CONTENTS OF LINACRE L(N)ES

EDITORIAL: A MODEST 25 POUNDS
PHOTO COMPETITION: BETWIXT / BETWEEN

WHAT'S THE BUZZ - NEW BUILDING
THE YOUNG AND PASSIONATE MAKE A DEAL
PHIL WEST UNCUT

NEIL WHITE IN CARPEDIA
THE RISE AND FALL OF A LI(N)ES PREDECESSOR
HANDS UP FOR DARFUR

PHOTO SHOWCASE: MARIA RADAN
BRIDGING THE TOWN AND GOWN DIVIDE

RUGBY: BARBARIAN INVASIONS
DARTS!
CAPOEIRA
YOGA,YOGA,YOGA

WHY SEX?
GAMES: CRYPTIC CROSSWORD, SUDOKU
BUNDT CAKE RECIPE OF THE YEAR
FAME! FORTUNE! LINACRE!
MEET THE CR EXEC
TRINITY TERM CARD

VISIT US ONLINE:
HTTP://WWW.LINACRE.OX.AC.UK/COMMONROOM/LINACRE-LI-N-ES

Photo, Illustration: Olivier Jarda
Arguably the most controversial topic discussed at Common Room meetings this year has revolved around a £25 fee. It has been proposed that the fee be charged to students and visitors wishing to connect to the college network next year.

The computing committee proposed the fee, which would be used to pay for a new full-time employee in the college IT department. The proposal now stands before the finance committee, which is set to discuss the matter in week three of Trinity term.

Some students spoke out against the fee, arguing that currently no Oxford college charges its students significant fees to connect to the internet (New College charges a nominal £1 fee). Such a fee is common practice in Cambridge.

The full-time employee position has already been offered, adding pressure on the college to come up with the extra cash.

Students wishing to connect more than one computer to the college network would have to pay £25 per computer.

In the event that the motion passes, students will still be able to connect to the internet wirelessly at no charge. Those most likely to be affected will be students living on campus wishing to connect their computers through ethernet.

Questions still surround the fee regarding who will pay and whether or not it can be fairly applied.

For example, in the event that a student on campus would refuse to pay the fee, he/she would still be entitled to the same services offered to students living off campus who simply have no need for the connection.

The fee as proposed would target those living in college accommodation while the money raised would be used to pay for extra staff which would benefit all college members.

If this indirect fee is implemented, it’s fair that students living in college accommodation expect something in return for this fee. Perhaps something could be done about speeding up internet connection. I would definitely pay a modest £25 for that.
PHOTO COMPETITION

Theme: Betwixt and Between

Dear Linacrites, I am happy to announce the annual photo competition is upon us again.

This year’s theme is “Betwixt and Between”, and it calls for the inspiration that comes from undefined states. You will have to look for the betweenness of things, the ambiguity, the openness. Think ‘between the boxes’ and fixed categories. Give a chance to undefined things and moods, celebrate ambivalence, become aware of the vague and open-ended!

You can submit photographs under the general theme “Betwixt and Between” and / or under any of the following sub-themes: Travel (between here and there) / Blurry images (neither one thing nor the other) / Moods / Moments (between then and now).

Here is what you need to do: send your pictures to lina.photosoc@googlemail.com no later than Sunday 27th of April. After the closing date, all photos will be posted on this website http://mmr.innertemple.net/ and you will be given a chance to vote online for your favourite entries. The most popular photographs will be printed, hung on the walls of the Common Room throughout the whole month of May, and sprinkled with some fine wine for everybody’s delight at the official opening of the exhibition. Also, there will be some surprise prizes for the winners (first three places).

The competition is open to all college members. You can send as many pictures as you want, as long as you are the author and owner of copyright. For better printing results (A4 size), make sure you send high resolution images (at least 1240x1754).

I hope you’ll have fun exploring the theme and I look forward to receiving your entries! If you have any questions, email me at maria.radan@linacre.ox.ac.uk

Dear Linacrites, I am happy to announce the annual photo competition is upon us again.
Fifteen months ago, long before starting at Oxford, I visited a couple of colleges to have a look around. Linacre, not as brash as many of the old colleges, stood out nonetheless; modern facilities, thoughtfully constructed new buildings and a charming garden area – complete with fountain and a pristine lawn. Linacre was petite but perfectly formed.

I dreamt of lazy summer weekends lounging around on that lawn. Imagine my horror, ten months later, to find a construction site right outside my window and on my beautiful lawn! My beautiful lawn!

I was a little disappointed by it all and didn't enjoy the view of builders and scaffolding very much – so much so that my blinds have been closed for much of the past 6 months. To make matters worse, the official Linacre alarm clock at 7:30 am of loud drilling and teeth-chattering vibrations was not the ideal start to my DPhil. I live in the Abraham building, which adjoins the new building and has suffered worst from the disruption. Reports of mobile phones falling off desks due to excessive vibrations are not unheard of. Sleep deprivation and a noisy work environment are also to blame for less than optimal productivity.

To its credit, the college has been reasonable and given many residents a significant rent rebate and fair warning over additional disruption - no doubt the benefits of living in a graduate college with close communication between staff and...

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**WHAT'S THE BUZZ**

**griﬃths building to open in may**

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All statistics taken from the OUSU MCR President’s Questionnaire 2006-2007. In the graphs used, 22 college presidents responded.
students. Not all colleges in the past have compensated residents for similar disruption. The new building, the [Rodney] Griffiths building, will be a significant step forward for Linacre. With 32 en-suite rooms (4 of which are doubles), the Griffiths building will boost total numbers on the main college site by over 50%.

Costing £2 million, the construction has been a considerable investment for one of Oxford’s poorest colleges. But only by building on college land could the project have been affordable, and housed as many students in the city centre. Modern building regulations ensure that all new buildings are environmentally friendly and, as ever, care has been taken to ensure that fixtures and fittings are in keeping with Linacre’s high environmental standards. For example, one design of shaver lighting was rejected for being incompatible with low-energy light bulbs.

The building is anticipated to be complete by mid-May, with some short-stay occupants over the summer to help iron out the kinks before the main influx of students arrive for a full academic year in October. With this addition, Linacre will now be able to accommodate a greater proportion of its graduates than the university average and, although there aren’t any current plans for future projects, the college is always keen to increase the percentage of students it can house.

