

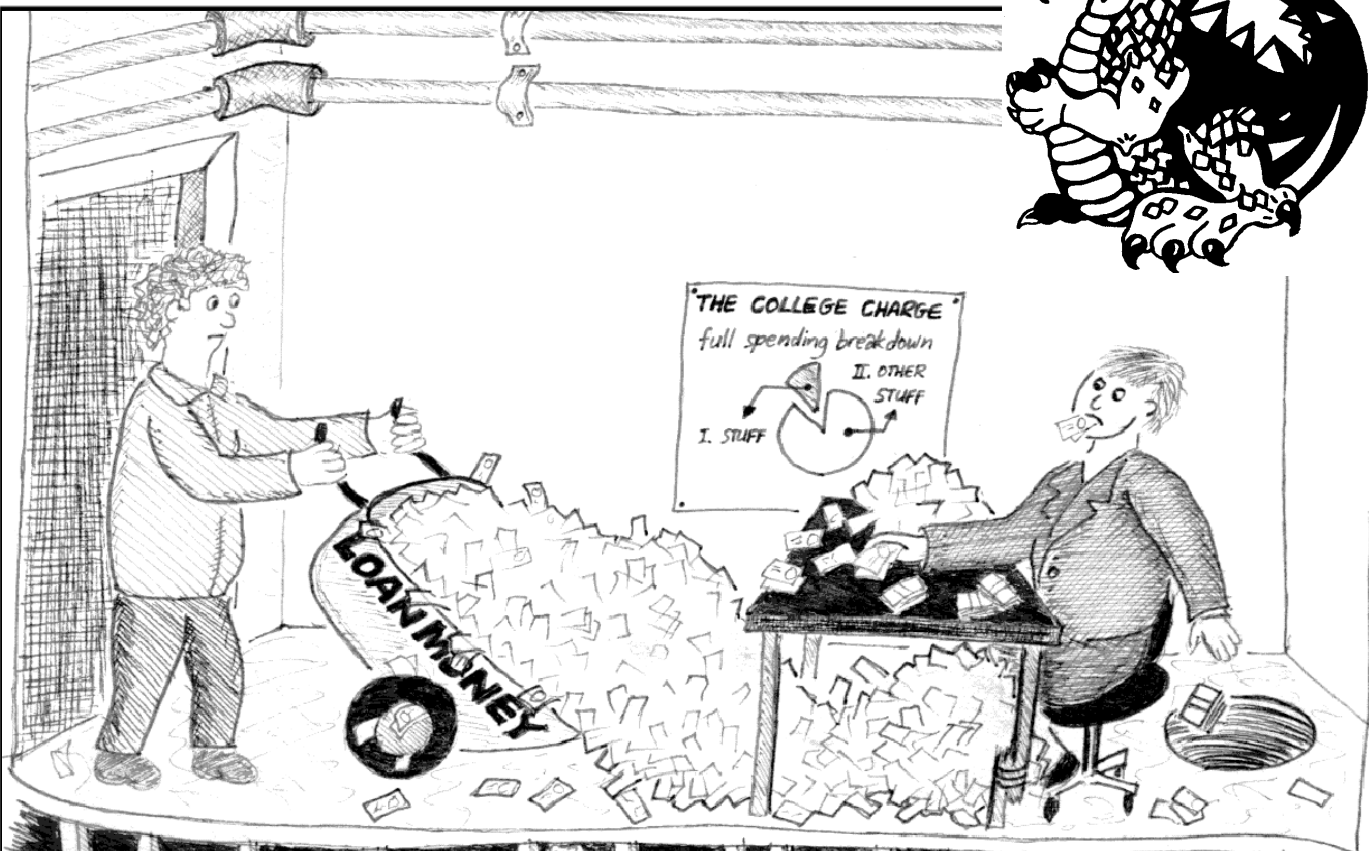
Red Dragon Pie

Issue 99 — February 1997

Zadie Rylands memorial edition

Never knowingly sold

We've got our money - have you got yours?



**EXCLUSIVE: NEW CENTRAL HEATING
SYSTEM FUELS RENT INCREASES**

Working party decides to keep the Status Quo (and the Dexy's...)

After extensive consultation, and much deliberation, the "June Event and Mingles Working Party" has come to the shock decision to... keep things exactly as they were before.

The "party" began back in October, when a paper was brought to college council which virtually demanded the end of mingles and June Events as we know it by ceasing permission for the use of the Great Hall and, in the case of the June Event, the front lawn. It was alleged that the June Event was a May Ball in all but name (the reason that King's has not had a May Ball since 1982 is something, like the fluctuations in the college's wealth, that is rarely discussed with students).

The paper was considered, and a compromise was reached in which a working party was set up to investigate the matter. In the interim, the mingle was not allowed to use the hall in December. One of the more fanciful explanations for this is that the loud music and vibrations damage the wine or its sediment, stored in the wine cellars below the main hall.

However, conferences which had been booked long in advance still went ahead, and so at the end of December

we were greeted with the sight of several hundred pissed conference guests getting on down to "Come on Eileen" in the hall, where, only weeks before, the Mingle had feared to tread. Such inconsistencies could not be maintained, and so it seems that the Working Party has come to the only reasonable decision, and recommended that the Hall may be used for the June Event. Dr Dave Good, leader of the working party, noted in an email to RDP "The report lead to an agreement on how the June Event should be run this year, at least in terms of what spaces can be used for different kinds of ents. The working party has now been asked to draw up a schedule of what should be the basic format of the June Events and Mingles in the future, and how the college council should think about them." He added lightheartedly "I've suggested that members of the Working Party might do some fieldwork by going to the next JE."

We can only hope that things are sorted out in time for the next mingle, so we can all get on down to some nice Drum'n'Brass music in its rightful place: the Great Hall of King's College.

How it works:

The College Accounting System

People who have been a little tardy in paying their college bills have met with a number of Draconian threats issued by the authorities, from not being allowed to graduate to being struck off the room ballot. It might therefore come as something of a surprise to find out the mechanism by which it is decided whether a college bill has been paid. The systems works like this:

1. A college bill is sent out to every student
2. Amounts of money trickle into the college account from students paying their bills. The payees name is not attached to the amount received.
3. Someone in the college office goes through the list of students and the amount of their college bill; when an amount owed tallies with an amount received, they tick off the student's name.
4. All students whose names have not been ticked off are sent a rude letter telling them that they haven't paid their college bill and accusing them of large scale fraud.

As students in many rooms have identical rent and heating charges, the entire system therefore depends on random fluctuations in gas and electricity consumption to distinguish between bills. We should therefore be thankful for the network of meters which give readings bearing no relation to the amount used.

It's good to know that in these days of computers and high technology, the college is not letting old traditions fall out of use.

Manic Street Provost

Our sabbaticaling Provost, Prof. Pat Bateson, has revealed himself as something of a closet Manics fan. He's taking the year off to write a book which will be called "Design for life". We look forward to his next volume, tentatively titled "IfWhiteAmericaToldTheTruthForOneDay ItsWorldWouldFallApart"

Red Dragon Pie

These people are alleged to be responsible. Responsible?

Editor: Graham Cormode

President: James Sumner

Other contributors: Dave Pritchard, Mike Williams, Steve Martin, Anon, Jack Rosenthal, P.D. James, Caius College, Pingu the Penguin and Leila Cthulhu

Still in the bar: David Humphries

Estimated monthly readership:
25 Million

CUSU

Printed using Gestetner technology – not so much no expense spared, as no expense at all



Chemical World

While the plans for the renovation of A Staircase were being discussed, it was illuminating to hear a junior fellow opining that it seemed unnecessary to 'waste' all that money on making it disabled accessible, when there was only one or two disabled people in college. It clearly hadn't occurred to him that making it possible to get about the place might make more people with disabilities consider applying here....

NEWSROUND-UP

College Burns Fingers in Asian Take-Away

The college lost a staggering amount of money following the collapse of the Far East markets last year. Allegedly.

The investments in the Far Eastern markets, which ran into the millions, plunged in value when the markets crashed in November.

The college investment policy is determined by the estates committee, a group of fellows who control the college endowment, a sum of around £60-70 million pounds of capital assets (as estimated before November) which is used to bring in an income to support the college.

The committee, which includes one student in a non-voting "observer" position, allegedly over-ruled the Bursar who was committed to a less risky strategy.

We originally learnt of this story on the grapevine, but have had it confirmed by several fellows off the record. When it comes to giving

an on the record pronouncement though, official sources become rather coy, and only acknowledge that some loss may possibly have occurred. It would therefore be very unwise for us to splash the amount of the loss all over the pages of this magazine.

