

**Materials for PCC seminar at
Associated Newspapers, February
2011**

PCC Seminar

Cases

ACCURACY

Case 1

A man complained that a blog posting on the Spectator's website contained inaccurate information in breach of Clause 1 (Accuracy) of the Editors' Code of Practice.

The piece under complaint was an entry on Rod Liddle's regular blog for the Spectator's website. It said that "the overwhelming majority of street crime, knife crime, gun crime, robbery and crimes of sexual violence in London is carried out by young men from the African-Caribbean community". The complainant said that was not the case and pointed to statistics produced by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), which showed that in the area covered by the Metropolitan police force, the majority of arrests for notifiable offences were of white people. In categories defined as 'violence against the person' and 'sexual offences', black people made up 32% of arrests. 58% of arrests for robbery were of black people but that was not an 'overwhelming majority'. The MoJ statistics did not give specific figures for knife crime or gun crime.

The magazine provided some evidence to substantiate the figures: a BBC report, which quoted an Inspector in the Trident Unit of the Metropolitan police as saying that 'for three out of every four shootings...in London, the victim and the perpetrator are from the black community'; a Daily Mail article, which reported that '124 out of 225 under-18s legally proceeded against for knife offences in the past three months are from the black community'; and a Sunday Times report which stated that '71% of people accused of mobile phone theft were black...' It said that blogging was a conversational medium in which readers were able to disagree with the writer's opinion immediately, as had happened in this case. In that sense, the piece as a whole had been written by the columnist and those who had commented. In addition, it had published a separate blog by another author in which the accuracy of the claim was called into question.



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MONDAY 29 MARCH 2010

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MY SPECTATOR

Benefits of a multi-cultural Britain

ROD LIDDLE

SATURDAY, 5TH DECEMBER 2009



The first of an occasional series – those benefits of a multi-cultural Britain in full. Let me introduce you all to this human filth.

It could be an anomaly, of course. But it isn't. The overwhelming majority of street crime, knife crime, gun crime, robbery and crimes of sexual violence in London is carried out by young men from the African-Caribbean community. Of course, in

return, we have rap music, goat curry and a far more vibrant and diverse understanding of cultures which were once alien to us. For which, many thanks.

About Rod Liddle



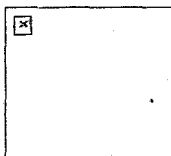
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CARTOONS



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Fergus Pickering
December 5th, 2009 3:29am

I say, Rod. You are putting your head above the parapet. I admire your courage, you lovely night-wing racist bastard you. I can't understand how some of my mild-as-milk remarks about the muslim community seem to fall by the wayside. Are the different people looking at the different posts? In other words can I get things onto your blogs I can't get onto other people's? For instance, can I say how unhappy I would be if either of my daughters took up with a man of colour?

Seacole Shanty
December 5th, 2009 6:50am

Are you sure about crimes of sexual violence? How do you know? I'm certain that the others are correct, however.

50 seacole
December 5th, 2009 8:24am

where's the respect ?

Middle Class - Just
affoat
December 5th, 2009 8:52am

Short and to the point. Now let's hear from the "defenders" of this vibrant, caring, humane, etc etc multicultural policy which has been forced upon us. Let's hear their defence, and let them show how they share in it and enjoy it - from their comfortable, well-distanced monocultural suburbs in Hampstead etc and second homes in Tuscany, from their rich friends' yachts; nimbles to a man and woman, the lot of them.

Lupus Lungfish
December 5th, 2009 9:06am

Rap culture is an expression of anger felt by the black community against the evil white oppressor. I personally would also like to thank

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FAITH BASED

PRIVACY

Case 2

A woman complained that an article headlined "Oh please, stop this twit from Tweeting, someone" intruded into her privacy in breach of Clause 3 (Privacy) of the Editors' Code of Practice.

The article reported that the complainant - a civil servant who worked for the Department for Transport - had been using the micro-blogging website, Twitter, to describe aspects of her job and her feelings towards her work. The newspaper considered some of her comments to be inappropriate.

The article referred to the fact that the complainant had in her tweets: described the leader of a course she was doing (as part of her job) as "mental"; said that she was "struggling with a wine-induced hangover" at work; and, again at work, told how she was "feeling rather tired - would much prefer going home". In addition, the article pointed to a number of tweets that were political in nature: a complaining reference to a Conservative MP who was a prominent critic of Whitehall waste; a re-tweet of a Labour MP's attack on government "spin"; and a reference to the complainant's acquaintance with Sally Bercow.

The complainant said her activities on Twitter and other social networking sites (she also had a blog and had uploaded pictures of herself on Flickr) were private. While it was true in theory that anybody could view the information she had posted online, she argued that she had a "reasonable expectation that my messages...would be published only to my followers". Only her 700 or so followers could see the full context of her messages. Others would only find her account by actively searching for her, which seemed an unlikely thing for most people to do, and would only see messages she had posted, not those she was responding to. Her Twitter account and her blog (neither of which were anonymous) both included clear disclaimers that the views expressed were personal opinions and were not representative of her employer...She argued that there were thousands of public sector workers who regularly use Twitter in and out of office hours. She could not understand why she had been targeted.

The newspaper disputed that it had invaded the complainant's privacy. She was openly posting messages about many aspects of her life, including her job. The material could be read by anybody; she had not limited her Twitter account to those officially "following" her.

In any case, there was an ongoing debate about the use of social media, which the newspaper was entitled to take part in. Since the civil service code requires that public servants should not, by their personal statements, call into doubt the impartiality of the civil service, it was quite legitimate for the newspaper to highlight this particular case.

~~The complainant said she was fully compliant with the civil service code. As a result of the newspaper's article, she had taken the decision - reluctantly - to lock her Twitter stream so it could not be viewed by anybody apart from her followers.~~

SOCIAL network site Twitter, which is increasingly landing its users in legal difficulties for posting foolish remarks, may soon claim another victim.

A Whitehall official has been Tweeting about her drunkenness, boasting about how pointless she thinks some of her work is and how much she dislikes the Government's deficit reduction.

When I rang her department yesterday to tell them, there was a cold pause before someone promised to 'get back' to me. He never did.

Civil servants used to try to be impartial and discreet. Not so Sarah Baskerville, Team Leader in Corporate Finance Systems and Reporting Solutions (what a title!) at the Department of Transport. Ms Baskerville, aka 'Baskers', is an incorrigible contributor to the internet. She belongs to numerous networking sites.

In the middle of a management course — paid for by us taxpayers to help her do her job better — she posted a Tweet promoting a Labour MP's attack on Downing

QUENTIN LETTS



Oh, please stop this twit from Tweeting

Street 'spin'. She later described the person who was taking the course as 'mental'. Charming.

Before the government cuts were announced to Parliament, Ms Baskerville was Tweeting about meetings concerning the fate of staff about to be displaced. All this was done, it should be

stressed, under her own name, with easy links to her workplace. She publishes photos of herself, too. Are there not some security issues here?

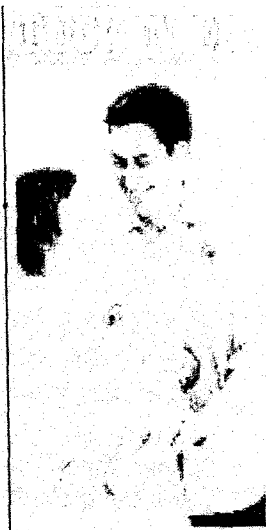
'Struggling with wine-induced hangover,' she Tweeted from work one day. There have been frequent references to her over-

imbibing. Another day, shortly before the Comprehensive Spending Review, she complained after lunch about feeling rather tired — would much prefer going home?

If she only spent her office hours working rather than Tweeting, she would no doubt be even more exhausted.

Her outpourings have included a complaining reference to Tory MP Douglas Carswell, a prominent critic of Whitehall waste. She claims to be an acquaintance of Sally Bercow, Labour-supporting wife of the supposedly impartial Commons Speaker. In one Tweet she looked forward to meeting Mrs Bercow for 'another coffee/muffin session, just so that I can laugh at your lack of apps on the iPhone'.

Transport Secretary Philip Hammond is one of the more serious members of the Cabinet. He is unlikely to be enchanted by Ms Baskerville or her witterings.



□ SWEET photo of the Millband baby this week, but father Ed's appearance was more troubling. The Labour leader outed himself as one of those men who wears leisure shirts outside his trousers, without tucking them in. This may be all right for darts players such as Eric Bristow, but for a would-be Prime Minister it's not such a great look.



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□ YET more new Tory MPs were this week made parliamentary private secretaries (PPSs) to ministers, and the Whips seem to have been playing snap. Nicholas Boles (Grantham) has been appointed as PPS to fellow bachelor Nick Gibb, Schools Minister. Husky Anna Soubry (Broxtowe), voice like Lee Marvin, has been given to fog-horned smoker Simon Burns, Health Minister. Richard Graham (Gloucester), new PPS to the

Foreign Office's Lord Howell, used himself to do opaque things in the diplomatic service. Tragically, no promotion for Claire Perry (Devizes). All that effort in vain! She had a smart new hairdo this week, black as Quink ink. But I had better not tease our Claire lest her admirer Nicholas Soames (Con, Mid Sussex) challenge me to a duel. Watching her in the Commons recently, Soames emitted one throaty word: 'Magnificent!' I am sure he was referring only to the quality of her oratory.



