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November 26, 2005

Drycleaner throws doubt on Christie's tie

Crucial evidence from a local drycleaner about a floral silk Italian tie owned by Rory Christie took an unexpected turn this week.

The drycleaner threw into doubt whether a bright yellow Zegna tie, allegedly stained with the blood of Mr Christie's missing wife, was the one he had dry-cleaned on the day of the al-

Greens, Libs

back **Bill**

Greens and Liberal MPs are poised to approve government

Greens MLC Giz Watson said:

"I know some people will be after my blood, but it was better

we were part of the discussion on

amendments rather than sit out-

Last-minute changes to the

The changes will set a five-storey

height limit for the site of the old

Perry Lakes Stadium, limit water

use in new houses to 155kl per per-

son and guarantee Cambridge

council \$50 million from land sales. Ms Watson said: "Norman

Moore (Liberal) came to me and

said he wanted my support for his

was being held as the POST

A Cambridge council meeting

amendment.

went to press.

proposed legislation are due in

the Upper House next week.

plans to resume land at Perry

Lakes in Cambridge.

side and vote against it.³

leged murder.

"We all don't know because I don't remember the tie," Wayne Fowler, owner of Herdsman Drycleaners, told the Supreme

Court. He said police had never shown him the tie nor asked him to identify whether it was the one he had dry-cleaned.

Police seized the tie from Mr Christie's flat in Derby Road,

By BRET CHRISTIAN

Shenton Park, seven months after Susan Christie (42) disappeared from her flat in Daglish. Mr Christie (36) has pleaded not guilty to the murder of his es-

tranged wife. The defence has submitted in court that there is no evidence that the tie Mr Christie took to the drycleaners was the one he was wearing on the day of the alleged murder – Friday, November 16, 2001.

The prosecution alleges that the Zegna tie became bloodstained while Mr Christie was moving the body or cleaning up.

"Later he lodged the tie for drycleaning," prosecutor Troy Sweeney has told the Supreme Court. Mr Fowler gave evidence this week that he could not remember Rory Christie coming to his shop that day.

Mr Christie's partner at the time, Michelle Terdich, gave evidence that Mr Christie had 20 to 30 ties, but she would describe only the Zegna as floral.

He already owned that tie • Please turn to page 62 • More reports page 11

On your marks!

Stacked in neat piles on wooden trestle tables in a quiet Claremont Showground pavilion are the future hopes of Year 12 students.

Booklets full of their answers to TEE exam questions are waiting to be marked by teachers and university lecturers.

Security is strict and every piece of paper has to be accounted for.

About 800 markers will mark 60,000 booklets. Each one is marked by two markers, independently of each other.

The overall score is an average and vastly different marks get reconciled.

The results will be available from December 28 online at www.year12results.wa.edu.au and on TISCline on 1901 191 091.



Now the exams are over ... deputy chief marker Kaye Davies is responsible for the security of TEE booklets as teachers knuckle down to mark the students' work. Picture: Paul McGovern.

'I should have declared an interest'

A Nedlands councillor, who voted for the controversial redevelopment of the Steves (Nedlands Park Hotel) site, has links with a company that has a business connection with one of the hotel owners.

Rob Brown said: "I probably should have declared an interest, given that."

Mr Brown, a councillor since 1999, is a director of Australian Wine Holdings, which owns Alexandra Bridge winery.

Last year the winery crushed 40 tonnes of grapes for the first vintage for McHenry Hohnen Vintners, of Margaret

By LINDA CALLAGHAN

River. One of the owners is Murray McHenry, who is also one of the hotel owners.

On its internet site McHenry Hohnen Vintners says: "Murray McHenry is building a winery at his Rocky Road vineyard and for now, the wines are made with our good friends at Alexandra Bridge winery."

Mr Brown registered Australian Wine Holdings as a source of income in his annual return to Nedlands city council.

When the redevelopment proposed by Mr McHenry and Multiplex was put to the final vote in October, Mr Brown did not declare either a financial interest or a non-pecuniary link.

Mr Brown said he did not know the details of Australian Wine Holding business dealings.

"I am a director, not an executive," he said. "I do not think I will be a director after the annual general meeting. I have a very small shareholding.

