

## BARRIERS TO ENTRY



'Access' to Oxford and Cambridge has been a major issue in recent negotiations over Government funding. Nazish Minhas and Ellie Hutt examine the record.

There was a time when it was accepted — even expected — that Oxford would be the natural destination for white, middle-class, public school-educated males, plus, perhaps, a smattering of exceptional overseas students. This is no longer acceptable. Oxford is struggling to shake off a reputation as an institution which remains not only academically but socially elitist, and which continues to prefer male over female candidates and applicants from the independent over those from the maintained sector.

The University Chancellor, Roy Jenkins, recently wrote that 'the barriers of Oxford are ... erected only against those who wish them to be there'. Sadly, this does not seem to be the case. Candidates from the independent sector claimed 47% of Oxford places last year, yet only 7% of the nation's pupils are educated at independent schools. Oxford has an admissions problem, which results in an unfair representation of the diverse society in which it exists and which it ought to serve.

How, where and why does this discrimination take place, and what can be done about it?

The first place, arguably, where any discrimination occurs is not at Oxford but in the mind of the applicant. This year, 4177 applicants came from the maintained sector, compared with 3788 from the independent sector. If there is a disproportionately low intake of state school pupils, it is at least partly because a disproportionately low number apply in the first place. The implication is that state schools are biased against Oxford. What is Oxford doing, or leaving undone, which perpetuates this bias?

Oxford has an image problem. To many state school pupils (and their parents) Oxford still seems a backward, elitist, conservative institution, a realistic goal only for the privately educated. Those at Oxford know that the 'Oxford Myth' is, at worst, only partially true — the product, for the most part, of misleading and often hostile media coverage. But it is the negative images that, more often than not, register in state schools, resulting in what Matt Stevenson, Target Schools Co-Chair, calls 'a distinct anti-Oxbridge mentality among many teachers'. Put off by the Myth, and without access to the information and guidance which would dispel it, many capable state school applicants simply do not apply. Their counterparts in the independent sector, nurtured in institutions whose Oxbridge admissions record is a major marketing tool, have no such reservations.

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Distorted perceptions of Oxford are exacerbated by the admissions process, a hurdle which many state school pupils are ill-prepared to tackle. Whilst the tutors need interviews to evaluate candidates, for the applicant it is a daunting prospect. Schools with a tradition of sending pupils to Oxford understand the system. Some hold events where Oxbridge tutors and former pupils now at Oxbridge come to talk to applicants. Many organize mock interviews. Few comprehensives offer such support. If, despite these obstacles, a state sector student does apply but fails to get an offer, they may believe it is just because they have not been privately educated, fuelling the Myth.

Admissions statistics indicate the size of the problem. A recent study by McCrum and Halsey showed that, among applicants who went on to achieve 3 As at A-level, those from independent schools were 1.2 times as likely to have been offered an Oxford place than those from state schools.

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University figures also show that independent school applicants have a higher success rate than those from maintained schools (42.8%, against 34%, for entry in October 1998). The irony, as McCrum and Halsey point out, is that, given the extra resources and advantages that the private school candidate has over a state school candidate, 'an A-level score of 30 from a state school is *prima facie* superior to the same score from an independent school'. In support of this view, a recent study (by Bob McNabb of Cardiff University) of graduates from English and Welsh Universities between 1973 and 1992, showed that state school entrants were 20% more likely to get Firsts and were generally higher achievers.

In the light of this evidence it has been suggested (by, for example, A Manning of the LSE) that universities should lower the entrance requirements for pupils from state schools. Tim Jenkinson, Keble's Senior Tutor, certainly feels these statistics should be borne in mind by tutors as they interview candidates. Their most difficult task is to distinguish between real ability and 'polish': the latter can easily be mistaken for the former and, as Jenkinson concedes, 'the safer option often seems to take the more polished person.'

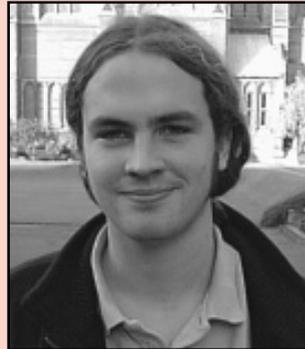
Keble's Admissions Tutor, Edwin Peel, is more than aware of the situation and keen to redress any imbalance. Keble's independent to state school ratio is somewhat better than the figure for the University as a whole. The College entry figures for 1998 show the success rate for independent school applicants was 33.7%, and for maintained schools 29.1%. Although the gap between the two entrant sources is smaller, Peel is conscious that Keble is nonetheless contributing to the apparent University-wide bias towards independent school applicants.