Living on the main site since October, I have found the daily disruptions tiresome but I have also greatly enjoyed and benefited from being so close to college. I’m excited that more students will now see this side of Linacre life and look forward to a more active and integrated Common Room. With this new building and plans to expand our garden area into the playing fields next door, Linacre is growing, providing a better service for its members and looking to the future. Once the building is complete, boarding removed and garden reclaimed, I’m confident we’ll see a Linacre better than ever.

Editor: Phil West recently informed me that Linacre College has agreed on an amicable 99-year land lease (for £5000) with New College for a part of its sports grounds, which will give Linacre roughly the amount of green space it lost to the new building. -OJ

Illustration: Helena Maratheftis

text for lines

lines@linacre.ox.ac.uk
Neil White has been living a double life. The first-year DPhil in Plant Sciences has been flying around the continent during Hilary term in order to fulfill his touring duties. Just before starting at Oxford, White’s band agreed to tour Europe with hip hop duo The Cool Kids.

White’s own two-man band, The Carps, is comprised of Jamal Tonge on drums and vocals, and White on bass and keyboards. Their sound dances around hip hop and indie rock. Tonge’s soulful voice floats over his driving drums, with White providing infectious lines of overdriven bass and synth.

White and Tonge met over a decade ago, when they were both involved in a youth community outreach project in a suburb of Toronto, Canada known for its high rates of violence. They met while teaching kids how to play instruments. They eventually tired of playing covers and started writing songs.

The Carps used to be a three-piece band. Due to an unreliable drummer, Tonge would get on the kit and he and White would practice Death From Above 1979 tunes. The crowds were responsive to the tunes they came up with as a duo, the format they began to play in three years ago.


White has set up a studio in his room at Linacre in order to contribute to the Carps’ projects. Aside from having home studio set ups, ”We’ve gotten to the point where people are willing to fly us to the other side if we want to play a concert,” says White.

When asked about juggling an Oxford DPhil with a rock band, White answers: “I would’ve done it regardless of whether or not I’d be able to sort things out with the band.” White recognizes that living in Europe has allowed him “to expand our network of musical contacts, while Jamal holds down everything back in North America.”

Before recording, the Carps looked to the Roots for inspiration.
The young and passionate make a deal
Linacrite Neil White on balancing a DPhil and a Eurotour

“Their song, Seed 2.0, that’s a big song for us,” says White. They wanted an album with that raw and distinctive sound, so they called up the studio the Roots use to record and asked for an independent musician’s discount. They drove to Philadelphia and recorded for a day. “They only charged us $300,” says Neil. Roots drummer Questlove was in the studio at the time, and the Carps were able to use his drum kit for the recordings. Questlove invited the band to open up for Dice Raw, a hip hop artist who’s appeared on several Roots albums. The Carps have since been back to the Philadelphia studio to record more material at no charge.

I play bass and I play synth. My name is Neil. I am wearing a bowtie.*

Although the Carps have played shows in their native Canada, they’ve focused more on Europe and the US. “The Canadian market is terribly small,” says White, “especially if you’re appealing to a niche market.”

White has enjoyed juggling music and academics this year, even though it’s forced him to bring his notes on the road. “All the time that I’m not spending doing stuff related to music I’m spending at the lab or spending doing my readings. It would be difficult at times saying no to these amazing after-parties. If I want to do something as serious as a DPhil here, I have to be diligent about it, and respect that I’m involved in such a thing.”

White’s highlights during the Carps’ Hilary term tour include opening for the Hives and crowd surfing in Toronto. There are no signs of slowing down for the summer.

*Neil never said this.
Phil West Uncut

Interviw with

the man behind the jumper

What has been the biggest challenge so far as CR president?

I’ve not really had any big challenges so far but I can see a couple on the horizon. The obvious issues where we might see some clashes are over the current plans to introduce a £25 network connection charge and the proposed ‘fellow-only’ second Common Room in the Nadel room. Other areas of my role, such as working with the exec, speaking to Common Room members and dealing with outside third parties are only just getting off the ground after the Easter break.

Have you found the college administration helpful?

Yes, they have been very welcoming and quick to offer help. It’s obviously important to have a close and fruitful relationship with the college staff and I hope this will continue despite any disagreements that might arise. For example, I’ve already had a few discussions with staff about the network connection charge and they’ve been positive towards the idea of reaching a solution instead of adopting an entrenched position.

There was a very low candidate turnout in the last Linacre CR elections, and most candidates ran uncontested. Is this an issue you plan to address?

I have a couple of plans about how to encourage people to stand by emphasising the benefits of the posts and possibly by making them less onerous. When I decided to stand, I was genuinely interested in helping the college and getting more involved but I’m also surprised at what valuable experience it has already turned out to be. I find a lot of the discussions actually pretty interesting and being exposed to the mechanism of decision making is useful experience. I have also been considering how we could make the roles more attractive to students. For example, a lot of the college meetings take place in the middle of the day, which may suit students based around the science area and in the college but might be prohibitive to students based further away. Perhaps the college could reschedule meetings to either end of the day to make the obligations of the exec membership less of a burden. I am also hopeful that having more students onsite will increase the number of active members, with more willing to get involved.
There has also been a very low voter turnout...

Understandably, if there isn’t a contest it’s hard to motivate people to vote in an election. Similarly, members need to feel the Common Room is relevant to them before they will care to vote. There generally aren’t going to be any big ideological or directional changes decided by these elections so they will often boil down to confidence in the candidates ability to manage their role. If we have a contest there will at least be something to vote on. Bullying apathetic members to vote for a single candidate instead of R.O.N. is not something to aspire for.

Have you been dealing with other CRs on any matters?

Fairly regularly the MCR presidents from the various colleges consult each other on a range of issues. For example, one MCR has recently been asking for comparisons over bar policies to support their position with their college governing body. I have been in contact with all MCR presidents to discuss Linacre’s proposed connection charge and gauge IT provisions in other Oxford colleges.

What do you think of Linacre CR’s disaffiliation with OUSU?

I think OUSU does have a role to play and has a team of committed people to represent the students on broader university issues. However, I don’t think graduates gain much from being directly affiliated with OUSU and Linacre isn’t particularly wealthy. As such it is hard to justify the affiliation fee but if things change then we can always reconsider.

What do you think of the Development/OUSU rep position on the CR exec? Should it remain as is?

