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## That's why the Lady is a crook

By **KELVIN MACKENZIE**

**PUBLISHED:** 14:43 EST, 4 May 2012 | **UPDATED:** 18:06 EST, 4 May 2012

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So it's game, set and match to the quasi-criminal Baroness Uddin (amazingly, she won't sue me for saying that).

The peer falsely claimed £125,000 in expenses by pretending her flat in Maidstone, Kent, was her home when, in fact, she lived in a housing association property in Wapping, East London.

Uddin was suspended from the Labour Party, but after a lamentable investigation by Keir Starmer, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the decision was made not to charge her with any criminal offence.



**Criminal:** Baroness Uddin wrongly claimed tens of thousands of pounds in expenses

Instead, more than a year and a half later, she has just repaid the entire £125,000 in one lump sum.

How did she manage this? After all, she lives in a subsidised flat, which means, presumably, that she can't afford the full rent.

And yet, when push comes to shove, she is able to lay her hands on £125,000. In fact, I think we should be told where the money came from.

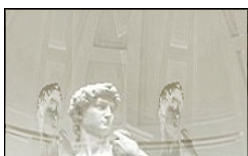
If you had fiddled your expenses, you wouldn't be allowed to simply hand the money back. Instead, you would be spending a considerable time as a guest of Her Majesty. Baroness Uddin, who was plucked from local council obscurity by that terrible judge of character Tony Blair, will be allowed to return to the Lords next week and claim a daily tax-free Lords allowance of £300.

This is OUR money. This is a disgrace. As a first step, she should be thrown out of her subsidised flat.

**With the UK Border Force staff threatening to strike, I am reminded of what the New York humorist Dorothy Parker said on hearing U.S. President Calvin Coolidge had died: 'How can they tell?'**

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**STONEWALL KITCHEN**

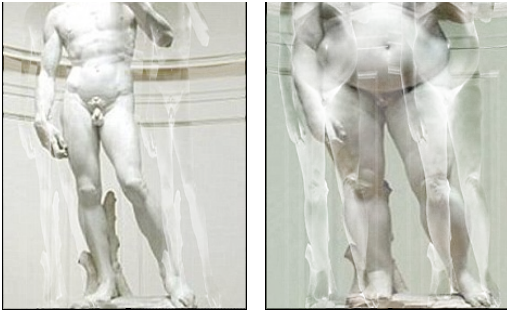
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Look what happened when Michelangelo's masterpiece statue of David spent two years in a Glasgow museum...



### Supersleuth Kelv is on the case

I have hired the small but energetic London law firm of Edmunds Marshall McMahon in my battle to get justice for Chloe Tebay.

The 18-year-old student was dancing at a nightclub in Chorley, Lancashire, when she was knocked to the floor, for no reason, by a fellow clubber who then kicked her in the face, breaking her nose.

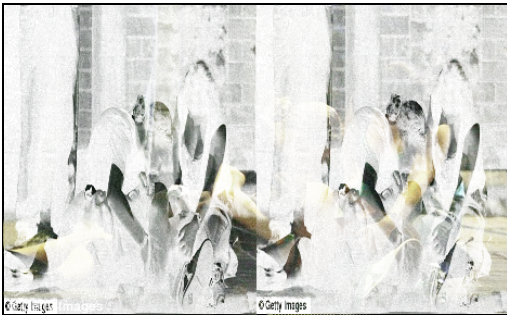
Unbelievably her assailant, Laura Lewis, was simply given a caution by police. I decided that this was not right and have looked into launching a private prosecution.

My lawyer tells me the following:

We checked with Chloe as to whether she was contacted by the police officer in the case before Miss Lewis was given a caution. She said she wasn't. Home Office circular 016/2008 states that before a simple caution can be given, the views of any victim about the offence and proposed method of disposal should be obtained.

Chloe was kicked while on the floor, which is an aggravating factor of an offence, yet this doesn't seem to have been taken into account.

The mother of Chloe's boyfriend, Carol Pilkington, wrote to Chorley police station on April 24 asking for more information about the caution. She did not receive a reply.



Appalling: Violence on nights out has now become a horrible norm in many city centers. But are the police doing enough to tackle it?

The police Press Office initially said the caution had been given after consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). They then wrote to say they were mistaken and that no such consultation took place and the CPS were never asked for advice.

We rang Lancashire police, explained we were acting for Chloe and that we would like the wording of the caution and details of the offence Miss Lewis was cautioned for. We were told to put that request in writing.

We wrote to them again and asked them to respond urgently. No response yet. We told them that Chloe and Carol had not received a response to their letter. The officer on the phone said that was unlikely. We called Chloe straight after to confirm, and she said they have not received a response.

