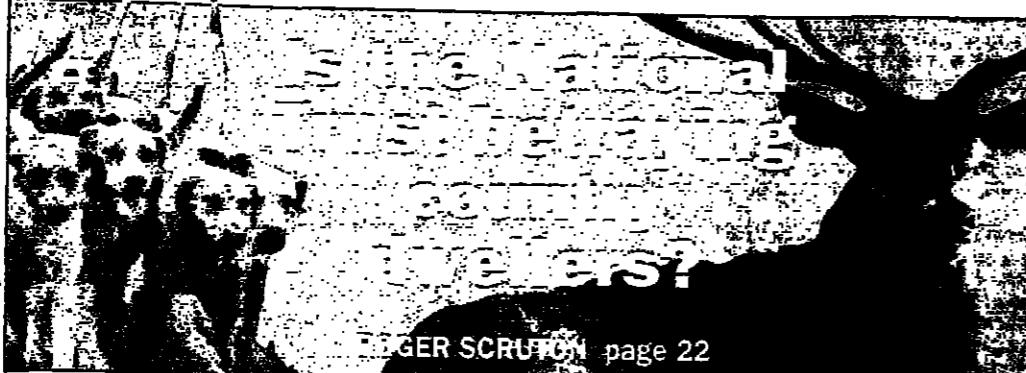


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MONDAY NOVEMBER 23 1998

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Call for 'common economic roof' EU socialists set out vision of harmony

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

A MANIFESTO for a socialist Europe with more harmonised taxes and more closely shared economic policies, including higher public spending, was launched last night by Britain and the 10 other left-of-centre governments that now dominate the European Union.

The programme for "The New European Way - Economic Reform in the Framework of Monetary Union", calls itself a "set of common rules for the economic and Social well-being of European citizens".

Although in drafting since early 1996, the release of the programme has taken on special force with the leftward swing in Europe since the election of Germany's Red-Green coalition in September.

Drafted partly by British officials, the manifesto blends New Labour-style rhetoric on reform with promises of closer budgetary and tax co-ordination that spring from the old-left socialists of Germany and France.

The goal of the new socialist Europe should be "strong and sustainable economic development and full employment", it says.

Among its more controversial demands is that the European Central Bank, the manager of the euro, should take into account the need for growth and not just stopping inflation, when it sets monetary policy.

Presenting the paper, Rudolf Edlinger, the Austrian Finance Minister, said the governments in monetary union were determined to push for more tax harmonisation, including higher taxes on capital and lower charges on wages.

Monetary union, which starts on January 1, would "make it imperative to start co-ordinating the sphere of taxation," he said. "The social democrat governments will also have to look at harmonising prices and wage policy."

Herr Edlinger, whose country holds the current EU presidency, said the left-wing paper amounted to a "common economic roof...for a common house of Europe".

The manifesto is seen

British beef ban to be lifted today

The European Union embargo on British beef exports is expected to be lifted in Brussels today, allowing deboned beef to be sold abroad from February.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, has also indicated that he hopes to lift the domestic ban on the sale of beef on the bone in February or March.

Page 8

among continental left-wing parties as a vehicle that is being used by Britain to associate itself more closely with the 11 states that are about to enter the euro.

The document was issued last night as Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, met Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, and other socialist ministers ahead of the first session of the EU's economic chiefs since the German election greatly reinforced the left-wing tide in EU Government.

The first "Red Ecofin", as the new left-dominated council has been dubbed, is to start after a session of the Euro-11 group of single currency states, from which Mr Brown is excluded.

Today's Ecofin will see a first showdown between Britain — along with five other northern EU states that want to freeze the EU budget at the turn of the century — and the poorer southern nations, which are demanding a big rise in spending.

The Brussels Commission is pushing for a sharp rise in the current £60-billion-a-year budget, while Britain, Germany, The Netherlands and others are determined to keep the cash at current levels as a way of stanching their already heavy net contributions.

British spokesmen insisted that the "New European Way", which was unchanged from a draft reported by *The Times* last week, amounted to no break with existing Labour policy. However, some British officials have made no secret of

their qualms over some of the detail. This is especially the case over taxation, where the Government has been trying to temper EU enthusiasm for stopping Governments indulging in "unfair" competition with excessively low charges in business and other fields.

The paper calls for "further efforts to be undertaken to avoid harmful tax competition among the member states". It also calls for international efforts to impose minimum taxes on savings income as a way of enabling the EU to impose its own, without driving capital out of the area.

The manifesto contains little echo of Germany's recent flirtation with the notion of breaking the sacred rules on budget deficits inside monetary union. But while calling for fiscal discipline, it says there must be flexibility over deficits to allow higher public spending during periods of economic downturn.

The manifesto contains no mention of a common wages policy, but Herr Edlinger's mention of the subject reflected a push now being led by Herr Lafontaine for closer coordination of wage agreements across industry in the euro zone.

This would require the creation of some cross-border collective bargaining between employers and unions — an idea that would probably be anathema to the British Government.

The document has already been criticised as bland and insufficiently socialist by some Nordic, German and French officials of the left parties in the European parliament.

The drafters said it had to be fairly unspecific if it was to embrace a camp that ranges from Tony Blair — who is seen as a virtual conservative in Paris and Bonn — to Massimo d'Alema, the former Communist leader who now runs Italy.

Tory Eurosceptics last night declared that the plan would lead to job losses and higher taxation. Michael Trend, the shadow spokesman on Europe, said: "The lurch to the left will increase taxes, hamper industry and destroy jobs in Britain and across Europe."

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Jim Threapleton delights the crowd with a kiss for Kate Winslet after their wedding

Kate Winslet's secret comes out

By ROBIN YOUNG

KATE WINSLET and Jim Threapleton were married yesterday at a parish church in front of coachloads of guests.

They had tried to keep the ceremony secret, but in the end a team of security guards had to be called in to guard All Saints' Church in Miss Winslet's home town of Reading.

The Oscar-winning Miss Winslet, 23, sped up to the church in a Mercedes with

blackout windows. She offered only a brief glimpse of her cream tasseled gown and Asian-style headdress as she took the two steps into the church, followed by four attendants.

Mr Threapleton, a 25-year-old assistant film director, was standing at the altar awaiting his bride, watched by 150 guests and celebrities who had arrived on a fleet of coaches.

Fifty minutes later the beaming couple appeared at the

church door and kissed before walking along a makeshift corridor formed by guests who threw rose petals at their feet.

Mr Threapleton, wearing a blue collarless suit, mouthed: "She's my wife, she's my wife."

As the couple prepared to leave for the reception, the bride wound down the car window to ask for cigarettes. She then lit up and declared: "It has been a wonderful day. I am so happy to be married to Jim."

Tortured man freed after family pay £17,000 ransom

By RUSSELL JENKINS



Charles Seiga, 58, was scalded, beaten and forced to make a series of telephone calls with a gun held to his head. He was freed when his brother handed over the second of two payments totalling £17,000.

Two men, aged 28 and 29, were arrested at a house in Wavertree, Liverpool, early yesterday and two guns seized.

Police believe that the kidnapping may have been connected to Mr Seiga's trial at which he was cleared of murdering George Bromley, 36, who organised nightclub doormen.

Mr Bromley was shot as he dined at Mr Seiga's home in West Derby, Liverpool.

At one point during the ran-

som negotiations, there were suggestions that if the family could not come up with the cash, they could buy Mr Seiga's freedom with drugs. But senior police were anxious last night to damp down speculation that the kidnapping was part of a Merseyside drugs war.

Mr Seiga's ordeal began when he was abducted by armed men when he went to buy a newspaper on Friday morning. His 22-year-old daughter Britt was expecting to go shopping with him later that day and the family grew alarmed at his absence.

Iraq backed down after British tip

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

WITH a new confrontation looming over Iraq's refusal to turn over documents to United Nations weapons inspectors, it emerged yesterday that President Saddam Hussein backed down last night after a warning from Britain of devastating military strikes.

His brother handed £10,000 to an unknown man in a street near Wavertree police station only to be told later that that was only a down payment.

Mr Seiga rang again at 3pm on Saturday with instructions for the next ransom payment. Another £7,000 was handed over at the same spot.

Mr Seiga later arrived at his brother's home by taxi. He was taken to hospital for treatment to scalds to his arms, buttocks and thighs. His face was cut and bruised, and his wrists were injured where they had been tightly bound.

Baghdad gamble, page 13

Defence Ministry staff face drug test demand

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE EDITOR

CIVIL servants at the Defence Ministry are likely to become the first Whitehall officials to face compulsory drugs tests.

The move, which is still under negotiation with the unions, would affect all MoD civil servants involved in "safety-critical areas" and would be imposed under a zero-tolerance regime. Anyone testing positive would face dismissal.

The recommendation to bring civil servants into line with the Services, which already have compulsory drug tests, was made by the ministry's career management department to Kevin Tebbit, the Permanent Under-Secretary.

The Army began random drug tests in January 1995, followed by the Royal Navy in April last year and the RAF from November 1 this year.

Although there is no evidence of a drugs problem among MoD civil servants, it was considered appropriate that officials who worked closely with the military should face the same tests as their uniformed colleagues.

There are 76,000 civil servants in the various defence establishments, including the Whitehall headquarters, but the proposal is that those who work with the military in areas such as weapons programmes and research should be subject to the same testing.

Although some companies are introducing drug tests for employees, Whitehall civil servants have remained immune and it is a highly sensitive issue. Civil Service trade unions have been studying the proposal since last month.

If the idea is approved, civil servants would be selected at random from a computer list of names and ordered to give urine samples.



"Sorry I'm late — I
couldn't remember
what date it started"

Primary schools to bring back history

By JOHN O'LEARY

COMPULSORY lessons in history, geography and the arts will reappear in junior schools when the national curriculum is revised in 2000.

At the moment the teaching of all but the core subjects — English, mathematics, science and information technology — is discretionary while teachers implement the Government's literacy and numeracy strategies. But critics have claimed that children are being denied the broad education guaranteed by the original curriculum — many are taught no history or geography at primary school.

History has become the focus of particular dissatisfaction because primary school lessons give many children their only secure grounding in their heritage. Secondary courses often concentrate on the 20th century and European history.

Recommendations for the revised curriculum, which will be considered by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority next month, lay down what children should learn in history, geography, music and art. Continued on page 2, col 1

Leading article, page 25

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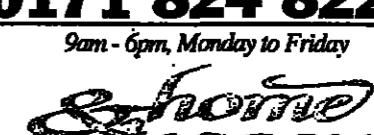
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Bar says US-style public defenders will be a 'calamity'

Frances Gibb reports on the controversy over Lord Irvine's new courts shake-up

THE Government is facing a headlong clash with the legal profession over plans which could lead to an American-style public defender system for criminal defence work.

The plans will be contained in its shake-up of the £1.6 billion legal aid scheme to be unveiled next week. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, is expected to propose changes which would allow some criminal defence work to be contracted out to specialised panels of lawyers.

In the long term, this could lead to a public defender system employing salaried lawyers which would mean the end of a defendant's right to choose his own lawyer. The plans will be strenuously opposed by the Bar, which is already gearing up for a fight on the White Paper plans to

allow Crown prosecutors to conduct Crown Court cases.

A Bar spokesman said: "This would be an extreme calamity. We have no problem with contracts and with setting of standards - that can be made to work. But as far as any move towards a public defender system is concerned, we would fight it tooth and claw."

Geoff Hoon, a junior minister of state at the Lord Chancellor's Department, confirmed to *The Times* that the plans - now being piloted in Scotland - are in line with the Government's thinking for transforming the entire legal aid scheme into a system of Government contracts

with specialist, high-standard, lawyers. He said: "Prosecution work is already put out to preferred sets of chambers. We see no reason why criminal defence work should not also go to the best people in the field."

The Government wanted to look first at what was happening in Scotland. But, he said: "Clearly there are areas where we might want to test out salaried lawyers - either geographical [areas], or areas of work such as in the youth court."

A pilot scheme would be run in the youth court to ensure that the lawyers were specialist and appropriately qualified and had the sensitivity for such cases. The forthcoming White Paper will provide for the legal aid scheme, created in 1949, will be dismantled in its present form and be replaced with a community legal service run by lawyers and advice workers on contracts.

The first stage will be to move criminal defence work over to contracts, which could mean that only lawyers who win those contracts can offer criminal defence work.

The Lord Chancellor told the Commons Home Affairs Committee recently that criminal defence work, including advocacy, would be brought under contract by 2003. All family work and legal advice on civil disputes is to be contracted by 2000.

The White Paper, *Access to Justice*, will herald the biggest shake-up of legal services for 50 years. The

legal aid scheme, created in 1949, will be dismantled in its present form and be replaced with a community legal service run by lawyers and advice workers on contracts.

There will be a network of advice centres acting as a first port of call for the public and able to provide one-stop legal advice - often from specialist advisers who are not lawyers.

The White Paper is expected to place a statutory duty on the Legal Aid Board to assess need through regional legal services committees and then contract with advice centres and law firms to meet that need.

The current legal aid system does

not meet the needs of some of the poorest people in society, Mr Hoon said. "Our vision for a community legal service is a way of ensuring taxpayers' money reaches those who are in need of help - something the traditional system has failed to do."

The White Paper, to be unveiled in the Queen's Speech, will also provide for the scrapping of remaining restrictive practices in the law and in particular removal of the Bars near-monopoly in the higher courts.

These moves also will bring the Government into headlong confrontation with the Bar. But it is expected that in a move to deflect criticism from the judiciary, the final say on any changes to the legal profession and advocacy rights would have to be approved by Parliament.

Ashdown warns rivals against challenge

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY ASHDOWN issued a sharp rebuke last night to any colleagues who may want to oust him from the party leadership, insisting that he was in no hurry to step down.

The Liberal Democrat leader dismissed as "rubbish" reports that he would be forced to resign if the Government failed to deliver on PR for the European elections in June or a referendum on electoral reform during this Parliament.

"My advice to those who are over eager to try on the crown is very simple - don't hold your breath," said Mr Ashdown, who has led the party for more than ten years.

Making clear that he was in no mood to fall victim to grumbling in the party ranks, he said: "I have some other things I want to do with the Liberal Democrats, and when I have done them I will stand down."

His comments follow reports that he may be under pressure to stand down next summer and suggestions that a campaign for his successor is already underway. The leading contenders at present are Charles Kennedy, Menzies Campbell, Simon Hughes and Nick Harvey.

Mr Ashdown has come under mounting pressure from within his party in recent weeks over Labour's failure to deliver on proportional representation. Last week's debate in the Lords, which has led to uncertainty about PR for the Euro-elections, has also undermined Mr Ashdown's position.

Several Liberal Democrat MPs were further incensed when they heard that Mr Ashdown had extended the co-operation pact with the Labour party. Yesterday Simon Hughes, one of Mr Ashdown's fiercest critics on the co-operation deal, called on the Government to bring back its European Election Bill as soon as possible. He said that the House of Lords may have to sit during the Christmas recess to get the reforms on the statute book in time for next year's elections.

He said that closer co-operation with his party depended on the Government delivering PR for the European elections in June. But Mr Ashdown refused to be drawn on the business timetable, merely emphasising that it was up to the Tories to drop their opposition to the Bill.

Ahern predicts united Ireland in his lifetime

Taoiseach's remarks in interview infuriate Unionists at a delicate moment, reports Martin Fletcher

BERTIE AHERN, the Irish Taoiseach, last night predicted a constitutional referendum within 15 to 20 years, leading to a united Ireland within his lifetime.

His remarks infuriated Unionists at a very delicate moment in the peace process, and just four days before Tony Blair is to become the first British Prime Minister to address the Irish parliament.

The process is stalled over David Trimble's refusal to create an executive that includes Sinn Fein until the IRA begins disarming. Mr Ahern and Northern Ireland's First Minister are hoping to give it new impetus by announcing six cross-border bodies within the next two weeks, but many of Mr Trimble's fellow Unionists see those bodies as a backdoor route to Irish unity.

Mr Ahern suggested unification could happen in a peaceful climate and with Unionist consent, but told Irish Radio: "I make no secret of the fact that I would hope that in the fullness of time people will see that it is working together on this island that will make more sense than looking to Westminster, and that they will take a decision to move away from that."

He agreed with his interviewer that there was an "irresistible dynamic" towards Irish unity. He forecast a constitutional referendum on the

issue within 15 to 20 years. He said he did not know how long he would live, but "I have said that I believe it will be in my lifetime ... I do think it will happen."

Jeffrey Donaldson, the Ulster Unionist Party MP who opposes the Good Friday Agreement, said Mr Ahern's comments showed the Irish Government "didn't regard the agreement as a settlement but only as an interim agreement towards their objective of a united Ireland".

Peter Robinson, the Democratic Unionist Party's deputy leader, said Mr Ahern had revealed the real agenda behind the good Friday agreement.

The Taoiseach "sees he has an agreement in place which is a mechanism to take him to a

united Ireland ... I presume he thinks unionists are not prepared to fight their corner. But he has yet to see the full force of the will of the Unionist community."

Andrew Mackay, the shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said Mr Ahern's comments were "not very helpful" at a time when the process was deadlocked by the IRA's refusal to disarm. "It's unfortunate that Mr Ahern felt it necessary to speak in this way. I hope this Irish leader, for whom I have a great respect, will return to being somewhat more circumspect in the future."

Mr Trimble and Mr Ahern met in Dublin late last week and are very close to agreeing the terms of the six cross-border bodies to be established under the Good Friday accord. Mr Trimble has insisted the bodies must be of demonstrable benefit to Northern Ireland, and will not dilute its identity.

Unionist sources also said yesterday that agreement on the bodies would have to be part of a package that would involve the nationalist SDLP agreeing to just seven seats in Northern Ireland's new executive in addition to those of Mr Trimble and his deputy, Seamus Mallon. The SDLP want 10, but Unionists say the lower number would save millions of pounds.



Linfield's Tony Gorman, No 8, and Cliftonville goal-scorer Tim McCann embrace after the 1-1 draw

Footballers kick off for peace

THE score was 1-1, but this was a game where the whole of Northern Ireland was the victor (Martin Fletcher writes).

For the first time since the onset of the Troubles, the police allowed Linfield, a South Belfast club with a big working-class Protestant following, to play an away game against predominantly Catholic Cliftonville in the heart of North Belfast's "killing fields" this weekend, and the occasion passed off almost without incident.

Jim Boyce, president of the Irish Football Association, hailed the match as "another sign that Northern Ireland's sectarian wounds are healing". Bill McCoubrey, Linfield's chairman, called it "the first step on the road back to normality". And so it was, but the massive precautions taken by the police showed there was still a very long way to go.

Solitude, Cliftonville's shabby and dilapidated stadium, juts from the dreary sea of red-brick terrace houses

where fully a fifth of the 3,300 killings of the Troubles took place. Linfield last played there in the 1970 Irish Cup final. It won 2-1, but there was rioting after the game.

The RUC insisted this weekend's game began at 11am to minimise pre-match drinking and stop fans roaming the streets after dark. It limited the crowd to 1,500 instead of the 7,000 that would otherwise have attended.

At the far end Cliftonville supporters had hung an Irish tricolour, and a large white sheet reading "Cead Mile Failte" - "One Hundred Thousand Welcomes". The Linfield fans responded by hanging Union Jacks from the fencing erected to prevent missiles being thrown onto the pitch. "Feminist bastards" and "You know you are, you're British," they chanted. But the Cliftonville players lined up to applaud Linfield onto the pitch, and both teams punted free balls to their opponents' supporters.

History lessons

Continued from page 1 between the ages of eight and eleven. But only the core subjects are prescribed in detail for younger children.

"Successive governments have expressed concern about boys switching off learning. We feel strongly that history has succeeded in capturing the imagination of young boys, so not to encourage it at primary level is extremely shortsighted."

Ministers are aiming to publish their proposals for the new curriculum in the spring, allowing time for consultation over the summer. Schools would then receive details of the new orders by the end of 1999 for implementation in September 2000.

Leading article, page 23

Hague calls on Blair to sack Robinson

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE yesterday called on Tony Blair to sack Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, after the Tories published fresh allegations about his business affairs.

Mr Hague said that Mr Robinson's post was "completely untenable" and he should resign pending an investigation by the Department of Trade and Industry into the issue.

A DTI spokesman said that he could neither confirm nor deny Tory claims that the department was conducting an investigation. The spokesman insisted that the department

never commented on individuals or companies who may or may not be under investigation.

But David Heathcoat Amory, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, gave details of a letter from Peter Mandelson which he said confirmed that a possible breach of regulations was being considered by his department.

Mr Heathcoat Amory has now written to Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary, questioning whether one minister should judge the conduct of another. "I am writing to seek clarification on whether it

is appropriate that one minister, in this case the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry should sit in judgment on another minister."

"I have received a reply from the Secretary of State on September 23 confirming that a breach of the Companies Act is under consideration by his department. In view of this, do you accept that the Paymaster General should stand down from office until the investigation is completed?"

The alleged offences concern incomplete or inaccurate records between 1988 and 1992.

Leading article, page 23

Straw takes to the streets

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

JACK STRAW has taken a stand for soap box politics. In the era of the television soundbite, the Home Secretary resolutely clings to an earlier style of political campaigning.

Removed in Whitehall for his determination to live life as normally as possible, the Home Secretary still lives in his South London family home and holds a regular open air meeting in the centre of his Blackburn constituency. And even on a bitterly cold Saturday morning with pre-Christmas shopping in full swing, the Home Secretary manages to draw a crowd of nearly 50 for an hour-long question and answer session.

Standing on a wooden bench outside Marks & Spencer, Mr Straw interlaces a three-minute address on Labour in government by pointing to members of the public who have gathered to listen to their MP. To one woman shivering against the cold, he calls: "You look perished, madam. I did not promise sunshine at the election but said we'd carry out our manifesto."

The first question was a gift, allowing him to play on the rivalry between Blackburn and Burnley. "Do you think Blackburn Rovers will win today?", shouted one man. "It would be nice for Rovers to win against Southampton. You look like a Burnley supporter to me," Mr Straw replied.

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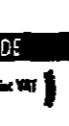


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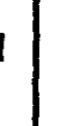
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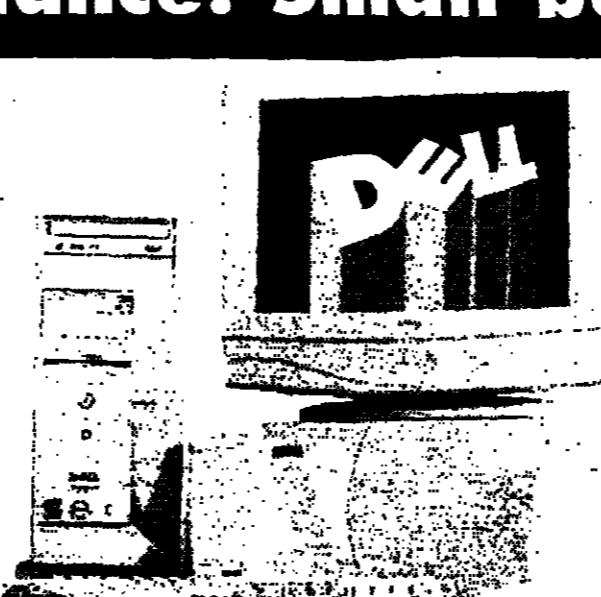
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Ashdown
warns
rivals
against
challenge

By JILL SHERMAN
CHILE POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

ASHDOWN: The last major political challenge to the government has been accepted by the Conservative leader John Major. He has agreed to meet the Labour leader Tony Blair at the end of November.



Barney is snapped up at a London store yesterday: he is hard to damage

And Fairy Liquid said: 'Let there be light this Christmas'

BY CLAUDIA JOSEPH

WHEN Chris Evans switches on the Christmas lights in Newcastle tomorrow, he could be forgiven for thinking he is launching a new improved brand of washing-up liquid.

For entwined among the glittering illuminations will be giant advertising logos promoting the Fairy Liquid baby.

Procter & Gamble, which owns Fairy Liquid, is one of a growing number of companies taking advantage of the commercialisation of Christmas to sponsor Christmas lights.

They are sharing the £70,000 cost of the display with Newcastle City Council in return for advertising their "Bizzie" babies among the sparkling Christmas trees, Santa Claus and snowflakes.

Newcastle is one of a growing number of councils signing lucrative sponsorship deals for their Christmas displays as the millennium approaches.

David Roberts, managing director of Plein Air, which has organised many of the deals, said: "Local authorities are strapped for cash. If they aren't strapped they would not need sponsorship. We help them to raise sufficient funds

to have good schemes and attract shoppers into the city centres."

The commercialisation of Christmas lights began during the 1980s, when the Regent Street Association allowed Walt Disney to sponsor its illuminations.

Enid Blyton, Terence Conran, Cameron McInnes and Yves St Laurent have all been responsible for the Regent Street lights but it is this year's lights, sponsored by Britvic's Tango drink and switched on

last Tuesday by the pop group All Saints, which have received most criticism. The street, which was designed by John Nash, is decorated with 60,000 bright orange bulbs with banners at each end reading: "The season to be Tango'd."

Planners at Westminster City Council claimed that they had no choice but to approve the scheme because the association applied so late. If they had demanded a redesign, the lights would have missed the



All Saints switching on the Christmas lights in Regent Street

Lawrence report faces challenge

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Stephen Lawrence inquiry faces a legal challenge over whether police officers criticised in the report should be given advance copies of the comments and be allowed to respond.

The Police Federation, representing junior ranks up to chief inspector, is writing this week to Sir William Macpherson, the former High Court judge leading the inquiry, and his officials to ask them to follow the rules of other public inquiries. These allow witnesses to be named after a former senior judge — detailing

comments about them. The process was followed in the Scott inquiry and yesterday Glen Smyth, chairman of the London branch of the federation, said his members should have the same right. If Sir William refuses, the federation will take legal advice.

The police believe that the inquiry will refuse and will argue that, unlike witnesses in the Scott inquiry, the police officers were legally represented and had the opportunity to put their point of view. The federation challenge could be supported by representatives of senior ranks.

Hours limit not for spin doctors

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR's most senior civil servants and Government spin doctors are going to have to work a little bit harder. Because they are permanently on call, and will have to opt out of time-keeping rules imposing a 48-hour working week, they will have to do extra paperwork and keep their own timesheets.

Even Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary and head of the home civil service, is facing the prospect of clocking on and signing himself off so that he can record the exact number of hours he works each day. Most of the coun-

try's 468,000 civil servants are spared long hours and would rarely work a 48-hour week. Key staff in Whitehall, including permanent secretaries, Government spin doctors and the officials who work in the private offices of Ministers are being asked to sign agreements that "the 48-hour limit on average weekly working time shall not apply in my case".

Civil service unions are generally pleased that the Government has adopted the working time limits and believe it is a step towards ending the long hours culture.

Dominic Kennedy on how parents take revenge on children's favourite



This means war: one of the grudge websites

BARNEY the dinosaur, whose first British stage tour is attracting huge audiences of children, is the target of an Internet grudge campaign from parents infuriated by his saccharine antics.

The purple monster is the first children's craze of the e-mail age, so office workers rushing to their computer screens to vent their frustrations against the toddlers' favourite.

Barney, a cuddly Tyrannosaurus rex created in 1988 by a former Dallas schoolteacher Sheryl Leach, has become a marketing legend, inspiring endless spin-off products. In the United Kingdom, 20,000 children have joined his fan club a year, he has sold 1.5 million videos, and became the best-selling soft toy in 1995 and 1996.

His programme *Barney & Friends*, a collection of songs, dances and insipid adventures featuring American children with fixed smiles, attracts six million viewers to its weekend slot on GMTV.

The mood is captured by the Barney song: "I love you, you love me, we're best friends as friends should be, with a great big hug and a kiss from me to you, won't you say you love me too?"

The hot ticket in nursery schools is *Barney's Big Surprise*.

prise, the theatre show which is touring Britain from Aberdeen to Wembly. This Christmas, the toy every parent dreams being asked to buy is a Microsoft interactive Barney, which talks, sings and moves, but costs £99.99. It can be triggered with signals from a video or computer, if parents splash out on the right booster packs at £49.99 each.

Fittingly, computers are being used to plot against Barney. There are new groups such as alt.barney.dinosaur.die.die.die and websites including *The Jihad to Destroy Barney on the Worldwide Web*, *Death to the Magenta Menace* and *Barney Doom*.

The least tasteful is *The Barney Fun Page*, an interactive game in which Barney is slowly obliterated using a choice of weapons activated by a computer keyboard.

The anti-Barney websites are remarkably popular. The *Barney Offline Page* has attracted 2,883,966 visitors. The *Top 38 Ways to Kill Barney the Dinosaur* is read by 400 people a day. "Donate his body to science — early" is one of the author's less graphic suggestions.

Copycat anti-Barney violence has spilled into real life. When Barney came to open a pharmacy in Massachusetts, a student tackled the dinosaur to the ground and tried to punch him back to the Stone Age.

The anti-Barney campaign has produced a backlash from families who appreciate his gentle fables advocating traditional values. The Pro-Barney WebKing, which describes itself as "a circle of love" was created when a mother and daughter surfed the Net for Barney.

"We were disappointed only to find numerous websites totally unsuitable for the eyes of children who have grown to love Barney," the mother has written.

Most of the 74 pages are websites about individual children, with pictures of their family, pets and favourite television characters.

Any attempts to destroy the real Barney toys are likely to meet with disappointment for adults. Microsoft claims they were "tumbled in a dryer for 12 hours, dropped from off in 12 different positions, pulled by his appendages with up to 50 pounds of force and squeezed 25,000 times on his hands and feet". Sounds like they expected more hostility than a tantrum from a tot.

THE comedy duo Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders are teaming up for the first time in three years to top the bill of BBC Christmas Day comedy specials. Their sketches, on BBC1, will include their own interpretation of behind-the-scenes moments in the making of the Hollywood movie *Titanic*. Meanwhile, *Reindeer Run*, a story about four dogs from the makers of *Wallace & Gromit*, will be one of the main attractions on BBC2.

Other more predictable offerings include *Men Behaving Badly*, who enjoy a family Christmas on BBC1, and the *EastEnders* Christmas special on BBC2, which shows the arrival of the Butcher's baby. Other programmes on BBC2 include *Fast Show* stars Paul Whitehouse and Charlie Higson in a new comedy romance called *Ted and Ralph*.

There will also be seasonal specials of *Birds Of A Feather*, *They Think It's All Over*, *Harry Enfield & Chums*, *Big Break*, *Noel Edmonds' Christmas Presents* and *Jim Davidson's Generation Game*. In addition, BBC1 will be screening *In Love With Elizabeth* — a glimpse of the early life of the Queen Mother.

Other highlights on BBC2 include *Bang Bang It's Reeves And Mortimer*, and the animated film *First Snow* of Winter features the voice of the late Father Ted star Dermot Morgan.



French and Saunders taking on the *Titanic*

Children snub Father Christmas

Diana Blamires on the sad demise of the department store Santa

Lovell, a partner of entertainment agency, The Ministry of Fun, which has 470 engagements for Santa in the run-up to Christmas, said: "Father Christmas lookalikes need to be over 40 and round. We have been getting too many young, thin men, and children would see through that."

Declining interest in Father Christmas has accounted for a disappointing response to the country's first training course for Santas. When Weston-super-Mare College advertised for the course only two people came forward. Karen Panes, the head of adult education, said: "Father Christmas seems less popular these days. It

could be because children are used to seeing so many santas in red costumes and white beards that the novelty has worn off."

Harrods approached the college in search of the perfect Santa after hearing about the course but neither of the participants were available.

□ Louts have forced Santa Claus to cut out a housing estate in Leicestershire from his travels this Christmas. For the last two years, Loughborough Round Table's Santa has been shot at and pelted with stones while touring the Shelthorpe area.

Last December an airgun pellet narrowly missed him as he was being pulled on his sleigh through Manor Drive. Craig Joseph, a spokesman for the Round Table, said: "Due to the unfortunate incidents over the last two years, we have decided that this year the route for the Santa run will bypass the Shelthorpe area.

"It is a shame because there were many people there who enjoyed our visit."

"But there are a minority of people who seem to think that shooting and throwing stones at Santa is more fun and they have spoiled the event for everyone else."

Last year the festive tour raised £3,995.18 — the highest figure so far — which has been distributed to numerous charities. The Loughborough Round Table's Santa Run, with its new route, will start on December 8.

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Partygoer killed by gunman

Partygoer was shot dead by a man who chased him along a street in Chadderton, West Yorkshire, yesterday. The victim, who had been walking with his friends in the park, had been seen talking to another man in the street before being shot. The gunman has been arrested, but it is not known if he is a police officer.

Fall boy dies

A young boy who fell from a height of 10 feet at a playground in Spalding, Lincolnshire, yesterday afternoon, died in hospital. Police have not yet revealed the boy's name.

Peer questioned

A member of the House of Lords has been asked to give evidence to a committee investigating the way in which the Royal Commission on Taxation has handled its inquiry into tax avoidance. The inquiry has been criticised for its lack of transparency.

Murder arrest

A man has been arrested in connection with the murder of a woman in a flat in London. The woman, whose name has not been released, was found dead in her flat on Saturday morning.

Heart man

A man has been arrested in connection with the heart attack of a woman in a flat in London. The woman, whose name has not been released, was found dead in her flat on Saturday morning.

Row as theatre saviour wants name in lights

Royal Court playwrights are unhappy about strings attached to £3m donation, says Dalya Alberge

THE future of the Royal Court theatre could be secured with a £3 million donation if it agrees to a controversial condition to incorporate the name of its benefactor into the title.

The council of the Royal Court — whose members include the actress Joan Plowright and the director of BBC television Alan Yentob — has already accepted the deal with one of its main sponsors, the Jerwood Foundation, though no formal agreement has been signed.

The theatre's former artistic director, Stephen Daldry, insisted that no offer had been made and said negotiations were taking place with "lots of people". But the concept of a "Royal Court Jerwood Theatre" has been a hard thing for some within the profession to swallow.

The playwright Carol Churchill said she was among "a lot of writers who feel very unhappy" about the Royal Court. "An institution which stands for something", being renamed.

"It brings the Jerwood into disrepute and makes them look like a laughing stock," she said.

But Stephen Evans, the film producer whose movies include the Oscar-winning *The Madness of King George*, criticised the "small faction" of council members and playwrights for even contemplating turning down the offer. He said: "They would be virtually bankrupt without it. There is no alternative."

"The public will still talk of going to The Court, just as they talk of going to The National, not the Royal National Theatre. The name will be on lightbulbs beckoning out over Sloane Square. So what?" He added: "People who criti-

cise sponsorship are prehistoric. A lot of writers are anti-sponsorship, which is absolutely ludicrous. If they haven't got patronage, they can't work."

However, he said the Royal Court relies on its playwrights and "any decision about its future needs to take into consideration their needs". He said it would be "foolhardy" for the Royal Court to create a situation that caused such concern.

Mr Mortimer said: "Negotiations are going forward. We will announce a resolution when it's concluded."

Jerwood's chairman, Alan Grieve, said: "Under no circumstances is it our business to interfere with their artistic judgements."