□ LEFT-WING comedian Bill Bailey should not expect too many fan letters from Roman Catholics. In yesterday's Mail I reviewed his latest one-man show in the West End, describing the way he mocks Christ and His stigmata. I did not have space to report that Mr Bailey also calls the Pope 'the sultan of abusers the betrayer of trust, that creeping Bavarian glimp'.

The show is at Wyndhams Theatre, controlled by Sir Cameron Mackintosh. His company seems happy with the anti-Christian content. Nicholas Allott, who sits on the board of Cameron Mackintosh Ltd, was there on Tuesday, clapping like billy-oh.

Stephen Green of the pressure group Christian Voice said yesterday: 'I feel an act of Christian witness at Wyndhams coming on. Any excuse for evangelical outreach!'

Crazy paving

WHEN is a pavement not a pavement? When highly-paid lawyers say so. Labour's Lord Peston rose in the House of Lords this week to discuss the scruffy 'peace camp' in Parliament Square. He wants to get rid of protester Brian Haw and his noisy mates.

Lord Peston, in his lovely lugubrious voice, said: 'What surrounds the square may look like a pavement and, if you fell on it, would feel like a pavement. But the High Court has announced that, as it does not "go" anywhere, it is not a pavement. That is one of the things that prevents the Metropolitan police from doing anything about these squatters.'

So: a pavement is a pavement only if it 'goes' somewhere? Can no circle or square 'go' anywhere? Lord Peston says: 'I spend my life looking at mathematical economics and this is turning into a consideration of infinity.' Think about infinity long enough and you go mad. As the High Court just proved.

□ CHRIS BRYANT (Rhondda) is among the most ardent of Labour MPs. So there was surprise when he failed to vote with the Opposition in a Commons division early on Monday night. Where could he be? Had he — gasp! — defected to the Tories? The truth was more prosaic. Mr Bryant was in the parliamentary gym, honing his abs (I must, I must, I must increase my bust). For some reason the electronic division bells there did not ring. I'm sure the Labour Whips will forgive him. Next year some time.



Bill Gates

Burden of proof

SOMEONE ran up to me at Westminster, full of excitement. 'I've just seen Bill Gates! The world's richest man!'

Not quite. The chap she had seen was in fact Labour MP Richard Burden, who is as unlike a billionaire as one can probably imagine. But he does look quite like Mr Gates, it has to be admitted.



Richard Burden

PRIVACY (INTRUSION INTO GRIEF)

Case 3

A woman complained that an approach by a reporter to her daughter after the death of her son raised a breach of Clause 5 (Intrusion into grief or shock) of the Editors' Code of Practice.

The complainant's son had died at university on 8 October 2009, and there was speculation that he had taken his own life. Mrs Rundle complained that coverage of the incident in The Sunday Times was inaccurate and insensitive.

While the PCC investigation was ongoing, another reporter from the paper contacted the complainant's daughter through Facebook. She informed the reporter that the family did not wish to speak in view of the ongoing complaint. The reporter then asked about the details of the complaint, sending a copy of the article to the complainant's daughter so she could highlight what was wrong with it. This upset Mrs Rundle's daughter.

The Managing Editor apologised for this second approach, explaining that the reporter was a freelance and was unaware of the PCC complaint. However, he accepted that the reporter should not have continued questioning Mrs Rundle's daughter once the complaint was mentioned. The reporter understood her error and apologised for it. Nothing from the correspondence would be used in any future article. Additionally, all section editors and deputies had been alerted to the complaint and told not to contact the family. The paper also offered to send a private letter of apology to the family.

PRIVACY

Case 4

The Chief Executive of the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust, complained that an article headlined "Suicide pact" was intrusive in breach of Clause 3 (Privacy) and Clause 8 (Hospitals) of the Editors' Code of Practice.

The front-page article reported that three patients at a Birmingham psychiatric unit, Main House, had - several days before publication - attempted suicide over concerns about the future of the unit. They had subsequently been informed that Main House was indeed to be closed down, which prompted the...article. The article was accompanied by pixellated photographs of the patients being informed of the decision - said in the coverage to have been "supplied by the patients themselves via their psychiatrist" - in which they were shown to be distraught at the news.

The complainant said that the residents were extremely vulnerable adults to whom the Trust owed a duty of care: they were not in a position to give any clear consent for the taking and publication of these photographs, which had been taken inside Main House. The complainant argued that the newspaper should have obtained consent from not only the patients but also their respective carers, consultants and/or relatives before publication. Indeed, while there is some assumption under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 that patients have capacity to make their own choices, it is not automatically the case that they do and the newspaper should have sought further guidance from appropriate individuals. The Trust was now unable to assess retrospectively whether the patients had the capacity to make decisions about the photographs, but considered that they would not have had the capacity to make such a decision due to their vulnerability.

The complainant said that the photographs had also been taken in breach of patient confidentiality by a GP who worked with the patients once a week, and was not their consultant or primary carer. He had been dismissed following a disciplinary hearing and the case had been referred to the General Medical Council.

The newspaper said that the closure of Main House was a major local issue. When they received the photographs of the distressed patients they gave careful consideration to their publication. They felt justified in publishing for the following reasons: the photographs had been taken with the knowledge of the patients; they had been taken by a medical professional working with the patients; the patients, who were all adults, had given their consent for publication and were actively keen for them to be shown; and a parent of one of the patients had supported the use of the images. The newspaper added that they had taken steps to protect the identities of the patients by pixellating their faces.

The newspaper said that they had given a voice to mental health patients who said that they were being ignored and distressed by the sudden closure of the unit midway through a public consultation. They had received no complaints from the patients or their families directly.

SUICIDE PACT

Last cry for help of 3 mental health patients kicked out of home by NHS

EXCLUSIVE

By Alison Dayani

THREE patients at a Birmingham psychiatric unit tried to kill themselves just days before they were evicted.

The suicide pact failed and now Main House in Northfield has closed down, leaving them living in the community.

The trio made a special request that the harrowing pictures of their despair are printed - to show the human impact of the decision to close their home.

FULL STORY: PAGE 3



CHILDREN

Case 5

A woman complained that an article headlined "Day of drama as bus ploughs into bridge", published in the Nottingham Evening Post on 12 December 2009, contained a photograph of her daughter which was published without consent in breach of Clause 6 (Children) of the Editors' Code of Practice.

The article reported that a bus full of primary school children on a day trip had crashed into a low railway bridge. The complainant objected to the inclusion in the coverage of a photograph of her daughter, together with numerous other children, being comforted by a policeman at the scene of the accident. Her daughter had been pictured in a clear state of distress and the complainant had not been asked for her consent for the photograph to appear. The child had been further upset by the publication of the image.

The newspaper said that the accident had occurred in a public place in full view of a number of onlookers. An immediate investigation had been announced and it had spoken to a number of angry parents who were concerned about what had happened. While there had been a lot of discussion at the time as to whether the use of the image was justified, it had ultimately decided that the publication of the photograph was in the public interest, given that that the story related to an important matter of public health and safety. In addition, the fact that there were no serious injuries or fatalities had been an important factor in deciding to move forward to publication.

Emotional plea for daughter

The mother of a 19-year-old girl who lost her leg in a hit-and-run has made an emotional appeal for information. Chloe Jones, a second year student at Nottingham Trent University studying art and design, was hit by a car on Monday November 30 at about 10pm while walking along Nottingham Street.

It is believed a white Ford Transit van emerged from Ward Street into Huntingdon Street and hit a passing taxi, causing the taxi to lose control and hit Chloe.

The white van failed to stop at the scene and drove off into Huntingdon Street and then on to Huntingdon Street, turning into St John's Wells Road and then into Huntingdon Street.

The police have so far been unable to identify the driver of the white van. Chloe's mother, Mrs Jones, is appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the incident to contact the police.



ACCIDENT: Chloe Jones

Mrs Jones said: "I am asking the public for their help in finding the driver of a white Ford Transit van, who caused a collision that forced my daughter Chloe to have her left leg amputated. This is a very stressful time for my family and I have to watch Chloe, who is independent, full of life, with any plans for the future, lying in a hospital bed with her life in ruins."

"I am begging anyone who may have any information about the collision, no matter how small, to please contact the police urgently."

Chloe remains in hospital, where she continues to undergo further major surgery.

Detective Sergeant John McDonnell, from the crash investigation unit, said: "There may be someone out there with vital information that may lead us to the driver of the van."

It is thought the van was manufactured between 2000 and 2006 (a 'W' registered plate to a 5600cc engine with a sliding door to the rear passenger side. The van is a white Ford Transit model.

Call the crash investigation unit on 0300 300 9999, ext 2229.

Sunday stop on Robin Hood line

RAIL services on the Robin Hood line will stop off at Bulwell from tomorrow.

A Sunday service was introduced on the line between Nottingham and Worksop in December last year but it did not include a stop at Bulwell because it needed extra engineering work.

Some of this work has now been completed and trains can stop at Bulwell.

Coun Jane Urquhart, portfolio holder for transport and area working at Nottingham City Council, said: "We recognise the introduction of the Sunday service at Bulwell as a good start but would hope to work with East Midlands Trains and Network Rail to ensure an improved service in the future."

