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FOUR TAX DODGES AND A FUNERAL

Why the British film industry is in chaos **T2**



THE GAME

24 PAGES OF PURE FOOTBALL

Labour vows to win Lords struggle

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

THE most serious clash yet between Labour and the House of Lords was looming last night as ministers threatened drastic retaliation to prevent peers blocking new laws.

The Government will withdraw the controversial Bill setting up a supreme court from the Lords and push it

through the Commons instead if peers carry out their threat to delay it in a crucial vote tonight.

The measure would then be forced into law before the general election under procedures that prevent the Lords defying the will of the Commons for more than a year.

Peter Hain, the Commons Leader, disclosed the unprecedented plan to *The Times* last night as the poor rela-

tions between the two Houses threatened to disrupt the Government's legislative timetable. "What peers are proposing is completely undemocratic," he said. "We cannot allow it to happen. Peers are being incited by Michael Howard and his lieutenants to overturn the will of the elected chamber."

The vote tonight is finely balanced, but Mr Hain's threat suggests growing tension with the Lords over the risk to

the Government's programme. All legislation must go through both Houses. The Government decided that it was appropriate to start its constitutional reform Bill — which establishes the supreme court and a judicial appointments commission and abolishes the ancient post of Lord Chancellor — in the Lords because of the expertise there. The plan is for it then to pass to the Commons. But the Bill

was savaged by Lord Woolf, the Lord Chief Justice, last week and Lord Lloyd of Berwick tabled a move to refer it to a select committee for additional scrutiny.

Ministers say that this is a deliberate attempt to scupper the Bill as it would mean that the legislation could not be

Continued on page 2, col 3

William Rees-Mogg, page 18

Choose tax cuts or nanny state, says Howard

By Rosemary Bennett
Deputy Political Editor
in Harrogate

MICHAEL HOWARD yesterday offered voters a stark choice between big spending Labour and a Conservative government that would bring in tax cuts and a smaller role for the state.

In his first party conference speech since becoming Tory leader, Mr Howard launched a scathing attack on Gordon Brown's record as Chancellor, accusing him of being a "tax and regulation junkie", who could never resist one more hit.

Fundamental differences between the two parties would form the battle lines at the next general election, he said, and the result would determine the future for generations to come.