John Jerwood: set up the foundation

'Admit women from abroad to MCC'

WOMEN from abroad should be considered for the first-covered places for women at the MCC, Sir Tim Rice said yesterday (Ivo Tannenbaum writes).

The writer and lyricist, who is on the MCC's general committee and championed the admission of women to the club, is heading a group looking at how the first women members should be welcomed at the Pavilion at Lord's. Critics fear that menus for the diet-conscious will replace steak and kidney pie.

Sir Tim denies that he has "soft furnishings and dimmed

lights" in mind. "But I do want to see women take their place at MCC without feeling threatened or unwanted. Obviously we have to ensure there are such basic amenities as toilets — or do we insist they wait until they get home?" However, he added, "I see our priority as deciding who to elect as our first women members."

The MCC lets men such as former Test players "jump the queue" in recognition of their services to cricket. Sir Tim says women who have served the game with distinction abroad should be considered.

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Pulling power: competitors take part in the 8th British Indoor Rowing Championships at Reading yesterday.

Sport, page 27

New plan to call time on rowdy pubs

By STEWART TENDERL CRIME CORRESPONDENT

ROWDY pubs could have their opening hours slashed until their customers behave themselves under plans to reform licensing laws.

The changes would mean that licences would be issued by local authorities, who could set special conditions if the police complained about trouble at the pub. At the moment, police say, magistrates do not set conditions but either allow or refuse a licence.

Under the proposal, instead of the pubs opening until 11pm or even later on special occasions, the publicans could be told to close at 9pm. Troublemakers would drift away, the pub's business would fall and the publicans forced to reform.

The plan is part of a raft of reforms which will be discussed today at a national conference of police and drink industry executives in York. At the centre of the debate will be the proposals launched this summer by a Cabinet Office task force on deregulation.

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Brown warns of battle to reclaim beef markets

By JILL SHERMAN AND MICHAEL HORNSEY

THE European Union ban on British beef exports is expected to be lifted in Brussels today, allowing deboned beef to be sold abroad from February.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, has warned, however, that it could take a long time for British farmers to resume the level of trade that they had before the ban was imposed in early 1996.

The council of agriculture ministers is today expected to agree to the lifting of the export ban, despite opposition from Germany and possibly France. Britain needs only a simple majority to win its case and, following a round of intense negotiations, Mr Brown is confident that he has enough allies.

The EU move would, initially, apply only to deboned beef but Mr Brown indicated that

THE CONDITIONS

The main conditions for the export scheme are:

- only boned beef and beef products exported;
- only animals born after August 1, 1996;
- cows must be between 6 and 30 months old at slaughter;
- animals identifiable throughout lives;
- the mother must have lived BSE-free for at least six months after birth of export animal.

he would shortly be able to lift Britain's own ban on beef on the bone.

He admitted he would have to wait for a report from the scientific committee, but Whitehall officials said that if that gave the all clear, the ban

could be lifted by February or March. Mr Brown said that there was already a beef surplus in Europe and it would take some time before consumer confidence returned. Both factors could cause a problem in getting the British market back.

Speaking on BBC 1's *On The Record*, Mr Brown said that if agreement was reached he would work very hard to get the export scheme running by early spring.

"We will then have to have a final inspection by the Commission to make sure we have done what we said we would do, and then we should be exporting deboned beef from Britain worldwide again."

Exports could be ready to re-commence by February or March, he indicated. He warned, though: "We have been out of the market for three years now and other people have come and taken those



Cornish cattle feeding contentedly yesterday. An expected EU decision today may mean British beef could soon be on sale in Europe again

markets over. I think it's going to be a long haul but if we don't make a start we will never get there."

A further condition for easing the ban is that Britain embarks on yet another cattle cull — this time of some 12,000 offspring of cows that have died of BSE, or 'mad cow' disease.

Taking stock of the saga, EU experts see the BSE crisis and John Major's ill-fated "beef war" as a turning point for the supervision of the food

by the EU. Indignation on the Continent over what was seen as lax British conduct also helped speed a drift away from meat-eating.

Today's expected decision is the result both of meeting the EU's scientific criteria and the improved relations with the EU forged by Tony Blair's government. Mr Brown and Jack Cunningham, his predecessor,

have worked assiduously to mend fences with the other EU farm ministers.

Fear still follows the herd

THE ban on Northern Ireland beef was lifted on June 1 but in the six months since the province's farmers have noticed hardly any difference (writes Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent).

Before the ban was imposed in March 1996, 52 per cent of Northern Ireland's beef was sold to 48 countries

outside the United Kingdom. The figure today is about one per cent, or 25 tons a week. Will Taylor, the Ulster Farmers' Union president, blamed the Continent's continuing perception that there was something wrong with British beef and the difficulty of regaining lost markets.

Problems were exacerbated by new European regulations saying all meats must be clearly labelled with their country of origin, the strong pound and the devaluation of several currencies in preparation for monetary union.

The Northern Ireland Office has allocated £2.3 million for promoting the province's beef abroad.

'Punters' will have voice on Lottery panel

By DANIEL McGROarty

NATIONAL Lottery players will have a voice on the panel which will decide who runs the lottery after Camelot's contract expires.

Government sources said yesterday that there should be a "punter" on the new five-member Lottery Commission, which will be appointed from a shortlist of applicants. A source said: "We want people who play the lottery to look after their own interests in future."

The Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, said that he wanted a non-profit operator to run the lottery, and that whoever promised to raise the most money for good causes should win the licence in 2001. Mr Smith said that the Lottery Commission "will speak behalf of half the players" and will regulate Camelot's running of the Lottery until its licence runs out. Ministers have been critical of the £80.9 million profit that Camelot made last year, and of the fees paid to its directors.

Mr Smith told GMTV: "I am sure Camelot will want to put in a bid after 2000, but I very much hope they have some strong competition."

Winning numbers, page 26

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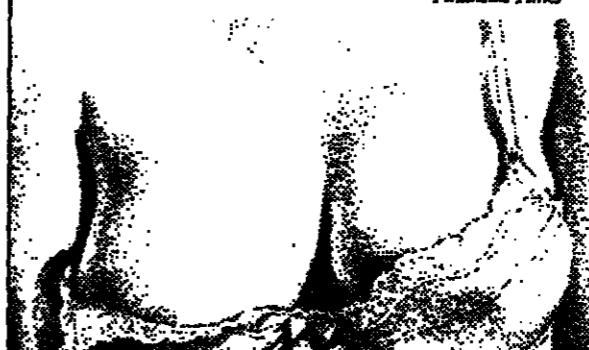
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Arctic ice is now a third thinner than in 1976

GLOBAL warming may have triggered the unprecedented melting of sea ice in the Arctic, which has left the remaining ice up to a third thinner than it was 20 years ago.

Scientists studying sonar readings from British submarines fear that the thaw could lead to huge disruptions of the world's ocean circulations, including the Gulf Stream, which keeps Britain and Western Europe relatively warm.

A failure or a deflection of the Gulf Stream — which keeps Britain's ports free of ice and ensures that winter temperatures are warmer than at similar latitudes in Canada and the former Soviet Union — would have a devastating effect on the climate and the economy.

Dr Peter Wadhams, a reader in polar studies at the Scott Polar Institute in Cambridge, and Dr Norman Davis, a senior research fellow at the institute, said yesterday that they had compared ice thickness measurements taken from HMS *Trafalgar* in 1996 with those made by submarines from 1976 to 1987.

The earlier readings showed that ice had thinned by 12 to 15 per cent over that 11-year period and Dr Davis said that the latest findings indicated that the ice was becoming more fragile.

"It is looking considerably thinner. We would not be surprised if the final results show a 20 per cent to 30 per cent difference," he said.

Ice thickness was, on average, six metres in the 1970s. The latest findings indicate that it might now be on average up to two metres thinner.

Big melt may have dangerous effect on the world's ocean currents, reports Nick Nuttall

The findings add to a growing weight of evidence that dramatic changes are occurring in the Arctic, which may be due to emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases.

The Arctic is crucial region. The melting and freezing of its sea water drives vast ocean circulations that affect the world's weather and climate in ways that scientists are just beginning to understand. The sea ice also reflects back into space heat from the sun that would otherwise be absorbed.

As a key area of the Greenland Sea freezes in winter, the resulting build-up of salty water sinks to the bottom, carrying with it huge quantities of dissolved carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. A slowing of

this process could accelerate the build-up of carbon dioxide and, as a consequence, speed up global warming.

Researchers in Norway said that satellite pictures had shown that the total area of the Arctic covered by ice had shrunk by 5 per cent over the past 18 years.

Dr Helge Drange, of the Nansen Environmental Remote Sensing Centre in Bergen, said yesterday: "It is an area the size of France, a substantial reduction in sea ice."

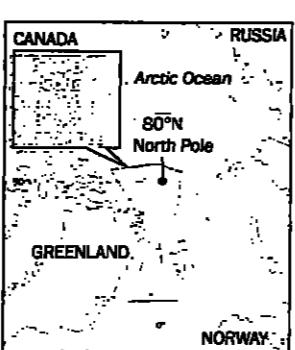
Dr Drange also said that the line at which warm Atlantic waters met cold polar waters had moved about 100km north over the past 20 years.

The findings came a week after 169 nations met in Buenos Aires to plan how to cut back emissions from industrial countries by 5.2 per cent by 2010. Countries agreed to exchange between them, after the year 2000, billions of dollars worth of green energy technology in return for credits to offset emissions at home.

Dr Davis said that researchers were now studying submarine readings dating back to 1967 to help assess whether the thinning was part of a natural cycle or a trend caused by global warming.

Dr Wadhams said that they were also keen to match their findings with readings from US submarines, which operate on the other side of the Arctic, overlapping with British ones near the pole.

The US data, which is now beginning to be being declassified, may include readings dating back to 1957 when *Nutilus* made the first sub-polar voyage.



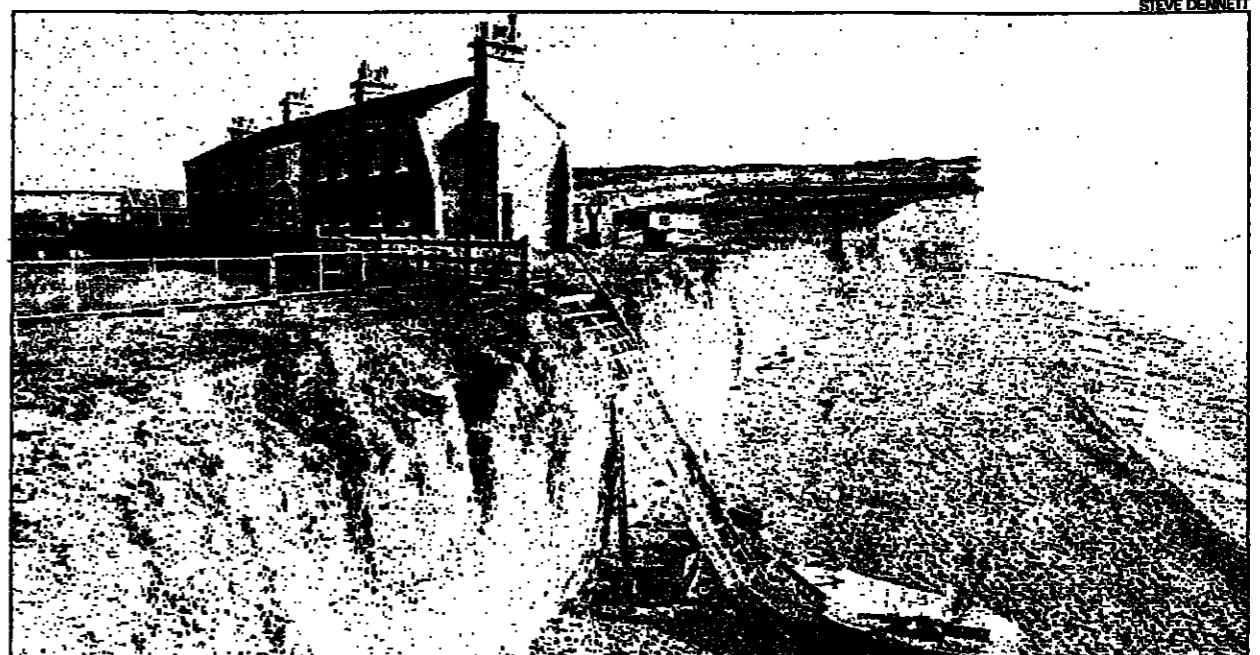
Mind the gap: a poster in a resident's window

Villagers on cliff edge to sue trust

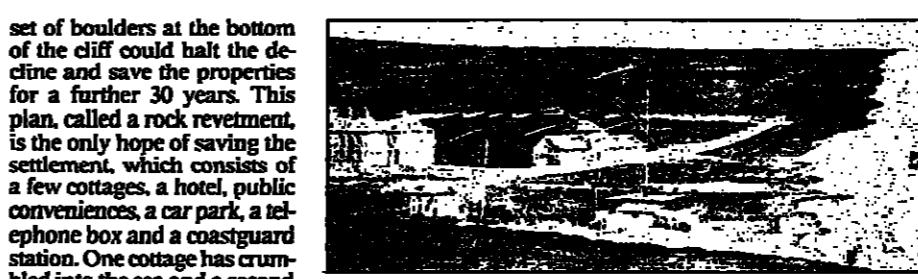
PEOPLE living in a hamlet that is teetering on a cliff edge are to take legal action against the National Trust in an effort to stop their homes falling into the sea (Helen Johnstone writes).

Villagers from Birling Gap, East Sussex, which attracts 250,000 visitors a year, believe that the trust, which owns the land, should protect their homes. The trust, which admits that its policy of managed retreat will mean homes falling into the sea, said that it wanted to work with nature.

The cliff has been eroding at a rate of about 3ft a year and campaigners say that a



Birling Gap, near Eastbourne, showing the ravages of erosion today and, below, at the turn of the century



set of boulders at the bottom of the cliff could halt the decline and save the properties for a further 30 years. This plan, called a rock revetment, is the only hope of saving the settlement, which consists of a few cottages, a hotel, public conveniences, a car park, a telephone box and a coastguard station. One cottage has crumbled into the sea and a second has been demolished.

The scheme is opposed by conservationists, who argue that it would upset the natural landscape in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. But the Birling Gap Cliff Protection Association

said the trust should have already acted and should foot the estimated £300,000 bill for the project.

Jeanette Taylor, solicitor for the association, said: "We will be taking action against the National Trust unless they come up with proposals

said: "The community of Birling Gap must be saved. The trust should agree as a matter of urgency to a revetment being built." He said the trust had a duty of care to protect structures. "We have taken legal advice and we think we have a good case."

Lord Howie of Troon, who rents a coastguard cottage, said the trust's policy was wrong. "If you allow nature to take its course, you destroy the habitation. What you are saying is a group of dwellings is less important than grass." He said that the erosion could have been stopped and the revetment "should have been done years ago".

Al Fayed's £2m forestry grant angers villagers

By FRASER NELSON

MOHAMED Al Fayed may collect a £2.2 million Forestry Commission grant by planting up to 230,000 trees on his Scottish highland estate at Inveroykel, despite protests by crofters who fear the scheme will cripple the local economy.

Locals fear that the trees will soak up so much spring water that the River Oykel will be substantially lowered, driving away salmon and the anglers who prop up the local tourist industry. Steve Mouat, the Community Councillor for the

village of Rosehall, Sutherland, said that he would make a formal protest to the Highlands and Islands Regional Council. "We have 12 per cent unemployment and there are 20 jobs depending on the river. If they go, there will be nothing to replace them," he said.

Mr Al Fayed's real estate agent, Johnathon Hensen, said: "This is not about commercial forestation. We are trying to restore Scotland's natural woodlands. If we had any evidence that the scheme will damage the local economy, it simply will not go ahead."

Mr Al Fayed has proposed to cover 2,300 hectares of barren land with Scots pine and broadleaf trees on barren land. This would necessitate a cull of about 100 deer, which locals fear would reduce the demand for stalking.

The Forestry Commission said: "We have asked for an independent environmental audit because the proposal is so large, but the grant would only cover part of the costs."

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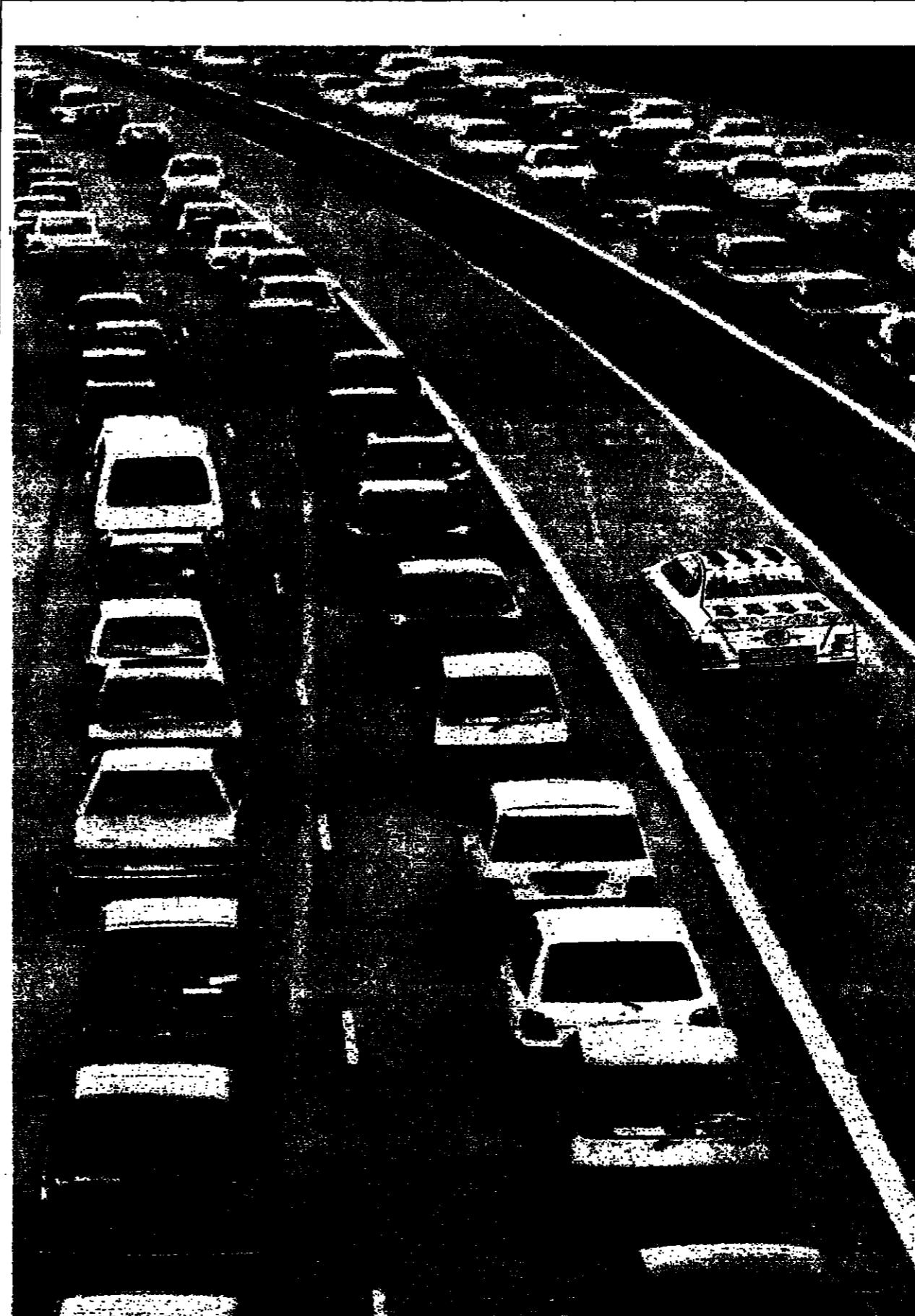
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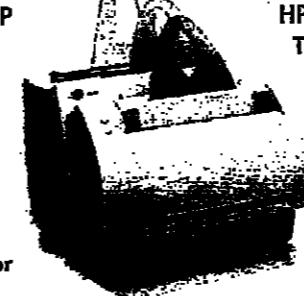
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HEWLETT PACKARD
Expanding Possibilities

Six killings later, police make the connection

Audrey Magee reports on family's call for help to solve mystery of missing women in the mountains

A ROADSIDE memorial was erected yesterday to mark the last sighting of a young woman suspected of falling prey to a serial killer roaming the east coast of Ireland.

JoJo Dullard is one of six women to have vanished since 1993. Police are now investigating the possibility that all were raped, murdered and buried in shallow graves in the Wicklow and Dublin mountains.

The women were aged 17 to 26. Some, like Miss Dullard, were hitch-hiking when they vanished while others failed to return from trips to local shops and pubs. One was seven months pregnant.

Police originally dismissed suggestions that a serial killer was at large in spite of apparent similarities between cases. Now officers unconnected with the initial investigations have been appointed to trawl through the details. The new team is being led by Tony Hickey, the assistant commissioner who led the inquiry into the murder of the journalist Veronica Guerin.

They are comparing the six cases with those of three women whose bodies were found in the mountains over the past 20 years. Phyllis Murphy, 23, was found raped, strangled and partially hidden in bushes in the Wicklow mountains in



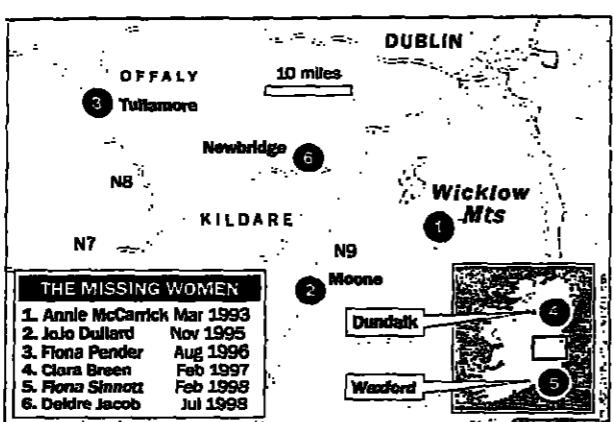
JoJo Dullard: vanished after she accepted a lift

1980. Eight years later the decomposed body of Antoinette Smith, 27, was found in a boggy, shallow grave in the Dublin mountains. She is thought to have been raped and strangled. Two miles away, in 1992, police uncovered the body of Patricia Doherty, 30, a mother of two who vanished after going Christmas shopping.

Among the missing six, Ms Dullard, 21, vanished in November 1995 while hitching between Dublin and her home in Callan, Co Kilkenny. She had missed the last bus and called a friend from a telephone box in Moone to explain her delay. A car pulled up and offered a lift. She has not been seen since. Her sister, Mary Phe-

lan, unveiled a memorial outside the telephone box in the hope of sparking the memory of a passer-by. She said: "I thought it would get easier with time but it gets harder because you desperately want to find out what happened."

John McCarrick, a New Yorker whose daughter Annie



THE MISSING WOMEN

1. Annie McCarrick Mar 1993
2. JoJo Dullard Nov 1995
3. Fiona Pender Aug 1995
4. Fiona Sinnott Feb 1997
5. Fiona Stenot Feb 1998
6. Deirdre Jacob Jul 1998

disappeared in 1993, became so frustrated with the police search that he hired a private detective and offered a \$150,000 reward for information. Ms McCarrick, an Anglo-Irish literature student, disappeared during a day-trip to the Wicklow and Dublin mountains. Despite Ireland's largest missing-persons investigation, she was not found. Mr McCarrick said: "I am happy to see the Gardai reopen the case. It won't bring Annie back but I would like to see justice done and somebody held responsible."

The move to reopen the cas-

es was prompted by the disappearance in July of Deirdre Jacob, 18, a student teacher home from London. She was walking home after visiting her grandmother's shop in Newbridge, Co Kildare. She was seen at the local bank and post office but vanished within 300 yards of her house.

In February, Fiona Sinnott,

19, vanished after a night out with friends in a pub in Wexford. Ciara Breen, 17, from Dundalk, Co Louth, dis-

appeared after slipping out of her bedroom window one night while her mother was asleep.

The sixth missing woman is

Fiona Pender, 25, a part-time model from Tullamore, Co Offaly, who was seven months pregnant. The alarm was raised after her mother twice called to her flat in August 1996 but failed to gain access. Maternity units were alerted but failed to yield any trace.



The memorial unveiled yesterday by Miss Dullard's sister Mary, who said: "It gets harder with time." Below, four of the missing women: from left, Annie McCarrick, Fiona Pender, Fiona Sinnott and Deirdre Jacob



Home Office rules out deal with Shayler

OFFICIALS at the Home Office and Security Service said yesterday that they would not drop official secrets charges against David Shayler, the former MI5 officer, in return for his silence.

In Paris at the weekend after a French court rejected a request for his extradition, Mr Shayler said that he was prepared to negotiate a settlement with the British authorities that would allow him to return to Britain.

But in a statement the Home Office said: "We are not currently in discussion with Mr Shayler and criminal charges remain on the file. If he has something to say he should take advice from his solicitor and any approach should come from his solicitor. The question of a deal on criminal charges does not arise."

Privately officials are adamant that there be no deal, although talks did take place before Mr Shayler was arrested. They are now waiting to see if the French authorities decide to take the court decision to appeal.

Despite the Home Office comments, John Wadham, Mr Shayler's lawyer and director of the civil liberties group Liberty, said that he was still hopeful

MI5 waits for French to appeal over ruling against extradition, Stewart Tendler reports

Paris, but his lawyer said that he believed it was possible for him to travel if he wanted. Britain would then have to track him down and persuade the host country to allow extradition.

Speaking in the *Mail on Sunday* yesterday, Mr Shayler said: "I spent four months in prison for telling the truth about the failures of the British intelligence services. I may be bloodied but I am certainly unbowed. Britain has been shown up in front of the rest of Europe by this week's decision."

He first approached the newspaper 18 months ago with claims of incompetence and bungling within MI5. Yesterday he said he could not speak further because it might be used against him.

Snubbed skipper rows on

By A CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH skipper whose crew gave up during an attempt to break the record for rowing across the Atlantic is hoping to recruit a new team and carry on, his father said.

The *Atlantic Endeavour*'s effort to beat the 35-day record set by a French boat in 1992 seemed finished last week after crew members jumped ship in the Cape Verde Islands amid complaints of poor conditions and fatigue. Roy Finlay, 36, the captain, has refused to admit defeat and last night re-

ceived assurances of continued support from at least one sponsor.

His father, Bob Finlay, said that the former naval diver from Renfrewshire was seeking a fresh team of 16 rowers on the islands and hoped to set off for Barbados once the boat's generator has been repaired. He said: "It won't be a record attempt now but they will cross the Atlantic with the boat to Barbados."

"One of our sponsors has been in touch expressing sup-

port for Roy and saying that he has their backing to carry on, which is great news."

Kenneth Crutchlow, of the Ocean Rowing Society, which oversees record attempts, said that the unplanned stop in Cape Verde would not invalidate a record attempt. The boat had, however, a lot to make up to overcome a poor start.

"To break the record they needed to keep up an average 100 miles a day and the best they have managed is 72."

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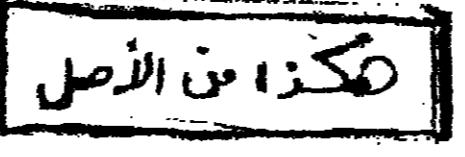
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Chaucer? Not many people know that

Michael Caine is role model for popular TV version of 'under-read' stories, Carol Midgley reports

ANIMATORS trying to make a popular television version of *The Canterbury Tales* turned to the cinema for role models. The result is that Christmas audiences will see Geoffrey Chaucer giving sardonic asides influenced heavily by Michael Caine in *Alfie*.

Scenes of pilgrims riding on horseback have been based on footage of riders in the westerns *The Searchers* and *Unforgiven*. The creators were determined to make the animation realistic and modern while remaining faithful to the original in an attempt to bring Chaucer to the masses.

"The idea is to get more people interested in Chaucer—he is very under-read," Jonathan Myerson, the director, said.

"But once you see the characters talking in sentences they just burst into life. My children have seen it and they were transfixed." Myerson has been adapted for family



Caine in *Alfie* model for the animated Chaucer

who also directed the Emmy-award winning series *Shakespeare - The Animated Tales* and *Testament - The Bible in Animation*, said that he wanted to get the body language just right while the medieval pilgrims were on horseback.

"I sat down with the director of the pilgrimage sequence and watched John Wayne in *The Searchers* and Clint Eastwood in *Unforgiven*. We wanted to look at how they had filmed someone on a horse, what camera angles they used." The portrayal of Chaucer himself is influenced by Caine in *Alfie* because this Chaucer turns to the camera to speak about the others in the same way as Caine's character in the 1966 film.

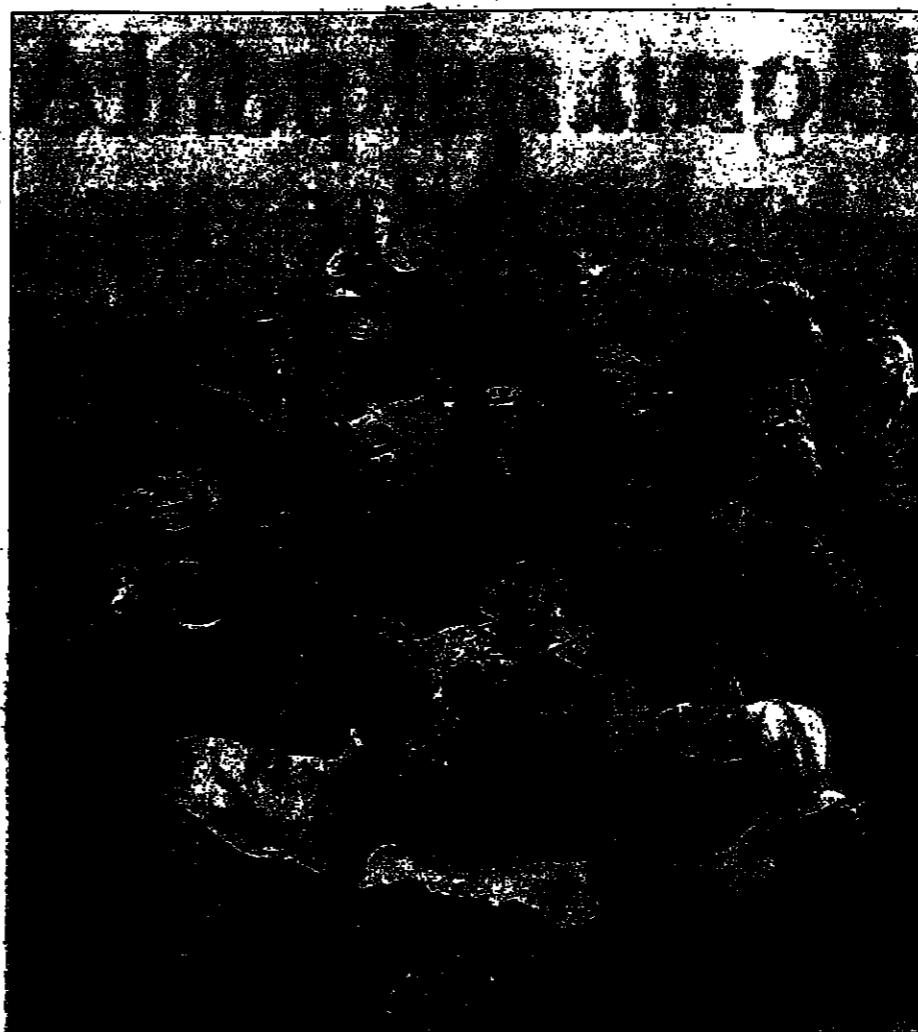
Six tales – by the Nun's Priest, the Knight, the Wife of Bath, the Merchant, the Pardoner and the Franklin – have been adapted for family

all of Chaucer's lines, jumble them up then stick them back together in an order which would bring the bawdry between the pilgrims to dramatic life," Myerson said.

"I've translated the modern English script very loosely at times and I've massacred Chaucer's metre and rhyme; but it's all dubitable back into Chaucer. I don't think he'd mind. Like Shakespeare, he knew all about rewarding other people's material."

The animation has been made jointly by BBC Wales and the Welsh independent channel S4C. The modern English and Welsh versions will be shown at Christmas, while the Middle English version is expected to be reserved for schools and colleges.

There are now plans to make a third film including the Miller and Reeve's tales, which are more bawdy in content, involving buttocks and flatulence. Myerson is confident that he can maintain its status as family viewing. "A lot of it is just farce. It is fairly harmless. You can sidestep a lot of the naughtiness."



Fastest pilgrims in the West: the animated characters on their way to Canterbury

BBC hopes Tweenies will follow Teletubbies

By RUTH GLEDHILL

CHILDREN who are too old for the Teletubbies but too young for school will have a new set of television characters to keep them occupied — the Tweenies.

The new series will centre on four characters who, like the 3 to 5-year-olds at which it is aimed, play and explore the world around them. Jake, Fizz, Millie and Bella will be helped in their adventures by two adults.

The new characters will resemble real children more closely than the Teletubbies. An independent programme maker, Tell-Tale productions, has been commissioned to make 260 episodes.

BBC managers hope the Tweenies catch the imagination of youngsters in the same way as the Teletubbies, who earned the corporation £23 million last year through overseas sales and merchandising. The Tweenies are not intended to replace the Teletubbies, however. Filming on a new series of Teletubbies will begin next year.

New unit to fight resistant bacteria

By A CORRESPONDENT

A NEW surveillance unit is being set up to curb the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

The Antibiotic Resistance Monitoring and Reference Laboratory, to be based at the Public Health Laboratory Service headquarters in London, will be central to the national campaign against antibiotic resistance recently proposed by the Standing Medical Advisory Committee.

Dr David Livermore, director of the new laboratory, said: "Resistance is increasing worldwide. When penicillin was first introduced in the 1940s, nine out of ten *Staphylococcus aureus* — a common cause of wound infections — were sensitive. Now only one in ten is sensitive. About a third are resistant to penicillin's successor compound, methicillin. A few, from Japan and America, are resistant to vancomycin, which has been the drug of last resort."

Dr Livermore said that the laboratory would monitor the success of the campaign to reduce the unnecessary use of antibiotics. "To do this we must monitor patterns and trends in resistance and relate these to antibiotic use and clinical outcomes," he said.

Funerals 'should not be dismal experience'

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE average British funeral can end up as a "miserable and disappointing affair" lacking symbolism, dignity, time and comfort, according to a report published today.

Crematorium arrangements add to the "dismal experience" when mourners are herded into and through chapels on a production-line schedule, according to Malcolm Johnson, chairman of the National Funerals College.

Professor Johnson, of Bristol University's Institute of Health and Ageing, calls for people to make plans for their funerals in advance of their death, rather than leaving it all to grieving relatives.

Writing in the introduction to the *Dead Citizens Charter*, Professor Johnson says: "Diana, Princess of Wales, was given a unique funeral for a unique person. Yet we are each of us unique and deserve no less."