It is an irony that such a loss should hit at a time when the issue of Oxbridge funding is in the news, although this is not the first time that the college has made heavy losses (see panel, right). It is possible to envisage a future where King's is a college of complete poverty, with occasional pockets of wealth, such as the wine at the Provost Sheppard dinner or the Gaselee prize for Etonian classicists (both of which are paid for by endowments that the can't be touched) the only reminder of Cambridge's lost wealth.

Trinity: An example to aspire to?

While King's is losing money hand over fist, Trinity seems to be raking it in. Trinity has an estimated worth of over £300 million, which brings in an annual income of nearly nineteen million pounds. Strangely enough, their riches seem to be due to just the same kind of amateur dabbling which has cost King's dearly in the past. Over the past forty years, two successive bursars, both of whom started as academics, have personally nurtured Trinity's wealth from a paltry £3 million to the £300m of today. One of their most successful investments

was to buy and develop the port of Felixstowe.

One might ask whether such enormous wealth is really something we should aspire to — Trinity is, after all, a college where the porters wear bowler hats, and mail is delivered to your door. However, as well as funding enormous book grants and the recent three-storey student leisure complex, over half of the college's annual income is spend on charitable causes (including the Newton Bursaries), educational projects (the science park, and Newton Institute) as well as propping up the poorer colleges — amongst whom we might soon be numbering ourselves.

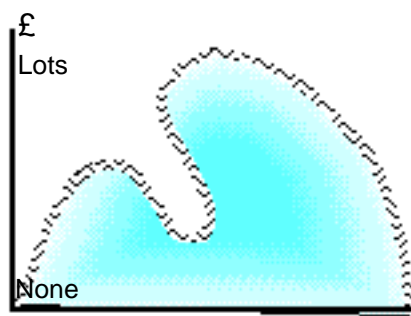
King's: A warning from history

This is not first time that King's has lost significantly. Even back in the fifteenth century, following the death of the founder, Henry VI, with the foundations of the chapel laid, a change of monarch meant that the large fortune promised in the founder's will never materialised.

The college was perhaps at its richest following the bursarship of the well-known economist, John Maynard-Keynes (he of the hall). Even his investments were risky; a probably apocryphal tale is told of the time he invested in grain options, when the price of grain dropped suddenly. With ships on their way to Britain carrying a large fraction of the world's grain supply, he needed somewhere to store the grain, and approached college council to let him use the Chapel as an enormous grain silo. Fortunately, the market picked up and he was able to sell the options on without major loss.

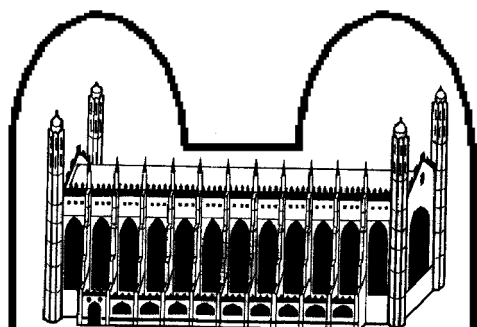
Keynes also contributed to the college in death, by leaving a number of paintings and books, as well as many of his original writings. Unfortunately, these are difficult if not impossible to sell, so the college could not easily realise the huge value of these (the cynic might argue that this is probably a good thing).

There was a time when the college was hugely rich, but financial problems seem to have dogged the college. The last was during the eighties, when the college bought (or sold) a lot of land, at a time which later turned out to be the peak (or trough) in the property boom (or slump). A clearer account of exactly what happened has yet to emerge.



The rise and fall of King's millions
(artist's impression)

DOUBLE DOMES TO COVER CHAPEL



Artist's impression of the hare-brained scheme

The college has announced a project to top the millennium dome in Greenwich. A pair of millennium domes will be erected over the chapel, serving the dual purpose of protecting the aging building from acid rain and protecting our eyes from the gothic monstrosity.

A Mr. Mendelssohn, who has absolutely no prior experience, has been appointed to design the structure. The architect without portfolio explains that the project will cost £25 million and should be completed by 2031, which, Meddlesome points out, will be just in time to celebrate 2000 years since the death of Christ.

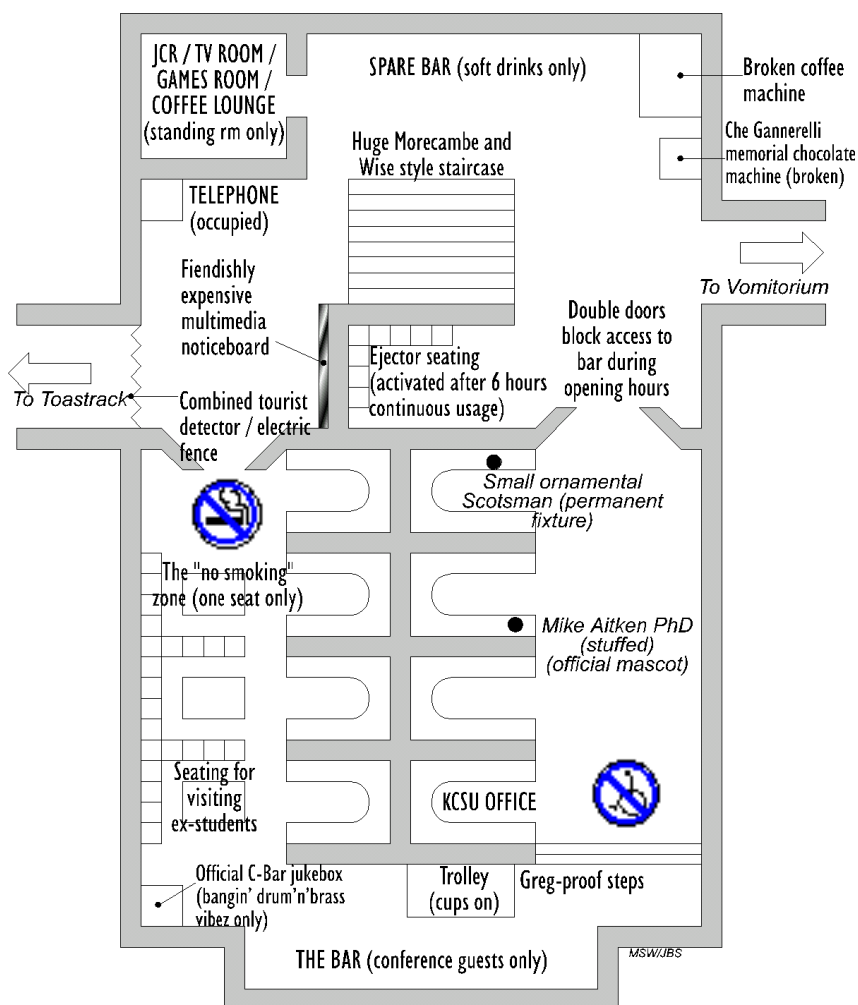
The domus bursar, Ken Hook, is being helped to oversee the project by Kevin Crook, a temporary 'Millennium Domus Bursar', though it is not clear whether his position will be made permanent. An insider commented, "It may seem like a senseless waste of money, but, by Hook or by Crook, it will be built."

Top Ten

alternative uses for £25 million

10. Give a free copy of the Enclyopaedia Britannica with every copy of next year's CUSU diary.
9. Buy 300,000 ornamental oars for the bar
8. Pay the "College charge" for every King's student for the next 150 years
7. Buy two Porsches for the master of each Oxford and Cambridge College.
6. Buy every possible combination of lottery tickets to guarantee a win, and get ten million scratchcards too.
5. Put the money in the bank, and use the interest to give every student at King's a tenner a day forever.
4. Pay for the improvements to the bar twenty times over
3. Hire Margaret Thatcher to give a speech to one student for every day for three years.
2. Do something useful with the money.
1. Blow the lot on a horse.

Those bar plans in full...



(That's enough bar plans for now - Ed)

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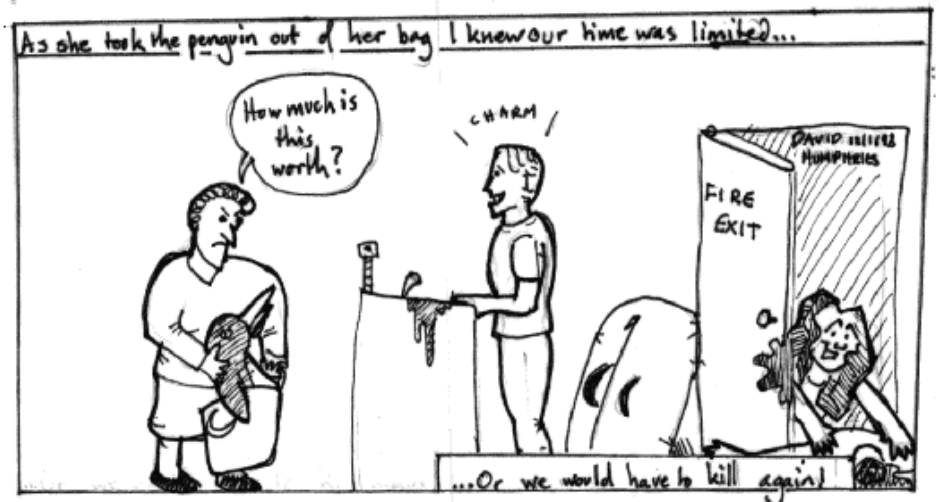
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dope on me but the rest of yu
are toast and he give us all
detenshun and were very sorry
and we promise not to do it
agen sir

INCUBUS • PILE

More true twisted tales from the maladjusted mind of a sleeping student



KNOW THE DIFFERENCE



[shouldn't that be the other way round? - ed]

Dr Goldhill or How I stopped vomiting and learned to love the bar

It's become something of an accidental tradition of RDP to have at least one page devoted to the latest shenanigans involving the bar. Just to fill you in on the details, a plan to improve the bar area and A Staircase has been revealed, which includes facilities to make the area disabled accessible at last. The less said about the standard of conference guest we see out of full term, the better...

