

Weekend Herald

SATURDAY - SUNDAY, JUNE 19 - 20, 2004

The test

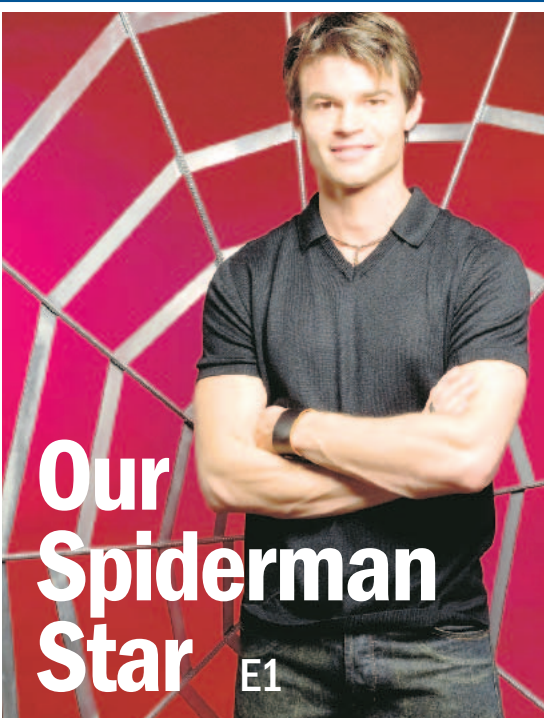
Everything you need to know D1-3



The Most Kissable Kiwis A5



Our Spiderman Star E1



Killer's macabre escape attempt

RSA murderer found hanging at Paremoremo

by Eugene Bingham

Triple killer William Bell was found hanging in his prison cell in what may have been a bizarre escape attempt.

The notorious RSA murderer had tied a cut-up sheet around his neck at the maximum security Auckland East prison at Paremoremo.

But sources familiar with the May 30 incident do not believe he was trying to kill himself.

One source told the *Weekend Herald* that he might have been planning to bolt from hospital.

In any event, the plot failed. Although he was taken to North Shore Hospital for treatment, he was back in the prison by early the next day.

Bell is serving a 33-year non-parole prison term for the murder of Mary Hobson, Wayne Johnson and William Absolum at the Panmure RSA in December 2001.

The Department of Corrections refused to name the inmate involved in the incident, but the regional prisons manager (northern), Brendon Moylhan, confirmed that a prisoner had to be cut down and saved on May 30.

The inmate was discovered by a nurse around 6.40 pm when she was distributing the inmates' medication, said Mr Moylhan. As she entered the inmate's cell, she saw him and called for help.

He was breathing and had a pulse but was unconscious. Police were notified.

The officer who was second in charge of the case, Detective Senior Sergeant David Pearson, said police always took a close interest in what happened to Bell. "We have a huge responsibility to the victims."

It is understood Bell staged a



William Bell

It's just a shame that he missed.

woman at the Panmure RSA

suicide attempt as part of an escape plot when he was serving an earlier prison sentence.

Tai Hobson, husband of Mary, did not want to comment yesterday but a woman at the Panmure RSA, who did not want to give her name, said it was "a shame he missed".

"We just feel we've had enough in the clubrooms at the moment and we're all trying to move on and William Bell keeps raising his ugly head every time. It's just a shame that he missed."

"I would say that the majority of people here would feel the same way as I do. It's just a shame that he didn't succeed when he was in last time."

"It would have saved a lot of upset and lives."

— additional reporting Catherine Masters



SHAKE PAWS: Craig Busch and Zion. "If you judge it wrong, you're going to get a facelift", says the Lion Man.

PICTURES / BRETT PHIBBS

Lion king at home with his cats

by Claire Trevett

America had the horse whisperer, Australia is famous for its crocodile hunter. Now New Zealand has its own Lion Man.

Just over a year ago, Craig Busch opened Zion Wildlife Gardens at Whangarei.

Three Mile Bush Rd, amid green fields dotted with cows, is the last place you would expect to find lions and tigers. But there they are — 12 Barbary lions, four rare white and one orange Bengal tigers, some Serval cats and an ex-circus baboon.

Ten of the lions are the offspring of a pair Mr Busch obtained from another New Zealand wildlife reserve. But most of the cubs were bred using semen from other lions to widen the genetic stock.

Walking round, scratching them under the chin, is Craig Busch.

