

## The RMT caused the Tube strike

SIMON Jenkins (Blame greedy bosses for the great Tube mess, 16 June) seems ready to let RMT leaders off the hook for last week's Tube strike.

The union's leadership chose to strike despite an above-inflation pay offer and confirmation that no frontline staff stand to lose their jobs. We also made clear we seek to avoid compulsory redundancies for back-office roles now duplicated following Metronet's collapse.

We refused to give in to the union's tactics. TfL staff and management ensured up to a third of Tube services ran and a range of alternative transport kept London moving.

In these tough economic times we must take a lead, and thus we have already acted to freeze TfL and LU senior management salaries this year. **Richard Parry, managing director, London Underground.**

## Don't jeer at us dressy cyclists

LIKE Andrew Neather (11 June), I hope the Tube strike will convince more Londoners to commute by bike. But as the owner of a sit-up-and-beg bike who is happy pedalling in a variety of outfits including tight jeans and heels, I resent his jeering at me as a rank amateur. Furthermore, if it had been me waiting at the red lights which he sailed through, he would have received a lot more than a tut. Whether or not it is "safer" to jump red lights, the fact is it is still illegal. **Davina Elliott, SW1.**

### ONLINE POLL

**Should Prince Charles have intervened over Lord Rogers's Chelsea Barracks scheme?**

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### Our last result

Should Boris Johnson try to ban Tube strikes?

**YES 82%**  
**NO 18%**

### GAMES SOLUTIONS

**Chess:** 8913: 1 Bc6! If Bxc6 2 Rd8 mate. If Nxc6 2 Re1+ Kf8 3 Rxd7 followed by Rd8+ wins. If Ra1+ 2 Kb2 Rxb1 3 Rxd7! wins. Take full credit if your answer was 1 Bh3! which is just as effective as 1 Bc6.

**Mensa:** Oliver Twist and Bob Cratchit.

**Trivia quiz:** 1. Roger Federer 2. Omar Sharif 3. Ukraine 4. A worm 5. Laughing gas 6. St. Stephen 7. Shogun 8. Atlantic 9. Kampala

## ESxts

■ All Prince Charles did was write a letter to the Qataris. In the current financial climate with building projects abandoned everywhere and Lord Rogers's expensive requirements, wasn't his Chelsea Barracks scheme likely to have been axed anyway for being too pricey? **Tom.**

■ If any ITV company fails, it is their problem for delivering dross and they should be allowed to go to the wall. There is no way they should gain access to even a small part of the licence fee. **Paul B.**

■ I don't see Derek Malcolm's quibbles with documentary The End of the Line. How angry does he want it to be; so angry it loses sight of the intelligent argument and scientific analysis which make it powerful? **Anna Ronald.**

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Emotional roller-coaster: pro-Mousavi demonstrators vent their democratic fury

## Iran needs the West's support

FORGET the promise of recounts – everyone knows elections are neither fair nor free in Iran. There are no basic political freedoms. Candidates are selected by the Supreme Leader and unelected Guardian Council from among pillars of the regime. Mousavi, now a "reformist", was prime minister during the 1980s when thousands were executed.

What is clear from the protests is that there is a mass movement in Iran that can bring the regime to its knees and break the back of the political Islamic movement internationally. Now is the time for us in the West to exert pressure on our governments to politically isolate Iran's rulers rather than legitimise them.

**Maryam Namazie, spokesperson, Worker-communist Party of Iran.**

THE protests are an emotional roller-coaster for Iranians abroad like myself. But Western politicians need to sit tight and not declare their support, or they risk giving ammo to Ahmadinejad's camp and legitimising their claim that the opposition is more aligned with the West than the Iranian nation. This is a time for smart politics, organisation and planning – not emotion and sentimentality. **Ali Motlagh.**

## Iraq inquiry must be public

THE Government held out against an inquiry into the Iraq war until pressure both inside and outside Parliament made resistance impossible. Now it has called an inquiry under terms that do not satisfy the Commons (no MP spoke unequivocally in favour of it) and that will not satisfy the public either. The "national interest" is once again synonymous with preventing Government embarrassment.

There is no earthly reason why the inquiry could not be held in public with power to meet in private when questions of a genuinely sensitive nature are involved. Why not give the inquiry power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant documents? Why not make up its membership from senior figures with political and military experience?

To the public this looks like an inquiry designed to kick the issue into the long grass until after the general election. You wanted Franks, you have got Franks, says the Prime

Minister – but the Franks inquiry into the Falklands War was more than 25 years ago. The public today has more urgent and sophisticated expectations of what they should know about the workings of government.

**Sir Menzies Campbell MP, SW1.**

THE flow of memoirs and reporting has disclosed much of what there is to know about the Government's decision to participate in the invasion of Iraq. The official inquiry will probably reveal the startling fact that Tony Blair has a strong moral streak and genuinely felt there were no circumstances where Iraqis would be better off under Saddam Hussein than released from his yoke. Given that the US was going to take the lead in toppling Saddam, Blair was not going to sit idle.