This one will run and run ... and so will I.

### Cruising for a bruising

The biggest PR disaster I've seen was jeweller Gerald Ratner referring to stuff he sold in his shops as 'crap'. He now has competition for the title from the dimbos who run the cruise travel agents Bonvoyage.co.uk.

They carried out, and then published, a survey of 1,281 of their cruise passengers. It showed that each one of them put on 14lb — yes 14lb — during a two-week cruise thanks to the huge mounds of nosh available round-the-clock. Just one more waffer-thin meent?



A weighty mistake: One of the appeals of a cruise holiday is the quality of food on offer, but the news of excessive weight gain is hardly good for PR

I had been pondering of late going on a cruise but have been fighting my weight for three decades and the last thing I want is to put on 14lb. I would make love to Ed Milliband if it would lose 14lb. All right, Ann Widdecombe,

#### Today's headlines Most Read

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- ▶ Osborne bashes benefits: Increases capped at just ONE PER CENT for three years after full toll of 'worst economic shock since WW2' is revealed
- ▶ Benefits squeezed for next three years after handouts soared at twice the rate of wages for those in work
- ▶ Victory for drivers: 3p-a-litre fuel duty rise is axed as Osborne promises 'real help' for families
- ▶ Triple-dip recession fears loom over Autumn Statement as service sector grows at slowest pace in nearly 2 years
- ▶ Heavy snow closes airports, wreaks havoc on railways and turns roads into ice rinks... but Met Office failed to see it coming
- ▶ Two men suspected of killing friend and resorting to cannibalism after getting lost for three months on fishing trip to Siberia
- ▶ 'Gratuitous' American Apparel adverts BANNED once again for sexualising models who look younger than 16 years old
- ▶ 'An appalling waste of money': Senior Tories blast plan to pledge £2bn of UK aid to help Third World go green
- ▶ Starbucks caves in and agrees to pay up to £10m tax this year - but it may not stop the boycott caused by its 'immoral' financial dealings
- ▶ Businessman in £34m VAT fraud ordered to pay back just £1m after blowing the rest on lavish champagne lifestyle
- ▶ Tesco signals embarrassing retreat from the US after losing its £1billion gamble to take on supermarket giant Wal-mart
- ▶ Tragedy as woman with debilitating sexual arousal disorder that made her orgasm up to 50 times in a row commits suicide
- ▶ Kiss of life from the monster who killed her: Moment paedophile rushed into hospital carrying the dying 15-month-old girl he had fatally abused
- ▶ Mo Farah, Jessica Ennis, Usain Bolt and now... Carlton Cole! West Ham win the race for keys to Olympic Stadium
- ▶ Grandfather burned grandson, 5, with cigarette as part of a bizarre 'family game'
- ▶ Another reason for rethinking that late-night cigarette: Smoking DOES make your hangover worse
- ▶ Racing legend Frankie Dettori banned from riding for six months after failing drugs test
- ▶ Glamorous businesswoman, 28, from Kenya, killed herself because she was lonely living in Britain
- ▶ 'World's worst boss' threatened to dissolve his workers in acid - and told one worker she should have been drowned at birth

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then.

Once the bosses discovered this shocking secret they should have kept schtum. Now everybody knows that when you disembark, somebody will have to walk in front of you with a red flag. Which round-the-world trip has Eric Pickles been on?

I happen to know that every summer the generous fashion tycoon Sir Philip Green invites Planet Hollywood entrepreneur Robert Earl on to his super-yacht as it makes its way around the Med.

Mr Earl tells friends that thanks to the lashings of clotted cream and jam, he has to take two sets of trousers with him — one lot with 30in waists and another with 38in waists.

He's only on the boat for three weeks. Mind you, it hasn't helped Sir Philip's shape either has it?

**My spies out there tell me Gregg Wallace of BBC's Masterchef, who has just seen his third marriage collapse after less than a year, is up to his old tricks. You may remember he met his wife, Heidi, on Twitter and he has started the same pattern with a number of twenty-somethings on the social networking site. It begins with a bit of flirting, then he 'follows' them, and then to direct message (DM) so no one can see what he's saying. Put it away, Gregg — you're 47!**

I like a bet and sensed a killing was to be made when I saw a throwaway line in a Sunday paper. It said Rebekah Brooks, former chief executive of News International, was prepared to make public all the texts and emails sent between her and David Cameron.

Considering what might be in this correspondence, I asked Ladbrokes to give me odds on Cameron not being Prime Minister by the end of November. At 10-1, I wagered £1,000.

