

line-up



Oliver Pawley tested security software, p40. He says: 'The internet is a hazardous place these days, but Best

Buy software and some common sense will get you through...'



Jenny Conti researched broadband, p32. She says: 'For once, the hype is true - broadband really

has revolutionised the internet. Take our advice on the best deal.'

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EDITORIAL



Train of thought

The last time I got a train to Liverpool, engineering works meant there was a bus replacement service between Euston and Milton Keynes. Unfortunately, the bus broke down on the way.

None of the other buses carrying passengers stopped to pick us up - we had to wait for another bus from the same company to come by. Needless to say, we were late and missed our train.

This comically mirrored how some people say our railways work - too many different companies, no joined up thinking, and passengers' needs ignored.

Alistair Darling MP, Secretary of State for Transport, says his Railways Bill will improve things. But we're worried that it reduces passengers' input on key decisions, like line closures - and does little to address the problems of passengers with disabilities, older travellers and pregnant women.

We've listened to Mr Darling's views - you can read what he has to say on p12. Now let's hope that he listens to ours.

Malcolm

Malcolm Coles, Editor

IN THE WASH

Hot news and lukewarm responses

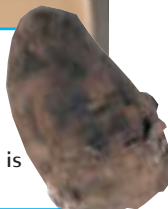
CONVERTIBLE CARS

Open-top car registrations in the UK jumped 21% last year, says Cardata - in Europe, only the Germans buy more soft tops.



MARIS PIPERS

Potatoes may not be cashing in their chips just yet. A low-carb potato for Atkins fans is on sale in the US.



PET SHOPS

People devote more hours each week to caring for pets than for their family, a Lloyds TSB survey claims.



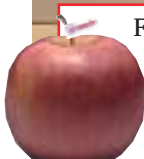
PUBS

Just 13% of people go out on Saturday night, says a survey by More Than. Londoners stay in the least, those in Northern Ireland the most.



FRESH FRUIT

The Grapple - an apple that tastes like a grape - has gone on sale in the UK.



CD SINGLES

Legal music downloads eclipsed physical singles sales in the last week of 2004.

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