

HAND OVER YOUR WRIST-WATCH MR. BOND

According to the *Daily Mail*, cash-strapped Ministry of Defence officials are selling off spies' luxury watches to plug a £36bn 'black hole' in its budget. Luxury watches – and an extraordinary array of thousands of other items from clothing to ships and aircraft – are being sold off at knockdown prices.

Among other items on the MoD's Defence Equipment & Sales website are brand new combat jackets ordered for the SAS (£350 new, on sale for £30); boxes of pencils, knives and forks; a £6,000 fridge on sale for £920; ships' mattresses; and even a portable dentist's chair.

A source said: "These watches were bought for SAS and defence intelligence operatives who work at our embassies abroad, so they look the part when they go to events and parties attended by diplomats and local dignitaries. It's all part of creating the right image."



ENGLISHMEN DO BATTLE

Hundreds of chaps and chapettes descended on a leafy square in central London recently to take part in The Chap Olympiad - an annual celebration of the classic English gentleman - where regular pastimes are overlooked in favour of smoking pipes, ordering butlers about and swilling cocktails.

The event is the annual summer bash of The Chap, a bi-monthly magazine celebrating the English gent, his eccentricity, courteous behaviour, impeccable dress and devotion to facial hair.

"It's a sports day for people who don't like sport. It's unfair that chaps who spend most of their time filling their pipes, pressing their trousers and mixing dry martinis don't get a chance to compete," said organiser Gustav Temple, The Chap's editor.

The 10 events include the pipeathlon - sauntering, bicycling and being carried by servants while smoking a pipe - butler baiting, ironing board surfing and moustache wrestling. In the swooning contest, chaps "have to induce the ladies to swoon through any means possible".

The fun concludes with shouting at foreigners in an attempt to purchase an item, and umbrella jousting, where two contestants, armed only with their brollies and briefcases, charge at one another on bicycles.

"The things that people love about Britain are the things that we stand for," said Mr. Temple.

"To be a chap is to take the mannerisms of an old-fashioned English gentleman, and take the bits that we like - being eccentric, drinking cocktails before lunch, dressing exquisitely and being courteous to ladies.

"The rest, such as bloodsports and flogging manservants, we put that aside."



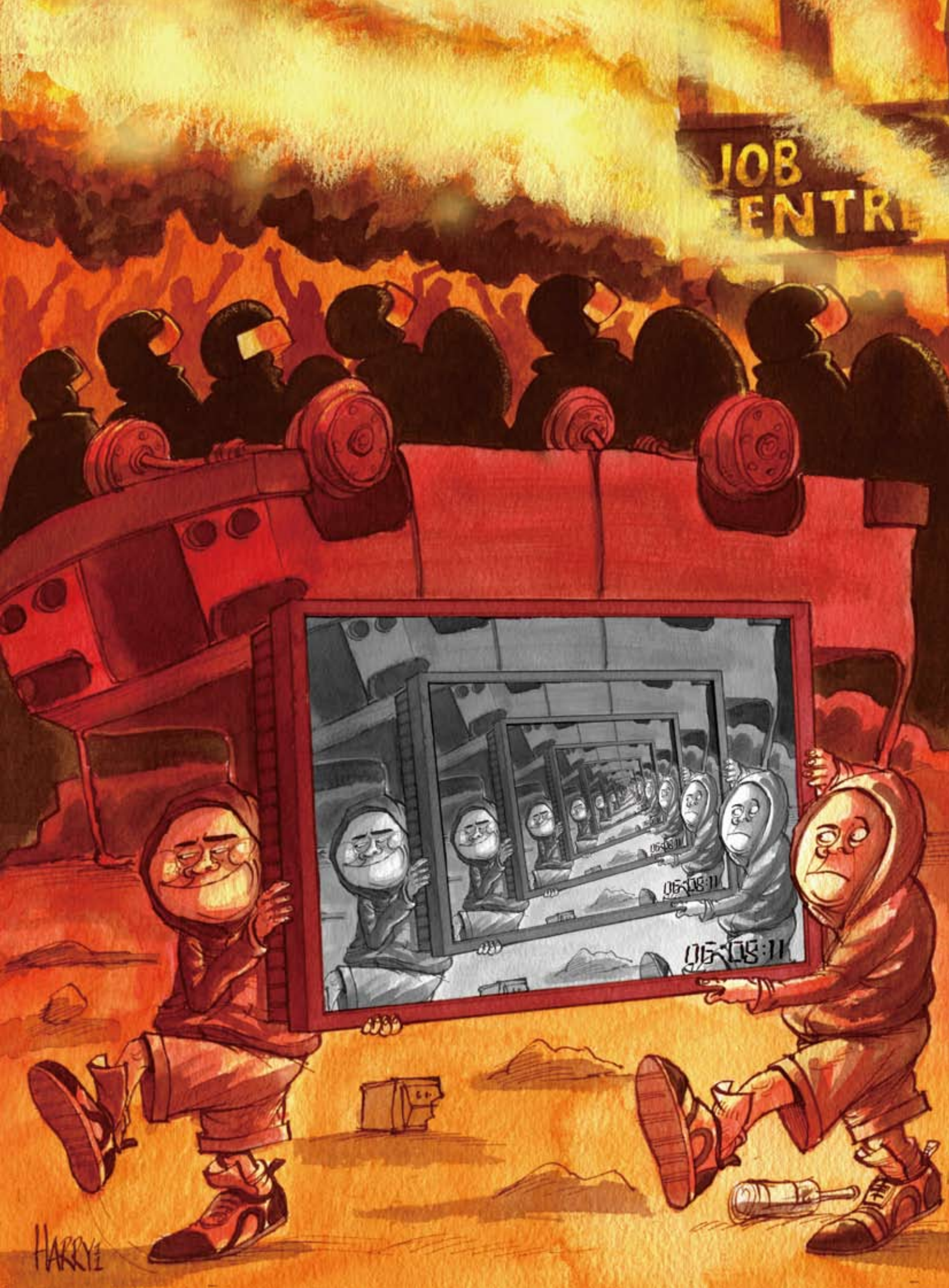
NORTHERNERS' BRAINS ARE BIGGER, SCIENTISTS FIND

The *Daily Telegraph* reports that a study of populations across both hemispheres has shown people from countries further from the equator have more grey matter and larger eyes than those from sunnier parts.

This is because living in low light conditions means the eyes and brain need to work harder in order to process images to a good level of detail, or "high resolution". Unfortunately, that doesn't necessarily mean you are more intelligent than people from the south – just that you have evolved to cope with the longer winters and greyer skies in northern climes.

Researchers said the findings, published in the Royal Society's *Biology Letters* journal, could theoretically even apply to different communities within a particular country, meaning people in the north of Britain might have larger brains than those in the south. While English people had an average brain size of 1,416ml, the figure in Micronesia, which lies very near the equator, was just 1,200ml.

JOB
CENTRE



HARRY E.