Right Said Rob

... And so we had a committee
And Simon had a think and he said
"Apply some prudence
And shut out all the students
Then we'll have no more bloody vomit on the floor -"
Right said Rob, plastered up a poster,
Then a host of students got involved.
Tried to foil it, "couldn't reach the toilet" -
We was getting nowhere -
And so we had a committee
And Simon had a think and he said
"This isn't funny.
We need a source of money
And the conference guests are a cut above the rest -"
Right said Rob, here's another issue:
It's official, things've got to change.
Need some movement for disabled students -
Greg is getting nowhere -
And so we had a committee
And Simon had a think and he said
"We've got a fair case:
If we remove the staircase
With a ramp or two we could wheel the buggers through -"
Right said Rob, and while we're sorting that lot,
Get this black spot sorted once for all.
Do the place up, carve the student space up -
They'll be getting nowhere -
And then we had a committee
And Simon had a drink and he said
"You know the cellars?
The Butler's going to tell us
That the June Event will disturb the sediment"
Right said Rob, only one solution,
To pollution of the Fellows' wine:
Shut them all out, never mind the fallout,
They'll be dancing nowhere -
And so we had a committee,
And Simon has a think and he says...
"It's just a rat-race,
Because, you see, in that case,
They'll be out their heads in the bloody bar instead"
Right said Rob, back to the beginning,
No-one's winning, nothing's getting done.
Every meeting just goes on repeating,
We'll be getting nowhere -
And so, we had a committee...
And Simon has a think, and he says:

The trouble with you, Rob is you're too hasty. You never get *anywhere* if you're clever enough.

Et cetera, ad infinitum, sic transit van.

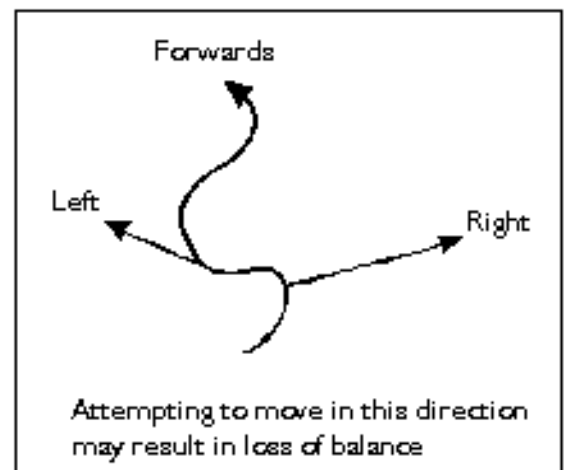
Bar Regulars 6: The Room Ballot Bore

"I've just been up to the room, and there's loads of rooms left in Webb's but it seems a bit early to judge it and anyway I'm not sure if I want to be living in college again, I mean I want to be more independent and you can't really be that independent when you're living opposite the college library! I suppose there's always King's Parade but I'd rather go for a room with four walls and a floor and there are some good rooms in Spalding but you hear about people who move in there and are never seen again and it's full of grads too.

"I suppose it would have been better if we had come higher in the ballot, I mean at this rate we might end up with no choice but to take the top floor of P but looking on the bright side it means we can get some really good Bodley's sets next year I mean we'll have virtually first choice I suppose I could live with being in Keynes again but I don't think I'll choose anywhere in Market no matter how good the rooms are. I don't know why she picked it, I mean she had first choice and everything, but I suppose if everyone does that then we'll have a really good selection to choose from.

"Even though there's a week before we choose, I think it's good to keep an eye on what's gone so you have a better idea of what's available and of course I suppose one benefit of choosing near the end is that you know who your neighbours will be whereas they can't pick you! I think I'll just go back and see if anything else has gone."

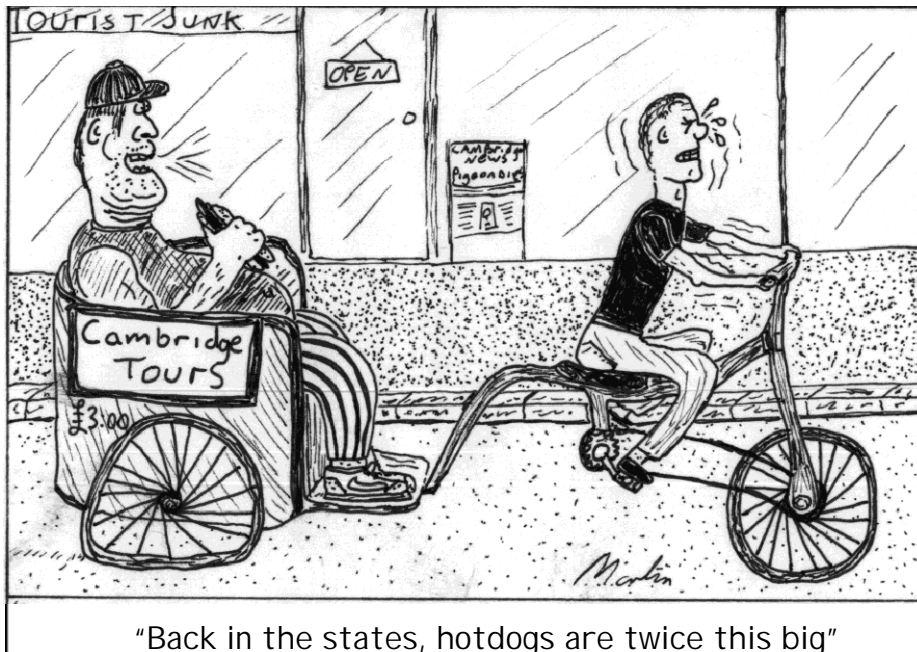
MAP FOR CONFERENCE GUESTS



EXCLUSIVE!

King's Loses 25 Mil!

King's bar was reeling today following the shock revelation that a metric optic measure has disappeared from one of the bottles. Since the standardisation of the metric shot, the licensing act has required 25 millilitre optics to be used for the dispensing of all spirits. A spokesman for the bar described the loss of the optic as "a severe blow". Investigations are continuing.



"Back in the states, hotdogs are twice this big"

TALKING BULL

The issues relating to use of the Hall for Mingles are set out in simple language by Dr John Bull, fellow of King's and visiting Professor of Science at the University of Fen Ditton

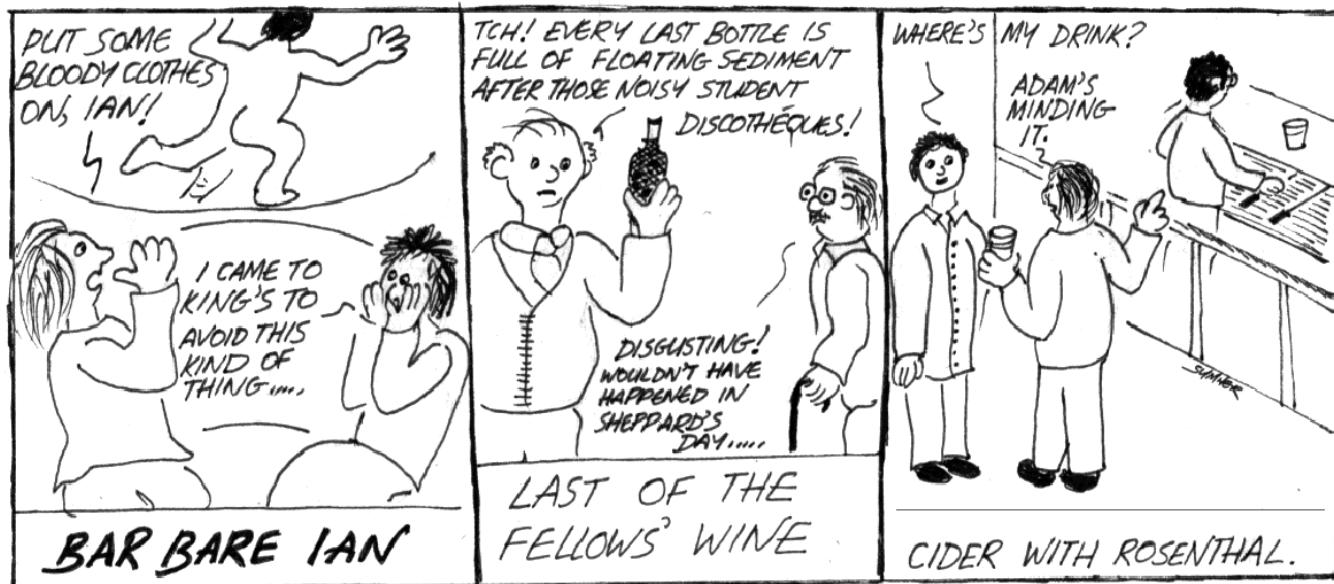
"The first thing to realise is that this is a very complex matter, far more complex than your tiny, child minds appreciate. This is recognised in your English law, in fact there is an entire caste of lawyers who deal with such issues, the so-called Cellar Bar. The wine cellars are just the tip of the ice-cube, there are actually a