I always thought he would be a one-term premier; I didn't realise he would be a half-term premier.

If I win, I will give my jackpot to the Help For Heroes charity. If I lose, though, I will have to stop reading the Sunday papers.

### Joy in the Promised Land

Last week I returned to Tel Aviv — I had a few days there last November — and it was magic. Weather fab and food fantastic. But what made it memorable was an act of thoughtfulness I considered worth recording.

I lost my credit card. I searched our house in the fashionable quarter of Neve Tsedek, but no luck.

I retraced my steps back to a cafe but drew a blank. Finally I started to trudge home when I spotted some little pieces of silver plastic under a tree.

I picked them up and there was my name (It's usually in the gutter!). It was my card and clearly what had happened is that a kindly Israeli had discovered it and, because there is no chip and pin system in Israel, knew the danger of fraud and had cut up the card, helpfully leaving it so that I wouldn't go mad with worry.

Can you imagine that happening in Camden? The next time you would have heard of the card was when your bank called to ask if you were in Moscow and had ordered an £8,000 fur coat and a £5,300 three-piece suite.

I'm not Jewish but could I say in Yiddish; A sheynem dank (thank you very much).

I have stumbled across a new word in an online dictionary that I feel we will all be using shortly. It's Ineptocracy (in-ep-toc-ra-cy) — a system of government where the least capable to lead are elected by the least capable of producing and where the members of society least likely to sustain themselves are rewarded with goods and services paid for by the confiscated wealth of a diminishing number of producers. Greece and Glasgow immediately come to mind. I'm sure you have your own ideas.

A friend recently buried his mother-in-law in the same grave as her husband. The headstone was removed so her details could be added. On top of the fixed costs, my hard-up friend has learned there will be a charge of £5 a letter. So far he has got it down to: & WIFE :(

Victoria Derbyshire, the 10am to noon presenter on BBC's Radio 5 Live, failed to make it to Salford again yesterday. Would it be easier if the BBC advertised on the M6 gantries the days she was working? It is, after all, our money.



Masterchef: Gregg Wallace cartoon by Gary for the Daily Mail

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Kelvin is a brilliant journalist and I look forward to reading his articles but his bias against Scotland lets him down—a great pity

- John , Glasgow, 06/5/2012 19:23

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At the moment I can't decide which will destroy the UK first - public stupidity or shameless government corruption...

- Mark C , Ashbourne, UK, 06/5/2012 16:30

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Well done you deserve a medal, also your support of Chole is superb you put the government to shame. keep up the good work. jon cheam.

- john bose , sutton surrey, 06/5/2012 14:26

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What a country! If you are poor and you get caught you go to prison - if you are rich you go to the Lords. Something's not right!

- Little John , Sherwood, 06/5/2012 09:15

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How come some of the thieving troughers ended up in court and some didn't? Who has the power to decide these things? She lied and cheated and stole yet she gets off free - I wouldn't, why does she?

- Les , Thailand, 06/5/2012 04:40

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Whatever else he is, Cameron is not stupid, he must realise that with the Uddin scandal and much else, the decent general public view politicians as vermin. The public contempt for them is tangible. So what's to be done Cameron? You could start by putting Kate Hoey and Frank Field in your cabinet. Employ Melanie Phillips, Kelvin Mackenzie and Peter Hitchens as advisers. And say to yourself one hundred times a day "substance, not image".

- Callan , Liverpool, England, 06/5/2012 04:09

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Your comment about the headstone interested me. My friend lost his elder sister and had to arrange her funeral and headstone here in Derbyshire. He instructed the headstone people to write "She were thine..." as his sister was a pillar of the local church. When he called back to inspect their work it said "She were thin " You've left the E off he told them crossly. Don't worry, we'll fix it they promised. We'll put the E on the end He called back the next day to view the headstone and it said "E she were thin" Aint life grand ??

- Garfy , Stockport, Cheshire., 05/5/2012 23:01

Report abuse Click to rate Rating 30

Crime does pay if you are a member of the corrupt establishment.

- Neil Robinson , Durham, 05/5/2012 22:08

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Why is Labour placeman, Stamer, still at the CPS? It's high time he was replaced by someone with a LOT less bias!

- Barking Spider , UK, 05/5/2012 21:39

Report abuse Click to rate Rating 70

why isn't she sacked - it's stealing, I've been unemployed most of my life - the only time I stole anything was when they stopped my money and I had to. she really is a disgrace, she can't be trusted

- billsands , london, 05/5/2012 21:08

Report abuse Click to rate Rating 77

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