In light of our disaffiliation, I think this position on the exec is poorly defined and I am keen to make its role clearer. I am personally passionate about development and would like to see the Common Room supporting the development office’s efforts by giving it more student input. For example, perhaps the development rep could make some slide-shows / photo albums of Common Room events to present to old members. I feel a lot of old members will initially think of the Common Room when looking back on their time at Linacre so I’d like to see that reflected in any alumni communication. There are other possible functions we could look to see fulfilled by this or another position too. Fundraising for Common Room activities or liaising with external charities are other things that have been discussed.
Only seven years ago Linacre Lines was born in its current form. Now I have to admit that Linacre is a young college. But surely older than this? And surely, those earlier Linacrites must once in a while have felt the urge to write something down for their peers to read?

After a deep dig in archives and libraries (as far as depth goes in a fifty-year deposit), this self-fashioned college historian found two things: official college publications, with which we will not concern ourselves here; and one - only one - Common Room journal.

First Edition was our outlet in a period when Linacre had approximately two hundred students; when heated discussions of Cold War politics were bon ton in Oxford; when talking PC was a novelty; when on the map of Oxford Linacre College was still a small quadrangle south of Christ Church, and the current OC Tanner Building functioned as a convent; in short: in the nineteen seventies.


But maybe the Linacre Common Room was more obviously political than it is nowadays? To start off, we get the 'Constitutional Crisis Issue'. A ferocious debate develops over Nixonian foreign policy, including a pertinently sickening cartoon of Nixon pouring tomato ketchup over his cottage cheese. Other concerns are the correct representation of the 'American Indian' ("Dare we call him "red"?") and Britain's abandonment of her Commonwealth partners in the sugar trade. Linacrites now knew how to save the 'south-western countries' by buying cane instead of beet sugar.

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It becomes immediately clear that editors-in-chief were not necessarily of a more optimistic stock than they are nowadays, as we can read in the thank-you to 'those who did bother to contribute'. Readers are begged to '[g]ive it a try. SERIOUSLY THOUGH.'

But we are also informed about internal politics. One article reports on the debacle surrounding Dining Hall's serving of 'mystery meat'. There is at least something that has improved over the years. Classical is the debate over student power in college governance. The 'Linacre spirit' of shared aims by students and fellows is said to be an illusion, and the Common Room denounced as 'little more than a social and sporting institution'. That makes one wonder

Plans were drawn to transform into Oxford University's graduate magazine - a counter-weight to Cherwell.
whether students’ real power has increased over a period of thirty years. Or is Linacre governed so ably that students are satisfied with the CR as a provider of leisure activities? Another interesting criticism is contributed as a fully signed poem against exploitation by a certain DPhil supervisor. We can only hope this First Edition was published after the marking of the poet’s dissertation.

Arts, sports and leisure feature less prominently. Yet we learn that the OU Rambling Club was already in full tow and that college parties were sometimes enlivened by our own Music Society’s ‘madrigals, motets, and part songs, mainly of the sixteenth century.’ Ah, those were the days...

The odd deep & dark adolescent poetry is there, too, full of ‘cosmic whirlpools’ and ‘superannuated gods.’ (Or maybe I am a barbarian and I should just read my Nietzsche.)

In the second issue, the editorial board thought it could permit to be ambitious. First Edition gained a graphical editor and an office assistant. Plans were drawn to transform into Oxford University’s graduate magazine - a counterweight to Cherwell. The amount of contributions even forced the board to refuse articles, and still the aim was for even more writers, more selectivity, and higher standards. All Linacrites were invited to write political, topical and academic pieces (but with a ‘general and immediate appeal’, meaning: no ‘cumbersome references’). Most importantly, the editors hoped for more creative writing at Linacre: ‘Everyone should do it; it’s a most excellent way of wasting time while still allowing one to feel “busy.” At this point the Sunday historian takes a puzzled look at the number of issues that remain on her desk.

One. What had happened? First to mind springs the thought that this must be a Bodleian glitch. Typical. Lost the other issues on their way from the Cheshire bunkers. Then, as the reader slowly leafs through the third magazine, the tragedy dawns on her.

Contributions have plummeted. The editors sardonically ascertain that apparently there is neither the talent (?) nor the interest needed to sustain First Edition. They see a bleak future for graduate identity.

The only glimpse of light in this final issue comes from an advertorial for ‘ICI fibres’, inserted in the middle fold and promising colourful self-knitted seventies jumpers.

Or maybe hope should be derived from the deep awareness the many Letters to the Editor display, of the importance of a good college atmosphere, the successful integration of new students, the balancing of different nationalities, a high level debate during Common Room meetings and the social function of the Dining Hall. Involvement does not necessarily only show on paper.

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Still, Linacre Lines survives substantially longer than three issues, and clearly the talent is there. We will see about the rest. SERIOUSLY THOUGH.

I leave it to the reader to compare the olden days with the new. Let’s say: stuff for the dinner table. Are we angry over the same issues? Do the same metaphysical doubts haunt us? Are graduates busier than thirty years ago or/and is Oxford still in need of a graduate identity?

And do we still solve croquet problems?
“It almost makes me wish I was a girl...” read the online invitation by one of my course-mates to what would prove to be an elegant evening of jewellery, handbags, champagne and chocolate. He was right, what more could a girl want? But as it turned out, the event was about so much more than purses and necklaces.

A recent theme emerging from the fashion industry in the past few years has been charity in fashion. One of the most obvious examples of the “fashion with a purpose” phenomenon is PRODUCT(RED), an initiative created by Bono of U2 and Bobby Shriver, Chairman of DATA, to raise awareness and money for The Global Fund. PRODUCT(RED) has successfully teamed up with some of the world’s most iconic brands and celebrities to produce “RED” branded products, the proceeds from which help women and children affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa. Other examples of the “fashion with a purpose” phenomenon include rubber wrist bands being distributed by several charities supporting cancer awareness, poverty alleviation amongst other worthy causes.

An example of this phenomenon which is a bit closer to home are the recent fundraising events being organised by ‘Hands Up for Darfur’, an initiative set up by a group of Oxford students in September 2006. Frustrated by the inaction over the crisis in Darfur, this group organises forums, speakers and charity events to raise awareness of the devastating catastrophe that has been raging there.

Following the success of the Hands Up for Darfur jewellery parties, on Friday of 1st week Hands Up for Darfur is putting the Hands Up Fashion Show at the Oxford Town Hall.
The current conflict in Darfur began in February 2003 when rebel groups began attacking government targets in this region of the Sudan. The conflict has since escalated between the rebels, the government and militia groups. Over 200,000 people have been killed in the region and an estimated 2.5 million have been displaced by the conflict. The displaced are primarily housed in refugee camps where there is the constant threat of violence, and there is insufficient, food, water, and sanitation available. ‘Hands Up for Darfur’ aims to actively engage the Oxford University student community to take action and to raise funds to support the Médecins Sans Frontières and Kids for Kids charities working in Darfur.

