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# the guardian

theguardian.com

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**Ralph Steadman on Cameron and Osborne**  
"They look like babies in suits - really pathetic"



**OMG! LOL is 25!**  
G2 salutes the web's

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This panel helps to market  
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## Lib Dem chaos as Cable denies anti-Clegg plot

### Business secretary admits he knew of polls suggesting he should be leader

**Rowena Mason**  
Political correspondent

**BYLINE**

Sometimes the writer's  
job title or where they  
are writing from is  
included. Staff writers are  
always credited.

Questions over  
closest allies  
pt to get Nick  
business secre-  
et polling that  
mocrat leader.  
the Lib Dems,  
g involved in  
attempts by his  
Oakeshott, to  
get rid of Clegg,  
insisting he was  
strongly behind  
his leader. How-  
ever, the busi-  
ness secretary  
was forced to  
admit he had  
known about  
some of his ally's  
damaging polls  
that suggested  
voters would  
prefer Cable as  
party leader.

Oakeshott quit  
the party yester-  
day, warning  
that it was head-  
ing for disaster  
under Clegg's  
leadership. He  
resigned the  
day after being  
named by Cable  
as the senior  
party figure who  
commissioned  
the surveys from  
pollsters ICM  
that showed  
Clegg in Sheff-  
ield Hallam,  
Tessa Munt in  
Wells, Ian Swa-  
les in Redcar  
and Cable in  
Twickenham  
were likely to  
lose their seats  
under the cur-  
rent leadership.

The surveys were  
leaked by an  
unnamed party  
to the Guardian  
after the Lib  
Dems lost hun-  
dreds of council  
seats and polled  
only 7% in the  
European elec-  
tions in fifth  
place behind  
the Greens,  
triggering sug-  
gestions from  
some Lib Dem  
MPs that Clegg  
should consider  
his position.

Oakeshott, who  
helped found  
the party, said  
Clegg had led  
the Lib Dems  
to "no roots,  
no principles,  
and no values".  
After stepping  
down, he also  
revealed a fifth  
poll suggested  
Danny Alexan-  
der, the Lib  
Dem chief secre-  
tary to the Treas-  
ury, was on  
course to come  
third to the SNP  
and Labour in  
his Inverness  
constituency.

Cable said on  
Tuesday it was  
"utterly rephren-  
sible" to commis-  
sion and pub-  
lish polls with-  
out the consent  
of the MP, in-  
cluding in Clegg's  
seat. But in his  
resignation state-  
ment, Oakeshott  
said he had told  
Cable the results  
of the four polls  
several weeks  
ago. He said  
Cable had also  
approved the  
survey of his  
own Twick-

en-  
nes-  
abc  
of  
Oa-  
kne-  
polls  
and  
the  
as well  
about  
Munt,  
his  
parli-  
mentary  
private  
secretary.  
He said:  
"I was aware  
that he was  
conducting  
other polls  
around the  
country and  
I was certain-  
ly told in  
general terms  
what the  
trends were,  
and in one  
particular  
case concern-  
ing ... Tessa  
Munt from  
Wells, we sat  
down and  
discussed  
the details  
with her. But  
I had abso-  
lutely no  
knowledge  
of, or certain-  
ly was not  
involved in  
any commis-  
sioning of  
the surveys  
that were  
done in  
Sheffield  
Hallam and  
Inverness,  
and indeed  
I criticised  
them very  
severely  
yesterday."

Cable, who  
is travelling  
in China, said  
he regretted  
his relation-  
ship with  
Oakeshott  
had "finished  
up in this  
way" but  
hoped his  
longstand-  
ing friend,  
whom he  
has accom-  
panied on  
family ski-  
ing holi-  
days, would  
reconsider  
his decision  
to leave the  
party.

Oakeshott  
left the party  
and under-  
standably  
"evidently  
Clegg's  
party  
offer-  
ing  
"A  
few  
and  
hundreds  
of can-  
didates  
of Lib  
Dem  
members  
all over  
Britain  
are now  
fighting  
constitu-  
ency by  
constitu-  
ency for  
a leader-  
ship elec-  
tion," Oa-  
keshott  
said in a  
state-  
ment.

"I have  
tried to  
give them  
the evi-  
dence  
they need  
to make  
the change.  
I pray that  
they win,  
and that  
the right  
man, or  
preferably  
woman,  
is now  
elected  
to save  
the party."

Continued on page 6 »

## Maya Angelou, a woman of passion, compassion and daring, dies aged 86



**HEADLINE**

The biggest headline on the  
page is called the "main splash".  
This is a serious story so no  
jokes are made in the headline.

Angelou's view of old age: I'm the same person I was ... just a lot less lungs Photograph: Debra Hurford Brown/Camera Press



Gary Younge

The first time I interviewed  
Maya Angelou in 2002 I got  
hammered. What was sup-  
posed to have been a 45-  
minute interview in a hotel  
room near Los Angeles  
had turned into a 16-hour  
day, much of it spent in  
her stretch limo, during  
which we'd been to lunch  
and she had performed.  
On the way back from  
Pasadena she asked her  
assistant, Lydia Stuckey,  
to get out the whisky.  
"Do you want ice and  
stuff?" Stuckey asked.  
"I want some ice, but  
mostly I

want stuff," said Angelou  
with a smile, and invited  
me to join her.