whole range of underground areas built around ancient caves. For example, there is the fellows-only dance floor, the Cavern Club, and below this is a store of spare punting equipment. Under the Pole Vaults are the stores of Champagne stored in racks with the bottle facing down for security — if a thief attempts to tamper with them, the agitation will cause the bottle to open explosively, like a rocket, and propel him through the floor above, thus protecting it by Brut force. But at the very lowest level lies the source of all the troubles. You will be aware that after the beginning of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks in 1969, the Western powers found it prudent to

conceal large nuclear stockpiles in secret underground locations. You may not be aware that one such SALT cellar lies directly beneath King's College. Now, what we fear is that the vibrations caused by a Mingle in the Hall could disturb sediment in the wine, causing fermentation to develop convection currents which would resonate with the punt poles and communicate the force to the champagne below, causing corks to be ejected through the floor and conceivably igniting the missiles below. A bit like in the game "Mousetrap". We have nicknamed this effect the "Champagne Supernova", after the song by popular band Blur. Do you like Blur?"

THE RED BAR

BY PETER
RINGOUT



OldThings

Senior Tutor shot dead in double murder

The senior tutor and a policeman were shot dead in the tutor's rooms in Gibb's. The events took place in June 1930, and centred around a fresher called D.N. Potts. Potts had disappeared, and following reports of his disappearance in the national press, he was tracked to London and was found "living among prostitutes" (L.P. Wilkinson, "A Century of King's"). Meeting Potts at Cambridge station, the senior tutor, A.F.R. Wollaston (distinguished by the fact that he failed to achieve honours in his degree), took him back to rooms in Gibb's.

As they were talking, a policeman entered, possibly on other business (The Times, June 1930). Suddenly drawing a pistol, Potts shot dead the policeman and the Senior Tutor, before turning the pistol on himself. Staff alerted by the noise found Potts was still alive, but he died later in hospital. A memorial fund was set up for the widow of the policeman.

Cellar Bar

It is now forgotten that in a time of student radicalism, the Cellar Bar was renamed "The Nelson Mandela Bar", and no one has officially renamed it since....

Chapel Chat

We all get depressed sometimes, and over its long history, several students at King's have taken their lives. It is not pleasant to dwell on such matters, but it we shall make an exception to discuss the case of the Ivor Ramsey, appointed dean in 1949. He was apparently unhappy at college, at least when among the fellows. On 21st January 1956, he returned late after visiting

some college property in Lancashire. He then went onto the roof of the chapel, and threw himself off the west end.

Old Magazines

King's Things and Red Dragon Pie are only recent magazines in the long history of King's literature, started in 1995 and 1989 respectively. Before RDP was Pulse in the mid-eighties, which counted David Baddiel as one of its contributors; and Pawn, an arts magazine during the sixties which was commandeered by Clive James.

For the most impressive line up of names, one has to look back to Baesilion, a magazine published annually from 1901. E.M. Forster contributed many pieces, several satirical, as did Provost-to-be J.T. Sheppard (he of the free wine fame). Most notable of all is the 1912 issue which includes the first appearance of Rupert Brooke's poem "Grantchester", then titled "Fragments from a poem to be entitled 'The Lost Exile'"

No Balls!

King's has no balls; instead, we have the June Event, but this was not always the way. The first June Event can be traced back to around the end of the sixties, when a growing dissatisfaction with the expense of the May Ball, perhaps due in part to the shifting in nature of the college's intake, as well as the general politicism which won the college its left-wing reputation was growing. It was not always known as a June Event, but initially was a very political reaction against the May Ball. Fred Unwin writing in his memoirs of his time as Market Hostel-keeper ("In the Shadow of King's") describes one year's event, known as the "Banana", the details of which are confused, but seem to involve students parading about the streets of Cambridge

wheeling a giant banana made out of chicken-wire in the lead-up to it. Wilkinson, in his tome "A Century of King's" makes some reference to May Balls and June Events; one in particular stands out. In 1972 students held a June Event known as Bread, which was an all night awareness event, with educational films, talks and events on the subject of hunger and third world poverty.

It is important to realise that although the June Event first started in the seventies, it was not a replacement for the May Ball. It seems that the June Event and May Ball took place in alternate years, a model followed by Jesus and many Oxford colleges. The last May Ball there is evidence of took place in 1982. Popular rumour has it that May Balls were banned in perpetuity following problems with fans of the Strangers gate-crashing the Ball sometime around 1980. While Stop Press does mention that one Cambridge resident was charged following a King's Ball, there is no evidence to support this theory; indeed, in the college newsletter in 1986, reference is made to the fact that there may be "no more than three events apart from the June Event and May Ball in any year".

The format of the June Event is now an almost entirely music-oriented one, whereas in its early days, films and other entertainments were a more prominent part of its variety. However, it was not the success then that it is now — the Event of 1974 was canceled, due to poor ticket sales, and according to Stop Press, there was a vote of KCSU in 1977 to abolish the Event entirely. A recent crucial turning point was in 1992 when permission was given to erect marquees on the front lawn, and hence greatly increase the June Event's potential. This permission is still under review by the "Mingles and June Event Working Party."

The Rag Trade

Rag within King's has, of recent years, been, well, non-existent, and is only now returning to prominence. The root cause its absence can perhaps be traced back to 1990 when Rag was a major part of college activity. As part of the Rag week fund-raising, the committee arranged a charity slave auction.

This did not go down well with certain members of college, who felt that the term "slave", however jokily it was intended, was offensive, and they sabotaged the events by placing "Cancelled" signs over the posters. An extraordinary KCSU open meeting was called, and eventually a "goodwill" donation of £100 was given to Rag, with the Rag team agreeing not to hold such an event again.

SportThings

Nightclimbing

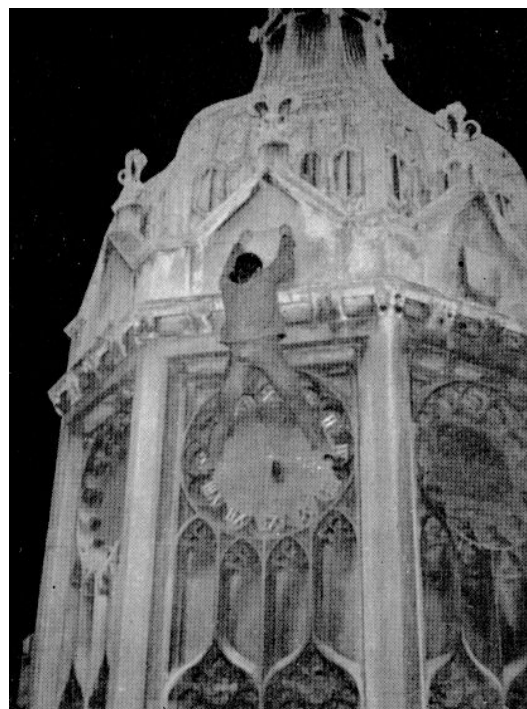
Nightclimbing is a sport peculiar to Cambridge which developed around the turn of the 20th century. It arose out of necessity: with college gates locked at 11pm, the only way in was over. Some students cultivated this to an art-form, and soon scaling the varied architecture of Cambridge became a recognised, though dangerous, sport.

Naturally, the building which is seen as the goal of all night climbers is King's College Chapel. Climbing the chapel used to be an almost straightforward

affair; a "chimney" with a lightning conductor gave easy access to the roof. However, in the 1930's, two nightclimbers wishing to mock the newly-crowned George VI were caught after suspending a dummy between two pinnacles. The college made some attempts to block further attempts with spikes in the chimney. Worried that this would cause more accidents than it prevented, the pair advised the Dean on how to make the climb impossible by blocking up the chimney completely.