‘Hands Up for Darfur’ activities range from the more thought-provoking and awareness-building forums to the more light-hearted social fundraising events. In 2007, ‘Hands Up’ held an Awareness Day including a panel discussion at the Oxford Union which included speakers from the UK government, the news media and charities working in Darfur. Also in 2007, their Midnight Moment ball at the Oxford Town Hall raised £50,000 for their chosen charities.

Recently, the organisation has adopted the “fashion with a purpose” theme as yet another opportunity to raise funds whilst raising awareness. The first of two events along the lines of this theme was the “Eva Jewellery Party” which took place at the Oxford Union, the prestigious home of the Oxford University debating society.

The jewellery party took place on January 23 in the Gladstone room. The high vaulted ceilings displaying the crests of some of Oxford University’s most prominent colleges, and the walls lined with books and journals of the last two centuries provided a certainly sophisticated atmosphere for the event. The exclusive jewellery party featured vintage, semi-precious and handcrafted jewellery, items by celebrity-favourite Kenneth Jay Lane and Angel Jackson handbags and belts. Notable items were a red Kenneth Jay Lane Strawberry Pendant studded with crystal seed detail hanging from an 18 carat gold chain, as seen on Mischa Barton, and the Angel Jackson satchels, totes and clutches with gold jaguar details, as seen in You. Eva, the primary display, included items which have been featured in Elle and Us Weekly. Complimentary bubbly and chocolates were served throughout the evening.

Following on the success of the jewellery party, the second ‘Hands Up’ event following the fashion-with-a-purpose theme will be the ‘Hands Up for Darfur’ Fashion Show. The fashion show will be held at the Oxford Town Hall on April 25, 2008 and is slated to be much more than just a catwalk. Being advertised as an all-inclusive evening of dining, drink, dance and entertainment the event will include fashion by Emilio Pucci, John Galliano, Stella McCartney, Anya Hindmarch, and Twenty8Twelve. The event will include a live performance by Matatafix, and the reigning Miss South Africa will be among models chosen from the Oxford student body.

For more information on the fashion show, the work of Hands Up for Darfur and how to get involved, visit www.handsupfordarfur.co.uk/
A BEAUTIFUL WORLD

Maria Radan explores flight, life in transit.

photo showcase
Where was Ioana taken? Is it a self-portrait?

Actually, that is a picture of my best friend, Ioana. We were visiting an exhibition in the Modern Art Museum in Bucharest when we came across this big empty room. We fooled around taking pictures for a while, until someone came and told us we were not supposed to be there... And actually, she should have the credit for this photo, since I don't remember giving her any directions on how to sit and what to do.

What film/digital cameras do you use?

I love film cameras - you don't have many shots, so they make you think more about what you are photographing. ...and then there is the film grain, and a warmth and a depth of field to them that is just great. I have a Nikon from the 80s and a Praktica from the 70s which belonged to my grandfather (who now went digital and finds film overrated). I wish I could use them more, and learn how to process the prints as well. Unfortunately I never seem to find enough time... so a DSLR Nikon D70s with 1G flash card is my trusty companion these days.
Who is the woman in walk alone?

I have never met her. She was just walking from one village to another, in the middle of the road, on a terribly hot and sunny day.
Spre Haulisca is a classic shot. It looks like it could’ve been taken 100 years ago. Is there a story behind this picture?

True, it could have been taken 100 years ago. People still use their horse-drawn carts in many parts of the Romanian countryside, just as they did a century ago.

I took the picture as I was leaving Paulesti, a mountain village from Romania in which I had my first fieldwork experience as an undergrad. The road you see is called The Mill’s Hill and it leads from Paulesti to the near-by village, Haulisca. People say it’s haunted, and tell stories about wheels of fire and a little men appearing at night to passers-by. I like the picture because it contrasts with a rather creepy memory I have of me and a friend being caught by nightfall away from our house, and having to walk this same road through complete darkness, with dogs barking in the distant village, and a menacing forest near by (Not just carts have been preserved in Romania, but lots of bears as well).

The face of the man in Ana Si Nea Nicuta is beautifully lit. Is that natural light? What’s your take on flash photography, and do you use a flash much yourself?

This is just the morning sun. and, I must admit, some photoshop to increase the contrast. Nea Nicutea was our host in the village we did our fieldwork. He was incredibly welcoming and kind. I think some of the light must be coming from within.

About the flash - I know it is stigmatised by many. I don't have a lot of technical rules (I think you can do nice things even with a cell phone camera). If I can avoid using a flash, I will, but I wouldn't miss capturing a happy moment for the sake of image perfection.
Oxford Hub promotes citizen activism among students

“Citizen activism and service can be a powerful agent of change in the world. And there’s so much to be done, down the street and around the world. It’s never too late or too early to start.”

-Bill Clinton

The Oxford Hub was launched in October 2007 by a group of Oxford University students who share Bill Clinton’s belief in the power of giving as a positive force for change in the twenty-first century. Our mission is to inspire, motivate and enable fellow students to give some of their free time to voluntary work.

Oxford’s students are well aware of the challenges facing society; ranging from world poverty and global warming to local issues including homelessness and the divide between ‘the town’ and ‘the gown’. And many of them want to get involved. But Oxford University’s isolated collegiate structure has tended to frustrate effective, co-ordinated action across the whole student body. It needed a new focal point for students to find out about the many large and small voluntary and philanthropic groups in Oxford they might wish to join, and to create new volunteering opportunities within the Oxford Community. That need has been fulfilled by the launch of the Oxford Hub.

Although not yet a year old, its work thus far includes:

Oxhub Series: Every Wednesday at 8pm in Magdalen Auditorium a different member organisation hosts an event, providing a regular focus for people interested in learning more about different social issues, from climate change to human rights to international development.

Oxford Hub: Student Volunteers: Committee promoting and facilitating volunteering in the local community by signposting to external charities as well as running several independent projects.

Oxford Forum for International Development: Two forums a year encouraging students to think critically about international development. The upcoming Focus on Africa Forum (9th – 11th May 2008) seeks to inform students about development in Africa today. Confirmed speakers include the CEO of War Child, representatives from the UN, and several high profile academics from Oxford University.

Oxhub Events: Socials and networking events for member charities and students, including a ‘Cocktails and Charity’ night at the Oxford Union.