Then came a traffic jam.  
The car came to a crawl.  
But the whisky kept flow-  
ing. So did the conversa-  
tion. We talked about  
South Africa, writing, grow-  
ing old, staying young,  
our mothers, growing up  
poor and living abroad.  
We laughed a lot too: at  
ourselves, each other and  
general human folly. She  
reserved particular ridi-  
cule for my hotel, which  
she thought was pretentious  
(she was right). Her laugh  
was no small thing. She  
threw her head back and  
filled the car with it. And  
it was a big car. Episod-  
ically, when words alone  
would not suffice, she  
would break without  
warning into verse - some-  
times her own, sometimes  
others.

When I asked her how  
she dealt with people's  
response to old age she  
recited the final verse of  
her poem, On Aging:  
I'm the same person I  
was back then.  
A little less hair, a little  
less chin.

**CAPTION**

Captions give a description  
of a photograph or graphic.  
Often they include the  
photographer's name.  
A little less lungs and  
much less wind.  
m.  
art  
nt  
d  
hat's  
life. I  
honestly  
couldn't  
tell if she  
was drunk  
or not.  
There'd  
been plenty  
of serious  
talk through-  
out the day.  
But she'd  
also been  
singing and  
laughing  
since the  
morning.  
Anyone  
who knows  
her work  
and her life  
story - which  
is a huge  
part of her  
work - knows  
that this is  
a huge part  
of her cur-  
rency. Those  
maxims that  
people learn  
on their death  
bed - that  
you only  
have one life,  
that it is  
brief and  
frail, and if  
you don't  
take own-  
ership of it  
nobody else  
will - were  
the tenets  
by which  
she lived.  
She had an  
extraordi-  
narily full  
life. By

Continued on page 3 »

## 'Man up' and return to face charges, Kerry tells Snowden

**Tom McCarthy New York**

John Kerry, the US  
secretary of state,  
has told Edward  
Snowden to "man  
up" and return  
to the United  
States to explain  
his actions to the  
American people.

In a television  
appearance yester-  
day, Kerry said  
that if Snowden  
were a "patriot"  
he would return  
to the US from  
Russia. Snowden  
is facing three  
felonies

**EDITION STARS**

We normally print  
three different  
editions per  
night. Three stars  
means this is the  
third edition.

trayed his  
News. "He  
k to the US."  
id an unfair  
legal landscape  
in the US made  
it unlikely that  
the National  
Security Agency  
whistle-

blower would  
take the secre-  
tary of state  
up on his invita-  
tion.

Responding to  
Kerry's com-  
ments yester-  
day, Ben Wizner  
- a lawyer with  
the American  
Civil Liberties  
Union and legal  
adviser to  
Snowden - said  
the whistle-  
blower hoped  
to return to the  
US one day,  
but could not  
do so under the  
current Espi-  
onage Act charges,  
which make it  
impossible for  
him to argue  
that his dis-  
closures have  
served the  
common good.

"The laws  
under which  
Snowden is

**Inside, pages 28-30 »**

Eben Moglen: why  
it's now up to  
us to carry on  
the work of  
Edward Snowden  
- and bring  
about a new  
birth of freedom

charged don't  
distinguish  
between shar-  
ing information  
with the press  
in the public  
interest, and  
selling secrets  
to a foreign  
enemy," Wizner  
said. "The laws  
would not  
provide him  
any opportu-  
nity to say  
that the in-  
formation  
never should  
have been  
withheld from  
the public in  
the first place.  
And the fact  
that the dis-  
closures have  
led to the  
highest jour-  
nalism re-  
wards, have  
led to historic  
reforms in  
the US and  
around the  
world - all of  
that would  
be irrelevant  
in a prosecu-  
tion under  
the espionage  
laws in the  
United States."

As NBC News  
an extended  
last night.  
his identity  
a teaser clip  
of the network,

Snowden says  
he never in-  
tended to end  
up in Russia  
but was trapped  
there when  
the US govern-  
ment revoked  
his passport.

"So when  
people ask  
why are you  
in Russia, I  
say: 'Please  
ask the state  
depart-  
ment.'" Snowden  
told the NBC  
anchor, Brian  
Williams.

Asked about  
this, Kerry  
replied: "Well,  
for a suppos-  
edly smart  
guy, that's a  
pretty dumb  
answer, after  
all. If Mr  
Snowden  
wants to  
come back  
to the United  
States, we'll  
have him on  
a flight today."

Snowden also  
said he had  
been more  
than a "low-  
level systems  
administra-  
tor", as he  
has been  
characterised  
by intelli-  
gence agency  
heads.

"It's no  
secret that  
the US tends  
to

Continued on page 4 »

### Ready to go?

No pedals, no steering  
wheel - and no driver,  
but Google says its  
new car could make  
our roads safer

Page 9 »

