

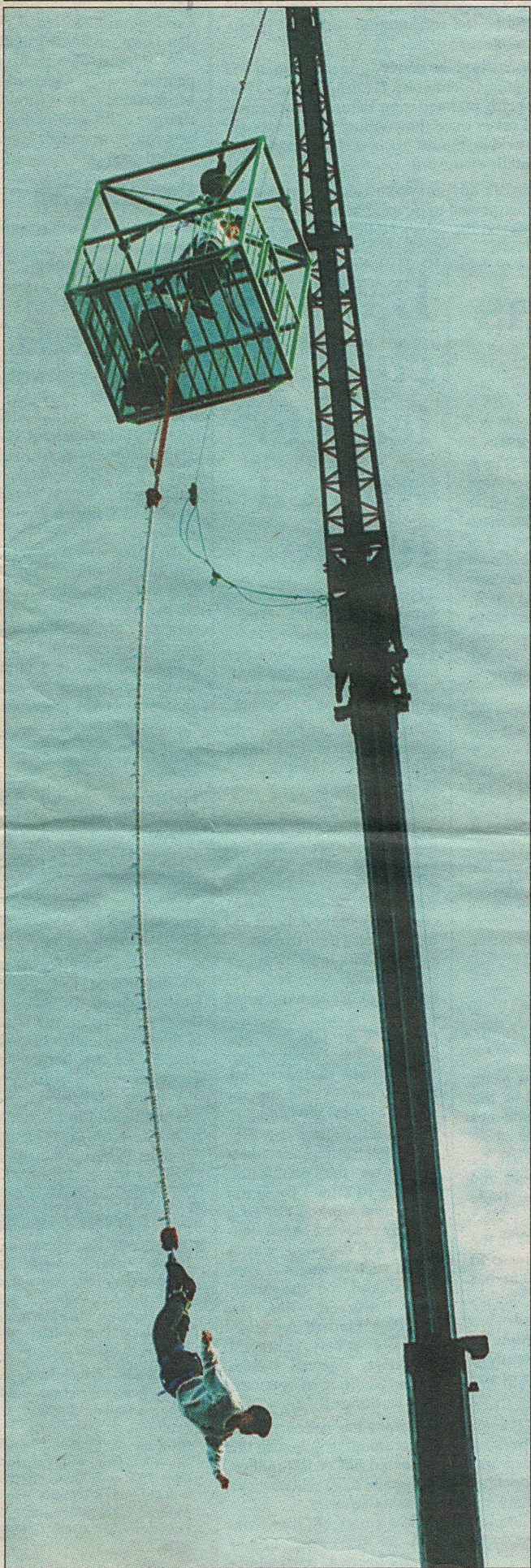
Ham & High

No 6,886

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133rd year

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● When Camden Council banned bungee jumper Michael Leese from hurling himself off the borough's buildings in case the screams frightened the populace, he crossed the border to Barnet which had no such objection.

"I told you we'd bounce back," said Mr Leese, 30, who lives in Hollycroft Avenue, Hampstead.

On Sunday, Mr Leese's protégé, 27-year-old David Canty — seen here hanging by his ankles from a 175-foot-long rubber band — launched the Natural High Bungee Club's London operation at the Barnet

Copthall Stadium in Hendon.

In all, 70 bungee jumpers paid their £25 and took the plunge.

Mr Leese, from New Zealand, where modern bungee jumping first took off, said: "It's a very unnatural thing to do. Every instinct tells you not to jump off a high place. It takes a lot of courage to jump."

Of Sunday's jumpers, he added: "One girl screamed all the way down and all the way up again. I have never heard such a pair of lungs on a person. She loved it."

Mr Leese has organised 30,000 separate jumps in the last two years.

● Also on Sunday, Jim "The Hat" Parkinson, 66, raised over £200 for sufferers of Multiple Sclerosis by abseiling down the Horse and Groom in Heath Street, Hampstead.



