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ABERDEEN
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Seven pages of jobs today

Taxi assault: woman charged

A 33-YEAR-OLD woman was yesterday charged in connection with an incident involving an Aberdeen taxi driver in the city's Ash-hill Road on Monday.
 A police spokeswoman said: "The inquiry is finished and a report is being sent to the procurator fiscal."
 The incident involved an alleged assault on taxi driver Sandra McLeod.

Guards appeal

THE Scots Guards Release Group are appealing to the new Government for help in the release of two Scots Guardsmen.
 The SGRG is asking Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam to meet with its members to discuss the plight of Jim Fisher and Mark Wright, from Arbroath, currently serving life sentences in Northern Ireland for the murder of Peter McBride in Belfast in 1992.

Rolls on tour

THE epitome of sleek elegance will be passing through Aberdeen next week when a fleet of 70 Rolls Royces arrive.
 They are taking part in a Scottish tour to mark the 90th anniversary of the silver ghost model. The tour sets off from Glasgow on Monday and will make its way through Inverurie, Keith and Craigellachie before finishing in Dunblane.

Marine killed

A 20-YEAR-OLD Royal Marine fell 40ft to his death during a military exercise in Llanelwedd, north Wales yesterday.
 The dead man is understood to come from North Devon but has not yet been named.

Royal pageant

CELEBRITIES Anthony Andrews, Prunella Scales, Bernard Cribbins and Peter O'Sullivan have agreed to narrate the Royal Pageant of the Horse, marking the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh's 50th wedding anniversary celebrations in Windsor Great Park on July 5.

Auction boost

SALES of the auction catalogue of dresses being sold by Diana, Princess of Wales, have reached £620,000, Christie's said in London yesterday.

A total of 8,500 copies have been sold so far and each one admits two people to the three day pre-sale viewing at the auction house in St James's beginning on June 3. The proceeds go to charity.

Knoyard plea

HIGHLAND councillors are to set up an urgent meeting with Bank of Scotland officials to ask them to write off part of their investment in the troubled Knoyard Peninsular Ltd in order to assist a residents' buy-out.

REMAINING dry and sunny everywhere. Coastal areas will again be cooler due to sea breezes.

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Violent drugs baron and couriers jailed



Bound for prison to start an 11-year sentence is William Cressy, of Dyce, Aberdeen - claimed by police to be one of Scotland's biggest heroin suppliers.

Haulage firm used to front evil empire

by Ken Banks

HEROIN worth more than £1.5million was trucked into Aberdeen by a violent city drug dealer who used his haulage firm as a front to his empire.
 The staggering level of William Cressy's drug operation was revealed after he was jailed for 11 years at the High Court in Aberdeen yesterday.
 Grampian detectives claimed Cressy, 26, was one of Scotland's biggest heroin dealers and was heavily involved in the supply of drugs to the north of Aberdeen - including Dyce, Buxburn and the Bridge of Don.
 Police welcomed the jail sentence handed down to Cressy - whose "hard man" reputation allowed him to rule by intimidation and bring £10,000 of heroin a week into Aberdeen.
 The boss of collapsed Dyce Haulage was snared after lengthy joint surveillance by Grampian Police and the Scottish Crime Squad under Operation Camisole led to his arrest.
 Detectives have accepted, however, that Cressy's shoes may already have been filled because of the huge demand for the drug in the Granite City - dubbed Scotland's heroin capital.
 Cressy's mother - with whom he still lived in Corrennie Circle, Dyce - screamed and collapsed in court when Lord Johnston announced the 10-year sentence for being concerned in the supply of heroin, which was admitted.
 Cressy was jailed for a further year after he also admitted a baseball bat assault.
 Cressy's two co-accused, who were drivers at Dyce Haulage but became drug couriers



Four years each for couriers David Luxton, left, and Stephen Burnett, both Aberdeen.

for their employer, were both jailed for four years after they also admitted being concerned in the supply of heroin.
 David Luxton, 27, of Victoria Road, Torry, and Stephen Burnett, 25, of North Anderson Drive, - who were paid only £40 or £50 each trip - both looked shocked in the dock.
 The court was told Burnett was given a "severe beating" by five people on Monday while on bail - against a background of speculation he was going to give evidence against Cressy.
 Cressy masterminded the scheme, which also fed his own habit under the cover of his haulage firm - and saw him squander £90,000 of company turnover on drugs in only two years.
 Lord Johnston told Cressy: "This court will not tolerate people who deal in this drug given the chaos it causes in society."
 Detective Inspector Alan Smith, head of Grampian Police drug squad, said later that the sentence was justified due to Cressy's major role -

