

MOVIE STAR MICHELLE'S SECRET CHRISTMAS WISH IN THE MAIL ON MONDAY

Barber killed by Irish terror gang

IRISH police were today trying to find a motive for the killing of a Dublin man gunned down as he worked in his hairdressing premises.

He was shot six times in a terrorist-style attack last night by two masked men

STAFF REPORTER

who burst into his salon in the Marino district of Dublin.

The dead man, Patrick McDonald, aged 41, was known to have had links in

the past with two terror groups, the Irish Peoples' Liberation Organisation and the Irish National Liberation Army, who were involved in a bloody feud on both sides of the border some years ago. Earlier this week, the IRA ordered the IPLO to disband within 72 hours or face the

consequences after the IPLO had claimed responsibility for the killing in error of a snooker club manager in Belfast.

Dublin detectives have still not ruled out the possibility that Mr McDonald had been caught up in criminal gang activities in the Irish capital

that led to his killing.

His car was maliciously damaged in a mystery incident recently.

Mr McDonald served a jail sentence in the Irish Republic in the 1980s for firearms offences, but had lived in Dublin for some years.

'Retired' health chief row

A FORMER director of a crashed NHS computer business was today at the centre of a major pensions row.

Peter Brown retired early on health grounds weeks before Qa — sold off by the West Midlands Regional Health Authority — collapsed, a creditors' meeting was told. He was working as an independent consultant for the RHA days later, and his ill health meant his pension was guaranteed.

Another ex-director, Brian Clayton, told the meeting: "He was apparently so critically ill he could not serve out his notice. Yet within three days, he was working for the RHA again."

Mr Brown said: "What I'm doing is totally different from what people seem to think I'm doing."

Qa went into receivership in September with the loss of 70 jobs. The rest of Qa, employing about 100 people, was sold to AT&T Istel of Redditch for £1.2 million.

Creditors heard Qa's assets were about £300,000 less than its £2.5 million debts.

WOOSIE CUP 'STOLEN'

MIDLAND golfer Ian Woosnam is appealing for the return of his US Masters trophy, which went missing after it was displayed on the BBC TV Sports Review of the Year last Sunday. He held the trophy, a replica of the original, was worthless to anybody but him.

Niece admits killing for cash

A TEENAGER axed her 95-year-old aunt to death to get cash for cosmetic surgery and further her ambition to become a top model.

Donna Furber (17) claimed that frail and nearly blind Edith Dent used to criticise her about her make-up, the fact she was unemployed and her modelling ambition. Manchester Crown Court was told.

Manslaughter

She attacked Miss Dent with the axe and fled with her £400 savings, which she wanted to use "to get the weight off my legs".

Furber, of Middleton, Manchester, told police she planned to knock out her aunt and steal her savings, but then decided to "finish her off" out of revenge. Furber was ordered to be detained for life under the Children and Young Persons Act after admitting manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

Stocking up for Xmas pets

STRAYS at an animal shelter are to be given Christmas stockings.

Staff at the RSPCA's Whitminster Shelter in Gloucestershire are filling stockings for the 65 dogs, 35 cats and 50 other animals.

Manager Jackie Sadler said: "We have received gifts of food and toys from many kind-hearted people."

Super loo on stream

BRITAIN'S first automatic, Continental super-loo will open in Birmingham in January after a delay — because water was not connected in time.

The loo, outside Birmingham's General Hospital, is inside an advertising column. It plays music and has a heated seat. After 15 minutes the doors spring open automatically as a safety measure.

NEW BUS BOSSES

AXE ACE HUMPAGE

By FERGUS SHEPPARD

FORMER Warwickshire and England cricket star Geoff Humpage has lost his job with West Midlands Travel — just days after the 6,000 bus workers officially began managing the company.

And it is understood that another Warwickshire star, Andy Moles, has been told his contract as a sales executive will not be renewed next March.

Mr Humpage criticised his former bosses today, saying: "I feel they have used my name when it suited them."

The 37-year-old former wicket-keeper and batsman retired at the end of last season to join WM Select — the corporate hospitality wing of the bus company. He was one of three staff, including marketing manager Ken Cowall and senior sales executive Ken Morgan, responsible for entertaining business clients.

But three employees were made redundant this week as the new managers began an overhaul



RUN OUT: WMT's Geoff Humpage after Britain's biggest ever public transport buy-out.

Mr Humpage said: "They have used personalities for their own good — as soon as they wanted to change we were no more use."

