

Jane Moore



jane.moore@the-sun.co.uk

THE BLOKE QUOTE

Every day, people are straying away from the church and going back to God
— LENNY BRUCE

APPARENTLY, Heather McCartney Millstone wants "some good" to come from her broken marriage, so she's planning on becoming a spokesman for battered women.

Oh puh-lease.

Even if some of her allegations against Paul McCartney are true, this is not a woman who's been cowed by years of abuse.

She's a feisty, hard-as-nails self-publicist who, according to her first husband, dished out quite a few clouts herself.

The same report suggested that the anti-domestic violence charity Refuge has shown an interest in her services. I sincerely hope not. To have someone on board as sanctimonious, self-serving and economical with the truth as Heather would do more damage than good to a charity that has rightly achieved the greatest of respect for its work.

THE BLOKE and I have a friend who's a top divorce lawyer.

Well you never know when they'll come in handy, do you?

Anyway, he's very proud of the fact that, after 20 years in the business, only two of his clients have ever made it to court.

In other words, he encourages the use of common sense and foresight to ensure the potentially messy business of divorce is conducted as painlessly as possible for all involved, particularly any children.

If either of the mud-slinging McCartneys would care to give me a call, I'd be happy to pass on his phone number.

NOT THE BLOKE QUOTE

All religions are the same: Basically guilt, with different holidays
— CATHY LADMAN

Cast off the veil and fight for your rights

TEACHER Aishah Azmi spent taxpayer's money fighting for, as she saw it, her religious rights.

But what about her rights as woman?

Surely they are worth fighting for far more than the right to wear a full face veil to teach young children even though the teachings of Islam do not decree it?

This photograph of Aishah walking alongside her husband says it all.

Both of them are following the Koran's guidance that all Muslims — male and female — should behave and dress modestly.

But whilst his is a fully-Westernised "modesty" of faded jeans and bomber jacket, she is trailing behind in an extreme, oppressive version of head-to-toe black, face obscured, head bowed.

Whatever her reasons for wearing it and whatever her status within her marriage and home, outwardly it gives the message that she is her husband's possession rather than equal — a non-person who is restricted from engaging fully with the rest of society.

We're used to seeing this in some of the world's more oppressive regimes, but set in the context of a society where women fought for and gained



equality years ago, it seems a huge step backwards and gives the worrying impression that, while most Muslim women manage to dress modestly and blend in with the rest of British society, women like Aishah are actively resisting integration.

She has accused politicians of treating women who wear the full veil as "aliens and outcasts" but, given that their religion doesn't demand it be worn, surely they are simply choosing to alienate themselves?

And wearing it to teach young children is ludicrous, a barrier to the openness and communication skills needed to engage young minds in the subject they're being taught.

Aishah didn't wear the full veil for her job interview (at which a man was present), nor for her teacher training course, so one can only reach the conclusion that her determination to wear it for lessons was either an affectation or to make a religious point.

Next week's Dispatches (Channel 4) is called Women Only Jihad and according to the press release, journalist Tazeen Ahmad will reveal that, out of the 1,600 mosques in Britain, more than half of them ban women from praying alongside men — again, not something decreed by the Prophet Mohammad.

It "reveals how the prevention of women from attending mosques is leading some of the younger generation in particular to become activists for women's rights".

Perhaps, rather than spending yet more taxpayer's money on an appeal, Aishah's time might be better spent fighting for that cause?

THE voice of the Speaking Clock is being replaced after 21 years.

The hunt is on for a member of the public to take over from 77-year-old Brian Cobby.

He says: "Things have changed over all these years and I think my voice is a bit posh now."

Oh dear. Is a "posh" (i.e. coherent to all) voice now considered out of touch?

Regional accents are apparently being encouraged so brace yourself for "Ey oop cock, it's four pm" or "Cor blimey, it's leven o'clock, time to go up those apples and pears for some shut eye."

Still could be worse I suppose. We could be diverted to a call centre in Bangalore.

OLD MODEL ARMY

MY GUY was a photo-based magazine for teenage girls that started in the Seventies.

Now a Best Of My Guy annual has been published which includes many of the "models" who later became famous — such as Hugh Grant, George Michael and Tracey Ullman.

This reminds me of a previous Sun editor who used to amuse himself by forcing staff to appear in Deidre's photo casebook.

I managed to dodge the full glare of the limelight and only appeared in background scenes, but a couple of reporters, now very senior journalists on other newspapers, had starring roles — one as the office sex pest and the other as a sufferer of erectile dysfunction.

How reassuring that they have both gone on to lead such full and active lives.



TORN OFF A STRIP

WHILST looking at toys on the Tesco website, mother-of-two Karen Gallimore was shocked to find a "pole dancing kit" for sale.

But a Tesco spokesman denied the kit was sexually orientated and added: "Pole dancing has been an increasing fitness craze... and classes have become widespread in gyms across the UK."

For the record, the £50 kit includes an extendable pole, "Peekaboo"

dance dollars, a DVD of suggestive dance moves and a frilly pink garter. The packaging shows a curvaceous woman in a green bikini strutting her stuff.

Now I'm not sure which gyms feature women in bikinis and garters dancing round poles, but you can bet your last Peekaboo dollar that by tomorrow they'll be oversubscribed with blokes suddenly seized with the urge to get fit.



THIS is the latest portrait of the Queen by artist — and I use the word loosely — George Condo. Believe it or not, it's being taken seriously and currently hangs at the Tate Modern.

American Condo witters: "What I am trying to get over is how the Queen imagines herself."

More interesting would be how the Queen now imagines Condo. One suspects it would involve a dark tower and guillotine.

TOT KILLER EXCUSE IS COP-OUT

THE baby son of Danielle Wails died in a fire she deliberately started in her own home to attract the attention of the boy's father who had left her.

She was charged with murder, but this week she walked free from court after pleading guilty to the lesser charge of infanticide.

She was given three years probation for leaving her helpless four-month-old son to perish on the sofa amidst the blaze caused by the hands of the very woman who was supposed to protect him.

The mitigating factor was that psychiatrists say she was suffering from post-natal depression at the time.

Curiously, this "depression" didn't stop Danielle from rescuing herself, and she managed to emerge from the flames with barely a mark on her.

GEORGE CLOONEY has reportedly had a fling with Tamara Mellon, the businesswoman behind the Jimmy Choo shoe empire. A friend of Tamara's says: "It was nothing too serious." It never is with the notoriously slippery George, dear.

SHE CAME UP SHORT YET AGAIN

CLARE SHORT has, apparently, resigned as a Labour MP.

She says a concentration of power in No10 has produced "arrogant, error-prone government."

Unlike her own arrogant, error-prone years in the Government of course.

A few years ago, her resignation would have made the front page of every newspaper.

That it barely caused a ripple gives some indication as to how politically-discredited and irrelevant she has become since being staunchly anti-war yet failing to resign over the Iraq invasion.