

# 'I'll never date anyone famous. It just bites you on the arse'

**COLIN Murray is in no hurry to find the perfect woman – he has 23 million to choose from!**

Radio Ulster, Five Live and former Radio One presenter, not to mention frontman for Channel Five's European soccer nights and presenting BBC TV's world darts, it's a miracle the east Belfast man has time for anything other than work, let alone a love life.

The 32-year-old has become one of the most popular and instantly recognisable media personalities in the UK.

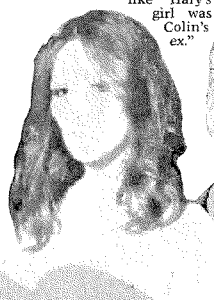
He has a straight talking jocular style that has one over the fickle national audience. But down-to-earth Colin shuns everything to do with a celebrity lifestyle and when it comes to women has a golden rule – never date anyone famous.

"The only thing I've done conscientiously is never date anyone famous, because it bloody bites you in the arse," he said in an interview with listings magazine GO Belfast.

He got a taste of the tabloid treatment when Prince Harry was reported to have had a fling with former Gladiators presenter Caroline Flack, a one time beau of Colin's.

"Prince Harry went out with a girl that's an ex of mine and it ended up on the front page of the News of the World with my name in the headline.

"I was in Turkey at the time and I opened the paper to find myself in a den of people that had slept with this girl. It was like 'Harry's girl was Colin's ex.'"



ITEM: Caroline Flack and Prince Harry

## ULSTER STAR COLIN SAYS HE'S BORED BY CELEB LIFESTYLE

"When I was with this girl she wasn't famous but that's something I've always stayed clear of."

"It's not that difficult – there's like 23 million women in Britain and I just have to stay clear of about 1,000 – it still leaves enough to go round!"

He insists he doesn't set out to be the "dead on guy" who insists fame hasn't change him – it's just the way he is.

He insists he is happier dining out on a shish kebab down the Edgeware Road near where he lives in west London.

He says he is safe from the paparazzi there because they're too scared they'll get their gear nucked. I don't

buy into that whole showbiz scene, but it's not because I want people to think I'm one of them, I just don't like that kind of lifestyle – it bores me.

"I don't like talking to people in bars where the music is too loud and I can't hear anything. I don't like going to premieres – why should I walk down a red carpet at a premiere when it takes you an hour and a half to actually get in to see the movie? I can go to the cinema and watch it for a fiver."

### Paparazzi

Anyway, he thinks the paparazzi have bigger fish to fry. "If someone does take a picture of me, I always laugh and say 'you'll not get a penny for that mate.' I don't have any illegitimate kids and I'm not sleeping with Billy Piper, so they're not going to make any money out of me."

But whether he likes it or not, he is in the A list celebrity bracket, for living the dream.

There aren't many blokes in the country who wouldn't swap jobs. Sports fanatic Murray gets paid to talk about football, golf, darts, rugby etc... and for a few hours a week he gets paid to play his



IN DEMAND: Colin Murray, left, and above with former co-presenter Edith Bowman

favourite music on his Friday night show on Radio Ulster. His biggest test is a six hour stint behind the mike on Five Live's Sunday afternoon sports show.

"You can't programme for shows like that like you can with music," he said.

"If you're doing a live sports show like I do on a Sunday, you can never have the same show twice, you never know what's going to happen until it happens. There are downsides, like giving up his Saturday nights which are now spent sweating up for the following day's show. He's in work by 8am on air at midday and finished at 6pm.

"There are TV presenters that can just turn up to work. In radio you don't get spoon fed. You don't get a taxi to work every day. You go in, you do your own research

and you do your own show. "I think I've got what I deserved because I do work harder than a lot of presenters I've met."

There are very few people who can successfully turn their backs on a career in Radio 1 and increase their profile, but at 33 Colin called it a day at the nation's top music station.

### Fame.

"People don't really leave Radio 1. There's still claw marks on door where all the DJs have been trying to hold onto their fame."

"But I'd been doing the same thing for 10 years; I wanted to leave while I was still young." He is now one of the youngest presenters on Five Live fronting shows such as the

hugely popular Fighting Talk and Friday night's Kicking Off With Colin Murray.