This was not the end for the chapel; by the 1960s a new and far more arduous route had been devised. In 1967, the most daring scaling of the chapel took place as a protest against the Vietnam war. A group of four had a banner constructed bearing the phrase "Peace in Vietnam" and the operation went into effect on the night of the 6th of June. Placing the banner went off almost without incident, and the scale of the feat was enough to attract national interest. A letter sent (more to dissuade authorities from taking it down too quickly than from serious concern for safety) was sent to the Domus Bursar: "We would like to inform you, on the basis of our experiences last night, of the very dangerous condition of the stonework on the pinnacles of your chapel. We suggest unless restoration work is carried out immediately, the safety of future climbers of your chapel is in grave jeopardy." ("Cambridge Nightclimbing", Cambridge Library)

But the banner had to be removed eventually, and after volunteering it to do it themselves, the climbers came up



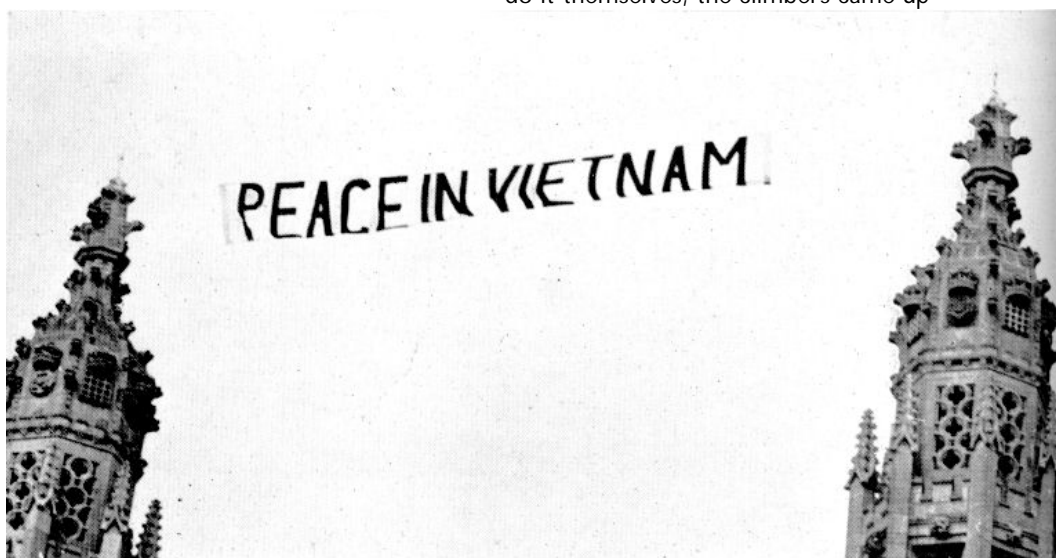
Above: a nightclimber on the porter's lodge

with an ingenious scheme which involved using a catapult to loop a rope round its supporting cords, and then pull razor blades over it, severing the support. They were rewarded with a crate of brandy for their troubles. Nowadays the chapel is usually climbed by the less hazardous route of asking the chaplain to take you up.

King's and communism

King's is often thought of as the most left-wing of colleges, but one has to look back to the 1920's for its most influential left-wing student. Ivor Montagu was fanatical about Table Tennis, with Communism coming a close second. So keen was he on Table Tennis that he produced a set of rules which were adopted by the Chinese and Japanese, and "even Chairman Mao had thoughts on the game" (L. P. Wilkinson, "Kingsmen of a century"). Montagu is often referred to as "introducing table tennis and communism to China". This seems a somewhat extravagant claim; it is probably more accurate to describe him as responsible for spreading communism, and introducing table-tennis to China. Nevertheless, he is (dimly) remembered at King's by the table-tennis room, which is officially called "The Montagu Room".

Left: the banner on the chapel





Jesus, King of King's

In a move that has brought comparisons with The Stone Roses and Tom Sharpe, God has ended 2000 years of speculation by publishing a Post Script (PS) to his last novel, New Testament, wittily entitled "New Testament 2". Rather than the fantasy world described in NT1 and his earlier collection of short stories, "Old Testament", the action has moved to present day England, and popular anti-hero Jesus has been revived using the clichéd device of reincarnation. Here is an extract from the book of Colin, describing Jesus' first days at university, which will shortly be pretentiously printed and distributed to every student in the known universe.

1. And so it came to pass that Jesus arrived at King's College Cambridge to read SPS, for it is written that all SPS students believe that they are God's gift to humanity

2. It was the feast of Matriculation, and Jesus did walk among the students. "What are you studying?" they asked, and "What A-levels did you do?"

3. Jesus was saddened by this, and replied: "A man's worth is found not in his achievements, but in his heart. Know, then, that I am the Son of God."

4. At this there was much disbelief, and one named Adam replied, "Well, my mum's A Famous Star Of Light Entertainment*, but I don't go on about it."

5. Jesus bade him be quiet. "I was first brought onto this earth two thousand years ago born unto the virgin Mary in a lowly cattle shed"

6. And a look of recognition settled on the face of the masses - "Ah! So you're a mature student." spake Adam.

7. "No, I am Lord of all earth!" he said, and saying this he went unto the canteen and brought forth a bottle of vinegar.

8. And before them all he caused the vinegar to be turned into college wine, saying "Look upon the miracle I perform for thee."

9. But the crowd pointed out that really there wasn't much difference between College wine and vinegar, so they weren't all that impressed.

10. The crowd dispersed, saying unto themselves "Oh no, not another loony mature student."

11. And Jesus saw that their hearts were stone and would not believe, so he spent the night getting pissed on vinegar instead.

12. The next day Jesus followed the students to their chapel, where Matriculation was to take place.

13. And the Provost spoke unto them, saying "welcome unto my college, children, er, have a nice day and remember to use a condom."

14. But Jesus paid no attention to this old fool, and instead roved about the chapel, his temple.

15. Spying the CDs of the choir, the pretty postcards and the umbrellas, his fierce

hangover left him and a fierce anger descended on him.

16. The display angered Jesus, for it was written that there must be no buying or selling in the house of God. And he began to overturn the stalls of the traders, and to scatter King's College Chapel paperweights across the floor.

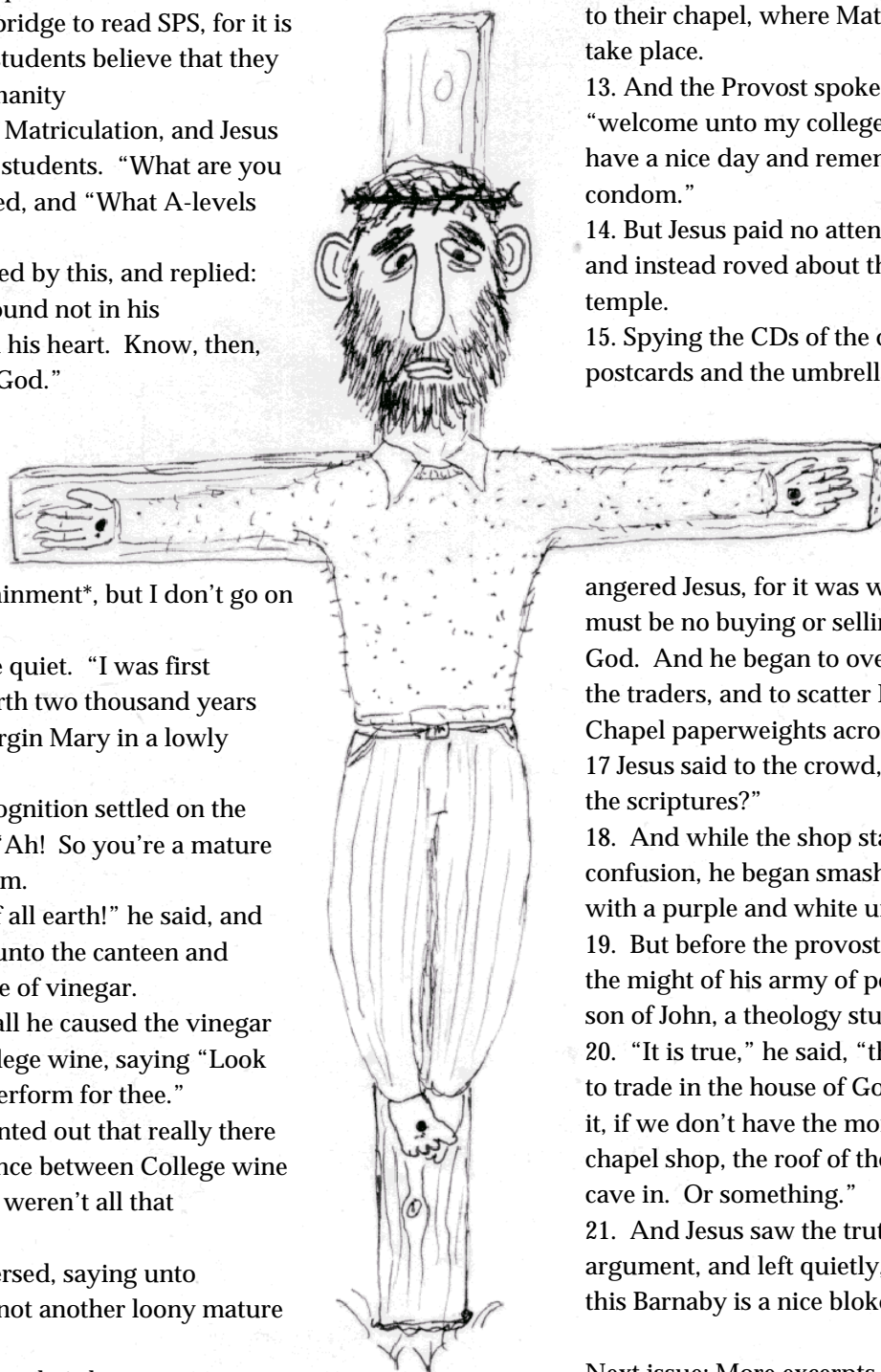
17 Jesus said to the crowd, "Do you not know the scriptures?"

