



Tom Clarke and some Dame

Peeping Tom the Schools Inspector

SEX makes Tom Clarke mad. And as Liverpool's Chief Inspector of Schools, his pious utterings about morality, along with his attacks on progressive education, attract widespread attention.

In July, for instance, the Liverpool Echo gave plenty of space to his attack on "trendy teachers and educational experts".

"We want no more of their mental aphrodisiacs," Clarke declared at a school prize-giving.

He went on to condemn "pornography" in school books. "Unlike burglary or other crimes, sex — by its hold on the imagination — can reproduce itself even by report."

"We must protect our children against appeals to this instinct... whether the smut be in Shakespeare or Chaucer."

Mr Clarke's audience could be forgiven for getting the idea that the Chief Inspector of Schools considers sex a crime and smut intolerable. Yet nothing could be further from the truth.

Shortly before that stirring speech, Clarke was at a gathering of a different kind.

There are no speeches and no prizes given at Gatsby's Club, in the city centre, during Friday lunch-times. Men like Tom Clarke go there to study the young Go-Go dancer and the two (female) striptease acts.

This Friday, Tom Clarke arrived early at Gatsby's and secured a ring-side seat. Men at the front obviously get a better view of the girls. And, if they're very lucky, are sometimes invited to play a small part in the act.

This was Tom Clarke's lucky day. One of the strippers danced tantalisingly close. Then, down to her last garments, she indicated that he

should remove her bra. Being a gentleman of old-fashioned values, the Chief Inspector of Schools naturally obliged.

Usually this lunchtime titillation of city gents would be of no interest to the Free Press or anyone else. But Tom Clarke's little performance is an interesting contrast to his publicly stated views.

He insists, for example, that corporal punishment "must be retained for all found guilty of personal violence, with a special recommendation against mercy for those who lay hands on women and children."

He announces that "There can be no compromise with evil... no matter how attractively it is presented."

He is against children being allowed "to develop their personalities in a natural sort of way."

He proclaims that the only alternative to the "standards" he supposedly supports is "chaos, tyranny with all its most frightful consequences — the primacy of the most vile over the most noble."

And so — armed with all these fine phrases — Tom Clarke was able to appeal to the parents of the girls of Notre Dame High School, last autumn, to have the moral courage to antagonise those who would corrupt the young.

These are not, of course, fine, honest men like Tom Clarke. They are "teachers who disrupt and subvert" who must be "rooted out and sacked."

And all this has to be done to preserve an educational system which turns out frustrated, ignorant, bitter, hypocritical individuals like Liverpool's Chief Inspector of Schools, Tom Clarke.

THE CASE OF THE 'FRAMED' DETECTIVE

DETECTIVE CONSTABLE Daniel Gidman is a vital police witness in a major criminal trial for the second time in two months. But Mr Gidman will want to put his earlier appearance at Liverpool Crown Court behind him as he gives evidence this time. Because at the earlier trial in July:

- A man well-known to the police was acquitted on all 16 charges.
- It was revealed that a safe containing stolen property had been found cemented into the wall of Detective Gidman's garage.
- It was claimed that a senior Merseyside police officer had given information against Gidman.

A (no doubt thorough) internal police enquiry is now under way as a result of this case. In particular, the police are supposed to find out whether or not the safe was planted on Gidman to discredit him, as he claims.

Or whether there was some other reason for it being in his garage. The man who was supposed to have planted the safe was the man a jury found Not Guilty on all counts; the defendant Brian Williams.

BRIAN WILLIAMS, aged 37, began his four-week trial at Liverpool Crown Court at the end of June. He faced 16 charges of burglary involving £10,000-worth of jewellery and cash, theft, and handling stolen goods.

His trial was the climax to a long-running story. He had been first arrested in November 1974, released on bail, re-arrested in March 1975 and remanded in custody to Risley. Among the arresting officers from the Serious Crimes Squad was Det. Con. Daniel Gidman.

In August 1975, after being sent to Warrington Hospital for treatment, Brian Williams escaped and went on the run. What followed illustrates the often curious relationship between the police and professional criminals.