But he hasn't turned his back on music altogether and for two hours from 10pm on Friday he presents The Late Show With Colin Murray which is broadcast from his bedroom on Radio Ulster.

He has famously claimed he once misjudged the time and when he got out the shower he realised the show was about to start so he did it naked!

"I don't get anywhere near enough sleazy e-mails by the way. All the e-mails I get are about music, which I'm gutted about."

"I was expecting people to send me rude pictures, then I'd send them one back – that kind of thing. There's not enough sleaze. More sleaze please."

## PCC ADJUDICATION – MISS PAMELA CAMPBELL

MISS Pamela Campbell of Belfast complained to the Press Complaints Commission that an article headlined "Neighbour rings cops with lies about me even though I helped with tragedy", published in the Sunday World on 29 March 2009, was inaccurate and misleading in breach of Clause 1 (Accuracy) of the Editors' Code of Practice.

The complaint was upheld. The article reported claims by the complainant's neighbour, Kelly Patterson, that she had been harassed by the complainant. She said a number of the allegations in the piece were inaccurate: Ms Patterson had not comforted her after the death of her brother; the dispute with her neighbour was long-standing and did not occur only after the death; she had not called Ms Patterson a 'child killer', and she had not told people that Ms Patterson was having an affair with a taxi driver.

The newspaper said that it had published an interview with the complainant in October 2008 about the death of her brother in which she

claimed that her family had been targeted by loyalist paramilitaries. Ms Patterson had then contacted the newspaper disputing these claims and her views had been published in the article under complaint. The complainant had been quoted in the article broadly countering the allegations against her. It offered to publish a further interview with the complainant on her current plight, but this would not refer to any antagonism between the neighbours.

### Adjudication

The article was, in the Commission's view, a personal account of Ms Patterson's position regarding the complainant and her claims about the targeting of her family. This followed an earlier interview with the complainant on the subject of her family. Readers would clearly recognise that there were two sides to this dispute and the Commission felt that the newspaper had represented the basic positions of both women.

However, the complainant had denied

the accuracy of particular claims within the story. The newspaper had not been able to provide any corroborating evidence to support these allegations. Nor had it carried a specific rebuttal of them by the complainant. The Commission felt that readers would, therefore, have been misled into believing that Ms Patterson's claims had been substantiated or accepted. The newspaper could have remedied this by offering to run the complainant's response to the individual points under dispute. It had failed to do so and the result was a breach of the Code.

The Commission was also concerned about the length of time it had taken for the newspaper to respond throughout the complaint. This was unacceptable and also represented a clear breach of the preamble to the Code, which states that editors "should cooperate swiftly with the PCC in the resolution of complaints".

The complainant, together with her

sister, Grace Campbell, and her mother, Mrs Pamela Campbell, also complained that the article had intruded into the family's privacy in breach of Clause 3 (Privacy) of the Code.

The complaint was not upheld. The article had been accompanied by a photograph of Miss Campbell and Mrs Campbell's house and car, which was parked on the driveway. The complainants said that the registration plate was fully visible, as was the number of the house. Given the family's situation with loyalist paramilitary death threats, this represented an intrusion into their private lives.

The newspaper said that the photograph showed both Ms Patterson's home and the complainants' home, which were relevant to the article. The newspaper had not identified the car as belonging to the family. Indeed it did not know that it belonged to the family.

### Adjudication

The Commission has previously said

that papers should not gratuitously identify the homes of individuals who might be exposed to specific security problems.

The first point for the Commission was that the reference to the complainant's street was not a gratuitous detail, as the location was relevant to a story about a neighbour dispute. Furthermore, the street name on which the family property was located had been published, with the complainant's consent by the newspaper in October 2008. The Commission did not agree that the photograph of the property was sufficiently clear for readers to have spotted the specific house number. Against this background, the publication of this information about the complainant's address was not intrusive in breach of Clause 3 (Privacy) of the Code. Nor did the publication of a photograph showing – without clarity – the number plates of cars parked outside the property constitute an intrusion under the terms of Clause 3.

This part of the complaint was therefore not upheld.