A member of the Home Counties Newspaper Group

The eruv: hoax claims rebutted

AN EXTREMIST Jewish group in New York declared this week that an organisation following the beliefs of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, who led a banned far-right party in Israel, is operating in the Golders Green and Hendon area.

The claim that the group has several hundred supporters in Britain has added weight to fears that a group calling itself the British section of the Kahane Defence Group could set up a vigilante organisation to protect the proposed eruv.

And contemporary history Professor Geoffrey Alderman, a former member of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, has provided evidence that the group exists. Claims that the group's plans to patrol any eruv were a hoax were "a knee-jerk reaction", he said.

Last week the Ham & High was leaked minutes of a meeting held by the group in December that referred to the vigilante plan.

Mike Guzofsky, of Kahane Chai, a Hebrew name meaning "Kahane lives", told the Ham & High from Brooklyn that his organisation was sometimes referred to as the Kahane Defence Group. He had visited London recently to "initiate" a meeting of English supporters.

'Communal defence group does exist'

Barnet Council is considering an application from the United Synagogue eruv committee for permission to erect poles linked with wire to mark parts of the boundary of an eruv, or symbolically enclosed area.

The eruv would take in Hampstead Garden Suburb, Golders Green and Hendon. Religious law within the area would be relaxed on the Sabbath.

Kahane Chai, based in Jerusalem, promotes the ideas of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane and protects Jewish institutions from anti-Semites, said Mr Guzofsky.

"That means that Jews have to resort to studying the art of self-defence and firearms training. Any Jew who can legally obtain a weapon should do so. That is the only language that the Jew-hater or anti-Semite understands."

Some young Jews from England are due to attend a Kahane Chai camp in New York this year. Mr Guzofsky said the intention was that they would form strong cells

throughout this country. "We train them to be proud to be Jewish and to have the dedication and sacrifice needed to defend fellow Jews."

Sergeant Bernard Forbes, of Golders Green police, said officers' opinion that the document leaked to the Ham & High was a hoax was based on discussions with the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

But Professor Alderman, head of politics and contemporary history at Royal Holloway College and a member of the Board of Deputies until 1991, said he had heard of groups that had the word Kahane in their names.

"There is a certain amount of movement of Jewish people concerned with communal defence. There is a certain amount of contact with New York and exchange of information and ideas."

He did not rate the Board of Deputies' record in the area of communal defence highly. "Documents are very often denounced as hoaxes as a knee-jerk reaction," he said.

The minutes of the Kahane Defence Group meeting said those taking part in activities of a vigilante group would be "upholders of the law".

Professor Alderman said "upholders of the law" was a

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Plan for giant Safeway unveiled

SUPERMARKET giant Safeway has unveiled plans for a superstore and 500-space car park behind the Roundhouse in Chalk Farm.

The 50,000 sq ft supermarket, half as big again as the Sainsbury store in Camden Town, will provide 250 jobs and subsidise the building of 190 low-rent houses.

If Camden Council gives the scheme planning permission, it will provide homes for 856 people on Camden's waiting list, save the borough £2 million a year in hotel and bedsit bills, and provide 250 jobs.

The only catch is that the Department of the Environment two years ago specifically ruled out a food supermarket on that site because of the traffic implications.

The owners of the land have given Camden until the end of April to grant permission for the supermarket or the offer of cheap land for housing will be cancelled.

Safeway's investment in the derelict former goods yard would enable the owners, Hyperion Properties and Heron Homes, to sell half of the 13.5 acre site to Community Housing Association at a "give-away price".

Safeway is ready to start building on the 13.5-acre Camden Goods Yard site behind Chalk

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Abductor is arrested

A 12-YEAR-OLD boy who was abducted by his father while in the care of a social worker has been returned safely to the care of Camden social services.

His parents, accompanied by legal representatives, turned up on Saturday afternoon at Albany Street police station, where the boy, the youngest of the couple's five children, was handed over to the care of social workers.

It is the second time the boy's father has gone on the run with him. On both occasions he return-

ed the boy after an international police hunt led by the Albany Street Child Protection Team.

