

SECURITY SCANDAL

GAY MP AND THE RENT BOY



Lovers... Betts and toyboy Jose

EXCLUSIVE by MICHAEL LEA
and DUNCAN LARCOMBE

A GAY Labour MP has hired a Brazilian rent boy to work for him in the Commons.

Besotted Clive Betts, 53, employed lover Jose Gasparo, 20, as a research assistant.

But the move has sparked major security fears because Betts met the man just two months ago when he worked at a seedy escort agency in London.

Gasparo's bossus charge clients up to £100 an hour for his services.

Last night The Sun visited the HQ of the Villa Gianni agency, which advertises on the Internet.

We were shown half-naked young men and promised a body massage for £70 - with full sex at £120.

Gasparo features on the firm's website as Bryan from Lisbon - and is described as "versatile".

Betts now wants to get him a Commons pass, but security chiefs fear the rent boy could hand on sensitive information to other clients.

The revelation came as the MP - who spent last week in Venice with Gasparo - announced he was gay in a public statement.

Full Story - Pages 4 and 5

Labour bigwig fixes job at Commons for his escort lover



ATOMIC SMITTEN

LIZ McCLARNON of Atomic Kitten has spent a steamy weekend at a five-star hotel with Lee Ryan (left), of boyband Blue. She confided to pals: "It's love."

See bizarre - Pages 12 & 13

WAR ON TERROR

U.S. TELLS WORM: STOP SQUIRMING

By TREVOR KAVANAGH, Political Editor

AMERICA last night dramatically warned French President Jacques "Le Worm" Chirac not to veto UN moves to disarm Saddam Hussein.

In an astonishing slap-down, the US envoy to France said any attempt by France to scupper military action would be seen as "very unfriendly".

Ambassador Howard Leach said in Paris: "France and the United States can do many things together. I hope we will continue to work together."

"I hope there won't be a veto because a veto would be very unfriendly and we wouldn't look kindly upon it."

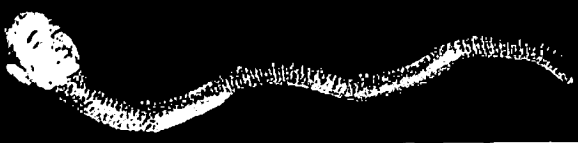
Nuclear

The ambassador's blunt public warning, authorised by President George Bush, was the nearest thing to a declaration of diplomatic war.

Strutting President Chirac is opposed to any move to topple Saddam, an old pal who has supplied Iraq oil in return for French nuclear power components.

The envoy's words were also pitched at German Chancellor Ger-

Chirac warned over UN veto



hard Schroeder and at Belgium, who are hacking French moves to let Saddam off the hook. And they will be headed in Moscow and Beijing where leaders are weighing up the risk of angering the world's only superpower.

America is determined to oust Saddam, who yesterday challenged Mr Bush to a live TV debate.

The US leader is unlikely to forgive Chirac if he succeeds in splitting the West when the UN Security Council votes - expected to be on March 7.

His proposal gives Iraq five months to co-operate with weapon inspectors. Americans are already boycotting French wine, food and car imports.

The French economy is wobbly and a full blown trade war with America could plunge it into recession.

Last night Saddam played for time again after suddenly "finding" proof

he destroyed his stock of chemical and biological weapons. Iraqi scientists claim they have discovered 100 documents recording disposal of weapons of mass destruction in 1991. They also claimed they had found an R 400 bomb containing liquid in an area known as the site of biological weapons research.

Grillable UN weapons chief Hans Blix swallowed the stunt hook, line and sinker. "There are positive developments," he said.

But the new evidence does little to reveal the whereabouts of thousands of tons of chemical and biological weapons which have been concealed from inspectors.

Earlier, Tony Blair held secret talks with the American commander who will lead US and British forces into war against Saddam. The PM met

General Tommy Franks in Downing Street to discuss battle plans and likely dates for the first air strikes.

The talks covered Chirac's disastrous bid to split the West over Iraq. Moments later, the Prime Minister blasted Chirac's "folly and weakness" for torpedoing moves towards a military showdown.

Looking tired but determined, Mr Blair demolished French arguments against swift military action.

But he risks a major revolt from leftie MPs tonight in a Commons debate on Iraq.

Up to 150 backbenchers are tipped to vote against him or abstain but pro-war Tories will guarantee victory.

Groans

The PM warned Saddam risks squandering his "final" chance to disarm. "Even now we are prepared to go the extra step to achieve disarmament peacefully," he said. "It takes no time at all for Saddam to co-operate."

Mr Blair told the Commons: "I do not want war. I do not believe any one in this House wants war, but disarmament peacefully can only happen with Saddam's active co-operation."

Lib Dem leader Charles Kennedy, who rose to groans, asked: "Why are you so fundamentally hostile to the memorandum that the French and others have now tabled? Does it not offer a better route forward?"

