

...hatched room  
afterwards.  
So will you?  
★★★★★  
Peter Bradshaw  
on United 93  
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...kids who  
read her  
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Does he or doesn't he?  
Moisturising secrets by Jon  
Snow, Nicky Campbell, Neil  
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Newspaper of the year

## Met officers warned: back chief or get out

### Blair cracks down on internal critics

Hugh Muir and Vikram Dodd

Scotland Yard's most senior officers are being warned that they must fall in behind the reforms of Sir Ian Blair, the Metropolitan police commissioner, if they want to keep their jobs.

In a long-awaited move to crack down on apparent splits and dissension within the Met's highest echelons, officers are being told they must stop private rows becoming public. The blunt message was being relayed to force chiefs at a meeting with the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA), the body that oversees the force, last night and later today.

Sir Ian and his supporters are hoping to establish his grip before the release of two potentially damaging reports from the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) about the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes and its aftermath.

In a move widely seen as an attempt to impose his authority after a succession of damaging leaks, the commissioner recently redeployed two senior colleagues who have been privately criticised by Sir Ian loyalists for not being "team players".

Deputy assistant commissioner Brian Paddick was moved from deputy command of territorial policing to a post involving information management. Assistant commissioner Tarique Ghaffur has been moved from the specialist crime directorate, where he was in charge of murder investigations, organised crime and gun crime, to central operations, which deals with the firearms command, public order, traffic and emergency planning.

Mr Ghaffur was named in a newspaper report as considering legal action over proposed job cuts to his former department. Mr Paddick also consulted lawyers over his treatment by the force.

One senior Met insider told the Guardian: "For whatever reason, the commissioner has suddenly developed a rod

of steel down his back – some would say not before time – and has culled the two people he thinks have been causing him the most grief."

Jenny Jones, a member of the MPA, said: "It is time the people at the top started working as a team and not acting as a bunch of free agents."

Mr Paddick was questioned after the leaking of comments by Sir Ian at an internal management board meeting about the operation to remove placards from the anti-war demonstration by Brian Haw outside Parliament. Sir Ian told the MPA that the operation cost £7,000 but issued a clarification amending the figure to £27,000 after his comments were leaked. Mr Paddick denied being the source of the leak.

The recent changes pose political diffi-

**"The commissioner has suddenly developed a rod of steel down his back"**

Met insider

culties because Mr Paddick is the highest ranked openly gay officer in the country while Mr Ghaffur is the most senior ethnic minority officer in the Met. George Rhoden, chairman of the Metropolitan Black Police Association, said: "What message does this send about respect and reflecting diversity in the police service?"

The De Menezes inquiry continues to menace the commissionership of Sir Ian. Yesterday it emerged that assistant commissioner Andy Hayman, the head of anti-terrorism, has been served with a "regulation nine" notice warning him that he is under investigation over the Met's handling of the aftermath of the Stockwell shooting. The IPCC is also expected to interview Sir Ian under criminal caution after serving him with a regulation nine notice.

## One was killed, the other injured. Then their identities were tragically confused



Recovering in hospital, Whitney Cerak, top, was mistaken for Laura VanRyn, above

Suzanne Goldenberg Washington

For five weeks, the VanRyn family watched over the broken body in the hospital bed, keeping a weblog of their vigil as they hoped and prayed for the young blonde woman with the wide smile to emerge from her coma. When she yawned on May 15, they rejoiced and so did readers of their blog: it meant the patient was breathing on her own. When she said hello to a nurse, that went on the blog, and so too did her first faltering attempts at conversation.

But on Wednesday a three-paragraph entry on the blog under a quotation from Hebrews 13:8 revealed that the story of Laura VanRyn had taken an unimaginably cruel twist. The woman the family had tended with such devotion was not their daughter and sister, Laura VanRyn, 22, but Whitney Cerak, 18, a fellow student involved in the same horrific car crash.

Laura had in fact been killed in the accident, and buried by the Cerak family, believing her to be their child.

"Our hearts are aching as we have learned that the young woman we have been taking care of over the past five weeks has not been our dear Laura," said an entry posted on Wednesday. "There was a misidentification made at the time of the accident and it is uncanny the resemblance that these two women share. Their body types are similar, their hair colour and texture, their facial features."

