she looks like?”

GOWN puts an end to our collective curiosity. *Afia Aslam* and *Jane Ding* ventured fearlessly through that unassuming door on Mill Lane into the murky depths of BGS/BoGS (depending on which side of the application process you’re coming from) to speak to Dr. Laurie Friday – Secretary of the Board of Graduate Studies... owner of the mysterious signature... woman of many letters, and take pictures of the dark



Dr Laurie Friday

rooms of the BoGS.

Imagine our surprise then, when the first sign of this enigma was the patter of feet merrily coming down the stairs and two seconds later a tall, most jolly and not in the least mysterious-looking woman planted herself in front of us, introducing herself as none other than

used to teach Zoology before she took on this job, and so she has much experience in dealing with the students' side of things (read: animal behaviour; Dr Friday specifies that the research was in freshwater biology, and specifically, the ecology of fens and – wait for it – bogs). This ability to field multiple

then realise that the place is all wrong for them – and they're stuck.

As Secretary of BGS, Dr. Friday is the one who provides documents like degrees, mark sheets and examiners' reports to the Board (what she calls "Board with a capital B", meaning the actual group of individuals who sit around a big table every month and take important decisions). She presents cases based on those documents and then, depending on the Board's decisions, she acts as a link between BGS, the Degree Committees and the individuals. From a student's point of view, therefore, her role at the Board level is crucial, and much depends on how she performs it.

That's the fun stuff. In addition to this, there are 27 staff members to manage in the BGS office, so administration is another of her major tasks. Not that they're giving her any trouble. Dr. Friday proudly mentions what a good team she has and how the staff is really caring about students. She figures that the age has something to do with it: about a quarter of staff members are under 30 years old themselves. When you think about how many applicants bombard BGS with correspondence in a year (on average 10-11,000) it's a mighty good thing to have a group of sympathetic twenty-somethings at hand to sort it all out.

Has the number of applicants increased over the past 5 years?

Yes, they have by about 10 % on average. The numbers have been hovering just un-



This year's theses

Dr. Laurie Friday. She took us to her cosy office, upstairs, where we learnt about the BGS (not BoGS, you understand, we were in official terrain now) and what she's been doing there for the last five years.

What is the role of the Secretary of the Board of Graduate Studies? (Read: Who are you?)

This is a woman with one diverse portfolio. Dr. Friday

concerns has helped her in her current role, where she is expected to simultaneously look out for the welfare of the University and its students – to act as a 'safety net', in her words. So during the admission process, for instance, one of BGS' functions is to filter out students who may not be able to cope in the Cambridge environment – not just to ensure quality control on behalf of the University, but to prevent a situation where students land up and



Current application dossiers

der 10,000 since about 1995, but in 2003, applications went up to nearly 14,000. Thus has been followed by 10,500 last year, and at least 11,000 so far this year. Not surprisingly, international events have a lot to do with any fluctuations. The sudden rise in 2003 was the time that "China woke up" and applications from that country suddenly showed an upswing. In the post-9/11 scene the number of applicants opting for the UK over the US are going up anyway. An international event that affected the numbers adversely was the SARS epidemic in East Asia, which prevented many people from meeting their admission conditions. It's obvious that the BGS Secretary is not

comfortable with the situation. "The University doesn't recruit actively," she says solemnly, "There are so many factors out there working beyond our control." *Does it have to recruit actively?* we ask; *it is Cambridge, after all!* Apparently that isn't enough. She's convinced that the University has got to do more to keep attracting prospective students from all over the world and keep up its reputation as an international institution. If nothing else, it is the most cost effective form of advertising!

Has there been an increase in applications for any subjects over the past few years? (Read: Are we in the wrong field? Yes, we thought

so as well.)