"I would not know what business McHenry does with Australian Wine Holdings. It never even crossed my mind for one minute." Two ratepayers have made

separate complaints to the Department of Local Government and the Crime and Corruption Commission, about Mr Brown not declaring his connection to the company linked to Mr McHenry.

Mr Brown said he did not want to comment further until he saw details of the complaints against him.

The Dalkeith ward councillor declared an interest in more than a dozen development • Please turn to page 4

"SIMPLY THE BEST"



iah density Hollywood

ingi acitsity nonynooa

A new bid for flats on the Hollywood high school site is being made by government planners.

A consultant told the council this week a mistake was made in the wording when the land was rezoned for housing.

David Caddy, managing director of The Planning Group, and a former deputy mayor of Nedlands council, asked the council to change the wording of the planning scheme covering the area, to allow flats on a semi-circular zone at the north of the site.

"The reference to multiple dwellings was deleted, we believe inadvertently, during the process of modifying the final scheme amendment," Mr Caddy said. "As a result, the land can no longer be used in the way originally intended.

"It was initially proposed that the site be coded R100 and logically accommodate multiple dwellings, as reflected by its semi-circle configuration.

"It was with this potential development in mind that the land was purchased by the Department of Housing and Works." But Nedlands councillor John Bell said the council did not make a mistake.

"Multiple dwellings were deliberately not included in the plan," he said.

"It incorporated the worst aspects of high-density slum dwelling of north of England council estates."

Please turn to page 4



Question: Did Tina Turner sing this song about the Paxton Hoad Property Management Team? Answer: Probably not – but she should have. 9381 8022

> Paxton Hoad 313 Rokeby Road, Subiaco. www.paxtonhoad.com.au

Here's where we go...

The POST is local and relevant with the highest readership in the Western Suburbs. See www.postnewspapers.com.au Each week 51,000 copies of the POST are distributed to every household and business in the western suburbs. These suburbs are shown on the map on page 2. Extra copies are delivered to other selected riverside suburbs.

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Doctor's Jag was never checked

tem.

Austin were.

was "wired".

es were found.

sons of pride.

and go shopping.

police.

take him to hotels.

Det. Hancock said as far he was

aware, Dr Dunn was not placed under surveillance, though wit-

nesses Peter Finn and Dennis

He said he was aware that a po-

He agreed that the police officer

He said he did not know whether

Det. Hancock said he also con-

He said Mr Christie volunteered

information about his inability to

find a job, and his pretence to his

partner that he had a job, for rea-

He said Mr Christie, then aged 32, told police that his partner Michele

Terdich dropped him at Daglish train

station each morning. He would go to the State Library and look for jobs, meet friends

He had given up his previous

job to care for his young son, and

had only a few days' work during

the second half of 2001 while look-

He drew money from a family trust

ducted interviews with Rory Christie,

and checked his shoes. No match-

Mr Christie's house was bugged by

lice officer posing as a criminal was asked to befriend Rory Christie, and

Police did not examine a mustard-coloured Jaguar car owned by Darlington doctor Andrew Dunn, the Supreme Court was told this week.

Dr Dunn was interviewed by Wembley detective John Hancock after Susan Christie went missing. Det. Hancock said he went to

Darlington after being passed information that Mrs Christie had said she had been seeing a doctor shortly before she disappeared.

He said the car was not searched or forensically examined, and still had not been.

Det. Hancock said he checked Dr Dunn's alibi for November 15, 2001, the last day and night Mrs Christie was seen

He said Dr Dunn allowed him to check his shoes. No shoe matches were found for an imprint discovered in Mrs Christie's bathroom.

Dr Dunn made a statement, and his children recalled him bringing home shopping on the night of November 15.

He said he did not personally check whether Dr Dunn had been shopping at Midland Gate Shopping Centre at the times he said, or whether he had his hair cut and dyed at the centre.

Det. Hancock said a member of the public had reported seeing Mrs Christie at Midland Gate, and efforts were made to check this with the centre's video surveillance sys-

Please turn to page 62

ing for other work.



Former WA police forensic officer Alexander Elliott told of "false positives".