18. And while the shop staff looked on in confusion, he began smashing the choir CDs with a purple and white umbrella.

19. But before the provost could bring down the might of his army of porters, Barnabas, son of John, a theology student spoke up.

20. "It is true," he said, "that it is forbidden to trade in the house of God. But, let's face it, if we don't have the money from the chapel shop, the roof of the building will cave in. Or something."

21. And Jesus saw the truth of this argument, and left quietly, saying "Truly this Barnaby is a nice bloke."



Next issue: More excerpts from "Jesus, King of King's", wherein Jesus goes to Cindy's to ask the sinners to repent, and shake his booty on down at the same time.

* see Eskimo Day. Or rather, don't

How to...

Tuition Fees, Top-up fees, Loans, grants — it's all too confusing if you ask me. So here's an overly simplified guide to dealing with cash.

i) Be rich

The easiest way to survive financially is to have so much money that it doesn't matter. After all, the best way to make a small fortune is to start with a large one, a policy that the college appears to be following very successfully. Unfortunately, this isn't terribly easy to arrange, and unless you happen to be heir to a large literary estate (the college has been reaping the fruits of E.M. Forster's back-catalogue since his death) then there's not much you can do, short of bumping off a few rich relatives. If you are rich though, don't let on; it simply isn't the done thing to let anyone know you aren't living in poverty at King's. For one thing, it gives an excellent excuse if you don't want to do something — just say you can't afford it. It is rumoured that several students have trust funds in the hundreds of thousands for when they are 21, which leads to much merry banter about who is the most well-endowed.

ii) Don't waste your money

If you're struggling to get by, it makes no sense to risk your money in dodgy foreign markets — a certified moron could tell you that much. But there are other ways people waste their money. Consider, for example, your mobile phone. Do you really need to be in contact with people 24 hours a day? As far as I can tell, the sole purpose of the mobile phone is to tell someone where you are: "Hello, I'm in the bank"; "Hello, I'm at the station"; "Hello, I'm on the train." Since your conversations would inevitably be "Hello, I'm in the bar," having a mobile phone seems somewhat excessive. The only circumstance in which it is acceptable to make use of a mobile phone is if you are providing a vital service for others — for example, if you are peddling drugs. I don't suppose anyone has Will Straw's mobile number?



...Manage Your Money

iii) Get some free money

Oh, how the fellows of Cambridge cackled themselves laughing as they went to lobby their ex-students in Westminster to keep the college fee, then returned to college to wade knee-deep in the slurry of slush funds, flash dinners, endowments and free port. Cambridge has had more than its fair share of loony benefactors, almost all of whom attached some bizarre conditions to their cash — if you can persuade the Dean of Sidney Sussex that you are a Liverpudlian Arch and Anth student with ginger hair and a lisp, then you can pick up a grant that's been piling up for several decades; there is an annual prize of £2000 for the best essay on police procedure in ancient Sparta which hasn't been awarded for so long that the judges will probably give you the prize for just about anything you submit. Other funds are less complicated to obtain — the Isaac Newton trust doles out several hundred quid to anyone who can convince the trustees that they are poor! — so gloss over that ½-million nest egg in trust, and get your hands on some cash up front. Amazingly, the easiest way to get free money at Cambridge is to be very clever — ignoring the numerous university prizes, King's gives out £150

to anyone who gets a first. Rumour has it that the college is so poor following recent monetary cock-ups that they are encouraging students to underperform, to cut down expenses in this area...

iv) Get a Job

Obviously, if all else fails, one guaranteed way to get money is to have a part-time job. Under no circumstances should you even consider something like McDonalds, if only for the shame when you have to serve one of your supervisors and ask if they want fries with that, and you really were too ill to make it to their last supervision. There are plenty of plum jobs which involve little or no effort within the university — ask your departmental secretary whether they need any filing done. Even in King's, opportunities are rife. You can serve in the bar, or wait on tables, but here the risk of bumping into supervisors is worse, as they will probably be pissed. The best jobs are things like supervising in the Turing Room, where you get £4 an hour to sit and check your email, or invigilating in the library, where you get £4 an hour to sit behind a desk and check your email.

v) Land a ridiculously large book advance

This is actually surprisingly easy. All you have to do is start off with a couple of

TV Special

featured Helen Baxendale supping tea in a cafe located on Clare Bridge; then there was the gut-wrenchingly awful Cyrano De Bergerac rip-off "The Student Prince" where one of Robson and Jerome attended an English lecture in Mill Lane and emerged in Selwyn (its saving grace was that he didn't try to sing); and who could forget our old favourite, Eskimo Day, prequel to Cold Enough for Snow. This lavish double spread includes every cliché we could remember from those uniformly awful programs.

"There's never owt on telly" as one character from the hit BBC drama "Cold Enough For now" commented; apart, that is, from the recent slew of Dramas set in and around the town of Cambridge. There was "An unsuitable job for a woman", which

An unsuitable job for an Eskimo Prince



Death had come suddenly to Regents' College. The revered Camford institution, not to be confused with the adjacent Regent's College, had long been famed for its High Chaparral, but now stared notoriety and two-hour-drama-dom in the face.

For the college's most successful cultural expert, Professor Pete "Zadie" Rylands, had been found dead with a large hole in his bank account and a purple sticker adorning his forehead. A Picasso portrait stood by his bed. Inspector Morose [to be played by Annette Crosbie] now stood over the body, one thing clear: "The moral?," muttered Morose, "Murder means money (7). But we're minus a motive. (6,3) Where is the person who saw him last? Lewes!?" he cried, calling in the perky porter supplied by central casting (and played by Robson Green). "Prince Pingu," replied Lewes the porter, in as authentic an accent as he could muster.

It was a name recognised by all. Prince Pingu, heir to the throne of Watalata-Kashituk and son of A Famous Star of Light Entertainment™, had come up to Regents' College (as opposed to Regent's College) at the express wish of the scriptwriter. He had immediately established a good relationship with Provost Pat (Alec Guinness) following the discovery of a shared interest in Blur. They were known to regularly disappear to the PinkPop night at nearby Regent's College (that is, not Regents' College).

Prince Pingu promptly presented himself. Despite the weather (it was cold enough for snow) he wore nothing but his red and white cassock and, mysteriously, a small

purple sticker. Morose, mystified, mentioned this. "This sticker?" replied Pingu via subtitles (provided by Gerard Depardieu) "Why, tis nothing but a promotion of the Moth Conspiracy." Sending Pingu away, Morose mused malevolently. The purple stickers were the key to the whole thing, he was sure. There was nothing for it but to call in Regent's, no, Regents' resident supersleuth, Pippa Poirot, the niece of the famous Fresian detective, Jim DeBergerac. Known to everyone as Crumpet, she and her pet parrot, Anglia Polly, were founder members of the Post-Prandial (Afternoon Tea) poetry reading Society, or PP(AT)S.

"Moth? Balls!" protested Pippa as she poured tea. "What you want is the Pissed Prats society. They've been seething ever since Provost Pat joined my society because he liked the name better." There was a pause. "Pissed Prats," echoed Polly, "Provost Pat. Pip-pip, Pippa. Peter Piper punched a pack of pickled punters."

