



by Paul Dugan



It's just as well that UK footballing wunderkind David Beckham isn't short of a quid or two, otherwise he might have taken the news that Hollywood star George Clooney was taking over his job as front man for the Police sunglasses campaign rather badly, especially after hearing the reason given by a Police spokesman for the switch – "George has a much bigger world profile and appeal than David." Now that might very well be true, but for someone as used to the limelight as young Mr Beckham, it's still got to sting a little!

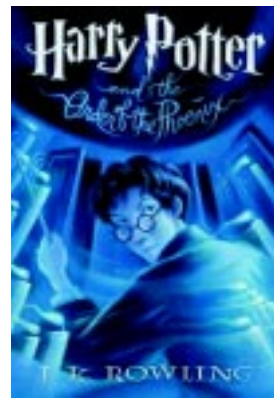
In April Real Madrid dampened down the rumours that they wanted David Beckham. The team's sporting director Jorge Valdano said the chances of Becks playing for the Spanish side were "extremely remote". On June 18th they finally revealed that David had agreed to leave Manchester United and join them.

"I would like to publicly thank Sir Alex Ferguson for making me the player I am today," Beckham said in his statement. The Beckhams left London on Tuesday for a promotional tour of several Asian countries. Any ideas what sunglasses are made in Spain?

On the subject of football, a number of Premiership football clubs have recently been admonished by the Food Commission for promoting junk food and fizzy drinks to impressionable children who look up to them as role models. A spokesman from the Commission has been quoted as saying, "It seems that everyone in the Manchester United team loves Pepsi. Thankfully they can afford the best dental care so tooth decay shouldn't be a problem, although it may be for their millions of fans."

There's no denying that the man has a point. Nine clubs were singled out for particular criticism: Manchester United (sponsored by Pepsi), Chelsea, Everton, Manchester City, Blackburn Rovers and Leeds United (all sponsored by Coca-Cola, Leeds United also taking money from Lurpak), Spurs and Southampton (both take money from McDonald's) and Sunderland, which is sponsored by both Coca-Cola and McDonald's. West Ham was the only team to earn praise for having a health education programme and promoting nutrition and exercise while having absolutely no links to the snack food industry.

Dom Joly, the prank-playing star of Channel 4's side-splitting sketch show *Trigger Happy TV* may soon be a big star on the other side of the Atlantic too, now that US TV channel Comedy Central has bought the rights to make an American version of the show. Although the new show will obviously be set in the States, it seems that Joly himself and his alarmingly oversized mobile phone will still remain the stars!



Harry Potter fans have waited three years, sometimes patiently, sometimes not so, for the latest instalment in British author J.K. Rowling's phenomenally popular series. Now, at last, they have a wide range of options to choose from as the price war heats up among online retailers, all determined to grab as large

a share of the market as possible. *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, at 768 pages, is around a third longer than the previous behemoth in the series, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. Its recommended retail price is therefore £16.99, but the eager Potter fan can pre-order it for half-price or even less from a number of online retailers (including WH Smith, Tesco and Amazon.co.uk) or book clubs. Clearly such fans are wasting little time since *The Order of the Phoenix* is presently in an unassailable position at No 1 in the Amazon 'Hot 100' bestsellers chart, followed closely by the 'adult' version in at No 2. (For the uninitiated, 'adult' means only that the colourful illustration on the cover of the kids version is replaced by a moody-looking black and white photo in order to save some embarrassment on the tube!)

AND FINALLY, the results of influential entertainment magazine *Heat's* poll to find 'The 50 Sexiest Celebrities in Showbiz' are out. At no 5 the universally lusted-after Brad Pitt. Positions 4 to 2 are held by UK pop stars – Robbie Williams in at 3, sandwiched between both the runner up and the winner of Pop Idol: Gareth Gates is sitting pretty at number 4 and Will Young, once again beating his young rival, is riding high at number 2. Last, but of course by no means least, in at No 1, it's that often alarmingly dressed, ludicrously talented man of the moment – Mr David Beckham! Want to know who the top ten girls were? You'll just have to wait until next time... PD

*(Sorry Paul, the temptation was too great - couldn't wait - had to look it up -shame about the the old magic marker!... Ed)*