As for the question of WMD, we now know there were none but this was not clear at the time. Saddam had ousted UN inspectors, failed to account for a great deal of material and had come

close to enriching uranium once before. This was a strong if circumstantial case. In diplomatic terms, a Western coup to get rid of Saddam made sense because economic sanctions before the war were a propaganda gift to Saddam and a problem for transatlantic relations.

Blair was warned by experts that an invasion would unleash anarchy in Iraq, which the invaders would be unable to quell, and he was undermined by Washington's disregard for London's advice. No doubt an inquiry will rehash these familiar themes.

**Steven Simon, senior fellow in Middle Eastern studies, Council on Foreign Relations.**

THE amazing thing about Gordon Brown as he promises us an Iraq war inquiry is that he really thinks people are still taking him and his novelty self-shuffling Cabinet seriously. He's lucky that most of us have managed to keep our sense of humour. **Derrick Fowles.**

Have your say...  
[letters@standard.co.uk](mailto:letters@standard.co.uk)

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The Editor,  
Evening Standard,  
PO Box 2309,  
London W8 5EE

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## STARS SHELLEY VON STRUNCKEL

### Aries March 20 - April 18

Obviously, last-minute changes in plans are both annoying and tedious. You're tempted to ignore them, thinking that otherwise you'll end up continually reorganising things. That may be true. Do nothing, however, and you'll lose control entirely, something you would soon regret. For your weekly/monthly forecast, call 0906 6513 520

### Taurus April 19 - May 19

Between now and the New Moon, early next week, you'll be conducting a serious review. Initially, you'll focus on keeping those arrangements you worked hard to organise as they are. But circumstances have evolved, and within a few days developments will make it clear why elements of your life must as well. For your weekly/monthly forecast, call 0906 6513 521

### Gemini May 20 - June 20

Nobody enjoys intriguing developments more than you do, which is fortunate as that's exactly what's heading your way. However, not everybody will recognise their potential. Explain as best you can but waste no time on further persuasion. Instead, allow events to do the talking for you. For your weekly/monthly forecast, call 0906 6513 522

### Cancer June 21 - July 21

Each sign takes change at its own pace. While you can move swiftly, you find a measured approach more comfortable. However, judging by the planetary activity of the coming week or so, sudden and thrilling developments will give you no choice but to think and act fast. For your weekly/monthly forecast, call 0906 6513 523

### Leo July 22 - August 21

Having worked hard to organise certain arrangements, you're not about to change them on a whim. Which is exactly what you regard recent exciting, but overwhelming, ideas as being. Still, these are worth exploring. Once you've learned more about them and those behind them, you'll realise just how good they are. For your weekly/monthly forecast, call 0906 6513 524

### Virgo August 22 - Sept 21

Others are complaining about a lack of options. Now they're appealing to you for guidance. The actual problem is their attitude. Until they take a more inquisitive approach, and are willing to venture into unfamiliar territory, nothing you suggest would be of any interest to them. For your weekly/monthly forecast, call 0906 6513 525

### IF IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY TOMORROW...

Occasionally, the planets are in a benevolent mood, and happily for you, it occurs on your birthday. The Sun's superb aspect to Jupiter indicates both that your past efforts come good and, also, new ideas or offers appear, often from out of the blue. If you've any challenge, it's dealing with so much excitement at once. Demanding as this is, it's the kind of challenge you'll be delighted to have.



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### Libra Sept 22 - Oct 22

You wouldn't think that you'd be suspicious of exciting opportunities. However, when something arises unexpectedly, you need time to evaluate facts. Things are moving too swiftly for this now, which means you'll not only have to ignore those suspicions, you'll have to make the necessary decisions without any delay. For your weekly/monthly forecast, call 0906 6513 526

### Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 21

For weeks you've been wrestling with tricky domestic and financial issues. You would now be happy with something everybody will accept. This has appeared, but because it's so simple you haven't recognised it for what it is. For your weekly/monthly forecast, call 0906 6513 527

### Sagittarius Nov 22 - Dec 20

At the moment, you'll want to appear to be listening to the advice of others, but you really must ignore it. Their suggestions are well meaning, but they've so many concerns about the wisdom of certain offers, that you'd have to spend a year investigating them all. You're far better off learning from experience. For your weekly/monthly forecast, call 0906 6513 528

### Capricorn Dec 21 - Jan 18

Generosity may be a virtue, but as a Capricorn you also have a powerful work ethic. This means that, in your book, generosity must be earned. Now that somebody's being generous to you, and without you having made an effort, you can't help but be suspicious. For your weekly/monthly forecast, call 0906 6513 529

### Aquarius Jan 19 - Feb 17

In late May the bountiful Jupiter met Neptune, planet of transformation, in Aquarius. This began a lengthy journey of exploration and personal growth for you. While you may not have recognised those first steps, you should have no problem spotting this week's developments as opportunities worth pursuing. For your weekly/monthly forecast, call 0906 6513 530

### Pisces February 18 - March 19

Since you've no choice about the sudden and unwelcome changes that have just blown into your life, you're better off simply accepting them as they are. You'll begin to discover their promise, enough that you'll soon realise they're opportunities, although in disguise. For your weekly/monthly forecast, call 0906 6513 531