The story of Whangarei's lion man and his wildlife park, which is still being developed but open to tours by appointment, will feature in a new eight-week TV2 series on Sundays at 7pm, starting tomorrow.

Yesterday, a miserable day, Zion the lion was none too happy about emerging looking like a truculent teenager, bleary-eyed with pieces of



CLOSE: Craig Busch reckons his lion even listens to him on the phone.

hay stuck in his mane.

Then 250kg of big cat eyes up 80kg Craig Busch, who clucks over him, plucking out the bits of hay.

Busch urges him up on to a rock, and says "swipe".

Zion lets out a roar and swings a paw, thwacking Busch. A few more swipes and roars for the camera and Busch changes his tone. Seconds

later the lion is licking at his arm, lifting his head to have a chin scratch and finally sticking his nose out for a kiss.

Busch has had Zion since he was born nearly five years ago and knows him well. When Busch is overseas, whoever answers the phone when he calls home has to take it out to a pining Zion. Busch assures me that

when he talks on the phone, Zion answers.

There are no polytech courses on lion taming, so Busch taught himself, using common sense, gut instinct and a natural affinity for the cats.

"You have to judge a situation right. If you judge it wrong, you're going to get a facelift."

The first time he touched a big cat was in America, when he struck up a rapport with a wild cougar.

Now he does it every day.

He spent years finding his cats to breed.

"I wanted the best bloodlines, and unrelated tigers. You look at their parents to see what you are going to get, which can help. It's like when you go to pick up a girlfriend, you look at her parents."

There are no Barbary lions or white Bengal tigers left in the wild, and only about 90 of the tigers remain in captivity.

The Barbary lions were wiped out in the 1920s and the white Bengals in 1958.

Busch's dream is to set up a haven to breed his big cats in Whangarei. His most urgent priority is a huge tree-clad enclosure for the tigers, which need space to run.

"It's a dream but it comes at a high cost, which is very hard."

Coutts 'battling to leave Alinghi'

by Julie Ash

New Zealand America's Cup winner Russell Coutts is believed to be about to quit Alinghi.

Two websites have this week reported that the relationship between Coutts and Ernesto Bertarelli's syndicate has ended.

The Italian website Farevela claimed Alinghi and Coutts would be "divorcing" and a press conference would be held next week to "officialise the news".

The Sailing Anarchy website reported that "Coutts' lawyers are battling to get him out of his contract with Alinghi, but Alinghi are not letting him go without a fight".

The website reports that Coutts probably won't be able to get out of the contract but will not sail for the syndicate in the next cup, which raises the question of what will happen to the other key New Zealanders in the team, Brad Butterworth, Murray Jones, Dean Phipps, Simon Daubney and Warwick Fleury.

Adding fuel to the speculation is that the Swiss syndicate have just launched their 2007 campaign and none of the New Zealanders feature in the opening page of their website which zooms in on the team's afterguard.

Considering Coutts is the ISAF world sailor of the year and Butterworth has just been inducted into the America's Cup Hall of Fame, many have been puzzled by the syndicate's decision not to flaunt two of their best sailors.

It is understood Coutts is in Switzerland but plans to join his team in Rhode Island over the next few days for the UBS regatta.

Rumours of Coutts' unhappiness at Alinghi started late last year when it was revealed he and Butterworth were not impressed with some decisions made by America's Cup Management, the body headed by former Alinghi director Michel Bonnefous, set to run the next event.

Since the last cup, positions within Alinghi have been reshuffled. Coutts maintains his role as a team leader but shares the skipper/helmsman's role with Jochen Schuemann and former Oracle sailor Peter Holmberg.



Russell Coutts



Ernesto Bertarelli

Doctors admit helping people die, study says

Nearly 700 doctors have admitted hastening the deaths of terminally ill patients, says a study in the *New Zealand Medical Journal*.

The study says 693 general practitioners who responded anonymously to a survey had helped someone to die. The survey was for a period of a year.

It said 39 had performed "some kind of action which would conform to everyday concepts of physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia".

Most of the hastened deaths occurred even though palliative care was available. The study also said that in 15 cases nurses had given the

patients life-ending drugs.

In 380 cases the doctor acted without any discussion with the patient, making the action "legally dubious", said the survey's authors, Dr Kay Mitchell of the department of psychology at Auckland University and British clinical psychology professor Glynn Owens.