Again, no noticeable difference in terms of applicant preferences (*phew!*). What has registered a rise is the number of one-year MPhil courses on offer from different faculties. The Business, Social Sciences and Technology subjects in particular are ahead of the pack, but a number of faculties have stepped up provision. There is plenty of "bottom up movement" in terms of proposals to introduce particular degrees, which someone or the other is eager to teach. It must first pass through BGS and the Degree Committees of course, and how well it goes down with prospective students is another matter altogether!

Tell us about the application process. (Read: Must we grow old waiting to hear whether we got into the University of Cambridge?)

Dr. Friday accepts that BGS is “very slow,” but that’s simply because they’re working with a system that was invented decades ago for much fewer applicants. She is excited about the new student record database. Sure, it’s going through some teething troubles so applications processing is slow this year, but she expects it to speed up a lot once the office becomes comfortable with the system. Students can now apply on-line (although they will be charged £ 25 each time they submit an application, just to prevent them from misusing the system). As things stand now, transcripts and recommendations are still sent by post, but if you apply on-line then your details get logged on to the system much quicker and hopefully with fewer chances of data entry error (come on, you can spell your own name, can’t you?!) By the time your transcripts arrive, BGS is ready to activate your application and transfer your documents.

After the documents have all been received by BGS, they’re sent on to the relevant Faculty, which decides whether a candidate meets the admissions requirements and give him/her admission to the course (and with what academic conditions). The papers are then sent on to one of 26 Degree Committees, which appoint supervisors and make sure exams go without a hitch. (Oh, and they have to give the go-ahead to the offer of admission as well.)

Once this stage is over, BGS gets around to informing the applicant of the outcome. Going through this process effectively reduces the number of applicants who actually get an offer to about 4,500 a year (out of $\pm 10,000$, don’t forget). Out of these, about 2,200 actually meet their conditions. At this point, BGS asks that all conditions to admission should be met by 31st July so that it becomes clear how many people are still serious about taking up the offer. This enables Colleges to start thinking about accommodation and pushes students to start thinking about applying for visas. For those waiting to hear about scholarships, it takes a while longer before they can even start thinking about packing their bags, which is why the University routinely loses students to more generous American institutions in early summer.

As a long term solution to the time lag problem, the Board (with the capital B) is seriously considering devolving some of its functions to other bodies. There is already an ongoing experiment with some faculties of receiving applications directly, instead of them going through BGS. But, as the Secretary dramatically points out, “with more power comes more responsibility.” Faculties need to apply roughly equal standards in the admissions process in order to make it fair and open. For this a central coordinating body is still an important feature, but there is certainly scope for more decentralisation.

Can you tell us about the scholarship selection process?

Dr. Friday’s office administers the ORS (Overseas Research Student) competition every year. If you thought you knew how competitive these babies are, think again. Only about 10% of applicants actually end up getting an ORS award. To Cambridge’s credit, though, it has an 85% success rate out of the applications that are finally forwarded on to London after a stringent selection process. We’d heard a rumour that ORS scholarship recipients automatically receive Cambridge Trusts funding. Dr. Friday is quick to dispel that impression, pointing out that although the Trusts do keep a close eye on the rank lists for ORS, they have independent rank lists as well and make their decision independently of BGS. As it happens, there is a high match rate between the ORS recipients and Trusts scholars, but that is simply because only the seriously accomplished get this funding. In addition to the ORS, BGS also administers the Domestic Research Studentship competition, which it runs on the same selection format as the ORS, as it works quite well.

The Financial Times has recently reported the Government’s policies to introduce high visa fees and the removal of the appeals process for visas. It was reported that the heads of 120 Universities have written to the PM to complain. What are your views on this issue?

Dr. Friday points out, what has been amazing is the level of engagement that different arms of the University have shown on this issue. The Pro

Talk us through the thesis submission process. When students finish writing up their thesis and copies are sent to the BGS, what happens next?