He says the average British funeral will pass without an informed or thoughtful appreciation of the life just ended.

The charter calls for stronger regulation and monitoring of the funeral industry, and advocates re-use of old graves.



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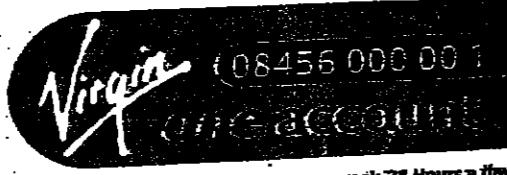


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Libya 'to spurn bombing trial request'

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITISH officials are bracing themselves for the harsh public acknowledgement that Libya is unwilling ever to comply with the request to send the Lockerbie bomb suspects for trial.

If Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, does not send an unequivocal reply within the next three weeks, Britain and America will take his silence as a refusal. They will then have to decide whether to seek a toughening of United Nations sanctions on Libya or seek some other way of forcing it to comply with UN resolutions.

No formal deadline has been set, but the tenth anniversary of the Pan Am bombing is next month. The offer to hold a trial in The Netherlands was made in August, but since then the Libya regime has vacillated and prevaricated to try to avoid giving a definitive answer.

Britain has not made any public threats about what it might do if the Libyans renege on the offer. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said only that he believed international support for continuing sanctions would be strengthened if Libya were to turn down a solution that it proposed itself.

Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, has been more outspoken. Not hiding her scepticism when announcing the offer in the summer, she said the US would call Colonel Gaddafi's bluff, and gave a warning of tougher sanctions if he rejected the Anglo-American proposal.

Mr Cook briefed relatives of the victims last week on the Libyan response. Many had urged Britain to accept Libya's earlier proposals for a trial in The Netherlands as the only way of bringing the two suspects, Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamine Khalifa Fhimah, to justice.

He told them that Libya would not respond until its concerns on three main points were satisfied. They were: whether any Libyan witnesses could be arrested in The Netherlands; whether sanctions would be suspended once the men were sent for trial; and whether any prison sentences could be served in Libya.

British officials in New York say witnesses would have immunity in The Hague, but imprisonment in Libya is out of the question.

Baghdad takes gamble in war of documents

Missing diaries are at the centre of dispute, writes

James Bone
in New York

President Clinton made the surrender of weapons-related documents one of the five conditions for Iraqi compliance when he called off US air strikes after Baghdad's promise to resume co-operation with UN inspectors.

The President made a particular point of mentioning a handwritten logbook by an Iraqi sergeant that was snatched away from the UN inspector who found it at Iraq's air force headquarters in July. The logbook is believed to show that Iraq used only half as many chemical weapons during its 1980-88 war with Iran as it has

claimed.

"We told him we cannot provide documents that do not exist. It is quite provocative if you want to dig into the whole archive of the Government of Iraq, which might take decades to investigate. This is the crisis."

With the UN awaiting "clarification" of Iraq's stance today, President Clinton, travelling in Korea, adopted a wait-and-see attitude. Sandy Berger, his National Security Adviser, repeated Washington's view,

however, that Iraq had an obligation to produce the documents and said that Washington was still ready to use force.

"We have said all along that the issue here is whether Iraq will meet its obligations under the Security Council resolutions and whether Unscom is able to do its work," he said.

"If we reach the conclusion that the answer to those questions is negative, we obviously are prepared to act."

Aziz denies existence of disputed documents

Mr Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday that most of the 12 categories of documents requested last week by Richard Butler, the chief UN weapons inspector, had either been destroyed or did not exist.

"Butler has asked for a series of alleged documents," Mr Aziz said. "He has asked for alleged documents that do not exist. He has asked for old stories which were settled in the past and he also asked for access to all the archives of the Government of Iraq.

"We told him we cannot provide documents that do not exist. It is quite provocative if you want to dig into the whole archive of the Government of Iraq, which might take decades to investigate. This is the crisis."

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Aziz denies existence of disputed documents

disclosed, raising questions about its remaining stockpile.

The so-called "air-base document" was one of the documents requested by Mr Butler last week in the first test of Iraq's readiness to co-operate fully with the UN inspectors.

Iraq told the UN on Friday that it was ready to consider disclosing relevant portions of the air force document in the presence of Prakash Shah, the UN Secretary-General's envoy in Iraq. But it said that most of the other documents had either been destroyed or had never existed.

In particular, it said that, despite UN tests revealing the presence of VX nerve gas on missile fragments excavated in the Iraqi desert, it had no records of large-scale production of the lethal chemical agent in 1990. Iraq also denied that it had any documentation of its purported destruction of biological and chemical weapons in 1991 or of its claimed disposal of tons of Scud missile propellant.

Even though UN inspectors have already seen several pages from the diary of a Brigadier Ismail, of the country's surface-to-surface missile force, Iraq said that the diary had since been destroyed. A similar diary kept by an "Engineer Mugdam" dealing with the indigenous production of missile engines, of which Unscom had already seen 11 pages, was also said to have been destroyed.

In addition, Iraq said that a January 1991 report by Lieutenant-General Hazem Abdul Razzak, commander of its surface-to-surface missile force, mentioned in his recent memoirs, had also been destroyed.

Palestinian police entering the West Bank village of Anata yesterday under the continuing handover of land by Israel



Palestinian police entering the West Bank village of Anata yesterday under the continuing handover of land by Israel

Palestinians to open their first air link with the outside world

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

A POTENT new symbol of Palestinian sovereignty will be unveiled tomorrow with the inauguration of the \$64 million (\$39.5 million) Yassir Arafat International Airport.

On Wednesday Mr Arafat's jet is due to take off from the new runway at Dahanaya in the south of the Gaza Strip to fly him on an official visit to France. Previously, he would have had to drive more than 200 miles into Egypt.

Palestinian officials said the first plane to touch down would be from Egypt, followed by flights from Morocco, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and The Netherlands.

The long-awaited opening, combined with Friday's implementation of the first

West Bank land transfer under the Wye land-for-peace deal are likely to guarantee Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, a more than cordial welcome when he holds talks in London this week with Tony Blair.

Within a few weeks, Palestinian Airlines will begin regular commercial flights from the airport, marking a new era for Gaza's one million Arab inhabitants.

The fleet consists of two Fokker 50s and a Boeing 727 donated by Prince Waleed ibn Talal of Saudi Arabia. The airline, with 20 Egyptian-trained pilots, hopes to acquire an Airbus from France next year.

Details of the protocol enabling the airport to open after a two-year delay were published yesterday after a signing ceremony behind closed doors in Tel Aviv. Al-

though the Palestinians plan to undercut the Israeli national carrier El Al by \$140 on a round trip to Athens, a popular destination, it has been decided that for security reasons no Israeli will be allowed to use the airport. However, overall security control at the airport will be exercised by Israelis, who will have the right to question and search passengers and planes, with the exception of Mr Arafat's jet.

Under the new agreement, security procedures for Palestinians leaving by air will be less arduous than for those leaving by land.

Another section of the operating agreement says that national carriers of countries that are hostile to Israel, such as Syria and Iran, will not be permitted to operate. The airport will initially be able to handle 750,000 passengers a year.

Iranian adulterer cheats death

FROM AGENCIE FRANCE-PRESSE IN TEHRAN

AN IRANIAN man condemned to death by stoning for committing adultery was acquitted because he managed to free himself as the sentence was being carried out, a newspaper reported yesterday.

Khosrow Ebrahimi, from Lahijan in northern Iran, managed to extricate himself from the ground where he was buried to the waist as local people threw stones at him in accordance with the Islamic penalty for adultery, the daily *Hamsahri* said.

Islamic law prescribes execution by stoning for adultery with the law.

ers, but the condemned is acquitted if he or she manages to survive the hail of stones.

The law insists that the stones must be neither so small as to be ineffective, nor large enough to knock out the condemned person in a single blow. A condemned man is buried to the waist and a woman to her armpits.

Muhammad Hussein Abd-Allah, the prosecuting judge, told *Hamsahri* that Ebrahimi had managed to extricate himself from the ground "using the strength of his body" and was acquitted in accordance with the law.

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Christians die in Indonesian Muslim attacks

FROM PATRICIA NUNAN IN JAKARTA

INDONESIAN troops last night struggled to maintain order in Jakarta after a Muslim mob went on the rampage, setting fire to churches and beating Christians to death.

At least six people were killed in the sectarian violence, when the Muslims, some chanting "Death to the infidels", attacked Catholic and Protestant targets and beat and hacked to death at least five people.

There were signs last night that the violence was spreading to the Chinese community and hundreds of soldiers wearing riot gear and backed by armoured cars attempted to establish a security cordon to contain the lawlessness.

Shops in the central Jakarta business district closed early with merchants boarding up windows and doors.

The anti-Chinese violence erupted after a gang fight between Muslims and Christians claimed six lives earlier in the day. The sectarian clashes reportedly broke out after a row over the opening times of a Christian-owned gambling hall.

Later, a mob of Muslim youths set fire to a Protestant

church and ransacked a Catholic church after hearing rumours that some Christian worshippers had set fire to a mosque.

In one incident, the mob broke through the front doors of the Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart, interrupting a wedding.

They overturned pews and smashed statues and confessional boxes. The priest, the bride, the groom and wedding guests ran to the safety of a nearby community centre.

About 1,200 people — many of them ethnic Chinese — were killed during the rioting that engulfed Jakarta last May. Thousands of buildings and vehicles were destroyed with widespread looting breaking out.

Yesterday's renewed violence came amid heightened security after clashes between the armed forces and student protesters last week, which claimed 16 lives.

Yesterday General Wiranto, the chief of the armed forces chief, blamed the clashes on "certain radical groups" and said that 144 troops involved in the shooting would be court-martialled.

It makes up about 4 per cent of the population.

The group is widely resented for its perceived dominance of the merchant class. Rumours that ethnic Chinese might have provoked the incident between Muslims and Christians are now being blamed for the violence against the ethnic Chinese minority later in the day.

The ethnic Chinese, however, are also the frequent targets of violence during times of civil unrest.

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An Indonesian Christian becomes the victim of mob violence in Jakarta yesterday

WORLD IN BRIEF

Feminist author in Dhaka court

Deli: Taslima Nasreen, the feminist Bangladeshi author who outraged right-wing Muslim clerics with her views on sex and religion, surrendered to the High Court in Dhaka yesterday after two months on the run (Christopher Thomas writes).

Ms Nasreen fled Bangladesh in August 1994, after Islamic radicals demanded that she be hanged. The popular mood in Bangladesh cares little for the somewhat contrived controversy. Ms Nasreen was released on bail after yesterday's half-hour hearing and returned immediately into hiding. Later she said in an interview on a mobile telephone: "I'm happy to be freed on bail but my life is still at risk."

De Niro anger

Paris: Robert de Niro used the release in Paris of his latest film, *Ronin*, to attack France over his nine-hour interrogation earlier this year in connection with a prostitution ring (Adam Sage writes). In a newspaper interview the American actor, who was not charged, said: "France's guests deserve to be treated better ... I am still angry today." His comments followed the first week of a trial of four people who deny that they procured girls as young as 15 for celebrities, industrialists, politicians and Arab princes.

Prince 'jailed servants'

Cairo: The Egyptian parliament wants to question the Government about a Saudi prince who allegedly turned part of a hotel suite into a prison for his servants. Prince Turki bin Abdul Aziz, a brother of King Fahd, has been investigated by police for allegedly locking up his Egyptian servants in the 20th floor suite where he and his wife have lived for years. Two of the Prince's servants escaped from a room in the Rameses Hotel by knotting sheets together and lowering themselves through a window to the 24th floor. (AP)

Voyage to Holy See

Rome: The Pope, garlanded with flowers, accepts a Samoan gift of a carved model canoe, symbolising the Church. It was presented during a Mass in St Peter's yesterday to celebrate a synod of bishops from New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa which is being held in Rome until December 12. The lively service opened with the blare of a conch shell and was accompanied by the music of drums and guitars. (AP)

Here is the nudes ...

Weipa, Australia: Organisers of an annual charity event are hoping for an entry into the *Guinness Book of Records* — for a live radio interview involving almost 200 nude men. The naked runners packed around a telephone booth for the interview after completing a number of laps of Curricular Way, a large roundabout near the centre of this bauxite mining town 1,450 miles northwest of the state capital of Brisbane, collecting money in plastic bags for the Flying Doctor service. (AP)



Hutchence memorial fails to heal family rift

FROM ROGER MAYNARD
IN SYDNEY

HOPES of a healing of the rift that has divided the family of Michael Hutchence, the late rock star, since he died a year ago faded yesterday as Paula Yates and close relatives of the singer stayed away from a memorial service in Australia.

Hundreds of fans gathered at a garden of remembrance in Sydney to mark the first anniversary of his death. The ceremony was more notable, however, for those who did not attend than for those who did. Michael's

father, Kell, and his brother Rhett were there, but his mother and sister were not. Neither was Paula Yates, the mother of his only child, Tiger Lily, who earlier made it clear she wanted to grieve at home in Britain.

She turned down an invitation to attend the service from Michael's father, who was clearly upset by the absence of Paula, his granddaughter and other members of his family. "They were all invited, but it was up to them," he said afterwards. "I would have loved to have had Paula and Tiger here but they couldn't make it," said Mr Hutchence, who considered trying to keep

his granddaughter in Australia when she visited earlier this year.

There have also been strained relations between Paula, Mr Hutchence and his first wife Patricia Glassop and daughter Tina, who failed to attend. A wrangle over Michael's multimillion-pound estate, much of which is believed to be in offshore bank accounts and a web of obscure trust funds, has also heightened family tensions.

The lead prompted Pastor Denis Patterson during yesterday's service to call on those concerned to move on from the "indescribable" grief that had befallen them. The service was held a year to the day after the INXS lead singer committed suicide in a Sydney hotel. He was found hanging by a leather belt from the door of his room. As at the funeral, a huge bouquet of blue irises adorned the altar.

A much larger display of flowers, sent by absent members of INXS, who said they wanted to remember him in private, was placed nearby. The memorial service closed with the unveiling of a plaque commemorating Michael's life. On it a simple inscription read: "A sensitive and loving soul who touched hearts around the world. So dearly loved. So sadly missed. Stay young."

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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 23 1998



Casanova: feminist detractor says he mistook a few sighs for ecstasy

Italy asks Bonn to seek trial of Kurd fugitive

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

INCREASINGLY embarrassed Italy yesterday appealed to a reluctant Bonn to solve its quandary over Abdullah Ocalan, the fugitive Kurdish rebel leader, by seeking his extradition for trial in Germany.

Italian officials said Massimo D'Alema, the Italian prime Minister, would raise the issue — which has severely damaged Italy's ties with Turkey — in meeting with Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, in Bonn this week. Germany said last week that it had no intention of asking for Mr Ocalan, 49, to be extradited. But Signor D'Alema said yesterday that it seemed "reasonable" to expect Bonn to ask for the extradition of the founder of the PKK (Kurdish Workers' Party), who was arrested at Rome airport on November 12 after arriving from Moscow on a false passport.

On Friday, to the fury of Turkey, Mr Ocalan was freed from a military hospital and put under house arrest. He reported to be under guard in secluded villa on the Lazio coast near Rome. The Ocalan affair has

turned into a diplomatic nightmare for Signor D'Alema, a former Communist who came to power at the head of a centre-left coalition last month. He has consistently argued that Italy is merely following due legal process, and that it cannot hand Mr Ocalan over because Turkey enforces the death penalty.

But he has clearly been taken aback by the furious reaction in Turkey, which regards Mr Ocalan as an arch-criminal and blames him for thousands of deaths during the Kurdish insurgency.

Mesut Yilmaz, the Turkish Prime Minister, said yesterday that Italy had "opened its arms to the world's bloodiest terrorist". He said Ankara would "retaliate", but did not elaborate.

At a weekend summit in Zagreb of Central European leaders, Signor D'Alema said he found such anti-Italian rhetoric "incomprehensible".

In Karlsruhe, the Office of the Federal Prosecutor said it was "renewing" a German warrant for Mr Ocalan's arrest, first issued in 1990. But a government spokesman said it did not imply Bonn would change its mind.

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Casanova's conquests split Paris

New book on bedroom legend sparks a row over his prowess, Adam Sage writes

SEX has replaced socialism and existentialism as the main talking point on Paris's Left Bank, with intellectuals locked in a row over Casanova's prowess and morals.

The debate has been sparked by the publication of a book by one of France's trendiest philosophers, Philippe Sollers, who declares his admiration for a "grandiose being" and announces the somewhat optimistic plan of following Casanova's example. The work has turned the 62-year-old thinker into the darling of the French media but the *bête noire* of the country's feminists, led by the journalist and author, Françoise Giroud.

In a withering attack, Mme Giroud described the philosopher as a "clown" and ridiculed his claim to be the true successor of the famous

18th-century lover. Writing in the magazine, *Le Nouvel Observateur*, Mme Giroud went on to denounce the Venice-born adventurer as a snob and an egotist who could not even claim to have been good in bed. "He was not the first to have mistaken a few sighs for ecstasy," she said, adding that Casanova's 122 conquests did not add up to more than one woman a week. "They do better in the suburbs of French cities," she wrote.

Her attack drew an immediate response from M. Sollers. In this week's edition of the magazine, he writes that Mme Giroud "knew a few Casanovas in her time" and hints that none of her former lovers was a match for his hero: "There are many witnesses to prove that he was loved and even adored by those

women to whom he showed the light."

M. Sollers's theory is unlikely to convince the likes of Mme Giroud, but the philosopher has many followers. His work, *Casanova l'Admirable*, has reached number three in the list of best-selling French books, and has been championed throughout the French press, from the highbrow daily *Le Monde* to the women's magazine *Elle*.

In it, he extols Casanova's virtues.

not only as a lover — "he knew what pleasure was" — but as a thinker, a libertarian and a writer. He describes his pleasant surprise at discovering that the wanderer's memoirs had been written in French, and implies that this adds significant weight to his claim that Casanova was an intellectual. "People

do not want Casanova to be seen as a writer, so they turned him into a beast," said M. Sollers after a misty-eyed account of his pilgrimage to Casanova's grave in Dux, near Prague. "They were happy to recount his exploits, but on condition that they deprived the central character of his depth."

The philosopher believes that he

has put the record straight in his 200th anniversary of his hero's death.

"Casanova's life was a *chef d'oeuvre*," M. Sollers said, adding that his own earlier passion for left-wing causes, and notably for Maoism, had been "an amusement". He declared: "Casanova whispers into my ear. Reading him has the same effect as a drug. He is a grandiose being."

Strike to disrupt Tunnel trains

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN BRUSSELS

RAIL traffic in France, Italy, Spain and other European Union states will be disrupted when rail workers strike today in protest at European Commission plans to promote privatised freight services.

Only one in three Eurostar services through the Channel Tunnel is expected to run as transport unions demonstrate their anger at Neil Kinnock, the EU Transport Commissioner, over a move that they see as a threat to state control of the rail system.

Disruption caused by the one-day action will be severe in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece, where unions are pledged to fight any weakening of the state rail transport monopoly. Workers in Germany and Austria are expected to strike later in the week.

Mr Kinnock said the plan, to be considered by ministers on November 30, was aimed at saving jobs and preventing rapid decline of the railways.

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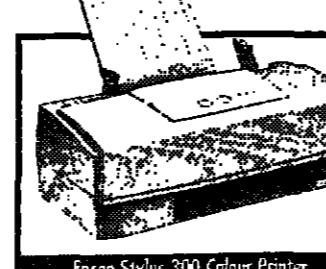
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The search for Hague's babes

WOMEN in politics

The Tories have 14 women MPs to Labour's 101. Grace Bradberry looks at the Conservative Party's inability to engage women in its senior ranks

This Saturday hundreds of women will file into Solihull's National Motorcycle Museum for the 67th Conservative Women's Conference.

Listening to the clip-clop of all those court shoes passing the vintage Triumphs, hearing the confident analyses of speeches by Ann Widdecombe and William Hague, among others, you might imagine that all was well. But no one knows better than the Tories that they are in a parlous state as far as women are concerned.

Although they have a proliferation of envelope-stuffers, only 14 Conservative women sit on the green leather benches in Westminster. "Blair's babes" show the Tory party in a sorry light.

The traditional Tory women who flock to their annual jamboree are now under threat, blamed by some for blocking the selection of more women candidates. But this is to oversimplify the party's woman troubles. They run much deeper.

Powerful women have always had a rough ride in the party. Nancy Astor's arrival at the House of Commons in 1919, for example, was not universally welcomed. "A woman in the Commons is like a woman in my bathroom," barked Winston Churchill. After the 1931 general election, 13 Conservative women MPs were metaphorically using Winston's soap and running long baths. Would there be no end to this madness? Well, yes, there would.

Only 13 Conservative women were returned to Parliament in the last election, the same number as 66 years earlier. By contrast, the Labour Party has the famous 101 "Blair's babes" — Ally McBeal's mixed washroom to Winston's bathroom. This contrast worries the Conservative Party, not least because the female electorate, who played a decisive role in its postwar victories, appears to have deserted it. In 1997 the Tories won 34 per cent of the female vote, compared with 44 per cent in 1992.

No one knows whether there is a connection between the party's poor female representation and the falling women's vote — but no one can afford to discount the idea either. And so the search for "Hague's Babes" has begun, causing dissension and suspicion in a party that knows in its head that it needs more women, but can't necessarily reconcile its heart to the idea.

Leading the hunt is 44-year-old Leila Buscombe who unsuccessfully fought Slough at the last election before being ennobled and appointed the party's vice-chairman.

Broness Buscombe is a small, blonde, fierce woman who failed her 11-plus but went on to qualify as a barrister. She's not afraid to get into a fight even one that will make her unpopular, as she proved

during the election campaign, pushing family values and her experience of motherhood in contrast to her rival, Labour's Fiona Mactaggart, who had tried to have a child outside a relationship before discovering that she was infertile.

Last year, at the party's women's conference, she said:

"It is high time our party stopped talking about 'the women' as if we were from another dimension, another species. Conservative women deserve to be taken seriously, not just regarded as useful at election time and helpful in village-hall kitchens." Strong stuff from a party that flinches at talk of women's rights and that has only just dropped the requirement that prospective candidates bring their partners to selection meetings.

Lady Buscombe did indeed make a bold start. Appointed vice-chairman (women), she played a key role in drawing up *Blueprint for Change*, the consultation document used in reforming the party. That document recommended an overhaul of the Conservative women's organisation hierarchy to involve younger women, and the setting-up of a Conservative women's network to involve working women who might want to represent the party, rather than to make its bones.

Although *Blueprint for Change* rejected the idea of positive discrimination, it suggested a rule that wherever sufficient candidates came forward, at least 25 per cent of all candidates interviewed in the first round of Westminster selection should be women. As the document acknowledged, there was a problem in finding young, professional women prepared to stand for both central and local government.

Lady Buscombe is now vice-chairman (development); the word "women" has disappeared.

It is still her task to flush out women candidates — only one in ten of those going for Tory selection is female — but the 25 per cent quota has vanished. The proposed Conservative women's network has become simply Conservative Network, a mixed organisation spearheaded by Lady Buscombe.

We don't believe women today want or need to be separated from their male peer group," she says. The notoriously stick-in-the-mud selection committees are being trained to "look at the person, not at the gender". They also have to ask the same questions of each candidate.

Lady Buscombe is even bullish about the fact that the party returned just five new women MPs. "They're all of a fantastic calibre. Calibre means much more to us than gender, and

that's where we differ fundamentally from Labour."

Lady Buscombe is the first of many people to tell me what a sad letdown the new Labour women have been. But weren't there some sad letdowns among the men, on all sides of the House? "The focus isn't on the weak men, it's on the weak women," she says, in an exasperated tone.

Labour's brief policy of women-only shortlists has presented the Conservatives with an insoluble problem. They need to be seen to close the gap between Labour's 101 women and their 14 (Jacqui Lait got in at a by-election) but they can't use positive discrimination, not only because it was ruled illegal, but also because the party wouldn't wear it. Denigrating Labour's "quota women" has become a desperate tactic.

"I can't believe that I hear this argument," says Tessa

Keswick, the head of the Centre for Policy Studies and a powerful political hostess. "It's a typically sexist observation that just because there are 100 Labour women, they're somehow no good."

Tessa Keswick is one of few women in the party to support some form of positive discrimination. She is pessimistic about the chances, without quotas, of a swift increase in the number of Tory women MPs: "It could take 30 years, if it works at all. The leadership should have been tough in this last consultation process. It was the ideal opportunity to say 'Look, we insist on women being pushed forward in every part of constituency life'.

"When they went round the country they were struck by how the activists did not want any special measures to help women. That's why they took out the figure of 25 per cent. It should have been 50 per cent, in any case. There needs to be a realisation of how the system works, then it needs to be said that it's not good enough."

Talking to Conservative women about discrimination is like discussing cannibalism — it is always happening somewhere else. Theresa May, the Shadow Minister for Women and one of the five new female Conservative MPs, says: "I didn't experience any bad questions, but others did." She suggests that selection committees should include people with business backgrounds, who are used to seeing women in career roles.

Fine, if you fit this notion of a career woman. Mrs Elizabeth Sibley, who stood in the safe Labour seat of North Durham in 1992, did not. She now calls herself Liz St Clair-Legge — they separated the day after the 1992 election.

Although the former Mrs Sibley got through the selection process, she felt that her background in voluntary work had disadvantaged her. "The selection weekend had an alien and artificial environment more suited to someone from the City. I was also questioned closely by one member

of the board about my membership of the 300 Group [the cross-party group dedicated to getting as many women as men into Parliament]."

As for the constituency selection committees, "It's not so much that they don't want a woman, it's that they can't visualise one," she says. "Theresa May and Eleanor Laing [MP for Epping Forest] had 'male' backgrounds in terms of education, jobs and so on. The fact that they appeared to have made the decision not to have

children also made them fit the stereotype more than I would."

Indeed, the circumstances that led to Caroline Spelman, a mother of three, being selected for Meriden are surely telling. Ian Mills, the previous MP, a lonely, middle-aged man, had been found dead in his London flat. "Meriden really wanted a family," says Spelman. Well, hooray for Meriden. But must it really take a tragedy to persuade a local association?

TOMORROW
Will Labour's laddish inner circle ever hand over power to Blair's babes?

Campaign workers at Conservative headquarters in 1997. The "traditional" Tory party has a proliferation of envelope-stuffers but has failed to attract young decision-makers as candidates

SHERRYL ROUSSEAU/HARVEY



Jo Hansford, above, says that Camilla Parker Bowles, whose hair she has tended for the past 15 years, is secretly chuffed that the press has finally decided to cast her in a more attractive light

Camilla's secret weapon

Like many public figures, Mrs Parker Bowles relies on Jo Hansford to avoid bad hair days. Interview by Lisa Armstrong

Jo Hansford is used to being thanked profusely by customers. She has this satisfied curve of a smile that actually reaches her eyes when they tell her how going from peroxide to strawberry blonde, mouse to auburn, blonde to Brunette, has changed their lives.

It happened the other week when a dyed-chestnut Rachel Hunter, aka Mrs Rod Stewart, spent a day in the Mayfair salon while Hansford bantered for eight hours with the sorry results of Mrs Stewart's last encounter with a Los Angeles stylist.

Happily, they managed to return it to its prelapsarian blonde, and Hunter called Hansford the next day to tell her that her children had got the flags out. "They were so pleased to have their Mummy back," says Hansford. "You can grow a bad hair out in six months but colour can take four years."

This is the lot of today's top hair colourist: one part technician, two parts shrink, six parts regular guest on daytime television and 140 parts demigod. There is a world



Camilla Parker Bowles

where customers are always clients, where private jets appear from nowhere, with messages inscribed with one poignant little word — "Help" — and where presents from grateful clients are ubiquitous.

(Already one of Hansford's protégés in her Mayfair salon has informed his ladies that instead of Gucci knick-knacks this Christmas, he would prefer Hermès.)

The top colourists, of whom Hansford is undoubtedly one, have mythologically long waiting lists; great sprawling lines that criss-cross the globe — two of Hansford's clients fly in regularly from Australia. Natasha McElhone, the costar of the film *Ronin*, is a devotee of her salon. "It's a question of trust," says Hansford. "You can grow a bad hair out in six months but colour can take four years."

She has worked Rachel Hunter-esque wonders with

will not be drawn. "You're only as good as your last cut and colour," she notes sagely. And, she might have added, as your last celebrity client list.

In the face of so much human folly, it's a miracle that she remains so ebullient, especially given the cut-throat nature of her world. It is not just the clients weeping over the telephone from the South of France because the hairdresser has messed up their Tiffani tint, but other hairdressers who can make life what Hansford jauntily describes as "a bloodbath".

Her career is ripe for mini-serialisation. After 15 years at Vidal Sassoon, she set up with Daniel Galvin as a junior partner, and for 13 years the two ruled the world of colour (Mrs Parker Bowles was a client then too, but had to stop going there when the Princess of Wales began patronising the place). Then came the fallout: a near court case and bad feelings all round. For two years she had to hire a chair in a friend's salon and wait for the exodus of loyal clients who eventually tracked her down.

Until she was 16 she had never been inside a hairdresser's. What she really wanted was to be a makeup artist. So much so that her mother wrote into *Just the Job*, a popular television show on the now defunct Rediffusion network.

Part of the prize for appearing on the show was an apprenticeship, but because Hansford was too young to take up the position, she filled in for a while at Martin Douglas, a fashionable salon in Mayfair. Like the trouper she is, she slumped in on the train from Middlesex, swept the floors and observed the exotic swirl of clients. Then, after two weeks, she discovered the tinting room.

And it is Hansford who, for the past 15 years, has tended Camilla Parker Bowles's surprisingly glamorous blonde tresses, which have, as the photographs from the Prince of Wales' birthday celebrations at Highgrove reveal, blossomed spectacularly at late.

She, too, according to Hansford, is lots of fun. "We share a passion for gardening and our children are the same age, so we talk about that — but she's very private, not at all a bleeding heart."

She cannot be more discreet than Hansford herself. Other than noting that Mrs Parker Bowles is secretly chuffed that the press has finally decided to cast her in a more attractive light (although the funny thing is that she always likes dressing up, it's just that until recently they always chose bad pictures of her on a horse, and you're hardly going to wear a tiara and a ballgown when you're riding to hounds), she

good at history, you can work it out"). It does not worry her that she is just as likely to think of clients in terms of their number (6.4 for mahogany) as their names. Or that she cannot watch American dramas without becoming cross about the lack of continuity in the protagonists' highlights.

And she wouldn't change anything. "When I started I had three choices — peroxide, red or blonde. Now most women colour their hair — you can do anything. Besides, what other job allows you to talk to people about everything and make them happy?"

■ FOR years the film industry's antipathy to fashion plot-lines rivalled its superstitions about animals and children. Yet lately all that seems to have changed. Of all the projects doing the Hollywood rounds — from Isaac Mizrahi's cartoon book of *Sandee the Supermodel* to Douglas Keene's magazine — perhaps the least likely is the autobiography of Simon Doonan, the legendary window-dresser at Barneys in New York.

Small, camp and talented, Doonan hopes that someone slim and diminutive will be chosen to play him, "perhaps Helen Hunt", he says wickedly. With the demise of the supermodel, fashion needs new stars. But massaging window-dressers and fashion editors' egos any further could turn us into a public health hazard.

■ THE Moët et Chandon-sponsored gala last Tuesday at the V&A in honour of Vivienne Westwood drew the now mandatory celeb guest list. Apparently no event is complete these days without a politician (Michael Heseltine), a footballer (David Ginola), a Mick (Hucknall and Jagger), aristos — and Japanese buyers (who spent the evening taking photographs of one another).

What was interesting — apart from Moët et Chandon's belief that the world needs another fashion award — was how wonderful all the women who had chosen to wear Westwood looked. Her last few shows have not gone down well, and in fashion-speak it isn't really her moment — yet the décolleté ballgowns and boned silk evening dresses made the minimalists look drab. So why hasn't it been working on the catwalk lately? Westwood's answer is that it's her responsibility to challenge and provoke, but it does mean that the gulf between the shows and what her customers wear is

even wider than normal. She's far from being the only designer in this situation, yet there does seem to be an unhealthy pattern taking shape here (see Winfrey, Oprah, Parker Bowles, Camilla, Diana, Princess of Wales, et al for more evidence). The truth is that Hillary Clinton has always had her fashion moments, but with the cult of the victim, a soubriquet of public pain has become the chic-est new accessory and no public figure can be completely attractive without it.

■ HILLARY CLINTON has been anointed a fashion winner (viz December's issue of *American Vogue*) after years of being pilloried for her looks. It seems futile to mutter about First Wives being taken on their own merits, yet there does seem to be an unhealthy pattern taking shape here (see Winfrey, Oprah, Parker Bowles, Camilla, Diana, Princess of Wales, et al for more evidence). The truth is that Hillary Clinton has always had her fashion moments, but with the cult of the victim, a soubriquet of public pain has become the chic-est new accessory and no public figure can be completely attractive without it.

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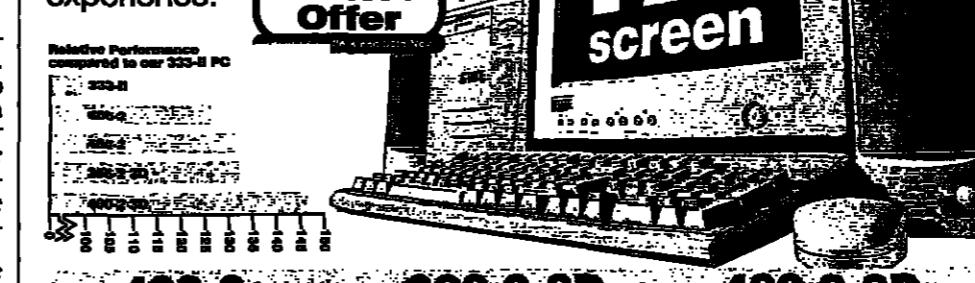
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THEATRE

Adrian Noble
goes into the
wardrobe
THIS PAGE

ARTS

POP

Live and
kicking: De
Amrit reviewed
FACING PAGE



The RSC is making child's play of Stratford for the first time in 30 years, writes Heather Neill



Two actors in one suit: Patrice Naiambana as Aslan and Sevan Stephan his understudy for *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* whose author, C.S. Lewis, was born 100 years ago this week

Off to Narnia-upon-Avon

Adrian Noble is in his element, hurrying excitedly from the set model for *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* to costume drawings of the awe-inspiring lion Aslan and Mr Tumnus the Fox pinned on the wall of the rehearsal room in southwest London. The designs promise to be magical: there is a country house backdrop, a wardrobe, of course, and a glittering wintry Narnia with Mr Tumnus's house, the Beavers' Lodge and a courtyard full of statues —

animals turned to stone by the wicked White Witch. Aslan is commanding and upright, the Witch icy, Father Christmas rubicund. There will be some spectacular effects, but, says Noble: "We can't afford to spend an arm and a leg on the production. So we've thrown imagination at it."

