

Rock profs take over at the FT

From Mr Peter Cook.

Sir, I see you have ditched macroeconomics in favour of the "rock professors" Sensible and Bush as arbiters of fiscal policy and government futurology (Letters, January 12 and 13). I might add some further pieces of advice for Gordon Brown in his current crash-and-burn recovery strategy.

Pink Floyd warned us of the subprime crisis as early as 1973:

Money, it's a gas. Grab that cash with both hands and make a stash.

The Pet Shop Boys got to the heart of the credit crisis some 24 years ago:

You've got the banks, I've got the shops. Let's make lots of money.

Finally, some pithy words of advice for Mr Brown from the singer-activist, political futurist and spin doctor Billy Bragg:

Poetry and flowers, pretty words and threats.

You've gone to the dogs again and I'm not placing bets

It's the end of the world as we know it (and I feel fine?).

Peter Cook,
Managing Director,
Academy of Rock,
Gillingham, Kent, UK

City dwellers who can

From Mr Peter Curwen.

Sir, As per usual, your article "Promise of universal UK broadband" (January 14) gives the impression that the inability to access a 2MB downlink is a problem for rural areas. Unfortunately, there are also those

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When the chinless went a-wooing

From Mr William Pedder.

Sir, Social mobility is a good thing ("Onwards, upwards", editorial, January 15). But does evolutionary theory suggest it could be self-limiting? People used to marry into their own class. Pedigree mattered more than ability when chinless wonders went a-wooing. A freer society enables people to select mates from a wider pool. The capable and intelligent can more easily select those with matching talents. Are their children more likely to have genes that give them an advantage in staying near the top of the pile?

The appropriate policy response is surely to encourage trophy wives and toy boys for the rich and talented.

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