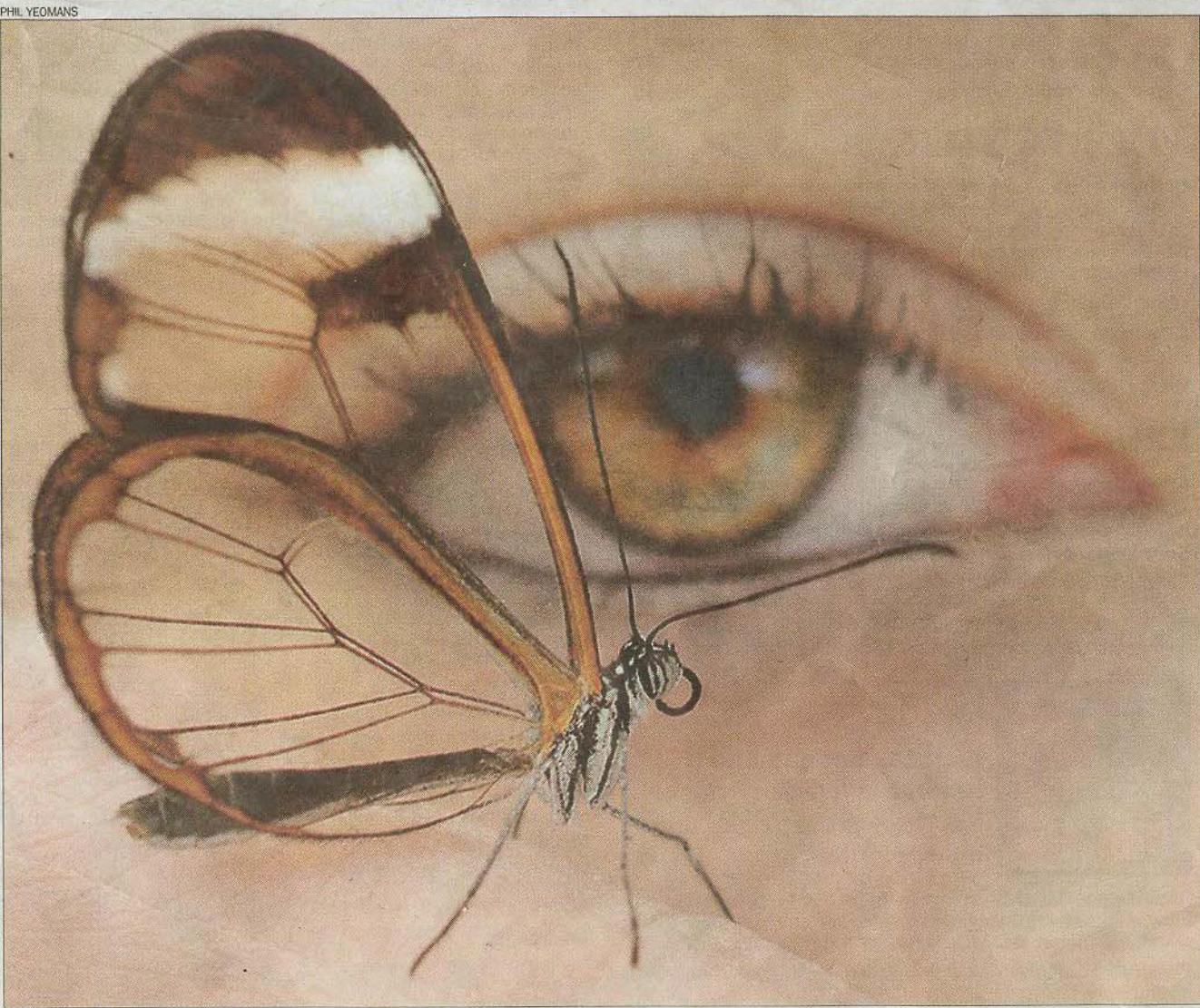
"Today we stand at a crossroads. We have a clear choice about the direction we take. One road leads to an even bigger role for the state. Higher taxes. Higher Government spending. A country in which big Government knows best. The other road leads to a country in which people pay less tax and have more control over their lives. A country in which individuals have the freedom to determine their own destinies and make the best of their talents. A country in which people are big and the state is small," he said in his speech to the Tory Spring Conference in Harrogate.

He stressed that voters would have to pay less tax under the Tories, though he shied away from specific commitments to cut income tax. But he made clear that tax cuts were as important to the party as reforming schools and hospitals.

**Tory conference, pages 8, 9
Leading article, page 16
Politics, pages 24, 25**



"Would Sir like the room with the over-optimistic view?"



Cleared for take-off: a £15 million transparent dome is to house 250,000 butterflies, such as this captivating clearwing

Tourism aflutter over butterfly dome, page 10

Jockey 'fixed races'

Charges that Britain's champion Flat jockey, Kieren Fallon, fixed races for gamblers have damaged the whole credibility of horse racing. The Jockey Club has started an investigation into the allegations. **NEWS pages 4, 5**

Visit for rape suspect

The girlfriend of one of three Leicester City players accused of rape, endured a humiliating visit to a Spanish prison yesterday. Kelly Maguire spent two hours talking to Keith Gillespie at Sangonera jail. **NEWS pages 12, 13**

Gaza children killed

Hopes of reviving the Middle East peace process suffered a blow after Israeli troops killed 14 Palestinians, including three children, in early morning raids on refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. **NEWS page 29**

