

# Time runs out for Conservatives' privatisation plan Lords overturn bill on school inspectors

Patrick Wintour and Stephen Bates

THE Government's controversial plans to privatise the schools' inspectorate were on the verge of collapse last night after peers inflicted two defeats which ministers admitted tore the heart out of the bill.

Jack Straw, the shadow education secretary, said the effect of the amendments was to turn a Conservative bill into a Labour one. He said: "This legislation was a piece of wreckage anyway... now it's well on the way to being sunk."

Matthew Taylor, the Liberal Democrats' education spokesman, said: "These amendments are a very bad night for the Conservatives and a very good night for education."

# Navy set to back Tory line on need for fourth Trident

David Fairhall and Michael White

THE Royal Navy has been persuaded to line up behind the Government's contention that it needs a fourth Trident submarine to maintain Britain's nuclear deterrent, apparently renouncing public evidence to MPs last year that a three-boat force would do the job.

Naval officials will confirm their latest position at a hearing of the all-party Defence Committee on Thursday, the day after the first Trident boat is rolled out in Barrow-in-Furness, and amid allegations that the Government has postponed ordering the fourth boat for electoral reasons.

on nuclear defence, Trident is the last major defence difference between the parties. Today Labour and the Liberal Democrats — who do support a fourth boat — will be attacked by the Government.

# £4bn sale of Wellcome shares faces challenge

Roger Cowe

INDEPENDENT shareholders last night threatened to challenge the legality of a £4 billion sale of shares in the drug company Wellcome, makers of the AIDS treatment Retrovir, by its biggest investor, the charity Wellcome Trust.

per cent limit set in 1985, when it won a controversial decision to alter the terms of the trust set up by the medical group's founder, Sir Henry Wellcome.

Before the share sale can go ahead, the trust must reach a new agreement with the Charity Commissioners, and gain approval from the courts.

# Women patients 'stripped naked in solitary'

David Brindle Social Services Correspondent

WOMEN patients at the Ashworth top security hospital on Merseyside were stripped and left naked in solitary confinement, an inquiry into the hospital found.

able that both men and women should have their clothing removed while in seclusion, but it is perhaps more repugnant that women have been secluded without clothing.

the introduction of male staff on female wards has "not always been carried out sensitively" and that staff need training in handling sexual and other emotional tensions.



Up in arms... A Serbian gunman stands under the Yugoslav flag in Sarajevo, prepared to fight to prevent Bosnia-Herzegovina leaving the federation. The republic may be on the brink of civil war.

PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE PERSSON

# Bosnia eases battle lines

continued from page one  
tion, are in favour of a unitary independent Bosnia, while the Serbs, 31 per cent, and Croats, 17 per cent, are calling for the division of the republic along ethnic lines.

# Army leaves Karabakh to its killings

Corpses attest to massacre by Armenians, report Karl Waldron in Stepanakert and Brian Killen of Reuter in Agdam, Azerbaijan

THE last soldiers of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Nagorno-Karabakh were pulling out of the Caucasian enclave last night as fresh evidence emerged that Armenian militants had carried out a massacre of Azerbaijani civilians.

drawal from Afghanistan. "Columns of equipment and personnel are being withdrawn with all types of combat support and cover. The opposing sides in Nagorno-Karabakh are not hindering their movement."

Armenia, which yesterday called for United Nations involvement to avert "further tragedy", continued to deny that its militants had killed 1,000 people in the Azeri-populated town of Khojali last week and massacred men, women and children fleeing the carnage across snow-covered mountain passes.

skirts of Nagorno-Karabakh, said: "When we began to pick up bodies, they [the Armenians] began firing at us. The bodies are lying there like flocks of sheep. Even the fascists did nothing like this."

the Armenians in Stepanakert and Azerbaijan at large: acts of revenge are likely. In the four years of fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 people have been killed. The past week's fighting has been the most savage.

# This week's Guardian

Tomorrow Society

William Beveridge saw his wartime plan for ending poverty, squalor and disease as outside party politics, it needed "a sense of national unity". Fifty years on, has the bequest been squandered?