Peel's priority is to get more state schools to encourage applications to Oxford. Contrary to McNabb, McCrum and Halsey, he does not advocate positive discrimination. The solution lies not in breaking down old relationships with independent schools, but in building new ones with more state schools. He is 'absolutely certain that we have to improve our state intake', and emphasizes the importance of advertising Oxford's openness and accessibility. The University as a whole has to do more — more open days, more University initiated visits to schools, a greater effort to tackle misconceptions of Oxford. 'The more we can demystify the whole process,' he says, 'the better.'

The University is taking action. The gender imbalance is much reduced (55%–45% male to female). Initiatives involving the Students' Union, such as the Access Scheme, the Target Schools Scheme and the Alternative Prospectus, offer practical help and encouragement. The Access Scheme brings 'minority' groups, such as pupils from inner-city schools, together in Oxford for workshops on interview technique and the like — gatherings which boost confidence by helping students to realize they are not alone in applying to the

University from such a background. The Target Schools scheme sends current students into comprehensive schools to increase awareness about Oxford, dispel the Myth and give advice about the admissions and interview procedure and the differences between colleges. The Alternative Prospectus provides an

informal guide to colleges and subjects — extremely useful to a pupil who might otherwise find Oxford's diversity and complexity bewildering.



John Cloke from Exeter College (state school)

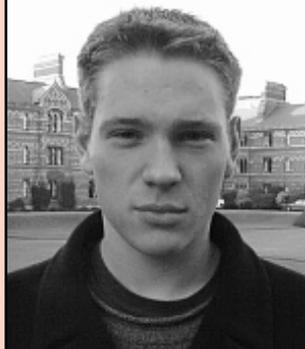
*'the collegiate system seems confusing and elitist'*

Keble's JCR has responded to the challenge by appointing an Admissions Officer, whose job is to co-ordinate the JCR's substantial contribution to the running of Open Days, interview weeks and the induction process for Freshers. The JCR supplies information to potential applicants, and those who win confirmed places are sent the 'Keble Freshers' Guide', a friendly, informal and often irreverent publication written, edited and produced by junior members.

The recent OUSU Admissions Working Party found that further changes are also needed within the University itself. It makes a number of practical recommendations, such as that the £10 admissions fee ('understandably seen as an example of Oxford's arrogance') should be abolished, that tutors should be made more aware of alternative qualifications to A-levels, such as Scottish Highers, that the University should provide 'compulsory training for all tutors giving interviews', and that faculty-based interviews should be introduced to combat any bias found among particular tutors in particular colleges.

All these initiatives are constructive, but Oxford's most urgent and important task is to tackle negative media attention and the perpetuation of the Myth. Admitting there is a problem in the first place is halfway to finding the solution. The days of comfortable, conservative practices are over: Oxford is learning the hard way that it has to play catch-up.

The Editor would welcome comments from readers on this important subject. Please write to The Editor of *the brick*, c/o Development Office, Keble College, Oxford, OX1 3PG



Rory Bryant from Rugby

*'there is a perception of a "special relationship" between Rugby and certain Oxford colleges but this is not borne out in reality'*

## BA DEGREE DAY

In October Keble and New College co-operated in a radical departure from University practice when they held the first ever college-based Degree Day. Modern Linguist Ben McCann records what it was like to be part of it.

Returning to Keble after a four month absence, all those Final Year memories flood back: the long lonely walk from library to bed, the sustained diet of baked beans and coffee, the inevitable 'So how many hours of work have YOU done today', the post-Schools euphoria, the champagne-induced haze of complete exhaustion, the sun on our necks, the World Cup at last. Was it really so long ago?

Four months on, and we are the guinea pigs — the first ever Keble year group to graduate together. The experiment seems to work. Although Keble is shrouded in mist, rain and grey clouds, all our spirits are lifted by the reuniting of family and friends. We talk freely, not of Romantic Poetry or Quantum Physics, but of real things — our new houses, new jobs, new romantic entanglements. And all the while our parents look on proudly, hastily



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brushing dust off our newly pressed suits before we speak to the Warden.

The stroll down to the Sheldonian is reminiscent of the Cannes Film Festival — cameras flash, video recorders roll, traffic stops, tourists gaze and then (SHOCK! HORROR!) we are welcomed by the Bodleian Porters. With a 'good luck!' Or a pat on the back! And then the ceremony — Latin chants, doffing of caps and elaborate handshakes — by means of which we are translated into a higher state of being.