Oxhub Resources: Both physical and virtual, the essential resources students need to run their charities better. Also Training: Giving students the skills they need to be effective changemakers.

OxHub Week: Weekly email that provides a definitive rundown of all relevant charitable events.

OxHub News: Weekly summary of the latest humanitarian news, posted online and sent to the mailing list.

OxHub Campaign Weeks: Fundraising and awareness weeks run collaboratively by member charities but supported and co-ordinated through the Student Hubs, such as World Aids Week.

If you would like to find out more about the Oxford Hub’s work or get involved, please visit: www.oxfordhub.org
Linacre College for the past two years has fielded more Blues players in the Rugby Varsity than any other college. I was somewhat surprised then on my arrival here that the college lacked a rugby team. A team had existed in the past, but as is the way with the short, three year memory span of the average student, it had fallen in to the dust of old team photos. It was obvious that there were a number of us that wanted to play and so the beginnings of a team were made. At first, Linacre College Rugby team consisted of just Andy Schwarz and Nick Luke making the occasional appearance for Hertford College. Yet the premise of turning up for a match only to find it had been cancelled as both teams were too hungover to play was less than encouraging. As such, word was spread and alliances began to form with other graduate colleges. First Green and then Wolfson, at the beginning of the 2007 season we had names, we had training sessions and most importantly, we had the drive to start our fight to join the college leagues. Exclusion from the league gave us only one chance to show our colours, the 2008 Hilary Cuppers Competition.

With the 2008 intake of students, we gained a number of invaluable and keen individuals as well as coaching from the Linacre Blues. Training started with simple passing practice and grew from there. Ok, so we were a bit rag tag and the vast majority of players could only be described as novice, but the hours were being put in by those training and improvements began to become apparent. Before long, word had spread and students from at least 4 colleges were turning up for regular training sessions. A random encounter with the women’s Blues Captain at a green Bop led to the formation of a Women’s team, so rather than a team, we now had a club.

As good as training was, everyone was eager for their first match. This was to come at the beginning of Hilary term in a friendly against Keble’s 2nd XV. To say nerves were on edge was probably an understatement. I had in front of me eighteen lads, only a handful of which had ever run on to a rugby pitch. But this was it, this was our moment. We had trained well together and made considerable progress since that first training session. There was a distinct turning point in the atmosphere when the shirts were put on. Fresh from the printers, one by one, as each man put on his black and white shirt, it all came together. We could run out on to that pitch not as a rag tag band of novices, but as the Graduate Barbarians, fielding players from five colleges.

The whistle was blown and we made an instant impression on the opposition. We dominated in rucks and scrums and had a distinct size advantage over the smaller undergraduate players. Keble fought back well in the first half, but before long we had two tries at the hands of Bill Edwards and Nick Luke. We were on top and we were playing as a team. Half time came around and as we huddled, there was now not a man who had not played rugby. Everyone had that all
Within the first 10 minutes we were ahead. Wadham had left a gap we had our full 15 and a few subs. No one was going to give up to face Wadham College. Wadham had only got 13 players whereas our heads held high, looking towards the remainder of the season. tournament with greater scores. We could leave the competition with the vast majority of the team, this was only their second or third game. We had only stepped out for our first match three weeks ago. For the advantage of having played a full tournament in Michaelmas term. little shame in losing to Teddy Hall or New College. Both teams had With the addition of Kevin Davis and Toby Henry to the team, the Barbarians ran back out on to the pitch determined to play better. For the next 40 minutes only one more try was conceded. The forwards showed their size and strength on the pitch and New College no longer had the advantage in the rucks and mauls. Kev propped up the scrum and gave the lads the drive they needed. That was the end of New College's scrum. The game finished with another large score. With the defeat to Teddy Hall behind us, we were now in to the Plate competition, our next opponents being New College. Sadly, the weather was terrible this time and reflected the score more appropriately. We haemorrhaged tries in the first half, allowing their faster players to nip through where tackles should have been made. The defensive element of the Teddy Hall game was gone and New College made full use of it. The first half was crushing, conceding 60 points in only 40 minutes. There had to be a turn-around at half time, we could do better than this. With the addition of Kevin Davis and Toby Henry to the team, the Barbarians ran back out on to the pitch determined to play better. For the next 40 minutes only one more try was conceded. The forwards showed their size and strength on the pitch and New College no longer had the advantage in the rucks and mauls. Kev propped up the scrum and gave the lads the drive they needed. That was the end of New College's scrum. The game finished with another large score against us and we were out of the Cuppers competition. There was little shame in losing to Teddy Hall or New College. Both teams had the advantage of having played a full tournament in Michaelmas term. We had only stepped out for our first match three weeks ago. For the vast majority of the team, this was only their second or third game ever. Teddy Hall had rolled far more established teams than us in the tournament with greater scores. We could leave the competition with our heads held high, looking towards the remainder of the season.

We wanted a win this season. We had to get one. We'd trained for it and had enough of losing. So, on Saturday 1st March, we ran out to face Wadham College. Wadham had only got 13 players whereas we had our full 15 and a few subs. No one was going to give up their colours and as such the match got underway with 13 a side. Within the first 10 minutes we were ahead. Wadham had left a gap and we made full use of it, the ball was down. With those 5 points behind us, we ran to face them again, yet confidence reared its ugly head and we let them get one through. That was enough for the rest of the match. The lines formed and play improved. The forwards played as forwards and the backs as backs. As we dropped to 13 a side, we moved our flankers in to the back line allowing for an instant size advantage throughout the field. On regular occurrences James Copeland or Andy Nethercott could be seen storming down the field with at least 2 of their players hanging on for dear life.

Names will appear here that many in Linacre will not know. These are the lads from Wolfson, St. Annes, St. Cross and Green colleges. The thing about Wolfson boys is that they are slightly mad. Andy Nethercott has always wanted to emulate our style of play on the Pacific Islanders. Flair, that's what it's all about, Flair!!!!!!

He had his chance. Watching the right wing as we ran towards Wadham's try line, the passing was pure flair, amazing to watch. This was compounded upon by Andy's try with characteristic flair and slight celebration. Wadham were playing hard and they had people we needed to watch. Their outside centre and wingers got some attention from our forwards and before long Nick Luke, Andy Nethercott, Danny Parslow, James Copeland and Aaron Moore had tries. We lost Danny to an ankle injury towards the very beginning of the 2nd half and he was missed, but the rest of us carried on, holding Wadham back. A few more injuries allowed for more of our lads to have a run out. The final whistle came and we had done it. We had managed a 29-27 victory.

