



Monday, February 24, 2003

20p

www.thesun.co.uk



## We're happy ever Bafta!

By EMILY SMITH

MOVIE beauties Nicole Kidman and Catherine Zeta Jones beam with joy last night after winning Baftas.

The pair had a dream evening as they scooped the awards — Britain's version of Oscars — in London.

Nicole, right, was named Best Actress for her role as Virginia Woolf in *The Hours*.

Catherine won Best Supporting Actress for *Chicago*. The Welsh star was so delighted she yelled: "Oggy, Oggy, Oggy, Oy, Oy, Oy!"

But there was a big surprise for film fans. Catherine's movie and its rival blockbuster *Gangs Of New York* — which were nominated for 12 Baftas apiece — both failed to sweep the board at the awards.

Full Story — Pages 4 & 5

Picture: DAVE HOGAN

### SUN EXCLUSIVE

# LES HAS NEW LOVE

By JOHN ASKILL

JILTED funnyman Les Dennis has found love again — with a stunning blonde.

Les, 48, walked hand-in-hand with his new girlfriend yesterday as they shared a sunshine break in Spain.

The pair cuddled passionately on the beach and at one point the blonde planted a loving kiss on the telly host's face.

An onlooker said: "They both looked totally smitten." Les was heartbroken in December when he split with Amanda Holden, 32, after seven years of marriage.

Full Story — Pages 6 & 7



Smacker . . . blonde kisses telly Les on Spanish beach yesterday

## Star on hol with blonde

WAR ON TERROR

# UNITED Russia and China ready to back UN blitz on Saddam

**WORLD leaders were last night poised to stop squabbling and give the green light for war on Saddam Hussein.**

After days of negotiations, America and Britain claim they now have overwhelming support for military action.

Russia and China are ready to sign a resolution on the UN Security Council resolution.

Even worm-like French President Jacques Chirac is reluctant to veto a decision which could see US air strikes on Iraq within weeks.

"Nobody expected a unanimous decision on the first resolution, but we achieved it," he said yesterday.

The dramatic mood change comes amid fears that the UN

will be at risk if it fails to tackle tyrant Saddam head on.

Mr Blair last night took on his critics and ordered a special Commons debate on Iraq on Wednesday.

Mr Blair will tell MPs they have begun weighing the implications of Saddam being left in place.

Mr Blair last night took on his critics and ordered a special Commons debate on Iraq on Wednesday.

Mr Blair will tell MPs they have begun weighing the implications of Saddam being left in place.

ing. Street spokesman said the focus must be on the last ten days.

Mr Major, who led Britain during the first Gulf War in 1991, said "he knows at the end of the day if an Iraq is left in place it will be a disaster for the world."

Mr Blair last night took on his critics and ordered a special Commons debate on Iraq on Wednesday.

Mr Blair will tell MPs they have begun weighing the implications of Saddam being left in place.

## Blairs in £20 B&B

**TONY Blair and his family roughed it in a college for trainee pilots in Rome.**

Travert Blair - Page 6



Romatherapy... Cherie Blair meets a shy Italian boy at the Colosseum

## DIRTY DEALS BY WORM

**JACQUES "Le Worm" Chirac was accused last night of letting French funds which can be converted into weapons to Iraq.**

## Ten held in base demo

**TEN men and women were arrested yesterday after an anti-war demo at an airbase.**

## SHAME OF HOON: Page 11

## Nine die in Gaza raids

**AN Israeli soldier and eight Palestinians died in clashes in the Gaza Strip yesterday.**

PM Ariel Sharon.

## YOUR LETTERS TO THE TROOPS

**'Love you more than I can tell'**

**MESSAGES for British troops have poured in after The Sun launched Operation Support Squads (OSS).**

thousands of emails and calls from loved ones - and we'll print more soon.

**RAF Sergeant KEVIN LUCKY** writes: "I miss you every hour you are away. I love you more than I can tell."

**Sandra-Lee Smith** wrote to hubby **LS (S) RICHARD SMITH** on board **HMS Ocean**: "We all miss you terribly. Come home safe to us."

