

FINANCE AND BUSINESS ROCKS!!

Eccentric rocker who foresaw the exploding wallet LETTERS; Financial Times Jan 12, 2009

Sir, Who saw the current crisis and the resulting huge public spending programme 12 years before the rest of us? None other than eccentric rocker Captain Sensible, it seems. While trawling through my CDs, I found one of his albums (*Mad Cows And Englishmen*, recorded in 1996), which features the track "Mr Brown's Exploding Wallet". This asks how the then would-be chancellor was going to make ends meet and pay for his seemingly endless spending promises. Maybe the Captain should stand for parliament himself given his perceptive powers of long-term forecasting.



Jon Brown, Winchester, Hants, UK

Explore uncharted linguistic waters LETTERS; Financial Times Jan 13, 2009

Sir, "Let's danger it up" sang quintessentially English chanteuse *Kate Bush* some 15 or so years ago. Not, perhaps, an exhortation likely to go down very well in a market currently hit by such sadly risk-averse sentiment but a splendid example of bold and inventive usage. How timorous, by contrast, your columnists (Brian Groom, December 30, Lucy Kellaway, January 5) and correspondent (Piers Currie, January 12), bemoaning "nouns moonlighting as verbs" and "linguistic horrors". All the more encouraging, therefore, was Peter Prowse's vigorous defence (Letters, January 6) of English nouns and their proclivity to conjugate as verbs, a wonderfully "promiscuous" feature of the language that none of us, surely, would wish to do without. Going forward, I hope to see a greater willingness to explore and embrace linguistically "uncharted waters" !



Stephen Elford, Elford Translation & Copywriting Services, Germany

Rock Profs take over at the FT LETTERS; Financial Times Jan 16, 2009

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.

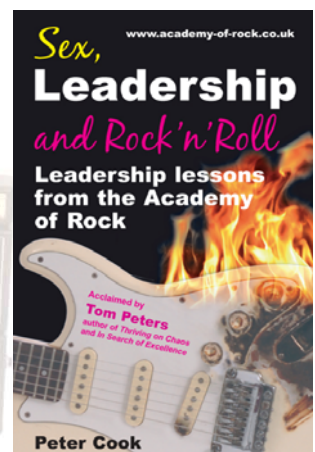
It's the end of the world as we know it (and I feel fine?).

Peter Cook, Managing Director, The Academy of Rock

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