Blood chemical could give 'false positives'

A police test to make traces of blood glow in the dark also reacts with potato, iodine, rust, iron, citrus fruit, watermelon and cleaning products, the Supreme Court was told this week. A variety of fingerprint powder used by the

police also reacted to the chemical, called luminol, former forensic police officer Alexander Elliott told the court.

He was being cross-examined by Tom Percy QC, lawyer for Rory Christie, who is charged with the murder of his estranged wife Susan Christie at her flat in Daglish four years ago.

Mr Elliott said that when luminol was sprayed in Mrs Christie's flat after she was reported missing, several areas gave a positive reaction.

They included apparent footprints on the carpet, parallel zigzag lines between the lounge and the bedroom, and a big stain near the leg of Mrs Christie's double bed.

Mr Elliott said luminol was a "good presumptive test" for blood, but it could give false positive reactions.

"It has to be confirmed," he said.

A further on-site test could also give false positive reactions, but a combination of the two was more reliable.

He said orange juice spilled on a carpet would give a luminol reaction.

Mr Elliott said luminol also reacted with aged blood, and blood that had become very diluted, perhaps by cleaning. It did not distinguish between fresh and old

blood.

A small amount of blood could be spread by attempts at cleaning and give a luminol reaction

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Please turn to page 62

Christie looked 'paranoid' says Operative 49

Mystery over vanishing T-shirt

fund.

Three undercover police officers, who were shadowing murder suspect Rory Christie after his estranged wife disappeared, de-scribed his behaviour as paranoid when he ran down a city alley. "He looked about and ran – he took

off out of the starting blocks," said Operative 49.

Tom Percy QC, lawyer for Mr Christie, asked the officer his qualifications to diagnose paranoia.

"Are you a psychologist or a psychiatrist?" Mr Percy said. "No," 49 replied. "It was paranoid-

type behaviour.

'Paranoid means a person fears someone is looking at him.

"He was looking around a lot, paranoid and nervous.

"He looked about and ran down the alleyway.

Mr Percy said that undercover op-

eratives had been following Mr Christie for some days, trying to video and take photos of him. The operative told of following Mr

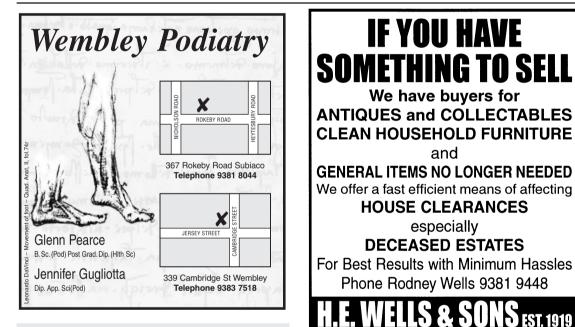
Christie as he left home, stepped on and off trains, worked on a computer at the State Library, bought a book, went shopping in Myer, met a male friend for coffee and picked up and dropped children with his partner, Michelle Terdich.

At one point Ms Terdich suddenly stopped her car at the in-tersection of Hay and Selby streets, Floreat.

Mr Christie got out of the car and helped a woman who had fallen over. The officers said Mr Christie was

still being followed eight months later, until shortly before his arrest.

Three officers, who referred in court to "paranoid" mannerisms by Mr Christie, said they had not conferred before giving evidence.



Check out the POST website at www.postnewspapers.com.au

Oprah Reveals Slimming Secret

More people turn to Oprah Winfrey rather than their local Doctor or Nutritionalist for advice on losing weight, according to an Australian scientist who has researched SLIMist, a new slimming breakthrough that has become an overnight 'must have' following the TV legend's recommendation.



A red souvenir of Luc Longley's old basketball team, the Chicago Bulls, has emerged as an enduring mystery of the Susan Christie

and shorts, and flat shoes. Flat shoes were found inside her apartment.

A black top and bra were found n her kitchen floor smelling of per-

murder trial.

Mrs Christie was last seen at night wearing a Bulls T-shirt, a present from one of her lovers, Dennis Austin, and white shorts.

She and the clothing apparently disappeared, then the clothes mysteriously reappeared in her wardrobe weeks after she was reported missing.