For PhD or MPhil by research only students, the process goes something like this:

- ✓ Candidate turns in thesis at the BGS office. There is usually a small celebration, accompanied by a wide range of reactions from candidates themselves, who could be anything between completely hyper and totally comatose. Some bring their families and take photos of the momentous occasion (one would think you'd want to forget it as soon as possible).
- ✓ Back to business. Candidate signs declaration of copyright. BGS staff check up information on database to make sure that all is in order.
- ✓ Thesis is sent to Degree Committee, which sends it to two examiners. At least one examiner must be an external examiner to promote fair play and make sure that Cambridge isn't slipping in its marking standards as compared to the world outside.
- ✓ Examiners make independent assessment reports.
- ✓ The viva follows, and then the final decision by the examiners. For those of you who're already cringing, very few get a Revise and Submit result. Usually, those who are not quite ready yet are asked to make corrections – the equivalent of academic surgery (rather than conceiving all over again).
- ✓ Final report goes to Degree Committee.
- ✓ Final report forwarded to BGS, which makes sure that someone somewhere hasn't made a ghastly mistake in implementing uniform standards, or fallen prey to procedural irregularity. Dr. Laurie Friday sends off one of her famous letters, informing a student of the outcome. In the event of failure, there is an option for a review. There is also a students' complaints procedure in place.

Vice Chancellor, backed strongly by the GU (Graduate Union), CUSU (Cambridge University Student Union), the BGS and the International Office, wrote a letter that was unequivocally against the increase in visa fees. Even if the increase in visa fees is introduced anyway, a strong protest has been lodged on behalf of Cambridge's many international students. This is not because international students are a big source of cash, Dr. Friday insists. In fact they're not as much of a cash opportunity as people think they are. The University is concerned with maintaining quality, which it feels it can do only by continuing to recruit the best minds from across the world. It's a matter of principle.

Two hours after entering the office, we walked out tired but

much more aware of what really goes on behind the scenes at the Board of Graduate Studies. We met all the members of staff and saw little glimpses of office life that made the whole set up look so much more human than it seems from across seven seas, or even from across a letter printed on stationery telling you you've got admission to one of the best Universities in the world. We saw a woman walking around barefoot with a mug of coffee clutched in her hands, a random teddy bear stretched out on top of a computer, a shy staff member who leapt out of the way of the camera before we could take a shot of her at her desk. We were also taken for a trip on the Dark Side: the cool and musty BGS basement where files upon files from years gone by were stored in

rows of shelves. One of the labels said 1976, and that wasn't even the oldest file in the place by a long way. Years of history buried in those archives – records of thousands of students who like us cycled the streets of Cambridge, shook their fists at motorists, and dreamt of changing the world some decades ago. How many fulfilled hopes and unrealised dreams must be meticulously documented in those shelves? How many dictators, saints and geniuses must have their papers neatly filed away in that basement? No matter where they went and what they went on to do, these people left a permanent trace in the University, and the Board is the guardian of that legacy. Hmm... perhaps BoGS wouldn't be such a bad name after all...

Andrea Ma discusses
her recent run for
Cancer Research UK

Running for life!

Slimming down to fit into our May ball dresses? No, no, no, there's a much more meaningful motive behind our running. We are a team of PhD students who took part in the 'Race for Life' to raise funds for Cancer Research UK, a charity supporting the work of over 3,000 scientists, doctors and nurses who work towards conquering cancer.

Cancer is the most common cause of death for women aged above 30 (if you are under 30, then violence and accidents came before cancer!). Camilla, a second year PhD student at the

Department of Anatomy, remarked, "What moved me is remembering there are so many of us who are suffering from cancer, and sure, it's not that hard to put our running shoes on and hopefully run a better future for them!"

With this thought in our mind, we joined the 'Race for Life'. Yes, it's "only" 5 km but to be honest it feels pretty much like a marathon. Training was great fun, from the early days when we couldn't run very far and ended up strolling along the river Cam, to the big day, when we all geared up in the

race and everyone ran all the way through. Being involved in scientific research ourselves, we realize that it is a costly process. We tried our best to spread the awareness around and raise as much money as possible – and we collected over £1500!