David Horne, commercial director for East Midlands Trains, added: "It's great news that passengers travelling on this line will benefit from further improvements."

"On December 13, we will be launching new services between Nottingham and Bulwell. Passengers on the line will benefit from a significantly improved railway."

Ten youngsters injured while others are left shocked after

Day of drama as bus

A school bus full of children from Cantrell Primary School in Bulwell smashed into a railway bridge in Leicester, slicing the

AN investigation is under way into how a double-decker bus carrying 52 Nottingham school children collided with a railway bridge in Leicester.

The roof of the bus was almost sliced off in the impact of the crash, which happened at 10.20am yesterday.

It was carrying youngsters from Cantrell Primary School in Bulwell along with teachers and some parents.

Those on the bus were helped off it before standing in the road looking in horror at the wreckage.

Ten youngsters, aged nine and ten, were taken to Leicester Royal Infirmary with cuts and bruises before being released later.

The remaining 40 were returned to the school on a coach to meet their parents.

Parents of the injured children were taken on a coach to the hospital.

Ralph Surman, acting head of the school, speaking about the "terrible accident", said: "The local authority will launch an inquiry into what has happened. The police will be involved and we will fully co-operate with that."

The emergency services have been outstanding and close contact has been kept with all of the families involved.

The pupils were on their way to the New Walk Museum in Leicester when the crash happened, close to the junction of Tigers Way and Lancaster Road.

A ten-year-old pupil who was on the bus said: "I was on the lower deck of the bus. It was horrible when it happened. I saw some of the children with blood on them."

A taxi driver who was following the bus said that when he saw it heading down the road towards the 12ft 3in bridge, he sounded his horn to attract the driver's attention, but the driver carried on.

Two fire engines attended and police closed Tigers Way towards the rugby stadium between Regent Road and the bridge.

'Crying'

Construction worker Craig Howard, 31, of Leicester, told how he pulled the driver from the wrecked bus.

"When I got on the bus I saw the driver shaking and crying," he said. "I helped the police carry him off. He looked really young. I wasn't feeling anything at the time - I just saw the crash and wanted to get the kids off."

The driver of the AOT Travel bus was spoken to by police but was not arrested.

Mike Rogers, owner of the bus company, said the driver was unhurt and a full internal investigation would be carried out into the incident.

"He phoned up to say he is all right but that's about it. I have not spoken to him fully," he said. "That's all we know at the moment until we get him back. We just hope that all the children are OK."

Mr Rogers said the driver was experienced and had worked for the company for two spells, having recently returned a month ago. He added that the trip was a "one-off" job rather than a contract.

Parents and children involved in the crash are to be offered counselling to help them recover.

Coun David Mellen, portfolio holder for children's services at Nottingham City Council, said: "We have sent some of our services, including some experts, to provide support to the children and others involved."

"We have felt all along that the most important thing for us is that the children are reunited with their parents."

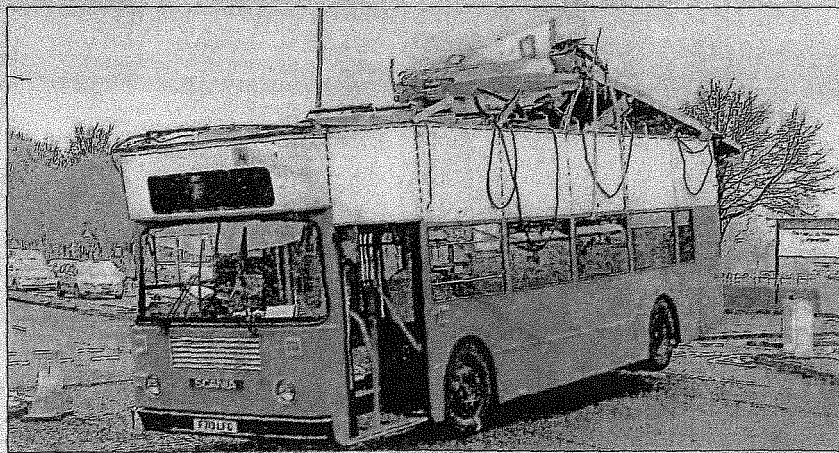
"What has happened is terrible but at the same time it is good there weren't any more serious injuries."

"The school have done an excellent job given the very challenging circumstances."

marcus.boocock@nottinghameveningpost.co.uk



WORDS OF COMFORT: A policeman speaks to shocked youngsters after the accident in Leicester. Below: All that was left of the bus and, right, police arrive at Cantrell Primary School in Bulwell.



Borough's teens making music

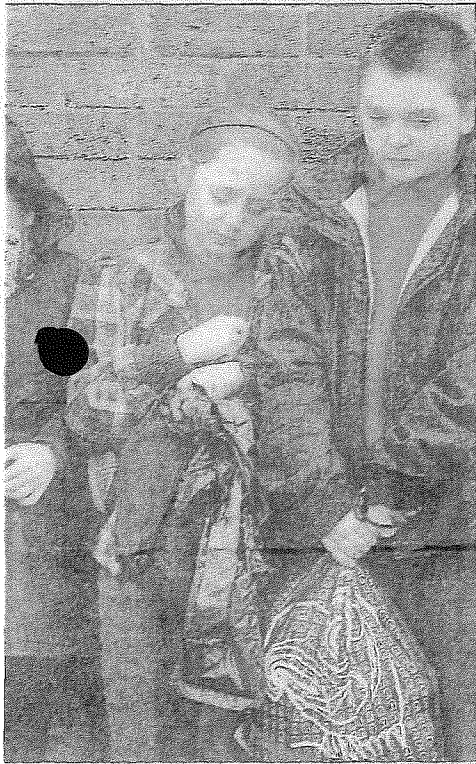
A MUSIC event for teenagers is taking place in Radcliffe-on-Trent on Sunday.

Rushcliffe Sound, a free event which showcases the musical talents of youngsters in the borough, takes place from 6.30pm to 9.30pm at The Grange Hall.

Young people will receive awards for their achievements this year, including accredited work undertaken through the county council's youth service.

Tip to museum ends as double-decker's roof is ripped off ploughs into bridge

off. Horrified parents rushed to the school after hearing the news. **MARCUS BOOCOCK** reports.



RELIEF: Almas Ali, 10, is reunited with her mum Fajida. POSTPHOTO C117208MA2-B PIC BY JAMAT ALEXANDER

Tearful scenes at school as parents reunited with pupils

A MUM has told of her horror at hearing about a bus crash involving her daughter. Fajida Parveen had an emotional reunion with ten-year-old Almas Ali outside Cantrell Primary School in Bulwell yesterday. Almas was one of 52 schoolchildren on a double-decker bus which crashed into a railway bridge in Leicester at 10.20am yesterday. Ms Parveen heard about the smash while she was at work. She said: "I had a call and was very shocked to hear what had happened. 'You don't expect to be hearing about your child being on a bus that crashes while on a trip.' The roof of the bus was ripped off in the impact of the crash.

Ms Parveen added: "I didn't know until later how bad the crash was. 'She is very traumatised. She has seen some horrible things, including children with blood on them.' 'The most important thing for me right now is to get my daughter home.' Twelve of the children were taken to Leicester Royal Infirmary with minor injuries, while the remaining 40 came back to school on a coach. They arrived back at around 3.15pm. Parents had been gathering at the school throughout the day to greet them. The youngsters, aged nine and ten, were led straight into the school to be reunited with their parents. Shortly after, they came out with them, many looking very tearful. They all headed home.

Another parent, who didn't want to be named, said: "It is such a relief to have my son home. 'He has been through a terrible ordeal today. When you send your children on a school trip you don't prepare yourself for this kind of thing happening to them.' Suzy Williams, 30, was one of the first parents to arrive at the school as her ten-year-old son Kane was on the bus. She said: "I am very relieved Kane is fine. I just want to see him then I'll be less anxious. 'I am turning about what has happened. You don't expect this to happen to your child when they are going on a school trip. 'I had a call earlier in the day to let me know what had happened. I have been in shock ever since."

Group charged with 'robbery'

FIVE men have been charged after allegedly taking part in a robbery in Ollerton this week. A security guard alerted police on Wednesday saying he had been attacked and tied up at Boughton Industrial Estate, near Ollerton. Officers arrested five men in a vehicle a short distance away. The security guard was not seriously hurt in the incident. Robert Camidge, 53, of Appleton Road, Blidworth, Mansfield, and Parquin James, 18, of Nugent Gardens, St Ann's, have both been charged with false imprisonment and robbery. James Jackson, 20, of Twycross Road, Bestwood, is charged with false imprisonment, robbery and possession of a Class B drug. Two 16-year-old boys, who cannot be named for legal reasons, have also been charged with false imprisonment and robbery. The five appeared at Mansfield Magistrates Court yesterday and were remanded in custody until January 11.

Mum of hanged girl, 8, in court

THE parents of an eight-year-old girl who was found hanged in her bedroom have appeared in court charged with child neglect. Charlotte Avenall died at her home in Moor Street, Mansfield, on September 12. Her mother, Susan Moody, 24, and stepfather, Simon Moody, 32, were bailed by Mansfield magistrates until January 22.