After that, back to Keble, where the Chardonnay flows and the sausage rolls disappear and the Warden makes a moving speech. Then, more photographs, and it is all over as quickly as it began. From undergraduate to graduate. Where did those years go? Today is the culmination of four years of blood, sweat and tears and yet who can say that they wouldn't want the whole experience all over again? Our paths have since diverged, but whether banker, academic or voluntary worker, for these few hours we are all Keble students again.

## YEAR GROUPS

The last issue of *the brick* reported on the College's decision to establish year group organisations for all matriculation years since 1945. This is a long term project, the aim of which is to encourage closer links between Old Members and College, and to establish a network of year group committees to work with the Development Office to this end.

The first step is to collect information. So far, 35 year groups have received letters, enclosing a questionnaire, from contemporaries who have kindly volunteered to start the ball rolling. Letters to the remaining years will be going out shortly. Already, the up-to-date information which has come from this process is enabling the Development Office to amend records;

some 'lost' have been found and welcomed back into the fold; many more enquiries have been received from Old Members asking to be put back in touch with each other.

But this is only the beginning. Once the data has been entered and the attitude survey analysed, the College will move to the next step — the formation of year group committees. If all goes well, the Development Office intends to hold a one-day conference at the College for year group committees during the Easter 1999 Vacation. This will consider all aspects of the year group initiative and of the options for the future. What sort of events should the College hold for Old Members? How can College publications be improved? What are the College's fundraising priorities and how

might they best be achieved? What could Old Members do to promote greater 'Access'?

Roger Boden, Keble's Development Director, has no illusions about the size of the task, but is convinced of its value. 'Many Old Members are already supporting the College with covenants, gifts and legacy pledges,' he says. 'The year group organisations will ensure that we also benefit from their ideas and insights, and will help the College become more responsive.'

If you have received a letter from your year group but have not yet returned the questionnaire please send it, as soon as possible, to either the contemporary who wrote to you, or to the Development Office, Keble College, Oxford, OX1 3PG.

## DIARY

### Friday 29 January

London Dinner For further details, contact GK Buckley, 27 Denbigh Rd, London, W13 8NJ.

### Friday 19 February

Richardson Lecture, Pusey Room, 5.30pm. All Old Members are welcome. The Warden will speak on 'Christians and Muslims in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century of Islam'.

### Friday 19 March

Gaudy for Old Members in the years 1976–80. Invitations will be sent out in January.

### Friday 7 May

Eric Abbott Memorial Lecture will be given by Rt Hon. Dame Elizabeth Butler-Schloss.

### Saturday 22 May

MA Degree Day for Old Members who matriculated in 1991. Details to be sent before the end of 1998.

### Saturday 29 May

End of Eights Week, Garden Party. Rowing Society Dinner and AGM.

### Friday 16 July

Keble Association AGM and Summer Dinner.

### Sunday 18 July

Family Day.

## EARTHWATCH IN ONTARIO

Third-year biologist, Jonathan Williams, reports on his summer project in Temagami, Canada, to study old growth (i.e. unlogged) red and white pine forest. Jonathan was one of this year's winners of a NatWest Earthwatch Fellowship, and also of a Keble Association travel bursary.

Accurate data on the ancient pine forest is scarce and governmental aerial surveys inaccurate. The task of the international Earthwatch team (accompanied by a film crew) was to survey the forest's composition and diversity using simple but effective scientific procedures. The team's camaraderie ensured that the physical demands of the fieldwork, including far too many early starts and long canoe journeys, were manageable.

To a new-comer the sprawling pine forest appears untouched, but only 1% of its original cover remains in the Temagami region. Serious conflicts exist between the burgeoning conservationist movement and the traditional industries, logging and mining. The value of old growth forests goes beyond their logging potential; threatened species include bears, moose and the towering red pines, but these only hint at the



*Our intrepid Earthwatcher*

diversity to be found in the forest. Reserves to prevent the loss of this ecosystem are imperative, especially as attempts to recreate it have failed.

The area's future is uncertain. The team's project leader hopes that Earthwatch's work will lead to a 'corridor' reserve, doubling as a canoe route, which will connect old growth forest from Lake Superior to the Ottawa River. Sadly, this is unlikely to be successful. The best that we can hope for is a more informed decision by the local government based on the data that my team and others like it have collected.

