

News

Teacher is banned over 'Breaking Bad' drugs lab

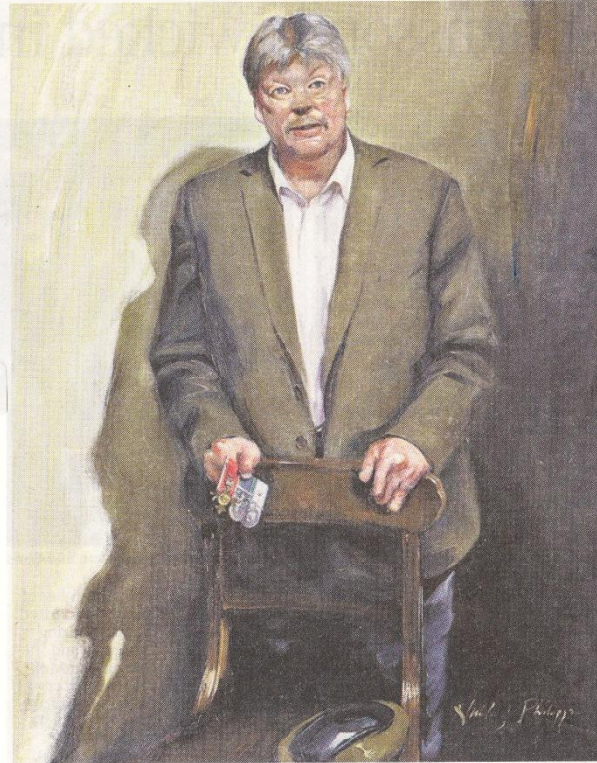
A secondary school teacher has been banned from the profession after police discovered a *Breaking Bad*-style drugs laboratory at his home in Cardiff (Sonia Elks writes).
Macphallen Kuwale was operating a drugs factory comparable to the one run by Walter White, the fictional chemistry teacher, in the hit US show. Police found 111 grams of cocaine at Mr Kuwale's home, with £900,000-worth of cutting agents and a pressing machine to make Class A substances appear of a higher grade. Mr Kuwale, who received a three-and-a-half year jail term at Cardiff Crown Court last year, was banned from teaching by the General Teaching Council for Wales at a disciplinary hearing yesterday.

We need more portraits of disabled, says TV presenter

People with disfigurement still struggle to be accepted, the television presenter Fiona Bruce said as she unveiled a portrait of the Falklands war veteran Simon Weston.
The oil painting, right, was commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery and the BBC after viewers of *The One Show* chose Mr Weston as the most deserving public figure.
Bruce, right, said that Mr Weston, who suffered severe burns when the *Sir Galahad* was hit by Argentine jets in June 1982, still suffered discrimination and that portraits of people with facial scarring were extremely rare. Mr



Weston had told her that recently when he was in a restaurant, people at an adjoining table had told a waiter in his earshot: "You need to move that man, he's putting us off our food and frightening the children."
The BBC will screen a behind-the-scenes documentary next month about the making of the portrait, which was unveiled at the gallery yesterday.
Mr Weston said he hoped the portrait by Nicky Philipp would make people "see me for what I am, which is a happy guy". He added: "We do focus so much on perfection and way too much on flawless beauty."



NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

Babies' failure to bond can lead to problems at school

As many as two in five babies fail to bond effectively with their parents, missing the strong emotional foundation they need to succeed in life, according to a new study.
The research suggests that children who fail to "attach" in a healthy way are often slow to develop language skills and display bad behaviour from a young age. This can lead to obesity, aggression, hyperactivity, and underperformance at school.
The report, which draws on international studies, was conducted by the Sutton Trust, which helps

children from underprivileged backgrounds to get into top universities. It found that failure to bond was an issue for children in all social classes, with boys particularly badly affected. The problem often occurs when a mother is depressed, stressed or distracted by other problems. Conor Ryan, director of research at the Sutton Trust, said: "This report clearly identifies the fundamental role secure attachment could have in narrowing a school-readiness gap and improving children's life chances."

Nephew of Jimmy Savile served time for sex attacks

A nephew of Jimmy Savile admitted yesterday that he had served a jail sentence for five sex attacks on a girl aged 14. Michael Johnson, 67, a businessman in Buckinghamshire, said that he had been rehabilitated and was appalled at the allegations against his uncle. He continued: "Me and my family's burden now continues, in having to prepare this statement, which refers to my own past of nearly 30 years ago when I served a 2½-year sentence for a sexual offence against a 14-year-old female. I cannot stress my own self-disgust and shame together with the huge sorrow I have for that person."

Woman, 70, punched in face by cathedral stripper

A man climbed on to a cathedral altar after pulling down his trousers, broke a crucifix and punched a 70-year-old woman in the face, a court was told.
Nicholas Courtney, 34, of Exeter, claimed he was overcome by the urge to "give everything to God" in Exeter Cathedral on February 15 and placed £20 in a donation box before stripping off in front of worshippers. He struck the woman, causing her to fall and break a wrist, as she posed for a picture with her grandchildren, aged 3 and 5, outside. At Exeter Crown Court, Courtney admitted criminal damage and inflicting grievous bodily harm. He will be sentenced on June 6

Burglar's act of selfie sabotage lands him in prison

A burglar gave himself away when he used a phone that he had stolen to take this selfie, then accidentally sent it to friends of his victim. Ashley Keast posted the photograph on Facebook, but in doing so he also sent it out using the WhatsApp messenger service, which the phone's owner had downloaded. Friends of the victim saw the picture and contacted police. Keast, 25, from Rotherham, admitted burglary at Sheffield Crown Court and was jailed for two years and eight months. His accomplice, Anthony Hunt, 27, was jailed for 18 months for burglary.