The last-known conversation with Mrs Christie was held as she emerged from a taxi at her Daglish home about 10.15pm after a trip to the Wembley Hotel bottleshop four vears ago.

Clutching a bottle in a paper bag, Mrs Christie (42) spoke to her neighbour about her plans for the night of November 15, 2001, the neighbour said.

She was giving evidence at the Supreme Court trial of Mrs Christie's separated husband, Rory Christie (36)

The neighbour described Mrs Christie as wearing the red T-shirt fume.

But two other witnesses gave evidence that they thoroughly searched the flat for the clothes after being given a description by the neighbour.

Police officer Sharon Smith, of the Missing Persons Bureau, said she made a "thorough search" of the unit in the week Mrs Christie was reported missing.

She was accompanied by Kelli Budrikis, a friend of Mrs Christie and lessee of her flat.

Mrs Budrikis also gave evidence that she had looked for the Bulls Tshirt through drawers and the cupboard but had not found it.

In court this week, evidence was given that the T-shirt had turned up in the wardrobe.

The crime scene manager, Det-Sen-Const. Mark Gubanyi, said he located the clothes in the bottom right of the wardrobe on December 6, at 6.30pm. Det. Gubanyi agreed that two photographs of the wardrobe showed clothing inside in different positions.

"Oprah makes more house calls through her daily TV programme than all the GP's in the world combined," said Dr Judy Dvorak.

"Her programme is seen by 14 million viewers daily in the USA and syndicated to 132 countries worldwide," Dr Dvorak said. "When she tells the viewers that SLIMist is a product that she wants, people sit up and listen because they trust 'Doctor Oprah', and that creates a stampede by want-to-be thin slimmers for SLIMist that is felt all around the world."

product to contain its natural slimming formulation in a revolutionary intra oral spray that works nine time faster than pills. It was co-developed by world renowned neurologist and psychiatrist, Dr Alan Hirsch, who is a leading expert on the neurological effects of taste and smell.

AVERAGE WEIGHT LOSS 14 KILOS We tested SLIMist on

3,193 people over six announced his findings to months," Dr Hirsch explained. "The average TV legend Oprah Winfrey on her

SLIMist is the first weight loss was 14 kilos whilst some people lost over 45 kilos.²

"The only side effect we found is that some people lost too much weight and we had to take them off the study. They actually went from being overweight to underweight," Dr Hirsch said. "That's why we recommend that you be at least three kilos

a 21 day supply of

SLIMist.

Oprah Winfrey

syndicated television programme she screamed, "Give me a bottle, I want a bottle now.'

Since then Dr Hirsch and SLIMist have not looked back. Although it was only released earlier this year, it has taken Australia by storm and was recently voted as the most effective weight loss overweight before using aid available in Australia. SLIMist can be found

at all good chemists and When Dr Hirsch health food stores. The programme costs \$59.95 for 21 days supply.

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Drycleaner throws doubt on Christie's tie

• From page 1

when they met, having recently separated from Mrs Christie. Shown 10 other ties in court,

some paisley and some with flowers, she said they were not floral She said Mr Christie did not wear the Zegna tie more fre-

quently than others. Mr Fowler said this week that his dockets showed he had served Mr Christie at

3.09pm. Mr Christie had given his name and the same mobile phone number he gave when he had other items cleaned in September that year.

Mr Fowler said he entered the tie into the shop's computer system as "a floral tie with a stain".

There was nothing to document the nature of the stain.

Under cross-examination from Mr Christie's lawyer, Tom Percy QC, Mr Fowler said that in November 2001 he had recently bought the business and was learning its computer system.

There was no payment record for the tie or any record that the items Mr Christie lodged had ever been collected.

Mr Fowler said the computer menu had three choices for describing ties - plain, check and floral.

Plain and check were specific but any suggestion of a flower would be entered in the computer as "floral", including paisley.

He had not entered the tie on the computer as silk, and said

'it was possibly not silk". He believed all Zegna ties

were silk.

He said police had never shown him the tie so he could identify it.

A former police officer, Alexander Elliott, said he had tested the Zegna tie in darkness by spraying it with a chemical called luminol.