Would you like to contribute to the advance of medicine, to a disease that affects a third of the people around us, at some point in their lives? Join us next year!

The survivors' photo from left: Kin Mei Leung, Camilla Kwong, Andrea Ma, Betty Leow, Patricia Poon, and Gloria Tam. Photo taken after the race, on 3rd July 2005, Jesus Green.





ANDROS

Chora

Ria Kioupritzi

As a Greek student at the University and a writer for GOWN, it was my duty to write about one of the most beautiful and sunny countries (it's true!), which happens to be my home, and which is also a holiday paradise (also true!!)

I am not going to write about one of those famous islands which people know about. Mykonos, Santorini, Paros, Corfu and Crete, are some of the most popular destinations and the most widely advertised. Instead, I want to introduce you to the island of Andros; the Greek island of Andros and NOT the one that is in the Bahamas! Don't get confused! It's not very famous, especially among the young travellers, but non-famous means less tourists and more beach-space

for you to enjoy! The island is found to the north of the group of Cycladian islands and it is the second largest island of the Cyclades (Naxos being the biggest). It is said to be the island of the ship-owners.

Andros is very close to Athens (from the Rafina Port) and you therefore don't have to face the Aegean waves for long; a definite advantage to those prone to sea-sickness. The main port of the island is Gavrio and as soon as you step on land you will find taxis and coaches to get you to any of the attractions. Rental cars are also available in this area and from my own experience, it is the only place where you can find cars to rent. Don't forget to visit the "St. Peter's Tower" which has a pristine architecture and is still preserved.

Batsi is a village which is stra-

tegically placed on your way to the capital of the island and 25 mins (by bus) away from it. The nightlife in the village (along with that at Gavrio) is more suitable for the young traveller and both villages are main attractions for tourists. One of the nice spots of Batsi is at the sea-front, where you can eat at taverns and have nice views of the sea.

Moving further to the east, we reach the capital city, Chora, which is also the capital of all Greek islands. Chora is unfortunately on the other side of Gavrio, on a bus journey of 50-55 minutes. When I say 50-55 minutes, I don't mean 50-55 minutes of highway travel, but a journey on rough terrain. Since it is essential to have the environment protected, no road surfacing is allowed. According to the locals, it was impossible



to build a port in Chora because of the strong winds, but there is apparently one for private and fishing boats. Chora, as the capital city, is the heart of the island both administratively and culturally.

Some points of interest are:

- The Maritime Museum, where you can see the history of Andriot ships and their adventures around the world, in addition to some models. The display is hosted in a house which used to belong to the Empeirikos (ship owners) family. As an aside, Andreas Empeirikos was one of the greatest poets of modern Greece.
- The Archeological Museum, mostly sponsored by the Basil and Elisa Goulandris Foundation, and among the exhibits you'll find the statue Hermes of Andros sculpted by Praxitelis
- The Museum of Modern Art, under the aegis of the Basil and Elisa Goulandris Foundation. The building which hosts the displays was one of the houses the Goulandri family owned in the island. This is a museum



that not only Andros is proud of, but also that Greece, as a country, treasures. Apart from the exhibits of renowned Greek artists every year, it hosts collections of great artists such as Picasso, Matisse, Kandinsky, and Henri Cartier-Bresson. It is one of the most famous museums of Greece and people from Athens and the other islands travel to Andros just to visit it.

South of Chora, you'll find Ormos, which is also another suitable place to relax. Near Ormos you will find the "Pano Kastro" which has an extraor-

dinary view and has a story related to the beach Grias Pidima - Old lady's Jump.