## SAVING THE CORAL

Ever since he was a child, third-year biologist Matthew Ross has wanted to go to the South Pacific to 'save' the coral reefs. With the aid of a Keble Association Griffith's Travel Scholarship, he made his first visit this summer. He recalls some of his experiences.

Descending down the reef wall, I noticed that a lot of big fish were out. I looked up from my air gauge. A large dark object flew out of the blue. It was the first devil ray (or manta ray) that I had ever seen; a big one, with a wing span about 10ft across. Although its appearance justifies its nickname, the devil ray has immense grace and beauty.

Ten minutes later, from behind a rock, my partner and I were watching a 5ft black-tip reef shark sleeping on the sea

floor. Suddenly, it awoke and started swimming towards us but, on seeing two bubble-producing creatures, decided to flee instead. Just as it left, another dark shape appeared and swam within 6ft of our rock. It was an 8ft nurse shark.

I lived in a traditional Fijian Bure, when I was not logging 51 scientific dives on the pristine reef. I saw countless turtles, swam with 20 dolphins (not to mention 40 porpoises) and once I had a rare crested iguana on my head. It was a dream-come-true for any biologist. I also appreciated the genuine kindness shown to us by the 200 villagers of Yadua Island, a small island of which most Fijians have never heard. When I left, they made me promise that I would return "home" to Yadua one day. I shall.



# THE MISUNDERSTOOD VIKINGS

## What the Early British Press did to their Danish Guests

Philip Jerichow, a Danish graduate student writing a thesis on the Viking Army in England, gave a talk earlier this year at one of the Warden's Graduate Discussion Evenings. Here he provides a summary.

Being Danish, I was pleased to be asked to give a talk at one of the Warden's Evenings. For my Masters thesis, I had written about the Danish army in England in the Viking Age and I greedily grasped at the chance for producing a bit of nationalist propaganda at Keble. With the talk, I hoped to be able to show a different picture of the Vikings than the one most people immediately conjure up at the mention of them.

The official image of the Vikings usually involves a few boatfuls of primitive heathens, who sack monasteries and churches, amongst rapine and slaughter. Having spent quite a few years as an army officer, I could not see how this fitted with the total Danish conquest of one of Europe's most well-organized countries, Anglo-Saxon England, and thought it would be interesting to look at the structure, logistics, strategies and tactics of the Viking armies. The results tell quite a different story about the Scandinavian pre-Mediaeval armies.

I shall not bore readers with military details, but archaeology shows an army that was highly disciplined, well-trained and well-equipped. Strategy was logical and distinct and consisted mainly of severing the head of the Anglo-Saxon society. Almost all Viking attacks were directed towards towns, fortifications, royal/noble residencies, monasteries and communication lines, like rivers, the sea and Roman roads, a strategy also seen in the Bosnian war of the early 1990s, and very suitable for fighting in areas with a primitive or undeveloped infrastructure. There are no recorded Viking attacks on the rural population.

Particularly notorious in most records are the Viking attacks on monasteries. It is still discussed what effect these attacks had on Christianity in England.

But several things indicate that the effect of the attacks was exaggerated in the sources, by the way written by the victims themselves. Both written sources and archaeology show that many of the attacked monasteries lived on for many years afterwards. It is, in my opinion, time to realize that the official image of the Anglo-Saxon monasteries, as lonely pious places where rough anti-Christian Vikings murdered poor praying monks, does not reflect reality. The monasteries were extremely wealthy institutions with huge land possessions and great concentrations of peasants and slaves. They had considerable power, through their wealth, but also through their religious and political influence. There are also many references to Anglo-Saxon kings attacking Anglo-Saxon monasteries and even monasteries attacking other monasteries, with the Abbott leading the attack! In view of this, it is not strange that the Danes saw them not only as profitable targets, but also as strategic objectives, as important as towns and noble residences. One of the so-called outrages of the Vikings was to share out monastery land to the local populations.

The logistical preparations for transporting and keeping a large army for several years in hostile territory are also impressive, and even though the tactical dispositions cannot be discerned clearly through archaeology, all military aims were achieved. As for military conduct, the Vikings were not worse than their neighbours. Their raids were not different from the attacks of Wessex on Mercia, the Saxons on the Franks, the Franks on the Avars, etc.

