

# last week

## QUOTE

***The Glazers do not want to sell and from our perspective are running the club in the right way.***

**Manchester United chief executive David Gill dismisses talk of the Red Knights group of city financiers and United fans taking over the debt-laden club.**

## NEWS

The government is scrapping the Transport Innovation Fund and replacing it with a new initiative that is not dependant on congestion charging. The Urban Challenge Fund will be available to all councils that can demonstrate they are “tackling congestion” and attempting to cut carbon emissions, but will come with no strings attached. In 2007, Greater Manchester’s 10 councils submitted a bid for £2.7 billion to TIF, which would have paid for extra trams, buses and trains but was reliant on the region adopting congestion charging. It was overturned in December 2008 by a referendum that saw voters in all ten regions vote against the bid.

**The pro-congestion charge camp said there was no plan B if Manchester didn’t vote yes. There must be a plan B, said everyone else, and that appears to be the Urban Challenge Fund. From Crain’s Manchester Business.**

## REVIEWS

In one of the largest casts I’ve seen at the Exchange, Jonathan McGuinness (pictured) shines in the central role of Winston Smith, complete with Orwellian haircut, and Paul Moriarty deserved his round of applause for the exposition on the writings of the rebel leader. This powerful and thought-provoking, although overlong world premiere, is certainly a brave kickstart to the new season at the Exchange.

**Natalie Anglesey of the Metro gives four stars out of five to Oldham-born director Matthew Dunster’s production of the George Orwell classic 1984 at the Royal Exchange, Manchester.**



The play encapsulates the essence of a touring war show from the 1940s, with the actors ironically referring to their slapdash performance through deliberate mistakes on stage. But the humour is most effective when it is cleverly combined with moments of tragedy, creating genuine drama.

**The Sheffield Star’s Rachel Blundy was left with a “lasting curiosity to know more” about writer and comedian Spike Milligan after seeing this stage adaptation of his wartime memoir *Adolf Hitler: My Part In His Lifetime* at the city’s Lyceum theatre.**

## ON THE NET

“So sad to hear about Michael Foot. A great man has died. He was the heart of our movement.” **John Prescott tweets about former Labour leader Michael Foot, who died last week aged 96.**

## IN PICTURES

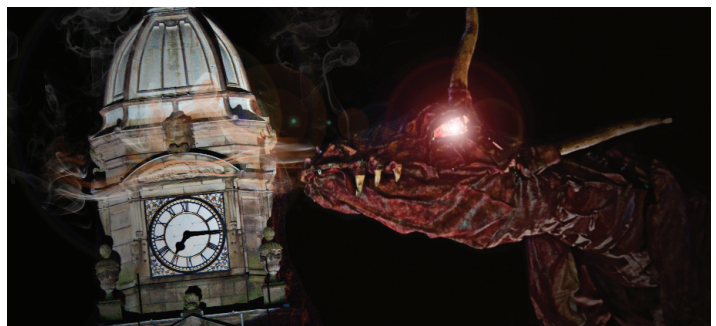


Emily Cummins (left) and Jennie Rooney (second left) are two northerners in *Red* magazine’s 20 most influential women under 30 in the country. Leeds University student Cummins, 23, has developed a fridge that uses dirty water and solar power to keep food and medicine cold. Twenty-nine-year-old author Rooney, from Liverpool, was shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award for her book *Inside The Whale*. Also on the list, in *Red*’s current edition, is 27-year-old Manchester councillor Maryam Khan, who is Labour’s parliamentary candidate for Bury North in the coming election.

## IN PICTURES



Peter Doig’s *Red Deer* (1990) is one of over 30 paintings, sculptures, installations and other post-war pieces from the Arts Council Collection that went on show at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield, last week.



Thousands flocked to Dewsbury town centre for Spirit, the town’s annual free outdoor theatre show. Large mechanical dragons paraded through the streets, breathing fire and causing magical mayhem before being slain by a knight. Photo: Robin Eastwood