The Sun Says - Page Eight

JACQUES' KNICKERS IN A TWIST

TONY Blair stripped Jacques Chirac down to his ludicrous tricolour underpants yesterday.

He exposed the French President's naked ambition to seize the leadership of the EU - and split the West.

And he revealed the "folly and weakness" of those who want to let evil Saddam off the hook - including scores of his own MPs.

He reminded doubters about Saddam's son-in-law who revealed the



COMMENTARY BY TREVOR KAVANAGH POLITICAL EDITOR

existence of Iraq's chemical and biological weapons - and paid for it with his life.

Opponents of military action were alarmed by ex-Primer John Major's warning that Saddam might hurl nerve gas or anthrax at Kuwait,

Saudi Arabia and Israel if he is cornered. But this is exactly why this ruthless oppressor built his ghastly weapons in the first place - to intimidate his neighbours and to wipe Israel off the face of the earth.

The whole world signed up to the UN resolution which ordered Saddam to disarm. This is not just a test for Saddam but for all 191 UN member states.

China and Russia will not let

Chirac drag them into his personal feud with America. They know US forces will soon topple Saddam.

They won't want to be left on the wrong side as TV cameras reveal the vile weapons this dictator has already used on so many of his own people.

We may not see another unanimous Security Council vote for action, but nothing will now stop a swift war and the long overdue end of an appalling despot.

Blunkett slammed on drugs

By GEORGE PASCOE-WATSON

UNITED Nations experts last night accused David Blunkett of fueling a world drug crisis by softening our cannabis laws.

They slammed him for sending a "dangerous" myth around the globe that drugs are safe by reclassifying dope so most users are not arrested.

The Home Secretary was blamed for an explosion in cannabis production worldwide.

The UN study confirmed pot attacks the brain and is linked to heart and lung disease.

Liberal

Hamid Ghadse, of the International Narcotics Control Board, said "If a drug is reclassified it signifies it is more liberal."

"On the one hand you are telling people not to use ecstasy because it is dangerous. On the other you are not doing anything about cannabis."

INCB President Philip Enns said Mr Blunkett had wrecked 100 years of international agreements on drug policy.

The Home Office said: "We're not legitimising cannabis - it is a harmful substance that requires strict controls. That's why we intend to reclassify it as a Class C drug."

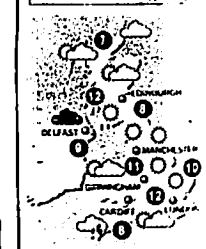
ROLLS AXES 1,100 STAFF

ROLLS Royce announced it was axing 1,100 staff yesterday as Tesco created 3,000 jobs.

The cuts come at Derby, Bristol and Hucknall, Nottingham, where the aerospace giant is replacing old factories with hi-tech plants.

Tesco is giving full time posts to 3,000 who had short contracts over Christmas. The supermarket needs 3,000 more to work over Easter.

SKY NEWS WEATHER with LISA BURKE



HAZY sunshine in eastern areas, cloudier elsewhere with rain later in Wales and South West. Max temp 12°C (54°F).

Local forecast from Sky on www.the-sun.co.uk/news

We're gunner get Saddam

BRITISH troops preparing for war in the Gulf last night confirmed their rifles are faultless.

Royal Marine commandos have test-fired thousands of bullets over the past fortnight without a single SASO Mark II jamming.

They practised the modified rifles - once prone to seizing up in the desert - as they met Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon in Kuwait.

The Sun exposed faulty SASOs during last year's Afghan war. The story sparked an £80million overhaul and soldiers received fresh training on maintenance.

Mr Hoon told The Sun: "Our men and women are really up for it. They know they are the best."

Fly the flag... a British Challenger tank commander close to the Iraq border in Kuwait yesterday

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BINGO Page 22 **TV Pages 30, 31 & 32** **U.S. OIL VOW** World stock markets plunged amid Gulf War jitters yesterday but Wall Street rallied as the US pledged to release oil from emergency reserves.

THE SUN SAYS

**In one ear,
out the other**

WITH his puerile nit-picking, Lib Dem leader Charles Kennedy achieves only one thing.

He makes himself look even more out of touch with political reality.

Tony Blair once again made a clear and irrefutable case to the Commons yesterday on why giving Saddam Hussein more time will achieve nothing.

But Kennedy - on the very day that Saddam defies UN inspector Hans Blix's order to destroy his missiles - lets it all go in one ear and out the other.

Not that there's much in between to stop it.

Kennedy backs the French/German plan to give Iraq another four months in which to make a monkey of the UN.

But then the daft Lib Dems support anything European, whether good for Britain or not.

The great mystery is why the polls show one person in four backs Kennedy and his bunch of drips.

The Prime Minister and Iain Duncan Smith tower over him on the vital issue of Iraq.

Britain's interests are in safe hands.

Not even a glass of Bell's would be safe in Charlie boy's hands.

Risky game

AN MP's private life is his own unless it intrudes on his public responsibilities.