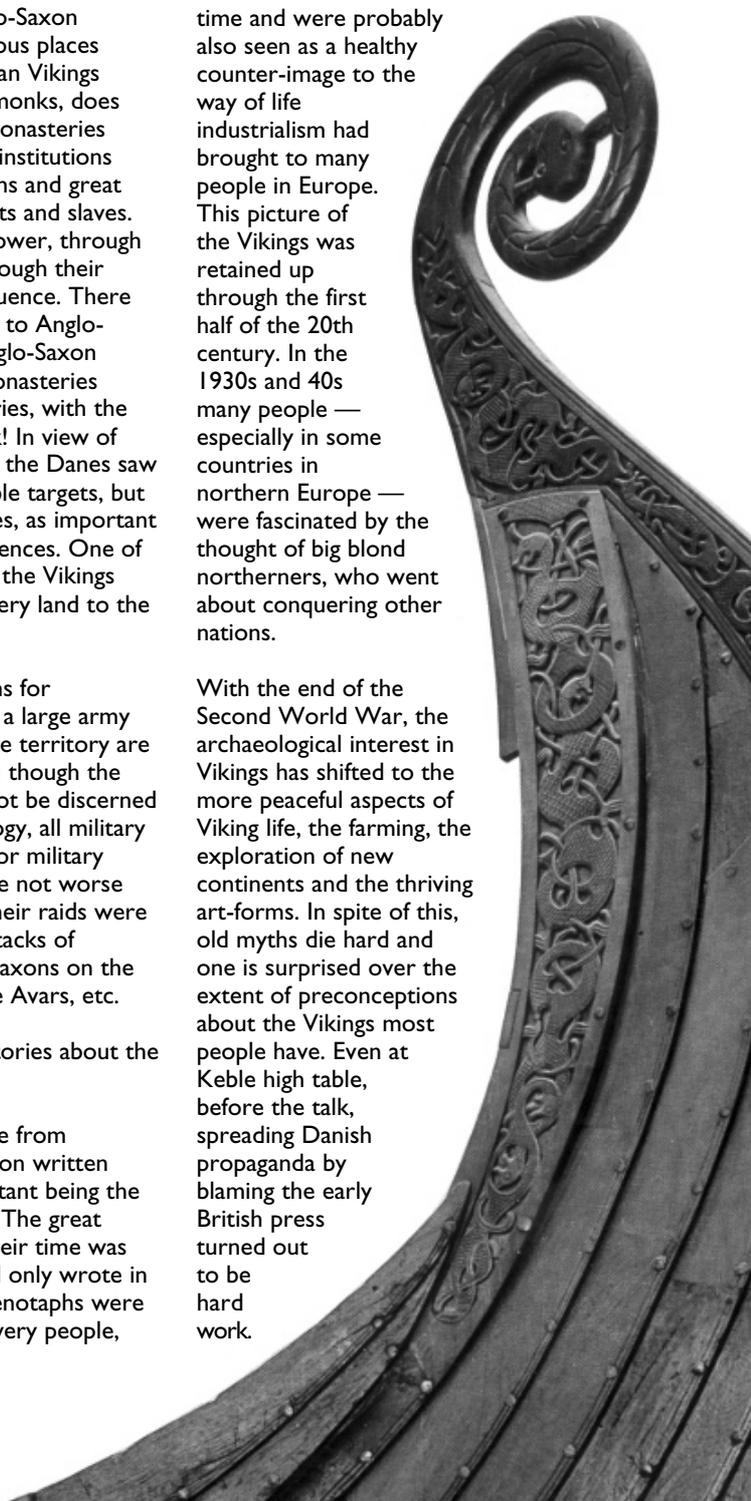
So why all the horrible stories about the Vikings?

Most of the stories derive from contemporary Anglo-Saxon written sources (the most important being the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle). The great crime of the Vikings in their time was that they were pagan and only wrote in runes. Therefore their cenotaphs were written for them by the very people,

whose power they challenged: the Christian clergy, and the royal and noble houses.

From these same sources sprang in the 19th century images of tall, jolly Nordic Vikings. They fitted well into the romanticism and nationalism of the time and were probably also seen as a healthy counter-image to the way of life industrialism had brought to many people in Europe. This picture of the Vikings was retained up through the first half of the 20th century. In the 1930s and 40s many people — especially in some countries in northern Europe — were fascinated by the thought of big blond northerners, who went about conquering other nations.

With the end of the Second World War, the archaeological interest in Vikings has shifted to the more peaceful aspects of Viking life, the farming, the exploration of new continents and the thriving art-forms. In spite of this, old myths die hard and one is surprised over the extent of preconceptions about the Vikings most people have. Even at Keble high table, before the talk, spreading Danish propaganda by blaming the early British press turned out to be hard work.



