

Cabin Fever

The argument about the cruelty of locking men away for life for their crimes is as old as the prison service itself. The psychological trauma of years spent isolated from normal society in the company of only other criminals is often stated as worse than the death penalty. However, no major evidence has ever been produced to support the idea that long term imprisonment can lead to psychological problems. However, an incident that occurred at Durham prison this month may be the start of such evidence.

On the night of the 27th of July three inmates suffered from acute mental disorders resulting in several violent incidents and considerable property damage. Alan Breastock, Paul Finch and Edger Lamb are all currently serving multiple life sentences for repeated first degree murder and were located within the maximum security wing at Durham prison. In a fit of extreme paranoia, Alan attacked several inmates for walking

past his cell claiming that they were spying on him for the government. Meanwhile, Paul stabbed two other inmates to death with a home made knife claiming after the event to have been hungry and wanted their food. Prison psychologists seem convinced that he was exhibiting sociopathic traits but has since returned to normal. Edger simply went into a rage attacking every one and every thing in his vicinity. Using tables, chairs and other inmates as weapons his extreme violence caused him to finally be subdued by tranquilizers.

Even stranger than three simultaneous instances of short lived derangements is the fact that the effects lasted exactly one hour and then disappeared. All three men tested negative for drugs, so the cause of this incident is still unknown. Currently under twenty four hour surveillance, the inmates seem to have now fully returned to normal.



Arcus Masterton In Hospital

Sunderland local council finally announced late last night that the Mayor, Arcus Masterton, is currently in hospital. Public concern had been rising ever since the Mayor ceased his almost daily appearances and his offices refused to comment. This sudden isolation and silence caused many rumours to spread and fear to build up, finally forcing the announcement to be made explaining the Mayors absence.

It seems that not only was Mr. Masterton involved in the six car pile up on the A1018 earlier this month, he was in fact in the lead car. The official story had been that it had performed an emergency stop causing other vehicles to collide with it. However, this new announcement claims that

the crash was the result of an assassination attempt. Apparently the car was shot upon several times and after losing a tyre swerved in the road causing the pile up. Three people died and a further eight were injured, including Mayor Masterton.

Masterton's condition is stated to be severe but stable and he should be able to return to public duty within the next couple of months. During this time his officials will be running the day to day needs of the city. Police are determined to find those responsible for the shooting and ultimately the death of three of its citizens. Mr. Masterton himself has offered a ten thousand pound reward for any information that leads to a conviction. The city is said to be in a state of shock at the news.

Outwitted by Ancient Wisdom

Now into its third month, the excavation of the Minerva temple near Twice Brewed is still hitting problem after problem. After the health and safety oversight last month the archaeology team has been pulling twenty-four hour shifts in an attempt to make up time. As a result of this great effort the outer chambers of the site have now been fully explored leaving only the central worship chamber. This particular room is of great interest due to the fact it was originally build submerged and so unlike the rest of the site is still fully intact.

The Assistant Director of the dig, Jan Gustav, is report as being very disappointed with the way the excavation is going so far. Normally there would have been several idols found in the outer chambers, which would shed light on several major questions, but none have been found on this site. Whether this is due to

ancient thieves or destruction by passing years is unknown, but it is a great disappointment to the university team.

To make matters worse the dig has once again come to a stop as discussions continue as to the best method of entering the inner chamber. A booby-trap has been found which if tripped would cause the inner sanctum to collapse, destroying any artefacts within. However the only way round this would be to tunnel in from the side and force an entrance through a wall ... risking any find near that wall. Until a way round this ancient defence can be found the dig is once again on hold causing untold frustrations to workers and researchers alike.



Going Alone Is The Only Option!

This month has seen a real crack down by the police on the many escort agencies that operate within the city. Whilst not illegal, many provide extra services that are criminal causing the police to take such an interest. In particular, investigations were made into allegations that the Grosvenor Casino was being used as a front for a high

class prostitution operation. After a two week investigation the Grosvenor has been cleared of all wrong doings, but it is one more blow for the gambling house. A few companies are still operating escort services but most of them have been forced to close. It seems actually finding your own date might soon be the only option.

Police Closing In On Slave Trader

In a police statement this week it was announced that they had found the man they wanted to question in relation to the missing women. Sincere thanks was offered to all those who came forwards with information and as a result the investigation is still ongoing. The man, now known simply as Dom, is said to be fully cooperating with the police and as yet no arrests have been made.

Further advice was also issued to all women going out for a night in Newcastle. It is advised that they let people know their plans and where ever possible travel in groups of at least three. It is recommended to avoid the dark alleys that provide short cuts and stick to the well lit main streets. An increased Police presence will continue to operate and woman are advised to report any suspicious behavior.