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**Topic Tracker Snapshot**

***Issues surrounding Climate Change  
in the Commentariat***



*Prepared by: Emma Fisher*

*Date: January 2009*

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# 1

## Scope and Aims

This Topic Tracker Snapshot is, by way of introduction, a showcase of the type of bespoke data analysis that Editorial Intelligence can provide from 'the Commentariat' - the distinct group of columnists, leaders and op-ed guest opinion writers in the UK national media that we monitor and research on a daily basis.

Editorial Intelligence is the only organisation to summarise every single piece of comment: 50,000 words, 365 days a year. Using our unique record of all comment published in the national press we deliver analysis of the way in which a particular topic has 'played' through the Commentariat over a particular period, providing insight into emerging trends.

This Topic Tracker aims to look at issues surrounding climate change as commented on in the national press. It will include examples of the key commentators who are most vocal on this subject, along with their most recently summarised articles. To this end the following keywords/phrases have been selected in order to identify most prolific commentators in this field:

- Climate change
- Global warming
- Carbon footprint
- Sustainability

## 2 Charts and Illustrations

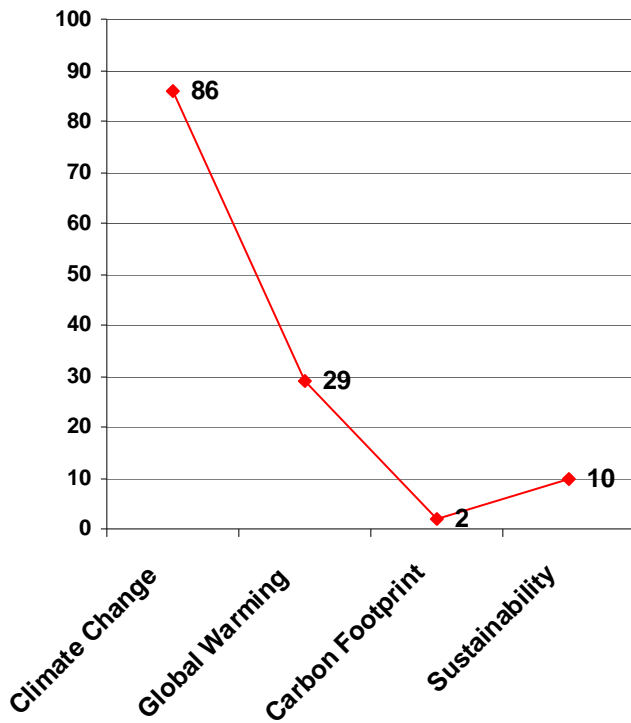
The following illustration details the number of leaders and guest pieces on issues surrounding climate change (based on keyword searches) per newspaper for the three month period, October-December 2009. The same analysis can be replicated for any month, any year, and indeed any timeframe over which this analysis could be a useful tool.

**Fig. 1 – Leader & Guest Coverage per newspaper, Oct-Dec 2009 (actual)**

Oct-Dec 2008			
Newspapers	Leaders	Guests	Total
Daily Express	0	1	1
Daily Mail	0	0	0
Daily Mirror	1	0	1
Daily Telegraph	1	2	3
The Economist	1	0	1
Evening Standard	1	0	1
Financial Times	5	2	7
Guardian	4	4	8
Independent	2	9	11
Independent on Sunday	5	0	5
Mail on Sunday	0	0	0
Observer	5	0	5
News of the World	0	0	0
New Statesman	0	0	0
The People	0	0	0
The Spectator	0	0	0
Sun	0	0	0
Sunday Express	0	0	0
Sunday Mirror	0	0	0
Sunday Telegraph	0	1	1
Sunday Times	0	0	0
The Times	7	0	7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>51</b>

It is meaningful to note the coverage in the comment pages per topic/keyword. The following graph (actual) is an illustration of the way in which we are able to display and analyse data, showing the number of comment pieces over the period October-December 2009 per each keyword search.

**Fig 2. Volume of Coverage per Keyword Search, Oct-Dec 2009 (actual)**



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## 3 Columnists

We have a comprehensive archive of comment and opinion dating from January 2007. This information is stored on our central database, including all article summaries and detailed, current profiles of more than 600 comment writers.