Morose marvelled. Suddenly everything fell into place: Professor Pete, Provost Pat, Prince Pingu, PinkPop, Perky Porters, Pissed Prats. Even the Blur became clear: the Pissed Prats were disappearing to PinkPop. No doubt this was all part of the Moth Conspiracy, connected to the shadowy Shiel and His Dog society. 12 members of the band had formed a breakaway secret society from the secret society, known as the Disciples — this was the notorious Apostolic secession. Prince Pingu and the Disciples must then have used the

college's priceless Picasso (on loan to and from the Fitzwilliam museum) to frighten the old man. The final attempt had clearly gone too far and had given him a coronary: a case of a fatal art attack. But why?

Pippa had the answer: "Ever since the college currency set up by a previous Bursar in an attempt to emulate the success of Germany's economy, the so-called Mark of Keynes, crashed in the Far East Anglian Market, the college societies have been short of money. Pingu wanted more Pissed Prat participants so he'd planned a propaganda campaign to oust Polly and me from prominence, called 'Parrot Rhyme Shift' He must have been after the £25m Professor Pete received in advance for his next 125 books to pay for the poncy posters." But if robbery was the motive, Pingu was sorely disappointed: Professor Pete had lost the money in a venture to import foreign artifacts, the "Korea Service", and was virtually bankrupt. This had pushed Pingu over the precipice and so he had murdered the meek man.

Prince Pingu would be punished presently. Even if he escaped English justice, Eskimo law demanded that he walk into the snow and freeze himself to death. As he walked past the pleasantly lit Chaparral, Morose murmured:

"It seems that my Moth Conspiracy theory was wrong; it was just the Prince, it was that..."

"...Inuit all along?" proffered Pippa.
[fade to black from shot of giant toastrack]

Fab Quiz!

Could **you** write quality dramas about Cambridge for national TV? Here's your chance to find out:

Section 1: The Programme

- 1) Is your main character played by
 - a) Helen Baxendale ?
 - b) Robson Green ?
 - c) Maureen Lipman ?
- 2) Is your romantic interest played by
 - a) Tara Fitzgerald ?
 - b) F. Scott Fitzgerald ?
 - c) Maureen Lipman ?



- 12) Do you like Blur ?
 - a) Yes b) No c) Only the early stuff
- 13) Are you
 - a) Not quite as clever as you think you are ?
 - b) Not quite as clever as ITV thinks you are ?
 - c) Not quite as clever as Robson and Jerome ?

Section 2: Background Research

- 3) Gowns are worn on an everyday basis by
 - a) Students b) Surgeons c) Salad
- 4) Trinity College is
 - a) On Trinity Street b) On Bridge Street
 - c) On top of Selwyn
- 5) Formal Halls are places to
 - a) Eat b) Live c) Avoid
- 6) One addresses the Master thus:
 - a) *Salve magister!* b) Hi Pat
 - c) Weren't you in Dr Who then?
- 7) King's College Chapel is in
 - a) Cambridge b) Oxford
 - c) The background to nearly every scene

Section 3: Your own ideas

- 8) Is Cambridge:
 - a) The exclusive preserve of the upper classes ?
 - b) The rightful preserve of the upper classes ?
 - c) The exclusive and rightful preserve of the upper classes ?
- 9) What college did you go to?
 - a) All Souls b) All Saints c) All Selwyn
- 10) Anne Atkins is
 - a) Right b) Wrong c) Me
- 11) Are drinking societies
 - a) Big ? b) Funny ? c) Clever ?

Section 4: Other People's ideas

Can you identify the TV dramas from the following cryptic clues?

- i) Critics complained about Emma Hebblethwaites's reading from the Good News translation of the Old Testament at Christmas, claiming that the passage was...
- ii) The CUSU Indigenous Peoples Campaign holds which awareness event at the start of each December?
- iii) What do W. Eaden Lilley, Photographers, offer to supply to people attending Graduation ceremonies?
- iv) To which college did Carol Vorderman go?

How did you score?

If you scored, you must have gone to Exeter instead.

Answers

- i) An unsuitable Job for a woman
- ii) Eskimo Day
- iii) the student prints
- iv) and Carol's from King's, of course...



KING'S TELLY RM

6.00pm Look East

Regional news magazine. Will be watched by Derek and Janice's mates in the mistaken belief that Derek's ear or a bit of Janice's hair is going to appear in focus somewhere during an important local report about swans.

8.00 Outer Space: Up Its Own Arse

Sci-fi. There's panic aboard the SS Zxygwzgz when Xwgizgignv accidentally injects Captain Gzzgymwgzx with a deadly virus, causing him to develop a third character dimension.

9.00 The Quick Show

All your favourite characters including The Nagging Grandparents ("It wasn't like this in our day"); Mr. Flatulence; Quentin Crisp, The Naked Civil Servant; the woman who keeps crying; and the bloke who always says "...and that's why I collect beetles!" Comedy.

9.30 The Big Match – Live by Satellite

Political comedy. A mad Australian decides that nobody can watch twenty-two men kicking a ball about without sending him huge quantities of money.

11.00 Film premiere National Lampoon's Diminishing Returns 44

Tragedy. Some American teenagers try to get in each other's knickers, whilst some American film producers try to get a cinema release.

12.25am Man with a Very Large Knife

Seminal stalk-and-slash thriller. Will be interrupted after about half an hour when somebody realises everybody else is asleep.

1.05 Azerbaijani Tractor Hurling

Nine hours of uninterrupted sporting action from the Worldwide Shite channel, seen only by that Azerbaijani grad bloke. Unless he's playing Doom.

10.00–10.30 Teletubbies

Is there life outside King's?

Extracts from the Caius Newsletter

It's sometimes said that Red Dragon Pie is focused entirely on King's, and the experiences of the small number of people who contribute to it. Yeah, like I give a shit. But we were recently contacted by the editor of the Caius Newsletter, who wanted to nick some of our material, and offered some of his own in return.

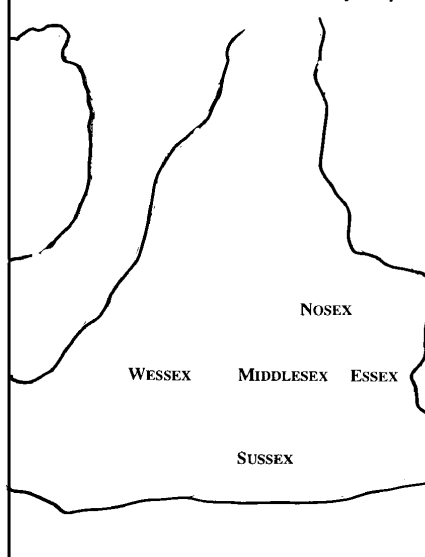
Their magazine is somewhat different to RDP; produced two to three times a term, it is A5 format, and like the new-look Independent, is not afraid to make extensive use of white space. As well as humorous articles and opinion columns, it also contains sports reports and edicts from Caius Student Union (be pretty bloody stupid if they printed stuff from Trinity...), although at times it is difficult to tell the difference.

I am pleased to report that there are indeed articles which are completely incomprehensible to the outsider; it also gives a fascinating insight into what life is like at Caius. For example the Freshers' week issue makes repeated reference to "sharking", which, I am informed, is the practice of older students attempting to coerce the new students into sexual activities. So that's what it's called.

Other features defy all sense — every page of the last issue has an anagram of the same set of letters ("What painless joy", "Jo Whaley is pants", "So play with Jeans"). If anyone could explain this, I would be most surprised.



Restructuring of Ordnance Survey maps



Above - a full page cartoon. Below - a columnist confesses.

When I write stuff for this newsletter I like to divide the page into columns as I think it looks professional. Usually I have something to write which fills at least two of the aforesaid columns. After this I write absolute nonsense to fill the remaining space. Unfortunately today I sat down.

A quick escape home? Visiting a friend? Christmas shopping in London?

Caius operates a "BR Liaison scheme" in conjunction with Cambridge station. The idea is to save everyone a walk to the station or a very long phone call and equip someone in each college with timetables etc. so that they can answer questions about

- * **Train times and quickest routes**
- * **Ticket prices and their arcane rules**
- * **Eurotunnel, eurorailing, railcards etc.**

Additionally, I have a stock of useful pocket timetables, Young Person's Railcard leaflets and so on.

Is this serious? Above - one for the Trainspotting generation. Below - presumably some kind of in-joke

Basically I'd like to tell you an absolute classic that happened to me and my mates while protecting rare "Vanker" flies in the Zambesi basin. Basically I think you'll agree it's an absolute classic. Basically me and Charlie (why is it people called Charlie are always just that little bit of a card?) were in a jeep when Hugh, who's always been a real card, rushed in and said that he'd just seen Harry 'carding' it up in absolutely classic fashion. We all had a real laugh.

Well, it just goes to show that some things are universal. The following is an excerpt from an article in the last Caius Newsletter. Spelling and punctuation are exactly as published.

