

### MEDIA NEWS

IN 2003, when *Queer as Folk* writer Russell T. Davies went "poacher turned gamekeeper" and complained to the BBC about homophobia in, er, *Basil Brush* (a man got punched for making a pass at another man he thought was a woman, much to Basil's amusement), an approving *Guardian* cleared a page for him to vent his spleen.

"I ranted to myself and stomped round the kitchen, reduced to Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells," he wrote. "I complained to the BBC. They've promised to investigate, and might well decide I'm talking nonsense, though I look forward to arguing the point."

Five years on and Davies was last week moved to fire off another complaint – nay, a "stinging rebuke" which "contained a phrase you will never hear pre-watershed" – to a media organisation over its coverage of his pending departure as executive producer of *Doctor Who*. Its name? The *Guardian*, which kicked off a blog discussion on its website with hack Stephen Brook opining in the face of dozens of outraged *Guardianistas* that "I think he made the programme too childish, too camp and too gay".

### I - SKY

"SKY ONE are cock-a-hoop after *Gladiators* kicked off with 1.8m viewers," reported the *Sun* on 13 May, in the 27th reference to the show the paper has managed to shoe since its sister TV channel resurrection in January.

"The return on Sunday proved a big draw despite the sunshine... ITV must be for not picking up *Gladiators*. Indeed ITV must. Why had tuned in to watch ITV? *The Star*, which went out a

**A SUBSIDIARY** of **Ru Corp, NDS, is to be hit** with around \$100m after a **Court** that it had illegally hacked decoder card made by rival

Reports of the case won NDS the victor, saying it was "cleared" of the charges that crack the smartcards then how to avoid paying for TV said it had only cracked Echo how to protect its own product undermine its competitor.

But while the court awarded damages of just \$1,546 to Echostar over violations of US anti-piracy laws in a test case relating to a single hacked card, NDS is now liable for both sides' legal costs. Echostar says its legal costs from the six-year case and four-week trial total around \$20m, while the *Australian Financial Review* estimates that NDS spent upwards of \$80m fighting the allegations.

**VISITORS** to the Hay Festival who are looking forward to the world premiere of *For You*, the new opera from Ian McEwan and Michael Berkeley, may be in for a disappointment.

While their previous collaboration, *Or Shall We Die?* – a Thatcher-era plea for "womanly times" to replace phallogocratic nuclear posturing – was ridiculed for its naivety, an interview by the pair suggests this latest offering will feel horribly familiar to the lovers of... bonkbusters.

*For You* is about an ageing, monstrous, egotistical, philandering conductor who claims *droit de seigneur* over the female members of his orchestra. "Sex is a big element", according to a *Times* interview, and there is a dark ending involving "a surprise comeuppance for the ghostly main character".

Can a Booker-winning novelist and a Radio 3 presenter really be recycling the plot of Jilly Cooper's 1999 orchestral sex romp, *Score!*? It seems so...



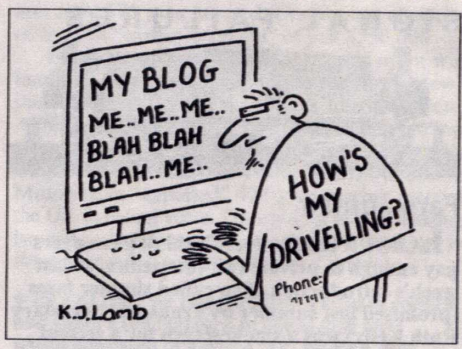
### Curse of Gnome

SO. FAREWELL then Peter Hargitay, the Swiss-Hungarian con artist (*Eyes passim*) who had persuaded gullible blazers at the Football Association that he was the man to help England host the World Cup in 2018.

When new FA boss Lord David Triesman arrived at Soho Square, he took one look at Hargitay, held his nose and pointed to the door.

The over-paid blazers (last financial report had FA chief executive Brian Barwick trousering a 54 percent pay rise to £547,000) hadn't checked Hargitay out properly, trusting him to fill in their due diligence form. He seems not to have found space to mention the curious filings at the American Securities and Exchange Commission about his Caribbean shipping line a dozen years ago. Or a court judgement for more than £1m prompting the scamster to locate the company through which he offered his services to the FA, European Consultancy Network, in Cyprus.

● Lord Seb Coe, chair of FIFA president Sepp Blatter's invisible ethics committee, will not be reporting to FIFA's Congress in Sydney at the end of May, preferring to attend a Salvation Army dinner in Kingston, Jamaica, instead. Coe was appointed 20 months ago and has yet to pronounce on the scam artists, ticket touts and bribe takers in the FIFA leadership.



### EDUCASHUN NEWZ

**THE City Academy Bristol is seen by Labour as one of the academy scheme's greatest successes – even featuring in a flashy "behind the scenes" film on Downing Street's website. But the latest accounts reveal that the academy faces an unexpected £1.5m payout over the disputed cost of building work.**

HBG Construction Western Ltd was awarded a £21,736,504 contract in July 2004 to construct new school buildings. The work has been finished, but the two sides' valuation of it is markedly different. The accounts show the discrepancy was originally £2.75m, though this has been negotiated down to £1.5m.

Even the lower sum would, of course, swallow the... brought to the project by... sponsors – Bristol City... of the West of England –... efficiency are supposed to... kind of problem... ing... w-in-Furness, plans for a... ed by BAE, the arms... ption – moved a step

which plans to specialise in... technology, would... igious secondary schools... e of Labour's much... To understand how... at the recent council... four members of the "Our... le" (OSANFS) campaign... 's Tory council leader Bill... n a single vote of electing

s after the election, submitted its plans to the... Schools and Families and... into the "feasibility stage".

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**PRIVATE EYE  
MAGAZINE  
MAY 30, 2008**

**INFONXX**, the telecoms company that owns directory inquiries business 118 118, has decided to scrap its unpronounceable moniker and picked a new brand name "designed to be intriguing and challenging. It reflects our mission to exceed expectations".

And what is this brilliant new name? "The name kgb has tested very positively in research," enthused Infonxx founder Robert Pines in a memo to staff. It's certainly a bold choice of initials for a company currently expanding into Eastern Europe...

**14 Lavatories are poorly maintained. Some cubicles had run out of toilet paper and the flushes, placed behind the loo seats, which appear to work on motion detectors, are haphazard, with some failing to activate.**

Evening Standard

### SUPERMODELS

KERBER

