

NEWS IN BRIEF

Classes for trolley dollies

TALK about flying lessons! One enterprising school is set to become the first in the country to teach pupils how to become airline cabin crew.

Sixth formers will learn how to serve drinks, keep their nails clean — and how to find shade and water in the event of a crash landing in the desert!

At the end of the one-year course, pupils will be awarded a City and Guilds qualification — equivalent to a GCSE.

Manchester Enterprise Academy in Wythenshawe is just a stone's throw from the city's airport, so pupils won't have to go far to look for a use for their qualification.

The first 20 students will be enrolled onto the course in September.

Big chain stores give bad advice

WANT to find out what's the best TV to suit your needs and budget? Then don't bother asking in an electrical store.

Undercover researchers from Which? concluded that staff in stores selling TVs were often clueless.

They were astonished by their lack of basic knowledge and found that in some cases they contradicted the information given by the manufacturer.

They visited 154 stores posing as customers looking for a new TV and video recorder and they said: "We found alarming examples of bad advice which, if followed, would have left customers buying the wrong size or type of machine and spending more than they needed to."

'Ugly lamp' is ancient relic

A RARE Roman urn that had been used as a table lamp in a Bath home was sold for 40 times the expected price at auction recently.

Despite the fact somebody had drilled two holes in it to convert it into a lamp, the precious 1st-century artefact sold for a whopping £445,250. The auctioneers had only expected to get around £10,000 for it.

Originally, it would have contained the ashes of a prominent Roman citizen of the time.

However, it had been given a more down-to-earth use in recent years as a rather ugly-looking lamp. Amongst the urn's previous owners was Sir Sydney Barratt, a renowned scientist who worked on the famous Dambusters project during World War II.

Singing star Stacey is still a model mum

LIKE thousands of women around the country, mum-of-four Stacey Jackson picks her kids up from school, makes their tea and helps with the homework.

But then, instead of settling down for an evening of soap-watching or board games around the kitchen table, the 41-year-old pulls on some tight-fitting jeans, glams herself up, and heads off to take to the stage of a nightclub somewhere around the country to belt out a few dance numbers.

"My eldest is 15 now and he gives me a disapproving look if I wear a top that's too low-cut," she laughed.

"There's usually a stern, 'No Mum!' and I know it's time to put on something a little more demure."

To be fair, Stacey — whose youngest is just three — isn't your ordinary school-run mum.

The Canadian-born singer with model-girl looks was a high-flying TV executive in New York for 10 years before she arrived in the UK in 1999.

"I was in bands in the States and I just love music," she said at her home in London.

Debut album

"Having a family put things on hold for a while, but it's something I just had to get back to.

"Make no mistake, my family always comes first.

"You just learn to juggle the football and rugby practice, the piano and guitar lessons, the school plays and everything.

"I often don't come off stage after a show until midnight but, even if I'm three or four hours from home, I'll still come back, rather than stay over.

"Even if it's three or four in the morning by the time I get to bed, I'm still in the kitchen making breakfast before the children go off to school," she said.

Married to a successful City financier, Stacey doesn't need to sell records to make ends meet.

by Ian Towers

Indeed, when her debut album came out last year, all the money raised went to the Music For Youth project.

"I guess I've always liked to help others," she told us.

"When I was 11, back in Montreal, I put on a show in the garden at home to raise money for a muscular dystrophy charity.

"The local TV station got to hear, and I was invited into the studios to hand over the jars of money I'd collected live on air.

"Music For Youth has been around for 40 years, putting on festivals around the country solely for young performers.

"Shows like The X Factor are great, but it's mainly young singers getting a chance to air their talents.

"MFY allows musicians of all kinds, guitarists, bassists, drummers, to get the feel of what it's like to perform in front of a huge audience.

"I'm pleased to say my album has so far raised £20,000 for them."

Stacey's latest single, I Am A Woman, was released recently and it's already heading up the club charts.

So, there's no chance of her quitting the music scene just yet to devote herself full-time to the school PTA.

"My family all know there are two sides to my life," she said.

"I wouldn't be a happy mummy if I wasn't a happy Stacey."



Like many mums, Stacey is used to juggling family and career.



Give your chrome dome a mow-over

IT looks like a mini lawnmower and in many ways it is — but the HeadBlade is designed to mow your head, writes Ron McManus.

The shaved head look is very popular these days, thanks to celebrities like David Beckham and Phil Mitchell going for the chrome dome.

For guys with thinning locks, the shaved bounce means you can be trendy without hair.

It also means the end of the dreaded comb-over.

But shaving a head can be tricky. Victims of baldness can often miss

patches at the back of the head that results in the "dog with mange" look!

There's also the real risk of nasty nicks and cuts.

Now, there's a new way of grooming for the seven million bald men in the UK.

The HeadBlade is designed to shave the head and is used in a totally different way to ordinary razors.

You slip a finger through the guard and wear it like a ring, then you push the blade over your head in slow steady strokes — just as if you were pushing an old-fashioned lawnmower over grass.

Independent tests show that the HeadBlade cuts faster than ordinary razors with fewer cuts.

It costs around £16 and is available from trendy barbers or on the Internet.

