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28 **M** Daily Mirror
MONDAY 09.06.2008

CRIME

Fraudsters in 'hitman' email con

SICK emails from a pretend hitman demanding £10,000 have been sent to thousands of terrified people.

Police said the chilling message threatens to kill recipients' loved ones unless the ransom is paid.

But they insist it is just an extortion scam that is sent out to random addresses.

The dodgy email warns: "Someone wants you dead. I was paid to eliminate you."

"Get back to me now if you are ready to spare your life - £10,000 is all you need."

The email from "William Yahman" has been sent across the UK and into much of northern Europe.

Det Sgt Trevor Moss, of Gloucestershire economic crime unit, said: "Our advice is to ignore it and not reply."

POVERTY

'Give £3bn more' for poor kids

THE Government must spend an extra £3billion to meet its pledge on child poverty, campaigners demand today.

Former PM Tony Blair vowed to halve child poverty by 2010 and end it by 2020.

But a report tomorrow is expected to show the Government will miss the target.

Ministers believe recent changes to child tax credit and child benefit will help 550,000 youngsters.

But the Child Poverty Action Group said a further 550,000 needed to be helped.

Chief executive Kate Green said: "The target is in reach but this is not enough to take us there. Other countries do better, why can't we?"

In 1999, 3.4 million children were living in poverty. Last year it was 2.8 million.

DEATHS

Bridgend suicide 21 'a hanging'

THE 21st victim in a county plagued by suicides hanged himself, police confirmed yesterday.

Pub worker Neil Owen, 26, found hanging from a tree by his father, had been upset by the series of deaths in Bridgend, South Wales, in the past 18 months.

Neil, from Bettws, never got over the death of his friend Sean Rees, 19, who hanged himself six weeks ago.

He left a message on social website Bebo, saying: "RIP Sean going to miss you so much. You and me were like brothers. It feels like there is a part of me missing now."

And a Bebo tribute to Mr Owen said: "What have you done babe!!!! Take care of Sean for me. You'll be missed so much."



SUPERMODEL Agnès Deyn is going to really strut her stuff on the Sunday Night Project this week, which also stars Pamela Anderson. Agnès (right) is singing with US band Five O'Clock Heroes. Hope she sounds as good as she looks.



TV Land was invited into The Jockey to take the first pics of new Shameless stars Joanna Higgs and Ben Batt. Jo plays a party-girl nurse and Ben is Mandy Maguire's love interest. My source says they fit in "like a pair of slippers", which I think means they're doing well.

Beeb takes the plunge

AUNTIE'S about to go all deep on us... as she explores the planet's vast seas.

An eight-part BBC series, Oceans, goes out in the autumn and will include an expedition to one of the world's most inhospitable locations.

The team head off on a research vessel for 12 days to assess the state of the Arctic, led by polar guide and explorer Paul Rose.

Braving the frozen wastes with him will be environmentalist Philippe Cousteau

Jr - grandson of the famous undersea explorer-maritime archaeologist Dr Lucy Blue and marine biologist Tooni Mahto.

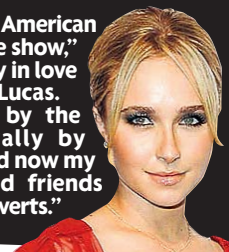
The team will also travel across the world to the Southern Ocean, the Atlantic, the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea, California's Sea of Cortez, and the Mediterranean to plumb the depths.

The explorers are already starting their story via videos and interviews at www.bbc.co.uk/oceans

Might be worth dipping into...

HAYDEN Panettiere, who plays super-powered cheerleader Claire Bennet in Heroes, is a huge fan of Little Britain.

"I'm probably the only American who is obsessed with the show," she said. "I'm completely in love with Matt Lucas. "I came by the show totally by chance and now my family and friends are all converts."



GOT A STORY?
Email: mark.jefferies@mirror.co.uk



NHS

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