

London Evening Standard

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Rape is a men's issue
Tom Stranger on why people like him need to talk about their actions
Pages 20 & 21



WEST END FINAL



BANK OF ENGLAND DEPUTY QUILTS OVER BROTHER'S ROLE

MPs CONDEMN CHARLOTTE HOGG FOR FAILURE TO DECLARE LINK » PAGE 2

GRAYLING UNVEILS BLUEPRINT TO TACKLE OVERCROWDING, DELAYS AND POOR SERVICE

MINISTER: AXE FIRST CLASS ON COMMUTER TRAINS

Nicholas Cecil Deputy Political Editor

FIRST CLASS faces the axe on London commuter trains under a rail revolution to tackle overcrowding, delays and poor service, the Transport Secretary announced today.

Chris Grayling proposed radical reforms in the Government's next franchise blueprint for one of Britain's worst-performing rail services, Southeastern, as the population in London and surrounding travel-to-work areas is set to soar by 3.4 million by 2030. They include:

■ Considering removing first class to make more room for

passengers, which would be "important" during peak hours.

■ New metro-style carriages with fewer seats to create more space to meet growing passenger numbers.

■ Running existing trains faster and more often which could "hold down fares".

■ An automated system for passengers to claim compensation when they suffer delays of more than 15 minutes.

■ Smarter payment systems including by mobile phone.

■ Possible new routes including an improved "London

Continued on Page 6



Speaking part: Angelina Jolie arrives at the London School of Economics today to deliver her first lecture as a visiting professor. The actress and UN special envoy was set to tell students how sexual violence is used as a tool of war