## LUX MUNDI

Two years ago, in his enthusiastic review of the Chapel Choir's first CD, *English Anthems from Keble College*, David Owen Norris wrote '...the real hero is the well-remembered Keble Chapel acoustic glow...'

For the new CD, *Lux Mundi*, the acoustic is as good as ever, and faithfully reproduced in this recording by Priory Records. But the Choir, under Senior Organ Scholar Philip Stopford, is now more than equal to it. From the first, ethereal notes of Thomas Luis de Victoria's *O Magnum Mysterium* to the splendidly positive *Gloria* of Stopford's own *Keble Missa Brevis*, this is choral singing of a very high order — beautifully controlled, never tentative, full of confidence, vitality and invention.



The programme offers five centuries of music — Tallis, Byrd, Victoria, Allegri (the *Miserere*, with Kathleen Rice-Oxley's soaring soprano especially memorable), Purcell, a delightful madrigal from Robert Pearsall and an equally charming miniature from Josef Rheinberger, and so to Holst, Harris, Howells (the moving *Take Him, Earth, for Cherishing*, written in memory of President Kennedy), Walton and Stopford. But this is not just a case of something for everybody. Every piece is sung with intelligence and sensitivity, and rewards the listener's close attention.

So impressed were Priory Records with the quality of the singing on *Lux Mundi* that they are planning another Keble Chapel Choir CD — this time in the commercial *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis* series — for release next year.

*Lux Mundi* can be obtained by writing to The Development Office, Keble College, Oxford, OX1 3PG, enclosing a cheque made payable to Keble College for £11 (incl. postage).

## CHARIVARI AGRÉABLE

Keble student Kah-ming Ng, currently studying for a D.Phil. in Music, is continuing to advance his career as director and performer in Oxford's highly successful trio, Charivari Agréable.

The trio forms the core of Charivari Agréable Simfonie, a professional orchestra that plays music, ranging from Bach oratorios to Austro-German orchestral suites, with ancient instruments including such rarities as the theorbo and the mandora. Since their debut in 1995, they have recorded



Kah-Ming (far left) and the Ensemble five CDs and are soon to begin a sixth. They have also been recently invited to record a concert for BBC Radio 3.

## WHAT KATY DID NEXT

Katy Brand, one of the cast of this year's *Oxford Revue*, recalls a hectic three weeks at the Edinburgh Festival.

The *Oxford Revue* is not popular in Edinburgh. One of last year's newspaper reviews, opened with, 'What a load of upper class idiots', and so I could be forgiven for being apprehensive about spending three weeks performing every night.

In spite of this, we arrived in Edinburgh feeling positive about our show, especially after its great reception in Oxford. The average audience for a Festival show can be as little as 4 or 5, so knowing what to expect we set about settling in, finding our way round our venue, the Gilded Balloon, flying like mad banees and generally making ourselves known around Edinburgh.

Shows generally run for one hour and each venue runs shows back to back, all day, every day. This creates a fantastically frenzied atmosphere as you rush about trying to see as many shows as you can whilst promoting and performing in your own, before socialising (or just shamelessly schmoozing familiar TV faces — yes, I am guilty!) in the evenings. Sleeping and eating becomes fairly irrelevant.

Overall, our show went down very well — our average audience numbered 50–

60 and were generally very generous with their laughter (except for one splendid night when our 70 strong audience hardly made a sound, applauding violently as we took our bow).

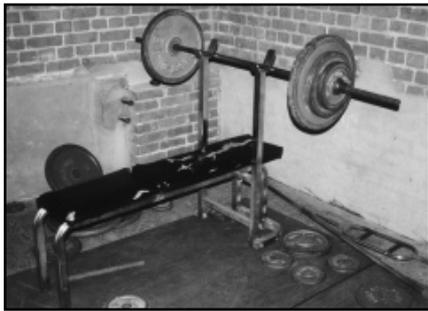
Some people came to see if we could make them laugh; some came under the misguided belief that they were seeing the stars of the future; some came to see Oxford students poncing about and were mildly disappointed that half of the cast were not British and none of us wore black tie.

The reviews were mostly kind, writing that the *Oxford Revue* had at last come up with something decent. *The Scotsman*, as ever, launched a savage attack, helpfully suggesting that we rename our show 'spoilt self-important little rich kids come to Edinburgh' and for another year, the *Revue* had the dubious honour of being the butt of several comedians' jokes.