The boy's parents were arrested on Tuesday under the 1984 Child Abduction Act and a report will be submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

A spokesman for Camden social services said: "We are extremely pleased the child has been returned to us." He could not comment on whether parental visits would continue.

INSIDE

Shortage of police vanpower

PATROL vehicles will be a rarer sight in Hampstead in the coming months and PCs on foot more common — because the police are running short of petrol money. Page 15.

The lost leader

THIRTY years after his untimely death, Labour Party leader Hugh Gaitskell remains a controversial figure. Page 4.

Fringe curtains?

TOUGHER regulations are putting the very existence of some pub theatres at risk. Page 17.

Philly finds

SUE NORRIS goes to Philadelphia and finds good citizens and awkward questions. Page 25.

Chaplin's maze

LAST CHANCE to map a route around a maze for Charlie Chaplin and win visits galore to the cinema: page 5.

Pushing out . . .

RESIDENTS have had enough of the pushers, pimps and prostitutes of King's Cross and are fighting to reclaim the area for the law-abiding. Page 14.

Tough at top

TOP-LEVEL CHESS? It's like rock-climbing, British champion Nigel Short, locked in battle in Spain, tells Heathman in an exclusive interview. Page 23.

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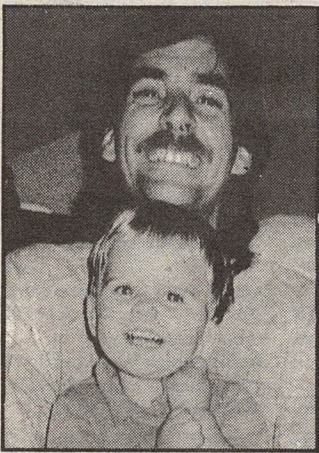
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● Gary Nelson with his daughter Melissa.

Witnesses to murder maintain silence

POLICE hunting the killers of football fan Gary Nelson were this week "surprised and disappointed" by the silence of some 20 tube travellers believed to have witnessed the attack on him at Golders Green Underground station.

The passengers were in the same carriage as the 29-year-old father of two, when he was punched in the face with such force that it hurled him through the open doors and on to the platform. Not one of them has contacted the police.

The death of Tranmere Rovers supporter Mr Nelson at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, as a result of a fractured skull, on Saturday — a week after the attack — is another tragedy to hit his family: his brother Mike, 35, was injured in the Hillsborough disaster in 1989.

Mr Nelson, who only moved from Merseyside with his children in November, was staying with his sister in Potters Bar. On the day of the attack he had been watching Tranmere play Charlton.

But police say he visited a pub after the game and the later violence was not football-related. It flared at 11.50pm in the second carriage of a Northern Line train travelling to Edgware as it arrived at Golders Green.

A witness on the platform saw the incident and also glimpsed another man, apparently with a head injury, slumped on a seat in the carriage. Police are now anxious to trace him, the other travellers in the carriage, and anyone else who saw what happened.

Detective Inspector Peter Scott, one of the officers leading the inquiry, said: "I believe there was some sort of argument but we do not know what it was about or how it developed, but it was not football related — there were no scarves being worn and it was 11.50pm at night."

A 31-year-old man was being held in custody at Golders Green police station yesterday in connection with the incident.

Council tax could go higher still

RESIDENTS in Camden who are already facing council taxes of well over £866 could be forced to pay even more because the Government has given the borough permission to spend an extra £2 million.

Whitehall has raised the borough's capping limit after appeals by councillors to the Department of the Environment.

But this means Camden has the option of passing on the extra spending to the council tax payer.

Council leader Julie Fitzgerald said: "It is something we will be discussing because of the level of service cuts we have had to implement to reduce expenditure."

"We don't want people to have to pay any more, given that it's going to be high in Camden anyway. But if the option of raising the tax is there, we will have to give it serious consideration."

Before the new spending limits were announced this week by the DoE, Camden estimated that the council tax would be £600 for a property in Band D.

