

birdie way

Cliff boy's last moments - court

A COURT yesterday heard grim evidence about the final moments of a young German footballer's life.

The 16-year-old probably lived for 'some time' after plunging over a cliff, said a Home Office pathologist.

But he added, a number of the boy's wounds - including those to the neck - were inflicted before the fall which led to his death.

The jury, sitting for the third day of the murder trial at Newcastle Crown Court, also heard about bloodstains found on clothing belonging to the man who was the prosecutor against the youth - Thomas Meyer, of Dortmund, West Germany.

Speaking from his witness box, Meyer said he and his two friends were at the scene of the murder on the night of August 10.

Meyer, who was on an exchange football tour to Newcastle, was charged with the murder of the boy, who was 16 years old at the time.

He has fallen several times while climbing the cliff, but he always got up and continued his climb.

The boy, who was 16 years old at the time, was found dead on the cliff face.

The jury is expected to return a verdict on the charges of murder and manslaughter.

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TONY JONES reports on a not so smooth visit by Miss World



● Silvia when she won the Miss World title.

● Anonymous demonstrators during her visit to Newcastle.

MISS World is suddenly not allowed to answer questions. Her loose grasp of the English language is being turned to advantage.

I've broken the news to her interpreter that there is a small demonstration outside the clothing store in Newcastle which Miss World is about to open.

The public relations people acting for a Burton's, previously very helpful, are now closing ranks. 'Whatever you do, don't panic,' orders the Miss World bodyguard.

Miss Silvia Szalma, into her 14th day as Miss World, whose interests embrace architecture and classical music, sits alone in a corner blissfully unaware of all the fuss.

She happily posed for pictures, slipped champagne and generally charmed everyone in a private pre-opening party outside the store.

It hadn't occurred to anyone that being Argentinean, she would be a target for demonstrators.

A down market of the 1970's is the International Anti-Imperialist Group, mainly from the university area, who are writing letters and distributing leaflets in Northumberland Street outside.

It's a spontaneous demo, that anonymous spokesman tells those who are to listen. 'Otherwise we would have a lot more people here.'

Nevertheless, nobody inside the Burton's store is taking any notice of the demonstrators.

So if you can't speak English, don't worry. You'll be fine.

Farce Miss Szalma is already being asked to answer questions in her own language.

She's asked to answer questions in her own language, but she doesn't seem to understand the questions.

From Miss World's spokesman, she says she is sorry she cannot answer the questions.

The only real impact is the public's reaction to the demonstration, which has been a success.

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Wide-eyed and almost speechless - by order



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12 weeks to climb 203 peaks!

A. H. GRIFFIN is well known to Lakeland enthusiasts as author, journalist and hill walker.

He has just issued the title which he gives to his latest book, '12 Weeks to Climb 203 Peaks'.

Most people of his age group, if reasonably fit, should be able to follow his example, he claims.

Not a guide book as such, but it does contain a list of 203 peaks to climb in the Lake District.

The book is illustrated with excellent photographs by Geoffrey Barry.

It did not take him as long as he expected, 12 weeks in fact, and most of his own company by his own.

It is a goodly volume of 197 pages, priced at £4.95.

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Princess Anne - pictured in a relaxed moment during a visit to Iran.



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Health: a grim picture

A GRIM picture of the problems facing a busy county is painted by a health watchdog.

Miss Betty Sloan, secretary of North Tyneside Community Health Council, said it was clear from her inquiries that patients were not receiving the treatment they deserved.

She said 400 people had been referred to the department in 1977 and the figure would be higher still this year.

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Doubts over punk band's poly concert

DOUBT hangs over the Saturday night concert has already planned though security with guards and dogs.

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Lawyer denies charges

A WEARSIDE solicitor is denying a charge that he obtained £2,000 by deception.

David Arthur Hammond, who works for the Sunderland firm of Freeman, Hamilton and Emmons, made a brief appearance at South Shields Magistrates Court yesterday.

And afterwards his solicitor, Mr Philip Dyer, said: 'My client denies the charge of any dishonesty whatsoever.'

Mr Hammond (36), of Lizard Lane, Whitburn, was charged that he had obtained £2,000 in cash from Brian Lavery on August 18 last year.

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Labourer died in 25-foot scaffold fall

LABOURER William Pearson, 51, died from a 25-foot high scaffolding to his death on Tuesday after finishing work for the day.

Newcastle coroner Pat Cuff said there was a problem in that the site had not been inspected until two days after the accident.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

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