Online access provides search results by any combination of comment writer, date, publication, key word and category. This can be used to focus on particular topics and keywords and to focus on particular comment writers who write about these topics on a regular basis.

The key columnists in this topic area can be identified using the following keywords/phrases:

- Climate change
- Global warming
- Carbon footprint
- Sustainability

Searching articles over the period of the previous three months yielded 127 results.

### Key Commentators

We have highlighted a sample of the key commentators who are particularly vocal in this field and attached their commentator profiles. They are as follows:

#### Christopher Booker

Commentator, The Sunday Telegraph

#### John Ingham

Columnist/Environment Editor,  
The Daily Express

#### Dominic Lawson

Commentator,  
The Independent/The Sunday Times/GQ

#### Peter Preston

Commentator, The Observer/The Guardian;  
Editorial Director, Guardian Media Group

Commentator Information	
Organisations:	Sunday Telegraph (The)
Title:	Commentator
Key Topics:	UK and International Politics, Pandemics, Europe and the EU, Army
<p><b>History of key topics</b>            Focuses on the EU but also writes on general political topics such as climate change, the environment and bird flu. In the Telegraph, his 'Notebook' covers topics such as the blurry lines between EU and English law; central government's interference in local councils; Defra delay in farmers' subsidies; challenging the theory of man made climate change and the injustice of the smoking ban.</p> <p>He often highlights the stories of ordinary people affected adversely by government policy who have suffered injustice.</p> <p>RO 19/07/07</p> <p><b>Additional information and activities</b>            Also writes for Daily Telegraph and Daily Mail (recent Comment on why Britain shouldn't have joined the EU).</p> <p>Co-author (with Richard North) of 'The Great Deception: a Secret History of the European Union' (Continuum International Publishing Group, 2005). His other books include 'Neophiliacs' (1970) and the hugely successful 'Seven Basic Plots' (2004), both published by Continuum.</p> <p>Recent (Dec 2006) column for the Telegraph censored for its criticism of David Cameron.</p> <p><b>Previous / other positions</b>            One of the founders of Private Eye, he was the magazine's first Editor from 1961-63 and has been a regular Contributor since. He was the resident Scriptwriter on 'That Was The Week That Was' in the 1960's and has co-written several books with various members of the Private Eye team, including 'The Secret Diary of John Major 1992-95' and the volumes of 'St Albion Parish News'.</p> <p>Has also been a Contributor to the Telegraph and Spectator. Awarded Campaigning Journalist of the Year in 1973.</p> <p><b>Conferences / Speaking / Broadcast</b>            Was a speaker at an Intelligence Squared debate in June 2005 and spoke at Greenbelt (a Christian arts festival in Cheltenham, 2006). Addressed The Bruges Group (independent all-party think tank) on democracy and British nation-state, April 2006</p>	

**Sunday Telegraph (The)**

Email:	<a href="mailto:christopher.booker@telegraph.co.uk">christopher.booker@telegraph.co.uk</a>
Commissioning editor:	<a href="mailto:christopher.booker@telegraph.co.uk">christopher.booker@telegraph.co.uk</a>
Frequency of publication:	Weekly
Days published:	Sunday
Article type:	Multiple topic column
Average content length:	1200 words

**Article summaries**

11 Jan 2009

**Sunday Telegraph (The)**

**WASTE SHOULD BE USED AS FUEL:** Booker writes that two stories highlight how dysfunctional our system of government has become. First, mountains of waste paper collected for recycling are piling up in warehouses and dumps across the country, because the bottom has fallen out of the recycling market. Absurdly, because Defra has chosen to classify this under EU legislation only as "waste" it is too expensive to burn it as fuel, because this will need to comply with the Waste Incineration directive, requiring hugely expensive scrubbing equipment to avoid pollution. Booker says that neither officials at Defra or our politicians are capable of reading one of these EU directives which they are normally so keen to enforce on the rest of us. And now the 100 watt tungsten light bulb has been phased out, yet low-energy light bulbs are riddled with practical difficulties and many homes cannot accommodate them. RC

