

JENNA: NO LINK TO BRIDGEND SUICIDES

A TEENAGER with a history of depression hanged herself near her home in Bridgend, an inquest heard yesterday.

Jenna Anne Parry, 16, was found kneeling with a noose around her neck. It had been tied to a tree in woodland at Cefn Cribbwr on February 19 this year.

The inquest in nearby Brackla heard Jenna had been referred to psychologists but did not cooperate.

Her mother Anne said in a statement her daughter's moods worsened early in the year when she split with boyfriend Adam.

► **NOOSE** Jenna Parry



Since January 2007, 23 young people in or from Bridgend county are thought to have killed themselves. Police ruled out connection between these and Jenna's death.

Coroner Philip Walters said he was not satisfied that Jenna committed suicide and recorded a narrative verdict that she "killed herself unintentionally with a noose".

He said: "There is no evidence this is what she intended to do and this is the outcome of what she has done." Pathologist Philip Brumwell said death would have been quick.

CRIME

Fiend never to be freed

A SERIAL rapist who attacked a pensioner after being deported from Australia will die in jail.

Simon Wilson, 50, served 16 years for murder before coming here in January.

Judge Aiden Marron at Blackfriars crown court said: "You are an exceptionally dangerous man."

HIS FINAL GAME

A SOCCER player drowned in the crocodile-infested Zambezi river in Zimbabwe during a pre-match team ritual to banish bad spirits.

The romance Zac

EXCLUSIVE

BY **BETH NEIL**
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SCHOOL was never this cool when most of us were kids.

But High School Musical 3 is one classy act that tweens, teens - and adults old enough to know better - have been waiting for.

And at last, it's about to hit British cinema screens.

It began as little more than a low-budget TV film three years ago.

Now the Disney production has become a global phenomenon, with the first two films watched by 250 million fans.

At the heart of its innocent appeal is the romance between East High heart-throb Troy Bolton and gorgeous Gabriella Montez.

And fans have been fascinated by the real-life love between stars Zac Efron, 20, and Vanessa Hudgens, 19, which they famously refuse to talk about.

A large part of the secret of its success lies in its simple virtues.

Kenny Ortega, director of all three movies, explains: "We've reawakened this yearning for a certain innocence, hopefulness and joy."

"People were ready to see that again. I'm not sure there's any mystery to that at all."

Annabel Brog, editor of teenage girls' mag Sugar, agrees. She says: "High School Musical has reflected the enormous change in what it means to be a teenager today."

"We've gone back to an age of innocence

where teenagers can enjoy being teenagers again. You can fancy guys and run around singing and doing silly dances.

"The average teenager wants to read about teen-specific idols rather than Hollywood glamour. I think that's fantastic."

It's a formula that has struck a chord with teenagers around the world. The first two movies were made for TV but were translated into 24 languages and seen in 100 countries.

It has made the show a global money-spinner. The soundtrack CD has sold more than three million copies in the UK alone.

There have also been concert tours with 60,000 crowds, stage musicals in London, Australia and Spain, reality TV shows and a High School Musical On Ice production that has been staged in several countries.

In addition, there are 670 High School Musical spin-off products with everything from sweets to bedsheets. Little wonder Zac, who made £3million

last year, and the cast were met by thousands of screaming fans when they arrived in Britain this week for the film's showbiz premiere.

Zac and co's latest adventure hits our cinema screens on October 22.

And it looks sure to pass with flying colours.



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Zac Efron

BORN: October 18, 1987

HOME: California

FAMILY: Dad David is an engineer at a power plant and mum Starla is a former secretary. Zac also has a younger brother, Dylan.

TRIVIA: He has two dogs, Dreamer and Puppy, and a Siamese cat, Simon.

HIGH POINT: Appearing on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine.

LOW POINT: Having to miss performing in High School Musical: The Concert because he was filming Hairspray in Canada (below).

ON GIRLS: "I think if a girl is easy to talk to, then that's the first thing I look for."

"It's great when you meet a girl and three hours later you're like, 'Oh my gosh, we've been talking for three hours, what happened to the time?' I just think that is a great connection and you know there is potential there."

ON CELEBRITY: "Every once in a while I get a great big hug and a kiss from someone I don't know. It's hard to have a normal life because I get recognised. I prefer to keep personal stuff out of it. I don't want to cross that line into celebrity. That's when things start to get really crazy."

ON THE HSM PHENOMENON: "One of my friends called me and told me to look on iTunes. So



▲ **FAN QUEUE** Youngsters await his arrival in London

If a girl is easy to talk to, that's the first thing I look for

I turned on my computer and there was High School Musical in the top five most downloaded albums. This was a week before the film even came out on television."

ON VANESSA: "All I can say is that Vanessa's a great girl. I would hate to say more about it."

ON HIS STYLE: "I'm a bit like Troy, I guess, because I'm very much a jeans and T-shirt guy. If I'm going to go shopping, I like to go somewhere like Urban Outfitters. I just wanna keep it simple."