Integrate tax and NI

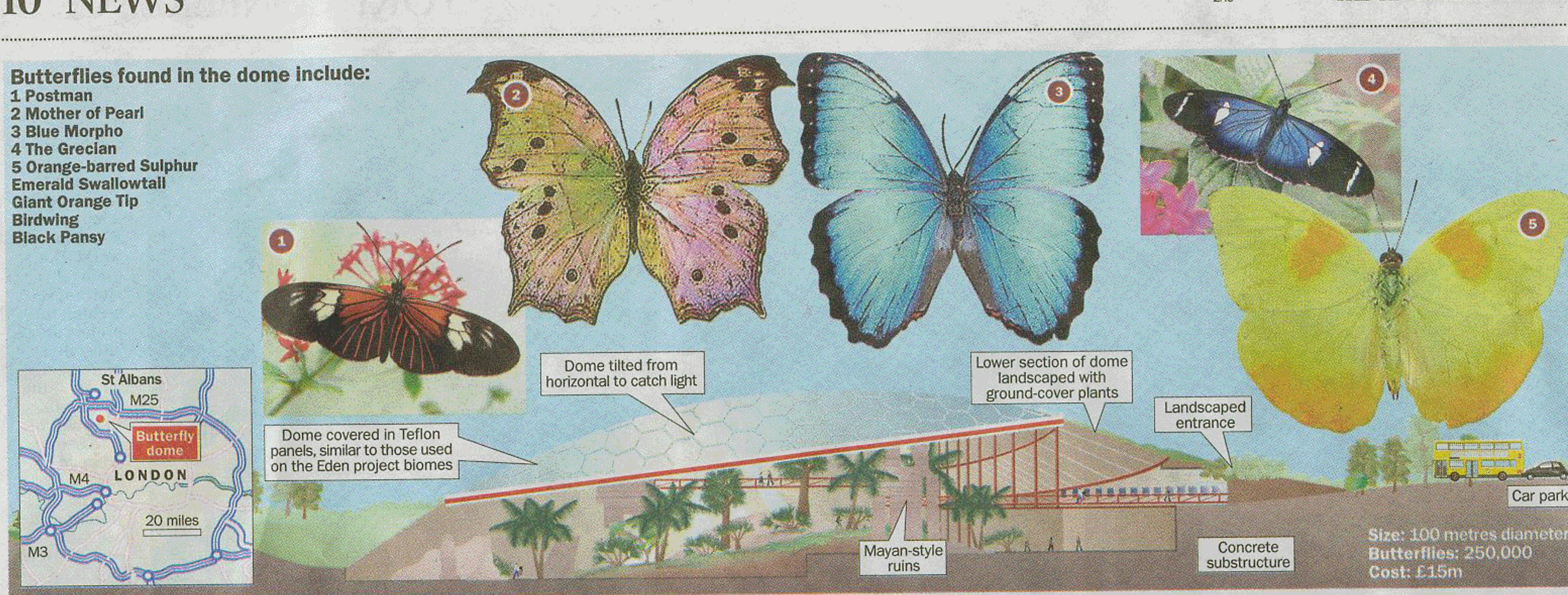
Calls to integrate national insurance into the PAYE tax system have been made by the Institute of Directors and the British Chambers of Commerce. They say it is already effectively another tax. **BUSINESS page 43**

Grand Prix yawn

A disappointingly one-sided Grand Prix, in which Ferrari took first and second place in Melbourne, leaves Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One impresario, considering widespread reforms. **SPORT page 80**

Butterflies found in the dome include:

- 1 Postman
- 2 Mother of Pearl
- 3 Blue Morpho
- 4 The Grecian
- 5 Orange-barred Sulphur
- Emerald Swallowtail
- Giant Orange Tip
- Birdwing
- Black Pansy



Tourism aflutter over butterfly dome

World's biggest indoor habitat for the short-lived beauties will create a flying carpet of colour, reports Valerie Elliott

THE world's largest butterfly dome is to be built in St Albans in a £15 million scheme reminiscent of the Eden Project in Cornwall.

The tropical bubble was given the go-ahead last week after planning authorities and local people were captivated by the plans for the dome.

