

Press Complaints Commission adjudication

A WOMAN complained to the Press Complaints Commission 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 complaint was upheld. 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 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 the publication of the photograph was in the public interest, given 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. Adjudication The PCC acknowledged newspapers are entitled to publish stories and pictures of serious road accidents, which take place in public and often have wide-reaching consequences.

In this case, it was not in doubt that the bus crash - which involved more than 50 school children - was a serious incident which raised important questions in regard to public health and safety. The Commission did not wish to interfere unnecessarily with the newspaper's right to report the matter, which it generally had done in a sensitive manner. However, it was clear the complainant had not given her consent for the newspaper to either take or publish the photograph which showed her daughter in a state of distress. The subject matter of the close-up photo-

graph certainly related to her welfare. There may be occasions where the scale and gravity of the circumstances can mean that pictures of children can be published in the public interest without consent. In the specific circumstances of this case, the Commission did not consider there was a sufficient public interest to justify the publication of the image. It accepted the newspaper had thought carefully about whether to use the photograph, but the Commission considered that it was just the wrong side of the line on this occasion. The complaint was therefore upheld.

Police say two gun incidents are not linked

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New Basford. A police spokeswoman said: "A car sustained damage but no-one was injured. Two silver cars were seen driving away at the time the firearm was discharged." Meanwhile, residents in Wearmouth Gardens, Top Valley, said there were also police firearms and plain clothed detectives in their street around 1.30pm yesterday. One eyewitness said he saw officers arrange for a tow truck to remove a BMW parked in the street. Liddington Street resident Leslie Avrris, 72, said he was woken up around 3.15pm by a loud "pop" coming from the street outside. "I heard a pop and then two girls laughing," he said. "I saw the police around 3.30pm and they were putting tape up. There was a lot of them and crime scene investigators."

At the junction of Liddington Street and Ekowe Street fragments of glass were visible on the road. One 24-year-old woman, who lives in Liddington Street, said: "It makes you quite worried. You see the police around here like any other area but generally it's a good area and a quiet street." Anyone with information call police on 0300 300 99 99 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Verdict pending in murder trial

A JURY has been sent out to begin their deliberations in the trial of two men charged in connection with the murder of 16-year-old Brendon Lawrence. The panel of 11 retired at 3.37pm yesterday at Nottingham Crown Court. Rene Sarpong, 29, of Lamartine Street, St Ann's, denies Brendon's murder. Co-accused Gary Brown, 45, of Hunloke Road, Chesterfield, denies assisting an offender by getting rid of the gun used to kill Brendon. Brendon died on February 19, 2002, after he was shot four times in his cousin's red Ford Fiesta XR2i in St Ann's. Sarpong was allegedly with an accomplice when they walked into Watkin Street and made for the car. Brendon, of Sherwin Walk, was left for dead in the street and his attackers drove off in the Fiesta. The car was set alight in Westville Gardens, St Ann's, and the gun hidden in a prostitute's flat. Proceeding

Scheme helps 500 to find jobs

FIVE hundred people have so far found paid work through a Nottingham City Council jobs scheme. The council's Future Jobs Fund aims to create about 1,000 posts. More vacancies will be on offer at a jobs fair in the Council House today from 10am to 3pm. Employers from across the city will be on hand to offer help and advice to job seekers.



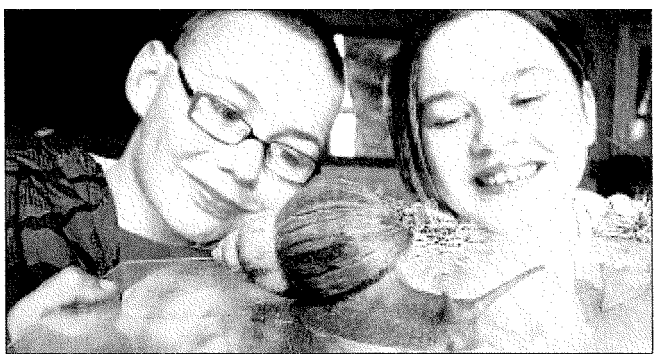
RESCUED: But four of the ducklings found have died.