He told the court that luminol was an indicator for blood,

a "presumptive" test. "I got a nil result on the tie as far as a blood reaction is concerned," he said.

The court was told that earlier this year police had gone to Herdsman Drycleaners' plant with six blood-stained ties.

In a series of experiments the ties were dry-cleaned without any "pre-spotting" with bloodremoving chemicals, then with two different blood pre-spotting chemicals, and dried at different temperatures.

The experiments showed that "if you use blood remover, no visible stain remains," Mr Fowler said.

Blood chemical could give 'false positives'

see whether they glowed.

ing luminol had failed.

rated on a sketch.

accord.

Mr Elliott said attempts to photograph the glow-

Instead, police officers present had collabo-

He said he had luminol-tested the interior of

It appeared very clean and had given a strong

In answer to questions from Mr Percy, Mr Elliott

said he was aware that certain paints and glues

on the interior of Ford vehicles gave a luminol

quirement.

ing

means less profit.

It's a fairly simple equation

make the new development ac-

commodate all parking on site.

It's not rocket science, it just

Like most people, I don't

want Steves to go and I don't

want R80 urban infill with mas-

sively insufficient car parking

created on the site. so as to dwarf

this grand and historic build-

It boils down to this. On the

one hand, we have the town plan-

ning scheme, which has the

wisdom of years supporting it.

council administration, the de-

velopers and Planning Minister

Allanah MacTiernan who, be-

fore her limited time is up,

seems hell-bent on turning the

western suburbs into a grotesque

And on the other, we have the

the Ford Festiva being drive by Mr Christie at

the time of his estranged wife's disappearance.

luminol reaction to cleaning agents.

There was an extra 50c charge

on Mr Christie's docket that

could have been for stain re-

py returning an unclean tie.

He said he would be unhap-

Any remaining stain would be

Doctor's Jag was

never checked

• From page 11

Det. Hancock said that when

Mr Christie followed him in his

car to police headquarters, he

saw him biting his finger-

tated before," he said.

courage nail-biting.

"I had never seen him agi-

Replying to a question from

Mr Christie's lawyer, Tom

Percy QC, Det. Hancock said

he did not see medication in

Mr Christie's house to dis-

He said police knew Mr

Christie was travelling to

Canada after Christmas 2001,

and did nothing to stop him.

Christie returned of his own

He was aware that Mr

drawn to the attention of the

moval.

client.

nails.

• From page 11

over a big area, especially if a cleaning agent was used.

He said that, with experience, it was possible to distinguish false positive reactions by the way the luminol glowed.

Mr Elliott said police had not used a fingerprint powder called magna powder, containing iron, until after the luminol tests.

Luminol glows when it reacts with the iron in blood.

Other fingerprint powders, used before the luminol tests, had not been tested to Letter to the Editor

Parking is Steves' Achilles heel

reaction.

• From page 12

Surely Nedlands councillors must realise how easy it will be to stack up the tables (at the new Steves hotel eateries) on Wednesday evenings and let that 1600-person liquor licence loose on the unsuspecting public.

If Stephanies Restaurant (the former Nedlands Park Hotel flagship), which has in the past been rewarded for excellence in dining but is now no longer operating, can't survive, what chance do future restaurants have on this site - with no parking?

Also, it's stupid to think that apartment buyers, who would be spending up to \$2 million a hit (whether they be singles, couples or families) wouldn't all have their own individual cars, as is fairly typical throughout Nedlands.

With the nearest bus-stop

could be moved to the UWA Tavern. It would be the same crowd, with their amplified music; there would be plenty of parking, no neighbours, and most of the associated problems could be kept in-house.

An alternative would be for the police to actually arrest the trouble-makers, so the rest of us, who pay taxes and work, wouldn't be kept up till 2am on Wednesday nights, later on some occasions.