I'd like to suggest some of the nicest beaches that you can enjoy around the villages. Near Gavrio, you'll find Fellos, and Ateni and Zorkos are also worth a visit. At Batsi, the Golden Beach is recommended, as well as Agios Kyprianos and Agia Marina, where you can go on foot or by bus (topping up your tan while walking in the sun may be an idea). Not far away from Agios Kyprianos, you can find nice taverns and also a bus stop (if you aren't staying at Batsi). In Chora, Nioboro beach is recommended, and you could also try Giala and Piso Giala.

In Ormos, go to "Grias Pidima" beach. Since it is outside the Ormos, you will either walk or take a taxi. Taxis will leave you at a short distance from the beach, and you'll then walk down on rocks for about 100 metres. A word of caution though: do take some water and food with you because the beach is isolated, and you have no other options than sunbathe and swim once you get there.

Enjoy yourself either literally or in your dreams!



Grias Pidima Beach

Culture Change: New Arts Society at Cambridge

Cambridge Live Arts Exchange is the most recent addition to the city's student societies, showcasing an exciting mix of the best new music, film, dance, poetry, drama and multimedia art written by students and graduates of the university. *Graeme Hopson*, the founder and first president of the society, writes about what he hopes to achieve.

First as a music student, then later as a graduate, I've learnt just how difficult it is to get new work performed, with it even harder to attract an audience to actually hear it. Since this problem is faced by all artists at some point in their careers, I decided to do something about it by setting up this society. The purpose of Cambridge Live Arts Exchange is to provide a platform for students and graduates, from different artistic disciplines, to have their work presented in a lively and engaging way before the public, hopefully broadening the appeal of the arts in the process.

The society is about more than just having work seen in public – important though that is – it is also a great opportunity to make friends and contacts with like-minded people, exchange ideas, and collaborate on new projects. For me, the

most exciting aspect of the society is creating an environment where members can experiment, explore, and take risks with their work in a way that might not be possible otherwise.

Though the society is still in its early stages, the response of both students and graduates, from the whole spectrum of the arts, theatre, film and music has been terrific, and we hope to put on our first events in October. Membership costs only £2 a year. If you have an interest in the arts and would like to be involved with a friendly and vibrant society we want to hear from you.

For information of how to join, contact Graeme via emailing info@graemehopson.com or phone him on 07715 933077.



cambridge
live arts
exchange

Cambridge Lacrosse Victory

Jamie Muir Wood
reports on the 89th
Men's Lacrosse Varsity
Match held on the 5th
of March 2005

Not having won the Varsity match since an extremely close 5-4 victory in 1992, Cambridge were extremely keen for victory. Sitting second in the league, with a game in hand, having won 11 of their 15 previous matches, match preparation could not have been better, and, despite the freezing conditions on Parker's Piece, Cambridge applied the pressure from the outset and were rewarded with a 7-

4 victory. For the men's club, the day started with a rather depressing 12-2 demolition of the second team, but the Blues did not let this get to them, putting their game faces on and warming up as a team as the face-off time approached.

The start, as in any Varsity match, was extremely tense, with both teams testing the water. Cambridge were the first to break through, though, with Sabey slot-

ting a goal in during the first quarter and from then on Cambridge were never behind. This was despite a rather nasty knee injury to former Captain West, in the opening minutes which put him out of the game, and reduced the Cambridge squad to twelve men for the rest of the game. Oxford were quick to retort, with Captain Gallagher firing an outside shot into the goal. The quarter time score was thus one a piece and the adrenaline was flowing...

After a quick break, Cambridge, certainly not disheartened with the closeness of the game, pulled ahead again with a great goal from Martin, coming round from behind the goal and cheekily popping the

Cambridge University vs. Oxford University; Final Score: 7 - 4



Cambridge: 7

ball past the Oxford keeper. This was followed up by a well placed shot from Malies, who found himself in space in front of the goal and was conveniently fed the ball... At the other end of the field, Gallagher once again reduced the lead and, as Cambridge found themselves a man down as a result of some interesting tackling, Oxford pulled even again with a bouncer which caught goalkeeper Hacquoil off guard. Having won every face-off, ex-Captain Hoult produced the goods in the closing seconds of the half, scoring the perfect goal on the whistle and leaving Cam-

bridge ahead by one, with the score 4-3.