Yesterday, neither family was speaking to the media, and officials at the rehabilitation centre in Michigan where the young woman had been treated offered few further details as to how Ms Cerak's identity had remained hidden for so long. However, it is believed she suffered facial bruising and swelling in addition to brain injuries.

Both women were passengers in a van on April 26 when a truck jumped over the central reservation and ploughed into the side of the vehicle. Four students and a staff member were killed outright, and rescue workers arriving at the scene found bodies and belongings strewn across the road. Ms Cerak was thrown about 15 metres (50ft) from the van, landing on her left side. Rescue workers retrieved identification nearby, which belonged to Laura VanRyn, and airlifted the injured woman to a hospital at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

School officials were asked to identify

Continued on page 2 »

### National

#### Gerry Adams struck off V&A guest list

The Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams has been banned by the Victoria and Albert Museum from the opening of an exhibition on Che Guevara, on the grounds that his presence would not be "relevant". Although Mr Adams was on the original guest list for the exhibition, which contains rare photographs of the revolutionary, the invitation was withdrawn because his appearance would have clashed with an exhibition of 1960s fashion. The show will be attended by "a number of models and actresses from the 60s" and Mr Adams' attendance would not be appropriate next to high-profile guests, the museum said.

### National



It looks like modern art, but is in fact a giant leap forward in renewable energy technology, according to its maker

### International

#### US troops in Iraq to get ethical training

All US troops in Iraq will undergo an ethical training programme within the next 30 days, amid mounting concern about the killing of Iraqi civilians in Haditha six months ago. A US army report into the killings will say senior officers failed to scrutinise false reports of the deaths filed by marines involved and will call for better counter-insurgency training, it was reported yesterday. A full forensic investigation into the killing of the 24 unarmed Iraqis is not due to be published for several weeks. But the Washington Post yesterday reported the conclusions of a separate inquiry into whether there was a cover-up.

### Financial

#### AOL to sell internet access operation

AOL, the US company that gave many British consumers their first taste of the internet, is understood to have put its UK internet service provider operation up for sale. The company, part of the media conglomerate Time Warner, has already hired the investment bank Citigroup to find buyers for its internet access operations in France and Germany. Now the British business is also being touted around to potential buyers. AOL has 2.2 million customers in Britain, of whom 1.3 million use broadband. After BT and the merged cable companies NTL and Telewest, it is the UK's third-largest internet service provider.

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IN CINEMAS TUESDAY 6+6+06

# Ripper guilty of additional crimes, says secret report

Investigator suspected 'many other attacks'

Official anger at police blunders revealed

Rob Evans and Duncan Campbell

The Yorkshire Ripper probably committed more crimes than the 13 murders and seven attempted murders for which he was convicted, an official report suppressed for nearly 25 years revealed yesterday.

Documents released under the Freedom of Information Act also disclosed that the then prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, was furious at the incompetence of the detectives who had failed for five years to catch the Ripper.

The report details the series of blunders committed by the detectives who repeatedly let Peter Sutcliffe through their grasp, allowing him to murder more women. Sutcliffe spread terror in northern England for six years, as women were too afraid to go out alone at night. He was eventually caught by chance in January 1981.

After he was convicted in April 1981, Lawrence Byford, an inspector of the constabulary, was commissioned by the government to scrutinise the "many criticisms levelled at the police in what was undoubtedly the largest-scale police investigation ever conducted in this country."

His 159-page report was completed in December 1981, but the government has insisted since then that it was "not in the public interest" for it to be published. Yesterday, it was released among a batch of

files on the Ripper following requests from the Guardian and others.

Mr Byford wrote that "between 1969 and the start of the known Ripper crimes in 1975, there is a curious and unexplained lull in Sutcliffe's criminal activities."

He added that, having studied the evidence, "it is my firm conclusion that between 1969 and 1980 Sutcliffe was probably responsible for many attacks on unaccompanied women, which he has not yet admitted, not only in the West Yorkshire and Manchester areas but also in other parts of the country".