07 Jan 2009

**Daily Mail (The)**

**LIGHTBULB NONSENSE:** Booker notes our shops will from this week be running down their stocks of 100-watt incandescent light bulbs, the kind most of us use. Soon it will be hard to find a 100w bulb on sale anywhere in Britain. After that, all other incandescent bulbs will follow, until by 2012 they have disappeared altogether. He says this is part of a move by which Britain is leading the rest of Europe in forcing us all within three years to switch to low-energy bulbs, which supposedly are going to help us save the planet. No doubt there are still wild-eyed 'greenies' who will cheer at this revolution in our lives. But these low-energy bulbs are more expensive and their rapid flicker can cause eyestrain, migraine, headaches and even seizures. Booker says the move will cause most of us considerable inconvenience and aggravation - all for no practical benefit at all. JH

28 Dec 2008

**Sunday Telegraph (The)**

**MAN-MADE GLOBAL WARMING DISPROVED:** Booker notes that one of the most important stories of 2008 has been the accumulation of evidence to suggest a turning point in the worldwide panic over man-made global warming. All over the world, temperatures have been dropping in a way wholly unpredicted by the computer models that have been used as the main drivers of the scare. Even shriller and more frantic have been the scaremongers insisting that the North Pole would soon be ice-free, when the poles remain definitely icebound. It was also the year that any pretence of a "scientific consensus" in favour of man-made global warming collapsed. Booker observes that the global economic crisis has forced political leaders away from expensive quixotic schemes for "combating climate change" and now it seems rather less appealing to divert trillions of dollars, pounds and euro. Booker hopes money will now go on building enough proper power stations to ensure our economy does not judder to a halt. DG

22 Dec 2008

**Daily Telegraph (The)**

**FACTS MELTED BY GLOBAL WARMING:** Booker writes that last weekend US meteorologist Anthony Watts noticed that half-a-million square kilometres of ice vanished overnight in the Arctic. He says this will please global warming theorists because the last two cold winters have thrown their "army of media groupies into quite a tizzy". He writes that the BBC did at least deign last week to notice the freak snowstorm to hit Las Vegas for 30 years and the unusual lack of snow in Moscow. Another "warmist perennial" to get an outing is Dr Martin Warren of Butterfly Conservation who says global warming is a threat to the survival of butterflies. Booker, though, says he is "a long-time student of butterflies" and is keenly aware that global warming is not one of the factors leading to the alarming decline in butterflies. He concludes: "So whatever happens, hot or cold, wet or dry, it can all be put down to that pesky old "climate change". As the rest of us might observe with a wry smile, how very true." RC

15 Dec 2008

**Daily Telegraph (The)**

**CZECH LEADER IN SHOCK:** Booker says heads of the European Parliament visited Vaclav Klaus, the Czech head of state, to discuss how the Czechs should handle the EU's rotating six-monthly presidency when they take over from France on January 1. Klaus is alone in expressing openly Eurosceptic views believing the EU to be dangerously anti-democratic, compounding this with sceptical views on global warming. However, he was warned by Green MEP leader Daniel Cohn-Bendit that he will be expected to put through the EU's "climate change package" without interference. He was also criticised for opposing the Lisbon Treaty. Booker writes: "This bizarre confrontation, which has been recounted and discussed with shock across formerly Communist eastern Europe, confirms the inability of the Euro-elite to accept that anyone holds different views from their own, on Lisbon, global warming or anything else." RC

[Search the article summaries linked to this profile](#)

Commentator Information	
Organisations:	Daily Express (The)
Title:	Columnist/Environment Editor
Key Topics:	Agriculture and Farming, Alternative Energy, Architecture, Bio-science, Bio-technology, GMO, Built Environment and Urban Planning, Climate Change, Conservation, Gas, Water and Multi-utilities, Transport, Global Politics and Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs
<p>History of key topics</p> <p>Writes a weekly column called 'Ingham's World', published on Friday, covering a broad range of topics relating to the environment and conservation such as light pollution, waste disposal, energy issues, endangered species etc. He has also looked at non-environmental issues such as the problems in the middle east, declining educational standards and the cash for honours scandal.</p> <p>RO 16/08/07</p> <p>Additional information and activities</p> <p>Writes daily news and features under the byline of environment editor, transport editor and defence editor.</p> <p>Previous / other positions</p> <p>Writes a blog, 'Ingy's World', on the Daily Express website, where he discusses a wider range of issues including politics and society.</p> <p>Conferences / Speaking / Broadcast</p>	

