

AT WAR

Nicky says..

KAREN has been very cross with me for years. And I think I deserve that. I can only describe the end of our skating partnership as a meltdown.

Soon after we won the British Championships in 1985, I found religion and my entire life changed. It made me look at everything differently and ask if I was doing the right thing. That included skating.

Looking back, I wish I'd done things differently. Apparently when Cliff Richard became a Christian he wanted to rush off to Africa to help the poor people. But someone took him aside and said, "Why don't you carry on making music and just send some money?" I needed someone to say something along those lines to me.

Within weeks of finding God, I met and married Jo. We met at church. Looking back, we both agree that I should have let things settle before moving so quickly. My life had just been shaken upside down and inside out, even so our marriage lasted 12 years.

All of a sudden Karen and I seemed miles apart. It wasn't a great time for us. I was in a different place and the whole world looked different. Before long, my skating was gone.

I thought about joining Torvill and Dean's tour, but there was a scene in it about heaven

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and hell. I told them I couldn't do it because it was too intense. But now I realised I should have dealt with it differently and just said I didn't want to do that one scene.

It was a shame that Karen and I didn't skate any more. We were ranked fifth in the world for a time, when Torvill and Dean were ranked first.

We were billed as their heirs apparent, but that didn't happen. Karen went off to travel the world, and I tried to form a new life as a Christian.

Winning a friendship back with Karen is one of the joys of being on *Dancing On Ice*.

But I stick by my decision to mark Suzanne Shaw lower than she did last week. Karen coaches the celebrities and spends a lot of time with them, so I think she gets too emotionally involved, whereas I find it easier to stay subjective.

I'm so proud of what Karen and her lovely husband Stephen have achieved with their careers, and they have two wonderful girls. And I'm in a good place, too. I'm enjoying Act II of my life.

After seven years of trying to woo a beautiful woman called Christiane, she married me 18 months ago - our son is due today!

If Christiane goes into labour during Sunday's live show I'll be off. I'll zoom down to Brighton to be with her.



MENTORS:
With Torvill
and Dean



HEYDAY:
Tipped for
the top

Linda Lusardi



LINDA was actually alive during the 60s so that helped her last week. She is skating more on her own, but it's nothing brilliant - basically what most toddlers can do. She was in that middle group that is now at the bottom.



RINKSIDE RIVALS: Judges Karen and Nicky

'My Stars girl was a soulmate'

THE dad of Stars in their Eyes singer Kesha Wizzart paid an emotional tribute to his "soulmate" from the witness box yesterday.

Fred Wizzart, 36, said: "Our relationship was brilliant. I could not have asked for a better daughter... there were so many good things about her. She was like a soulmate."

Mr Wizzart was the first witness in the trial of Pierre Williams, 33.

He denies murdering Kesha, 18, mum Beverley Samuels, 36, and brother Fred Junior, 13, with a 2lb hammer at their home in Manchester last July.

The trial continues.

Straw 'too soft' over jailed lags

JACK Straw was yesterday accused of going soft after calling for fewer criminals to be locked up.

The Justice Secretary said other sentences can work better for some offenders. He spoke as it was revealed a record 82,068 inmates are in jail.

Tory Nick Herbert said: "Victims of crime will be outraged." Colin Moses, of the Prison Officers' Association, said: "The prisons are not safe. We have increased the numbers with no increase in staffing."

Cindy Barnett, chairwoman of the Magistrates Association, said: "We don't use custody lightly."

NAT NET THREAT

By RICHARD SMITH

A BRIDGEND suicide victim left a note in a teenage internet chatroom saying he was going to kill himself, an inquest heard yesterday.

Nathaniel Fritchard, 15, typed out the message to girlfriend Hannah Brookes after she told him their eight-month romance was over and she was seeing another boy.

Det Insp Jason Redrup told the hearing: "He replied 'Just f**k off, go with Dan. I'm going to kill myself and it will be your fault'."

Hannah rang Nathaniel's home soon afterwards to speak to him, the hearing was told.

Nathaniel's nine-year-old brother Connor took the phone upstairs and found the teenager hanging in an attic. He was cut down by his parents Vince and Sharon and taken to hospital.

He died the next morning. His cousin Kelly Stephenson, 20, also of Bridgend, hanged herself on holiday in Kent after being told of his death.

Vince and Sharon were not at yesterday's 15-minute hearing in Merthyr Tydfil.

A second inquest opened into the death of Jenna Parry, 16, of Bridgend, found hanging from a tree on Tuesday. The hearing was told she was unable to accept breaking up with her boyfriend. Mr Redrup said: "She was was trying to rekindle the relationship."

Jenna had attempted suicide on a number of previous occasions. Both hearings were adjourned while inquiries continue.

Seventeen youngsters have apparently killed themselves in Bridgend, South Wales, in just over a year, leading to fears of a suicide cult.

Online memorial pages featuring tributes and photos on website Gonetoooon.co.uk have now been closed to prevent copycat deaths.

Site founder Terry George said: "There's been speculation that some of these suicides could be related to the glamorisation of people having websites after death. If there's any possibility of this we want to err on the side of caution."

Police say there is no evidence of a link between internet sites and the spate of deaths.



DEAD: Nathaniel