As the second half started, Cambridge began to relax slightly and started to show some flair. Having regained his composure Captain Wang ably picked up the ball from the face-offs and while no progress was made on the scoreboard, Cambridge began to look the better team. Oxford let the pressure get to them, with Captain Gallagher sent off for ungentlemanly conduct, following some potty talk, and another Oxford player being penalised for throwing the ball away, after losing possession for a foul. This

allowed Malies to complete his brace of goals, popping up in the right place at the right time with his defender trailing him by a couple of paces, but despite some hard work Gonzalez was continually denied a decent shot on goal by some reasonably tight marking. Ex-Cambridge Captain Tinston, traitor to the cause, brought Oxford back into the game, placing a decent shot in the back of the net while unmarked with Cambridge a man down. After that, Cambridge started to strip the ball from Oxford repeatedly, most spectacularly when Mustill tackled an Oxford midfielder into





Cambridge University Men's Lacrosse Team

Goal: AP Hacquoil
Defence: J Dods,
 TMR Mustill,
 AJ Muir Wood
Midfield: W Hault,
 RH Malies,
 B McNamee (d-pole),
 S Scott,
 M Wang (Captain),
 RAJ West
Attack: N Gonzalez (VC),
 AW Martin,
 T Sabey

the crowd. This war of attrition eventually worked with the Oxford keeper, on the ground in front of his goal after some scrappy play, only able to watch in despair as Cambridge midfielder Scott flicked the ball over his head and into the back of the net. Cambridge finished the third quarter two goals ahead with the score 6-4.

By the fourth quarter, Cambridge appeared to be tiring, and some wasted possession in attack kept the squad on their toes: fortunately a couple of time-outs were called (one by each team) and having caught their breath, Cambridge settled their play. Victory was not yet secured, however, as Cambridge had two men sent off for stupid fouls, reducing their defence to four men against Oxford's six

man attack: McNamee, having had an awesome game up to that point, was caught out for a semi-professional attempted trip and Mustill, seeing red at the other end of the field charged down the Oxford keeper inside his crease, earning himself a minute's rest. Hacquoil was forced to keep Cambridge in the game and did so by pulling off some incredible saves, for which he was later awarded the most valuable player award. After recovering possession in defence, through some solid defensive work from Muir Wood, Cambridge made use of some awesome long passes to clear the ball up the field through Antipodean defender Dods and apply the pressure at the other end. They were aided in their efforts by Oxford, who repeatedly

went offside giving Cambridge the possession they wanted. Sabey finally made the break-through, scoring his second and putting Cambridge three goals clear. With only a few minutes left, Cambridge remained in the driving seat, continuing to press forward and Oxford had nothing in response. The final whistle went and Cambridge, ending deservedly victorious, went off to drink winning beer, have dinner in Newnham and do various other unprintable things...

This result puts Cambridge top of their division and, with a place in the Cup Final on the 19th of March secured, Saturday's victory puts them one step closer to finishing the season in true style.

Oxford: 4

Cheating... and how to do it, lads.

Or how to get more sex than you deserve

Alex-James Painter writes about how amazing he is...

