

TELEVISION



MANIPULATED Alexandra
X Factor girl told to 'talk up' suicides

By TOM BRYANT
X-FACTOR bosses have been accused of manipulating a young contestant from Bridgend by asking her to play up her hometown's suicide rate. Alexandra Davies, 17, appeared on the ITV1 show last Saturday and won through to the next round. Before going on she claims she was told to mention the spate of youth suicides in Bridgend - even though she doesn't know anyone affected. Alexandra said afterwards: "They thought that up when I said I was from Bridgend." "The producers wanted me to talk about it but I didn't want to just in case I offended someone's family." "I would rather be known for my talent than the girl that comes from the suicide town." Darren Matthews, director of Bridgend Samaritans, said it "trivialised" the tragedies. An ITV spokeswoman said: "There was no pressure placed on Alexandra during filming. Nor did she, or her parents, raise any concerns about her interview."

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BUZZ Cynthia Nixon
Miranda to star in ITV's Crisp drama

By SARA WALLIS
SEX And The City star Cynthia Nixon, who played fiery redhead Miranda, is joining the cast of an ITV1 drama. The American actress, 42, will play performance artist Penny Arcade who was a close friend of writer and raconteur Quentin Crisp in the eagerly anticipated An Englishman In New York. It is ITV's follow-up to The Naked Civil Servant and will see John Hurt reprise his role as Crisp. Producer James Burstall said: "There is a real buzz about the project in Manhattan as Quentin was a much loved and notorious figure." Also joining the cast are a number of other American actors, including Denis O'Hare, who plays Rob Lowe's manager in US drama Brothers And Sisters. Pushing Daisies' Swoosie Kurtz joins them as Crisp's American agent, Connie Clausen. Filming in New York began on Tuesday and the drama will air next year.

Baby Spice Mel

SPORTY 'DELIGHTED' TO BE EXPECTING HER FIRST CHILD



RUMOURS Her floaty blue frock triggered baby talk



EXPECTANT With her partner Thomas Starr

EXCLUSIVE
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SPICE Girl Mel C is expecting her first baby.

Melanie Chisholm, 34, and her partner of six years, Thomas Starr, confirmed the nappy news yesterday and said they are "delighted". She is the last of the iconic girlband to become a mum, following Geri Halliwell, Victoria Beckham, Melanie Brown and Emma Bunton - all of whom are "chuffed" for their pal. A source close to the star said, yesterday: "Melanie is over the moon at the prospect of becoming a mum for the first time. "The girls are so pleased for her and have said they're only a phone call away to pass on any parenting tips. "Melanie loved being around their kids on the band's recent tour and is delighted she's now one of the gang." She sparked rumours that she was expecting last Friday when she wore a floaty dress at a show in Liverpool. An onlooker said: "She looked absolutely radiant." Melanie hinted in a recent interview that children might be on the horizon. She said: "I love kids and one of the best bits about touring with the Spice Girls this time round was getting to know everyone's babies. I'm sure that babies will be part of my future."

Her little Starr will take the total number of Spice babies to seven. A source close to the band said: "Everyone is chuffed for Melanie. She will be a great mum."

Voice of the Mirror, Page 8

Babes in the band

- POSH** Brooklyn, nine, Romeo, five, and Cruz, three, with David.
- SCARY** Two girls - Phoenix Chi, nine, with Jimmy Gulzar, and Angel Iris, 16 months, with Eddie Murphy.
- GINGER** Bluebell, two, with Sasha Gervasi.
- BABY** Son Beau Lee, one, with Jade Jones.