However, it was a fantastic month. I saw some great shows and some awful shows and I was even in a fairly good one. I met fantastic people, some of whom offered jobs and advice, some bought me drinks and some told me to get lost. I learnt more about performing, entertaining and milking a joke for all it's worth; I spent far too much money and I'll be going back next year if I can convince someone to take me.

## THE CRYPT

Come, if you dare, to a place known only to the initiated.



*Instruments of torture?*

Enter, as all good pilgrims must, through the great West Door. Pause a moment to observe the stern, unchanging certainties of the Butterfield mosaics; the sunlight filtering through stained glass; the organ scholar practising a Bach passacaglia. Draw what reassurance you can from these last manifestations of normality, and then turn away — left, behind the Bursar's stall, past neat stacks of the Book of Common Prayer, to a door that few notice, and fewer pass through.

A muffled 'clunk', and the door closes behind you. As your eyes adjust to the semi-darkness you see stone steps leading down. There is mould on the walls. The air is damp and pungent, but

## DICK YARROW

It is with great regret that we announce the sudden death of Dick Yarrow, the leading force behind the *Ghosts*, a group of Old Members who return to the College each year to take on undergraduate teams in a friendly football match.

As recently as 10 October, Dick was part of the 1998 *Ghost* weekend, playing in goal. He loved organizing the event and would want the scores to be recorded: 1<sup>st</sup> 5–1 to the *Ghosts*, 2<sup>nd</sup> 2–1 and 3<sup>rd</sup> 4–0 to College.

1999 will see the 30<sup>th</sup> *Ghost* Anniversary and this will go ahead as Dick would have wished. Fellow *Ghosts* are giving thought to a *Dick Yarrow Memorial Trophy* to be inaugurated after consulting his family.

## LACROSSE

Lacrosse is a game that indigenous North Americans devised, as both a pastime and a way to settle tribal disputes. Nowadays, though not the most high profile of sports in the university, it is well established in Oxford and offers blues status to both men and women. Originally, teams as large as 100 per side played for up to three days on a pitch with no boundaries. Today, there are 12 players on each side, who play for four 15 minute quarters.

Keble is well represented at the university level by Caroline Smart and Sadie Chave. The women's team, defeated only once, has got off to a flying start this season. Caroline and Sadie have played an important part in the team's success so far, with Caroline

not cold, as the air of a cellar is cold. And not silent. From somewhere far below comes heavy breathing, strangulated grunts, an assortment of indecipherable mechanical noises. And a faint, yellow light.

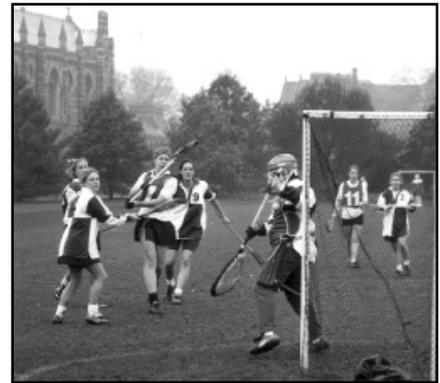
You may turn back — you probably should. But if you go on you will come, at length, to a chamber whose horrors will haunt you forever; a cramped room littered with instruments of torture, to

## KILL, MUTILATE, DESTROY

Keble, of course, maintains its dominant position in men's rugby, but now the female team, with its chant of *suka, samba, uha* (see above translation) is hoping to make a big impression.

Last year, Keble was one of only twelve colleges to field a women's rugby team. This year, with an infusion of freshers, there is a 15-strong squad which trains weekly. Trained by Miles Norris, Huw Gildon and Brian Parsons, the women are becoming expert in all aspects of the game and have made excellent progress throughout the term.

Team captain Prem Ahluwalia points out that the women's game demands as



*Caroline out-smarting the opposition*

scoring twice in a recent 4–2 win against Durham. Both players hope to play in the Varsity Match, and then on to a tournament in Prague, to play teams from as far away as Japan.

which are shackled sweating, groaning, exhausted troglodytes. You have entered the most secret room in the College. You are in the Keble Fitness Centre.

You will not linger. You will return to the upper world and try to forget. But then, when next you cheer a Keble VIII storming up the Green Bank, or marvel at the number of College men gracing the Twickenham turf, you will remember.

much commitment from trainers and team members as the men's, with training in all weathers and no aversion whatsoever to getting extremely muddy. There has also been safety training to allow the game to be a full contact sport.

The game, Prem says, attracts 'a brilliant mix of people' and there exists 'a great team spirit'. These attributes have proved their worth during Michaelmas term: after a narrow 3 tries to 4 defeat by LMH the team drew with Lincoln and then beat Bristol Medics. Keble's Amber Parsons is also playing the game at University level.