More than 250,000 tropical butterflies will be able to fly freely inside a 100m (328ft) transparent dome. This structure is, strictly speaking, a "biome" because it will be partly submerged to allow visitors to explore underground caverns featuring spiders, scorpions and other tropical insects.

What started as a schoolboy passion for caterpillars has led to this dream for Clive Farrell, the property developer behind the project. Mr Farrell, an entrepreneur, entomologist and philanthropist, is now ready to

invest significant capital to allow others, particularly children, to share in his magical world of butterflies.

Many conservation groups have already pledged cash help and support and, if the funding is quickly secured, the new centre on 30 acres near St Albans, Hertfordshire, could be open by the end of next year. However, one obstacle remains. The site is on green belt land and the project could be called in for inquiry by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister.

It will be sited next to the important Gardens of the Rose, run by the Royal National Rose Society, and, with easy access to the M1 and M25, tourism chiefs are convinced that together the two attractions will draw huge crowds.

The Butterfly World Charitable Trust has been formed to run the centre and to distribute

profits to other wildlife or educational causes. The trust is headed by Sir David Bellamy, the naturalist, and includes the country's leading butterfly expert, Jeremy Thomas. Dame Miriam Rothschild, 96, has agreed to be scientific adviser.

Mr Farrell, 57, from Sherborne, Dorset, has been keen on butterflies since his childhood in Hampshire. He not only keeps butterflies in glasshouses at home, he also owns a butterfly farm in Belize, co-owns Butterfly World in Stratford-upon-Avon and jointly runs the Butterfly World park at Coconut Creek, Fort Lauderdale.

He is pleased with the Stratford centre but it attracts just 90,000 a year. The location of the new dome means that it could become one of the main British tourist attractions.

His aim now is to enthuse the nation about butterflies. With landscape designer Ivan Hicks, noted for his work at the En-

chanted Forest at Groombridge Place, Tunbridge Wells, he has decided the theme for the attraction will be mystery and magic. Visitors will pass through a dark tunnel into a tropical rain forest with trees and waterfalls and a storm every hour.

They will then walk along tree-lined pathways and pass near replicas of Mayan ruins from Central America and will be able to see thousands of the favourite habitat and food plants for tropical butterflies.

These will include passion flowers, heliconias and lantanas and there will also be exotic fruit trees such as papaya, mango and pineapple. Hummingbirds will also be flying around inside the dome.

At the height of the summer, after breeding, there may be more than 250,000 butterflies in the dome, carpeting the paths and landing on heads, hands and shoulders. The minimum temperature will be 15.5C (60F) at night and 22.1C during the day. The maximum temperature allowed will be 32.2C during the day. Outside there will be wildflower meadows to attract native butterflies and moths. Even the car park is designed to attract butterflies, with climbing plants such as hocks and honeysuckle to disguise vehicles and entice insects.

One of the most important butterflies inside the dome will be the huge, iridescent Blue Morpho. Mr Farrell's farm in Belize breeds 500 to 1,000 of them each week. They are sent to his centre in Stratford or sold for £3 each to zoos or collectors.

He said: "It is central to the whole project and it's my favourite butterfly." His favourite native butterfly, however, is the Peacock. "It's like a woman in a taffeta dress, it makes a rustling sound which I adore.

"They often land on people wearing a bright red shirt or sometimes they land on someone's face to suck up the perspiration. Various species are also addicted to scent, especially aloe vera and they will gather round someone wearing it. But that is what people enjoy. They love being among butterflies."

FROM EGG TO ADULT

A butterfly starts as an egg, often laid on a leaf. The caterpillar (larva) hatches from the egg, eats the shell and then feeds on leaves or flowers. It moult its old skin many times as it grows and increases its size a thousand times over a period of between two and seven months before turning into a pupa or chrysalis. This is a resting stage which lasts about two weeks.

The adult butterfly then emerges and can fly within half an hour. Its lifespan varies according to species though it is usually between seven and 21 days.