The ex-cricketer, who is married with two children and lives in Moseley, said he believed WM Select had "just begun to make inroads" when it was wound up.

A WMT spokeswoman said: "West Midlands Select was closed for policy and strategy reasons."

It was unclear whether the management responsible for the £80 million buy-out will again venture into the corporate hospitality market — for example maintaining its box at Villa Park.

Mr Humpage was a familiar face at Warwickshire for 16 years, scoring 18,098 runs and 29 centuries in his first class career as well as making three England appearances.

KEY MUGGING

THREE muggers robbed keys and £10 from a man after attacking him in the early hours today in Charles Henry Street, Highgate, Birmingham.

Fire chiefs caught out in smoke alert drama

FIRE chiefs sparked a major alert at their city centre headquarters during a special cabaret act for Christmas.

The headquarters at Lancaster Circus was evacuated after a theatrical smoke bomb set off smoke alarms during the performance.

Three fire engines from Lancaster Circus raced round the block to the rear entrance to attend the incident and helped evacuate staff



LEADER OF THE GANG: Gary Glitter tells the fans at the NEC he's back

Gary's festive glitter

By ANDREW COLEMAN

UNPREDICTABLE Gary Glitter sprang a surprise at the National Exhibition Centre — by performing on stage BEFORE his support act.

The evergreen star did a half hour stint last night before American band Big Daddy went on, and then he returned to complete the show when they had finished their act.

Although Glitter has tried to update his show by including a new rap song about ecology it was his classics from the

Glam '70's that had thousands of fans punching the air.

I'm The Leader Of The Gang, Do You Want To Touch Me and Hello, Hello I'm Back Again were sung with gusto by the large crowd — many of whom were too young to remember them from the first time around.

Gary even went back to his

own roots when Big Daddy joined him for some '50's rock'n'roll — C'mon Everybody and Be-Bop-A-Lula.

With many fans trying to outdo their hero by wearing tinsel, sparkly wigs and Santa hats there was a good-natured party atmosphere, encouraged by Gary's theatrics such as throwing them red roses during I Love You Love Me Love.

This was great family festive fun — who needs pantomimes when Gary Glitter's around?

WEATHER MAIL

Birmingham Airport Met Office readings for the 24 hours to 0900 hours today: Maximum temperature: 10.2C (50.5F). Night minimum temperature: 4.3C (39.7F). Sunshine: 4.1 hours. Rainfall: 1.5mm (0.059 in). Humidity: 6000hr 81%, 1200hr 50%, 1800hr 50%. Barometer (corrected to sea level at 0900hr): 998.9 mb (29.50 in). Neon wind: W, 17 mph. Sea passages: English Channel, North Sea, and Irish Sea: Rough.

MOON Rises 3.56 pm, sets 8.11 am.

HOLIDAY WEATHER AROUND

Athens: 1, 15C (59F); Barcelona: 1, 14C (57F); Biarritz: 1, 12C (54F); Corfu: 1, 15C (59F); Florence: 1, 12C (54F); Paris: 1, 10C (50F); Gibraltar: 1, 14C (57F); Lisbon: 1, 15C (59F); Majorca: 1, 14C (57F); Malta: 1, 15C (59F); Miami: 1, 21C (70F); Nice: 1, 14C (57F); Nicotia: 1, 18C (64F); Paris: 1, 10C (50F); Rhodes: 1, 15C (59F); Rome: 1, 14C (57F); Tangier: 1, 16C (61F); Tenerife: 1, 20C (68F); Tunis: 1, 17C (63F); Venice: 1, 10C (50F). Key: c = cloudy, f = fair, s = sunny.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Warmest place: Torquay, 11C (52F), coldest: Tummel Bridge, -2C (28F), wettest: Morecambe, 0.45 in, sunniest: Folkestone, 5.7 hrs.

EVENING MAIL WEATHER CALL: Telephone 0898-500-766 for latest Midland forecast
ALL CALLS CHARGED 48p PER MINUTE (PEAK AND STANDARD) AND 36p PER MINUTE (EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS)

Lusitania man dies, aged 96

ENGLISH-born Martin Sylvester Payne, a First World War veteran who survived the sinking of the British liner Lusitania in 1915, has died, aged 96.

Payne, who was born in Lincoln, and who served as a lieutenant in the Army during the war, was aboard the Lusitania on May 7, 1915, when a German submarine sank the ship in the Irish Sea. Nearly 1,200 of the 1,900 aboard died.

After the war he moved to the US and retired to Birmingham, Alabama, in 1969.