The main reason given for not discussing the decision was that the patient was too ill, but in 88 cases where the patient was judged competent there was no discussion.

In 65 cases the patients had said they wanted to have their suffering shortened.

— NZPA

My part in Lance Armstrong's drug scandal

A New Zealand cyclist tells how he and one of the world's greatest sportsmen felt they needed to use performance-enhancing drugs

HERALD EXCLUSIVE

by Phil Taylor

Stephen Swart, a former teammate of five-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong, says that when they decided to go on the blood-boosting drug erythropoietin, Armstrong was adamant it had to be done.

Swart, the last New Zealander to ride the Tour de France, says the

decision was made in 1995, and he and Armstrong were among senior Motorola team riders who started doping with erythropoietin (EPO) during the Tour of Switzerland to be ready for the Tour de France that year.

EPO boosts the oxygen-carrying capacity of blood and dramatically enhances an athlete's endurance.

Speaking exclusively to the *Weekend Herald* after a new book, *LA Confidential: The Secrets of Lance Armstrong*, was published in France this

week, Swart explained why he decided to speak out.

Swart was interviewed by co-author David Walsh last year. He told me the same account in 1997.

"My concern lay right back when I first talked to you," he said.

"But I felt it would then have been delivered to a very small sports-oriented audience. Now, as part of a collective group and with a book, I have the chance, with others, to share our experiences and maybe start the chain of events towards

once and for all taking some meaningful action not just for cycling but for all sports.

"The book revolves around Lance, but it's not just about Lance."

Swart's experiences in the Motorola team, led by Armstrong, in 1994 and 1995, and those of Emma O'Reilly who was Armstrong's masseuse with the US Postal Service team from 1998 to 2000, are among those detailed in the 388-page book.

Swart says Armstrong used banned performance-enhancing products from as early as 1995.

O'Reilly says in the book that Armstrong was on a doping programme after returning to top cycling following recovery from cancer.

The book has the potential to be much more than a sports scandal.

Armstrong is a hero to many, an inspiration to cancer sufferers, a celebrity who dates a rock star, a friend of President George W. Bush and a member of his cancer council.

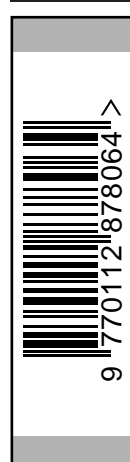
Armstrong vehemently denies ever doping.

Swart says he doesn't speculate in the book but tells "only the things I was involved in".

He has nothing to gain, he says, other than that he can now be more open and honest about those times.

"People who know me know I'm not making this up. A lot of my clos-

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That's the Spirit.

Armstrong: My part in his scandal

Continued from A1

Best friends know the stuff I'm revealing in the book, so it's not news to people close to me.

"It's a very complex issue and I'd urge people to read the book before they make up their minds."

The decision to try EPO was made in 1995.

"We had been taking a beating all of 1994, and the beginning of 1995 started not much better. We had discussions out training and, as I remember it, what was decided on that ride was that anyone who was going to ride the Tour de France had to get on the [doping] programme."

"It was the decision of the senior riders in the team. Lance was very much part of the discussion, and his view was we had to do it."

Races were much faster than when Swart raced in Europe six years earlier. Then he'd footed it with big-name riders; now he and his teammates were left in the dust.

"We knew if we were to get results we had to get on the programme. The riders knew the contract was up for renewal. The sponsors want results, this is where the pressure comes in. We want a job next year. What do you do?"

Armstrong spoke strongly in favour of a doping programme, says Swart.

"His attitude was 'we have to do it, we have to get results'."

Each rider organised his own EPO. Swart bought his over the counter at a pharmacy in Switzerland, \$1000 a box.

Swart says they lacked the expertise of teams which had doctors experienced in how and when to take it for best effect.

He took a course of EPO injections during the Tour of Switzerland and says that within two days he was going downhill.

"After seven days I had to stop racing and I went home. I was flat as a pancake."

"My experience was that it forces your body to make red blood cells. That takes energy, energy you need for racing. I should have been doing it in a rest period."

Later, he noticed a marked improvement in his ability to recuperate.

"In the first week of the Tour de France [1995], after six hours and 220km of racing, I'd get back to the hotel, have a massage and a sandwich and I'd feel like I hadn't even



REVEALED: Nine years later, Stephen Swart says senior riders in his team — including Lance Armstrong — decided to try EPO.