It is 100 years on Sunday since the birth of C.S. Lewis, the author of the Narnia books, childhood favourites of politicians and former Spice Girls. And, despite unfriendly articles by writers such as the children's author Philip Pullman and Lewis's biographer, A.N. Wilson (who claims that Lewis's "evangelism" caused him to become an atheist), they remain bestsellers.

Adrian Mitchell's new adaptation of Lewis's best-known title will be the first children's show in the Royal Shakespeare Company's Stratford repertoire for 30 years. It will run in tandem with *The Winter's Tale*, using the same company of 30 actors, except that Antony Sher, who plays both the jealous king, Leontes, and the roguish Autolycus, has no role in Narnia.

The pairing of the plays is part of Noble's long-term policy as artistic director to attract new audiences to RSC productions. He has already reduced the length of the company's London season at the Barbican, introduced differentiated

winter and summer seasons at Stratford, increased touring and established a regular annual residency in Plymouth, while the well-established Newcastle residency has been moved from spring to autumn. All of this has been criticised on financial grounds. Indeed, there have been times in recent years when media coverage has suggested that the RSC could not put a foot right.

Noble seems genuinely positive, however. Change takes time to bear fruit, he says, citing Peter Hall's first three years as artistic director in the early 1960s: "The critics prophesied disaster until *The Wars of the Roses* came along in 1963."

And Noble already feels vindicated. "Huge numbers" are, he says, visiting RSC productions for the first time — company publicity claims this one will bring in 40,000 of them. Booking percentages for the residencies in Plymouth and Newcastle are in the "high nineties" and, after breaking box-office records in the regions, the touring production of *Richard III*, with Robert Lindsay as the hunchback, is to open at the Savoy in London in the new year.

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Furthermore, Noble says, "the new model allows a flexibility of approach which has enabled us to set up this mini-ensemble for the two plays. It's at the heart of what we do." Rehearsals for *The Winter's Tale* are going on in the same building, with actors moving regularly between Bohemia and Narnia. Noble relishes the bustle. "I met one guy in the loo who said he'd got six different rehearsals that morning" — fittings, verse-speaking, fight or voice workshops as well as acting. He thinks the actors, a mixture of new young performers, regulars and RSC heavyweights, find the cross-fertilisation enriching.

Unlike so many of the great and good, Nibley was not brought up on Narnia. He read *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* as an adult but, when he heard that the rights to *Lion* had become available, he "went into battle" for them — a suitably heroic turn of phrase. He says having two children of his own the

is married to the actress Joanne Pierce) gave him an added incentive, even though, at four and two, they are a bit young to appreciate his efforts. Noble has no problem with the Christian allegory to be found in *Lion* which so divides modern adult commentators. "We deal with it in so much as Lewis deals with it in the book: it will not occur to a lot of people; to others it resounds all through. We don't emphasise and don't disguise it."

"In any case, Aslan is a very un-Anglican Jesus. He's wild and dangerous. He kills. The shepherd of the sheep is not the first thing you think of." Similarly, complaints about the roles afforded the girls, Susan and Lucy, are no stumbling block: "Peter is a hero out of *The Eagle* comic, but Lucy is entrusted with a dagger as well as a healing cordial and Susan has a bow and arrows."

The four children are evacuees and the Second World War provides a suitable backdrop

for the action, "not in an obvious way, but in a useful one," says Noble. "The basic idea, of course, is the battle between good and evil on a world scale and it provides a strong source of imagery: the tyranny of the Witch, with the wolf, Maugrim, as her head of Gestapo-like secret police; the wrecking of Mr Tumnus's house; the terrorising of the populace, where anyone might be an informer — even, in Narnia, the trees."

We have talked through his lunchbreak, so he dashes off to grab a sandwich. The words "synergy" and "harmony" crop up in his parting shots as he prepares to swap notes on progress with other members of the crew. As you watch Noble at work, a character from another children's classic leaps to mind: the optimistic, over-energetic Tigger.

● *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is in preview from tomorrow at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford 01789 205023; *The Winter's Tale* is in preview from Dec 10

Moral dilemma without end

There was a time (it did not last long) when the acclaimed function of drama lay in offering a solution to a moral dilemma. What is to be done, asks Aeschylus in 463BC, when refugees arrive on one's shore, holy pursued by a naval force threatening war if they are not immediately returned? "You can't stay," says the Argive king, Pelasgus. "But nor can we return you."

The suppliants are the daughters of King Danaos of Egypt, betrothed against their will to their cousins, and we have little idea how their story ended because *Suppliants* is the first play of a trilogy. In the play we do have, the end comes as the women are being escorted into Argos and war looms. Legend has it that the Egyptians defeated the Argives and the marriages were enforced, but all but one of the wives killed their husbands on the wedding night.

There are 50 women in the original but James Kerr, translator and director, reduces the number to 14 whom we first hear offstage singing the opening chorus in Greek. One by one they emerge from the dark, stepping from red sand on to a tiled floor that is their first glimpse of the reassuring order of Greece. Their voices hum, the vowels soar, the same syllables are repeated over and over until the beauty

JEREMY KINGSTON

● On Friday I gave the wrong Christian name to the author of *Backroom*, who is Adrienne Pagan. Apologies to all Pagans, and Adrienne in particular.

A bit stale, mate

THE dusky sky of Holborn glowed blue with the reflected glints of a thousand cans of Foster's lager; never has the air of London rung with such a concentrated display of pinched vowels. Give or take 20 degrees centigrade here or there, it was like a little taste of the Antipodes in Central London. Jimieoin, in case you didn't notice, is big in Australia. Very big.

On the other side of the world, Jimieoin does television and records and films: he is perhaps their Eddie Izzard, or their Steve Coogan. He doesn't dress in women's clothing, or pretend to be a Norwich disc jockey. Jimieoin like secret police: the wrecking of Mr Tumnus's house; the terrorising of the populace, where anyone might be an informer — even, in Narnia, the trees."

We have talked through his lunchbreak, so he dashes off to grab a sandwich. The words "synergy" and "harmony" crop up in his parting shots as he prepares to swap notes on progress with other members of the crew. As you watch Noble at work, a character from another children's classic leaps to mind: the optimistic, over-energetic Tigger.

His material is essentially meat and two veg observational humour. He does some jokes about men having a pee which deliver everything you could want from a man-having-a-peeing joke. There's a lot of funny business with his face, how Americans talk with their teeth, which phrases you have to say with your eyebrows raised and why you have to keep your eyes closed when you dance an observation that I had hitherto assumed

HETTIE JUDAH

Frank Zappa took with him to the grave.

Occasionally flashes of something rather inspired came through; there was a nicely performed piece about coughing into your hand, putting your hands in your pockets then all the coughs of the day falling out again when you took your trousers off. Just when things seem to be going right, however, he seemed to undercut himself with something a little too commonplace, a "never go shopping when you're hungry" or a "why do seagulls never bump into each other?"

The one real gem of the evening was about a woman who misheard the news reports in the middle of the night and thought that the car crash that killed Diana Princess of Wales had been caused by a motorbike-mounted Pavarotti. Beyond that, however, the show lacked sparkle. The audience was so busy taking photographs it didn't seem too bothered, and I suppose neither was Jimieoin. He always has Australia, after all, and at the end of the day he still seems like a nice enough bloke.

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

At the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford 01789 205023; *The Winter's Tale* is in preview from Dec 10

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SEVERAL Dance Umbrellas ago Doug Elkins was a promising young choreographer, charged with vitality and a crowd of ideas snatched from everywhere. He epitomised today's non-hierarchical view of culture, mixing the high with the low. He spiced classical music with reggae and radio advertisements. He moulded his movement out of all kinds of techniques — ballet and breakdance, martial arts and Graham. He structured his pieces as a series of scraps, because he said his generation had the short attention span of television zappers.

He still produces these mixtures to the loud delight of his fans. Unfortunately, with age has come a smoothing-down of the contrasts, an ironing-out of the edginess into a porridge of bland monotony. *Roda*, a sole eliciting Elkins's only stage appearance, had the virtue of shortness (four minutes) and of arriving first on the programme, before we could become jaded. Elkins, in a pool of light, blended the parabolic combat kicks of Brazilian capoeira with liquid swirls and vertical tricks, arms juggling

Diluted by the blender

DANCE
Doug Elkins
Queen Elizabeth Hall

invisible balls or swatting imaginary insects. Danced with Elkins's powerful fluency and set to Antonio Carlos Jobim's catchy Brazilian rhythms the piece had an engrossing continuum.

But then came two company pieces and 70 more minutes of much the same. The choreography of Bipolarbear NOS looked as if the food processor had been switched on too long, reducing the different components to a puree. As a result,

NADINE MEISNER

Master of the organ

ENTERTAINMENTS LISTINGS

Don't betray our Trust to the townies

Roger Scruton on an unlikely danger to Britain's rural tradition

The future of rural Britain is in doubt. There is one overriding cause of this, which is that the land belongs to people who do not live in it. Everything — crops, management, wildlife, building, habitats — is controlled from elsewhere. The family farm is dying, killed off by an economic system in which supermarkets and agribusinesses call the shots. The result is a landscape where wildlife and human life are no longer in balance, and where the centuries-old pattern of fields, farms and boundaries is giving way to a uniform mechanised prairie.

Public money that has created this disaster — in particular, two longstanding policies which no government has had the courage to question. The first is that of subsidising production rather than residence. The consequences are many: absentee investment, large-scale monoculture, rising land prices, the amalgamation of farms, the destruction of habitats, the collapse of mixed farming and the disappearance of the self-sustaining family farm. Nobody benefits apart from the landlord — who may never have visited the place which he despises.

The second destructive policy is that of raising punitive taxes on inheritance. The inherited estate is a residence, a home, a place of dwelling. It is burdened by responsibilities to neighbours, to history and to a way of life. It is a functioning part of the natural and social ecology, a centre of hospitality and an expression of a commitment from generation to generation to stay put on the land. The threat of death duties wrests the estate from the person who is most likely to maintain it, and transfers it to the National Trust. There is no tax benefit to the State, but only a new burden on the taxpayer, who cannot bear to see the work of centuries undone and therefore gives money to the trust as the sole protector of our rural heritage.

As a result, the National Trust, while acting as steward of the traditional landscape, has become the third largest landowner in the country (after the Ministry of Defence and the Forestry Commission). Hence, while doing everything possible to save the landscape from the effects of absentee ownership, the trust has itself become one of the greatest absentee owners. And the strain is now beginning to show.

The trust recently went through the most turbulent AGM in its 100-year existence, facing down one motion after another condemning its attitude to the land, to its neighbours, and to its donors. By mobilising the proxy votes, its council was able to defeat the various motions by a comfortable margin (roughly 50,000 to 30,000). By trust standards, this is a serious groundswell of discontent.

The underlying issue was

The markets may have bounced back, but the public senses a darker economic picture

We haven't seen the worst of it

Why, then, is the market rising so strongly? It is not because the rest of the world is much more optimistic than we are. Sentiment is better in America, which explains the continued popularity of President Clinton, but German business expectations have been falling sharply, and Japan and the Asian countries are still in deep trouble. The explanation seems to be that the people who make the investment decisions are not the same as those who make the consumer decisions. This is more obvious here than in any other country.

The power of consumption is democratic: retail purchases are made by virtually every adult and by older children. We largely buy in the same shops, typically in the supermarkets and in Marks and Spencer. Even a generation ago, there may have been some survival of the difference between the carriage trade and the rest. Now Harrods is no more than a tourist shop and a local Knightsbridge retailer; it is not what modern retailing is about. When retail trade turns down, that means we are all feeling more cautious.

The UK stock market is not a popular one in this sense: it is dominated by institutional investors. They do, indeed, ultimately obtain their funds from the rest of us — through life assurances, pension funds and so on. These savings are

largely, but not wholly, contractual: some institutional investment is based on non-contractual unit trusts. In the United States — and this is a major difference between London and Wall Street — a much higher proportion of institutional investment comes through the mutual funds, subject to the surges and declines of public support.

Last July, when the world stockmarkets peaked, the institutional investors did indeed become very

Institutional and private investors at first reacted in the same way. London and Wall Street had a synchronised fall. In America there were withdrawals from the mutual funds, though confidence has recovered. In Britain, the institutional investors did not sell; they stopped buying, which meant that the market was bound to fall because a trickle of small sales pushed prices down.

Even a private investor could affect

the share price of many of the smaller companies on the London market by selling only a few thousand shares.

Although the institutions largely stopped buying in August and September, the cash did not stop flowing in. People do not cancel their pension arrangements because they feel worried about the stock market. By the end of September the institutions had a growing pile of cash on their hands, which was going to have to be invested at some time. On October 15 the second rate cut by the Fed convinced both the UK institutions and the US mutual fund investors that there was more danger in being left out of the rally than in going back into the market.

Members of the public are not now behaving like the institutions. They are following the economic news. Despite what the Governor of the Bank of England says, hard news matters much more than the pessimism or optimism of the commentators.

People are feeling cautious, about future business profits, about Asia, about world trade, about a possible credit crunch, about their own jobs. This public attitude is shown in the housing market, which turned down in August, but has not rallied with the stock market in late October and November. People buy houses; fund managers buy shares.

The institutional investors still have their flow of funds to invest. They, rather than the public, are moving the market because their favoured shares in big companies have recovered disproportionately to smaller company shares, which private investors often prefer. The 100-share FTSE index has recovered to within 7 per cent of its July record high; the small capital index is still 28 per cent below its record high of last May. Just as there are private and institutional investors, there are now two stock markets, one of which has failed to rally anything like as much as the other.

Some commentators have assumed that the threat of recession has been removed, just because the stock market has rallied. This is not a safe assumption. The economy depends on the broad public confidence which supports retail trade. The evidence is that this public confidence has fallen since last July and has not yet recovered. Retail sales themselves, the CBI survey of business confidence, the housing market, the small capital share prices, all point in the same direction. There may be a recession next year; there will almost certainly be a slowdown. There is no reason not to cut interest rates further, and, indeed, it looks to be necessary. The British economy is not ruled by institutional investors, but by the British public.

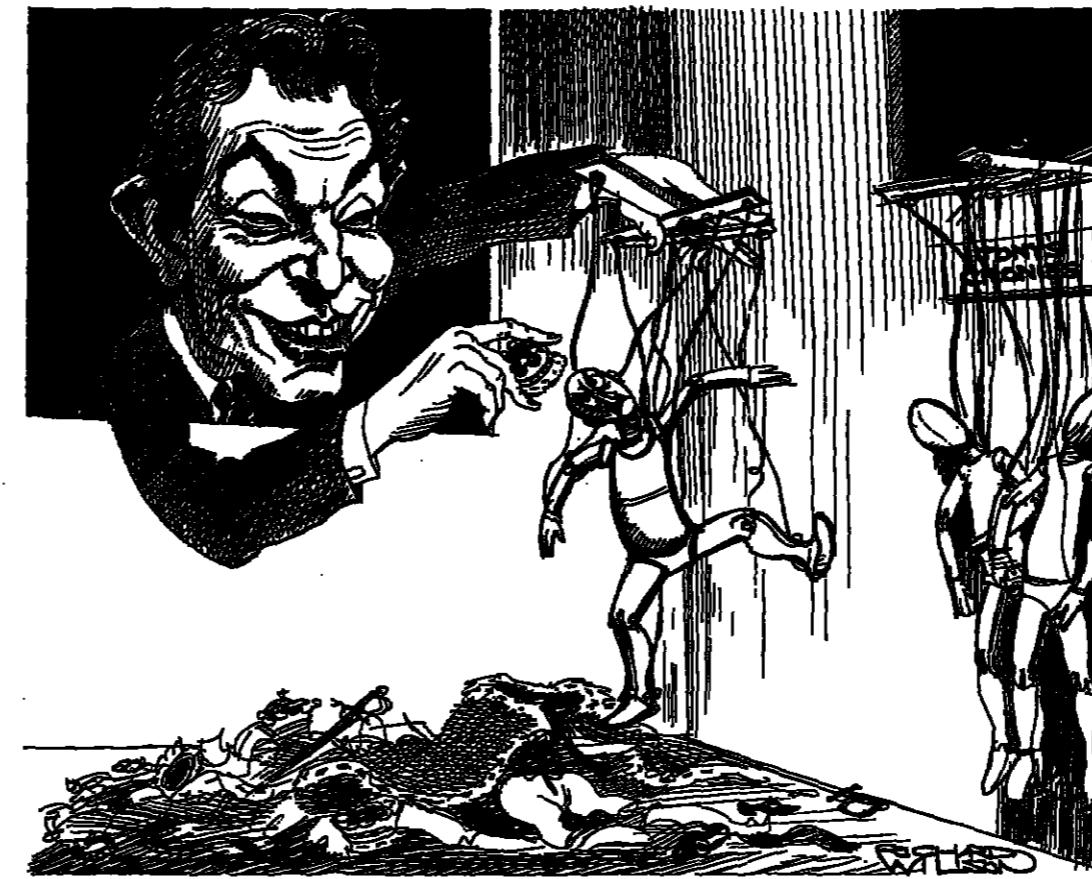
My lords, you are history

The Tories of the Lords have signed their own death warrant, says Peter Riddell

The power of the House of Lords is a sham. Once used and exposed, its credibility is destroyed. The Lords has survived only because peers have accepted limits on the exercise of their powers. They can ask the Commons to think again, once even perhaps twice. Any further resistance upsets the balance between the elected and the unelected House, as Lord Weatherill, convener of the crossbench peers and former Commons Speaker, has argued. But this self-restraint was abandoned last week when government proposals on European elections were defeated by the Lords for an unprecedented fifth time.

This action has changed the whole debate about the Lords, creating problems both for William Hague, with his ill-judged threat of continued defiance, and for the Government's Bill to remove the voting rights of hereditary peers that will dominate tomorrow's Queen's Speech.

In theory, the Lords has the same powers over legislation as the Commons, with two exceptions. First, the Upper House has no power to alter financial measures and, secondly, under the 1949 Parliament Act, it can delay legislation only by a year from the date of the original second reading in the Commons. However,



the controversial closed-list system. So the Lords were working within existing conventions in their original amendment in favour of open lists.

However, as every authority on the Lords has written, the Upper House almost invariably backs down if its amendments are then rejected by the Commons. The Lords asks the Commons to think again: MPs reaffirm their original view and their lordships reluctantly accept the verdict of the elected House. (The vast majority of amendments in the Lords come from the Government, so the House is really a long-stop to correct legislative shortcomings.) Occasionally, there have been two exchanges between the two Houses, but never five. Apart from the exceptional case of war crimes legislation in 1989-91, the last occasions when the Lords

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

failed to reach agreement with the Commons were in 1975-77 over union rights and aircraft and shipbuilding nationalisation. While the Parliament Act procedures were invoked, they were not used since agreement was reached with the Lords after their reintroductions. And, unlike now, the then Labour Government barely had a majority in the Commons.

So, however much Labour has mishandled the European Bill by appearing too centralist, the Tories have broken longstanding conventions, as some of their Lords leaders have recognised. (My hunch is that Tory peers will allow the reintroduced Bill through in the new year.)

But by exercising their latent powers, the peers have signed their own death warrants as legislators.

Labour's intention to remove the voting rights of hereditary peers does not, however, deal with the question of powers. The Labour manifesto blithely stated that the legislative powers of the Lords will remain unaltered. But that is nonsense. What the authors of the manifesto presumably meant was that the current conventions on the exercise of the powers would not change, which is highly improbable.

Baroness Jay of Paddington, Leader of the Lords, told peers last month that she had "no hesitation in asserting that the transitional chamber [before wider reform] will be more legitimate than that we have today". Legitimacy is a bit strong

since, as Stuart Weir and David Beetham argue in their impressive new study *Political Power and Democratic Control in Britain*: "A House in which appointed peers hold the majority is as democratically unacceptable as one in which a mix of hereditary and appointed members hold sway, and is likely to have no independent legitimacy on which to check the executive."

However, such a transitional chamber would probably feel more self-confident and less inhibited about using its powers. The main weakness of Labour's plan is precisely the opposite of the Tory charge about "Tony's cronies". The interim House will not be a supine servant of the Government, but is likely, rather, to become a thorn in its side. In any event, Labour currently has just three in ten life peers and the Government has promised that it will not seek a majority through new creations, while the Prime Minister will no longer have the sole power of patronage in appointing peers.

The strongest Tory argument is not a defence of hereditary peers but about what follows. The Government not only has to nail down assurances about new peers and over the timetable for the proposed royal commission, but ministers also need to indicate their own thinking. This is as much about powers and functions as composition.

There is no shortage of possible schemes, but all must be based on relations with the Commons. There is a strong case for a second chamber acting as a check on the Commons on constitutional and human rights issues, especially as we develop a quasi-federal structure. Any arrangements will, however, require formal procedures to resolve conflicts between the two Houses. The old world of self-denying restraints was blown away last week by the short-sighted impetuosity of the Tory leadership.

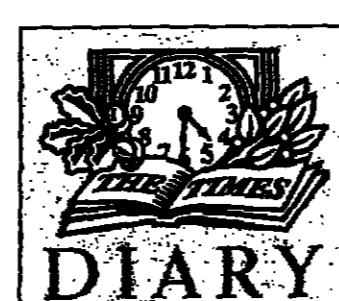
A one-day conference, *The Crisis of Strong Government*, organised by *Democratic Audit* and sponsored by The Times and Charter 88, will be held in London on Thursday to mark the publication of Stuart Weir and David Beetham's book. Details: 0171 684 3851.

On the team

GEORGE GRAHAM has finally been accepted by the Spurs faithful: Charlie Whelan is inviting the Tottenham Hotspur manager for dinner at Westminster. The move by Gordon Brown's bracing spin-doctor, a fanatical Spurs fan, will reassure Graham, a former Arsenal man, that the mob at White Hart Lane are warming to him. "I am helping to form the Westminster Spurs Association," says Whelan, whose "shadowy" role as the Chancellor's master-briefer is to be investigated by a Lords select committee. "Graham will be invited to join us. There are loads of fans around here. We haven't had our first meeting yet, but we will hold regular events in the new year."

Current Spurs players such as David Ginola, Sol Campbell and Darren Anderton, as well as Whelan's chum, Paul Miller — a defector from the club's chirpier days — will also be asked to join Whelan in his off-the-record renditions of terrace songs. He might also call Andrew Turnbull, the Spurs-supporting Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, but Gordon (pictured with Graham) is unlikely to come: he is stubbornly wedded to those celtic banters, Dunfermline FC.

I suggest Graham glosses over his days at Highbury — Whelan has a long memory: "The Independent once described me as an Arsenal supporter," he growls, obviously still haunted by the memory. "I insisted on a full



• GEORGE MICHAEL, that stubby Greek, must have triggered something in the national psyche. One Chrysostomos Syme of Zakynthos, an Orthodox bishop, has flapped the robes of colleagues by railing the merits of pre-marital sex in Penthouse. As he says: "The word of God has to be spread everywhere."

Low interest

LORD WEIDENFELD and Sir Evelyn de Rothschild have been squabbling about a book on the banker's family. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, the publisher's imprint, asked Niall Ferguson, the Oxford historian, to write *The World's Banker: The History of the House*

of Rothschild but, realising it would be no great page-turner, persuaded the Rothschilds to pay part of Ferguson's advance and buy 5,000 copies. According to Prospect magazine, the project went to plan until Sir Evelyn received a copy. He was so upset by the reproduction of a portrait of Anthony, his father, that he suggested he might not buy the family copies. Weidenfeld's countered that the Rothschilds had provided the original image, and tempers were at last soothed.

• ALAN CLARK'S ancestors were an uncompromising lot. My old friend tells me the story behind an unfinished family painting by Labey Clark's grandfather commissioned the painting of his wife with his son Kenneth, but she "didn't think she looked attractive enough," so grandpa refused to pay the full amount. Labey retaliated by blacking the lady out.

Home front

IT IS not often that the Diary adventures north of the park, but I have just been lured to a splendid new club in Portman Square. The Georgian affair (you know, billowy curtains, attentive slaves and discreet bedrooms inviting an afternoon snooze) is the former home of



ALL SAINTS, that gaggle of celebrity girlfriends who sometimes sing, have decided on the "best bits" of their pop success. "Oh, the free drinks, definitely," says Nicole Appleton, one of the blondes in the group (pictured above with a new friend), while Melanie Blatt — now the mother of a three-day-old daughter — tells *High Life* magazine that she relishes the "free trainers".

the Courtauld Institute. It was here, you might recall, that builders renovating the joint found a bug in the quarters of our old friend Anthony Blunt. Home House, Laurence Isaacson's latest prodigious project, was built for the then Countess of Home, ancestor of the late PM, Sir Alec Douglas-Home. Sticklers prefer the house to be pronounced "Hume", but the Courtauld took a dislike to the clan, and the name has been deliberately mispronounced ever since. As Laurence explains: "I want to attract Americans. They wouldn't understand these eccentricities." Just so.

• LORD LICHFIELD has been slapped with a writ by an irate co-tenant. The royal photographer has been named in an action by a fellow leaseholder in an apartment block in London's Holland Park: a company called Benin Limited is suing Lichfield and the owner of the block "for damages occasioned by negligence". Intriguing. "The matter is in the hands of his solicitors," says a Lichfield aide. "It is a private matter and it will be defended." I'm sure he hasn't been misbehaving.

JASPER GERARD



مكتبة من الأصل

THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 23 1998



BROWNING THE LAND

Britain is too beautiful to be built over

For decades after the war, British transport was planned on a policy of "predict and provide" — predict traffic growth and provide the extra roads for the cars to drive upon. It took an age for Government to realise that the building of new roads fuelled rather than satisfied the excess demand: it allowed people to live further away from their work and to commute longer distances. The same mistake is being made in housebuilding. If John Prescott is not careful, Britain could be concreted over in a generation.

To be fair to him, the Environment Secretary is aware of the dangers. He has already decreed that 60 per cent of new homes should be built on "brownfield" sites in towns and cities, rather than in the countryside. But still the total forecast for new homes is rising. The original prediction was that 4.4 million would be needed by 2010 to accommodate the increase in single people, divorcees, elderly people and immigrants. Now, apparently, the Government is likely to raise its forecast to five million in the new year. An area the size of Newcastle will need to be built upon to meet the demand in the South of England alone. But why should the demand necessarily be met? There is an interaction between the supply and demand for homes. Just as new roads encourage traffic, so "affordable" housing encourages new households to form. Adults leave home far earlier in Britain than in other countries — because they can afford to.

But there is no inalienable right for young single people to live away from their parents. Nor, if they do, should they necessarily expect to have their own house or flat. There are plenty of spare bedrooms in bigger houses, for instance, that could be let out to lodgers. All the forces that cause increased household formation are ones that tend to be socially undesirable. Family

breakdown, for instance, leads to higher demand for new homes. So does the trend for elderly people to live away from their families. A Government that is supposedly committed to reducing the divorce rate and encouraging adults to look after their ageing parents should not, at the same time, be building new homes to accommodate this social fragmentation.

The implementation of this policy is both illogical and old-fashioned in its highly centralised planning. First the Government projects the likely number of new households on highly dubious assumptions about social trends. Then it divides up the increase between counties and orders each one to build a certain number of homes. For counties with large urban areas, it may be easy to find 60 per cent of brownfield sites on which to allow development. But for, say, Somerset or Norfolk, it is well nigh impossible. Meanwhile, the new homes not only destroy the character and beauty of the English countryside. They also create new traffic, new waste, new pollution, new noise and new roads. And they deplete scarce resources, such as water.

To oppose this building is not nimbyism — it should not be allowed to take place in anybody's rural backyard. The "predict and provide" roads policy finally met its end through a combination of public sector financial stringency and popular protest. Property development, unfortunately, does not deplete public funds — indeed it can be a way for local councils to make money. So the public protest has to be all the louder. If we want to save the beauty and way of life of Britain's glorious countryside, the people must let the politicians know. Labour is predominantly an urban party; it needs to understand the balance between city and country life on this precariously crowded island.

ABYSSINIAN HEIRLOOMS

The treasures of Ethiopia should be put on public display

On April 13, 1868, the bizarre plans of Emperor Theodore II of Abyssinia lay in tatters. His efforts to build a bulwark against Islam had been blocked by Queen Victoria, who had failed to reply to his proposals of marriage. When he had taken British hostages in order to attract her attention, the Queen had sent an army instead of a ring. Besieged in his Magdala fortress, defeated, deranged and alone, he shot himself with a pistol, a gift from his inamorata. Two days later the treasures of the Abyssinian Church and Crown were laid out on the hillside and auctioned off to reward the victors. It is thought that most of those manuscripts and antiquities are now in the hands of British museums. And Addis Ababa wants them back.

Booty has been a principal perk of war for as long as war has existed. Roman legionaries carried axes and chains to remove statues, while Wellington's soldiers packed pliers to pull the teeth of the dead. First World War Tommies did a brisk business in German helmets and belt buckles. State treasures have always been fair game. The Koh-i-noor (or Mountain of Light) diamond was looted from Delhi by a Shah of Iran, surrendered to Sikhs by a refugee claimant to the Afghan throne, and seized by the Honourable East India Company on its annexation of the Punjab in 1849. Given to Queen Victoria, it is now the central stone in the Queen's State Crown. And the four horses of St Mark's in Venice, a durable symbol of Venetian independence removed by Napoleon in 1797, were Venetian booty from the sack of Byzantium in 1204.

It is by no means certain that Theodore did not amass his own collection by

plunder from recalcitrant Abyssinian potentates. Every museum in the country is under pressure to return items to their countries of origin. Many fear that exhibiting certain artefacts will simply remind aggrieved descendants of where they lie. The long-running row over the Elgin Marbles, though unique in many respects, is not the only quarrel over ownership of the human past. China is making noises about the early Buddhist artefacts removed by Aurel Stein from Central Asia, while only last week Glasgow council decided to return a Ghost Dance shirt, a relic of the Wounded Knee massacre, to the Sioux of South Dakota. The problem is a global one. The treasures Schliemann excavated from Troy disappeared from Berlin in 1945, only to reappear at the Hermitage in St Petersburg. Meanwhile, art collections all over the world are holding their breath, hoping courts will not force them to surrender legitimately purchased paintings confiscated by the Nazis from private collections.

Even the most scrupulous museums have obtained their collections from any number of sources. Every artefact will have been a trophy of war, bought for a derisory sum, or simply stolen, at some stage in its history. The tragedy of Magdala is not that the people of Ethiopia have been denied their heritage — a trauma common to peoples all over the world — but that these treasures have, by and large, been hidden from the public for so long. If the British institutions which hold the treasures of Magdala wish to retain them, they must put them on view. Ethiopia has too long and interesting a history for its glories to remain hidden from public view.

HISTORY LESSONS

Civilisation's core and the core curriculum

To be ignorant of what happened before one was born is to remain a child for the whole of one's life. It is good news that history is being put back on the core curriculum for junior pupils. It should never have been taken off it. As we report today, by the millennium history will become compulsory again for children aged between 8 and 11. A fierce debate is now being conducted by teachers, educational administrators and historians over whether it should be brought back for children between 5 and 7 also. The answer should be a clear and positive one.

The problem with a core curriculum is what it pushes out to the periphery. The Government's policy to improve core skills by literacy and numeracy hours is both necessary and commendable. But because reading, writing and arithmetic are given official priority, these subjects tend to be taught early in the morning, when young children are at their most receptive. By the time that the class reaches subsidiary subjects such as history (if it does), the pupils may be comatose after school lunch. Because history is not compulsory, schools often pick its easiest topics and periods instead of teaching a balanced curriculum. History may be the one academic subject that sparks the imagination of boys who have fallen, in such disturbing numbers, to the back of the class.

Old-fashioned history-teaching can be mocked, as in *1066 and All That*. Today's teachers find much more to history than

kings and battles. But "Willy, Willy, Harry, Stee, Harry, Dick, John, Harry Three..." and the other infant mnemonics built a grid in the memory against which to measure the past. British children who know nothing of Magna Carta, Parliament, the Industrial Revolution and the struggles for emancipation and reform are cut off from their national heritage. The facts and legends of history make them what they are. And young children learn best by stories of national heroes and heroines, triumphs and disasters.

Nations write their autobiographies in three volumes: the book of their deeds, the book of their words and the book of their art. None of them can be understood without reading the other two. Ruskin would have said that the only completely trustworthy one was the last. But without some knowledge of them, a British child might as well come from Japan — or Mars, since Japanese children are probably as well taught about the Tudor merchant venturers as they are about Shakespeare.

Other countries such as France and America treat their histories as a core of education and citizenship. For a human life is no better than that of a lesser animal unless it is woven into the life of its ancestors by the records of history. Writing, reading and computers are essential tools. But history is more than a tool and a pleasure. It is a subject that defines us all. All should be taught it from their parent's knee until the age of 16.

مكتبة من الأصل

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Vital debate' on drugs in schools

From Detective Inspector Ian Robinson

Sir, The Schools Standards Minister, Estelle Morris, is to be commended on opening a vital debate on the use of drugs in schools (report, November 17; letters, November 18).

Research suggests a majority of young people experiment with drugs. Exclusion from school is unlikely to change this, and could well create further problems. It is significant that 98 per cent of males permanently excluded find themselves involved in crime, as do 75 per cent of those temporarily excluded.

Inclusion is, of course, a legitimate option for a school, but only as the last resort, not the standard response. Is it right for schools, by exclusion, to dump a problem on the community, increasing the likelihood of the young person moving on to more crime or more serious crime? I believe it is reasonable to expect them to tackle the problem — with appropriate police involvement — themselves, where it can often be dealt with much more effectively.

There is a range of other options which schools might take up. Some schools have introduced random drug testing. In Thames Valley our work on restorative justice — which involves confronting offenders directly with the consequences of their actions for other people, including their family, peer group and (as in this case) their school community — is now being used in our work with schools to find solutions to the problem of drugs in schools.

It is vital we debate these issues, but it is difficult when schools understandably feel unwilling to discuss how they deal with drug incidents for fear of bad publicity. I hope Estelle Morris's comments will now allow debate to take place openly and objectively.

Yours faithfully,
IAN ROBINSON
(Thames Valley Police
Anti-drugs Co-ordinator),
Police Headquarters,
Oxford Road, Kidlington,
Oxfordshire OX5 2NX.
November 19.

From Dr D. J. T. Wright

Sir, Well done, Estelle Morris! Expelling children from school for possessing or smoking cannabis is a ridiculous extreme punishment.

It is a nonsense to punish an activity that is illegal because of the (very small) risk that it may ruin someone's life by taking action that will certainly ruin that person's life in a far more serious way.

Most teenage children take illegal drugs at some time. The vast majority are none the worse for it. I do not condone this, any more than any other illegal activities teenagers get up to, but it is ridiculous to pretend the facts are otherwise.

The problems of identifying offenders means only the tiny minority unlucky enough or silly enough to get caught will be expelled. But logically, if we are to expel any teenage children for this activity, then surely we should expel all of them.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WRIGHT,
Yew Tree House, Longparish,
Andover, Hampshire SP11 6PT.
November 18.