Five ducklings abandoned in QMC basement

FIVE ducklings were rescued after being found abandoned in a basement at the Queen's Medical Centre. However, four of the young animals have now died, despite the best efforts of a Notts wildlife sanctuary. Workers at the hospital were shocked to discover the terrified young ducks cowering in a basement without their mother. They kept them safe in a cardboard box until an RSPCA officer came to pick them up. Hospital staff are mystified as to how they ended up in the basement at the QMC's East Block in the first place. Maintenance electrician n Langstone, 39, from Ford, was one of the workers who found them. He said: "There was no mother around and they were very small and very frightened. "When we got them back to the office we gave them water and they lapped it up." The RSPCA officer who picked the ducks up on Monday took them to the Cedar Wildlife Sanctuary in Kirkby-in-Ashfield. They needed special attention because they are so young and four of the five had died by yesterday evening. Phil Elise, who runs the sanctuary with partner Wendy Radford, said the remaining duckling would stay in an incubator for two or three weeks. Mr Elise said: "They have to be kept warm because they are babies. They are not more than a few days old. "The mother makes them waterproof and if she is not there they will get cold." Once the last duckling is old enough Phil and Wendy will find it a safe pond to live in. For more information about the Cedar Wildlife Sanctuary, visit www.cedarwildlifehospital.co.uk

Science in the spotlight

CLOSE-UP: A slime workshop, the science behind chocolate and a chance to come face-to-face with creepy crawlies feature at Nottingham's first ever science festival at Wollaton Hall. Students from local primary schools took part in a series of workshops. Pictured is Keiran Sumner, left, aged 11, and Jade Beresford, aged 11, from Portland School in Bilborough, as they come face to face with giant snail.



By CAROLINE LOWBRIDGE

A SERIOUSLY ill man died after a care home worker left him for 12 hours without checking on him, so she could watch TV. By the time staff attended to Robert Mackay he had been dead for so long that his body was rigid. An inquest heard that 24 hours before the 65-year-old was found dead, a care worker on an earlier shift had raised concerns that he might be dying. The inquest into Mr Mackay's death heard that there was a failure in communication between staff at The Oaks Care Home, St Ann's. Mairin Casey, assistant deputy coroner for Notts, said: "This is a very sad scenario of a gentleman who was vulnerable, depending on professionals." A postmortem examination showed that he died from bronchial pneumonia. The verdict of the inquest was natural causes, but Miss Casey heavily criticised the care home. The Oaks, in Corporation

Resident left to die in bed

Oaks, off Woodborough Road, has a capacity of 21 residents but was caring for 19 at the time Mr Mackay died. All had mental health problems. Mr Mackay, who was originally from Paisley in Scotland, was found dead on the morning of August 14 last year. The morning before, care worker Lorraine Wright recognised that Mr Mackay was gravely ill. Her shift ended at 9am, but she stayed until 10am to tell staff that Mr Mackay might be dying, and they should call a doctor. One staff member did ask a GP to visit, but care workers did not make any further requests

when the GP didn't attend. Mr Mackay was last checked by senior care worker Patricia Palmer, who was working the night shift, from 9pm to 9am. Mr Mackay was asleep when she opened the door of his room shortly before 10pm. Ms Palmer admitted to the inquest that she checked Mr Mackay and the other residents only once, before spending the rest of her shift watching television. Miss Casey told her: "You are a senior care assistant and you know that somebody should be checked hourly. You just didn't bother, did you?" Duty carer Pat O'Bryne, who started at 9am, went to check on Mr Mackay because he was not

walking around the care home as he normally did. An ambulance arrived at 9.20am, and Mr Mackay was pronounced dead. The owners of The Oaks, Dr P P Tiwari and Dr S R Tiwari, were not available to comment. The manager of the care home, Lee Hackett, did not attend the inquest. He said: "Until I have read the report, I can't comment." Miss Casey gave condolences to Mr Mackay's brother and three children, who did not attend the inquest. Caroline.Lowbridge@nottinghamevening-post.co.uk