He also said: "This feeling is reinforced by examining the details of a number of assaults on women since 1969 which, in some ways, clearly fall into the estab-



**Peter Sutcliffe ... documents indicate police had been close to identifying him as the Ripper for years**

lished pattern of Sutcliffe's overall modus operandi."

As the number of murders grew, police came under mounting pressure from public and politicians to catch the killer. In November 1980, Mrs Thatcher summoned William Whitelaw, then home secretary, to Downing Street and told him: "The local police have so far failed totally in their inquiries into a series of murders which constituted the most appalling violence against women. It is now a question of public confidence."

There were doubts whether the investigation was being conducted as effectively as it might be, and something needed to be done to restore public faith in the performance of the police. Within

days, George Oldfield, the officer heading the inquiry, was sacked.

Mr Byford's inquiry found that a list had been drawn up of 850 suspect vehicles whose owners had been seen picking up prostitutes, and that in March 1979, Sutcliffe was one of only three car owners on the list who had previously been recorded as a "triple area sighting".

The report concluded: "He should have been regarded as a prime suspect for the attack ... but was not interviewed due to a lack of appreciation of the information contained in the computer print-out."

What emerges from the documents is that police were tantalisingly close to Sutcliffe for years but still failed to act, partly because they still believed the Ripper hoax tapes. In June 1980, Sutcliffe was interviewed for the eleventh time after behaving suspiciously and driving erratically. He was held for drink-driving, but was released after a check with the Ripper major incident room, which told officers Sutcliffe had been "eliminated from the inquiry on handwriting" — presumably a reference to the letters sent by the hoaxer.

The police inquiry was seriously sidetracked by the hoaxer, "Wearside Jack", who claimed on tape and in letters to have carried out the murders. As a result of DNA advances, he was recently tracked down. In March at Leeds crown court, John Humble, 50, was jailed for eight years on four counts of perverting the course of justice after pleading guilty.

The role of Trevor Birdsall, Sutcliffe's friend, also caused concern. "The failure to take advantage of Birdsall's anonymous letter and his visit to the police station was yet again a stark illustration of the progressive decline in the overall efficiency of the major incident room."

[guardian.co.uk/fromthearchive](http://guardian.co.uk/fromthearchive)



The triple-helix Quiet Revolution turbine mounted on a mast

## Radical turbine aims to take wind power to towns and cities

John Vidal  
Environment editor

Wind turbines are tall white objects with three long blades and they sit on hilltops spinning around to generate electricity, right? Wrong. In the first radical redesign of the turbine for many years, a small engineering firm has linked up with aerospace designers to devise a wind generator uniquely for urban areas.

The turbines, the first of which are being installed in the next few months in Bristol, Swindon and London, promise to change the face of renewable electricity, and perhaps end the cold reception that conventional wind turbines have encountered from heritage groups, say the designers and developers, XCO2.

The designers say they may have overcome two drawbacks of traditional turbines. The turbine's triple helix form and vertical axis are said to make it almost silent, and it is believed to perform better in urban areas, where wind direction can vary by the minute. While there are other vertical-axis turbines, this is believed to be the first with three blades.

Named Quiet Revolution, the turbine

is about five metres in length without a pole, and the designers claim it can produce 10,000kWh a year on an average wind speed of 5.8 metres a second. The company claims this would provide electricity for perhaps five energy-efficient homes. The combined cost and installation charge for a 6kW turbine would be about £28,000.

"We are being inundated with inquiries from China, the US, Africa and Japan," said Robert Webb, chief executive of XCO2. "They are being proposed for the Dontang eco-city near Shanghai. London is already taking a lead in sustainable energy technologies, particularly in new buildings, where 10% renewable energy is already required on site. We would like to see its historic buildings use them."

Yesterday XCO2 applied to Westminster city council for permission to fix a 6kW turbine on the facade of Buckingham Palace. In the daytime it would be a spinning "flagpole", but at night it could become a glowing union flag hovering over the palace. Not only do the turbines generate electricity; they can double up as art or even advertising hoardings.

[guardian.co.uk/renewable](http://guardian.co.uk/renewable)

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**A simpler tax system may sound desirable — but beware Polly Toynbee. Comment, page 31**