Festive fun at extravaganza

A CHRISTMAS extravaganza was taking place today in Bilborough. People were invited to Harvey Hadden Sports Complex in Wigman Road to enjoy fair rides and fireworks from noon to 8pm. Local bands and choirs are also performing.

Meet the police over a coffee

POLICE are holding a coffee morning at the Bell Inn, Main Road, Smalley near Ilkeston, on Monday, from 12.30pm, to meet residents of Smalley, Mapperley and Shipley. To book a place call 0345 123 33 33.



Wife denies call was about murder

MEKEEPER'S wife has denied asking how much to have her husband killed, a court heard. Susan Bacon, 55, said she texted her husband, Michael, 21, asking about the cost of hiring her daughter-in-law's car. Prosecutors allege the message was sent to help plan the murder of Nigel Bacon. Mrs Bacon, 50, died after being stabbed in the couple's home. Keeper's Court, near Clumber Park, on November 26, 2008. Peter Joyce QC, prosecuting, told a jury at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday that both Susan and Michael Ba-

con used "untraceable" phones in the weeks before Mr Bacon's death to arrange the killing. Mr Joyce said Mrs Bacon's mobile phone records showed one of her handsets had been used to call co-accused Peter Jacques, who is alleged to have murdered Mr Bacon. But Mrs Bacon said she lost the phone on November 20, and denied using it to call Peter Jacques on the day of Mr Bacon's death. Mr Joyce said: "If we look at the records we can see what has been going on between you and your son. 'You sent him a text asking how much and how much?' and to 'not make arrangements tonight.' Of the text, he said: 'You were asking Michael just how was it going to be done.' Mrs Bacon denied the claim, and told the court she had nothing to do with her husband's death. She said: "I wasn't in charge of a plot to

get my husband beaten up or killed. 'It wasn't my idea. I wouldn't have harmed a hair on his body.' The prosecution alleges both Susan and Michael Bacon had been ringing people to find someone to murder Mr Bacon, who also ran a security company. However, Mrs Bacon told the court she had been ringing clients to try and drum up business for the company. 'With the economic climate as it was, I would have gone anywhere for work,' she said. The phone used to call Mr Jacques was found by police under decking in the garden of co-accused Sean Woodcock. Mrs Bacon is charged with murder alongside Michael Bacon, of Wordsworth Avenue, Mansfield Woodhouse, Sean Woodcock, 42, of Mapletot Avenue, Mansfield Woodhouse, and Peter Jacques, 29, of Charlesworth Street, Bolsover. They all deny the charge. *Proceeding*

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REPORTING OF SUICIDE

Case 6

A woman complained to the Press Complaints Commission that an article contained excessive detail about a method of suicide in breach of Clause 5 (ii) (Intrusion into grief or shock) of the Editors' Code of Practice.

The article reported an inquest hearing into the death of a man who had taken his own life by inhaling helium. The piece noted that the man had bought a 'blow up balloon kit', which included 'helium canisters', and had died after 'inhaling too much' of the gas. The complainant said that this method of suicide was uncommon and that, by revealing such excessive detail, the newspaper was likely to encourage copycat suicides.

The newspaper said it was aware of the Code's requirements on reporting suicide and had sought to remove detail about the method used in this case, in order to limit the chance of others copying it. For instance, it had not reported how precisely the gas had been inhaled, or the quantity that would generally lead to death. In the context of a straightforward inquest report, the newspaper argued that it would have been improper and misleading not to have revealed the basic means by which the man had died.

SOUTHAMPTON: Diabetic was depressed over his weight and relationship break-up

Man used balloon kit to take his own life

AN OBESE man depressed about his weight and overcome with loneliness after a relationship break-up killed himself with a blow up balloon kit.

Tony Rodskjaer, pictured right, who weighed 25 stone, planned his suicide by writing his darkest thoughts in a "poignant" diary for months.

An inquest was told how the 57-year-old explored different ways to end his life and bought a balloon kit complete with helium canisters back in January.

But it was not until April 23 that he was found dead on his boat where he lived, having inhaled too much of the gas.

A neighbour called police who found his body and the diary which told how he had been feeling low

■ **By Tara Russell**

MSR.JULSS91@CPHYSICN.CO.UK

since January. There were also suicide notes, cash and vouchers worth £320 as well as an A4 sheet of paper that said "Do not resuscitate".

Firefighters had to remove Mr Rodskjaer's body due to his weight, from his boat in Ocean Quay Marina in Belvidere Road.

PC Robert Hooks told Southampton Coroners' Court that Mr Rodskjaer was a large diabetic male who had split up with his partner last year and left his job due to his growing weight problem and diabetes. He was worried about his financial position and was smoking and drinking heavily.

A post-mortem revealed Mr Rodskjaer, who was half Finnish and half British, died from helium

inhalation although levels could not be tested because there are no labs in the UK that provide the service.

He was almost twice the drink-drive limit.

Recording a suicide verdict coroner Keith Wiseman, said Mr Rodskjaer was a man with a good sense of humour and a number of different abilities but said he was clearly depressed about what his life held for him.

He added that the diary was "a poignant document" because nobody was aware of his long planned death.

Speaking after the hearing, Mr Rodskjaer's ex-girlfriend of 12 years, Joanne Gullivers, said: "He had charisma with a great sense of humour and was quick off the mark. He seemed to just have a mental block when it came to his weight. He struggled with that."



DISCRIMINATION

Case 7

Clare Balding complained that an article in The Sunday Times discriminated against her in breach of Clause 12 (Discrimination) of the Editors' Code of Practice.

The article, by AA Gill, reviewed the complainant's television programme, Britain by Bike. In it, he referred to the complainant as a "dyke on a bike". She considered this to be a pejorative reference to her sexuality and irrelevant to the programme. The hurt was compounded by a mock apology by the columnist for previously saying that she looked "like a big lesbian".

The newspaper said that its columnist was well known for his acerbic and sometimes tasteless sense of humour: he was a "controversialist who pursues the English tradition of lampooning and ridiculing public figures". It pointed out that Mr Gill had been the subject of 62 PCC complaints in the last five years, which had not been upheld (on freedom of expression grounds). There was no reason why – in an age where homosexuality carried little social stigma – the reviewer could not discuss the sexuality of a TV presenter who had no problem with being openly gay.

In addition, the newspaper drew attention to two organisations called Dykes on Bikes (an American lesbian motorcycling movement; and a UK-based cycling movement) whose members had reclaimed the word "dyke" as an empowering, not offensive, term. It argued that an individual's sexuality should not give them an "all-encompassing protected status".

The complainant indicated that she was not demanding special treatment, simply the same treatment as everybody else. She asked the newspaper to apologise.

RICHARD BROOKS

They were called guards or warders, and often looked and acted as if they were in charge of prisoners. Except that they were employed by our museums and galleries. Try to talk to them about a Matisse or a Hirst, and you would be treated as if you were on Prisoner: Cell Block H.

Now the Tate has sensibly decided to introduce a new breed of visitor assistants — happy, smiley graduates who can actually tell their Monet from their Monet. They will be given nice open-necked purple shirts and charcoal-coloured trousers, and will be encouraged to engage with the public.

Out, too, go the old-style guards/warders, and in their place come security officers dressed in smart black suits with purple ties. They have been asked to be respectful of visitors. So you will now be told, "Please, sir, do not nick that Turner off our wall."

An American book on Agatha Christie has her husband playing golf near a Surrey sheep ranch

Meanwhile, the Tate, along with all other museums, galleries and arts bodies, has a far more pressing problem on its hands: cuts of between 25% and 40%.

Yet the Department of Culture, which may see its own staff numbers slashed in half, wants to keep our big institutions — the ones with worldwide reputations that bring in the tourists — as intact as possible.

I'm a great advocate of free admissions to our nationally run museums and galleries, but this might be the time to charge tourists to enter. Each weekend, at least two-thirds of those at the British Museum or Tate seem to be from overseas, delighted to go free when in their own countries they pay.

Of course, the culture department — whose boss, Jeremy Hunt, wants an early settlement to gain Brownie points from No 10 and the Treasury — has to apply cuts. But in return, the government must enable the private sector to plug the gap through tax breaks for individuals and companies that donate. For

example, Royal Opera House, which gets more corporate guests than any other arts organisation, should raise more private money to supplement its sizable Arts Council grant.

But will the council be brave enough to squeeze Covent Garden, to ensure hundreds of its smaller organisations survive? It is the regional museums, galleries and performing-arts companies that are clearly most threatened.

Culture minister Ed Vaizey wants more philanthropists to "come out". One individual has recently given £25m towards the British Museum's planned extension, but he refuses to identify himself. Vaizey wants donors named to encourage others and is even thinking of an annual philanthropist list, similar to this paper's Rich List.

I thought I recognised the repeated "bravos" at the end of Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto at the Proms last week. It was Ben Bradshaw, showing real enthusiasm for the Macedonian pianist Simon Trpcesk. Opposition has a plus side for the now-shadow culture secretary.

Compare this with the hapless Vaizey, who thought he had landed his dream job only two months ago. Now it's a nightmare for a man who loves his arts.