THE BAR ISSUE: AN OPINION

It's a commonly held view that Caius bar is 'full of cunts'. This reveals either that people dislike the people in their college. This is the same at all colleges and cannot be helped. The alternative is that people from other colleges are being perceived as 'cunts' and are making the bar unpleasant for people from their own college. This does appear to be borne out by the evidence. Consider how many people at Caius go to the bar Never and how many people from other colleges say 'Let's get in our blazers and go to Caius'. This appears to be despite the buttery book system. You try getting served in King's if you're not from there. Apparently the bar can throw out whomsoever they choose. This is a tricky position because just as some students will be offended by someone else's friends, you should be able to take your friends to the bar, however they are dressed and whatever sports they talk about. I shall return to this point later.

It is time for the students of Caius to take a consistent position on the bar. The issues to consider are: the interior design, the clientele, the opening hours and its reputation with the other colleges [...] Why has no-one considered splitting the two parts of the bar, locking the dividing doors. One could be set aside for drinking and one for sitting, having a chat, and maybe a quiet drink. If this were the case maybe I would come into college. Riotous drinking is a pastime of many Cambridge undergraduates and however pathetic it is, life is hard here and we are only mortal. Splitting the bar won't divide college anymore than having two halls or two major accommodation blocks or individual rooms instead of dormitories. Only when the students at this college feel welcome again and the heavy drinkers realise they are in fact in the minority will Caius become a fully integrated college. Lets have two sections to the bar, one for the people who never come in and one for the most blatant minority since fun.

Get Barter!

RDP chats to the bursar about life, money, and cricket

Ian Barter has been bursar at King's for eight years. Educated at Caius, he came to King's via a career spanning both law and industry. His interests include cricket (he is a lifelong follower of Surrey) and collecting books.

RDP: What exactly is it that the bursar does?

IB: The main responsibility of the bursar is to manage the administration, and also therefore to manage the finances. King's is a lot more complicated than other colleges – we have a lot of staff, the research centre, and the Chapel – then we have a lot of royalties coming in – for example, E.M. Forster left the rights to all his books to the college, so there is money from the books, and also from film adaptations, as well as royalties from the choir and the chapel shop.

RDP: What is the total annual income?

IB: Seven million pounds – income and expenditure! It mostly goes on staff – our biggest expense is wages.

RDP: What are your thoughts on the college charge and rents?

IB: We set the rents here at about the lowest level in Cambridge, and with the college charge you get the canteen, which is good value, and serves pretty good food, I think! But with the government review of the College Fee, it seems likely that other, smaller colleges, will have to put up their charges up quite a lot; we cannot have a huge gap between us and them because it would mess up the admissions, as people would prefer the "low cost college" – we already have more applications than any other college.

RDP: What's your opinion about the review of higher education funding?

IB: We have to be most interested in what happens to the College Fee. The big question is 'is the government going to fund the colleges?' Because if it doesn't then we will all be in trouble. If they can't meet the costs, then we will have to levy the fees.

RDP: How did the colleges investments fare in the recent Far East crash?

IB: Well, everyone who had investments in the Far East in the past few months took quite a blow. On the other hand, there's what's been happening in the country and America, with the markets reaching record levels – so it all evens out in the long run.

RDP: What about stories about the college's poor fortunes in the property markets in the late eighties?

IB: Well, you see, when you are investing, the most crucial thing is the timing. So you can invest in something good at the wrong time. If you were investing in property, and you invested in 1984 then you would have done very nicely. If you invested in 1988, 1989, then you'd only just now be beginning to get your money back. The one thing you have to learn is that nobody gets the timing right all the time.

RDP: What is "the endowment"?

IB: Look at it like this: in 1441, when Henry VI set up the college, he gave money to build it and the chapel, all the land here. And so we would go on having income, he gave the college money and property around the country and various other investments. All of that is what we term the endowment.

RDP: Is it possible to put a figure on that?

IB: No, it isn't, because it includes the chapel, and you can't put a value on that. I once asked a quantity surveyor how much it would cost to reinstate the chapel, and he said hundreds of millions, maybe a billion or more - that's the cost. But we couldn't sell it, so it's "worth" nothing.

RDP: But you'd rather have a chapel than a millenium dome

IB: Er... yes...

HOLD THE BACK PAGE – IT'S AN ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION!

Yes, we've been literally flooded with one whole contribution not submitted by one of the usual suspects. Come on, this is a community magazine, don't be afraid to contribute. So glad were we to receive this solitary submission that we even dropped our "no poetry" rule (again) and overlooked the somewhat suspect scansion:

The Tranquilliser Queen

Droning on a monotone,
I wish she'd leave us all alone.
She's so dull it is a crime,
But inspiration for my rhyme

Her lecture notes do fill the quota
So we've decided on a rota
To send one student wednesday morns
And save the rest from all our yawns

We sit here in a trance-like doze
If she don't stop soon, comatose
You know I wish I'd never been
To hear the tranquilliser Queen

Anon (Anon Anon...)



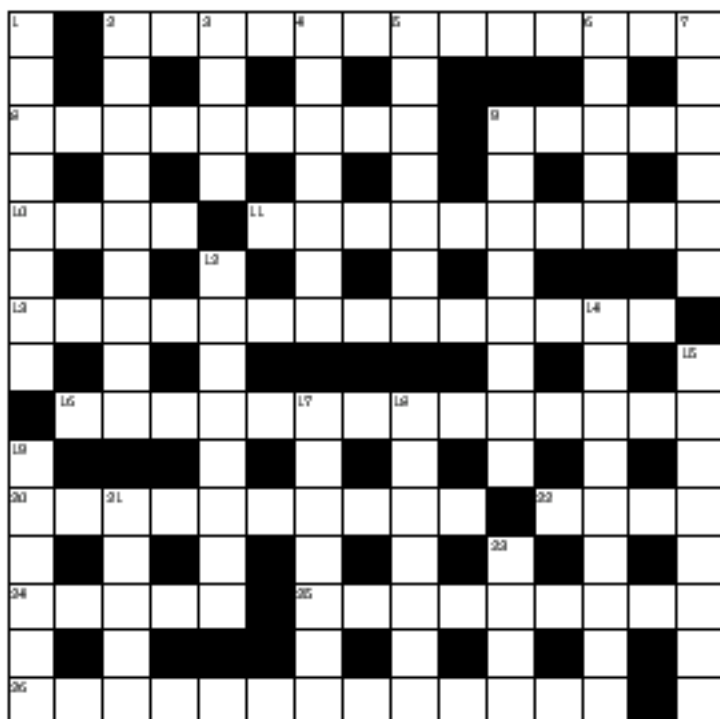
STEVE'S TASTEFUL CARTOON CORNER

Is this the end of RDP as we know it?

My time here is growing short; I need to start working for my finals. Does this mean there will be no more RDP? Of course not; you can expect one more issue next term (providing I'm not sent down in the meantime), so there's one last chance for you to send something in before the publication once more warps out of all recognition. Submissions to 619, before the deadline, June 1st

RDP CROSSWORD

set by lumina



Across

- 2 Ape-man . . . (13)
- 8 . . . like an oyster producing a pearl . . . (9)
- 9 . . . and surprisingly joined a church movement . . . (5)
- 10 . . . as God returns in suede (4)
- 11 Labour leader provokes hunting lobby (3, 7)
- 13 He examines you, and is sorry about the nasty thorn (14)
- 16 Gibbon wrote it down twice - . . . (7,3,4)
- 20 . . . "You'll see me in a different light, different light" (10)
- 22 "A drop of the hot stuff? Right!" (4)
- 24 "Spill my pint? You?" (overheard contribution) (5)
- 25 High art on hilltops - the 'phones won't stop ringing (9)
- 26 Ape-man? (13)

Down

- 1 Fielding, but not you or I (5, 3)
- 2 Spin the wheel (expertly) after the detective (9)
- 3 Small - nothing in it - article (4)
- 4 City worker - two points (nice accent) (7)
- 5 An unexpected delivery of eccentrics (7)
- 6 Interior of pub - the Queen's Head (5)
- 7 They ruined everything by letting Edgar start at the top (6)
- 9 10A's other halves? (8)
- 12 Worthless questions on computer science, set beforehand (8)
- 14 Unfairly blame kid after pointless bid for freedom (9)
- 15 Outside, Leo's wearing a terrible scarf (2, 6)
- 17 Officers, no, NCOs - about a thousand? (7)
- 18 Old-style interior? Try a new red coat! (3,4)
- 19 Sunday school's out - I'm in Italy (6)
- 21 "Listen, pal . . . (3,2)
- 23 . . . they adore silver in the secret services" (4)

Send your completed solution to box 619 for a chance to win £25 million, budget permitting. The answers to last issue's crossword... have been lost in handover