## NEW BLOOD TRANSFUSION

This year Keble welcomes no fewer than four new Official Fellows.

**John Bennet** read Classics at Sidney Sussex, Cambridge, where he completed his Doctoral thesis on the Late Minoan period in Crete, a part of Greece he knows intimately through his participation in several archaeological digs. He was made a Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1997 and was also awarded distinction in teaching. He becomes the Sinclair and Rachel Hood Lecturer in Aegean Prehistory.

**Artur Ekert** began his Oxford career at Merton. He was elected Royal Society Howe Research Fellow in 1993 after his Junior Research Fellowship. He introduced entanglement-based quantum cryptography in his D.Phil. thesis. Honours include the Maxwell medal and prize from the Institute of Physics ('95). He is also a visiting Professor at the University of Innsbruck.

### the brick

*the brick* is written, designed and produced by current Keble undergraduates and graduates, with the assistance of the Keble Development Office.

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A former senior manager with Price Waterhouse, **Geoff Jones** was instrumental in developing the Open University's MBA programme which is now the largest in Europe. Geoff aims to combine management with more traditional disciplines, both at Keble and the Said Business School.

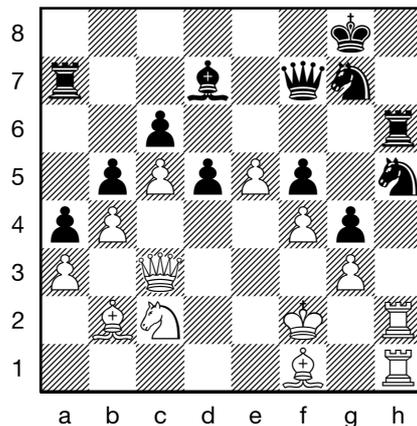
**Tony Phelan** joined us from the University of Warwick. He researched his Ph.D. thesis on C.M. Wieland in Stuttgart. He is a former lay presenter of the Sunday morning radio programme *This Is The Day*. Tony recently became a member of the Iona ecumenical Christian community.

## THE WARDEN IN JAPAN

A highlight of the Warden's visit to Japan in September was a dinner for Old Members in Tokyo, organized by David Morris ('83), who runs the Oxford University Development Office in Japan, and his assistant, Kayoko Isobe. The dinner was well attended and was judged by David and Kayoko to be the best occasion of its kind organized for an undergraduate college. Simon Woolhouse ('83 Physics) has volunteered to organize regular social events for Old Members in Japan.

## COMPETITION CORNER

In issue 13 Adrian Hollis invited Old Members to suggest how, having played its fairly obvious first move, White can achieve a quick checkmate or decisive gain of material against each of Black's four possible replies. Here he assesses the entries.



Eight entries were received, of which five could be described as correct. Thus the selection of a winner had a large element of chance, but the name to emerge was that of Dr Ralph Hollinghurst ('55) who captained the University team in 1958 and 1959 before travelling the world for Mobil Oil. Correct solutions also came from Paul Carey-Kent ('77), Alastair Evans ('72), Stuart Pink ('95) and Ewart Shaw ('74) The others were on the right lines but slipped up on some details. A special mention for Gloria Newton who had

not played chess since she was a child and had to some extent to invent her own notation.

Everyone saw the first move, 1 e5-e6. The four possible captures are met as follows:

1 ... Bxe6 (as played), 2 Qxg7 + Ktxg7, 3 Rxx6. Here Black resigns since the threat of Rh8 mate forces heavy material losses.

1 ... Ktxe6 (the nicest), 2 Rxx5 Rxx5 (or ... d5-d4 3 Rxx6), 3 Qh8+Rxx8, 4 Rxx8 mate

1 ... Rxe6, 2 Rxx5 Ktxh5, 3 Qh8 mate

1 ... Qxe6, 2 Rxx5 Ktxh5, 3 Rxx5 Rxx5, 4 Qg7 mate

There are a few sub-variations in which Black could struggle on at hopeless material cost. One entrant reasonably asked how Black was induced to leave the square e6 vacant. Indeed Black's last move was Bishop from e6 to d7, hoping to occupy e6 with the Knight, a more reliable blockader. This allowed the combination, but if Black remained passive, White would increase the pressure with Ktd4 (hitting c6 as well), Bd3, perhaps Qc2 and something would surely crack.

Congratulations to Ralph Hollinghurst who wins a Dinner for two at High Table.