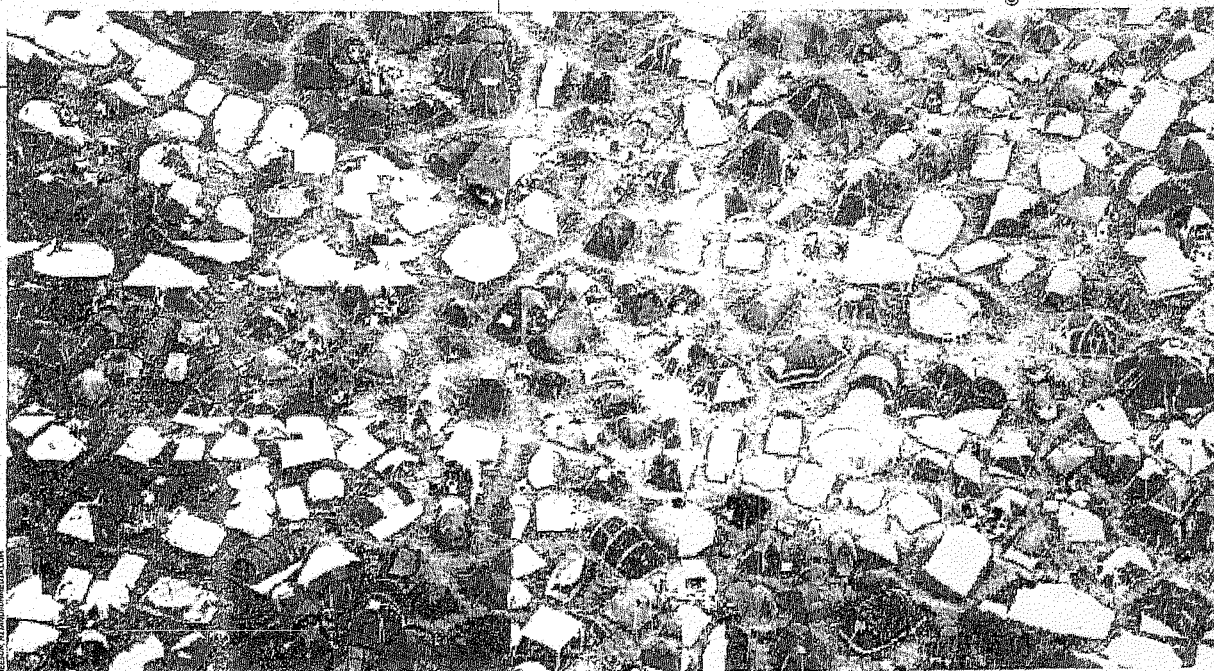
Does Richard Attenborough know he is married to the actress Sylvia Sims? He is according to a new biography of Agatha Christie by the appropriately named Richard Hack, an American author. The reference to Attenborough and his "wife" (actually Sheila Sim) is in a chapter about The Mousetrap, in whose original cast the couple appeared.

The writer also describes Penge golf club, where Christie's husband played, as being "near a sheep ranch in Surrey". I did not realise Surrey, which Hack calls "Surrey County" as if it were in America, had ranches. He also lists Verisimilitude as "Yorkshire County" and gives the Swan hotel in Harrogate, where Christie died while suffering a breakdown, a postcard — decades before it got one.

Mind you, this biography comes from JR Books, which has published some questionable showbiz titles, including a ridiculous one on Glenn Miller by a certain Hunton Downs. He sounds more like some hills in Surrey County.

A rare bit of good news. Liverpool Central Library, a Grade II-listed building dating back to 1880, is to get a facelift through a £50m private finance initiative. Amazingly, the money from this out-knocked form of financing is guaranteed by the cash-strapped culture department.

richard.brooks@sunday-times.co.uk



Humping in tents: a great British tradition

I never watch golf, but I looked in at the end of the whatever-it-was in Scotland last Sunday, where they play for a Victorian curlew boat. It really is spectacularly dull as a spectator sport. It might be like an afternoon in Hugh Hefner's den in play, but watching it is abysmal. I understand that falling to pick up the nuanced incremental excitement and balletic elegance of the game is entirely my loss and that many of you will have been utterly enraptured by the gay parade of the most embarrassingly dressed men in the world. Tell me honestly, do you golf chaps really look at this stuff and think: "I wonder where he got his short-sleeved nylon shirt with the logos from?" Or: "Wow! A ginger ponytail with a baseball cap. Cool look."

Leaving that aside, I'd never actually come across Peter Alliss before. Oh, my word! Obviously, I'd heard of him. He's been around since before guths-percha. He probably invented the caddy. But I'd never actually had the singular experience of having to listen to him. Has he always talked like that, or is this some charitable doings thing, near old chap? Because Alliss is by far, far and away, by a good 50ft chip out of a bunker for a birdie, the worst sportscaster I have ever come across, ever, and that's a crowded field. He just meanders off on some embarrassing private stream of consciousness about



- AA GILL
- The Open (BBC1, Sunday)
- Britain by Bike (BBC4, Tuesday)
- Britain Goes Camping (BBC4, Tuesday)
- Don't Stop Believing (Five, Sunday)

sunsais and ooh girls these days and that's just the sort of game it is and there's a magic here and look at that sunset and the old ways weren't all had you know, and if I had time I would tell you a thing or two about Oofy Prosser. And would you look at that, and did I mention the sunset and those girls? It was like listening to a toby jug have a stroke. There was an exhorting provincial primness and a repressed snobbishy to it all, and it went on and on. Alliss must be able to clear a clubhouse bar over a single gin and tonic. What was unintentionally funny is that

this comic stream of Pringle was so hideously like a minor character in PG Wodehouse. It seems somehow ironic that Alliss was burbling on just as Jonathan Ross was departing. I understand that the Venn diagrams of Ross and Alliss are probably circles that never overlapped, but it has to be said that Ross is a terrific broadcaster and a terrible loss to the BBC, and Alliss, well, Alliss isn't.

Which brings me quite naturally to Clare Balding on a bicycle in Devon. Some time ago, I made a cheap and frankly unnecessary joke about Clare Balding looking like a big lesbian. And afterwards somebody nudged my sleeve to point out that she is a big lesbian, and I felt foolish and guilty. So I'd like to take this opportunity to apologise. Sorry. Now back to the dyke on a bike, puffing up the nooks and crannies at the bottom end of the nation. Clare told us that the poet of Britain by Bike was to retrace the journeys made by someone we've never heard of in books that are long out of print. Well, I'm up for that.

So we followed Clare's muscular backside towards Ilfracombe, stopping on the way for an exhaustive look at a water-powered lift, and some views of a disaster. The disaster had thousands of people drowned in their beds and their houses washed away when two rivers went mental.

It was sort of interesting, but a bit of a downer, a conversation-stopper for a holiday programme. When Clare was saying, "Look at that view over there," we were thinking of whole families choking for their last breath. Next week, Clare cycles to Wales and takes in scenic Aberglaston, before a leisurely pedal through the Highland clearances.

I want to Clare as a presenter. Away from sport she has a comfortable, no-nonsense enthusiasm; when every other girl on television is winsome and coquettish, it's a relief to be talked to by someone who isn't flitting down the lens. Though I'm not sure this is much of a format: I'd like to see her as a sturdier Judith Chalmers, possibly in Lederhosen. I wonder if the production team noticed that, even through three layers of Vivella and Gore-Tex, Clare has heroically assertive nipples.

And now, without a hint of double entendre or innuendo, we're off camping, in Britain Goes Camping. As so often on TV, what we really wanted to see was the planning meeting that decided this was going to be a great broadcasting, not just as a segment of Blue Peter, but a whole 15 hours of nonstop gay-pepe fun. Even now it's all over, I'm not entirely sure this wasn't a practical joke made by the Top Gear production team.

It had a voice-over that defied credulity. "What people forget is what a great

innovation the bicycle was." "With bicycles you could get further out of town." "The motorcar allowed people to carry more." "For the first time camping meant that working people could have cheap holidays." These were yards and yards of these thoughtless truisms, interspersed with interviews with people who had been camping for a very long time or who claimed to write for specialist camping magazines. They seemed to have something odd about them — had they been let out of sheltered accommodation? And I suspect that quite a number indulged in the sorts of hobbies that can get you awarded an exclusion order.

I'm not sure I'm passing on how supernaturally tedious this programme really was. It was heroically tedious, valiantly uninteresting, panoramically bereft of any moment of anticipation, and I must grudgingly admit in its own way it was impressive. It was very like camping. The one and only camping joy it failed to address was the single pleasure that took most people camping in the first place: to have sex with people they couldn't take home. Humping in tents is a memorable and vital part of so many adolescences. Baden-Powell said, after camping, leave nothing behind but your thanks, but millions of teenagers could add, and your virginity.

Don't Stop Believing is an obvious steal, not merely from one, but two current TV

The one and only camping joy it failed to address was its single pleasure, sex

successes. The title shouts Glee; the format, The X Factor. It is a talent contest for song and dance groups, ranging from choirs to handfulls of out-of-work musical actors. It looked rather like an emoron in a contest to find contestants for a new talent show. It was auditioning itself with more enthusiasm than panache. The set looked like a church hall that had done wonders with linoleum. The judges might have been people swept up from the lobby of Smooth FM; they were as unknown as the kids they were going to judge. The only recognisable face was one of the Spice Girls. I can't say precisely which one, except it wasn't Robbie Williams.