*Daily Express (The)*

Email:	<a href="mailto:john.ingham@express.co.uk">john.ingham@express.co.uk</a>
Commissioning editor:	<a href="mailto:john.ingham@express.co.uk">john.ingham@express.co.uk</a>
Frequency of publication:	Weekly
Days published:	Friday
Article type:	Multiple topic column
Average content length:	1000 words

Article summaries
<p>26 Dec 2008</p> <p><b>Daily Express (The)</b></p> <p>GENERATING ELECTRICITY THROUGH DRIVING: Ingham says an Israeli designer has come up with a plan for roads which generate electricity as you drive over them. The catch is that you still have to run the cars over them. GRANTS FOR SOLAR POWER: He says a Government study shows that the cheapest way to get green homes is to use solar energy, so he asks for more grants for solar power. RECYCLING TURKEYS: Ingham says Manchester University scientists have worked out how to turn turkey feathers into paper. BIODEGRADABLE CHEWING GUM: He says we will soon see the arrival of biodegradable chewing gum which will mean an end to the unsightly little black spots found all over the pavement. Harvested in the rainforests of Mexico, its sale will also help to save where it comes from. DW</p>
<p>05 Dec 2008</p> <p><b>Daily Express (The)</b></p> <p>PRESERVING PORTUGAL'S CORK FORESTS: Ingham says a new documentary which will air next week claims that Britain's robins are being put at risk by the move from real cork to plastic corks in wine bottles. Thousands of the birds over-winter in the cork forests. The film suggests bottles be labelled so bird lovers can choose what to buy. CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE REPORT: He says his head nearly exploded listening to Lord Turner babble on about percentages, gigawatt hours, intended budgets and interim budgets. It was like algebra without the fun. He jokingly says he can't wait for the day when we all drive electric cars so quiet they need bells. KEEPING PUBS OPEN: Ingham says the great British pub is under threat, so we should all get down to our local and show our support. DW</p>
<p>28 Nov 2008</p> <p><b>Daily Express (The)</b></p> <p>COSTLY TAKEAWAY FROM THE CHIPPIE The true price of fish and chips was revealed yesterday, Ingham argues. The death rate for fishermen is 115 times higher than for the average British worker, according to new official statistics. Ingham is not surprised. A couple of years ago he went on fishery protection patrols with the Royal Navy and boarded several fishing boats in the English Channel. The boarding party wore helmets, wetsuits and life jackets. The fishermen? Not one had a Mae West on - even when working on a rolling deck in a force five wind. FARMERS: endangered species. CLIMATE CHANGE: hot air. BC</p>
<p>21 Nov 2008</p> <p><b>Daily Express (The)</b></p> <p>SACK RAIL BOSSES Ingham bemoans the state of the railways, citing both personal experience and criticism from MPs this week too. The Commons Public Accounts Committee said passengers and taxpayers face delays costing £1 billion a year, despite paying the industry £10 billion in fares and subsidies. This month Ingham has suffered 45 late trains and eight so overcrowded he had to stand nose to nose with other commuters or sit in the luggage rack. Only 15 - just 25 per cent - were on time, he complains. We should sack all rail bosses for their abject failures and bring in the Japanese. Then green travel might become attractive, he suggests. BC</p>
<p>07 Nov 2008</p> <p><b>Daily Express (The)</b></p> <p>GREEN BROWN UNDER FIRE Gordon Brown's Big Green Idea has suffered another blow, Ingham claims. Last year he tried to steal David Cameron's environmentalist credentials with a pledge to build eco-towns across the land - a great idea in practice but lousy in practice. The new Edens include old rejected planning applications that were dusted off and sites in pristine green belt or miles from employment and transport links. Now we learn that only one of the 12 actually meets Government criteria, Ingham notes. But ministers blunder on because Stalin must be obeyed. Far more effective than concreting over fields would be to turn our attention to the source of 27 per cent of Britain's carbon emissions - the 26 million existing homes and flats, Ingham suggests. Instead of chasing Brown's vanity project of eco-towns, we should insulate existing housing better. But there are no headlines in that. BC</p>
<p><i>Search the article summaries linked to this profile</i></p>