and his connections with other leading drug dealers.
 Det Insp Smith said: "Cressy was involved in the large-scale distribution of heroin in Aberdeen."
 "He saw heroin trafficking as a way to progress financially at a fast rate - but lost self-control and his world began to crumble around him. There is absolutely no doubt that Cressy had an aura about him - he was a huge man with a large build, his mere presence allowed him to intimidate."
 Police actually recovered only a very minimal quantity of drugs - and Cressy's own admission proved to be his downfall.
 Det Insp Smith said that Cressy seemed almost relieved when police finally moved in - as he was under so much pressure from both suppliers and customers.
 And he said the fact that Cressy had been convicted in the absence of a large drug seizure should act as a warning to others tempted to go down the same path.
 "This sentence dispels the myth that if they are not caught with a package of heroin in their pocket they are not going to end up in the High Court, he said.
 Cressy and Burnett admitted being concerned in the supply of the drug between December, 1995, and June, 1996, in Aberdeen and elsewhere in Britain, while Luxton admitted the offence between January and March, 1996.
 Not-guilty pleas to charges that Cressy and Burnett were also concerned in the supply of cocaine and ecstasy were accepted by the crown.
 Cressy's solicitor, Gregor Kelly, said last night there would be legal discussions before any decision was taken on a possible appeal against the 11-year sentence.
 However solicitor-advocate George Mathers, for Luxton, said his client would definitely appeal the sentence.
 The future position for Burnett could not be confirmed by his legal team.

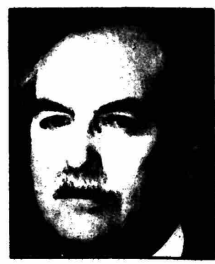
How greed drove dealer into corner - Page 8

Banned church woman denies stalking claims

A WOMAN obsessed with a church she had been thrown out of denied she had stalked the parish minister, Aberdeen Sheriff Court heard yesterday.
 Joyce Henderson, 47, of 11 Two Mile Cross, Aberdeen, persisted in visiting Newhills Parish Church, Buxburn, in a bid to speak to the Rev Norman MacIver despite being banned.
 She appeared for sentence yesterday after admitting two charges of breaking the peace and breaking bail by visiting the church on September 15 last year while a service was being conducted.
 Henderson also admitted flouting bail conditions by contacting the minister and entering the grounds of the church on September 24.
 Solicitor Kevin Longino said Henderson had been portrayed as a stalker.
 But he insisted the offences had arisen from Henderson's



Joyce Henderson church dispute



Norman MacIver stalking claims

concerns about her status as a member of the congregation of Newhills Parish Church.
 Her behaviour was a result of this rather than anything to do with Mr MacIver, he said.
 He told the court Henderson was diagnosed as suffering from a non-specific impulsive illness against a background

of personal and family problems. Mr Longino said Henderson had attended the city's Royal Cornhill Hospital voluntarily for treatment and would continue this treatment as an out-patient.
 And he insisted the offences were out of character and followed a dispute between Henderson and church office-

bearers. "Suffice to say the attitude of Mr MacIver has not helped, although it has to be accepted she has had problems with her behaviour towards the church," Mr Longino added.
 Henderson was still not welcome at her old church but had been welcomed at another, he said.
 Mr Longino said Henderson, previously employed with the procurator fiscal's office, had found her court appearances distressing.
 Sheriff Alexander Pollock said he was unhappy about Henderson's attitude to the offences outlined in reports.
 He further deferred sentence for supplementary social inquiry and psychiatric reports until November 27.
 Sheriff Pollock said it would allow Henderson further opportunity to prove she intended to stay away from Mr MacIver and his church.

Cane-threat soldier is handed back to UK

A NORTH-EAST soldier who faced caning and jail in Singapore if convicted on robbery charges was ordered yesterday to be released into British military custody.
 The Ministry of Defence confirmed that John King, 20, a craftsman with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and co-accused Royal Marine Richard Britten, 22, were due to be flown back to the UK today.
 They were facing at least 12 strokes and three years in jail in Singapore if convicted of charges that they robbed a taxi driver of £19 during shore leave from their Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship Sir Galahad on May 3.

King, of Craigievar, near Alford, and Britten, from Plymouth, are likely to face a court martial in the UK but no longer have to face justice in Singapore.
 The former British colony has a notorious harsh penal system and foreigners have suffered corporal punishment in the past. The flogging of American student Michael Fay in 1994 for vandalism attracted international media interest.
 In Singapore, robbery carries a penalty of three years imprisonment and a minimum of 12 strokes of the cane.
 King and Britten were arrested after taxi

driver Tong Chin Huat accused them of robbing him of 43 Singaporean dollars after a night out in the city.
 The Sir Galahad had been taking part in exercises in the Far East.
 The crew were reportedly warned about the strict nature of the law in Singapore before going on shore leave.
 After their arrest they were quoted as saying they were "filled with alarm" at the punishment they were facing.
 The pair had been held at the Queenstown Remand Centre in Singapore where Fay was caged in 1994.

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