

Sideswipe Story

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Sideswipe: Monday

5:00AM Monday July 28, 2008

By [Ana Samways](#)

Cathy Nairn of One Tree Hill thought this was ironic. Despite all of us being encouraged to take the bus, "Stagecoach likes to encourage us into cars instead. Duh!"

* * *

Paula Norman was gobsmacked at what she found on the shelves at Toy World, St Lukes: "They were selling voodoo dolls (complete with box of pins). One was a 'nagging woman' and the other 'the boss'. The box clearly stated they were not toys and not meant for anyone under 14 years old. The gentleman at the counter was very surprised when I pointed them out to him and promptly took them off the shelf.

However, when I visited again the next day they were back on the shelf (only difference was the woman was replaced by 'mother-in-law')."

* * *

Redesigning streets to make them more user-friendly for drunks could help reduce conflict and violence, scientists believe. Scientists went on to the streets of Cardiff to get information about drunken behaviour, in order to mimic in their computer model the movements of people staggering home after a good night out.

The scientists believe their findings have a direct association with the all-too-common phenomenon of fights breaking out at "chucking-out time". "Drunks become irritants because they slow people's progress towards their goal," said study leader Simon Moore, from the University of Cardiff, who presented the findings at the International Crime Science Conference in London. "They may then become targets of violence."

The researchers plan to investigate how moving street obstacles or increasing pedestrian friendliness might ease congestion around nightspots, *New Scientist* magazine reported.

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Jacob Tomuri writes that the audience left Thursday's 8.45pm screening of *The Dark Knight* at St Lukes well and truly in the dark about how it ended as the booming music drowned out the last few minutes of dialogue. A 30-strong crowd stayed behind to complain, creating a bit of an anticlimax to what was otherwise a great film.

"We were first met by the defensive projectionist who insisted it was the director's fault, then the manager who came out to tell us it was our fault for not complaining earlier." When she finally handed out some vouchers after checking their ticket stubs, it was without so much as a sorry.

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