It's not the end of the season yet. We've got the potential for maybe one more match and the League 9s and Union 7s in Trinity term, but as I write this, we have taken some 20 lads and formed them from people interested in playing rugby to a full team. Michael Craig can now say with full voice that he's a Hooker, Tom Wrobel, James Copeland and Gerald Moncayo, props, Paul Aspey and Yiqi Seqow, Locks, Andrew Nethercott, Dave Cooper, Joel Scriven and Charlie Barnett, Flankers, Dave Sleep and Alex Free, No. 8, Bill Edwards, Scrum Half, Danny Parslow, Fly Half, Aaron Moore, Kit Chu, Jonathan Belnoue, Adam Gilbertson and Andy Clulow, Wingers, Andy Schwarz, Nicholas Luke and Tom Guiney, Centres, Richard Staff and Russell Ewings, Full Back.

I'm sad to say we're going to lose some very good players this year. James Copeland and Andy Nethercott are off to the real world unless we can get them on a D.Phil program very quickly. Thankfully, a large core of the team are remaining and if all goes well, the Graduate Barbarians will form part of the new 5th Division of the College Leagues come Michaelmas 2008. I'm extremely proud of all the players and eagerly look forward to next year. As graduates, we have the advantage of being here all year and can continue to train on our passing and fitness throughout the summer. When we walk on to the field against whoever we have to face in our first match next season, we'll be a seasoned team and no longer the group of beginners we were six months ago.

I'd like to finish by saying a massive thank you to the Linacre Blues Rugby Players, Richard Lutton, Toby Henry and Kevin Davis for coming down on the Saturdays to train us. I doubt without the structured training they gave us we'd even have got a team out.
After our first season in the inter-college darts league, Linacre have been promoted as champions of Division Six. We rounded the league campaign off with an 8 - 4 win over Pembroke III to leave us having played 10, won 8, drawn 1 and lost 1. Loads of great performances in there and cheers to everyone who played.

In cuppers fours, Linacre II have still to play Wadham II (this match will be in 0th week of TT), Linacre I lost in the tie-break leg to Merton II, despite the best efforts of Max and Giovanni, and in eights we were outplayed by Mansfield Rd, the Uni Club team.

In the Linacre league play-off final, Max beat Adam by 3 sets to 1 and holds the title of Linacre Darts Champion, along with the sovereign ring and all of the glory that goes with it.

This season has been great fun, and I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. Don’t hesitate to email stuart.ingleby@linacre if you want to get involved in the Linacre College Darts Club.

Cheers,
Stuart

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The Linacre Capoeira Society has been running now for two terms. For those who don’t know what Capoeira is, you should definitely come and check it out for yourself. It is a fun activity that involves physical activity, rhythm to move and play, and trickery with your opponent. You don’t need to be fit to start, and in few weeks you will be standing in your head with a smile in your face. It is originally from Brazil but it is now played all over, even in Oxford. As a society, the Linacre group is consolidating, and members have been improving quickly with Fantasma’s excellent training (www.capoeira-angola.co.uk). Now that the summer is coming, we will be playing outdoors, so it will even be more fun. Also, every third Friday of the month we go to a Capoeira festival in London, Urban Ritual, to have a good time and play with others (see picture). The more people training the more fun, so come along on Sundays at 5pm to Linacre’s Gym!
The Monday yoga class gives me an opportunity to relax and unwind. I have noticed that it improves my ability to concentrate.
-Mateo Mier

Being a shapeshifter is the most fun about yoga. Close your eyes, return to your early childhood, and hear someone saying: “and the dog goes...” and you reply, “whoof, whoof.” Well, yoga is something like that (ehh, not quite). If you want to return to childhood, I am afraid you might be disappointed, however, if you like impersonating animals it is quite another thing. The choice is breathtaking. Downward facing dog, upward facing dog, cat, swan, rabit, cobra, eagle, fish, crow, one-legged king pigeon, cow, monkey, locust, crane, baby bear, and ...hmm, corpse.

But yoga is not all about your local zoo. For instance, bridge, tree, bow, side plank, chair, plow, mountain, four limbed staff, wheel, and lotus are other things in which you may easily transform. It is fun! There are downsides though: have you ever tried to confide in someone that you did a side plank?

Yoga at Linacre is open to anyone, even to those who are not as yet certain about their identity. During a session you can freely turn into a warrior, a child, Lord of the Fish, Lord of the Dance, reclining hero or just a hero (if you are of the modest sort). All that without any consequences. Noone will try to challenge you here. It is perfectly safe. Should you get stares outside of the yoga circle, you can always pull a cow face. Or show them the reclining big toe. And if that won’t work, there is always the upside-down tortoise. In yoga, there is something for every occasion, there is something for everyone!

Some might say, that I didn’t get it quite right: That yoga actually is about self-awareness, concentration, striving for both physical and mental balance, and yes, stretching and strengthening the body, that it makes one relaxed and puts one’s mind at ease. Well, you choose.

No other college in Oxford provides free yoga classes for their students.

Linacre yoga, Tanner room, Mondays 7-8.30
A major question in evolutionary biology is the evolution of sexual reproduction and its maintenance in nature. In sexual reproduction, genes from more than a single source are brought together to form a new individual. Since males can not produce offspring, a sexual population with a 1:1 male to female ratio has half the reproductive potential of an asexual population. This is known as the twofold cost of sex, and predicts asexuals should rapidly spread and drive sexuals to extinction. Other than the twofold cost of sex, sex disrupts advantageous gene combinations that make the organism locally adapted to its environment. In addition, sexual organisms need to find a mate, risk disease transition and predation during mating. Considering the high costs of sex, its ubiquity is one of the most studied and intriguing problems in evolutionary biology.

The prevalence of sexual reproduction is mainly attributed to the genetic diversity that it creates. Sexual parents produce offspring that are genetically different; each offspring is then capable of occupying a slightly different ecological niche to its siblings and therefore increase its chances of survival. Sexual reproduction combines deleterious mutations from different individuals, allowing for rapid purging of deleterious mutations from the population. On the other hand, sex joins advantages mutations in the same individual, therefore increasing the accumulation rate of beneficial mutations.