Ed: *Alex, we're stuck for articles! Write something! NOW!*

Me: *No. Get knotted.*

Ed: *I was your Sixth form prefect Painter. Now write or you can kiss your tuck and mufti privileges goodbye!*

Me: *What century are you living in? Um, ok. What?*

Ed: *Anything! Or we're all f****! And I get the sack! It's my ass on the line!*

Me: *Don't exaggerate. It's your magazine-you can't get fired. And this is King's Parade, not Fleet Street.*

Ed: *Don't give me that or I'll fire your sorry ass! What's happened to you recently?*

Me: *Well, I got caught cheating on my girlfriend. And on her birthday. That makes twice, come to think of it. Shit. I'm baaaaad.*

Ed: *Fantastic!! That's great!! Write about that. Give me 24 words in 200 hours! I mean the other way round.*

Me: *Um, well it's still kinda painful.*

Ed: *Do it!*

Lets face facts, we're living in amoral times: Brad and Jen, Jude and Sienna, Fountains of Wayne and Stacey's mom. The media reports that these are the greatest philanderers of our time. But that's just it. Brad, and Jude, and now myself, (I've always wanted to contrive a way of writing



that...) are not great philanderers. We're rubbish. We got caught.

Blokes often come up to me and say, "Alex, how can you play so many girls at the same time! You're amazing!"

And I say "Yes, I am indeed fantastic."

And they say "Teach me how!"

And I say "No. Only most worthy may learn the ways of the bastard"

And then they buy me a drink, and I say "Well, it's like this....."

And so here it is. **The Rules of Cheating.** Use them wisely and cheats will prosper. Why? Because every time you meet a beautiful woman, somewhere there's a bloke out there who's sick of shagging her.

1. Limit the cross-overs. These are the links between your girls, and these must be minimised, or at least managed. I use a whiteboard and a complex web of spider diagrams, updated every three days, with the names coloured in progressively darker red as the net closes in...

2. Useful illnesses. These are serious, but non-contagious (obviously) such as bronchitis or an almost imperceptible limp, that can be pulled out at a moments notice if you need a quick getaway. Link the first letter of each girl's name with that of an illness, and stick to it. That way

you only appear to have one condition and you don't get caught changing it.

3. "Just good friends." These are what each of your girlfriends think the others are. Girls are surprisingly reticent to act the part of the insanely jealous girlfriend as, without proof, it reflects very badly on them. Prime your mates to use this phrase about all partners so they don't put their foot in it.

4. Dress to impress. It's an old saying, but imperative in cheating. It's well known that the minute a man begins an affair he smartens up- don't get caught out. Dress consistently well- you could always dress consistently like a foreigner (Ed: don't go there!).. sorry gypo (Ed: Worse!)...sorry Oxford student, but that's not advisable.

5. Never underestimate the power of the lie. Lying has a very bad press, usually from those who get lied to. Make sure you control this noble art and invent a series of identities depending on the company: sports, politics, arts etc.....

6. Flirt with all the friends of your girlfriends but don't pull anyone too close to them. That way, if you get caught, you can say that you're just really flirty with everyone AND her friends will back you up! Jackpot!

Ed: *This is rubbish! Not to mention immoral and completely male-dominated. You have to balance the article with how women can cheat.*

Alex: *That's nonsense. A cheating woman is a slag. A cheating man is a stud.*

Ed: *Fair point.*

7. Coz obviously she's out of my league.... But she's not. No-one is. Especially not to people like me and you. It's just a question of the right lie, and, if she's shallow enough, she's yours. Appeal to her mercenary side-it's all about what she thinks you can do for her. Old favourites include "Out-of-work actor", "Ex-boyband member" and "Expelled Public School Boy", depending on the girl and the context.

8. The sensitive angle. Don't go there. Girls don't like it, no matter what they tell each other. They just don't want to be f**ed about. Which obviously means don't get caught f***ing them about. On the other hand...

...9. **Girls love guys they're not supposed to go for...**the charming cad is hard to resist but is a difficult act to pull off. Learn from the master, Hugh Grant. Think like him. Be him. Want him! Oh yeah!..but not like that....(Ed: Is there something you're not telling me?)

10. That's your lot. If you want to know more, visit my website www.themanwhothinkshesit.com

Ed: *Utter crap... But it's the right length.*

GOWN does not endorse the comments of Mr Painter

A date for
the diary

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