PICTURE: PAUL ESTCOURT

shit was going to hit the fan and they had to come up with an explanation. And that's what came out of their discussion — saddle sore, a corticoidal cream and a backdated medical prescription."

In 2001, Walsh wrote about Armstrong's long association with Italian doctor Michele Ferrari, who faces charges in Italy of doping athletes.

Ferrari was the medical adviser for Gewiss-Ballan, an Italian team which stunned with its superiority in the 1994 Fleche-Wallonne classic.

Its riders took the first three places, leaving behind them many stars, including the man in the world champion's jersey, Armstrong.

For three riders from one team to be so superior was so unusual that it raised questions. Ferrari fuelled suspicion when he said that, taken correctly, EPO was no more dangerous

than a jug of orange juice.

Gewiss-Ballan let him go, but he soon had a new client in Armstrong.

When that relationship was revealed in 2001 by the *Sunday Times*, Armstrong said Ferrari was giving specialist help for an attempt on the world hour record. Armstrong is yet to make that attempt.

It was the "unbelievable" results of the Gewiss riders that Swart believes started the cavalcade toward more radical doping.

Back then EPO was new and undetectable. But its effects on performance were not fully understood, and it was not known that too much could cause fatal heart attacks.

A test now exists, but only for EPO taken in the previous few days. Swart retired nine years ago — he now works for himself in the construction industry — and suspects

updated versions of EPO which can't be detected are now in use.

Today, Swart wonders how far he could have gone had the sport been clean, or had he fully submitted to an expert doping programme.

He believes Armstrong is a star athlete.

"If no one doped, if everyone turned up to the start line naked as the day they were born, Armstrong would still win because at heart he is a champion."

But he also believes Armstrong missed the chance to be a champion of a different kind, to draw a line and say "enough is enough".

Swart is among those who wonder whether doping played a part in the rapid spread of Armstrong's testicular cancer which, when diagnosed, was in both lungs and his brain.

"I felt that when he got his cancer,

Cycling's hero driven by his thirst for revenge

Lance Armstrong has always been driven to excel.

He was raised by his much-loved mother, Linda, after his father left when Armstrong was an infant.

He showed his talent at 13, winning an Iron Kids triathlon in the US. In 1993, aged 21, he became the youngest world professional road cycling champion.

Armstrong saw the testicular cancer which threatened his life as another adversary to be defeated.

His recovery to win the Tour de France in 1999 brought him legend status, which has grown with each win in the race.

His books walked out of stores. He became a hero to cancer survivors and formed the Lance Armstrong Foundation which raises money for

cancer research and awareness.

Cycling endorsements with Coca-Cola, Nike and Subaru, books and merchandising earn him \$25 million a year.

Armstrong's website describes him as "world champion cyclist, two-time Olympian, renowned humanitarian, role model, cancer survivor, and now five-time winner of the Tour de France."

He divorced his wife, Kristin Richard, the mother of their three children, and now

dates singer Sheryl Crowe. Emma O'Reilly, Armstrong's personal masseuse for two years and one of his accusers, says part of his drive comes from a sense of grievance and a desire for revenge;

from being abandoned by his father and rejected by European teams who thought he'd never come back from cancer.

"The little black book in his head is thick with the names of those who turned him down."



he had the chance to be honest and explain what was going on in the sport.

"If he then came back to a good level, or to the height he's reached now, I would see him in a different light."

"He had the opportunity to do something positive for the sport, instead he is just helping keep the sport in the same situation it was in before he got his cancer."

"He's sold everyone this fairytale that he's as pure as snow but there are a lot of gaps there that he hasn't filled in."

"Wouldn't it have been better to have come out and said 'hey, I succumbed' and to have explained why and then started anew?"

Swart believes Armstrong was a big enough star that people would have taken notice.

On July 3 Armstrong begins his bid for an unprecedented sixth Tour de France victory.

He has said the drug claims are "evil" and "absolutely untrue".

Walsh, three-times British Sports-writer of the Year, told the *Weekend Herald* that he, co-author Pierre Ballester, and the publishers stood by the book, which drew on up to 50 interviews.

"The evidence is circumstantial but I believe anyone who reads the book will feel that the case is proven," Walsh said.

Swart agrees his part is circumstantial, that he never saw Armstrong injecting banned drugs.

But he says none of the cyclists he knew injected in front of each other. Lawyers for Armstrong have begun legal proceedings in France and England.

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