Spot the balls up

YOU'D THINK a story about their own newspaper would give Daily Post and Echo hacks a chance to get all the facts for once.

But they've just let a golden opportunity slip by. This report about an unfortunate individual alleged to have fouled in the Echo's 'Place the Ball' competition appeared in the Post on September 7.

The report appears to be accurate — as far as it goes. But a detail invariably included in the Post's boring court reports — the defendant's occupation — seems to have gone astray.

For the record, Mr Kenneth Kitto was employed by the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo in the department which deals with 'Place the Ball'.

He must have put a 'X' for no publicity.

Convicted man says 'planted' safe was his

While on the run, Williams says he made contact with two senior Merseyside policemen: Supt. Eddie Washbourne (who retired very recently) and Supt Nat Shearon.

According to Williams, it was Washbourne who told him — on the telephone — about the safe hidden in Gidman's garage. Washbourne denied this in court.

Williams' dealings with Supt. Shearon are even more interesting. Williams revealed in court that — while wanted by police on serious charges — he actually met this senior policeman face to face, discussed the allegations against Gidman with him, and then casually went back on the run.

He was eventually picked up in London in March this year. But, while still free, Williams continually demanded that a search be made of Gidman's garage at his home, 35 Redwing Lane, Gateacre.

However, in the police version of events, outlined at the trial, fate took a hand. Detective Gidman's wife, Mavis, accidentally discovered the safe while looking for a packet of frozen food she had dropped behind her freezer.

Inside the safe, said prosecution counsel, were stolen jewellery and pass keys. "It was an attempt by Williams to discredit this police officer," he told the jury.

What the prosecution did not,

apparently, think worth mentioning was that one of the other items found in the safe was a pistol. The police say it was a replica.

Since the Williams trial, Midlands police officers have been called in to investigate how someone could break into a garage adjoining a semi-detached house in a quiet, open, suburban street and cement a safe into the wall without anyone else knowing anything about it.

Luckily the previous owner of the safe seems to have been found. The investigating officers recently went to see a man called Michael Walker in Hull prison.

And, according to Walker's ex-wife, who has since visited him, Walker identified the safe found in Gidman's house as his. He said the safe had been kept at his mother's house in Skelmersdale. And he told his ex-wife "something about £500" being inside it.

Walker was convicted at Liverpool Crown Court last October of a number of charges involving theft. One of the officers who had arrested him was Det. Con. Gidman.

Brian Williams insisted at his trial that he knew nothing about the safe, or how it got into Gidman's garage. His defence — accepted by the jury — was that stolen property and keys had been planted in his house by the man he was arrested with, Brian Riley.

Brian Riley is a professional criminal who has spent almost 20 of his 43 years in jail. He appeared at Liverpool Crown Court in October 1975 and pleaded guilty to conspiracy to steal, burglary and theft. He got 5 years.

But Riley was very fortunate. In May this year — after only seven months in prison — he was freed by the High Court in London. The court heard that Riley had given valuable

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Remanded on £14,600 charge

KENNETH KITTO, aged 37, of Tudorville Road, Bebington, was remanded on £100 bail when he appeared before Liverpool Magistrates yesterday.

He was charged that on or about August 27 he attempted by deception to obtain £15,000 and a Ford Escort car together worth £14,600, the monies and property of the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo, by presenting a Place the Ball competition coupon as a genuine entry with the intention of depriving the company of the money.

Kitto was represented by Mr P. R. Headland.

Buses: more cuts

THERE could soon be few buses before 6am and last services at 11pm if information given to the bus-drivers' shop stewards is correct.

The stewards say they have been told unofficially that this is the basis of new service cuts planned for next year.

If true, it means difficulty for thousands of early morning workers, and inconvenience and expense at the end of a night out.

For the drivers, it means they would work two shifts instead of three. They would be on either "earlies" or "lates" with the welcome daytime shift a thing of the past.

Drivers are still resisting the latest 25% cuts demanded by the MPTE. But stewards have so far rejected forms of action which would not harm passengers — like simply refusing to collect fares.