The show brought us six acts, one of whom would go through to the final. This would be chosen by popular vote, which meant that by far and away the least talented contestants won because they had the most saccharine and pathetically winsome backstory and because they came from Scotland. It's a well-known but unspoken fact of talent shows that the contestants from the Celtic edges of the nation do well because their home countries vote clannishly, so being Welsh, Northern Irish or from Dundee gives you a huge advantage, as does having a large number of members. A really embarrassing amateur choir of about 50 that had one prominent member with lung cancer and about two dozen who sang as if they had did well because all their aunts would vote. Phone polls on talent shows are as fair and reasonable as they are for the Eurovision Song Contest, and this being Five, I doubt anyone got much beyond triple figures. But who cares?

Ensemble groups tend to cover recent pop hits and yet more 1980s power ballads, so the audience will react to the song rather than to their singing. The whole process has so swiftly become formulaic manipulation, and cynically predictable, that the talent-show genre must be looking to go the way of Big Brother. It will be interesting to see if this show ups the ante for the current sale of five to either Richard Desmond or Channel 4. There have been questions asked about whether there would be a conflict of interest to have many media outlets in one person's hands. Don't be so silly, it's Richard Desmond. It's the Express and the Star. Handy cousin as media.

You may have heard that Eamonn Holmes, the talented and popular television personality, has made a formal complaint to the BBC. He is unhappy with a BBC1 series that persists in broadcasting jokes about him being a fat, van, humourless, self-indulgent loud bucket. Holmes would like it to be known that he can take a joke like the next man, as long as the next man is Kim Jung-hi.



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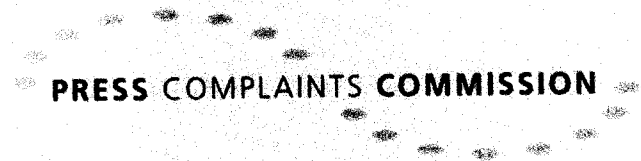
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PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

The Code of Practice

- 16 sections in total:
- Accuracy (cause of most complaints);
- Privacy (most controversial/complex area);
- Newsgathering (Code not just about what is published)



http://www.spectator.co.uk/rodiddle/5601833/benefits-of-a-multi-cultural-britain.shtml

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Benefits of a multi-cultural Britain

ROD LIDDLE

SATURDAY, 5TH DECEMBER 2009

The first of an occasional series – those benefits of a multi-cultural Britain in full. Let me introduce you all to this human filth.

It could be an anomaly, of course. But it isn't. The overwhelming majority of street crime, knife crime, gun crime, robbery and crimes of sexual violence in London is carried out by young men from the African-

Caribbean community. Of course, in return, we have rap music, goat curry and a far more vibrant and diverse understanding of cultures which were once alien to us. For which, many thanks.

UPDATE: A PCC adjudication relating to this blog-post can be found [here](#).

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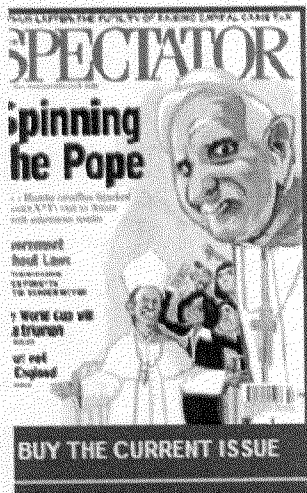
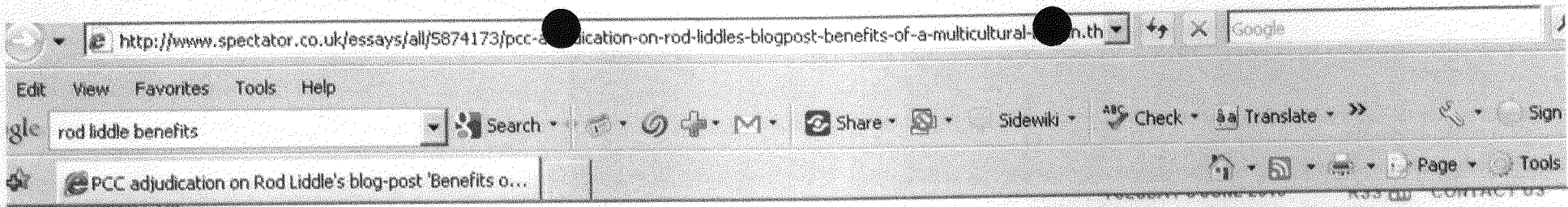
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PCC adjudication on Rod Liddle's blog-post 'Benefits of a multi-cultural Britain'

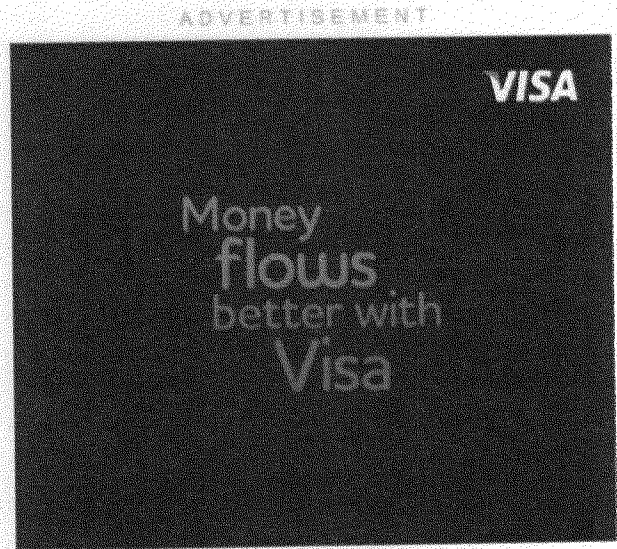
29 MARCH 2010

Mr Oli Bird of London complained to the Press Complaints Commission that a blog posting on the Spectator's website, published on 5 December 2009, contained inaccurate information in breach of Clause 1 (Accuracy) of the Editors' Code of Practice.

The complaint was upheld.

The piece under complaint was an entry on Rod Liddle's regular blog for the Spectator's website. It said that 'the overwhelming majority of street crime, knife crime, gun crime, robbery and crimes of sexual violence in London is carried out by young men from the African-Caribbean community'. The complainant said that was not the case and pointed to statistics produced by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), which showed that in the area covered by the Metropolitan police force, the majority of arrests for notifiable offences were of white people. In categories defined as 'violence against the person' and 'sexual offences', black people made up 32% of arrests. 58% of arrests for robbery were of black people but that was not an 'overwhelming majority'. The MoJ statistics did not give specific figures for knife crime or gun crime.

The magazine provided some evidence to substantiate the figures: a BBC report, which quoted an inspector in the Trident Unit of the Metropolitan police as saying that 'for three out of every four shootings... in London, the victim and the perpetrator are from the black community'; a Daily Mail article, which reported that '124 out of 225 under-18s legally proceeded against for knife offences in the



In this section CLOSE

- The revolution starts now
- Old hat?
- Portrait of the week
- The coalition may be united, but in the Commons its adversarial politics as usual
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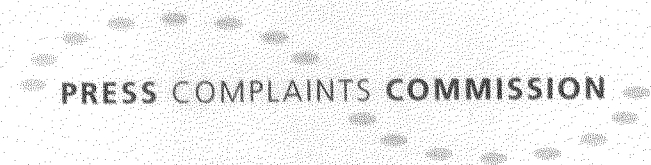
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● ●

“...it’s pretty much open season
now...”

- Mainstream media must continue to recognise commitment to high standards
- Some things do not bear repeating
- The ‘public domain’ is not a straightforward excuse



Internet boasts of sex, drink and violence as youngsters hit 18

ANNIVERSARY SHAME OF DUNBLANE SURVIVORS

**SCOTTISH
EXCLUSIVE**

By Paula Murray

DUNBLANE survivors have "shamed" the memory of their dead peers with foul-mouthed boasts about sex, brawls and drink-fuelled antics as they reach adulthood.

A number of the youngsters, now 18, have posted shocking blogs and photographs of themselves on the Internet, 13 years after being sheltered from public view in the aftermath of the atrocity.

Sixteen pupils and their teacher died when gunman Thomas Hamilton burst into the gym at Dunblane Primary School and opened fire on March 13, 1996.

In the days and months that followed the survivors, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**



**Ramsay sw
at the Que**

SEE PAGE 5

IF US GET TOMORROW'S DAILY EXPRESS FOR JUST 15p - VOUCHER ON PAGE



PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

WOLF

The stuff we've been talking about in the boozier

Wanda Kean O'Neil

WANTED! The Epic Boobs girl!

She's got the best
breasts on the block.
But who the hell is she?

A lot of sexy emails are sent to us here at Loaded Towers. But sometimes one lands on the desk that turns even us (and) our judgement weak at the knees.

We're talking about the lass - the Epic Boobs girl, who says her breasts "can turn heterosexual women into lesbians in 0.39 seconds".