Working hours

From Mr A. D. Harris

Sir, Reading through the new *Guide to the Working Time Regulations*, published by the DTI, I notice that paragraph 2.3 tells employers that, not only must we not employ people for more than 48 hours per week, but we must also take steps to find out whether they have a second job which will take them over this limit. If so we must take "appropriate" action.

Is this another example of Whitehall "gold-plating" a Brussels directive? This ridiculous piece of over-regulation certainly does not square with the Government's professed aim of maintaining a free labour market and an enterprise economy in this country.

Yours sincerely,
A. D. HARRIS
(Managing Director),
L. G. Harris & Co Ltd,
Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove,
Worcestershire B60 4AE.
November 20.

Innes's stamps

From Mrs Denis Williams

Sir, It was with great interest that I read your report (November 16) about the collection of rare stamps found among the papers of the late Hamond Innes.

He may not have been "known as a stamp collector", but he did publish a novel in 1980 titled *Solomon's Seal* centred around an imaginary priceless stamp. My husband, Norman Williams, was asked for (and gave) his advice on the philatelic details at the time.

Perhaps Mr Innes had more than a passing interest in stamps.

Yours faithfully,
DENISE WILLIAMS,
6 Lakeland Close,
Harrow, Middlesex HA3 6TL.
November 19.

Sport letters, page 39

A moral basis for Conservatism

From the Reverend Michael Windridge

Sir, Having begun ordination training during the closing stages of Mrs Thatcher's premiership, I can identify with William Hague's sentiments when he argued in his recent speech to the Conservative Christian Fellowship (preview, November 16):

All too often senior clerics have appeared to assume the moral superiority of a collective approach to politics and seemed ready to impose the most strict of motives to those who hold to a Conservative view of the economy and society.

As an executive member of my local Conservative association, and a prospective candidate for next May's local government elections, I can assure your readers that my Conservative colleagues here in South Norfolk are just as caring, compassionate and public-spirited a group of individuals as found in any parish congregation I have previously enjoyed the privilege of serving.

There is no way in which our party is going to win back the hearts and minds of the electorate unless we can argue more persuasively the moral

basis for Conservatism. The challenge is also to provide a more coherent defence of modern capitalism in spite of the many excesses produced by inherent flaws in that and every other economic system.

The late T. E. Utley pointed out in his essay *Capitalism: The Moral Case*, "Conservatism is a wider philosophy than capitalism". Although the Conservative ideal is more than just about managing an economy successfully it is still, nevertheless, partly about ensuring the economy operates in a morally acceptable way.

Christians who are Conservatives would never claim biblical authority for the party's political and social philosophy. We are realistic enough to appreciate that society will be perfected neither by the "Third Way" nor even by the "Listening to Britain" way but by the far more certain way of divine (non-party) grace.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL WINDRIDGE,
Fritton Cottage,
Fritton Common,
Nr Long Stratton, Norfolk NR15 2QS.
November 18.

and those with common interests into virtual communities spread across continents. It is as significant an advance as the invention of writing in Ancient Mesopotamia, or that of printing in the 15th century.

But like all advance, it is subject to limits. Families need time together as well as time alone. The way we use time reflects our priorities. A recent American survey showed that children spent on average seven hours a day in front of a screen (television or computer) and five minutes talking to their fathers. That is an imbalance, and the fault lies not with technology but with us.

I am a great fan of the Internet. It is less passive than television, more instructive than computer games. It is an unparalleled educational tool, and has vast religious possibilities. Through it I and my children are able to read and hear talks given throughout the world on the week's Bible readings. We can take part in international discussion groups on problems of Jewish law and life.

The Internet links families, friends and those with common interests into virtual communities spread across continents. It is as significant an advance as the invention of writing in Ancient Mesopotamia, or that of printing in the 15th century.

It is a nonsense to punish an activity that is illegal because of the (very small) risk that it may ruin someone's life by taking action that will certainly ruin that person's life in a far more serious way.

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The problems of identifying offenders means only the tiny minority unlucky enough or silly enough to get caught will be expelled. But logically, if we are to expel any teenage children for this activity, then surely we should expel all of them.

Netting has been restricted on the Tavy this season, and we have seen more salmon. We have also seen much more of our well-fed seal. His and his relatives' activities on our salmon rivers will have to be curbed if

the current proposals are to have their full impact on salmon stocks.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. GAYNER,
Maristow House,
Roborough, Devon PL6 7BZ.
November 18.

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the current proposals are to have their full impact on salmon stocks.

Yours faithfully,
M. E. BROCKLEBANK,
Giffords Hall,
Stoke by Nayland,
Suffolk CO6 4SZ.
November 18.

the current proposals are to have their full impact on salmon stocks.

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL TRIPPETT,
(Peace Education Officer), CND,
162 Holloway Road, N7 8DQ.
November 18.

the current proposals are to have their full impact on salmon stocks.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TOOLEY,
163a High Street,
Aldeburgh, Suffolk IP15 5AN.
November 17.

Business letters, page 48

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Ruling Masons out as judges

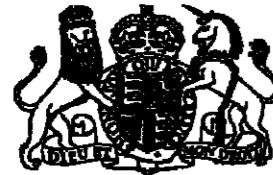
From Mr Roger Everest

Sir, David Pannick's arguments against a register of judges who are Masons ("Does it matter if 247 judges are Masons?", Law, November 17; see also letters, November 2, 6 and 18) are, I believe, wholly misconceived.

The register is justifiable on the ground that Masons — unlike members of the golf club, Garrick Club or Arsenal Football Club cited by Mr Pannick — swear an oath of allegiance to their society which the public is entitled to be aware of in those professional people who are entrusted with affairs of justice. Masons recognise the difference because they readily disclose publicly their attendance at universities and clubs, but not lodges.

After 30 years at the Bar, it is my view that the influence of Freemasonry in the law is insidious and overwhelming. By contrast my own "religious beliefs, political views or sexual preferences" are manifest for everyone to see.

The liberty of the ordinary individual is too important to be left to a judiciary with secrets to hide.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 20: The Duke of York this morning departed Paleolo Airport, Samoa, for Fiji.

November 21: His Royal Highness, having crossed the International Date Line, later arrived at Nausori Airport and was received by the British High Commissioner to the Republic of Fiji Islands (His Excellency Mr Michael Dibben) and the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs (Mr Paul Manuelli).

The Duke of York this afternoon attended traditional ceremonies of welcome at Albert Park, Suva, performed by the Chiefs and people of the Fiji Islands.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception for teenagers and young people injured in the Omagh bombing given by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Tyrone (the Duke of Abercorn) at Barons' Court, Omagh.

Princess Alexandra this evening attended a Reception and Dinner at Barons' Court.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 22: Mr David Castle and Mr John Dixon were received by The Queen today when Her Majesty decorated them with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

ST JAMES'S PALACE

November 22: The Prince of Wales this afternoon departed Royal Air Force Lyneham for Greece.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Concert, given by the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, as part of "Prince in Greece", at the Megaron Music Concert Hall, Athens.

The Prince of Wales received the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic at the Concert Hall.

Mr Nicholas Archer and Mrs Colleen Harris are in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

November 21: Princess Alexandra this morning visited Almagelvin

Hospital, Londonderry, to meet medical and nursing staff involved in the aftermath of the Omagh bombing and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Londonderry (Mr James Eaton).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon attended a Reception for teenagers and young people injured in the Omagh bombing given by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Tyrone (the Duke of Abercorn) at Barons' Court, Omagh.

Princess Alexandra this evening attended a Reception and Dinner at Barons' Court.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 22: The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, accompanied by Commodore Timothy Laurence RN, this afternoon attended the International Match between Scotland and South Africa at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh.

Today's royal engagements

Prince Edward will visit the Burne-Jones Centenary Exhibition at the Birmingham Art Gallery at 6.05pm and as patron, Royal Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, will open the new CBSO Centre, Berkeley Street at 7.00pm.

The Duke of Kent will open the new library and computer resource centre at Astley Community High School, Astley, Avenue, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland, at 11.00; will visit the Procter & Gamble pharmaceutical factory, Avenue Road, at 11.55; will visit the safety equipment factory of Simula ASD, Wanstead Business Park, Rotary Parkway, Ashton, at 1.45; and will visit the 2 Company, 6 (Northumbrian) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, TA Centre, Back Woodhorn Road, at 2.25.

Princess Alexandra, vice-patron, Royal Overseas League, will attend a concert to be given by young musicians from the Commonwealth at Kensington Palace at 7.15.

Lord Sainsbury, of Drury Lane

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Sainsbury, of Drury Lane, will be held in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Thursday, January 14. Those wishing to attend are asked to apply in writing, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to The Assistant Receiver General (Protocol), Room 14, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, London, SW1P 3PA. Tickets will be posted by January 7.

Meeting

International Military Society (Liberation) (CS) Col. Bowden, Royal Marines, was the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the United Kingdom branch of the International Military Music Council held on Saturday at the Royal Military School of Music, Twickenham. Major Richard Powell, chairman, presided.

University news

Cambridge

Sir Christopher MacRae, Secretary-General of the Order of St John, was the guest speaker at the annual dinner of the St John Council for Monmouthshire held on Saturday at Monmouth Castle. Mr Brian Watkins, chairman, also spoke. The Lord-Lieutenant, Gwen, the Bishop of Monmouth and Captain Norman Lloyd-Evans, Prior for Wales, were among those present.

Legal appointment

Ms Christiana Victoria Mary Hyde has been appointed a full-time Chairman of Employment Tribunals on the London South region from November 30.

Meeting

International Military Society (Liberation) (CS) Col. Bowden, Royal Marines, was the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the United Kingdom branch of the International Military Music Council held on Saturday at the Royal Military School of Music, Twickenham. Major Richard Powell, chairman, presided.

DEATHS

ARMSTRONG - Jean Teresa, 82, of 102a, St. John's Road, 24th March 1998, died peacefully at home on 18th November, aged 70 years. Donor of bone marrow. Mother of Jim, Martin and Henry (all deceased). She will be deeply missed by her surviving husband, son and grandchildren and her many relatives and friends around the world. Funeral Services to take place at Ealing Abbey on Wednesday, November 18 at 10.30am. Family flowers only please, but donations to local charities at home or to the Hospice at Wickenden Firs, 71 Greenford Ave, London W7 1LL.

BROWN - On Wednesday 18th November 1998, peacefully at home on 18th November, aged 70 years. Donor of bone marrow. Mother of Jim, Martin and Henry (all deceased). Sally will be deeply missed by her surviving husband, son and grandchildren and her many relatives and friends around the world. Funeral Services to take place at Ealing Abbey on Wednesday, November 18 at 10.30am. Family flowers only please, but donations to local charities at home or to the Hospice at Wickenden Firs, 71 Greenford Ave, London W7 1LL.

COOPER - On Wednesday 18th November 1998, peacefully in Barnes Down 11, Dorothy of Lewes. Beloved mother of Sally and husband Jim and late son-in-law of Dan. Enquiries of donations in memory of Dorothy to Cooper & Son Funeral Service, 42 High Street, Lewes, BN1 2DD. 01273 672337

DEATHS

FOWLER - On Wednesday 18th November 1998, to Nicols (née Blundell) of 10, Elm, a daughter, aged 70 years. Donor of bone marrow. Mother of Jim, Martin and Henry (all deceased). Sally will be deeply missed by her surviving husband, son and grandchildren and her many relatives and friends around the world. Funeral Services to take place at Ealing Abbey on Wednesday, November 18 at 10.30am. Family flowers only please, but donations to local charities at home or to the Hospice at Wickenden Firs, 71 Greenford Ave, London W7 1LL.

GREEN - On Wednesday 18th November 1998, peacefully in Barnes Down 11, Dorothy of Lewes. Beloved mother of Sally and husband Jim and late son-in-law of Dan. Enquiries of donations in memory of Dorothy to Cooper & Son Funeral Service, 42 High Street, Lewes, BN1 2DD. 01273 672337

DEATHS

GARRETT - Magdalene Valentine, wife of the late Captain Ralph Edwards, peacefully in her sleep on their 70th wedding anniversary. "He lived his life to the full". Rest in peace. Saturday 20th November, St Lawrence's Church, Upwey. No flowers please. All donations to The M.R.C. Society Appeal, Precept, P.O.Box 580, Dorchester.

DEATHS

HARRIS

MCCONNELL - On 18th November 1998, to Nicols (née Blundell) of 10, Elm, a daughter, aged 70 years. Donor of bone marrow. Mother of Jim, Martin and Henry (all deceased). Sally will be deeply missed by her surviving husband, son and grandchildren and her many relatives and friends around the world. Funeral Services to take place at Ealing Abbey on Wednesday, November 18 at 10.30am. Family flowers only please, but donations to local charities at home or to the Hospice at Wickenden Firs, 71 Greenford Ave, London W7 1LL.

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Ashdown
warns
rivals
against
challenge

By JESS SHERIDAN
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 23 1998

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OBITUARIES

CAPTAIN GEOFFREY KIRKBY



Captain Geoffrey Kirkby, CBE, DSC and two Bars, wartime destroyer captain, died on October 24 aged 80. He was born on August 26, 1918.

In a seagoing career served almost exclusively in destroyers, Geoffrey Kirkby took part in some of the hardest-fought actions of the Second World War, during which he displayed those qualities of valour, dash and seamanship skills for which he was to become renowned throughout the Royal Navy. Three Distinguished Service Crosses within as many years were fair comment on the contribution he made to naval operations, even when in comparatively junior rank.

Orphaned at the age of 12, Geoffrey Kirkby joined the Navy in 1936 from Taunton School and first went to sea as a midshipman in the battleship *Malaya* in the Mediterranean Fleet. Self-reliant and with a quick and accurate brain, he did exceptionally well on his training courses and was by September 1939 appointed to the destroyer *Kingston*.

Kingston's unusually active war began with a fierce gun battle in the Red Sea off Perim between three British destroyers and the Italian submarine *Torricelli*. Having sunk the destroyer *Khartoum*, the *Torricelli* surrendered and, while she was in a sinking condition, Kirkby boarded her in search of signal code books. An eyewitness records seeing Kirkby's head and shoulders appear out of the submarine's conning tower just as she sank. His brave action earned him his first DSC.

Axial military power forced the Allies to evacuate Greece at the end of April 1941, and *Kingston* assisted in the reembarkation of more than 50,000 troops, saved to fight another day. Worse was to follow for the Allied cause and after fighting through a convoy of supplies for the besieged Malta garrison in early May, the *Kingston* found herself taking part first in the reinforcement and subsequently the evacuation of Crete.

This campaign cost the

Navy dear, with many ships sunk or damaged by continuous air attacks from an expert Luftwaffe Fliegerkorps. *Kingston* herself was damaged but, with the destroyer *Kandahar*, earned exceptionally warm official praise from the C-in-C, Admiral Andrew Cunningham. This reflected the destroyers' conduct during the whole period of the operation and particularly for the rescue, in broad daylight and under heavy enemy attack, of the crews of the destroyer *Greyhound* and the cruiser *Fiji*, both of which were overwhelmed by bombs in the waters to the north of Crete.

A blockade and bombardment of Vichy French Forces in the Lebanon was followed by a series of convoys to Malta, culminating in March 1942 in what became known as the Second Battle of Sirte. Admiral Sir Philip Vian's brilliant tactics against a very much superior Italian force

saved a convoy from destruction, notwithstanding the subsequent loss of some of the ships to air attack.

Kingston took part in daring torpedo attacks for which she had to close to within three miles of Italian heavy units. In the process she was badly damaged by a near-miss from a 15-inch shell fired by the battleship *Littorio*, but was able to limp to Malta. There, having survived so much action in the open sea, the much-tried *Kingston* was destroyed in dock by air attack and her distinguished captain, Commander Philip Somerville, was killed. For his part in these battles with the Italian Navy Kirkby was awarded a second DSC.

He next found himself involved in land operations in the Middle East, where he volunteered to assist with the navigation, by bubble sextant and sun-compass, of sorties behind Rommel's front line

with Colonel Bagnold's celebrated Long Range Desert Group.

In the summer of 1943, he was appointed to the destroyer *Melbreak* which had just returned badly damaged to Devonport, with her captain dead and first lieutenant wounded. An old friend, Lieutenant Johnson, arrived in the destroyer on the same day, and Kirkby said to him: "I believe I'm a year senior to you, why don't I be captain and you the first lieutenant?"

Thus, although only 24 years old at the time, Kirkby set about making *Melbreak* "the best destroyer around" by his energy and example, mixed with understanding and encouragement of his men. A contemporary recalls "a stocky young man in a battered naval cap; sheepskin jacket and seaboots, popping out from a sort of dog kennel built under the chart table on the bridge so that he could be

instantly ready, brave but not foolhardy, exuding an infectious confidence".

Back at sea by September, *Melbreak* took part in frequent actions in the Channel and Western Approaches, firing more than 4,000 rounds of four-inch ammunition at the enemy and being credited with the sinking of five E-boats, six merchant ships and many other vessels damaged. During the Normandy invasion, *Melbreak* acted as a marker for American Forces landing at Omaha Beach, covered the Royal Marines commando on Gold Beach and hammered several German gun emplacements. Kirkby received a mention in despatches.

Later, his third DSC was awarded for his role in frustrating German attempts to evacuate Le Havre at the end of August 1944. Over four successive nights with other destroyers, *Melbreak* fought

protracted and violent actions against a strong naval force all the way along the coast to Dieppe, as the Germans tried to slip through the British blockade.

Having left *Melbreak* and still only an acting lieutenant-commander, Kirkby went to the Far East, where he took part in the liberation of Singapore and was appointed operations staff officer to the Flag Officer, Malaya. In April 1946 he married Daphne Spiller, a Wren officer who had recently arrived there from Mountbatten's headquarters staff in Ceylon.

His subsequent postwar appointments included command of the destroyers *Crossbow*, *Charity* and *Diana*. Kirkby had a reputation as a leader and as a ship-handler of great precision — the high-speed dash backwards up Siema Creek in Malta to a berth between head-and-stern buoys held no fears for him.

Kirkby was promoted early to commander in 1950, passed the Army's staff course and saw service at Nato headquarters at Fontainebleau, near Paris, and as second in command of the naval air station at Yeovil.

Promoted to captain in December 1957, he enjoyed two years based in Karachi as naval adviser to the Pakistani Navy. After a tour in the Admiralty at Bath as Director of Naval Equipment, his final posting was to command the cruiser *Tiger*.

At the end of 1966, swiftly brought up from flag-showing at Casablanca to Gibraltar, this cruiser became the private forum for negotiations — known subsequently as the "Tiger Talks" — between the Prime Minister Harold Wilson and Ian Smith, head of the illegal Rhodesian regime.

Kirkby's final naval duty was to arrange the funeral of Admiral of the Fleet Viscount Cunningham of Hyndhope, his erstwhile C-in-C. He was appointed CBE, but to the surprise of many who expected him to make flag rank, he was retired in early 1967.

He subsequently took up an administrative post at Bath University.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

JOHN CHARLTON

John Charlton, publisher, died of cancer on October 23 aged 58. He was born on April 23, 1940.

DURING his long career as an editor at Chatto & Windus, John Charlton was a loyal friend to many authors including Iris Murdoch, V. S. Pritchett and Isaiah Berlin, and became especially close to Laurens van der Post. He began working as an editor under Ian Parsons in 1965, and became a director of Chatto and of the Hogarth Press two years later. He was then closely involved in successive structural changes and amalgamations: with Jonathan Cape in 1969, with Bodley Head in 1973, with Random House in 1987 and finally coming under the umbrella of Century Hutchinson in 1989. He became a member of the group board of Chatto, Bodley Head and Cape in 1982, and retired as chairman of Chatto in 1993.

John Fraser Charlton was the only grandson of Horatio Nelson Smith, the founder of the healthcare company Smith and Nephew. He and his two elder sisters were brought up by their mother after her marriage to their father had ended in divorce. As a baby he had a narrow escape at the Battle of Britain raged over his cot in a garden beneath the South Downs. A Luftwaffe bomber, fleeing its RAF pursuers, shed its munitions overhead. One bomb landed close by but failed to detonate.

He went to school at Winchester, where he played cricket for the first XI, and was noted for his cunning, marmalist, slow leg break bowling. He then won an exhibition to Magdalene College, Cambridge.

Charlton enjoyed a long and successful working relationship with his last boss at Chatto, Carmen Callil, who valued his cogent and elegant prose, his memory for obscure detail, his facility with numbers and his ambassadorial skill. For years he represented the firm at the Frankfurt Book Fair. Yet he shied away from the self-promoting and self-regarding aspects of literary life and, as one of the last gentleman publishers, he was ultimately too kind and good to fit comfortably into an increasingly profit-oriented business.

In 1972 he was appointed a director of the family's garden centre business, Great Gardens of England, and he became chairman the following year. He remained in charge until the decision was taken to sell the business in 1998, when he negotiated the sale with his customary consideration for employees and shareholders. This protracted process was personally exhausting, as cancer began to take its toll.

John Charlton married Susan Allen in 1966. He is survived by her and by their son and two daughters.



Charlton: meticulous publisher's editor who had the ability to turn his hand to any kind of job

PROFESSOR V. S. GRIFFITHS

Professor V. S. Griffiths, electrochemist and former Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Surrey, died on October 27 aged 79. He was born on August 17, 1919.

PROFESSOR V. S. Griffiths, or "Griff" as he was known, was a leading figure in the expansion of the universities in the 1960s. A talented teacher and researcher, he was also a natural leader, to whom the University of Surrey in particular owes much.

Victor Sidney Griffiths came from a humble background. His parents ran a wharfage contractor's business on the Grand Union Canal, and he was the last of their six children. He won a scholarship that enabled him to attend the Isleworth County School, and he first found work with a tiny local firm in the cosmetics business. Later he worked at Crookes Laboratories, where he started studying chemistry in the evenings.

As a Territorial Army Reservist, he was called up at once in 1939 and sent to France — in the Royal Army Medical Corps. Despite the pressures of the time, he managed to represent the Army in Anglo-French rugby matches. He was in the thick of the fighting round Dunkirk, and was captured by the Germans. He spent the next five years as a prisoner of war, but decided to give the Germans as much trouble as he could; he escaped and managed to travel to within a few miles of the Swiss frontier before he was recaptured.

On his release from the

Army in 1946 he continued his chemistry studies at Battersea Polytechnic, where his abilities soon attracted the attention of his tutors. He took a first in 1948 and was persuaded to join the Battersea teaching staff.

At that time colleges such as Battersea attracted little funding for research, so Griffiths begged, borrowed and built apparatus for his own work. A staunch believer that study should be directly linked with industry, he saw to it that his many findings were not only published as research papers but put into practice on the factory floor. In particular, he made many contributions to the electroplating industry.

Battersea Polytechnic became one of the Colleges of Advanced Technology in 1956, and Griffiths was appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor in 1968, dealt so well with such matters that the university was almost spared the wave of student unrest of that year. He was reappointed in 1971 and appointed to a permanent post in 1975.

His influence went beyond his own university. He served on the governing bodies of many institutions, including Kingston Polytechnic, the (then) Guildford School of Art, and the Guildford School of Acting. In retirement he was active in a quite different field: housing schemes for the mentally handicapped and young people's probation.

He is survived by his wife

Olga, and by their son and daughter.

HOLLAND AND BELGIUM

The papers brought by the General Steam Navigation Company's mail-packet, the Sir Edward Banks, from Rotterdam yesterday, contain the important information of the Order of the Day of General Chasse to the garrison of Antwerp, of Saturday the 17th, and the Order of the Day of the Director-General of the War Department to the garrison of Bruges, on the 18th.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

"To the Citadel of Antwerp, the forts dependent upon it, and His Majesty's navy in the Scheidt: "Brave brethren in arms! — The moment when old Dutch courage and loyalty are to be put to a new test approaches. Within a few days a French army will appear before these ramparts, in order to compel us, if possible, by force of arms, to surrender this fortress and its dependent forts."

"Full of confidence in the justice of your cause, and relying upon your well-tried courage and loyalty for your King and your country, we shall intrustedly await this army."

"To a Nicholson Prize in Mathematics: David Temple (St Aldans & St John Fisher VI Form, Harrogate); Daniel Stephen Lester (Trent College, Nottingham).

"To a Coombs Prize in Modern History: Andrew James Clark (Leek High School, Staffordshire).

"To a Coombs Exhibition in Ancient and Modern History: Marc Sebastian Wilkinson (Sir James Henderson British School, Cranbrook).

"To a Haynes Exhibition in Biology: Sophia Catherine Breckin (Simon Balle School, Herts); Emma Lucie Perfect (Craigmillar High School, Edinburgh).

"To a Coombs Prize in English: Bend Eluned Salih (Queen's School, Flintshire).

"To a Kirkaldy Prize in Biochemistry: Mr Ivan Ronald Evans (St Odile Grammar School, Kent); Gayle Ellen Ritchie (Simon Langton Girls School, Kent).

"To a Seymour Exhibition in Human Sciences: Jennifer Lucy Parry James (Reigate Grammar School, Surrey).

"To a Hughes Exhibition in Biochemistry: Iwan Robert Evans (St Odile Grammar School, Kent); Gayle Ellen Ritchie (Simon Langton Girls School, Kent).

"To a Seymour Exhibition in Law: Eleanor Maria Reid (The Belvedere School, GPDSST, Liverpool); Joanne Marie Clement (Fernside Comprehensive School, Rhondda).

"To a Coombs Exhibition in Law/LSE: Colleen Hanley (Ulster College, Sligo).

"To a Coombs Scholarship in Biochemistry: Alexander Patrick Goldsmith (Magdalen College School, Oxford).

"To a Coombs Exhibition in Ancient and Modern History: Captain Geoffrey Kirkby, CBE, DSC and two Bars, wartime destroyer captain, died on October 24 aged 80. He was born on August 26, 1918.

ON THIS DAY

November 23, 1832

Discord between the two countries led to Belgium proclaiming independence in 1831. The subsequent war was ended by the Treaty of London in 1839.

Breda breathes a like spirit of indomitable resolution.

BREDA ORDER OF THE DAY.

"Brave Soldiers — On the festival day consecrated to the anniversary of the birth of the beloved Queen of the Netherlands, you receive the honourable medal in testimony of your loyalty to your King and your country.

"1830 and 1831 you guarded with valour and perseverance the ramparts of the state confided to you. You scolded the movements of the army, and thus contributed to the maintenance and preservation of our dearest rights. Again, in the territory of the Netherlands, the right of self-government was asserted; it may however, that you will be called upon more seriously than ever to devote your energies to your King and your country.

"Never was such a call more grand, more sacred. You will respond to it in a manner worthy of yourselves, under your worthy commanders. The metal won in battle will not shine in vain upon your breasts.

"Confiding, together with your King, on the protection of the Almighty, you will again, by your valour, deserve the thanks of your King and of your country.

"Live the King.

"The Lieutenant-General, Director-General

De Eerens"

University news

Oxford
Somerville College
The following elections have been agreed:

To a Belvoir Scholarship in Physiology: Graham Andrew Mackenzie Walker (formerly of Reigate Grammar School, Surrey); Hazel Broadbent (Bingley Grammar School, West Yorkshire); Alan Owen Saunders (Lawnswood School, Leeds); David Zekri (Watford Grammar School for Boys, Watford).

To a Bull Scholarship in English: Bend Eluned Salih (Queens School, Flintshire).

To a Coombs Scholarship in Law/LSE: Colleen Hanley (Ulster College, Sligo).

To a Coombs Scholarship in Biochemistry: Alexander Patrick Goldsmith (Magdalen College School, Oxford).

To a Coombs Scholarship in Physiology: Thomas Mulrenan (Cranbrook School, Kent).

To a Murray Scholarship in Mathematics: David Temple (St Aldans & St John Fisher VI Form, Harrogate); Daniel Stephen Lester (Trent College, Nottingham).

To a Nuffield Scholarship in Chemistry: Iwan Robert Evans (St Odile Grammar School, Kent); Gayle Ellen Ritchie (Simon Langton Girls School, Kent).

To a Seymour Exhibition in Chemistry: Marguerite Sarah Kate Renoldson (Haberdashers' Aske's Girls School, Herts).

To a Coombs Exhibition in Law: Eleanor Maria Reid (The Belvedere School, GPDSST, Liverpool); Joanne Marie Clement (Fernside Comprehensive School, Rhondda).

To a Coombs Exhibition in Law/LSE: Colleen Hanley (Ulster College, Sligo).

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that the confidence which our beloved King has reposed in us has not been bestowed upon us without reason; and let us take the unalterable resolution to defend ourselves with many courage to the last extremity.

"Live the King!

"The General Commander-in-Chief of the citadel of Antwerp

NEWS

New European Way launched

■ A manifesto for a socialist Europe with more harmonised taxes and more closely shared economic policies, including higher public spending, was launched last night by Britain and the ten other Leftwing governments that now dominate the European Union.

The programme for "The New European Way — Economic Reform in the Framework of Monetary Union" calls itself a "set of common rules for the economic and social wellbeing of European citizens".

Page 1

Drug testing at Ministry of Defence

■ Civil servants at the Ministry of Defence are set to become the first Whitehall officials to face compulsory drugs tests. The controversial move would affect all MoD civil servants who are involved in "safety-critical areas".

Page 1

Kidnap ordeal over

A businessman who was cleared of murder last month was freed yesterday after a 30-hour kidnap ordeal during which he was tortured by an armed gang demanding £100,000 ransom.

Page 1

Arctic thaw fears

Global warming may have triggered the unprecedented melting of sea ice in the Arctic, which has left the remaining ice up to a third thinner than it was 20 years ago.

Page 9

Murder memorial

A roadside memorial was erected to mark the last sighting of a young woman suspected of falling prey to a serial killer roaming Ireland's east coast. Jolli Dullard is one of six women to have vanished since 1993.

Page 10

Barney bashing

Barney the dinosaur, whose first British stage tour is attracting huge audiences, is the target of an Internet grudge campaign from parents infuriated by his saccharine antics.

Page 3

Fertility fight

A form of egg donation that has led to the birth of 150 babies in Britain may be outlawed this week by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. At its meeting on Thursday, the HFEA could agree to ban "egg-sharing".

Page 4

Chinese top earnings

The Chinese in Britain have overtaken whites and African Asians in the earnings and employment league. Research shows that Chinese men have the highest average earnings and the lowest unemployment rate of any ethnic group.

Page 6

Fresh French Casanova loves a row

■ Sex has replaced socialism and existentialism as the main talking point on Paris's Left Bank, with intellectuals locked in a row over Casanova's prowess and morals. The debate has been sparked by the publication of a book by one of France's trendiest philosophers, Philippe Sollers, who claims to be the true successor of the famous 18th-century lover.

Page 15



An electrical storm curtailed a solid English innings on the third day of the first Ashes Test at the Gabba in Brisbane. Page 29

BUSINESS

Hotel buyer to sell: Patriot American Hospitality, the aggressive US hotel investor, is considering a sale of its UK assets, signalling a frenzied drive by US real estate companies to pick up British properties.

Page 52

Blue Christmas: Britain's retailers are bracing themselves for what could be the worst Christmas in two decades, according to research published today.

Page 52

Banks buy: The Bankers Trust board met yesterday to vote on the \$9 billion (£5.5 billion) merger with DeutscheBank.

Page 52

Indonesia rampage: Indonesian troops last night struggled to maintain order in Jakarta after a Muslim mob went on the rampage, setting fire to churches and beating Christians to death.

Page 52

Stasi files appeal: The new German Government has asked the United States to return a trove of espionage files, including the identity of thousands of Western agents, obtained by the CIA from East Germany after the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

Page 12

Holiday numbers: 7, 9, 17, 22, 38, 49. Bonus: 47.

Eight people shared Saturday's £25 million superdraw jackpot; 22 matched five and the bonus ball to net £120,267; 1,423 matched five balls to win £1,153; 80,371 won £45 for four.

Page 19

Blitz technology: Rothschild Biosciences is facing possible closure because of a wrangle over the merger of two investment funds.

Page 21

Motorists: The Bankers Trust board met yesterday to vote on the \$9 billion (£5.5 billion) merger with DeutscheBank.

Page 52

Weather by Fax: Did you follow the weather forecast from your fax machine? If so, you're not alone.

Page 412

World City Weather: The Met Office's 153 weather stations worldwide are now accessible via fax.

Page 412

Motorway: Europe Country by Country.

Weatherfax: Europe's first weatherfax service is available from the Met Office.

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GOLF: TEENAGER HAS GROUND TO MAKE UP GOING INTO THE FINAL ROUND OF THE EUROPEAN TOUR QUALIFYING SCHOOL

Unpredictable Rose left with uphill task

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN SAN ROQUE

IT IS clear, now that he has been a professional for four months, that when Justin Rose is put fully under pressure and the nerves of many of his followers are stretched almost to their limits, he has exceptional competitive instincts that enable him to produce a round of golf that really matters. As he has demonstrated this characteristic three times since he turned professional last July, Rose appears to be able to do this more often than most of us.

If it is also noticeable that before, or after, one such exceptional round, Rose is prone to lose concentration and make

Nick Faldo was as good as his word on Sunday when he led England to its first World Cup of Golf team title at the 44th attempt. Faldo had promised to make amends for England never having won the title since the competition started in 1954. His experience took him and David Carter, his young compatriot, to a two-stroke win at Gulf Harbour.

mistakes. Perhaps this trait will fade away as he leaves adolescence and acquires more competitive experience. He is only 18, after all.

Rose demonstrated this fecklessness in the fifth round of the European Tour qualifying school yesterday after he had produced some fireworks to beat the 72-hole cut the previous afternoon. Where Rose had been so focused and determined in his fourth round, he was prone to unforced errors in his fifth, his 74 being studed with poor iron strokes and the odd, poor putt. Despite this, he has moved up from 58th to 51st in his attempt to finish among the top 35 players and win the card that will give him entry to the European Tour next year.

An heroic 50-yard pitch and



Rose, of England, plays out of the sand at the 17th hole during his topsy-turvy fifth round at the San Roque golf club in Spain yesterday

journey to Bristol. "What is making me feel good is the knowledge that before my arm started to hurt, I was beating nearly everyone here," Hurley said, who was six under par after two rounds. "That means I can play this game

well and it bodes well for me next season."

Wales have provided a disproportionate number of Amateur champions since the Sevens, an indication of how successful the Welsh Golf Union has been in identifying

young talent and bringing those players on quickly. Perhaps this is why six of the eight Welshmen who arrived here last week survived to the last two rounds.

At two under par, Stephen Dodd, the 1989 Amateur champion, is the best of their bunch.

Keith Jones and Andrew Barnett are both eight over par. Only David Park, a Walker Cup player in 1997, and Simon Wilkinson failed to reach the last two rounds.

Scores, page 40

Westwood proves to be big in Japan

Patricia Davies finds a Briton aiming higher than being the world No 1

LEE WESTWOOD was fighting his game all week, but the young Englishman's greatest asset is that he never fights himself and he won the Dunlop Phoenix tournament, Japan's most lucrative event, in typically serene fashion in Miyazaki yesterday.

