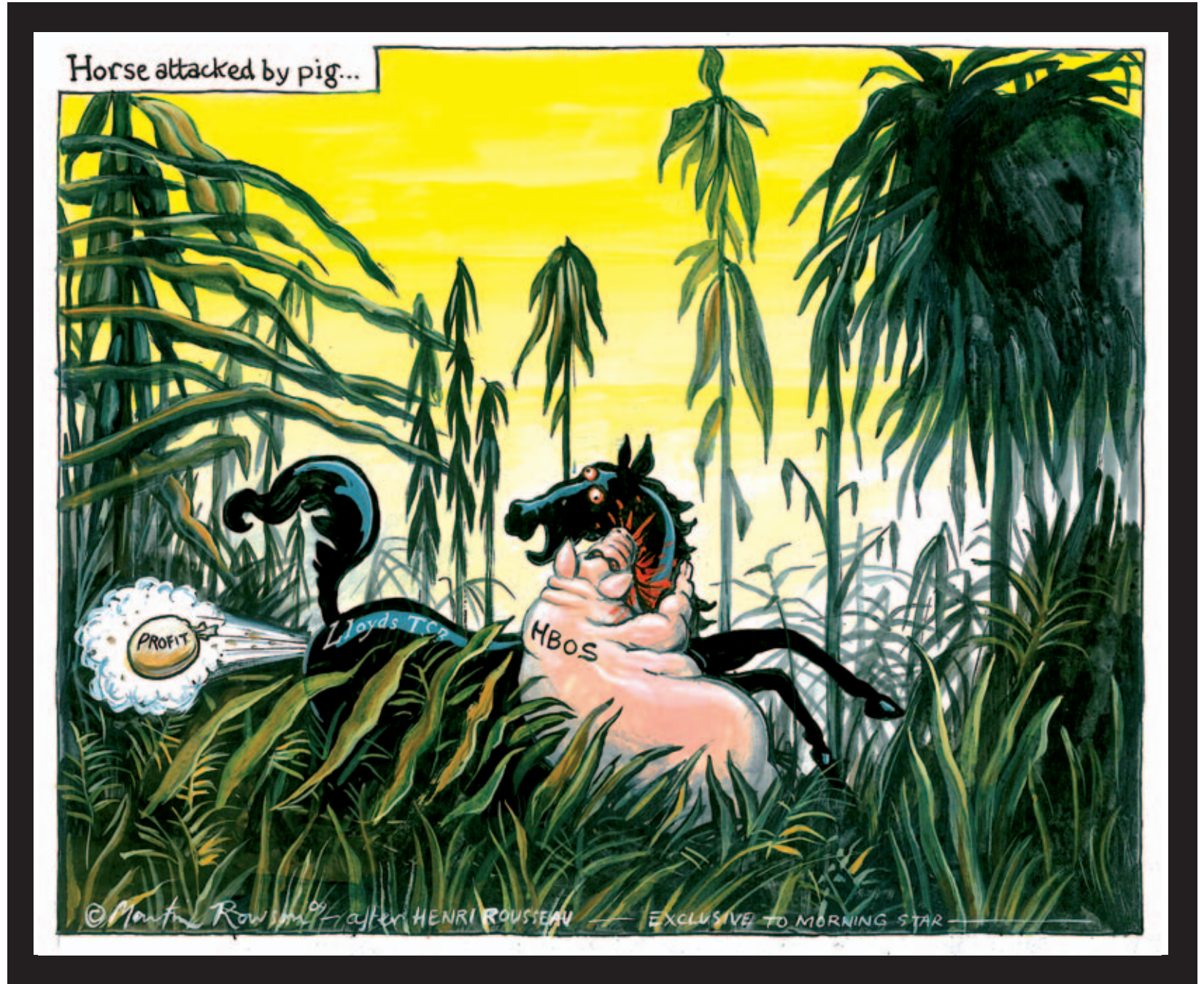


mp!  
save Labour.



# Spearing Satan's Mistress

JONATHAN FARLEY makes short work of the traitorous sabre-rattling ex-leftie academic Christopher Hitchens.



Justice?  
Finucane's murder.

mental to the character of what we understand and experience as democracy in Britain.

Solidarity with the Finucane family's demand for a fully independent judicial inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the murder is now imperative.

As Finucane's widow Geraldine explained on the anniversary of his murder, not only is an independent inquiry the only mechanism capable of getting to the truth, it is also essential for helping society to understand its past, to learn from it and to eventually move beyond it and free from fear and with confidence.

For further information visit the Pat Finucane Centre website at [www.serve.com/pfc](http://www.serve.com/pfc)



**W**HEN Christopher Hitchens recently used the word "us" to refer to "Americans," I knew the US Department of Homeland Security had made its biggest mistake yet.

Like most on the left, I am disgusted by Christopher Hitchens's hitching his wagon to the neoconservatives and the warmongers on account of the "war on terror." For the first few years, I kept expecting him to say: "Just kidding! I have been fooling all of you, just to show how easy it is to become a darling of the right."

Some would say French grapes are to blame, but I disagree — after all, the lizard part of Hitchens's brain, the part that controls his poisonous tongue, still functions all too well.

When Hitchens turned traitor, it nearly spelled disaster for those of us on the side of humanity. Hitchens could defeat all comers, like Brad Pitt's Achilles in the movie Troy, only fat and smarmy.

When I was a graduate student at Oxford, I saw many English undergraduates with this kind of wit. At first I respected it, before I saw that they all had it. I then

realised it must have been something they picked up in public school, like an affinity for buggery — not that there's anything wrong with a little buggery now and then. Everything in moderation.

I became positively disgusted when I saw that this "wit" only ever had one object — to insult the other party and not in a playful, let's-all-share-in-the-joke way. I went from loving England and Oxford to still preferring England to the US, but loathing the OUP (Oxford University Pratts).

Himself an Oxford graduate, Hitchens is so sharp his wordplay can slice your argument in two. Indeed, Hitchens is literally too clever by half — he takes the "tionary" out of "Oxford English dictionary."

He is the Mule in Isaac Asimov's Foundation — in the long lineage of Oxford Union debaters, he represents the tail end of evolution's bell curve.

He is the anti-Jesus — he can defeat all challengers in a verbal duel, but instead of the power to heal, he has only the power to hurt.

He is an anti-Jesse Owens — quicker than everyone, but he works for the fascist criminals rather than against them.

He makes us look stupid.

Where Satan's Mistress goes wrong is that he believes the person who can get the audience to laugh at his oppo-



CHEERLEADER: Christopher Hitchens has trumpeted war.

nent is the person who is right. I assure you that if I were to debate Hitchens, he would defeat me handily and make me look like a fool.

But an Oxford Union or television debate is not the proper format. Give me instead a debate where the audience has to read the transcript and where each party has days to respond to the other side — including time to read books that touch on the other party's claims. Hitchens would lose such a debate. He would never agree to one either. But we don't need him to.

Let's bombard his editors at Vanity Fair and every university that invites him to speak, with complaints about his being an opportunist or simply a bad writer.

US liberals generally are cowards who cave in to this sort of pressure.

A web page should be maintained of all of Hitchens's right-wing statements, which should be carefully refuted.

He has also made enemies of at least one powerful US citizen, New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg, who might perhaps relish contributing to Operation Enduring Fools.

Hitchens's mouth is a cave in which deadly munitions are stored.

Let's send in bunker busters.

● Dr Jonathan David Farley was named by Seed Magazine one of "15 people who have shaped the global conversation about science" in 2005. He is still living off his former glory.