**Wren KAREN GREEN**, also on **HMS Ocean**, had this message for Johnny and Alice: "Love you loads. We are all so proud and missing you."

**Wendy Munro**, of **Bicester, Oxfordshire**, wrote to hubby **DEL CORPORAL DEL MUNRO**: "I'll be here for you forever."

**Bravest**  
**ALEX KINNAIRD's** message from wife Emma in **Orfordshire** was: "Miss you loads, babe. See you soon."

**Alice Gibb** wrote to **400 ALAN GIBB** on **HMS Bangor**: "We will have lots of celebratory when you come home."

**Marlene SHARIF GARDNER's** sisters Amy, Nicola, 14, in Swansea, said: "To the bravest big brother in the world. Come back safe."

**Shelagh and Bryan** said **SPENCE**, heading for **Northwest**: "Happy birthday son."



## Crisis... Duncan Smith faces leadership row IDS is a dead man walking, warns Tory MP

**PUNCH-DRUNK** Tory chief Iain Duncan Smith was branded a "dead man walking" last night as he fought to avoid a leadership coup by the second frontbencher and admiral, with critics demanding his failure to lead a blow on Labour.

And there were fears the revolt could explode into a full-scale battle for the Tory crown.

**Shadow** chief, Secretary **Jim** **Lee**, given Mr Duncan Smith's "incompetent" remarks to boost the party, but senior figures wanted yesterday some rebuke may not be prepared to wait.

**Mrs** **Murphy** were dismayed by **IDS's** cackling, appearing since on Radio 4's "Today show" last week.

**Tory** **MP** **John** **Bercow** said: "A challenger could happen. A challenger rather than **IDS**."

**Mr** **Bercow**, who quit the Shadow Cabinet last year in a row over gay adoptions, added: "We've been disappointed that we have got to be so negative with the leadership."

**515**  
WEATHER  
USA BURKE

**GOT A STORY?**  
**PHONE THE**  
**SUN**  
**NEWS DESK**  
**LONDON**  
**020 7782 4100**  
**MANCHESTER**  
**0161 935 5323**

**GOT A QUERY?**  
**OR PROMOTION?**  
**020 7860 1129**  
**FAX us on 020 7782 4108**  
Or email us at [news@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:news@the-sun.co.uk)

**CLOUDY** start with fog in **Anglia** and the **South** with light rain from the **West**. **Sunny** spells, **Top** temperature **10°C (50°F)** later forecast from **5pm** on [www.bbc.com/weather](http://www.bbc.com/weather)

**THE SUN SAYS**

**A terrible toll**

**AS the hot sun rises over Africa, 13million children wake up to another day without parents.**

That is the terrible toll which the Aids epidemic has wrought on the continent that was the cradle of mankind.

This year, 2,500,000 Africans will die of Aids - a scarcely believable five a minute.

The consequences of this modern-day plague are grave.

Millions of children are raised by other children, too weak to work and bring home food.

*The daily struggle against drought and famine is made many times worse.*

People die for want of drugs that could cost 70p a day.

Western eyes must not look away from so many millions of human tragedies.

That is why The Sun is proud to join forces today with rock star Bono, who is crusading for Africa.

It is wrong to say Africa's problems have little bearing on our own comfortable lives.

African economies are being destroyed by Aids, and many states are becoming unstable politically, threatening Western security.

*But it is for the children that we must open our hearts and pockets.*

Britain has done much to convince the West to write off billions in African debts.

Chancellor Gordon Brown and Cabinet colleague Clare Short have promised to help Africa get off its knees.

But Africa needs more aid, more trade, more cheap drugs - more support from us.

It is vital that the Government ensures that this support helps the poorest, and is not siphoned off by unscrupulous dictators.

Carry with you the impassioned words of Bono:

**"If we all wake up to what's going on, we can win this war."**

**Fifth column**

**MORE than 40,000 heroes are preparing to fight on our behalf.**

But what do the anorak and sandals brigade care?

The peaceniks break in to the RAF base at Fairford and give Saddam Hussein another propaganda weapon.

