

# Vatican cleric to wed pregnant lover

Bruce Johnston  
in Rome

A ROMAN Catholic cleric who ran the Pope's television department until seven months ago is leaving the priesthood to marry his pregnant lover.

Padre Ugo Moretto (45) has been living with the woman - identified only as "BB", a 35-year-old journalist who has been separated from her husband for a year

- in Milan since December. "My friend is three months pregnant," he told Corriere della Sera, Italy's largest circulation daily. "We are not married but are living together, and as soon as we can we will marry," added the former head of the Vatican's CTW, which distributes broadcast images of the Pope.

The pair's romance began when they worked together on the Vatican service and

accompanied the Pope on trips abroad to arrange television coverage.

However, Padre Moretto admitted, "My first crisis was caused by the dilemma of juggling the role of priest and manager at the same time. Then an emotional matter began to weigh on that crisis, which led me to reflect on my vocation. In the end I decided to change my life."

Padre Moretto resigned

from CTW last July after four years in charge and is now looking for work.

"In August I will be a father," he said. "A name for the child? It's too early to say. At the moment we don't even know if it will be a girl or a boy."

"I will absolutely have to find a way of earning a salary. I hope that someone can give me helping hand."

He said he told Padua's Bishop Antonio Mattiazio

of his final decision at the end of last year, asking to be released from his priestly vows, which include celibacy. He is now technically suspended from his ministry.

"It hasn't been easy to abandon my habit," Padre Moretto conceded. "I have suffered and it has been a long ordeal."

The Vatican has not commented on the matter. (©Daily Telegraph, London)



Rudolf Giuliani:  
honoured at palace

## Arise, Sir Rudi as ex-mayor honoured

BRITAIN'S Queen Elizabeth bestowed an honorary knighthood on former New York Mayor Rudolf Giuliani yesterday, praising his pivotal role in bolstering his devastated city after the September 11 attacks.

Giuliani received the honour at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace, where the queen talked to him about the awful times he had endured after the attacks

which destroyed the World Trade Centre.

Asked if New Yorkers would now refer to him as "Sir Rudi", he joked: "There are some places in Manhattan where they might call me that. But not in Brooklyn. In Brooklyn," he added, "they'd say 'hey, knock that off or we'll knock it off for ya'." (©Daily Telegraph, London)

# Mullah Omar in surrender talks with Afghan chiefs

Andrew Buncombe  
in Washington

MORE than a dozen senior Taliban figures - including the former Supreme Leader Mullah Mohammad Omar - are negotiating terms for their surrender, according to Afghan officials.

Representatives of Gul Agha Shirzai, the governor of the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, are said to be in discussion with around 15 of the fugitive officials.

The negotiations may have been spurred by the recent surrender of former Foreign Minister Mullah Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil, who gave himself up last week and is currently being questioned by the US.

Mr Agha's spokesman, Khalid Pashtun, said the surrender of the Taliban "might take a week or two or three or four". He added: "They are just talking with us. We haven't reached that level yet. We are trying to convince them that they will be treated with dignity and honour."

Mr Pashtun refused to identify the Taliban leaders but said "it is possible" some were cabinet ministers. The Los Angeles Times reported that Mullah Omar - who has been on the run since the fall of Kandahar last December - could be among those about to give themselves up.

The former foreign minister, Mr Muttawakil, is the most senior member of the former regime currently in custody. He is being questioned by the US authorities at their base at Kandahar airport, though his eventual

fate is far from certain.

The US believes that Mr Muttawakil and other senior Taliban figures might have information on the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden, who, despite massive efforts by US and Afghan forces, remains unaccounted for.

In a recent interview the interim administration's interior minister, Yousouf Qanooni, said he believed both Mr bin Laden and Mr Omar were still alive.

Mr Qanooni said Mr Omar was living in the southern Helmand province, protected by his tribe, and that Mr bin Laden was in the Afghan-Pakistani border region. Pakistan has sent troops to the border and maintains there is no evidence Mr bin Laden has entered its territory.

Mr Qanooni claimed as many as 50,000 Taliban activists are still in Afghanistan. "Most of them have shaved their beards and changed the shape of their turbans," he said.

At a security meeting at his headquarters, Gov Shirzai said he was confident that Mr Omar would not remain at large much longer. He added: "Our efforts [in] searching for Mullah Omar are continuing, and soon you will learn about his surrender, too."

His comments were less confrontational than warnings delivered by Colin Powell, the Secretary of State, in recent days.

Gen Powell has said that Washington is reviewing options for toppling Saddam. (©The Times, London)

a Yemeni security official said.

Security forces had besieged the hideout of Samir Ahmed Mohammad al-Hada (25), to question him about his links to the al Qaeda group.

"He threw a hand grenade at the security forces, but it exploded beside him," an official said.

He said Yemen had been chasing Hada, who has many aliases, because he was believed to have received training "to carry out terrorist acts" while living in Afghanistan.