If former Labour whip Clive Betts, 53, is besotted by a 20-year-old Brazilian man that's his affair, so to speak.

But Jose Roberto Gasparo is no ordinary samba dancer.

He rents himself out for £100 an hour via an online bordello which details his sexual preferences.

Consorting with prostitutes of either sex is a dangerous business for public figures, as many disgraced MPs can testify.

But Betts has also compromised the security of Parliament by giving his dodgy boyfriend a job as a researcher.

And then applying for him to be given a Commons pass that would let him swan around the corridors of power.

An MP's sexuality is not an issue. But Betts is putting Parliament at risk with his ill-judged affair.

Silly asses

PEOPLE can be so cruel sometimes.

Kylie Minogue's fan club have sent her some hard-hitting advice: Cover up your bum.

Really, that's no way to talk about her poor ex-boyfriend James Gooding.

WHO'S

Fears as Marsha hammer nut attacks third victim



Last moments... new picture of Marsha and, right, girl posing as her catches a night bus in reconstruction for TV tonight

THE hammer maniac who murdered Marsha McDonnell struck for the THIRD time yesterday - triggering fears he is going on a mindless spree of savagery.

The latest victim was an 18-year-old lad who, like bubbly Marsha, had just got off a night bus.

He was startled by a "grouching" sound behind him and turned to find the nut bearing down, swinging the hammer.

The lad ducked as the attacker aimed a blow at his head and was hit on the waist.

After failing to land a second blow the maniac, a young man in a white hooded top, ran off.

The terrified victim, who escaped serious injury, dialled 999 on his mobile.

Cops raced to the scene but the madman vanished into the night. The lad's chilling ordeal happened at 2.50am in Hamp-

ton, South West London, just a quarter of a mile from where gap year student Marsha, 19, was bludgeoned to death three weeks ago.

It sent a new wave of fear through the quiet suburb. Families are alarmed at the random nature of the attacks - the first of which came last month when a girl of 17 was hit on the head outside nearby Strawberry Hill railway station.

Prey

And many parents have told sons and daughters to avoid night buses for fear the nut may trail his prey from stops.

Shocked local Tim Harrison said: "If there is someone out there hitting people over the head with a hammer just for fun then we are going to have to be very careful. I walked

past the exact spot at midnight last night. I could have been a target. Any of us could."

A mum who did not want to be named said: "This has left everyone shell shocked. We can't believe it has happened again."

"After Marsha's murder people were afraid to go out alone at night. Now this has made it so much worse."

"I will not be letting my teenage son go out after dark. Until this person is caught he will be on a cufew."

The Sun has agreed to a Scotland Yard request not to name the latest victim, an A-level student at Richmond College, Twickenham. Like Marsha, he had been on a night out with pals in Kingston-upon-Thames.

He caught the N285 bus home but was set upon 200 yards from his stop as he turned into Hampton's wide and leafy Ormond Drive.

His 43-year-old mum, speaking on the doorstep of her £400,000 semi-detached home, said: "He is very lucky to be alive. He is very shaken. We

are just so relieved that he is all right. It's absolutely terrifying to think what could have happened when I think about poor Marsha."

The mum added: "You just don't normally worry about boys. You cannot lock them up at night - they have to get on with their lives."

Marsha's parents were told of the attack in a phone call from friends. They are still numb with grief over their daughter and could not comment.

But a family friend said: "They will be very shocked at another attack but grateful the victim was not harmed."

Alert

Marsha, whose last steps will be reconstructed on TV's Crime watch UK tonight in a fresh bid to find witnesses, told pals before her death that she feared she was being stalked.

Detectives believe the close proximity of the attacks and their similarity points to a local lunatic.

And they said the latest victim's awareness of the Marsha case, which made him turn when he heard the "sounds behind" him, probably saved him from serious injury or death.

Superintendent Sue Hill said last night: "My message to people out there is to be alert and keep your wits about you."

Police described the nut as 5ft 10in tall, wearing dark footwear, dark tracksuit bottoms and a dark jacket as well as the hooded top.

One 17-year-old student at Richmond College, where Marsha also did her A-levels, said: "I just hope the person who is doing this is caught soon."

MY SCARED STREET

JUST after midnight yesterday, I walked past the spot where the latest hammer attack took place.

It chills me to the bone to think that a maniac may have been lurking behind a hedge, waiting to pounce at random.

Like Marsha, I stepped off a late bus to walk the 300 or so yards home, acutely aware a dan-

gerous nut was on the loose. You find yourself behaving strangely.

Looking over your shoulder. Watching for shadows. Listening for footsteps behind you. Yet I saw nothing and heard nothing,

which somehow made it all the more shocking when I learned what had happened.

I immediately phoned my wife at her work and warned her to be careful.

How often do we hear the cry: "I can't believe it has happened here." But it has. Three times. And that fills me and everyone else who lives there with dread.

By CHRIS HOCKLEY, Sun man who lives in road where attack took place