With more than 40pc of properties in the higher-value bands of E, F and G, many households faced a tax of £733. But Hampstead and Highgate MP Glenda Jackson has predicted that the average bill would be £866.

These amounts are now likely to be raised quite significantly to offset partly the £7.8 million shortfall between what Camden says it needs to spend and the Government's estimate.

Barnet residents also face

DPP EXAMINES FILE ON ARREARS

THE DIRECTOR of Public Prosecutions is considering whether to take action against Camden councillor Gloria Lazenby, who was reported for taking part in a budget debate when she was behind in her poll tax payments.

New laws forbid councillors from participating in any budget matter if they have not paid their poll tax for more than two months. Ms Lazenby, of St Martin's Close, Camden Town, has been interviewed by Holborn police and a file sent to the DPP.

Ms Lazenby was stopped from entering the council chamber last November when Labour chief whip Harriet Garland advised her of her alleged breach of the law. She paid the outstanding £60 the following day.

higher taxes because the borough is being allowed to spend an extra £1.3 million. But the council is being forced to make cuts of almost £16 million because of spending restrictions.

The 2,000 members of the local government union Nalgo in Barnet will ballot for strike action over the 300 job losses which are being enforced to save money.

Haringey has not gained anything from the revised figures released by the DoE yesterday. It still faces cuts of £18 million.

Barnet is defiant on Towers

BARNET has defied the Local Government Ombudsman by refusing to pay £50,000 compensation to a resident affected by the building of the Towers mansion in Hampstead Garden Suburb.

The planning committee agreed on Wednesday night to accept chief executive Max Caller's advice and refuse to pay up.

In his second report into the multi-million pound mansion in The Bishops Avenue, built without full planning permission, ombudsman David Yardley said that he was not satisfied with the council's refusal to acknowledge it had caused injustice to Michael Lyons, who lives in White Lodge Close at the back of the Towers and whose house had lost £50,000 in value as a result of the building of the huge mansion.

Although the ombudsman cannot force Barnet to pay up, he suggested the council could end up paying substantial damages.

Although the figure was decided by the council's own district valuer, Mr Caller said this week that he refused to take the matter to councillors because he thought it would be pointless. Only when the second report was issued did he tell members.

PC is left with mud on his face

IT BEGAN as a call-out to a suspicious death but Hampstead PC Andy Hodey soon got that sinking feeling... again and again.

The 30-year-old officer was alerted on Sunday that a body had been found on Primrose Hill, but when he arrived in his panda car he found the "corpse" was in fact a young woman sleeping off a hangover.

When PC Hodey decided to return to base he discovered that his car was stuck fast in mud. No amount of revving moved the vehicle and the constable was forced to call out colleagues in a Landrover.

But the all-terrain vehicle also lodged fast in the mud.

The officers then made an unsuccessful Met-wide call for a vehicle capable of towing out both Panda car and Landrover. Instead they had to call out two heavy-duty tow trucks from the AA — which also sank into the mire.

Finally, five hours after the initial call-out, the officers dug out the Landrover with spades and used it to tow out the trucks.

When the Hampstead control centre finally radioed over to find out if anyone had been injured, PC Hodey replied: "Only my pride."



● Canoeists from the Jubilee Waterside Centre, Camden Town, paddled 55 miles along the Regent's Canal in 12 hours on Sunday, to raise money for books and other educational materials

for a school in Nepal. The goods will be delivered by children from the centre when they visit Nepal in the summer.

Pictured: Barnaby Hulbert and Adam Norman.

Eruv

<From page 1

translation of a well-known Hebrew term. "To be an upholder of the law is something very meritorious. That suggests to me

that this could not have been written by someone without knowledge of the Jewish community."

He saw no reason to doubt the document's authenticity.

Some years ago when Jewish cemeteries were being desecrated

in Britain and France, Jews from Brooklyn came to Britain to advise on communal defence. "My memory tells me that at least one of these groups had Kahana in its name. I don't think any of these groups were hoax groups. I remember the Board of Deputies took it seriously."



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