PROFESSOR JOLIE: I'M FEELING BUTTERFLIES

JEREMY SELWYN

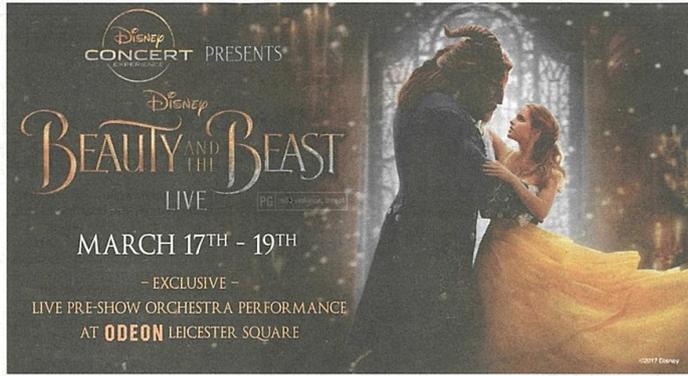
Page 7

Disney CONCERT PRESENTS

Disney **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** LIVE

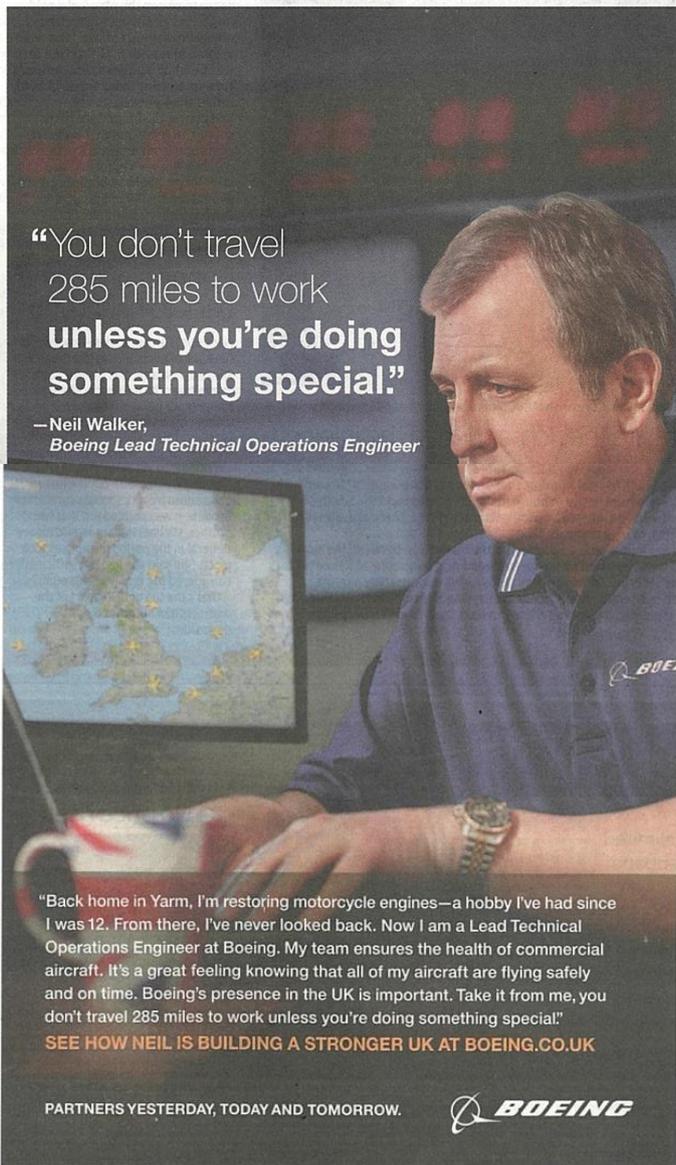
MARCH 17TH - 19TH

- EXCLUSIVE -
LIVE PRE-SHOW ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE
AT **ODEON** LEICESTER SQUARE



"You don't travel 285 miles to work unless you're doing something special."

— Neil Walker,
Boeing Lead Technical Operations Engineer



"Back home in Yarm, I'm restoring motorcycle engines—a hobby I've had since I was 12. From there, I've never looked back. Now I am a Lead Technical Operations Engineer at Boeing. My team ensures the health of commercial aircraft. It's a great feeling knowing that all of my aircraft are flying safely and on time. Boeing's presence in the UK is important. Take it from me, you don't travel 285 miles to work unless you're doing something special."

SEE HOW NEIL IS BUILDING A STRONGER UK AT BOEING.CO.UK

PARTNERS YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW. 

Politics, party and pillow talk. Edited by **Joy Lo Dico**



Trump looms large for artist Alison Jackson

DONALD Trump has a lot on his plate at the moment but has he found time to sue British artist Alison Jackson?

The Londoner met Jackson at Cure3, a Bonhams art sale for the Cure Parkinson's Trust last night. As guests roamed around works by Damien Hirst, Sir Peter Blake and Jonathan Yeo, word spread that Jackson might be having legal troubles with the US President.

Jackson is famed for playful lookalike photos of celebrities, especially royals. Her latest book is full of mocked-up images of Trump, and imagines him with the Ku Klux Klan, holding a rifle, and having sex with Miss Mexico on a desk in the Oval Office.

No publisher would touch the book last year, so Jackson self-published in October, against advice from her lawyers. Was she being sued, The Londoner asked? She seemed to confirm the rumour.

"I can't talk about it in case it gets worse."

The subject turned to other things, before we tried again. Where is he suing you? "The thing is I can't talk about it." In

America or UK? "Anywhere. You know about legal cases – you can't."

Last year Jackson told The Guardian she feared legal action. "Nobody wants to end up in litigation with the President," she said. "But I find it outrageous that artists should be under threat from a President in the US."

Jackson was happy, however, to discuss Trump's state visit to the UK. "I bet he's busy rehearsing his curtsy," she joked, and said she'd probably watch him meet the Queen. "I'd like to see him. I've just been to Florida and saw his friends. They are all orange."

Jackson said her next target was Theresa May.



■ UKIP is surprisingly jolly about a Scottish secession. "It's time to build a wall, a big huge beautiful wall – bring back Hadrian's Wall," Nigel Farage's pal Andy Wigmore tweeted yesterday. Donor Arron Banks added: "It's time the English

have a vote on retaining the Scots." Ukip is having its own vote on retaining Banks: he said he'd been suspended, the party said his membership had lapsed. Given the money Banks pumped into the party, he will feel he has paid his dues.