On a sunny day beside the sea, when a swirling breeze and some tough pin positions made birdies hard to come by, a round of 70, one under par, was good enough to keep Westwood out in front. He had led from the halfway stage. He finished on 271, 13 under par, three shots ahead of Darren Clarke, whose putting let him down, and four ahead of Joe Ozaki.

It was Westwood's second victory in as many weeks and his seventh of a season that is not yet finished. Next week, the 25-year-old from Worksop flies to

South Africa for the Million Dollar Challenge at Sun City.

Westwood's latest Japanese jaunt, which takes his tally of victories here to four in three years, has netted him 72 million yen. "It sounds like a lot," he smiled and it is. It converts to £360,000 and takes his on-course earnings for the season to roughly £1.5 million.

"Money is not a driving force with me," Westwood said. "It's never, ever an issue. Today on the golf course is what drives me on. Winning is what it's all about and I always try my hardest to win."

Easy-going though he is, he is bound-

lessly ambitious. Not long ago, Westwood, then ranked No 9 in the world, remarked that wanting to be world No 1 was not that much of an ambition.

"What do you do when you've achieved it?" he asked. "There's no good getting there and just stopping. I'd like to win 100 tournaments and as many majors as I can."

The Dunlop Phoenix was

win No 13 and he has yet to win a major, so he will be busy for a few years yet.

At least Westwood seems to have mastered the knack of winning when not playing his best. "Some parts of my game were at 50 per cent this week," he said. "although it's difficult to see how my short game could have been better and my mental attitude was as good as it's ever been. I was not hitting the ball well on the range, but on the 1st tee my mind was set on what I wanted to do, which was to shoot as low as I could."

His main challenger yesterday was Clarke, who closed to within a shot with a birdie four at the 7th, but missed a 12ft uphill birdie putt at the next to draw level. It proved to be a crucial miss because Westwood pulled away with birdie threes at the 9th and 10th. He pulled his second shot into the tree at the front left of the green and the ball ricocheted to safety on the right edge of the green. "The putt was always in," Westwood grinned as he gave a graphic description. "You've got to take advantage of your luck."

Keith Jones and Andrew Barnett are both eight over par. Only David Park, a Walker Cup player in 1997, and Simon Wilkinson failed to reach the last two rounds.

Scores, page 40



Westwood enjoys his fourth win in Japan in three years

**Thanks,
Martina !**



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Campbell sees red at the antics of Hann

BY PHIL YATES

QUINTEN HANN, talented and brash in equal measure, exhibited the acceptably petulant side of his nature during a 9-6 defeat by Marcus Campbell in the second round of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship at Bournemouth yesterday.

Campbell, who whitewashed Stephen Hendry 9-0 in the previous round, is an universally popular individual. He would never consider criticising an opponent unless it was well merited.

"Quinten's diabolical, I'm afraid," Campbell said. "He's temperament and attitude are an absolute disgrace. I'm a professional sportsman who conducts himself in a proper way, but he's got bad manners at the table."

Campbell's forthright remarks were inspired by behaviour that qualified as ungentlemanly in anyone's language. "I think he was trying to play mind games, but I am too long in the tooth to let anything like that affect me," he said.

Hann, a peroxide blond who had several brushes with the amateur authorities in his native Australia before turning professional three years ago conceded the fifth frame with five reds remaining, even though he only trailed 4-0.

More bizarrely — and in Campbell's opinion, rudely — Hann conceded the eighth frame when leading 5-4. With Campbell ideally positioned on the green and the remaining colours on or just off their spots, Hann surprisingly stood up and shook hands, clearly resigned to a

clearance. "I wasn't about to complain, but it was stupid," Campbell said. "We'd already had a few kicks out there and under pressure anything could have happened. He doesn't seem to be able to take his medicine when he's sitting in his chair."

Hann showed less inclination to prematurely throw in the towel on the resumption,

Results.....40

but the earlier damage proved to be irreparable. Campbell, who completed victory with an unfinished run of 6 when Hann once again conceded at an inappropriate juncture, now meets Steve Davis in the last 16. "At least I'm playing a gentleman now," he said.

Hann was unrepentant. "I don't think conceding is a big deal," he said. "I definitely

didn't do it to put him off. The way my head was, I knew there was no way I could win. After two or three frames, I didn't want to be out there."

"In some ways, I feel guilty because I had a few people here who wanted to see me win," Hann's mother, Amanda, had travelled from their Melbourne home to watch the match. Should the erratic 21-year-old continue to disregard the unwritten code of etiquette at snooker's highest level, it is fair to assume that the majority of spectators will want him to lose.

It was a day of contrasting fortunes for Jimmy White, who fell 6-2 adrift of Paul Hunter, the Regal Welsh Open champion, after earlier signing a potentially lucrative sponsorship contract with The Phone People, a mobile telephone company, which incorporates a number of financial incentives. Should White, for example, win the Embassy world championship in May, he will receive a £100,000 bonus.

Hunter, 41, did not put a ball

in losing the first two frames,

but White, who accumulated 192 points without reply, found it impossible to contain his youthful rival as the afternoon progressed.

During the concluding six frames of the session, Hunter had runs of 76, 67, 53, 47 and 49 to both take control and deflate the optimism that White was entitled to feel after fluent victories over Jon Birch and Paul Davies in the opening two rounds. Campbell and Davies will meet the winner in the quarter-finals.



White cash incentives

Rolph takes an early lead in World Cup

■ SWIMMING: Susan Rolph, of Newcastle, leads two categories of the World Cup after fast short-course times at the first round in Rio de Janeiro. Rolph's victories over Yana Klochkova, of Ukraine, in the 100 metres and 200 metres medley gave her an excellent start to the 1998-99 series, though there is a long way to go, the cup having been extended to 12 rounds.

In the sprint freestyle group, Rolph shares the lead with Katrin Meissner, of Germany, who narrowly beat the Briton in the 50 metres. However, the order was reversed in the 100 metres, the event which catapulted Rolph into the world's fastest eight when she won the Commonwealth Games title in Malaysia in September in a record time.

Cronje close to victory

■ CRICKET: Hansie Cronje, the South African captain, hit an unbeaten 147 off 141 balls yesterday to set up the prospect of a remarkable win for Free State over the West Indies. Cronje helped his side score 272 runs during the final session of the penultimate day, leaving his side just 26 runs short of the victory target of 438. Free State, all out for 67 in their first innings, will resume at 412 for eight today. The West Indies had earlier slumped from 112 for two overnight to 188 all out. The South Africa selectors have recalled Pat Symcox, the veteran off spinner, to a 12-man squad for the first Test, which begins on Thursday.

Personal best

■ SKIING: Emma Carrick-Anderson, Great Britain's leading woman skier, achieved the finest performance of her career by finishing fourteenth in the opening run of the women's World Cup slalom in Utah on Saturday. Despite failing in the afternoon run, Carrick-Anderson's performance justified her decision to join the Finland team for training instead of working by herself. "I had a second run in the world championships two years ago, but never in the World Cup, so it is really exciting," she said. Urska Hrovat, of Slovenia, came first, with Sabine Egger, of Austria, second.

New pair selected

■ NETBALL: Christine Maskell and Ann Marie Muller are the only uncapped players included in the 15-strong England training party announced after the senior trials at Loughborough University (Cathy Harris writes). The squad includes ten members of the Great Britain team that won a bronze medal in the Commonwealth Games. Vicki Diss, Judith Mann and Debbie Jones were ruled out because of injury. As part of their build-up for the world championship in September, England will play Wales on January 30.

ATHLETICS

Hemery waits on Wembley decision

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH athletics is seeking to host a wide-ranging programme of international championships as a build-up to bringing the world track and field championships to Wembley in 2003. Plans were released at the weekend that could see as many as five big events in Great Britain in the run-up to Wembley.

While Primo Nebiolo, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) president, warned Britain not to expect to be awarded the 2003 championships — he told David Hemery, the British governing body's new president, that Wembley may have to wait until 2005 — the campaign to bring international events here remains firmly on the front foot.

Already guaranteed to Britain are the 1999 world cross country championships, in Belfast, and the 2000 European Cup, at Gateshead. Now bids are being made to bring the world half-marathon championships to Bristol in 2000 and the European indoor championships to Birmingham in 2002, shortly before the Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

As Hemery said yesterday, if Britain is to bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games, it is "rather essential" that Wembley stages the world championships in 2003, rather than 2005, to provide a timely tool for showcasing the bid.

Britain launched its Wembley bid at the IAAF gala in Monte Carlo with a message of support from the Prime Minister. "The Government supports wholeheartedly the British bid to host the ninth IAAF world championships," Tony Blair said.

Hemery left Monte Carlo with the impression that Paris would provide the sternest opposition. "That is really the only other candidate they were talking about," Hemery said. "Primo Nebiolo has an iron fist on the voting system."

At the gala, Haile Gebrselassie, from Ethiopia, and Marion Jones, from the United States, were named athletes of the year. Gebrselassie set 5,000 and 10,000 metres world records and Jones was undefeated at 100 and 200 metres.

Paula Radcliffe, reduced to tears at the European championships in Budapest after finishing fifth in the 10,000 metres, began rebuilding her confidence yesterday when she won the Reebok Margate cross country race. A virus afflicted Radcliffe in Budapest and forced her out of the Commonwealth Games. Her victory will lean her towards an attempt on the European cross country title next month.

Australia toil as England stand firm

FA Carling Premiership: Blackburn rooted to bottom after Hodgson's unexpected departure

Sorry Rovers reaching the point of no return

TOO good to go down? Of course they are, although there will be some who find the urge to poke a little fun at their expense irresistible while the threat remains. However, once a handful of their better players, at present sidelined, return, they are sure to improve and, for all that there may be an appearance of crisis at the club, they have that most important asset for a relegation battle: heart.

But what about Blackburn Rovers? Footballers might bend the truth from time to time by proclaiming their unequivocal support for a manager that they seem to be doing their best to get rid of — and managers themselves have, very occasionally, been known to try to pull the wool over a few eyes — but the tale rarely lies and, as Roy Hodgson was driven through the gates of Ewood Park on Saturday, it told him that he was leaving behind the worst team in the FA Carling Premiership.

The champions of 1995 were demoted in twentieth and last place, without a hint of remorse and only a modicum of style, by a Southampton side that had monopolised that position since the second Saturday of the season, that is individually less gifted but was collectively superior, that cost but a fraction by comparison but was not burdened by the baggage that comes with inflated transfer fees, wages or reputations. Or, crucially, by their followers' expectations.

A goal at the start, before some had taken their seats, put the prize within Southampton's grasp and another at the death confirmed it, by which time several thousand Blackburn supporters were already heading home.

Many of those who had stayed did so merely to boo their team off. "Hodgson for England," they chanted, too, with heavy irony, little suspecting that, within an hour, their wish — in part — would be granted.

Ewood Park may stand as a monument to one man's obsession and the depth of his wallet, but the house that Jack built was crumbling before his eyes and whether Hodgson jumped or was pushed will probably matter little to those fans who have seen their stadium and their Saturday afternoons transformed by the munificence of the Blackburn benefactor, but who have now been fed a prolonged diet of mediocrity.

This was Blackburn's third league defeat on the trot, their fifth in the past six Premiership games and their fourth out of seven at home. Southampton's first victory away from The Dell also means that Blackburn are now the only team without an away win to their credit. Their next match? Liverpool away.

There are, naturally, mitigating factors. Seven of Blackburn's nine league defeats have been by the odd goal and they have been afflicted by a series of injuries that would stretch the resources of the genuinely big clubs. With Flowers and Sutton unavailable, Sherwood and the re-

turning Gallacher represented the only link with the Blackburn side that prevented Manchester United sweeping to the first five Premiership titles — and the world is in their everlasting debt for that, if for nothing else.

Yet much as Sherwood was easily the most accomplished player in this match, the Blackburn captain ensuring that they enjoyed the vast majority of possession, finding the energy to have seven decent efforts at goal himself and crossing for Blake to put in a header that was cleared off the line (Southampton, unforgivingly, scored from each of their two efforts on target), is this not the same player who was desperate to leave just a few weeks into the season? And were Blackburn under Hodgson not often forced to field weakened teams because of their own lack of discipline? Their 11 sendings-off in 18 months are as many as Aston Villa, Derby County, Leicester City and — wait for it — Wimbledon combined have accumulated in the same period.

Curiously, on a tense occasion in which the odd indiscretion might have been expected, Blackburn succumbed all too meekly to their fate. Southampton, through the ageless Hughes and Palmer in central midfield and the redoubtable Dodd and Dryden at the heart of the defence, won just about every tackle that mattered and, while Blake postured at one end of the field, Ostensiad and the willing Beattie ran themselves into exhausted substitution at the other.

Oakley, thanks to Palmer's inventive backheel, coolly dispatched Southampton's first goal and Bosham, Ostensiad's replacement, gleefully punished Daily's error for the second. Blake and Daily cost around £10 million between them while Kevin Davies, Blackburn's £7.5 million recruit from Southampton,

looked suitably forlorn on the substitutes' bench and predictably short of confidence once he had come off it, volleying embarrassingly wide with one effort and heading another, much clearer, opportunity past the same post. Southampton's goalscorers cost not a penny between them and there are a few conclusions that will be drawn from that comparison.

Outfought while not outplayed, Blackburn were also outshone by the Southampton supporters who trekked north buoyed by the illogical

optimism that drives those condemned to fight an unequal battle. Like Hodgson, their own manager was appointed in the summer of 1997, but they had not enjoyed a dalliance with the Uefa Cup this season and for all that Blackburn have declined, no fans in the country had put up to the sort of start that Southampton made to this campaign.

Unaware as they were of Hodgson's fate, they said they had never been tempted to turn on Jones, even when Southampton lost their first five league fixtures.

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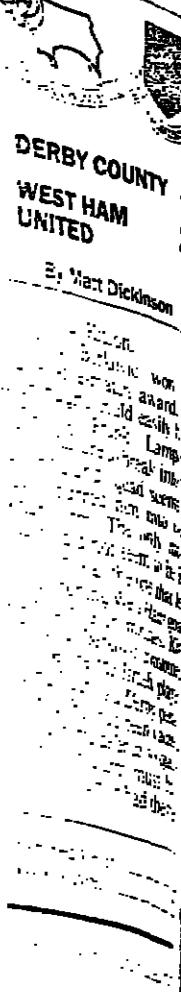
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**n fails to
de anger
Redknapp**



DERBY COUNTY
WEST HAM UNITED

By Matt Dickinson

THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 23 1998

Coventry fail to handle spirited display

**MIDDLESBROUGH 2
COVENTRY CITY 0**

By George Caulkin

THE scale of their ambition has seldom been doubted, their talent rarely questioned. Their financial muscle has been the source of sneering envy, their purpose-built home perused with awe. What Middlesbrough have found harder to deflect over the past few extraordinary seasons is that the overall effect has resembled a jumble, thrown together haphazardly. Not any longer.

If the glamour-strewn, bickering days of Fabrizio Ravanelli are consigned to the past, the club now possesses something far less tangible but much more rewarding: something that costs nothing yet, simultaneously, is utterly priceless. It has brought 26 unbeaten matches at the Riverside Stadium and leaves qualification for European football an unspoken, but realistic target.

This elusive quality, otherwise known as team spirit, can best be explained through the words of Andy Townsend, who, at the advanced age of 25 and approaching the butt-end of his playing days, continues to tear about the midfield like a man possessed, inspiring and inspired by those around him. "I want to be involved at this club until I get the blindfold and bullet," he said.

Judging from the substance that now backs Middlesbrough's recent transformation, Townsend's thinking is eminently sound. Leaving Aston Villa for a lower division 14 months ago may have appeared to be the first downward step in a proud career, slowly going to seed. Instead, he has levelled out impressive-



Ricard: scored second goal

ly in a team lacking prima donnas, but now boasting a core. "We've got a long way to go before people can start putting us there with the very best, but we've got a lot of honest lads here," Townsend said. "It's great at my age to be surrounded by guys who have such great spirit and enthusiasm. I might moan from time to time on the training ground, but I genuinely love my football, especially at a club with so much ambition and a desire to be something."

As Gordon Strachan, the Coventry City manager, could no doubt advise, there can be little room for complacency on Middlesbrough's behalf. Year on year, a shared common bond has been Coventry's saviour, but even that appears a matter of wistful memory.

The same XI that beat Everton 3-0 the previous week succumbed tamely on Saturday. It relegated Strachan to a figure of eye-bulging, vein-popping discontent, whose post-match comments bordered on the lunatic. Amid the one-word answers, baffling diaatribes and muttered monologues, his assessment that "the better team won" was a beacon of accuracy.

For the quality of Middlesbrough's goals, for their spirit, they deserved their win. The first was delivered by one of the most consistent left feet in the FA Carling Premiership, that of Dean Gordon. The wing back, from 25 yards. The second brought Hamilton Ricard his twelfth goal of the season. What shone through was their effort, tenacity and togetherness.

MIDDLESBROUGH 2-0 COVENTRY CITY

Referee: G Wilson



Fowler, the Liverpool striker, roars his delight after scoring one of his three goals against the league leaders at Villa Park on Saturday. Photograph: Ben Radford/Allsport

Gregory takes heart from fighting show

**ASTON VILLA 2
LIVERPOOL 2**

by Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

ly abusing Collymore last year, looked more grotesque with every replay. The instinctive reaction to a bad tackle from Michael Owen was more understandable but still deserving of punishment.

Yet Gregory refused to let even that misdemeanour, Villa's first dismissal of the season, frown his brow. If Collymore had acted excessively, he said, he would consider fining him, but as voices all around urged him to condemn Collymore, to blame him for letting the side down, the Villa manager demurred.

Collymore, who endured such a troubled summer, had spoken only on Saturday morning about trying to turn over a new leaf, about working his way back from the bottom. Saturday was a setback in that process, a lapse, a loss of temper and control, but Collymore's desire to reform is genuine and should be persevered with. Gregory, at least, was not for a moment.

"I'm not going to be negative about Stan's sending-off," he said. "Stan has had a bit of a history of under-achieving, but I am just pleased that he has been such a big influence in helping this club to get to the position it is in at the moment. I hope today is

will clear off to wherever. But he has fought his way through it and he has made a series of valuable contributions this season.

"The first thing he did when I walked into the dressing-room was apologise to me for the sending-off. That says a lot about him. I don't think he would have done that nine months ago. He thought he had let the boys down, but I don't think he did.

"Referees are judging him before they step on the bridge. They let Michael Owen get away with things because he has got an innocent baby-face. I still think Stan is somewhat pre-judged before he walks out on to the pitch."

There were some at Villa Park who suggested that Collymore's sending-off would be the last straw for Gregory, that he is only playing him to keep him in the shop window anyway and that he wants to play Dion Dublin and Paul Merson in attack. How they react will determine just how long they can stay at the top.

ASTON VILLA 0-2 Middlesbrough — U Emegwali, G Souness, S Watson (sub: G Charles, 80min), L Hendrie (sub: A Dyer, 60), A Thompson, 51; P Oakes (sub: J Johnson, 70), C Oates, D Dubois

LIVERPOOL 0-2 James — J Carragher, P Balotelli, S Staunton, V Heggen, D Redknapp, P Jones, P Berger (sub: S Dicks, 70), S Cole, S Agius, S Lampard, 12; R Fowler, M Owen (sub: K Rees, 33)

Referee: P Jones

just a hiccup in his career because, up to now, he has worked very hard on the pitch.

"I just have to be honest with him. I am not wrapping him up in cotton wool. I am trying to get the best out of him in every way I know how. He has had to face the harsh realities of life as it is during the pre-season and I have been very pleased with the way he has reacted."

"A lesser man could have thrown it all in and said: 'I don't really need this hassle, tear up my contract and I'

is warming to Collymore the more he sees of him.

Anyway, Merson looked at his inspired best playing in an advanced midfield role. One sublime cross with the outside of his right foot presented

Collymore with an easy chance to get Villa back into the game five minutes before half-time, but he headed it wide from six yards out.

By then, Collymore had already been upstaged by his old Anfield sparring partner. Fowler, still working his way back to full fitness after a long recovery from a knee ligament injury, looked as sharp as he ever has in the Liverpool attack and he lacerated a Villa defence that had looked as though it might never bleed.

After Paul Ince had opened the scoring for Liverpool in the third minute, Fowler headed Redknapp's cross powerfully past Oakes four minutes later. Early in the second half, after Dublin had continued his remarkable run of scoring to reduce the deficit, Fowler arrowed a left-foot shot into the bottom corner of the Villa net from 25 yards to put Liverpool 3-1 up.

Midway through the half, Collymore provided Dublin with a simple second, but Fowler sealed the game for Liverpool in the 66th minute, pulling away from Barry, taking a cross from Redknapp on his chest and stroking it casually past Oakes for his hat-trick.

BARRY, so impressive all season, looked a callow novice yesterday. Hendrie was comprehensively outplayed by Redknapp, Dublin missed a penalty. For once, all the fingers were pointing at the league leaders. How they react will determine just how long they can stay at the top.

ASTON VILLA 0-2 Middlesbrough — U Emegwali, G Souness, S Watson (sub: G Charles, 80min), L Hendrie (sub: A Dyer, 60), A Thompson, 51; P Oakes (sub: J Johnson, 70), C Oates, D Dubois

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Referee: P Jones

O'Leary revives the style of the Seventies

**LEEDS UNITED 2
CHARLTON ATHLETIC 1**

By Peter Robinson

ARSENAL was the blueprint, no question. George Graham arrived in Yorkshire intent on recreating the glory days at Highbury, the championships, the cups, the old ones. The formula was a proven success and, if it was not lovely to look at, well, this was Leeds United, they hadn't been lovely to look at since Tony Currie. Not a problem.

He was halfway there, too. The defence had been largely sorted out and good young players were coming through, ready, perhaps, in a season or two for the hurly-burly of the FA Carling Premiership. He always did like having his own youngsters in a team, players who had been brought up in the "Arsenal" way, the likes of Adams, Rocastle, Thomas and Merson. It was bubbling nicely—and then he left.

In his wake, a transformation has taken place. Arsenal is still the basic design, but no longer the relentless model that Graham played in or managed. This Leeds is being recreated in the image of the sparkling side of the late Seventies, the Liam Brady bunch. Please, a round of applause for David O'Leary, Graham's heir as manager at Elland Road.

No longer do players need to be battle-ready before making their debuts; O'Leary took his Arsenal bow at 17 and is an advocate, as well as a product, of the "chuck 'em in if they're good enough" school. He spent last season badgering Graham to include more youth-team players in the first team; now he is doing it himself. Not only that, he is tailoring the first team to suit them, not the other



Brady: dominant

way around — Harry Kewell, the Australian prodigy, has a licence to dribble almost at will, Lee Bowyer is getting forward more—and it is paying off.

The lads were scrambling over each other to make the headlines on Saturday. Saturday, 21, was foot-perfected in midfield, an England candidate scoring against his former club, Kewell, 19, ran riot. Alan Smith, 18, youth-team product and local boy made good, who scored with his first touch on his debut at Liverpool a week earlier, scored again shortly after coming on as a substitute.

Hasselbaink was the only goal of the first half; a messy affair overshadowed by a fine save by Martyn that denied Tiler an equaliser. Bowyer, after the break, was a better effort, set up by Kewell's pass and given a cute finish. The Charlton Athletic reply, from Mortimer, was better still, a stunning, improbable drive from a tight angle on the left.

Yet hope of a Charlton revival was squashed after barely a minute when Smith finished a flawless move, begun by Kewell, featuring his own dummy and a back-heel by Hasselbaink before a firm drive into the bottom corner. Kewell punished the Charlton offside trap before the end, Bowyer returning the compliment to put him through to leave Ilic diving one way while he danced the other.

It was O'Leary said later, a good day for Leeds. He also emphasised that there will be harder ones in the future, when young legs will be tired and people will talk about learning curves, but the foundations have been laid.

LEEDS UNITED 2-1 CHARLTON ATHLETIC

Referee: R Jones

Sulky Arsenal display no stomach for battle

**WIMBLEDON 1
ARSENAL 0**

By Matt Dickinson

but, if the young Frenchman was trying to do it all by himself, it was understandable, given his team-mates' lack of penetration. The shortage of goals, as Wenger pointed out, is a collective problem. Marc Overmars was a disappointment and while his manager cited a tough game for Holland against Germany three days earlier in his defence, he has yet to discover his 12 league goals last season.

While Arsenal were out of sorts, nothing should detract from the vigour of Wimbledon's display, which was as impressive as it was unexpected after their previous defeat at Chelsea, when they had lost without a whimper of protest.

The selection of Jason Euell in central midfield added some young legs and their 7th/8th goal was a beauty. Michael Hughes turned near the touchline to beat two defenders and then drove a fierce cross that eventually fell to Elfan Ekoku to finish.

Arsenal could not complain about a result that compounded a miserable afternoon. The club are encouraging their fans to arrive early on Wednesday. Given the injury problems, they might be advised to bring their boots as well.

WIMBLEDON 1-0 ARSENAL

Referee: M Riley

Strolling United pay for smug approach

**SWFC 1
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 1**

By Russell Kempson

however, it might be wise that he bring forward the deadline. Catching Alexandersson's shot was easy, hanging on to it was not and he comically juggled the ball over the goaline.

Cole equalised with a delightful finish after exchanging passes with Yorke, but United's resurgence was short-lived. After Irwin should have been awarded a penalty, when he was brought down by Alexandersson, they even resorted to foul means. Stark nodded on Beckham's corner and Scholes palmed it into the net. Maradona might have got away with it, but Scholes did not and was rightly cautioned. There ended the United flurry. Whereas Wednesday snapped at heels and gradually grew in stature, United ambled around in the belief that it would all come good.

Only after Jonk had crashed in an effort from close range, after Schmeichel had saved from Booth, and Alexandersson applied the coup de grace, after nearly evading Schmeichel, did United's strolling minstrels realise that action might be called for. It was too late anyway, with Keane's petulant discarding of his captain's armband on to the ground, after he was replaced by Solskjær near the end, providing a fitting epiphany.

Up until the weekend, United appeared to have struck the right balance. Two defeats in 21 league and cup matches this season — both against Arsenal, in the league and FA Charity Shield, and both 3-0 — were no more than gnarly bites. Wednesday had not won in six attempts and, even allowing for their Hillsborough hold over United, who had won only once on their previous eight league visits, they should have provided fodder for the Mancunian cannon.

From early on, though, United were a pale version of their usually authoritative, vibrant selves. Schmeichel only recently announced his decision to retire at the end of the season but, after his fourteenth-minute

Referee: R Jones

Referee: R Jones

Rob Hughes talks to the man hoping the English connection will save his beloved club

Antwerp united in battle for survival

It is Saturday night at Royal Antwerp, the club that Manchester United has chosen to become its twin on the Continent. The temperature is -5C and 3,000 souls are scattered around a stadium built more than 75 years ago to accommodate 60,000 spectators. The "Great Old", as the club is known, is like many of its Belgian counterparts, looking to a foreign liaison for the breath of life.

Just minutes into the second division game against Maasland, inspiration arrives. Sandro da Silva, a Brazilian, opens up midfield; Danny Higginbotham, an English youth, powers down the left and crosses the ball crisply for Bimbo Fatokun Lare, a Nigerian, to head Antwerp's first goal. Later, Higginbotham, the pioneer of young United reserves on loan, advances again from left back to round the goalkeeper and, with a shake of his hips, scores the second and decisive goal. Antwerp, 2-1 winners, have stretched their victory roll to five games since Higginbotham joined the legion of eight nationalities on hire to this once-proud club.

Antwerp representatives will be at Old Trafford and The Cliff training ground this week to begin cherry-picking possibly three more United starlets to help the club's push back Belgian premier division football. Survival depends on it, a fact that is close to the heart of Eddy Wauters, 65, who played right back for the club at 15, played for his country and now, 50 years into his love affair with Antwerp, is a president who feels that he is invoking the oldest link in international football; Antwerp and the English.

The club was formed in 1890 by English students. They were in a foreign land and could not do without their football. Their missionary work spread our sport to this place, initially as Antwerp Football and Cricket Club. Maintaining the Englishness of the tide is just one act of defiance, which is typical of Wauters. He is one of the leading bankers in Belgium and sits in a glasshouse, an executive box beyond any in the United Kingdom. It seats in heated comfort as many as 800 business-class supporters, each well-fed and watered and each in a red armchair. To either side, the Red Army Antwerp fanatics, looking as cold as icicles,

are chanting songs that are piped through to this executive glasshouse; little do they know that their president, who many of them blame for the club suffering relegation last season, is leaping up and down with every emotion that they feel.

At the far end of the ground, there is nothing, a black hole where the club attempted to demolish one of their cracking wooden stands and then ran out of money and ran out of faith with the mayor of Antwerp.

Photographs:
Suzanne Hubbard

Wauters and his business associates are thus staring oblivion in the face. It is ironic that Belgium, the homeland of Jean-Marie Bosman, whose appeal to the European courts won freedom of contract for all players on the Continent, feels destroyed by the ramifications of his victory.

"I feel perhaps halfway to despair," Wauters said, "but we knew this would happen. It will be the death of football unless clubs like ours can have the kind of cooperation which we are embarking on with Manchester United. You are sitting tonight in a country surrounded by four or five big foot-

ball nations, with open borders, with our best young players inevitably going abroad. We cannot cope."

"In England, for example, our clubs enjoy television rights that are 22 times what is available in Belgium and when our supporters say that Wauters has bought this bad player and that, I can only say, as a banker and as a football man, that, with our resources, sometimes those are the only players available to us. How can you buy a Rolls-Royce with £1,000,000? If you have to, you buy a Volkswagen."

The "memorandum of corporation" between the world's most prosperous club and Antwerp is one of six that other Belgian clubs are seeking with their European neighbours. The game is contracting and such deals are the only thing between minor clubs and oblivion. The De Bosuil stadium was granted royal status by King Albert I in 1920 and it has still a cava-

lens destroyed by the ramifications of his victory.

Wauters is not entirely loved or respected in his homeland. He was briefly jailed in 1984 after a bribery scandal that touched all of Belgium's leading clubs and yet, clinging to ethics that are English and, so many say, are outmoded, he insists that, as a respected banker, he cannot allow Antwerp to suc-

cumb to more endemic corruption, and that he is pained at the club's plight.

"Bosman is the reason for our relegation," Wauters said, "but there were certain things that I wouldn't do to save our status."

These include, he insists, rejecting offers from shadowy figures to "ar-

range" favourable results last season. They include, he says, rejecting the idea of paying journalists "something in an envelope" to turn blind eyes to things happening in the Belgian league — and Wauters is also president of the professional league. He says not a penny has been discussed between Antwerp

and Manchester United at the moment. The player-swapping agreement, first mooted between himself, Martin Edwards, Alex Ferguson and Maurice Watkins two years ago, is beneficial to both sides. It means coaches, as well as players, crossing the Channel; it means full access to the scouting system for which Belgians are renowned, a system that in the past has procured teenagers, sometimes as young as 15, from Africa and from Latin America.

However, the assumption that United are seeking to circumvent British labour laws, to outwit the opposition of Fifa, the game's governing body, Uefa, the European football union, and the Professional Footballers' Association, is according to Antwerp, premature.

Belgian laws have tightened against adolescent recruitment — yet, if an embryonic Ronaldo is spotted in Brazil, he could indeed be "parked" at Royal Antwerp, qualify for citizenship in two years and be transferred to United.

That is the future; apparently, journalists are ahead of the two participating clubs in seeing it.

The present? Wauters would be happy indeed if the two-way process between his club and United can cut out the middle-man:

agents, he says, were the reason that he had to lose the nucleus of the team that played in the Cup

final at Wembley just five years ago. Four of that team — Rudy Smids, Francis Verheyen, Hans-Peter Lehnhoff and Alex Czerniawski — formed a clique with their manager to try to extort more money from the club; Wauters sold them.

He is called cantankerous and even more unpleasant things at home. He knows it and he said: "My office as president is open to anyone who can come and do a better job. Next year, I hope to complete my half-century with Royal Antwerp and my mission is to save the club, to turn it around. There are many against me, but that is why I stay."

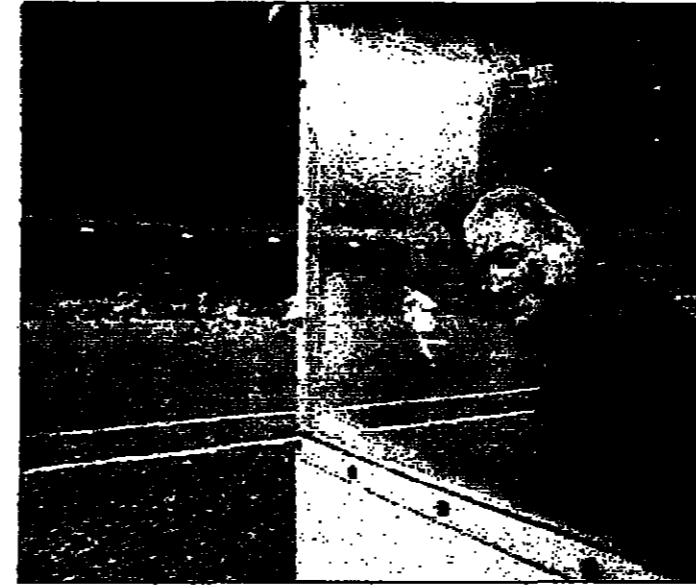
He pays the entire compliment of Antwerp players around £1.5 million, including bonuses, in a year. He hears that David Beckham received £8.5 million from all sources last year. "There you have it," Wauters said. "Some things that have come through football and through the imposition of the European Parliament, are not fair or manageable. They lack human intelligence."



Higginbotham, right, the Manchester United reserve on loan to Royal Antwerp, celebrates his winning goal with his team-mates



Barely 3,000 supporters attend home matches in a stadium built for 60,000, but Wauters, right, is confident of better times ahead



TENNIS: ABSENCE OF BIG TWO CLEARS PATH TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

Sapsford counts his blessings after claiming elusive title

BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

AN UNINSPIRING British national championships came to a close in Telford yesterday with precious few signs for optimism below the standard set by Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski.

Danny Sapsford, 29, will long remember his 6-4, 2-6, 7-5 triumph over Nick Weal in the men's singles final, which claimed his first triumph in this event. For British tennis, however, the victory of a near-veteran over Weal, himself a part-time player, demonstrated just how shallow is the pool of talent behind the trailblazing duo.

Sapsford has effectively abandoned his singles career to concentrate on doubles, where lesser competition — allied to handsome paycheques for first-round losses on the ATP Tour — enable him to make a living. Sapsford said of the £9,000 that he banked at Telford: "I have had cheques of this size in the past, but they came at Wimbledon. There are not many jobs in which you can earn £9,000 in a week."

Weal, 25, has not played outside Great Britain this year.

from an early break in the deciding set to triumph after more than two hours of a struggle that both players were understandably anxious to win.

The absence of Henman and Rusedski prompted Sapsford to return from South America, where he was playing doubles on clay, to take his chance. It was to prove a popular victory. Sapsford having served British tennis in a supporting role for more than a decade.