Women

"It's not glamorous, far from it. You can be on surveillance with a colleague for ages and absolutely dying for the bog. You just have to open the car door, turn to the guy next to you, and tell him 'Close your eyes'."

Thursday Writing home

"The parents expected nationalism to disappear when freedom and nationality were ours, for it was not the mystic, inarticulate snarl of blood and gut that Europeans had made it to explain their ferocious tribal wars, or the God-and-Mammon duo of their expansion abroad. Asian sovereignties had never had this dimension of fantasy."

Women

International Women's Day next Sunday: why we celebrate, and the global situation. Plus listings of events.

# Jilted woman, 70 found dead in 'nest' refuge in garden tip

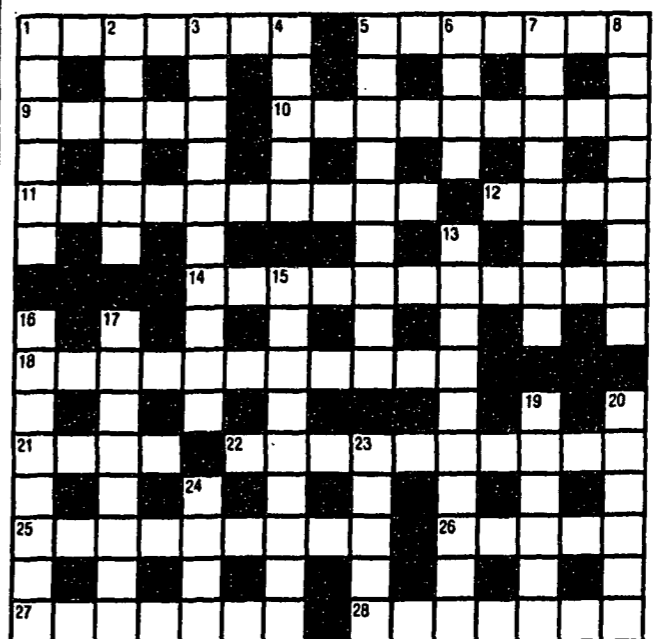
Ian Katz

EVERYONE in Tilehurst, a leafy suburb of Reading, knew Joan Abery, but few knew how she lived.

When police realised Ms Abery, aged 70, had not been seen for at least three weeks, officers visited her bungalow. They found her body in a nest-like lean-to of twigs and large umbrellas. She had been dead some time, and much of her face had been eaten away by animals.

# Guardian Crossword 19,345

Set by Quantum

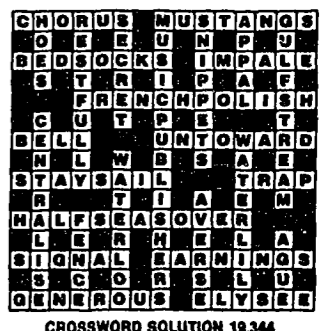


Across

- 1 It's used to catch fish not duck (7).
- 5 Give name to get permit (7).
- 9 Old boy at sea returning for discharge (5).
- 10 Vacate pit after explosion in entrance (9).
- 11 E.g. bears presents for the children (6, 4).
- 12 Some caviar eaten in the province (4).
- 14 Writer has English peaks rest in Deall (11).
- 18 For pointing one needs to become hard pressed (2, 2, 3, 4).
- 21 Coat belt (4).
- 22 Fruit's an insignificant thing to put in the ground, they say (10).

Down

- 1 Pick up tallest bird in the river (8).
- 2 A branch of the army captures frantic fleet (6).
- 3 Tube only is out: there's no definite form (10).
- 4 It's inferred the bird is without a bill (5).
- 5 My P.E. has me whacked. Cause of breathlessness? (9).
- 6 Work until 49 (4).
- 7 When the workers go to pot? (3-5).
- 8 Got up feeling exhilarated (8).
- 13 After certain innings one's certain to be held (10).
- 15 A beginner resents being beaten for vigilance (9).
- 16 Could describe type from N. Africa (8).
- 17 One likely to impress the floor? (8).
- 19 Run a ship going from West to East to get fish (8).
- 20 Sealfood from which advantage is derived (6).
- 23 Smiling across? (5).
- 24 A tutor always includes an exam (4).



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 19,345

Solution tomorrow