Other than the factors briefly discussed, there have been more than 20 theoretical models put forward to explain the ubiquity of sex in nature. Due to the complexity of these models and insufficient empirical data, there is not a general consensus on the contribution of the various presumed factors driving the evolution of sex. It is quite likely that a combination of selection factors play a role in the evolution and maintenance of sexual reproduction; however the significance of each is yet to be determined. Understanding the evolution and maintenance of sex is not only important to add to the body of evolutionary knowledge; it also has important implications in antibacterial, antifungal and antiviral drug design. Identifying the key selection factors governing the maintenance of sexual reproduction can help us develop drugs that reduce genetic exchange (sex) in such microorganisms; and thus avoid problems associated with rapid spread of drug resistant genes.

References
complete this and win a prize

Across
1 Needle precision has popped anticipation’s bubble (8)
4 Cloi is unsure about public display of history (6)
8 Rented, say, for the minimum (5)
10 Persuading others to participate in neon jig (9)
12 Roundabout tour through clinical tests provides for learning experiences (9)
13 ‘Read all about it’, monarchs levy re-issued (5)
14 Accomplice in flight with one in conspiracy (7)
15 Special Air Service man eats one piece of sushi (7)
16 Ex-convent, smears in the clear (7)
18 At the end of the month, self follows busy schedule (2, 3, 2)
20 Existentialist given a rest (5)
21 Crazy riots help 14A to land (9)
22 An organism’s path from birth to death (4, 5)
23 Mythical Norse herdsman climbing up to peak (5)
24 Squander beginnings of inspired song in Calliope (6)
25 …reside in heaven or hell, that is if they pass the entrance exam (3, 5)

Down
1 Seek refuge in governmental cuckoo’s nest (9, 6)
2 Innate empiricism produces department, containing dinosaur remains (7, 8)
3 Nice tax estimate (7)
5 Well-known Oxford green in our view (10, 5)
6 Created the wasteland with hard work turned out and ultimate perseverance (5)
7 Kindness envelops ensuing mama’s son (15)
9 Bend in loose agreement encourages misbehaviour (3, 2)
11 Twelve followed him to Welsh college (5)
12 Myths includes quiet hiccoughs (5)
14 Saudi reserves keep things running smoothly (3, 4)
19 HRH sees scarlet when a mistake is made (5)

Wiki says...
“In essence, a cryptic clue leads to its answer as long as you read it in the right way. What the clue appears to say when read normally (the surface reading) is almost never anything to do with the answer and is there as a distraction. The challenge is to find the way of reading the clue that leads to the solution. A typical clue gives you two ways of getting to the answer, either of which can come first. One part of the clue is a definition, which must exactly match the part of speech and tense of the answer. The second half (the subsidiary indication, or wordplay) gives you an alternative route to the answer in terms of wordplay.”

complete these sudokus and win nothing

By Linacre Cryptic Society
Clues: 2, 5, 11, 12, 16 and 25 are of a common theme, that is common to us.
Notes: This recipe works in either US or UK measurements, without converting. So, if you are baking in the UK, you can use UK cups and measuring spoons and, if you are baking in the US, you can use US cups and spoons, without worrying about converting the quantities back and forth. The editor would like to note that he enjoyed helpings of Alison’s recipe on two occasions during Hilary term. They rank no.1 and no.2 in foods he’s eaten in Britain.

This is a Bundt cake, so you'll need a Bundt pan to bake it in. A Bundt or tube pan is one of those tall, round cake pans with a hole in the center so that the finished cake is a ring shape. You can try baking the cake in another type of pan, but you will need to experiment with changing the baking times, since Bundt pans distribute heat differently from regular cake pans.

There are three versions of the recipe: brown sugar poppyseed (which I brought to Cake Night); brown sugar pear (which I brought to the bar the Monday of 9th Week); and regular brown sugar with pecans. For parts of the recipe where the three versions differ, I’ve noted it as follows: the pear recipe appears in parentheses; the regular brown sugar recipe appears in square brackets; and the poppyseed recipe is written first, with no special marks.

I’ve included a recipe for a Butterscotch Glaze at the end, to use with the cake if you want. But, in my opinion, the cake really doesn’t need anything extra; it’s very good all on its own.

Ingredients

- ¾ cup Light Brown/Muscovado Sugar
- 1¼ cup Dark Brown/Muscovado Sugar
- 3 teaspoons Cinnamon [2 tsp. cinnamon]
- 1 teaspoon Ginger [2 tsp. ginger]
- 2 teaspoons Nutmeg (1 tsp. nutmeg)
- (1 tsp. cloves) [1 tsp. cloves]
- (1 tsp. cardamom)
- 1 teaspoon Baking Soda/Bicarbonate of Soda
- ¼ teaspoon Salt
- 2 Eggs
- ¾ cup Buttermilk OR ¼ tablespoon lemon juice or vinegar in a liquid measuring cup, topped off with enough milk to make ¾ liquid cups.
- ¼ cup/ 4oz. Butter, melted
- 1 cup poppyseeds (5-7 pears, cut up into small pieces) [1 cup chopped pecans]
- Some flour (add this somewhere in the recipe.)

Directions

Preheat the oven the 325F OR 160C.

Grease and flour a Bundt/tube pan – to flour the pan, after you’ve covered it liberally with grease, dump a few handfuls of flour into the pan. Stand over the sink or trash bin and shake the pan so that the flour slides over all the greased surfaces and sticks. Once all the surfaces are coated in flour, tap the sides of the pan with your hands to knock off any excess flour and pour it out into the sink/bin. You should now have a pan with a thin layer of flour coating all the greased surfaces. This will keep the cake from sticking to the pan and make it much, much easier to get out of the pan after baking.

In a large bowl, combine all the dry ingredients. Use a whisk or your hands to mix them together well. Do your best to break up the lumps in the brown/muscovado sugar as much as possible.

Add the buttermilk/lemon juice and milk, eggs and melted butter. Beat together with a large spoon until everything is well combined.

Add the poppyseeds OR pears OR pecans OR whatever else you think would be good. Mix well.

Pour the cake batter into the floured Bundt/tube pan, making sure that there is an even amount of batter all the way around the circle.

Bake for 60 minutes (70 minutes) [50 minutes] or until a long knife or cake tester inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean with no batter or other bits stuck to it.

Let the cake sit in the pan on a wire rack or plate for about 10 minutes. Run a knife around the outer and inner edges of the pan to help loosen the cake. Carefully turn the pan upside down over a large plate or platter and shake gently so that the cake comes out of the pan onto the plate. Serve cake warm or cover tightly with cling film or aluminum foil and save for later.