Parking (the Steves' Achilles

heel) seems to have finally

done what the council admin-

istration should have done a long

time ago - sent the current de-

velopment application to the

The developers are now try-

ing to find ways to make the cur-

rent "approved" application

meet its parking requirements,

service, reliable. 0413 907 261 LAWNCARE Mowing and maintenance. A reliable and friendly service. Call Pete 0414 749 133 (police cleared, fully insured)	COTTESLOE Two bedroom unit in beautifully refurbished complex. New and modern kitchen, bathroom, carpets, tiles and paint internal w /machine, huge repaved c/yard, close to shops, beach, transport. No	courseways, (Trigonometry, Che for snr sec school Chemistry, Heiner WA II Book and CI 939 576
LAWNMOWING Weed spraying and all lawn maintenance. Call Michael 0419 171 260	letting fee. \$350pw. 0418 831 069 FEMALE 30-40 share house with guy West Perth \$100 per week plus	SCYTHE Wan /reasonable conditi 9286 2093
NANNY: Available Mon-Fri full time. 3-4 years of experience with newborns-8 year olds. Reliable,	bond. Call 0419 916 417 FLOREAT Lovely 3x2 mod house	TOYS 2-5yrs goo and girls. 0422 454
trustworthy, experienced, loves children, first aid, own car, references available. \$18 per hour.	fully furnished and equipped available now through Dec 15, minimum stay 1 week. \$75/night. 0401 677 820	WANTED
Phone Lucy 0424 733 253 NANNY Available senior first aid, police clearance, references, \$18ph. Phone Edna 0417 950 622	FREMANTLE 2brm semi furn close hospital and city centre, delightful garden \$300pw. 9384 1916	COTT Holiday apartment/town Beachfront prefer weeks mid Dec to
NANNY Mothers helper available New Year. Mature lady positive happy loving reliable good references. Susan 0431 751 200	HOME Share Int: Students. Single room only inc elect and water \$100. Twin share room only inc elect and water \$150. Ring 0417 986 327 after 6pm or SMS with return phone	3998 HOUSE Required six to twelve mor bedrooms and stuc Phone 0413 515 0
NANNY/Babysitter. Playful, energetic, reliable, experienced. Evenings, weekends, overnights. No car. Clare 0431 627 471	number LARGE Room fully furnished with small sleepout attached. \$110 suit	HOUSE With 2 or Claremont or Ned from 23 December
PAINTING Int/ext quality work, registered. 0407 998 693, 9319 1038	student or traveller. Princess Road, Nedlands. Short term ok. 0411 807 391	994 or email: cmccormack@awb PREF House near
RUBBISH A clean up needed? Sheds cleaned out, garages, houses, junk, anything removed, no tip fees, small jobs are welcome, reasonable rates, small or large loads. We also	MOSMAN Park 1 bedroom large courtyard fridge, swimming pool, close to beach, river, public transport, \$140. 9384 1354, 0424	/4 months - 1st Ja moving from Syde @yahoo.com.au
do small tree lopping, pruning, shrub removal. Free quotes 9367 7805.	809 942 NEDLANDS 1brm unit \$150pw, 14	
RUBBISH Removed from sheds, garages, yards, junk anything removed. Cheap. 9354 4245 anytime	/70 Broadway carbay. 0417 981 306 NEDLANDS 3brm home Florence Road newly painted close schools	
SWISS Painter for all your painting needs. 0438 755 877	shops transport \$320pw. 9386 3833, 0418 923 809	



being 400 metres away, it is unlikely these people would be carrying their shopping home over this distance, particularly in the heat of summer.

Maybe Wednesday nights

• From page 64

so that construction can commence.

shredder.

Rather than reducing the height and bulk of the buildings, the developers are exploring ways to "juggle" land uses within the site to reduce this rehigh-rise monument to herself (and her party still goes on about the Bell Tower).

Nedlands council, don't let them get away with it.

Giles Bennett Broadway, Nedlands

Goodbye Graylands?

• From page 13

Ms Gillet said children being teased about the name of the school had been raised by parents.

"Some people may have that as an opinion," she said.

"That is not being widely spoken about." Ms Gillett said there were "millions" of suggestions for a new name but nothing would be put forward until the views of the community around the school had been canvassed.

It was indexed as a locality in north Claremont in the first metropolitan street directory in 1945.

A spokesman from the Department of Education and Training said: "A change of name is considered only in exceptional circumstance.

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