They don't worry about the effect their silly games have.

One man who *should* worry is Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon.

But on the brink of war, he swans off for a week's skiing.

The paper that asked "Where's Hoon?" had the wrong question. It should be "Why Hoon?"

How Tony Blair picked Mr Nobody to run the MoD is a mystery.

**You'd think twice about letting him behind the counter of a NAAFI.**



Agony... HIV mum Mulu, 16, gives up newborn son

**WEEP FOR THE BABIES OF AFRICA**

THE tearful baby in our main picture is called Tariku. He was dumped in a rubbish-filled ditch because his widowed mum was dying of Aids.

Today, the year old tot lies on a tatty orphanage bed - unaware he's one of the lucky ones. He DOESN'T have the virus and is being sent to a foster home next month in America.

The future is bleaker for 25-day old Gabriella, in a cot nearby. Her frail body is ravaged by the disease and - as with millions of other African Aids orphans - no one will come to save her.

Kids' home worker Sister Luigarda Camilliori told me: "She is unlikely to live until her first birthday. We'll care for her as best we can."

Nearly five Africans will die every MINUTE from Aids this year. Drugs to treat sufferers cost 70p a day - half the sum the EU spends subsidising a cow.

There are 11million orphans like Gabriella and Tariku, many of whom got the virus from their mums' milk.

**Bins**

In Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, tots are abandoned every day.

Sister Camilliori, 50, said: "They are left in bins, or by the road. We try to find healthy children a home - HIV positive ones aren't allowed to be fostered."

One mum forced to give up her five-day-old son is Mulu Dessalgn, 16. She is weak with the HIV virus and already has one child.

I watch as she puts Mamu - Baby in her language - in a cot at

From **OLIVER HARVEY** in Ethiopia

a women's refuge and walks away dazed.

She says, tears streaming down her cheeks: "I love my boy but what life can I offer him?"

The pitiful scene is a glimpse into the horror of the Aids pandemic.

Most are too poor to afford drugs. Like Addis Shomila, 30,

whose son Tamru, eight, feeds her soup.

Her rasping, death-rattle cough means she has just days to live.

Tamru tells me: "I want to be a doctor when I grow up, to make my mother better."

"My father's already dead and I don't want to be left alone. Please don't let her die."

One of the few whose life has not been ruined is Solomon Taddesse, 26 - a coffin-maker.

He says: "It's sad, but I sold 50 this week."



**Bono asks the battle**

BONO has been a major rock star with U2 for 23 years, with eleven albums to his name. He is happily married to Ali Hewson with four children aged from 19 months to 13. He is well known for his strong political views - and for having a heart as big as his talent. He writes:

**TODAY I appeal to you, The Sun's army of readers, to use your collective clout in fighting Aids in Africa.**

This massive epidemic probably seems a lifetime away from the everyday problems of the car not starting, the electricity bill and the kids' homework.

But it is one that has devastating consequences not just for Africa but for the rest of the world.

Some people think musicians should stick with the music. I cringe when I see a celebrity with a cause - and I am one!

But when 2,500,000 people in Africa will die of Aids this year, we are not talking about a "cause" - we are talking about an emergency.

a global humanitarian emergency. The facts about Aids blow your mind. They also break your heart.

Imagine if a third of the kids at your local primary school were Aids orphans. That's a reality in Africa where the parents of 13million children have been killed by Aids.

There will be 28million kids with out mums and dads by the end of this decade because of this disease.

It has taken 28million lives so far - more than the populations of Australia and New Zealand. In Ethiopia alone 3.5million people now have HIV/Aids - one for every man, woman and child living in Ireland.

**Campaigners**

Not only is Aids destroying families it is also leading to social and economic breakdown in many parts of Africa - and it won't stop there.

Bob Geldof, myself and other campaigners have set up DATA - Debt, Aids, Trade Africa - to work with you. The Sun's loyal army of readers, and groups such as Comic Relief and Oxfam, to campaign for the world's poorest continent.

Africa needs further debt cancella-

**TOMORROW:**