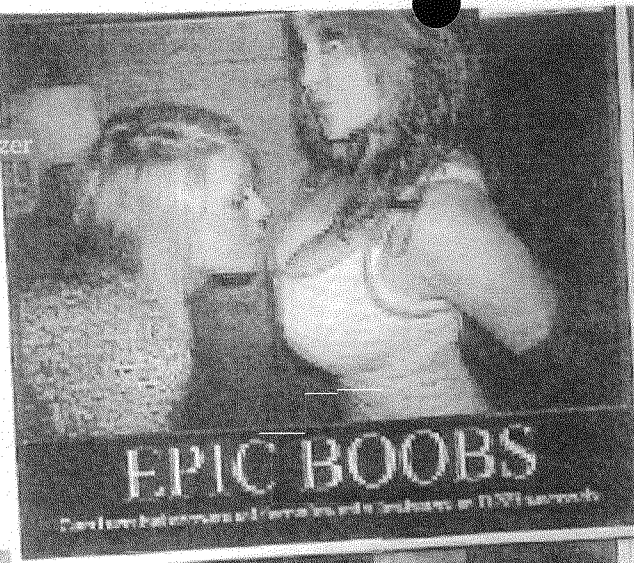
We know that she has perhaps the finest chest on the planet, but what we don't know is who the hell she is! Natch, there are rumors, fake Facebook accounts, and message boards stuffed as full as her ample brassiere with wild claims.

We also know she's called Alix Bramley.

The Americans claim her as their own. But pictures of her on a very British commuter train hint at a less exotic identity: was she really Alix from Bramley?

So, we're laying down a cash reward of £500 to the person who can bring her to us for a photo session with Loaded.

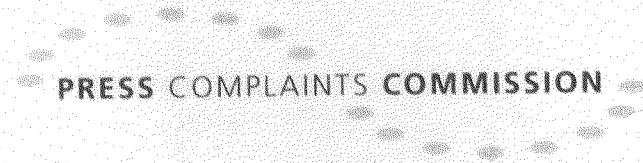
Call us, Alix - and we'll send a car to collect you the very same day.



PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Questions to consider

- How widely available is the information?
- Who uploaded the material?
- What settings have been used to protect privacy?
- What is the quality of the information (how personal is it; what is the context)?
- What is the public interest?
- How is the material presented?



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From The Sunday Times

October 11, 2009

'Harry Potter' student found hanged in his Oxford room

Chris Hastings and Chris Gourlay

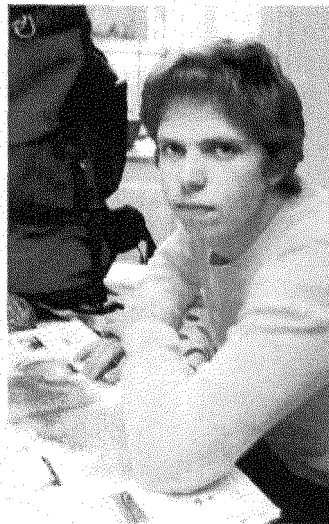
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An Oxford student who sold a rare first edition of Harry Potter to fund his studies has hanged himself in his college room at the start of his final year.

Toby Rundle was found dead at the university's Lady Margaret Hall by two friends on Thursday, a day after they had been out on the town drinking.

The 21-year-old from Williton, Somerset, was studying classics and English.

Rundle had hoped one day to become a food writer working in



TIMES RECOMMENDS

- > Me and my 350 schools
- > Girls, you can take the skirts off
- > Ex-children's laureate on hunt for young writers

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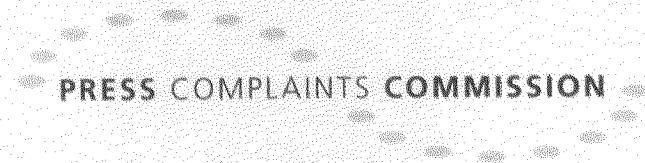
Primary schools
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PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Will you be my friend?

- It can be legitimate to contact individuals via social networks
- Applying to be a 'friend' can be acceptable, though rules on subterfuge apply
- In cases involving grief, approaches must be made with sensitivity



SUICIDE PACT

Last cry for help of 3 mental health patients kicked out of home by NHS

EXCLUSIVE
By Alison Dayani

THREE patients at a Birmingham psychiatric unit tried to kill themselves just days before they were evicted.

The suicide pact failed and now Main House in Northfield has closed down, leaving them living in the community.

The trio made a special request that the harrowing pictures of their despair are printed – to show the human impact of the decision to close their home.

FULL STORY: PAGE 3



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1/17/03

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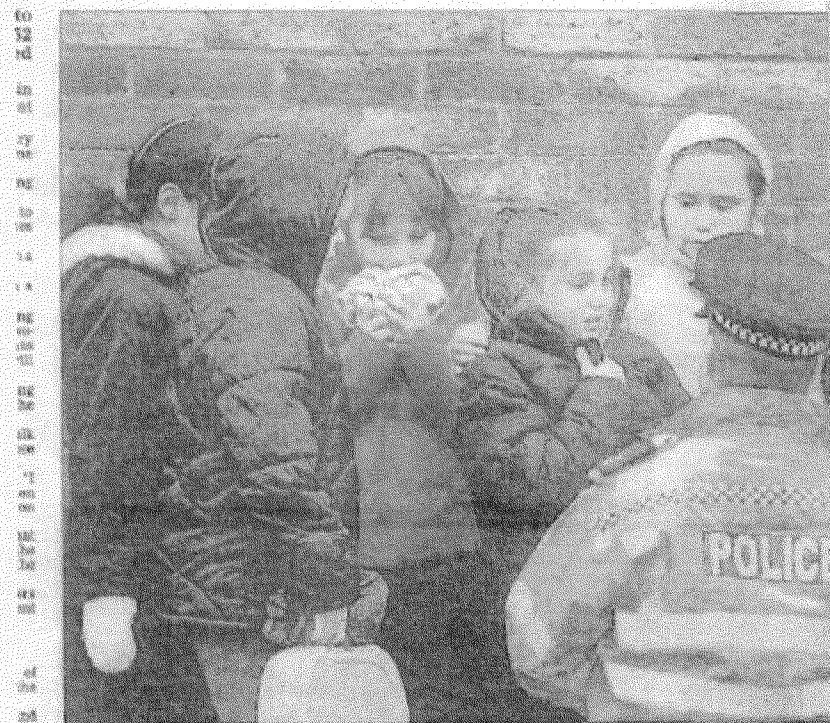
1/17/03

Injured while others are left shocked after drama as bus

Castrell Primary School in Bulwell smashed into a railway bridge in Leicester, slicing the

trip to museum ends as double-decker's roof is ripped ploughs into bridge

roof off. Horrified parents rushed to the school after hearing the news. **MARCUS BOOCOCK** reports.



WORDS OF COMFORT A policeman speaks to shocked youngsters after the accident in Leicester. Below: All that was left of the bus and, right, police arrive at Castrell Primary School in Bulwell.



RELIEF Amina, 10, is reunited with her mother Fatma. PHOTOGRAPH BY GEMMA HIGGINS FOR THIS IS MY LOCAL PAPER

Tearful scenes at school as parents reunited with pupils

A BUS full of children from a nearby school was crushed under the roof of a double-decker bus which had overturned on a railway bridge in Leicester yesterday.

Amina, 10, was one of the children who was crushed under the roof of the bus when it crashed into a railway bridge in Leicester at 10.30am yesterday.

"It's my birthday about the month after the school was closed," she said. "I had a red and white dress and I had my hair done. I was so happy to be wearing it and I was so excited to go to school."

The roof of the bus was ripped off as the impact of the crash.

Ms Fatma Amina, 35, said she was told her daughter was in a hospital when she was 10. She was told she was in a hospital when she was 10. She was told she was in a hospital when she was 10.

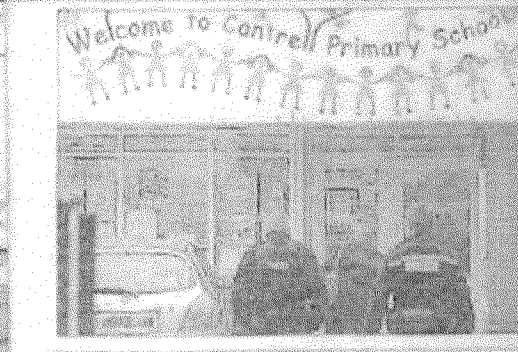
"The most important thing for me right now is to get my daughter home."

She said the children who were in Leicester today were the children who were in Leicester today. They were the children who were in Leicester today.

Another parent who wanted to be named, said she was told her daughter was in a hospital when she was 10. She was told she was in a hospital when she was 10.

"I had been told she was in a hospital when she was 10. I had been told she was in a hospital when she was 10. I had been told she was in a hospital when she was 10."

"I'm so happy to see her and I'm so happy to see her. I'm so happy to see her and I'm so happy to see her. I'm so happy to see her and I'm so happy to see her."



SOUTHAMPTON: Diabetic was depressed over his weight and relationship break-up

Man used balloon kit to take his own life

AN OBESE man depressed about his weight and overcome with loneliness after a relationship break-up killed himself with a blow up balloon kit.

Tony Rodskjaer, pictured right, who weighed 25 stone, planned his suicide by writing his darkest thoughts in a "poignant" diary for months.

An inquest was told how the 57-year-old explored different ways to end his life and bought a balloon kit complete with helium canisters back in January.

But it was not until April 23 that he was found dead on his boat where he lived, having inhaled too much of the gas.

A neighbour called police who found his body and the diary which told how he had been feeling low

■ **By Tara Russell**

t.russell@dailyecho.co.uk

since January. There were also suicide notes, cash and vouchers worth £320 as well as an A4 sheet of paper that said "Do not resuscitate".