The Surrey-based player, beaten in three sets by Henman in the semi-finals last year, had earlier accounted for the flush of youth in his semi-final on Saturday, when he outclassed Mark Hilton, the national 18-and-under champion, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

A wild-card entrant, Hilton, 17, threatened to write his own headlines before Sapsford stopped him in his tracks, thereby emphasising how much progress Hilton must make to figure on the world stage. Nevertheless, Hilton, from Cheshire, played his part in the dispersal of leading

seeds on the way to the semi-final.

The women's event produced the final envisaged by the seeding committee when Sam Smith met Julie Pullin on Saturday. However, the verdict went to Pullin, seeded No 2, who fended off five match points and a 5-1 deficit in the deciding set to prevail 6-7, 6-2, 7-6.

The fact that the contest was punctuated by 16 service breaks exposed the lack of quality in a match that sealed Pullin's second national championships victory in three years. At least the winner's resilience shone through.

Pullin, from Sussex, said that she was anxious to gauge her progress against that of Smith, whose world ranking rose to No 50 after a triumphant grass-court summer. Although Smith, 26, refused to cite a longstanding ankle injury for her defeat, British tennis aficionados must hope that the offending joint has been largely responsible for Smith's failure to win a single main-draw match on the WTA Tour since she reached the fourth round at Wimbledon in July.



Pullin: second triumph

Injury woe for resurgent Graf

FROM ALIX RAMSAY
IN NEW YORK

ANOTHER tournament — another injury for Steffi Graf. Life on the tennis circuit is becoming frustratingly and painfully predictable. When she is fit, she can still beat anyone, but staying fit is becoming increasingly difficult. Playing Lindsay Davenport for a place in the final of the Chase Championships, she reached for a backhand and suddenly felt a sharp pain in her right hamstring. As experienced in taking injury breaks as she is in winning titles, Graf knew that she was in trouble and, from there, the contest was effectively over. Davenport winning 6-1, 2-6, 6-3.

On the long list of injuries that constitutes Graf's career, hamstrings do not feature large, but the last time it happened was also against Davenport and also in the third set of a semi-final, that time in Indian Wells in March. Then she was still in the early stages of her comeback and the frustration was plain to see. This time, in her twelfth tournament of the year and having forced her ranking back into the top ten with two consecutive titles leading

into this event, she was in a much better frame of mind.

It had not been a great match by any means. Winning in Leipzig and Philadelphia had taken more out of Graf than she had realised while Davenport was struggling to get her mind and her game working in unison. "I don't think the quality was very good," Graf said. "I really had difficulties getting myself involved in the match and we both committed a lot of forced errors." As for the injury, she was resigned to another setback. "Sure it's disappointing, but there is nothing you can do about it, that's the way it is," she said. It was a missed opportunity for Graf. After a miserable first set, she worked herself back into the match in the second and was beginning to take command in the third, but beating the No 1 player in the world on one leg was beyond even her capabilities. Graf has little time to recuperate, with a heavy schedule of promotional work and exhibition matches planned in the coming weeks. That leaves little time to prepare for the start of the new season in January and, just to add insult to injury, thinking she had no chance to qualify for this event, she had booked a holiday in the Caribbean for this week and had to miss that as well.

Davenport, too, is not the fittest of contenders going into the final. She has blisters on both feet and, playing in the doubles final on Saturday, had to have treatment for an injury to her racket arm. That was just the news that Martina Hingis was hoping for. She was not playing well against Irina Spirlea in the other semi-final, but was relieved when Spirlea managed to play even worse and let her off the hook in the second set, Hingis going through 6-2, 7-6. There has not been much this year that has focused Hingis's attention, but the thought of proving a point to Davenport, who swiped her No 1 ranking last month, may just do the trick.

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BOXING

Woodhall offers target for Starie

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

DAVID STARIE has his sights on challenging for a world championship after two more contests. In his sights is opponent is Richie Woodhall, the World Boxing Council super-middleweight champion.

After his eleventh-round stoppage victory over Ali Forbes on Saturday, when Starie regained the British super-middleweight title to add to his Commonwealth belt, Gordon Holmes, his manager, said that he expected his man to box in a big event late next year.

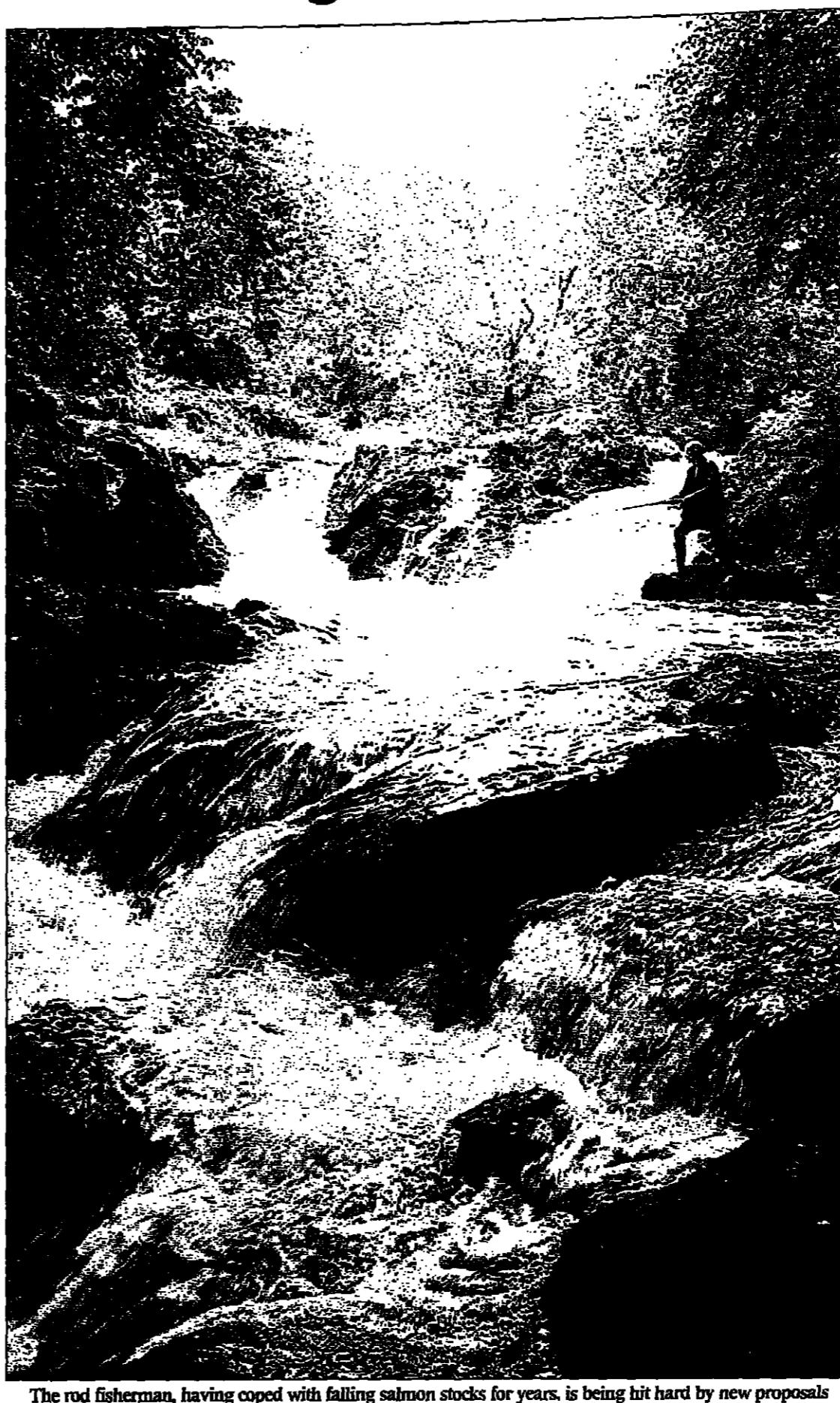
Holmes added that, after winning the Lonsdale Belt outright with one more defence of the British title and then a second defence of his Commonwealth title, he would be seeking a world crown.

While Holmes was even prepared to challenge Joe Calzaghe, the World Boxing Organisation title-holder and arguably the best super-middleweight in the world, the most likely opponent was Woodhall, who is more suited to Starie's style.

Even if Forbes was not the most difficult of opponents, the manner of Starie's victory was impressive. The double champion lifted the pace in the later stages and Forbes, who is 37, began to tire. A combination of punches proved to be too much for the older man, who dropped to the canvas and Roy Francis, the referee, stepped in to call a halt.

Stephen Smith, of Camden Town, won a hard contest at lightweight against Anthony Maynard, of Birmingham, and now wants to challenge Billy Schwer for the European title. However, as Schwer is expected to vacate the title after a defence early next year, Smith's most likely opponent is Bobby Vanzie, the British champion, from Bradford.

Philip Ndou, the South African featherweight, of whom great things are expected, suffered his first defeat in 11 contests when he was counted out in the third round against Anthony Campbell. Campbell, a light-welterweight, was a late substitute for Dean Phillips.



The rod fisherman, having coped with falling salmon stocks for years, is being hit hard by new proposals

BASKETBALL
McCord takes deserved break

By NICHOLAS HARLING

OF ALL the American players flying home this week, while the best Englishmen concentrate on their international programme in the European qualifying round, none surely deserves his mid-season break more than John McCord.

McCord's latest contribution to the successes of Thames Valley Tigers in league and cup was 29 points in the 90-80 Budweiser League victory over Birmingham Bullets in the National Exhibition Centre on Saturday, when the visitors avenged a recent controversial defeat.

The night's rest will give the 26-year-old New Yorker a chance to recover from a painful knee injury that would have halted most players in their tracks. He had suffered the knock originally while helping the Tigers to overcome Manchester Giants in the National Cup last Wednesday.

Three days later, with the Tigers in the process of competing an impressive recovery in the NEC, McCord went crashing to the floor as he chased a rebound. He was led off for treatment, but 90sec later, he returned, to the astonishment of the crowd. "There was no way I wasn't going to get back on," he said.

From 17 points down at half-time, the Tigers swiftly made up the arrears, reducing Nigel Lloyd, their former player, to an all-ran in the back court. Earlier, the Barbadian had threatened to win the match on his own, but when McCord and Jason Seaman started to seize the rebounds, the game was transformed.

Elsewhere, the action revolved around the group games of the uni-ball trophy. Two of the games went to overtime, London Town eventually accounting for Newcastle Eagles 86-82, despite 33 points from Ralph Blakelock for the Eagles. Manchester Giants, the Budweiser League leaders, were surprisingly taken to two periods of overtime by Worthing Bears, who eventually succumbed 130-123. John White accumulated 47 points for the Giants and Tony Holley 42.

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THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

SAILING: MACARTHUR'S HAND-CRAFT BOOSTS HER CHANCES OF A TOP-FIVE FINISH

Kingfisher spreads her wings

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

A WEEKEND of drama in the Route du Rhum Race has left Ellen MacArthur, of Great Britain, in Kingfisher, in a strong position to claim fifth place overall in the monohull fleet as she begins the last thousand miles to the finish at Guadeloupe.

The leading monohulls were enjoying powerful downwind conditions on Saturday with even Kingfisher, the lone Open 50 amongst the 60s, managing to average around 14 knots. However, the conditions got the better of Catherine Chabaud, of France, whose excellent first race in her brand new 60, Whirlpool Europe 2, came to an abrupt end when her rig failed.

Chabaud's mast broke at the third spread as she was holding third place behind Jean Luc van den Heede, in Aligomous, in second place, and Thomas Cuville, in Aquitaine Innovations, in the lead.



MacArthur: working hard

was 70 miles in front two days ago but now leads by just 20 miles. MacArthur's nearest rival in Class 2 is now almost 300 miles astern of Kingfisher, nearly double the distance that separated the two boats for most of last week.

In a despatch yesterday, she described how she managed to alter the angle of the canting keel without the use of the hydraulic system, which normally works it from one side of the boat to the other. "I decided that if I could get the keel in the middle, then I could work it to get it to one side," she said. "It is a complicated and delicate procedure of moving the keel one degree at a time and draining off the 'back fluid' into a container, then replacing it in the reservoir. Four hours later, I now have a keel which is very much 'canted', only halfway, but enough to make a world of difference to Kingfisher's motion."

HOCKEY: CANTERBURY HIT TOP SPOT AS IPSWICH OVERCOME THE CHAMPIONS

Winning formula sinks Southgate

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

CANNON BROKE Southgate's winning sequence by defeating them 2-0 at home yesterday in the National League premier division. By the time that Southgate had beaten Brooklands 3-2 on Saturday, they had extended their run of victories to six, but were soon halted in their tracks.

"The key factor in our success was the pace we set," Martin Gilhooly, the Cannock manager, said. "Added to that was our dexterity in parting with the ball at the right time."

The match was only nine minutes old when Crutchley scored from Takher's cross-pass and he added the second goal 15 minutes later.

Southgate counter-attacked vigorously, but could not find their rhythm and the five-minute suspension of Simons did not help. At the start of the second half, Southgate forced two short corners, but Wil-

liams, their full back, could not undermine the confidence of Lewis in goal. After that, it was merely a matter of Cannock holding on.

Canterbury's 4-1 victory over Reading took them to the top of the table. Cannock slotting into third behind Southgate. It was a disappointing weekend for Reading, who drew 3-2 on Saturday against Beeston after Keegan converted a late short corner.

Stott Smith scored four goals on Saturday for Old Loughorians in a 6-3 home win over Guildford. Thompson and Ingram adding the remaining goals. Guildford responded with a goal by Savage and two from Hall.

On the same day, East Grinstead earned their first points of the season by defeating Teddington 6-4, with Cabay and Collins each scoring twice for the winning side.

VICKI SANDALL, the Ipswich forward, scored a goal in each half to inspire her team to a 2-1 victory over Slough and inflict upon the champions their first defeat in the women's National League premier division for 20 months.

In a season in which the play-off system has been introduced for the top four clubs, Slough's setback may not be crucial in the long run, but Sue Chandler, their captain, admitted that the unbeaten leaders deserved their triumph in a physical contest.

Sandall, 23, is benefiting not only from the coaching of Nick Thompson at Ipswich, but also a recent call-up to a regional academy. She says that Thompson has instilled confidence in her play and that she is committed to extra training to earn a place in the England team.

New pitch
polo fresh

Woodhall offers target for Starie

By STEPHEN MARK STEPHEN
BIRMINGHAM CORRESPONDENT

THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 23 1998

Clutch has different meaning in Swaugh-Healy

Allan Border called it a tickler. Americans call those who have it a clutch players. Henry V called it stomach for the fight. Either way, it is perhaps the crucial issue in sport. That is to say, the relationship between ability and results. Sport is a complex, shifting and highly-public examination of different manifestations of courage.

Watching the first night's play between England and Australia, the first exchanges of an Ashes series being particularly fraught with meaning, I watched the splendid start made by England. And I wrote in my notebook as I watched — and long before the pair actually came together to

bat — the words Swaugh/Healy, Swaugh being Steve Waugh, Healy being Ian.

There was something about the situation that was entirely made for them. I claim no exceptional perceptiveness for this: every English person who has watched an England v Australia Test match in recent years will have felt the same thing. Healy may not be the best batsman, but he is tremendously long on tickler, or heart, or stomach for the fight. He is a clutch player. As for Swaugh, in the clutch he is a nonpareil.

He inspires admiration rather than affection in non-Australians. Seeing him get out is one of the great pleasures of cricket; something to do with

rarity value. It has an exceptional rarity on the occasions when it really matters.

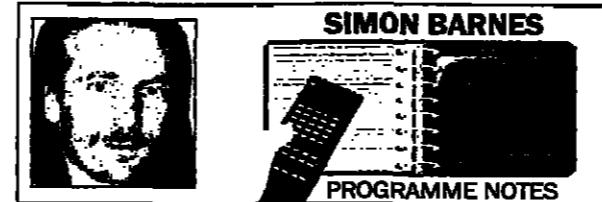
Cricket statisticians have yet to come up with a formula that measures tickler, a Richter scale that gives an instant read-out of stomach for the fight. Swaugh would lead the world if we could find a Duckworth-Lewis Formula for the best batsman, but he is probably not the best batsman, but he is tremen-

dously long on tickler, or heart, or stomach for the fight.

It is a fact that some play-

ers find each other inspiring;

others seem to detract from



SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

each other. Mark Nicholas, who heads the Sky team and will soon be leading the lads out when Test cricket goes to Channel Four, has a knack of hitting cricketers' nails on the heads. It was he told, the sixth century partnership between these two: "And you can bet," he said, "they have all been in important situations." The Swaugh-Healy rating for combined courage is off the

scale. If it was predictable that these two would turn England's good start into a potential winning position for Australia, it was equally inevitable that one of the Australian bowlers would play the innings of his life. There is a terrible lack of steel about England cricket teams, a desperate lack of corporate tickler.

Damien Fleming, 71. It is

worse, watching such an in-

nings on highlights: nothing but clobbered fours and expressions of disbelief and dismay as that terrible did-you-see-what-God-just-did feeling sweeps through the side.

Helpless. Lacking a player who can turn this dreadful reality on its head. Lacking stomach for the fight. Oh, we have seen it all before and we know what follows as night follows day. Mike Atherton, the one unquestioned card-carrying tickler-donor in the England team, gets out cheaply and the rest of the team falls like the House of the Usher.

And as for Mark Butcher, well, I wouldn't have had him in the side. With nine runs in five innings after having his bell rung — an American ex-

wickets. Experts talk about a wicket being "two-paced". England always play on one of those against Australia: a gorgeous batting track when Australia bat; a lethal snakepit when Australia bowl.

This routine transformation seemed inevitable after the efforts of the two clutch players among the Australia batsmen and Fleming's ritual dancing on the grave. It seemed doubly so after Atherton went.

And it didn't happen. England found a clutch player who wasn't Atherton. Wonderful: the follow-on avoided as if it were nothing to worry a serious cricket team. One restart does not make a winner, but Butcher will remember the deeds he did that day.

'It seemed only a matter of time before the ref performed the handshakes for Y-M-C-A'

Players offer no more than vain gestures

It is quite natural, I should think, that a stranger to the rules of rugby should turn to the referee for enlightenment. The match between England and Italy at Huddersfield yesterday was baffling enough in concept anyway, since despite being a "qualification" game, it didn't seem to matter much who won it.

"It is a World Cup qualifier," people kept telling me and I thought: "Well, I went to one of those in Rome. Similarly England v Italy. Cracking match. It had banon charges and was the most dramatic night of football I have ever seen." Lots at stake at Huddersfield, then, I supposed. Paul Ince had been covered in blood. "Oh no, not really," was the baffling replay. Both England and Italy would definitely be in the 1999 rugby union World Cup, whatever the outcome. Luckily for us, as it turned out, England would qualify however abysmally they played, too.

On the other hand, for the newcomer there was lots of entertainment value in gawping in disbelief at the beefy Italians ("They're never Italian! Look at those thighs!") and watching Didier Mené, the skinny French referee, deliver strange decisions in the form of internationally recognised gestures.

These included the sign for "look at this terrible rash I've developed" (sweeping the back of the right hand up and down the upper left arm) and the gesture for releasing doves to freedom ("fly my little ones"). It was like watching Marcel Marceau. "He's really irritating the players," someone told me. Which was a relief because he was really irritating me, as well. He did "Here's the church and here's the steeple" once, I swear. It seemed only a matter of time before he performed the internationally recognised handshakes for Y-M-C-A.

Funnily enough, though, even when you don't understand the decisions, you can see when your national side is not covering itself in glory. I wondered whether it would have been the same story (or worse) if the game had taken place at Twickenham, where you

might expect a few Italian supporters to turn up.

Industrial West Yorkshire is not famous for its Latin quarters and I suspected a conspiracy to rig the crowd. Yet, despite a 100 per cent England support, this game flowed like a tray of porridge. There were 47 penalties. The ball was dropped a lot and badly passed and there was no England try until the 42nd minute. "Booch of amateurs!" was shouted from the crowd. And every time I looked at the ref for explanation he was miming "Oops I dropped my tray" or "Stir and leave for five

minutes while you get on with the filling".

"We did a lot of basic things wrong," Clive Woodward, the England coach, said afterwards. "We won because we were lucky. The Italians played well." He said they hadn't underestimated the Italians — although such a mistake might have been forgivable, I thought. If one's natural reaction on hearing that England are playing Italy at football is to crouch and whimper in a foetal position, the same countries playing rugby make one expand one's proud Anglo-Saxon chest and laugh.

Even knowing that Italy was the sixth nation in the new Six Nations Championship did not shift my

shameful presupposition that they would be somewhat unmanly on the pitch, all车间 toes and chestnut locks and wasp waists. Instead of which they rolled over heavy and solid on to the pitch leaving caterpillar tracks.

Not having a lot of games to compare it with, I would cheerfully assess this as the worst I've seen, because seasoned rugby chaps told me it was the worst that they had seen as well. Not enough running; that was my specific complaint. The running bits are the joy of rugby; the scrums and penalties and heaps of chaps clambering over each other like frogs in a jar — those bits are less engaging, especially when you don't know why the referee is miming "Mine's a large one" or "Land on this aircraft carrier in your own time". There were just two or three moments when a bit of running looked a possibility and I can't tell you how the spirit rose.

The crowd didn't know what to make of it. "Swing low, sweet oh what's the use," faltered the singing. A Mexican wave started and stopped abruptly, inaugurating a tradition that can be called the Mexican Lap. I hate to sound bitter, but oh, I can't help it — I was supposed to be going to Aston Villa this weekend. Instead of which I heard it on the car radio as I drove north. "What a fabulous match!" Alan Green yelled. "I can't remember a more exciting match in the Premiership. This is a match with everything!" I sniffed bravely and ignored the turn-off for Birmingham. A private grief, I know, but sometimes it helps to share.

One or two points about rugby did occur to me. First, there are far too many players on the field at once, meaning that they can't get past each other. Could this be looked into? Second, why does the same chap always take the penalty goals and conversions? Is it fair. Poor Paul Grayson does it every time and seems never to offer the chance to his team-mates. I hate to criticise, but it is beginning to look very selfish, Paul. Third, if, during lineouts, the player must be shouldered high to

make the catch, why not throw the ball lower? The danger of neck injury to the hoisting players could thus be automatically eradicated.

As it was, I saw a lot of kicked goals, which are presumably quite difficult. What was missing at the otherwise splendid McAlpine Stadium was the little motorised

buggy I saw on television

delivering the tee. Given the number of such goal kicks yesterday, I would have enjoyed that buggy, so I do urge them to get one. Anything that could add enjoyment to a dire performance like yesterday's would be extremely welcome, even if it is

only tough-tough-toys for tough-boys.

Before the next match, I must study the rules a bit. Meanwhile, it is pleasant to imagine Mr Mené getting home after a day officiating at an international. Good game, dear? Madame Mené asks. He mimes digging a hole and

jumping into it. "That man," she says, sympathetically. She strokes a finger across his throat and rolls his eyes. "Large one, dear?" she asks at last. And he makes the internationally recognised gesture for pouring an extremely large drink down one's neck and falling on the settee.



LYNNE TRUSS

PROGRAMME NOTES

minutes while you get on with the filling".

"We did a lot of basic things wrong," Clive Woodward, the England coach, said afterwards.

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and laugh.

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the sixth nation in the new Six

Nations Championship did not shift my

New pitch gives arena polo fresh dimension

BY JOHN WATSON

ARENA Polo, played in a tight, indoor compound, has been in vogue in Great Britain for many years, but last weekend it took on a new dimension. Peter Grace, the well-known New Zealand international coach — and perhaps even more famous as the father of four polo-playing girls — has opened an open-air, all-weather arena at his Ascot Park Club near Windlesham in Surrey. Copied from an

international indoor arena polo. The ground, which has an elaborate drainage system, is made of silica sand and composite recycled fibres, bonded together with resin. As well as being an all-weather stadium, the floor is gentle on ponies' legs. Holders of field polo handicaps add an extra one for purposes of the arena game.

The highlight of the matches was a three-a-side four-chukka

duel staged between a New Zealand team aggregating 19

goals on handicap and a 2½-handicap Great Britain trio.

John Horswell, who has his

own indoor arena at Epsom, is

a master of the game. Playing

back for Britain, he sent a

stream of passes up to his for-

wards, Peter Webb and Chris

Hyde, so that his side were 9-6

up by half-time. New Zealand — made up of James McLevy,

the New Zealand No 1, Tony

Keyte and Nacho Gonzalez —

enjoyed a good third chukka,

by the close of which they had

narrowed Britain's lead to

12-11, but Britain eventually

prevailed 17-16.

GREAT BRITAIN: 1 P Webb (R), 2 C Hyde

(L), 3 J Horsey (L); 2 J McLevy (R), 4 T

Keyte (R), 5 N Gonzalez (R).



Players and ponies try out the new Ascot Park polo pitch

Twin towers sentimentality

From Mr John Mason

Sir, How refreshing to read the truth about Wembley Stadium. Over the years, football fans have endured the "facilities" apparently described by Robert Elms (November 14). We all know why they have done it. It is, for many, a rare chance to see their team play in a Cup final and they would go to any lengths to be there.

However, win or lose, one never forgets the disgusting environment, poor view and the long delays on the way to and from the ground. There is nothing at all worth preserving at the current stadium, not even the Twin Towers.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MASON,
19 Victoria Drive,
Gibberdyke, Brough,
East Yorkshire HU15 2SD.

Dean mauled

From Mr Robert Carter

Sir, I had to have a wrench when I read the report of the Wasps v Leicester game (November 16), in particular Dean Richards' mention of "Wasps' only tactic", this being the driving maul from a lineout. Com-

SPORTS LETTERS

Barriers to watching county cricket in 1999

From Mr Matthew Hewitt

Sir, I noted with interest the county championship fixtures for next season, printed today (November 19) in your newspaper. As you state, "Innovations mark new season", the greatest of which (and the least noted) is the trend for starting county matches on a Wednesday.

At Surrey, where I am a member, only eight of 36 days at home in the championship are at the weekend, and six of these rely upon matches going into the fourth day. In the National League, seven out of the eight fixtures are on Sundays or on day/night (which are again being held in September, when it will be nice and cold).

Yours with an increasing sense of frustration,

MATTHEW HEWITT,
90 Denmark Road, Carshalton,
Surrey SM5 2JW.

Hemery choice

From Mr Peter McLennan

Sir, Your article on David Hemery (November 18) overlooks his success as head coach of the Track and Field teams at Boston University, Massachusetts in the 1970s and 1980s. As a former student captain at the University of Connecticut (one of his local rivals), I can suggest that he excelled in this area as well. Both the individuals and teams under his supervision were successful at the local, regional

and national levels and Hemery won the 1968 outdoor NCAA 400 metres title prior to his Olympic world-record run in that year.

While your article indicated that he had been chosen as a "safe pair of hands", I would suggest that this underrates his proven qualities as a successful performer at all levels of athletics. Surely that is what British athletics clubs have recognised by his appointment.

Yours sincerely,

PETER MCLENNAN,
p.mcconnell@ucl.ac.uk

This week in THE TIMES



FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

BUDDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham Bulldogs 80 Thames Valley Tigers 90.

	P	W	L	Pts
Manchester	15	6	9	18
Sheffield	14	8	7	17
Bury	14	4	10	16
Thomas Valley	13	9	4	20
Birmingham	14	8	6	18
London Town	11	6	5	17
Newcastle	14	6	8	18
Leopards	11	7	7	16
Cheshire	14	4	10	16
Leicester	14	4	10	16
Worthing	13	3	9	12
Milton Keynes	13	3	10	12
Edinburgh	11	1	10	2

UNBALANCE TROPHY: Pool stage. Steppe Stars, Macclesfield, London, Leopards 120; Newcastle Eagles 82; Worthing Bears 123; Manchester Giants 136; Leicester Riders 72; Chester Jets 68.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (MEN): First Division: Birmingham 70, Newcastle 62; Bristol 56; Worcester 100; Oxford 82; Solihull 73; Cardiff C 88; Stevenage 69; Teesside 73; Second division: Birmingham 65; Bristol 60; Gloucester 58; Worcester 64; Coventry 64; Gloucester 57; Birmingham 50; Third division: Doncaster 58; Ware 76; Women: First division: Nottingham 5; London Towners 12; Birmingham 52; Northants 78; Cheshire 70; Thurso 52; Valley 52; Rhondda 56; Birmingham 48; Spennithorne 56; Ipswich 51; Second division: Manchester 57; Cardiff C 68.

BOWLS

	CUP	FOURTH	ROUND	4th	5th
Bowling	20	12	12	12	12
21	17	11	11	11	11
22	18	12	12	12	12
23	19	13	13	13	13
24	20	14	14	14	14
25	21	15	15	15	15
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142	138	132	132	132	132
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146	142	136	136	136	136
147	143	137	137	137	137
148	144	138	138	138	138

THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 23 1998

Rallying round to find cash for quick fix

Kevin Eason on the enthusiasts who will be battling alongside the sport's elite over three long days

Prospective owners should hope that Paul Green finds his way safely through the forbiddingly solid trees that line the most difficult routes on the Rally of Great Britain today. The oil broker-cum-part-time rally driver has decided to put his Skoda Felicia up for sale, yet only after it has completed three tortured days of tearing through mud and gravel that could do enough damage to keep a paint shop in work for a week.

Unlike the leading manufacturer-backed teams, with their multimillion pound budgets, Green's prime objective is to get his Skoda home in one piece, guided by his wife, Stephanie. The couple are one of almost 170 entries for the hukw Q Rally of Great Britain, only a handful of which are professional drivers and navigator teams paid by the large car manufacturers and supported by elaborately equipped teams.

Most are like the Greens, simply enthusiasts who would rather rally than lie on a Caribbean beach. They are bankers or farmers, electricians and estate agents: people who have the chance of an experience they believe they could not replicate in any other sport. The Rally of Great Britain offers them the chance to line up side-by-side with the rally equivalents of Manchester United and Arsenal. They might not be equals of the besotted they have to start and

SPORT FOR ALL



finish at the same places and battle the same elements over three grueling days.

The Greens are at the basement end of the sport, but they are also its lifeblood, among thousands of people who spend their weekends on small, locally-organized rallies, with budgets that are more cider than champagne. Colin McRae's turbocharged Subaru Impreza costs around £250,000 to build; the Greens spent about £10,000 on their Skoda.

"We do it as cheaply as we can," Paul, 34, said. "We do about eight rallies a year and budget on spending about £4,000 — but we were bitten by the bug and it is such a marvellous event here at a rally on this scale. We will sell our car after the rally, which means someone else can get into the sport by buying a second-hand car that will do the job."

The Greens have a friendly local Skoda dealer, Fortune Auto Sales in Grays, Essex.

They might not be equals of the besotted they have to start and

which helps to maintain the car and provide cheap spares, but money is always a battle without a generous sponsor, as another husband and wife team have discovered.

Alyson and Innes Marlow have secured valuable sponsorship from Ordnance Survey, the rally's map providers, and Michelin, the tyre manufacturer, but their passion can turn into an annual scrap for money, particularly as they invest

in one of the icons of world rallying, a Ford Escort Cosworth.

"It cost us about £25,000," Alyson, 32, said, "but you don't have to spend that much at all. People start up spending very cheaply on cars they keep together themselves and then, for the smaller rallies, the entry fees are quite small. We started a few years ago in an old, second-hand MkII Escort and fell in love with the idea of rallying."

"We love it because — it sounds a bit silly — but it is something we can do together. Two people in a single-seater racing car would not work somehow, no matter how devoted they are. With fuel, accommodation and other things, we budget on around £8,000-a-year to do about eight rallies. It is expensive, but we would rather spend

our time doing something which has excitement and is an experience."

Like the Greens, though, avoiding expensive accidents or breakdowns is a priority,

particularly for the Marrows, who have failed to finish their past two RAC Rallies. The event last year ended spectacularly. "We were on the penultimate stage when the prop shaft went," Alyson said, "but I got a tremendous shock when it came back into the car and just missed my legs by inches. It was only afterwards I realised how dangerous it had been."

If everything does go wrong, the amateurs have to rely on their back-up teams of family and friends pulling them out of trouble and repairing damaged cars. The Marrows have Innes's son, Daniel, 17, in their support team.

Edward and Philip Pugh simply want to avoid extra expense at all cost, as they navigate their Ford KA through the mud and bullets of what is considered to be one of the toughest rallies in the world.

"We see the manufacturer teams spending money as though it didn't matter and we are trying to save every penny," Edward said. The Pughs — not related, despite the name — found sponsorship with Ferrars of Telford, a Ford dealer, and stay free at the Queen's Hotel in Cheltenham in exchange for a sticker advertising the hotel on the Ka.

Philip, an electrician, and Edward, a farmer, reckon that the expense is worth the effort of rubbing shoulders with their sporting heroes. Gwynnaf Evans, one of the leading drivers in British rallying, is a near-neighbour in Wales. "He

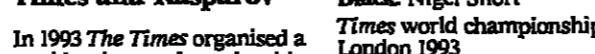
is one of the people who inspired us to have a go," Edward said. "Philip and I were schoolfriends and we grew up together just wanting to go rallying."

"Imagine taking part in a sport where you are on the same event as people you have heard about, read about or seen on television — but you are taking part just the same as them. It is a unique feeling and one that we love."

While McRae will throw caution to the wind at the head of the rally, the Pughs, Greens and Marrows are resigned to making up the numbers and trying to stay out of those trees that can smash a car to pieces.

Which is why potential purchasers of the Green's durable Skoda can be assured of one thing, in spite of its tough outing this weekend: it had one careful owner.

KEENE on CHESS



BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Times and Kasparov

In 1993 *The Times* organised a world chess championship held at the Savoy Theatre in London between Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short. *The Times* is now proud to continue the association with the world chess champion by offering ten *Times* readers a free place to compete against him in his charity chess display, to be held in December.

To take advantage of this opportunity please call 0840 678884 from the UK or 1590 122152 from outside the UK. Calls cost 60p per minute in the UK and 50p per minute outside. The line will be open from today, Monday November 23 until Saturday, December 5.

The display will take place on December 16 at the Barclay Hotel, Mayfair, when Kasparov will face 25 tables of five people. Those who call the hotline will have to answer a question and the lucky ten will be drawn from those who answer successfully.

The Times has two of the 25 tables exclusively for our readers. Two conditions apply. Nobody with an Elo rating of more than 2,000 can compete and normal *Times* conditions apply to this competition and the Editor's decision is final.

This week I will be publishing a selection of Kasparov's greatest triumphs against players such as Anatoly Karpov, Nigel Short, Vassily Ivanchuk, Vladimir Kramnik, Viswanathan Anand and IBM's Deep Blue computer. Today's game is a Kasparov classic.

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from *The Times* 1993 World Championship.