Commentator Information	
Organisations:	Independent (The), Sunday Times (The), GQ
Title:	Commentator
Key Topics:	Medical Ethics, Multi-culturalism, Smoking, Pandemics, Alternative Energy, Criminality, Trade and Industry, Home Affairs, Politics and Government, Foreign Affairs, Terrorism, Climate Change, Climate Change
<p>History of key topics</p> <p>Dominic Lawson comments on a wide range of issues including UK politics and politicians, Tory Party, Disability, Government policy, smoking ban, education, crime, medical ethics cases, racism and religion.</p>	
<p>RO 17/07/07</p> <p>Additional information and activities</p> <p>He has also published a series of books on the game of chess. These include End Game: Kasparov Vs. Short and The Inner Game: Short Vs. Kasparov. Also edited Snake Oil and Other Preoccupations and a number of Spectator spin-off books. He also writes a weekly column in The Independent and one in The Sunday Times.</p> <p>He is the son of former Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson and brother to food writer Nigella Lawson</p> <p>Previous / other positions</p> <p>After a spell at the BBC Dominic Lawson wrote for the Financial Times. From 1990-95 he was editor of The Spectator, during which time he was instrumental in bringing about the resignation of Nicholas Ridley from the Cabinet after an interview given to his magazine. From 1995-2005 he edited the Sunday Telegraph. A former Mail on Sunday columnist.</p> <p>Conferences / Speaking / Broadcast</p> <p>He appears regularly on More4's The Last Word.</p> <p>He was a guest on 18 Doughty St in May 2007 where he clashed with Professor Ivor Gaber over climate change</p>	

**Independent (The)**

Email:	<a href="mailto:d.lawson@independent.co.uk">d.lawson@independent.co.uk</a>
Commissioning editor:	<a href="mailto:d.lawson@independent.co.uk">d.lawson@independent.co.uk</a>
Frequency of publication:	Weekly
Days published:	Tuesday
Article type:	Single topic column
Average content length:	1000-1100 words approx

**Sunday Times (The)**

Email:	<i>Freelance</i>
Commissioning editor:	Freelance
Frequency of publication:	Weekly
Days published:	Sunday
Article type:	Single Topic column
Average content length:	1000 words

**GQ**

Email:	
Commissioning editor:	
Frequency of publication:	Monthly
Days published:	Varies
Article type:	Single topic column
Average content length:	1000

Article summaries

14 Dec 2008  
**Sunday Times (The)**  
**THE RIGHT TO DIE IS FASHIONABLE NONSENSE:** Lawson accuses supporters of euthanasia of seizing the UK's airwaves. For Lawson, "The very phrase "right to die" is a fashionable piece of nonsense. How can we be said to require a "right" to something that is absolutely unavoidable, whether we want it or not?" He suspects that Craig Ewin, whose death was featured on the Sky broadcast Right to Die, was actually suffering from depression at the time of his death. According to Lawson attitudes have changed dramatically since three years ago when the British Medical Journal printed a leading article advocating "physician-assisted suicide" which received a searing blow-back from its readers. JG

09 Dec 2008  
**Independent (The)**  
**KYOTO IS WORTHLESS:** Lawson compares the Kyoto Accord, as a means of reducing carbon emissions, to Monty Python's parrot - long dead. As the world's environmental ministers gather in Poland to look at a successor to Kyoto, its ineffectiveness can not be disputed. Professor Gwyn Prins is among the sceptics having been advocating measures to manage climate change for more than 20 years. He has long warned that the Kyoto model has been flawed but he is an unpopular figure with ministers - even though his criticisms of their approach is now being vindicated. The EU is attempting to set up a scheme where industries buy carbon allocations via an auction, rather than simply getting them free of charge, descending the process into madness. DG

07 Dec 2008  
**Sunday Times (The)**  
**THE BANKERS WILL DIE A THOUSAND DEATHS:** Lawson questions why the government is putting the needs of borrowers before the needs of savers. He thinks that a bank's first responsibility is to the people that have their money in it, not those who borrow from it. Lawson also notes that for all Gordon Brown's triumphalism at the US and Germany copying his bank capitalisation their governments lent at a far lower rate than his did. According to Lawson, Gordon Brown 'is the biggest borrower of all (as a special favour to each and every one of us) and will need British banks to buy government bonds on an unprecedented scale in order to fund the ever-expanding national debt.' Lawson thinks the government is hoping to set up the banks as the fall guys for the depth of the recession, and to deflect as much public criticism as possible from the government's economic policies. JG

