

ALL STRIKING STAFF LEAVING BA TO DISASTER?

Yes THREE cheers for the stupid union leaders who are taking BA to the brink of extinction. ("Holiday strike threat at BA", December 14). After this strike they can inform their members that never mind better pay, there is no job as BA has disappeared, gone bust.

Do these idiots think they are going to get the sympathy of the hard-working travelling public who booked their Christmas holidays at good rates months ago, and will now need to be pay for any new bookings at the last minute?

What stupid union leaders BA has

Ann Spurling
Brixton Wood, Hert's

No BA staff have, unfortunately, been forced into taking strike action in order to get the company to hold meaningful negotiations. The union seems to have been forced into this situation by BA's refusal to give an inch on job cuts and a pay freeze for two years. It is not the fault of staff that BA has been haemorrhaging cash over the last year and lost a staggering £292million in the first six months of the year. Striking may cause a great deal of disruption to the travelling public but let's hope a few days of action will make intransigent managers see sense.

Daniel Snape,
By e-mail

Young people can change Britain if we're taught how

As a 16-year-old about to finish secondary education, I strongly feel that the current generation of young people is not getting enough education on politics. Imagine a

M Walker,
Wigton, Cumbria

Ten things you never knew about...

1. Zamenhof first published his invented language under the pseudonym "Dr Esperanto", meaning "one who hopes". The word then came to be applied to the language itself.
2. There are 11 official languages in South Africa. No other country has as many.
3. In the 1980s, it was reported that Nigeria's navy included 20 ships whose names all meant 'hippopotamus' in various languages and dialects.
4. Around 300 different languages are regularly spoken in London, of which the 999 service can translate 150.
5. Around two million people in the world speak Esperanto fluently, of whom only 10,000 are British.
6. According to research in Tennessee published in 2001, people who use sign language are five times more likely to suffer hand and wrist injuries than people who don't.
7. Officially, there are 6,912 languages spoken on Earth of which 516 are listed as 'endangered'.
8. The last language to become extinct was the Eyak language of Alaska of which the last speaker died in 2008.
9. The most spoken language in the world is Mandarin Chinese; English comes second.
10. The Esperanto for 'hello' is 'saluton' which may be colloquially abbreviated to 'luton'.

Lawrence Mendoza,
London

Her Majesty was a bit fussy

royal swans, but a colleague to dispose of while his mo cleaned. A steal at £3,500. Eight milkmaids: A bit of know, but there's nothing straight from the udder to coffee after the meal. The were cheap enough at £40 evening, but the transport cows added another £600. Nine dancers (female): f cabaret. £4,050.

Ten Lords: the annual di know, coincides with the C Lords Leapfrog match. The the Lords includes appeara and travel expenses: £25,0 Eleven Pipers and 12 Dru accompaniment for the dar tried last year dispensing v and percussion, but the dai it very difficult. £6,900 inc travel expenses.

Total: £41,321 plus VAT at Grand Total: £47,519.15. I look forward to your pr remittance.

Memo: From: H of C Acco To: A Truelove, MP. Re: Your expenses claim. We cannot accept your cl delivery charge for the Lea as their travel expenses ha been included. We have ded £10.35 (£9 + VAT) from youi enclose a cheque for £47,51

to us on a 0800 number from a BT telephone. Monthly changes shown assume online billing and payment by direct debit. However, you'll be charged VAT at 15% instead (so your VAT inclusive monthly charge will be less) until 31 Dec 06 unless we tell you otherwise.

