“Nobody could accuse Boris of lacking the will to win. In May 2003 he told readers of the laddish magazine *GQ* why they should vote Tory: ‘Your car will go faster, your girlfriend will have a bigger bra size. It’s an attested fact that under Conservative governments the quality of living of the British people has immeasurably improved, leading to better denticians, higher calcium consumption, leading inexorably to superior mammary development.’”

“Eighteen days after his appointment, Boris made his first appearance at the Dispatch Box as a shadow minister. I was privileged to watch this event for the *Daily Telegraph*, and reported: ‘He wore a baggy light-grey suit in which he looked as if he had often fallen asleep as he worked on his question, and his pallor was such that one could guess he had not been out of doors for the past eighteen days…From the press gallery it was possible to note that Johnson had covered an entire A4 sheet of paper in messy handwriting, and as culture questions proceeded, he could be seen adding what looked like whole new paragraphs to his already lengthy question. Some of his fans began to fear might he might have over-prepared himself.’”

“When an interviewer remarked to him that ‘cyclists drive other commuters ballistic’, Boris replied: ‘They’re jealous. It’s sheer jealousy at the way we pass them with ease and grace while they are stuck in queues.’”

“Boris rejected the idea that Johnson the politician was betraying Johnson the journalist: ‘Johnson the politician apologises for and refuses to apologise for exactly the same things as Johnson the journalist.’”

“As it was, he chose to place his own political career or the interests of the Conservative Party above his duty as an editor.”

**Scandals**

“But according to Frank Johnson the following dialogue took place: Wilson: ‘All the quotes are made up.’ Boris: ‘But so are most of the quotes in your paper.’”

“No scandal, or alleged scandal, has pursued Boris for longer than the bizarre case of his tape-recorded conversation with his Eton and Oxford chum Darius Guppy.”

“On one edition of HIGNFY Boris faced a quiz about his party leader, Iain Duncan Smith, in which he was unable to answer any of the questions, Audiences loved such towering ineptitude. With many contestants, such behaviour might have become embarrassing, but Boris knew how to carry it off. He was tough enough to take the knocks, and the worse things went for him, the more he could make people laugh.”