White: Garry Kasparov

Black: Nigel Short

Times world championship London 1993

Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	a6
4	Bb4	Nf6
5	0-0	Be7
6	f3	b5
7	Bf3	0-0
8	f4	Bb7
9	g3	d6
10	Nbd2	Nd7
11	h3	Nc5
12	a6	ad5
13	Re8	ad8
14	g2	g5
15	h4	Ne5
16	Nf1	b6
17	Nc3	g5
18	Bg3	h6
19	h5	h6
20	h5	h6
21	Nd5	g5
22	Nc3	h6
23	g3	h6
24	Nf5	h6
25	ad5	ad7
26	Bg5	h6
27	Nf4	Nf6
28	Bd6	Kh7
29	Qf5	Ne7
30	Nc2	Ng8
31	Nc3	Ng8
32	g4	ad4
33	c4	ad4
34	Na4	Kf7
35	Nc5	h6
36	Nh5	h6
37	ad7	ad6

Diagram of final position

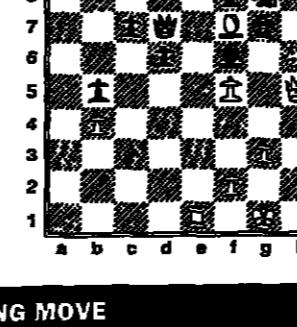


Diagram of final position

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

SAVE 20% ON YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING



Starting tomorrow, collect the first of five discount vouchers this week and you can save 20 per cent on your Christmas shopping at five of the biggest names in the high street. With tomorrow's offer you can enjoy 20 per cent off fresh arabica coffees and speciality teas from Whittard of Chelsea.

Other 20 per cent offers this week are:

■ Wednesday - Sockshop's gift ideas include plain, patterned and fun socks, children's accessories, glamorous hosiery and underwear

■ Thursday - Principles and Principles for Men help you find the key party looks with a stylish range of clothing and gift ideas for family and friends

■ Friday - ChocExpress offers you 20 per cent off its special edition range of delivered chocolates:

20 carefully selected chocolates and truffles, sent in beautiful handmade oval keepsake boxes, ideal for gifts

■ Saturday - Knickerbox offers savings on seasonal lingerie, plunging velvet bras, sassy hot pants, seductive sheer slips and slinky silk wraps.

CHOCEXPRESS

SOCK SHOP

principles
for men

principles

KNICKERBOX



CHANGING TIMES

مكتبة من الأصل

Formula One in a spin

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

FORMULA ONE is having a row with the Stock Exchange over disclosure of key documents in the listing particulars relating to its planned \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) flotation. Advisers to Bernie Ecclestone, the motor racing entrepreneur, have denied that the issue is at risk after a debt rating agency declined to provide Formula One with a single A rating.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the investment bank behind the offering, wants the bonds listed in London. However, the Stock Exchange is believed to have asked whether Formula One has released all the material documents relating to exclusive TV contracts.

The European Commission is already investigating Formula One's arrangements with broadcasters. Revenue from the sale of TV rights will form the bulk of the cashflow bondholders will receive.

Del Monte seeks listing in attempt to reunite brand

BY CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

DEL MONTE Royal Foods, the South African company that controls the lion's share of Europe's canned pineapple market, is planning a listing in London or New York as part of a strategy aimed at reuniting the world's best-known pineapple brand.

Vivian Imerman, chief executive and major shareholder of Del Monte, wants to use a European or US-listing as a springboard for acquisitions that could ultimately bring together under one umbrella the US, European and Asian Del Monte interests. Del Monte was split into three after the takeover by RJR Nabisco in the 1980s.

The South African company, best known for its canned pineapples and "man from Del Monte" advertisements, is today announcing the takeover of a leading Thai pineapple exporter, Siam Agro Industry Pineapple, a continuation

of a strategy aimed at increasing its 35 per cent share of the world pineapple market. The acquisition follows a partnership deal struck in July with Cirio, the Italian fresh milk and canned food producer that also owns Lazio, the Rome football club. Cirio acquired a 30 per cent stake held by Anglo American, providing Del Monte with a strong partner in Europe, a market where Del Monte already has 26 per cent of canned pineapple sales.

Mr Imerman wants to use the current slump in the pineapple business and recessionary pressures in the canning industry to take Del Monte into a bigger league. "We are the lowest-cost producer of pineapples. Production has declined because a lot of people were selling below cost." Pineapples have recently soared in price as a result of crop losses related to El Nino.

Mr Imerman has already taken control of Del Monte in the Philippines, buying out the interest of Kikkoman and Del Monte Corporation in the US. Mr Imerman originally took control of Del Monte when US sanctions forced Nabisco to sell its South African assets.

Mr Imerman's strategy is to move Del Monte out of South Africa on to the world stage and is being advised by Bain & Co on the best location for a listing. "The idea would be to raise equity capital and to have shares for acquisitions."

Shares listed on a major stock exchange would give Del Monte the currency to do a deal with the other owners of the Del Monte brand, Texas Pacific in the US and Kikkoman, the Japanese soy sauce company. Mr Imerman said: "It is possibly the best thing that could happen. I think it is non-core for Kikkoman."

A CAMBRIDGE boffin who claims to have invented a revolutionary "digital loudspeaker" is close to securing £700,000 of funding, and is in talks to licence his technology to three hi-fi and audio companies (Chris Ayres writes).

Tony Hooley says his technology could be as important for the audio industry as the invention of the CD player. He said: "This product could be to the conventional loudspeaker what

the CD was to vinyl records." He added that digital speakers eliminated imperfections in sound quality suffered by conventional speakers. The product is likely to be called the Hooley Digital Speaker.

Dr Hooley's company, 1... Limited, was formed in 1995 with £50,000 in funding from the DTI. It went on to receive another £300,000 from private investors.



Tony Hooley says his digital speaker could be as important to the audio industry as the CD

Audio boffin close to deal

MacLaurin tipped for M&S job

LORD MacLaurin of Knebworth, the architect of Tesco's leadership of the supermarket sector, is being tipped as a possible solution to Marks & Spencer's succession dilemma.

Reports yesterday claimed that the former Tesco chief has been approached about the post of non-executive deputy chairman, which Keith Oates is expected to relinquish in the next few days. Lord MacLaurin would then be expected to take over as chairman when Sir Richard Greenbury eventually steps down from the post.

One leading fund manager said that Lord MacLaurin 61, was an ideal person to restore M&S's fortunes after its recent fall from grace, but insisted that institutions would not lead a move, adding: "It's up to the non-executive directors to come up with a solution."

A former colleague said of Lord MacLaurin: "He is a tremendously able general who can unite the troops. He is a real master at creating organisation from conflict."

Sir Oates and Peter Salter, joint managing directors, have their hats in the ring to lead M&S, but Mr Oates's lobbying of directors seems to have angered Sir Richard.

Employers fear pensions burden

EMPLOYERS fear the introduction of stakeholder pensions because they believe it would add further burdens and costs to doing business (Marianne Curphy writes).

Research by NPI, the life and pensions group, claims that stakeholder pensions must be compulsory to be effective and to spread responsibility equally across all businesses.

A Green Paper outlining the structure of the stakeholder pension is expected within the next fortnight. Ministers are thought to have rejected the idea of compulsion and are concentrating instead on how to realign tax reliefs to encourage the less well-off to save for their old age.

Tax harmonisation will be catastrophic for Britain

From William Cash MP Sir, I was greatly heartened to read Rosemary Righter's analysis on EMU (November 17).

As I said at the German Industry Forum on October 13, which was held at the Foreign Office, the new German policies effectively destabilise the stability pact, which was always a misguided policy aimed at force-feeding the Maastricht criteria.

Of course, the new German policies have, as many of us have predicted, incalculable consequences for unemployment in Europe compounded by the French, Italian and British Governments.

When old Labour governments resisted European integration it was because they thought it was a capitalist plot. They now enthuse for it as a so-

cialist plot. The determination to achieve tax harmonisation agreed on November 16, to which Rosemary Righter refers, will be catastrophic for the British economy, British company directors and the British taxpayer.

The latest pamphlet from the European Foundation entitled *Moving on Up* highlights the current moves towards company and savings tax harmonisation in the European Union and the effect of these developments on the UK's control of its tax policy, and so future levels of UK tax.

British company directors should be made aware. Yours sincerely,

WILLIAM CASH,
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA.

M&S misguided over licensing

From Peter Shepherd Sir, Marks & Spencer's statement that they are justified in challenging the Newspaper Licensing Agency's right to issue licences and charge a fee is quite simply misguided.

The Copyright, Designs and Patent Act 1988 expressly forbids the multiple copying of literary and text works except under a licence from the appropriate licensing agency. In the case of newspapers this is the Newspaper Licensing Agency. In the case of extracts from books, journals and periodicals, it is the Copyright Licensing Agency, which has been licensing business, education and government for over 15 years.

It is often mistakenly assumed that making a few copies causes nobody any harm. Such copyright infringement in fact not only deprives writers and publishers of reasonable reward for their work, but at the same time it fails to provide any incentive for creativity.

Marks & Spencer, as an organisation strongly protective of their brand, should surely be aware of this.

Yours sincerely,
PETER SHEPHERD
(chief executive),
The Copyright Licensing
Agency Ltd,
90 Tottenham Court Road,
London, W1P 0LP.

Life will go on outside EMU

From Mr John Parfitt

Sir, Mr Pincham is wrong to suggest that staying out of EMU is not feasible. There is no reason to believe that most major British industries will account and invoice in euros from 1999. Some might, just as they might use dollars or francs now for some purposes by agreement with their trading partners, but most will not. And computer software which deals in foreign currency would be pretty awful if it did not allow the use of an additional foreign (sic) currency — which is what the euro is. Also his suggestion that any responsible organisation would

award a 25-year contract to a foreign company and then allow it to dictate the terms of payment is pure fantasy.

What he did not tell us is that he is a member of his council's minority Liberal Democrat group which is committed to EMU. One hopes that the controlling Conservatives would not put the ratepayers' interests at risk as Mr Pincham suggests.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PARFITT,
St Andrews,
New Street,
Painswick,
Gloucestershire,
GL6 6UN.

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مكتبة من الأصل

EU paints a bleak picture for the London art market

Clare Stewart on a looming threat from Brussels to a British business worth £2.2bn a year

London's art dealers, galleries and auction houses have been busy making a point over the past ten days as *Asian Art in London*, a celebration of oriental art, came to a close over the weekend.

London is widely acknowledged to be the leading centre for oriental art with more specialist dealers than any other city worldwide. More than 40 have been involved in *Asian Art in London* together with the auction houses where sales of Chinese and Japanese works have been held during the past week.

The doors also opened on a number of new exhibitions. At the Royal Academy until December 20, Ming and Qing dynasty porcelain is on show in the first public exhibition of works from the privately owned Au Bak Ling collection.

The point being made by all of these events and the number of big-spending collectors who have flown into London this week, is not just that it was the place to be for anyone keen to see fabulous ceramics or exquisite jade.

The success of the event also serves to highlight London's importance as one of the leading centres, in some eyes, the most influential in the international art market. But it is a market seen to be at risk if two Brussels-inspired pieces of legislation take effect.

The UK art market is worth £2.2 billion annually and employs more than 50,000 people. It is a sector with an economic impact estimated to be larger than that of the music industry, spanning not just the dealers and auction houses, but the network of related services such as picture restorers, framers, conservation specialists, shippers, insurers and exhibition organisers.

On top of which is the multi-million pound benefit to the



Julian Thompson, Sotheby's Asia co-chairman, left, and Chris Smith, Culture Secretary, at the Au Bak Ling collection

economy in the form of spending in hotels, restaurants and shops when the high-rollers among collectors come to buy art.

Asian Art in London comes at the end of what has been a good year for the UK art market with dealers and auction houses reporting strong demand particularly for the best quality items.

Millions of pounds was spent at the Grosvenor House Art & Antiques Fair in June, a glittering event in the art market calendar that brings out celebrity buyers and big spenders in quantities.

Contemporary art was in particular demand in the summer with GOD, a work by Damien Hirst fetching a record price of £185,000 at Christie's, while other records were broken by works ranging from a painting by John Atkinson Grimshaw to the 1477 edi-

tion of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, printed by Caxton and sold for £4.6 million making it the world's most expensive book.

Last week at Phillips' sale of Chinese and Japanese ceramics, a number of lots overshadowed their estimated prices spectacularly. A Fencis saucer dish, for example, expected to make £3000 to £5000 was sold for £32,000.

But despite the hard evidence of money being spent, there are some sizeable clouds threatening to spoil London's art party. On top of concerns about the impact of economic problems worldwide, there is a more specific fear about an EU ruling due to take effect next year.

From July all works imported into the UK from countries outside the EU will be subject to VAT at 5 per cent, doubling the existing rate of 2.5 per cent. Innocuous as it may sound, the change has been described as a potential disaster for the thriving UK market. "It is another millennium bug," says Dan Klein, international executive director of Phillips.

An increasingly large proportion of the art and antiques sold in this country is imported. Dealers in oriental art, for example, import as much as 60 to 70 per cent most of it from the Far East. The UK or more precisely London, with its concentration of dealers and salerooms, effectively serves as an international clearing house for the global art market.

"It is extremely serious. Having to pay 5 per cent will add to a very substantial sum — at the moment many hundreds of thousands of pounds are tied up," says Richard Green, a leading London dealer who specialises in old master, and 18th and 19th Century paintings.

The existing 2.5 per cent VAT, which has been levied since 1993, was introduced as a move to harmonise import levels across the EU, fixing a minimum level of 5 per cent. On the end of fierce lobbying by the art market, the Conservative Government was able to negotiate a special rate of 2.5 per cent which applies until the end of June 1999.

The expectation is that the new rate will be enforced from July 1. The art market is awaiting, however, the findings of an EU report looking at the impact of import VAT which is expected in January. Depending on the report's findings and the success of eleventh-hour negotiations by Britain, there is some hope that the VAT may be deferred.

What worries some in the art market is that this will result in a limit rather than stimulate interest in an artist's work. Rather than pay a levy, work could be sold privately or outside the EU where *droit de suite* does not apply. The artist would not benefit and it could mean works leaving their country of origin, and being lost to national collections.

David Heathcoat-Amory, the Tory MP for Wells, in a pamphlet written for the Centre for Policy Studies earlier this year, describes the VAT on imports and *droit de suite* as "clumsy and damaging proposals". Either of the proposals he says "will have a severe effect on the attractiveness of Britain as an international art centre. Together they would destroy it."

CULDEES

(a) Scottish and Irish monks, from the 8th century on. The name probably derives from the Irish *Cale-de-a* companion. Culdees seem to have been groups of anchorites, each group consisting of 13 members, on the analogy of Christ and 12 apostles. Except in Armagh, Culdees have been superseded by Canons in caring for the sick and poor.

PANNAG

(c) One of a list of trade items mentioned in Ezekiel 27, 17. Pannag was listed in the commerce of Judah and Israel with Tyre. It was probably a kind of sweetmeat or confection. It was a toponym, named after the place where it was made.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Ra1! threatening ... Rf6# mate and if 2 R5x? Ke8 3Rx4 Rg2# 4Ke3 Re1 checkmate

Answers from page 41

PROPYLAEUM

(b) The entrance structure, gateway, porch or vestibule, leading (especially) to a sacred enclosure. A famous example in ancient Greek architecture is the propylaeum on the Acropolis hill in Athens, leading to the temple area.

EPIXTAXY

(b) The mutual orientation of crystals of different species, when one crystal that grows on another is oriented by it and with respect to it. An example is the epitactic overgrowth of an alkali halide on a cleavage plane of mica. This has a two-dimensional structural control: the halide mesh nearly coincides in shape and size with mica.

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WORD WATCHING

CHANGE ON WEEK

US Dollar

1.6566 (-0.0091)

German Mark

2.7975 (-0.0165)

Exchange index

100.6 (-0.7)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share

3434.5 (+138.0)

FTSE 100

5717.5 (+254.3)

New York Dow Jones

9159.55 (+239.96)

Tokyo Nikkei Average

14779.94 (+511.73)

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Hemery
waits on
Wembley
decision

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

Athletics is seeking an international
ruling on whether to award the world team
championship to Britain or Australia.
Plans were made to award the
event to Britain in the
beginning, but the IAAF president
decided to award it to Australia.

David Hemery
Athletics
World Team
Championships
London 2005

Media mogul is human being: shock horror

Channel 4's *The Real...* documentaries have made a speciality of taking famous people we didn't know very much about and revealing them to be really rather horrible. Fanny Cradock, for instance, threw slabs of batter at her own cooker in a fit of pique, and left it there.

In *The Real Rupert Murdoch* (Channel 4, Saturday), about the chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, the parent company of *The Times*, the tide flowed in the opposite direction. As the programme, and indeed the man himself acknowledged, "The Digger" has been a hate-figure to a remarkable cross-section of British society: socialists, royalists, feminists, foyers (old and young), trade unionists, moral puritans and the liberal "charterati". He is regarded as a sort of antipodean grey squirrel, ruthlessly ousting a prettier, less aggressive indigenous rival.

But viewers hoping to discover

that he used to bite the heads off hamsters will have been badly disappointed. His family members describe a committed, loving son and father. Murdoch himself, in what was probably his most extensive interview in this country at least, came across as genial, down-to-earth and reflective, perhaps with an eye on his own mortality. He even expressed professional admiration for *The Guardian*, which may have come as a surprise in Farringdon Road.

Perhaps the most significant biographical detail was the fact that, as a young reporter, his father Keith was sent to cover the disaster at Gallipoli, where thousands of Australian lives were squandered by the incompetence of the British high command. Keith Murdoch sent a confidential report to the Australian Government, so damning that they simply passed it on to London, resulting in the removal of the commanding officer and out-

raging the British military establishment.

P erhaps this role model meant that, at Australia's leading public school and Oxford University, and even when promoting the most vigorous free-market politics, Murdoch has seen himself as a rebellious anti-establishment outsider. His instinctive populism, unashamed or shameless according to your perspective, swept Australia's media before becoming a defining feature of post-War British life.

Former editors had clearly been extremely nervous of incurring his wrath, but were awe-struck by his energy, daring and instinct for the news. Kelvin Mackenzie, hardly a slouch in the self-assuredness department, said he would have published *The Sun* in Sanskrit if "the boss" had wanted it. Andrew Neil clearly took immense pride in the fact that once, as Editor of *The*

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

Sunday Times, he had faced his employer down in a battle of silences on the telephone.

Murdoch's progress in the United Kingdom and the world has probably raised more difficult and controversial issues than that of any media tycoon in modern history. These were touched on rather than debated, leaving many loose ends. But then that was not the point. This was, after all, a person

al biography of a man whose combination of a driven work ethic and gambler's chutzpah have made him one of the most formidable businessmen of the century.

If you put any reservations about infidelity to Thackeray's novel on hold; Andrew Davies's adaptation of *Vanity Fair* (BBC1, Sunday) continues to be terrific fun. Last night's episode covered the Battle of Waterloo, the hinge of the novel. It is almost impossible to do convincing battle scenes on television. Budgets simply do not allow it, and despite the optimism of the actor Tom Ward (George Osborne) in *Radio Times* that "the magic of film will make it look exciting", this was no exception.

There were some effective close-ups and fast editing, which gave a hint of *Saving Private Ryan* immediacy, but a few dozen extras wearing bright new uniforms in an Oxfordshire field are always going to look like exactly that.

But none of this mattered. The series is packed with amusing performances, teetering on the brink of outright camp: Eleanor Bron as Lady Bararees, quivering with discomfited sensibility; David Bradley gleefully playing Jos Sedley as a middle-aged Billy Bunter; and above all Miriam Margolyes as the moribund Miss Crawley, as fine a side of mature ham as you will find in any smoky pub.

I f Thackeray's heroine, Becky Sharp, had been a young woman in the 1990s, of course, she would have had no need to resort to deceit and manipulation to find romance or financial security. She could, for instance, have applied to go on *Blind Date* (ITV) which returned for its umpteenth series on Saturday.

It is a stunningly successful formula and quite compelling in a re-

pellent sort of way. There is Cilla Black's glutinous familiarity. Her hammed up Liverpudlianism, calling everybody "chuck" and accentuating loveable idiosyncrasies of pronunciation. Last night she kept going on about one poor chap's "flurred" nostrils.

There are the appalling hacked-up travesties. Last night we had a view of Kenya, quite insuperable in its use of clichés and stereotypes. There is the embarrassing fake jollity, contrasting with the delicious bitchiness of making the partners listen to what their other half claims really to think of them.

Above all, Cilla embodies the audience's urgent desire to know if the couples had sex together, which they almost invariably haven't. Alan and Rebecca, in Kenya, didn't seem able to agree if they had, which rarely bodes well for a relationship. Never mind, they only did it to get on telly anyway.

6.00am Business Breakfast (44304)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (21878)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8385743)
9.40 Style Challenge (9126944)
10.05 City Hospital (T) (262507)
10.55 News: Regional News; Weather (T) (1015491)
11.00 Good Living with Jane Asher New series (9032168)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (9035255)
11.55 News: Regional News; Weather (T) (9365110)
12.00pm Pass the Buck (4663965)
12.25 Going for a Song (4642472)
12.50 The Weather Show (T) (2621584)
1.00 One O'Clock News; Weather (T) (24965)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (7309526)
1.40 Neighbours Sarah has a showdown with Susan (T) (5670743)
2.05 Ironside A sniper poses as a man avoiding military service. Guest-starring Martin Sheen (T) (9667033)
2.25 Wipeout (T) (2067526)
3.25 The BBC's BBC: Playdays (6716410)
3.45 Enchanted Lands (6209304) 3.55 Little Monsters (371965) 4.04 Animal Magic (4478323) 4.15 Alvin and the Chipmunks (9928965) 4.40 Goosebumps (2098507) 5.00 Newsround (240033)
5.10 Blue Peter (5535830)
5.35 Neighbours (T) (422633)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (255)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (507)
7.00 This Is Your Life Michael Aspel surprises another unsuspecting guest with the big red book (T) (7743)
7.30 Here and Now Chris Choi reports on lottery losers who thought fortune had smiled on them, only to have their dreams cruelly dashed (T) (491)
8.00 EastEnders Bianca and Tiffany argue about home births (T) (6491)
8.30 Birds of a Feather GARTH's ex-girlfriend provides Sharon and Tracey with some choice gossip (T) (5526)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (2168)
9.30 Men Behaving Badly Gary Instantly regrets his drunken proposition to Dorothy and adopts an outrageously bigoted personality to put her off (T) (T) (63781)
10.00 Panorama As the Office of Fair Trading puts Britain's supermarkets under scrutiny, Panorama asks whether the retail barons are charging shoppers too much (T) (102410)
10.40 They Think It's All Over With Annabel Croft (T) (592588)
11.10 On Side With Bruce Grobbelaar and Neville Southall (940052)
11.55 Chicago Hops Jeffrey Geiger takes a group of traumatised children under his wing (T) (62946)
12.40m Weird Science Gary enters a bully's mind (T) (154960)
1.00 Captain Apache (1971) The US Army employ an Indian to track down a gun-runner responsible for the death of a high-ranking officer. Western, starring Lee Van Cleef (T) (21076)
2.35 Weather (510336)
2.35 BBC News 24 (93073304)

7.00am BBC2 Breakfast Show: Tales of Aesop (540304) 7.05 Teletubbies (225196) 7.30 Tom and Jerry Kids (205338) 7.55 Blue Peter (5355675)
8.20 Robinson Scrooge (9048575) 8.45 Penny Crayon (660526) 8.55 Tales of Aesop (515897) 9.00 Job Bank (7250472) 9.10 Short Circuit (5645946)
9.30 Writing and Pictures (8202936) 9.45 Storytime (8290120) 10.00 Teletubbies (8485) 10.30 Words and Pictures (3638946) 10.45 Watch (3826101) 11.00 Look and Listen (5834588) 11.20 Zig Zag (4906491) 11.40 Landmarks (1982888)
12.05pm History File (468078) 12.30 Working Lunch (58859) 1.00 Penny

Crayon (8918761)

1.10am The Arts and Crafts Hour (2415168)

2.10 Snooker: UK Championship Live coverage from round three (9638491)

3.30 Cricket: The Ashes Australia v England. Day four of the First Test (558)

6.00 The Simpsons Bart's bit-part role in a television comedy show earns him celebrity status (T) (303168)

6.25 Hit, Miss or Maybe (T) (746859)

6.40 Snooker: UK Championship Further live action (732472)

7.00am BBC2

7.30am ITN Morning News (65385)

9.25 Tristana (T) (9623912)

10.15 This Morning (T) (184323)

12.15pm HTV News and Weather (T) (3464686)

12.30 ITN Lunchtime News; Weather (T) (4585)

1.00 WEST: Stepping the World Offbeat tour of Bangkok (19033)

1.00 WALES: Yan Can Cook (19033)

1.30 Home and Away (T) (44565)

2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (9845651)

2.40 WEST: Yan Can Cook (T) (2056410)

3.10 ITN News Headlines (T) (751684)

3.15 HTV News (T) (750965)

3.20 CTW: Wizards (2509897) 3.35 Titch (7041852) 3.50 Soap and Co (2130101)

4.15 An Attack (51623) 4.45 Sabrina the Teenage Witch (7580675)

5.10 WEST: Animal Country Desmond Morris and Sarah Kennedy get an insight into the life of a domineering (T) (4452826)

5.10 WALES: MoneySpinners (T) (4452823)

5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (T) (997255)

6.00 Home and Away (T) (390694)

6.25 WEST: Weather (808762)

6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight; Weather (T) (58858)

6.30 The West Tonight (T) (675)

6.56 HTV Crimebusters (311472)

7.00 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2429)

7.30 Coronation Street (T) (8589)

8.00 World in Action A report focusing on a European initiative aimed at banning TV ads targeted at kids (T) (8658)

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EUROPE 47

Roger Bootle
on why size
doesn't matter

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

BUSINESS

MONDAY NOVEMBER 23 1998

DEALERS 50

Brussels paints
bleak picture
for art market

Funds wrangle may close UK biotech investor

BY PAUL DURMAN

ROTHSCHILD Bioscience Unit (RBU), the leading British investor in the biotechnology industry, is facing possible closure because of a wrangle over the merger of two investment funds.

Biotechnology Investments Limited (BIL) is understood to be planning to replace the unit as its investment adviser, which would deprive

Rothschild Asset Management of £3 million in fees. On its own, the smaller International Biotechnology Trust (IBT) would be unable to support the estimated £2.5 million cost of running the RBU, which employs about 20 scientists and analysts.

The closure of the RBU would be a blow to the legacy of the late Victor Rothschild, the former chairman of NM Rothschild who was

among the first to spot the commercial significance of advances in molecular biology and biochemistry.

Jeremy Curnock Cook, head of the RBU, would not comment on the suggestion that he is preparing to leave Rothschilds after 11 years.

The crisis at the RBU has arisen out of a long-running attempt to merge the Guernsey-based BIL, which is chaired by Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, with IBT, a UK

investment trust whose chairman is John Green-Armytage.

Both funds have performed badly in the last two years, not helped by their investments in Biocompatible International, the medical coatings company, chaired by Mr Curnock Cook, which has lost more than 90 per cent of its peak value of £1 billion.

Industry critics believe that RBU's close involvement with investment companies, often with board rep-

resentation, restricts its ability to realise investments effectively. Mr Curnock Cook argues that high-risk biotech investments can only be judged over several years.

BIL has come under pressure from Standard Life, an 11 per cent shareholder, and American arbitrageurs that now own 13.25 per cent, to reduce the discount between its share price and its net asset value. This has been more than 30 per cent.

BJL's Guernsey domicile and a capital structure dominated by preference shares make it unattractive to many potential investors. But the problems in the UK biotech market have caused the discount on IBT's shares to widen to more than 40 per cent, hampering a merger deal.

Negotiations have also been marred by disagreements over who should have the upper hand in the combined fund. Although BIL is

much bigger, with net assets still worth £160 million, BIL's directors have much more healthcare experience than the Guernsey residents who dominate BIL's board.

The disputes eventually led BIL to propose seeking another adviser, thus destabilising the relationship between BIL and the unit. Mr Curnock Cook has not replaced senior managers who have recently departed.

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Patriot poised to check out of Britain

BY DOMINIC WALSH

PATRIOT American Hospitality, the aggressive US hotel investor, is considering a sale of its UK assets, signalling the end of a frenzied drive by US real estate investment trusts (Reits) to pick up British properties.

Wall Street sources believe that, after the collapse of its share price and severe funding problems, Patriot may be seeking to sell Arcadian, the Surrey hotel operator it acquired in January for £92 million. Including debt and its share of joint ventures, the business is worth close to £200 million.

Industry sources believe that Robert Breare, the Arcadian chief executive and now president of Patriot's European division, is keen to buy back the company. He is known to have been contacted by City institutions willing to back such a move and is believed to have indicated his interest to Patriot.

Arcadian comprises 11 hotels in Britain and one in France as well as a 50:50 joint venture with Sir Terence Conran to redevelop the Great Eastern Hotel in the City of London.

But the jewel in the Arcadian crown is the Malmaison brand, which Mr Breare

wants to roll out across Europe's gateway cities. So far it has just five properties open or under development — in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Manchester and Leeds — but sites in London, Birmingham and Paris are under negotiation, while Frankfurt, Brussels, Amsterdam, Milan and Madrid have all been targeted.

Patriot's decision to review its European development follows a disastrous summer, during which its share price has divided by 75 per cent. When it reported third-quarter results this month, Paul Nussbaum, chairman and chief executive of Patriot, admitted that its recent achievements had been "greatly diminished by significant world events, including a global credit crunch that has crippled the world's debt markets and temporarily delayed certain of our debt transactions".

Ironically, Arcadian was one of its best-performing divisions in the quarter. Malmaison reported a 15.2 per cent rise in revenue per available room while its historic-style hotels advanced by 9.3 per cent.

Patriot's decline has in part been a result of the decision by Congress to abolish the tax-efficient status of "paired-share"

Reits, principally Patriot, Starwood and Meditrust. Marriott and Hilton Hotels Corporation had lobbied for the change, claiming that the paired-share Reits enjoyed an unfair advantage over normal hotel companies.

The three Reits, collectively valued at \$4.5 billion (£2.8 billion) at the end of 1996, used this advantage to sign deals worth \$22.8 billion during 1997 alone. While Starwood snapped up ITT, owner of Sheraton Hotels, Patriot acquired the Westin and Wyndham chains. Wyndham is one of the brands it had pledged to develop across Europe and any deal with Mr Breare is likely to include a franchise or development agreement allowing the US group to expand the Wyndham brand without any financial exposure.

As recently as early summer, Patriot displayed an apparently insatiable appetite for deals, narrowly losing out to Bass in the race for Inter-Continental Hotels and looking closely at the likes of the Savoy Group, Cliveden, the Grosvenor House and Gleneagles before deciding not to bid.

But its recent woes mean its funds have dried up and the sale of its European assets may be forced upon it as it seeks to solve the problem of the \$1 billion-plus of debt repayment it faces over the next six months.



A management team led by Sarah Elton, above, managing director, is buying out Smythson, the upmarket stationers that is a favourite of royalty and film stars, from John Menzies for about £3 million. Smythson, which holds warrants from the Queen, Queen Mother and Prince of Wales, has shops on Bond Street, Sloane Street, within Harvey Nichols and Selfridges and at Heathrow Terminal 4. The sale comes as part of the John Menzies exit from retail business.

Retailers braced for gloomy Christmas

BY MANU COSTELLO
AND DOMINIC WALSH

BRITAIN'S retailers are bracing themselves for what could be the worst Christmas in two decades, according to research published today.

Verdict, the retail consultancy, estimates that sales in November will be just 0.8 per cent higher than last year at £16.7 billion, while December's sales will reach £20.5 billion — a rise of just less than 3 per cent. It also forecasts that re-

tailers will have about £1.6 billion of excess stock in the run-up to Christmas.

"This still represents growth on earlier years, but the rate of expansion is much lower than our major retail companies have come to expect," says the report. "Christmas has come to dominate the fortunes of many store groups, but this year will see a much more subdued role, with the lowest proportion of spending occurring over the period for two decades."

These forecasts are support-

ed by Deloitte & Touche's annual survey, which found both retailers and consumers to be cautious in the build-up to the festive season.

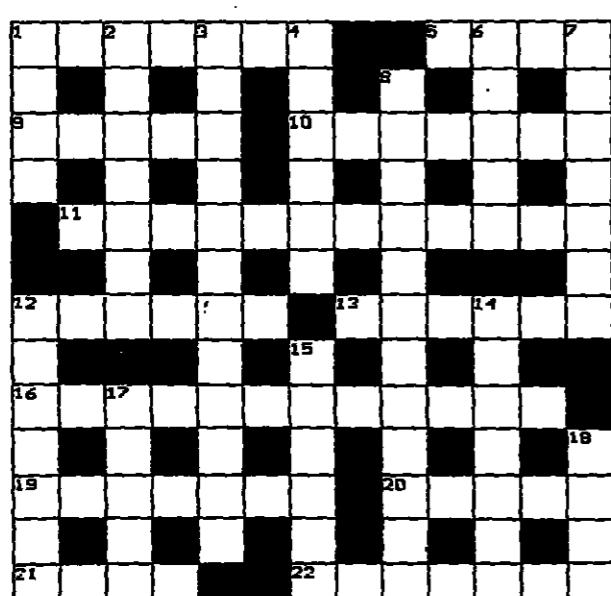
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These forecasts are support-

ers are leaving spending later and later, with many waiting for price markdowns.

The figures come in the wake of the publication last week of official figures showing that retail sales were down 0.4 per cent between September and October, with the annual rate of growth at 1 per cent, the lowest since January 1996. Verdict concludes: "Such spending caution, if prolonged, could precipitate the very recessions that consumers fear."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1570

ACROSS

- 1 Conspirator; chart printer (7)
- 5 Astro (#)
- 9 Frilled pleat (5)
- 10 Speculative effort (7)
- 11 Non-deliberate killing (12)
- 12 Trees esp of Lebanon (6)
- 13 Go past in steady flow (6)
- 16 Drink-fuelled boldness (5,7)
- 19 Type of pudding, of minister (7)
- 20 Conscious (of) (5)
- 21 Narrative poems sounds like be idle (4)
- 22 Stronghold (7)

DOWN

- 1 A wine; an anchorage (4)
- 2 Field of fruit (7)
- 3 Clue-following party game (8,4)
- 4 Uncover (6)
- 6 Main force of blow (one beats) (5)
- 7 A proved statement (maths) (7)
- 8 Chivalrous adventurer (6,6)
- 12 Will supplement (7)
- 14 Blake's green and pleasant land (7)
- 15 Sublime in verse (6)
- 17 A fabric; a cat (5)
- 18 Wooded hollow (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1569

ACROSS: 1 Succeed, 5 Cadre, 8 Fluke, 9 Montage, 10 Sunday school, 12 Aliots, 14 Caddie, 17 Put the boot in, 21 Ordinal, 22 Terse, 23 Gusto, 24 Widower.

DOWN: 1 Soft soap, 2 Churn, 3 Elegant, 4 Denise, 5 Couch, 6 Diamond, 7 Ewer, 11 Reminder, 13 Lourdes, 15 Aborted, 16 Mellow, 18 Tango, 19 Throw, 20 Long.

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