02 Dec 2008  
**Independent (The)**  
**LIFE SHOULD MEAN LIFE:** The case of the Sheffield man who repeatedly raped his daughters over a 25-year period has provoked so much revulsion that the overwhelming reaction is that the man should never be released back into society. But though the judge in the case passed 25 "life sentences", the father is actually eligible for parole in 19-and-a-half years. By then he will be 75 - just two years older than this Austrian equivalent Josef Fritzl. As sentences usually run concurrently rather than consecutively, Lawson notes that life rarely means life with the criminal, in effect, only ever being punished once regardless of how many crimes committed. It might be right that at some stage in his life this man might no longer pose a risk, but Lawson argues it would not be inhuman to see someone who has brutalised so many lives spend the rest of his in prison. DG

25 Nov 2008  
**Independent (The)**  
**DOWN SYNDROME ISSUES:** Dominic Lawson argues that despite all the progress which children with Down Syndrome are now making, the medical profession in general still has a visceral bias in favour of eugenic termination. Every year hundreds of children without any disability are lost as a direct result of amniocentesis, which has a 1 per cent risk of miscarriage; the other invasive test, CVS, carries a 2 per cent risk. Given the huge numbers of "false positives" in the initial scanning process, this has resulted in some very disturbing statistics from the National Down Syndrome Cytogenetic Register. The Register shows that in 2006, 400 babies without Down Syndrome were "lost", in order to "prevent" 691 births of babies with the condition. There are arguments about the quality of life a disabled child can have, but the truth, however, is that a congenitally disabled person knows no other existence: it is others who might deem their lives to be inadequate, not they. DCA