Yemen has been on alert for possible attacks on US interests on its territory since Monday.

US President Bush tried to calm international concern about his intentions towards Iraq yesterday, saying that he would consult widely before acting.

Amid mounting criticism that Washington was gearing up to go it alone against President Saddam Hussein, Mr Bush said that he "looked forward" to working with the world to bring pressure against rogue states developing weapons.

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A model wears a jet black crepe georgette cocktail dress with a ruffled bodice and cobweb garters at Badgley Mischka's autumn fashion show in New York. Right, a presentation from the DKNY collection.

## Precocious Zac's the talk of the catwalk

Hilary Alexander

PRESIDENT George Bush's daughter Barbara and the editor of American Vogue, Anna Wintour, were among the luminaries in the front row.

Zac Posen, the precocious new "star" of American fashion, has exploded on to the New York Fashion Week scene with the kind of hype you would expect from a seasoned veteran. But Posen is 21.

A dropout, last summer, from London's prestigious Central St Martin's School, Posen has

designed clothes for Naomi Campbell and Jade Jagger.

The 32-piece collection for autumn/winter focused on a powerful silhouette and hour-glass bias-cutting in clothes that had a maturity belying Posen's youth.

Grand entrance and exit gowns in silk jersey and pin-striped satin featured winged and capped shoulders, dive-bomb cleavage and fluted hems. The colour palette was stark: black and white or rain-bow shades. (©Daily Telegraph, London)

The 7200 washer, called the Midas, manages to do away with soap powder by passing water through electrodes which change the chemical make-up of the water, giving it cleaning qualities akin to detergent.

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## Milk white editor bites back over 'chocolate soldier slur'

Tim Reid

PIERS Morgan, editor of 'The Mirror', accused model Naomi Campbell yesterday of an offensive attempt to taint his newspaper with racism.

At the High Court hearing into the model's privacy case, Mr Morgan clashed repeatedly with her QC, Andrew Caldecott, over a reference to her in an article by Mirror columnist Sue Carroll as being like a "chocolate soldier".

The newspaper says this referred to Ms Campbell's role as a campaigner for the fur group Peta. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, from which, it alleges, she was sacked after wearing mink at a Milan fashion show. Ms Campbell says she left voluntarily.

Ms Campbell was not in court for the third day of her action. She is claiming damages for breach of confidence and invasion of privacy after the newspaper published a photograph of her leaving a Narcotics Anonymous meeting in London last year.

"The Mirror" claims that "chocolate soldier" means someone who is ineffective. But Ms Campbell (31), said she was upset by the phrase, which she took to be a racist slur.

Mr Morgan said: "I find her attempt to bring the race card into this case quite disgusting. There is no racist connotation in the phrase 'chocolate soldier' and there never has been."

"She has used it to conjure the image of 'The Mir-

ror' as a racist newspaper. We have been at the forefront of working with the remainder of the community before and during the case. The case continues." (©The Times, London)

## Tally-ho silenced by Scottish MPs' ban on fox hunt

THE Scottish Parliament voted yesterday to outlaw fox hunting with dogs north of the border - an issue just as hotly debated in England, where legislation has been delayed.

After more than six hours of debate, Scottish legislators voted 83 to 36, with five abstentions, to pass the Protection of Wild Mammals Bill, which will bring an end to a centuries-old tradition in Scotland.

Fox hunters staged a series of last-ditch demonstrations yesterday in the hours before a vote on the bill. Up to 1,000 people, 150 horses and hound packs from all over Scotland gathered at Kelso, on the Scottish side of the border to stage a mass hunt.

More protesters picketed the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. One protester was arrested.

Members of the hunting community feared passage of the bill would cost them their jobs. Opponents of the bill said a "yes" vote could lead to challenges in the courts under human rights legislation.

Half of Scotland's 10 mounted hunts are based in the Scottish borders, and members of hunts from Britain and Ireland gathered there yesterday for a mass rally.



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LIFE'S TOO SHORT  
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## Passengers' mile high jinks trigger US fighter jet alert

David Osborne  
in New York

IF two male passengers aboard an American Airlines flight from London to New York last Friday thought they were being discreet each time they darted into a single toilet together they were much mistaken. Soon everyone was taking notice - including the US military.

In this instance, flight attendants told the pilots

they were concerned about the men after they had been spied slipping into a single lavatory together not once but on five different occasions. It was then that the frisky British pair - proud newcomers, it later turned out, to the Mile High Club - drew altogether more serious attention.

The pilot discussed the men with supervisors on the ground and the US Air Force overheard the conversation. Two F-16 fighter jets

were instantly scrambled to escort the airliner for the remainder of the flight.

When the plane touched down at JFK, the men were happily asleep. When confronted by the authorities, they revealed they had been having sex and smoking crack cocaine.

The two men escaped criminal charges but were turned around and put on a plane that returned them to London. (©Independent News Service)

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