Firefighters had to remove Mr Rodskjaer's body due to his weight, from his boat in Ocean Quay Marina in Belvidere Road.

PC Robert Hooks told Southampton Coroners' Court that Mr Rodskjaer was a large diabetic male who had split up with his partner last year and left his job due to his growing weight problem and diabetes. He was worried about his financial position and was smoking and drinking heavily.

A post-mortem revealed Mr Rodskjaer, who was half Finnish and half British, died from helium

inhalation although levels could not be tested because there are no labs in the UK that provide the service.

He was almost twice the drink-drive limit.

Recording a suicide verdict coroner Keith Wiseman said Mr Rodskjaer was a man with a good sense of humour and a number of different abilities but said he was clearly depressed about what his life held for him.

He added that the diary was "a poignant document" because nobody was aware of his long planned death.

Speaking after the hearing, Mr Rodskjaer's ex girlfriend of 12 years, Joanne Gullivers, said: "He had charisma with a great sense of humour and was quick off the mark. He seemed to just have a mental block when it came to his weight. He st



PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Pill woman telephoned number to say goodbye

Published Date: 24 November 2009

A grandmother found dead in her car on a busy road had taken a lethal cocktail of antidepressants and alcohol, an inquest heard.

Margaret Piatt was discovered slumped in her red Ford Fiesta on Western Way, Fareham, by two concerned passers-by who dialled 999.

Officers who arrived at the scene at about 8.50am on May 1 found all of the car doors were open.

Mrs Piatt, 55,

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of Sandy Lane, Titchfield, had sent a text message from her mobile phone to an unknown number at 00.35am that morning saying goodbye.

Her handbag contained pill packets for 70 tablets of antidepressant Amitriptyline – but 63 were missing.

A Portsmouth inquest heard Mrs Piatt had previously suffered from anxiety and depression.

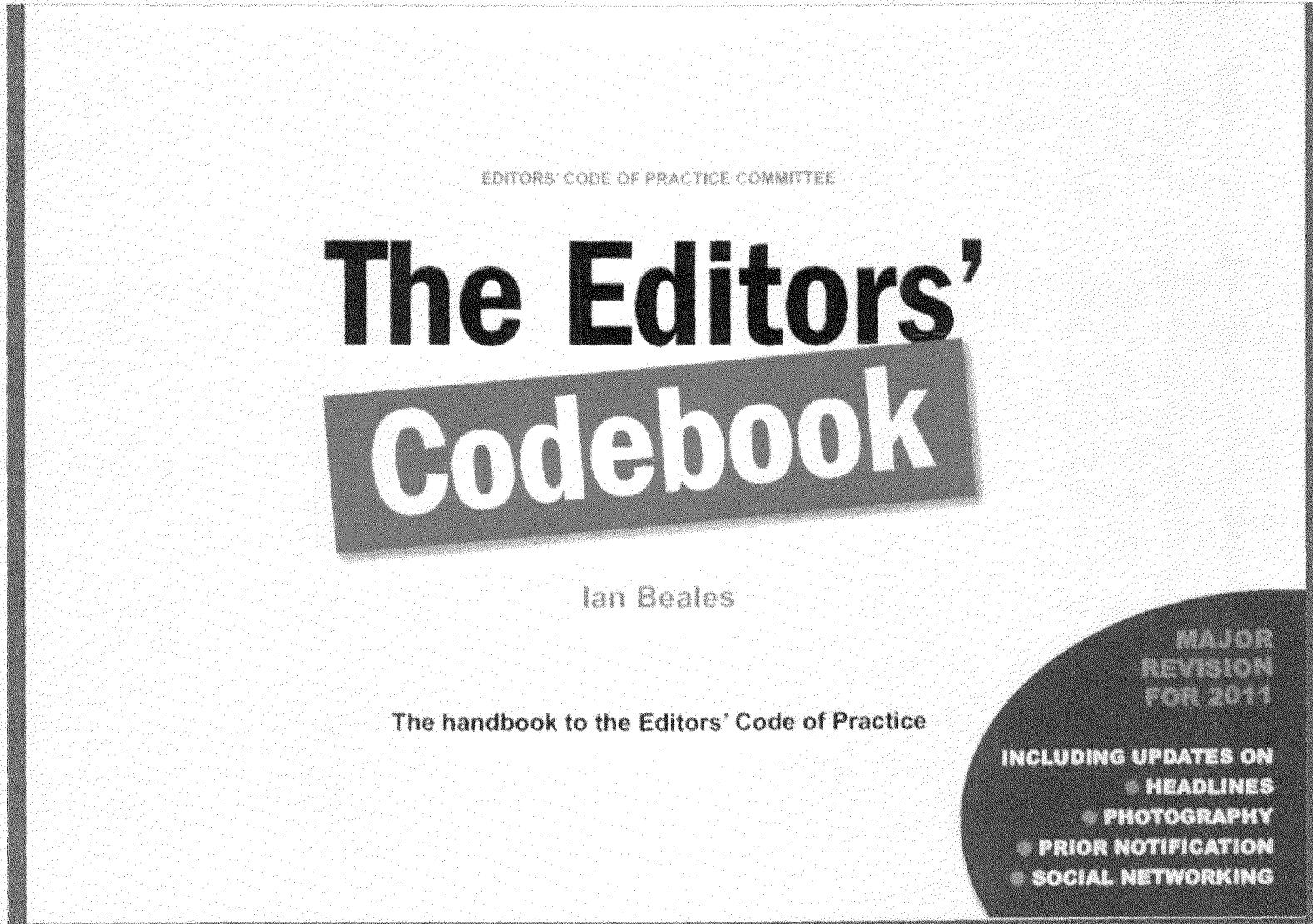
A post mortem examination revealed she had taken almost ten times the therapeutic dose of antidepressant Amitripty- line and was more than twice over the legal drink-drive limit.

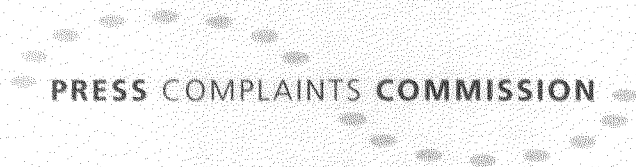
In a statement Mrs Piatt's family said: 'She was a well loved and active member of her local community. Her passing was so sad and an enormous shock to us all.'

Recording a verdict that Mrs Piatt took her own life while depressed, Portsmouth and south-east Hampshire coroner David Horsley said: 'She had depression problems in the past and it seems most likely that it was coming to the fore again, even though she kept it hidden from everyone.'

PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

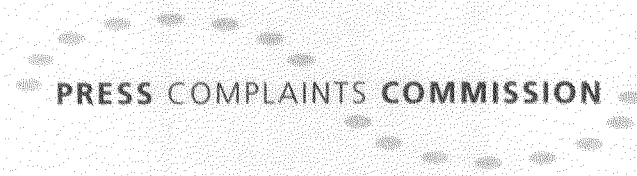
Extra Guidance





“...freedom of expression is – and should be – appropriately restricted by the Editors’ Code of Practice. Clause 12 of the Code is clear: newspapers must avoid prejudicial, pejorative or irrelevant reference to (amongst other things) an individual’s sexual orientation. The Commission itself has said that the use of pejorative synonyms for homosexual individuals would represent a certain breach of the Code.

In this case, the Commission considered that the use of the word “dyke” in the article – whether or not it was intended to be humorous – was a pejorative synonym relating to the complainant’s sexuality. The context was not that the reviewer was seeking positively to “reclaim” the term, but rather to use it to refer to the complainant’s sexuality in a demeaning and gratuitous way. This was an editorial lapse which represented a breach of the Code, and the newspaper should have apologised at the first possible opportunity.”

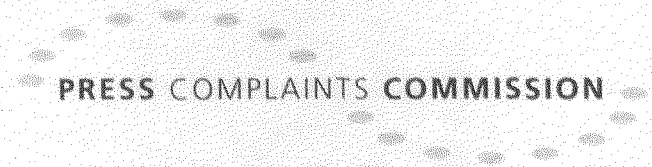


The PCC & LGBT Complaints

- Discrimination – Editors' Code Clause 12

“i) The press must avoid prejudicial or pejorative reference to an individual's race, colour, religion, gender, sexual orientation or to any physical or mental illness or disability.

ii) Details of an individual's race, colour, religion, sexual orientation, physical or mental illness or disability must be avoided unless genuinely relevant to the story.”

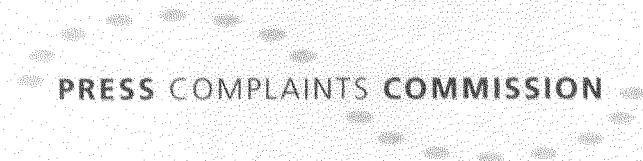


The PCC & LGBT complaints

- Accuracy – Editors' Code Clause 1

c.85% of all complaints relate to alleged inaccuracies

Key issue for PCC – can assist additional guidance (cp mental health, refugees)



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New adjudication: PCC upholds complaint against local newspaper about child's welfare
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Contact

- Will Gore – Public Affairs Director
- will.gore@pcc.org.uk
- 020 7831 0022
- www.pcc.org.uk