Glaze

In a saucepan, combine:

- ¼ cup/ 2oz. Butter
- ¼ cup Dark Brown/Muscovado Sugar
- 2 tablespoons Milk

Bring to a full boil. Add:

- 1 cup Powdered/Icing Sugar
- 1 teaspoon Vanilla Extract

Beat glaze until smooth. Add more milk, if necessary, to make glaze a good consistency for drizzling. Drizzle over cake and serve.
FAME! FORTUNE! LINACRE!

fortune cookies are always right

According to Wikipedia (that ever-reliable fountain of wisdom and truth) Linacre has only had three famous alumni. In an effort to see whether this figure is likely to increase in the near future, I performed a detailed predictive analysis of the futures of five Linacrites*. This was done by interpreting their cookie fortunes from a recent trip to the Noodle Bar.

*This is a true story, with five real Linacrites. Names and faces have been changed to protect the innocent. You know the drill.

BE ON THE ALERT FOR A NEW OPPORTUNITY
The verdict? This isn’t a fortune, this is just some advice. Thing is, it doesn’t mention whether the new opportunity (for fame) will ever arrive. For example, the fortune-bearer will just spend their days scanning the horizon for a (HOLLYWOOD?) sign, without anything ever appearing. I therefore must conclude that the jury’s out.

YOU WILL INHERIT A LARGE SUM OF MONEY
The verdict? How much money are we talkin’ bout here? Is the person a fame-whore? There is a multitude of possible scenarios here. I mean, maybe they’ll just sit in their living room rolling about in five pound notes for the next 20 years, and then spend the next sixty years buying ice-creams and eating them. Who knows? I don’t.
YOUR ABILITIES ARE UNPARALLELED
The verdict? The bearer of this fortune will cling to this cookie fortune, staring narcissistically at the slip of paper for the rest of their natural life. They will then get nothing done, ever again. Cheers, Noodle Bar, for another case of wasted potential. Flattery is a risky strategy, didn’tcha know?

CONFUCIUS SAY [sic]: WHY SKATE ON THIN ICE WHEN YOU CAN DANCE?
The verdict? Well, According to Google, Confucius said nothing about neither skating nor dancing (on thin ice, or otherwise). In any case, shenanigans of this sort will likely result in death and/or grievous bodily harm, so there’s not much potential for fame here. Unless, of course, there is spectacular media coverage of the incident.

YOU WILL BE THE PARENT OF A FAMOUS CHILD
The verdict? This is promising, as long as the kid gets enrolled at Linacre – we can wait another generation.
MEET THE CR EXEC

you probably didn't vote for these people

PHIL WEST
PRESIDENT

"Meet me on pages 10-11."

MIN LIU
TREASURER

"I am in charge of all accounts of the CR and make annual budgets for the societies of college. I also give advice to the Executive Committee about the commercial validity of balls. Anyway, we will do our best to spend the Common Room budget in a fair and just manner."

KATE RYAN
WELFARE REP

"My main job is offer advice, support and a sympathetic ear to any member of the college who feels in need of it. Please feel free to get in touch with any problems, be they large, small, work or home related and I'll be happy to help. My other roles are to provide info on health and welfare related issues and to organise family events in college."

OLIVIER JARDA
EDITOR

"My plan, once per term: to publish an entertaining and eclectic but not necessarily topical 'zine for the good people of Linacre College, filled with the best and worst of college life, pop science, politics, top tens, recipes and illustrations of dinosaurs. Here are some past issues. I'm also in charge of publishing the Linacre fresher's guide."

BEN LAZARUS
BAR SEC

"My aim as Bar Sec is to make sure that as many members of the college find the bar a comfortable and fun place to be. I also hope that the bar serves Linacre members' alcoholic, non-alcoholic and chocolate needs as well as it can."

LOUISA COULSON
SPORTS SEC

"As sports and recreation secretary, my role is to represent and promote the sporting interests of members of the Common Room and to organise sporting and recreational activities. My biggest sporting commitment at Oxford is to the Blues basketball team. I also take part in Linacre pilates and cricket and may even brave those 6am starts in the summer term for some rowing. I would like to see more Linacrites out there on the side lines and in the galleries supporting our college."
"My role is to act as a go-between for the Common Room and the Development Office. With the completion of the college's new building and Linacre's 50th anniversary approaching, my job is to ensure the Common Room members are kept up to date with progress and plans for the future."

"It’s my job to support Linacre’s green initiatives and to promote environmental awareness among students, staff, and fellows. Our college is known as the greenest in Oxford, and it takes all of us to earn that reputation. I’m also standing in as your Food Rep this year, and will be liaising between you and our excellent kitchen. So if you’ve been wondering about recycling (yes, we do batteries!), carbon reduction (double glazing finished at Iffley...), or where your beef is coming from (it’s local!), drop me a line. Any questions, concerns, or suggestions for things to keep Linacre-ites amused, please let me know!"

"As social sec, it’s my job to make sure everyone has a chance to play as hard as they work. Linacre has a reputation for great bops, parties, and social life in general. I’m really looking forward to keeping up that tradition, and to adding some new events as well (cake night, anyone?). If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for things to keep Linacre-ites amused, please let me know!"

"As part of the Social Sec dynamic duo I help to maintain the solid social reputation that Linacre has built up over the past years. We always have a well packed term card with events revolving both around the Common Room and all the other grad students out there in the other colleges. Ash tells me what to do and what to drink. Aside from that I spend my life in Oxford wishing I could be surfing or snowboarding."

"I was told the only requirement of this job was a love of the colour pink. That sounded good to me and when I told them I had my own crayons to make posters with they were sold. I also send out the emails, update this website and whore out CR events to the masses. If you got it and you need it promoting let me know."

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**Degree Day Events:**
- Tuesday: Separite Lunch
- Wednesday: Pub Quiz
- Thursday: Exchange Dinner
- Friday: Exchange Dinner
- Saturday: Exchange Dinner

**Film Events:**
- Monday: Separite Lunch
- Tuesday: Family Film
- Wednesday: Afternoon Film
- Thursday: Separite Lunch
- Friday: Afternoon Film
- Saturday: Family Film

**Food Options:**
- Monday: Separite Lunch
- Tuesday: Family Film
- Wednesday: Afternoon Film
- Thursday: Separite Lunch
- Friday: Afternoon Film
- Saturday: Family Film

**Welcome Back Drinks:**
CR from 6pm for Free Beer Tasting!
Every Week During Term
Welcome Back Drinks - Saturday All Week (Apr 19)