

Wise words from rock's philosophers

From Mr Peter Cook.

Sir, Peter Patel rightly points out that the banks need to learn from philosophers more than discounted cash flow tables (Letters, January 19), yet he assumes that great thinking can only come from the ancient Greeks. We need not look back so far and I wish to suggest some wise words from the “rock philosophers” Britney Spears, Pete Townshend and Meatloaf.

Britney Spears pointed out that all large organisations are creatures of habit in her 1990s classic “Oops I Did it Again”. Rather than repeating their behaviour, banks would be wise to heed her embedded advice and learn from their mistakes, a point she obviously borrowed from The

Who's 1968 masterpiece “Won't Get Fooled Again”.

Meatloaf offers banks an ethical call to arms in his anthem “I'd Do Anything for Love (But I Won't Do That)”. The word “that”, clearly being an allusion to individualised pay bonuses, the illusion of control and reckless decision-making outside normal fiscal parameters.

So, come on bankers, men and women of government. Get your iPods out instead of your spreadsheets and apply some new thinking to the problem of making UK plc great again.

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Meatloaf: anthem