Novelist writes a love letter to Boris

AUTHOR Rowena Macdonald worked as a House of Commons committee assistant for 16 years: now comes her debut novel, *The Threat Level Remains Severe*, set in the corridors of power.

The Londoner got a sneaky peek and was struck by the sections on Boris Johnson – the only real politico named in the book – which are less roman-à-clef, more roman-a-totally-

obvious. One female character explains "the wonder of Boris" thus. "He was incredibly intelligent, he spoke fluent Latin and Greek... so kind, such a fair and understanding employer... He gave her so many opportunities." The enthusing over Boris's barnet is also disturbing. "His hair is absolutely wonderful. So thick and blonde." For more on Boris's godliness, the book comes out in July.

Quote of the day

'Referendums are like buses. You wait for ages for one and then Nicola Sturgeon comes round the corner and runs you over'



From the conductor of The Times's Red Box political mailout, Matt Chorley

Londoner's Diary

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Party crowd: clockwise from far left, Alison Jackson; chef Fergus Henderson and his wife Margot; Conrad Shawcross and David Ross; BBC's Sophie Raworth. Below left, Jackson's Donald Trump Dollar

PICTURES: JAMES GOURLEY/NICK HANVREX

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BAN of the day: China has banned Peppa Pig, part of the new constraints on "the inflow of ideology" in foreign fiction and TV for children. Cancel our order for sweet 'n' sour pork.



Stay tall in the saddle, Emily

ON THE eve of Cheltenham, Emily Oppenheimer, right, hosted the launch of equestrian clothing range Miasuki at the Bulgari Hotel. She welcomed PR pal Jenny Halpern Prince, left, and Tatler's Kate Reardon, who toasted women including Oppenheimer's riding buddy Elisabeth Murdoch who have returned to the saddle as their children have grown up. No more empty stable syndrome.

DAVE BENNETT

UNLOCK the Red Room: novelist and foodie Prue Leith has denied claims that she is to be the new judge on *The Great British Bake Off*, but she could give Mary Berry a run for her money with erotic puns. Leith hosted the Romantic Novelists' Association's Romantic Novel of the Year Awards,

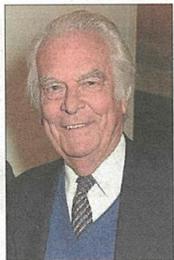
held at Whitehall's Gladstone Library. "I don't like the word 'romantic'," she said. "It's been corrupted into meaning pink and light, frilly and horrid. I'm in favour of 50 Shades. I haven't read the book but I saw the movie - E L James broke a taboo. Good for her." Will she whip the cream and beat the eggs?

IMPORTED holidays are controversial: Brits have taken to Halloween but are still sceptical of Black Friday. The latest US export is Pi Day - a celebration of maths marked with free pie giveaways. Singaporean PM Lee Hsien Loong counts as a fan. Sharing maths puzzles on Twitter, he noted: "They're not as easy as pie, and can be quite tricky! :)" It doesn't add up for The Londoner: Pi Day only works if you write today's date as 3/14, like the mathematical constant Pi. Dudes: it's 14/3.

Deep pockets, Mr Osborne?

IN AN age of austerity, George Osborne will receive £650,000 for working one day a week at BlackRock, the US fund manager, with added public speaking gigs. Lord Owen, right, thinks it's a disgrace.

"Osborne is very clever," Owen told us last night. "He's also current, and is using the opportunity to profit before the window closes. But I don't believe an MP should be profiting from public service or using his ministerial position to get work. It seems wrong: if politicians are asked to speak they should do it for free." Owen was at The Garrick last night for the launch of new book *The China Maze*, written by George Walden under the pseudonym Joseph Clyde. Also at the



bash was journalist Celia Walden, George's daughter, and her husband Piers Morgan. Many arrived prepared to put their hands in their pockets to support the book, but since *The Garrick* doesn't allow profiteering, all copies were gratis.



"It is so odd living in a country that is calmly walking itself off a cliff. No war, no general election won by rogue candidate. Just cliffs."

Journalist Sophie Heawood on our dis-United Kingdom.



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PICTURES: JANE GOURLEY/NICK HARVEY/REX