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Newsweek

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LONDON

Mayor Livingstone, As Presumed

IT WAS HARDLY A SURPRISE. For months, independent candidate Ken Livingstone has been heavily favored to win London's first popular election for mayor. Still, that didn't stop the tabloids from recoiling in shock and horror when he emerged the victor on May 3. OH NO, THEY'VE ELECTED KENNY! moaned *The Sun*. One columnist in the *Times* predicted that a Livingstone administration would be the worst thing to happen to the city since the Great Fire of London in 1666.

That may be a slight exaggeration. Sure, "Red Ken" made plenty of enemies back in the 1980s, when he pursued a populist agenda as leader of the Greater London Council. And as a Labour MP, he alienated many establishment politicians with his opposition to the government's plan to privatize part of the London Underground, his threat to institute "congestion charges" for people driving into the capital and his outspoken sympathy



Now that he's won, can 'Red Ken' make the trains run on time?

for anarchists and anticapitalist protesters. Indeed, his own party—including Tony Blair—grew so disgusted with him that they put up their own candidate for mayor (who came in an embarrassing third), forcing Livingstone to stand as an independent.

But a Livingstone administration is unlikely to be so fractious. For one thing, the mayor has only limited pow-

ers. And with the election over, olive branches have started sprouting everywhere. Livingstone said it was time to draw "a line in the sand" between the rancorous campaign and the new government. Blair said it was important that the new arrangement "works for London and works for Londoners." At least now they know who to call when the trains break down.



Stay clear of hazards

NORTH KOREA

Teeing Off

FROM JUNE 12 TO JUNE 14, world wallflower North Korea will welcome not only foreign diplomats, but also foreign golfers. The maiden North-South Korean summit coincides with a golf tournament that for the first time will feature foreign athletes—50 Korean-American putters. They will find the Pyongyang golf course as lush and well-manicured (not to mention pricey, with a \$100 tournament fee) as any they have ever played. But they will have a hard time beating President Kim Jong Il's best score. When he opened the course—his country's first—10 years ago, he reportedly hit a hole in one on his very first shot.

SEX & HEALTH

Filling the Cup

THE CAT CLUB IS HOME to San Francisco's most energetic partyers. So where better for the city to launch a new testing program to combat the spread of STDs? The

health department is offering a \$10 Tower Records gift certificate and a ticket redeemable for a pack of condoms to anyone who volunteers for a free urine test which detects gonorrhea and chlamydia. "All we need is a bathroom," says a project assistant. At the Cat Club, opinions varied about the outreach effort. A few clubbers took the test, but others felt it would "mess up their night." Not entirely: results aren't available for a week.

Club night in San Francisco



ORACLE

Test-Launching 'Plug and Play'

IT'S ONE OF THE FEW ENDURING LAWS OF THE DIGITAL AGE: kids get the cool stuff first. With this week's introduction of the New Internet Computer (NIC), Oracle CEO Larry Ellison is doing his part to keep up the trend. The NIC is a simple Internet-access device designed primarily for classrooms. At \$199 (the monitor is extra), the NIC is one of the cheapest PCs. The sleek, black NIC box has no hard drive (making it immune to viruses like the Love Bug) and no Windows; it runs instead on the economical Linux operating system. Software comes on a CD-ROM that Ellison's new venture, the New Internet Co., will update free for schools.

NIC CEO Gina Smith is so confident that beginners will like the NIC, she projects sales of more than 10 million units to schools and, starting this fall, to consumers. To launch the NIC, Ellison's foundation has teamed up with Colin Powell to donate 1,100 devices to needy schools in Dallas.

Schoolhouse rock

