

hists now involved in the murderous fanatics of al-Zarqawi clearly don't understand that it is easier to rule — and a community-based coalition is inevitable — if they do the politics of neighbourly politeness. Neighbourly politeness frightens other Americans.

But the war can wait. It is not the end of all — Iraqis, the British — that some have been salvaged from the sands poised between democracy and worsening democracy. It is a landmark election, in any way, a grand moment. It is not to be a bloody one.

prising if you could prove that George Bush wasn't related to Strongbow (Scion of traitors and warlords, January 27).

Paul Ticher
Leicester

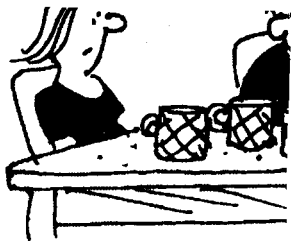
● All the photographic evidence I could find for my book *Right Hand, Left Hand* shows Einstein was right-handed (Letters, January 27). He is not the only genius erroneously said to be left-handed — Benjamin Franklin, Picasso and Bob Dylan being others.

Prof Chris McManus
University College London

● So Charles Clarke thinks that there are organisations that want to end freedom and democracy (Letters, January 28). He is right. They are New Labour and the Conservatives.

John Parkin
Nuneaton, Warks

● Perhaps Pete Jones (Letters, January 27) should consider moving. I order books from my local bookstore and they arrive the next day or the day after — and no p&p.



Tea, but no s

Oliver Burkeman (When the PM dropped round for tea, G2, January 26) is extraordinarily cynical about Tony Blair. Tea, as that other great tea-drinker Tony Benn knows, is not just a democratic signifier, but a democratic taste — it gives you the flavour of ordinary life. So Blair is quite right to drink it since he does have strong democratic instincts and an obvious affection for ordinary people.

Peter Higginson
Wolverhampton

● The mugs that Blair presented to Sharon Williams

defined as two successive (or three) years of (or more) economic growth) in the same year. The UK has so far suffered none

ndrums

No winners
in Iraq poll