Met put skin colour before skill and knowledge

RITISH school leavers wanting Dto join the Metropolitan Police will have to wait up to three years to join because ethnic minority applicants are being prioritised and selected first.

Non-white Met Officers make up 7% of the force and the Government wants this raised to 25% by 2009. To meet this target, ethnic recruits are being fast tracked into the force to such an extent that they currently make up one-in-six of all new recruits.



CHANGING: A passing out parade at Hendon college in 2001. Because of 'prioritisation' 17% of recuits now come from an ethnic minority.

A spokesman for the Metropolitan Police Federation was concerned about the current policy:

"There is positive action which is legitimate, and positive discrimination which is not. The line between the two is getting very narrow indeed.

"The criteria for joining should be the same for all - can you do a very complicated and difficult job as well as the next person?

"We need diversity, we need an eclectic mix of skills and knowledge, but focusing on certain elements may be to the detriment of the service."

Any programme of recruitment that prioritises ethnicity over skill and knowledge is likely to lower standards and the performance of the force.

Angel Fingers in

PROPERTY company A which earns millions of pounds thanks to government contracts for housing asylum seekers is under investigation for financial irregularities.

Based in Docklands in London, the Angel Group has had contracts with the National Asylum Support Service (Nass) for five years, housing asylum seekers in Yorkshire and the North-East. Last year its income from its houses and hostels was over £20 million. Police are investigating claims that the company charged the Home Office and Leeds city council for the same properties and claimed discounts on council tax to which it was not entitled.

Because of the sensitive nature of finding homes for what are in most cases just illegal immigrants, the Angel Group has signed a secrecy agreement with the Labour Government not to comment about its contracts.

Producer admits BBC left open to accusations of bias

THE HORRIFIC murder of **■** black teenager, Anthony Walker, by a gang of white thugs in a park in Huyton, Merseyside quite rightly received extensive coverage in the media because racist killings like this one 'are still fairly unusual in the UK'.

That's according to Ian Jolly, producer of the BBC's highlyregarded Newswatch programme.

So it was surprising that the stabbing to death of 28-year-old Richard Whelan, from Kentish Town, north London, on a number 43 bus in an unprovoked attack by a black assailant on the same day apparently didn't warrant nationwide coverage. Maybe these type of racist attacks are not unusual in Britain today.

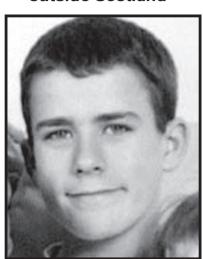
It was this discrepancy in the BBC's coverage of the two murders that led to a deluge of email complaints to the corporation and the response from the Newswatch producer.

Ian Jolly admitted the BBC was selective in the prominence it gave certain stories:

"Last year a young white teenager was abducted and murdered in Glasgow by a gang of Asian youths. It was clearly a racist incident, but received barely any coverage outside Scotland. That, to me, suggests that the BBC needs to think very carefully about the prominence it affords certain stories. "All racist murders are abhorrent, but by treating them differently, the BBC leaves itself open to all sorts of accusations."

Such honesty from the producer of a news programme at the BBC is very welcome. Let's hope that it signals a loosening of the grip held by those politically correct zealots who have been doctoring our news by "the prominence it affords certain stories" since New Labour came to power.

"It was clearly a racist incident, but received barely any coverage outside Scotland"



KRISS DONALD: His racist murder wasn't afforded prominence by the

TUC launch campaign against Pakistani povertv

WITH British jobs being offshored to Pakistan and the Indian sub-continent at an alarming rate and British workers being pushed out of their jobs here at home by a growing army of cheap migrant labour, you would have thought the TUC would have had their hands full fighting for their members' future.

But no, our Trades Union Congress is using its time and those hard earned union dues paid by British workers to tackle poverty, poor health and create jobs for Muslims of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin living in Britain.



solidarity with Muslim communities.

General Secretary, Brendan Barber,

will visit mosques in Leeds, Birmingham and London to launch the campaign and also to "show solidarity" with Muslim communities against the calls for Muslims to integrate, or "give up crucial parts of their identity".

The TUC report 'Poverty, Exclusion and British People of Pakistani and Bangladeshi Origin' was based on independent research and official data, including information from the Office of National Statistics and 2001 Census. It found that more than 90% of the Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities were Muslim and together they made up 60% of UK Muslims.

Wilf Sullivan, the TUC's race equality officer, called on the Government to ensure that job creation programmes focused on areas with high populations of people of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin.

Rewarding communities (see Page 11).

"Can you please help us Councillor Exley?"

West Yorkshire police turn to the BNP to help quell rising tension in Dewsbury

N THE wake of the terrorist Lattacks on London and the subsequent police investigation which revealed that the four suicide bombers came from West Yorkshire, relations between the Muslim population and local people in the region have become strained.

In Dewsbury, in the middle of August, these tensions boiled over one evening and there was a confrontation and then a stand-off between the two communities.

As police tried desperately to avoid a serious riot, they called in Muslim leaders to try to calm the situation and find out how the trouble had started. The local population too were upset by what had taken place earlier in the evening and wanted their community spokesman to explain their side of

West Yorkshire police said they could call the local Labour councillor, but that idea was turned down.

"Go and get the BNP", one lady told the senior officer.

"Yes, the BNP can speak on our behalf," suggested another.

So West Yorkshire Police telephoned Kirklees councillor, David Exley, who was the BNP candidate in Dewsbury at the General Election and polled over 13% of the vote, and asked him to come out and help them calm what was a very tense situation.

Thankfully David was able to do just that. He reassured the local people that their views would be heard and despite not being their local councillor, he would defend their interests and represent them in any subsequent inquiry.

BNP Chairman, Nick Griffin, told Freedom that he hoped that this



COMMUNITY CALL: Kirklees Councillor, David Exley, briefs BNP chairman, Nick Griffin, on the latest situation in Dewsbury.

signalled a change in the way that the police in Yorkshire would treat the British National Party.

"West Yorkshire police have the reputation of being the most politically correct force in the country. Its persecution of BNP members last year after the BBC's docu-drama on the party was a scandal and the prosecution of Mark Collett and myself is outrageous.

"Possibly the events in London in July have been a wake up call to the force. It has seen that we have been proved right on a number of issues, so hopefully police chiefs are beginning to take on board what we are saying and acknowledge that the BNP is regarded as a community leader for many people in West Yorkshire.

*Lancashire Police also asked the BNP for help. Councillor Len Starr met with senior officers to discuss the implications of 7/7 on the local community in Burnley.

'Brits' fighting Brits?

NEARLY one hundred Muslim men have left Britain to join the insurgents who are fighting British troops in Iraq.

MI5 boss, Eliza Manningham-Buller, warned Tony Blair that fighters were leaving their homes in Yorkshire and the West Midlands to go to Iraq.

The Home Office said that the recruits were mainly Muslim men in their twenties. Some have been recruited by radical imams in mosques, others have been lured to the cause by appeals on websites. They include Britons and nationals from other countries, including north Africa, who had settled in Britain.