Russia and the prize of a private education

Sir, Jenni Russell (“Keep Russia’s dirty money out” Mar 15) urges banning the children of the Russian super-rich from British private schools. She argues that the open celebration of their wealth undermines existing norms, and that some “dangerous clauses from the bill” advocated by the Leveson Report.

Russia regulates more than 2,600 print and online publications in 120 countries. Investigative journalism is all but impossible. We hope that the UK will ensure it does not become a place for Russian children to be educated.

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Press freedom

Sir, We are writing to express deep concern that the UK and some politicians in the UK to use the implementation of data protection laws to as a weapon against the media. We represent 18,000 news media publications in 120 countries. Changes to the Data Protection Bill are intended to force newspapers and magazines to join a state-recognised regulator against their will. They would undercut vital protections for freedom of expression and freedom of information, making public interest investigative journalism all but impossible.

The vast majority of UK journalists adhere to professional standards upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO), which regulates more than 2,600 print and online publications under a system of voluntary press self-regulation. It upholds the Leveson Report. This is over and above British laws covering libel, contempt and other criminal matters.

We hope that the UK will ensure it upholds the high standards of press freedom expected from a leading democracy by removing these dangerous clauses from the bill.

MICHAEL GOLDEN
President, World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers
david laway
President, World Editors Forum

Letters to the Times

Mrs Lazarus

Sir, Janice Turner (Notebook, Mar 15) is to be applauded for being so honest about experiencing the rollercoaster of a parent who is deteriorating physically and mentally. The first five years of my retirement were filled with worry and anxiety. I often thought I could save myself the most. Numerous times I found myself in a hospital ward with my own mother, who by then was a retired daughter as we sat at our mothers’ bedside.

I expect that many of their mothers, like my own, had been resourceful, practical and energetic lives. Now their strength of character and independence is being rebouning on them as they stubbornly refused advice, help and change. Hopefully by now I am realised that my mother would die peacefully in the night. Eventually she went into a care home and it was to this I was called as a horrible time, so when I got a call from the home that she was near to death I just peered round her bedroom door and then crept away. It wasn’t how I had expected to say goodbye. There was nothing I could do but keep holding her hand and talking to her I would call up that the hospital was empty, Mum too. EILEEN MORGAN
Mackworth, Derbyshire

Supine mandarins

Sir, Having joined the civil service in the 1960s my reaction to the study by Andrew Kakabadse of Henley Business School (“Undervalued手动 mandarins running our political masters”, Mar 15) is that not much has changed over the decades – not the arrogance of the top civil servants who are lacking in backbone compared with their predecessors. I do not believe that today’s politicians are significantly more resourceful than previous ministers. PAUL TWYMAN
Birchington on Sea, Kent

Pencil perfection

Sir, The insistence by the theology professor Kevin DeYoung that his students use pens instead of laptops (“‘Undervalued’ manual mandarins running our political masters”, Mar 15) resonates with my own profession of architecture. The so-called “digital board in a modern architectural studio is now such a rarity that it merits almost automatic classification as a significant feature.”

Everything is now produced by CAD (computer-aided design) with all the associated distractions generated through the keyboard. Like Professor DeYoung, I sometimes wish I could insist on the use of pens, not just writing instruments such as PADC (pencil-aided design) which some of us still hold dear as an essential ingredient to producing the best design work.

ANDY DAVEY
Peebles, Scottish Borders

Chauvinist pigs?

Sir, Sarah Bradford’s letter (Mar 16) about animal insults aimed at men had me pouting, as I’ve often wondered about the double standard. How about hill sheepy or old fox, randy old goat, wolf in sheep’s clothing or bull in a china shop? James Herriot, best known here as Alf Wight, a man who clearly had a sensitive nature to the look. I have looked after. Further, we will continue to celebrate our association with his memory at the centenary to his life and much-loved books. We invite Miss Scott to visit Thirsk and the city to see how “despicable” and “hypocritical” we are.

IAN ASHTON
Member, Thirsk, The World of James Herriot, Thirks, N Yorks

Correction: flower arrangements

We described Penhill as one of the most of them being but slightly hurt numbers of Russian children coming to study in the UK. It was a remarkable promptitude ambulances were rushing out to the scene of the disaster. The work of rescue was extremely difficult, as explosions still continued, but it was effected with rapidity and by the afternoon the first trainload of wounded had reached the Gare du Nord. I may refer to the Cross rendered services which have still further the base behind the line in which it is held by the French. The propaganda effect of the activity of the Cross is now immense. The recent air raids and this tragic weekend cannot be overestimated.

British ambulances may be asked also to assist the French in treating the wounded as they came into the station. I may refer to the Cross rendered services which have still further the base behind the line in which it is held by the French. The propaganda effect of the activity of the Cross is now immense. The recent air raids and this tragic weekend cannot be overestimated.

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