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Commentator Information	Article summaries
<p>Organisations: Guardian (The), Observer (The)</p> <hr/> <p>Title: Commentator / Editorial Director- Guardian Media Group</p> <hr/> <p>Key Topics: Environment, Business and Finance, Human Rights, Law, Justice, Education, Civil Liberties, UK and International Politics, Culture, Media and Sport, Security and Defence, Telecommunications</p> <hr/>	<p>22 Dec 2008 <b>Guardian (The)</b> SELF-INTEREST AND THE ENVIRONMENT: Peter Preston argues that asking the voter to slap journey-specific fivers and tenners on a table marked "greater good" has become a no-win game. A broader point is whether any government will be able to bring in charging schemes without mighty clamour for a ballot. But the widest question is more intractable still. Simply: is saving the environment a fit subject for democratic choice? Can politicians ask the people, when they know that disaster goes with a "no"? Everyone can't win when the imperatives of climate change start rolling. Everyone, at this crunchy moment, is looking after number one, and politicians who hear the mood music are changing their tune. Save the planet? Not you in your small corner - or in mine as the ballot boxes trundle out. The system is soft, temporising, full of delay. One Jag forward, two Jags back. We can't save Old Trafford from carbon emissions. DCA</p> <p>15 Dec 2008 <b>Guardian (The)</b> SPOOKY PLOTS: Peter Preston says the dilemma as the seventh series of Spooks breathed its final repeat last night couldn't be starker: where the hell do we find villains and plots ludicrous enough to keep the eighth series on the boil? Well, scour the front pages and ye shall find, Preston outlines several possible plot ideas and suggests that series nine could involve a plot where phones don't work, city traffic is always jammed solid, the politicians don't know what they're doing, and the globe goes wearily to perdition on a handcart. But no ... nobody would believe it. DCA</p> <p>14 Dec 2008 <b>Observer (The)</b> ALL HAIL CRAIG BROWN Preston highlights Stephen Fry's description of Craig Brown as the wittiest writer in Britain. Brown is also the most recently unemployed after an 'utterly bizarre' Telegraph decision to dump him. Lose 50 more journalists in a crunch? Re-summon Charles Moore to the colours and get him columnising twice a week? Such things may be reasonably understood when the devil drives, Preston accepts. But Brown is a pearl beyond price, a funny man of infinite resource. On any rational view, he's the last chap you should push overboard. The Telegraph thought him expensive, Preston notes. Perhaps it meant this was a very expensive mistake. PAPERS: owners the problem. BBC: unseasonal greetings. WORLDWIDE NEWS: local tragedies. BC</p> <p>08 Dec 2008 <b>Guardian (The)</b> WILL OBAMA DELIVER: Peter Preston says that eerily enough, Obama 2008 begins to trail memories of Blair 1997. Blair erected a big tent in the middle of the park and drove his opponents to the periphery. At this particular journey wasn't whether he'd made the shrewdest decisions, or the best policy picks; it was where he'd got to, and how far he'd fallen short. Obama looks the whole package; but then, that was how Blair looked in 1997. Blair and Clinton gave a decade of holding the ring in reasonable shape on both sides of the Atlantic, the mild left in a modest holding pattern. Is that what we'll have to settle for too, from President Obama? It may be no bad thing if we do, says Preston. Eight competent years of recovery look pretty desirable now. But there is, in the dog days of 2008, still a promise for something more. DCA</p> <p>07 Dec 2008 <b>Observer (The)</b> GREEN: REMEMBER FREEDOM No-one has explained why the stories the civil service mole may have passed to Damian Green raised issues serious enough to send nine policemen rampaging through his living room, Preston complains. Not the Home Secretary, who set the dogs loose, nor Sir Paul Stephenson at the Yard. No-one has pointed to a single Green story with any bearing on national security. No-one has described anything more serious than a number of embarrassing but perfectly reasonable 'public interest' leaks, Preston feels. Green may have been causing Jacqui Smith a problem but he was nil threat to national security, nor was the mole. The law books are littered with legal mission-creep, Preston warns. That matter hugely, here and now. The Government has quietly shelved its proposed Communications Data Bill 'for further consultations'. That means more time for us to remember why freedom - and freedom of information - matter. BC</p> <p>Page 2 of 35</p> <p><a href="#">First</a>   <a href="#">Previous</a>   <a href="#">Next</a>   <a href="#">Last</a></p> <p><a href="#">Search the article summaries linked to this profile</a></p>
<p>History of key topics Guardian - discusses a broad range of political and social issues.</p> <p>Observer- Writes the 'Business &amp; Media' column offering analysis of news and matters of concern relating to newspapers &amp; journalism, media &amp; film, with a constant surveillance on issues connected to freedom of the press.</p> <p>K.B. 07/08/07</p> <p>Additional information and activities</p> <p>Books: Dunblane: reflecting tragedy, 1996; The Fifty-First State (a novel), 1998; Bess (a novel), 1999.</p> <p>Academic honours: Doctor of letters for distinguished services to journalism, City University.</p> <p>Preston is perhaps best known for his investigative reporting on Conservative MP's, including Jonathan Aitken, Neil Hamilton and Tim Smith, that contributed to the downfall of the Conservative government in 1997.</p> <p>Previous / other positions</p> <p>Guardian: Political Reporter, 1963/64; Education Correspondent, 1965/66; Diary Editor, 1966/68; Features Editor, 1968/72; Production Editor, 1972/75; Editor, 1975/95; Editor-in-chief and Chairman, Guardian and Observer, 1995/96. Member of Scott Trust 1979/2003,</p> <p>Chairman of International Press Institute 1995/1997; Chairman of Association of British Editors.</p> <p>Preston has also served on the Press Complaints Commission.</p> <p>Conferences / Speaking / Broadcast Hetherington Memorial Lecture: The Newspaper of the Future - Inaugural lecture (1999) Issues: challenges of future, including reader demands and interests, impact of internet and other technological changes - hosted by Stirling Media Research Institute at the University of Stirling);</p>	

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IPI Anniversary Speech: The Pen is Mightier than the Sword - at the International Press Institute headquarters in Vienna) (2002);

Eurasian Median Forum 2003: Executive Report - review of sessions examining media landscape in Eurasia. Issues: pressures placed on journalists, concentration of media ownership, responsibilities of businesses, governments, human rights and freedom of speech organisations.

Numerous UK radio appearances.

*Guardian (The)*

Email:	<i>p.preston@guardian.co.uk</i>
Commissioning editor:	<i>p.preston@guardian.co.uk</i>
Frequency of publication:	Weekly
Days published:	Monday
Article type:	Single topic column
Average content length:	750 words

*Observer (The)*

Email:	<i>Peter.preston@observer.co.uk</i>
Commissioning editor:	<i>Peter.preston@observer.co.uk</i>
Frequency of publication:	Weekly
Days published:	Sunday
Article type:	Multiple topic column
Average content length:	1500 words

