

News

GET ON THE BUS

By Lola Aroun

IT CAN be hard learning to cope with the doom and gloom of commuting without a mode of transport, especially if you have practically lived in that mode of transport for the last 9 years. Recently my own car decided it was time to call it a day, and since then it's been a life of walking, taking the bus, train or tube and coping with the hassle that goes

with it. You name it rude people who have decided that there is no longer any such thing as queuing, people who seem to love garlic diets, some that have not discovered soap and water, so much so that a colleague of mine who I was travelling with earlier in the month resorted to using her big expensive perfume as an air freshener. Then there are the type of individuals that prefer to barge rather than to say excuse me. Some have a problem with wind while some bus drivers seem to suffer from blindness because they seem not to see passengers waiting at bus stops and drive past even though the passenger has put out his hand and the bus is not full. The most saddening thing is big grown men that do not vacate their seat for old women or women with children.

In saying this however, there are some very interesting and good aspects about taking the bus when travelling. At Elephant and Castle I met Sandra Roberts a 48 year old, who stated 'I would like the buses to come along on a regular basis and not 2 & 3 at one time. London prices

are a lot better than out of London but at least in the country you know that you will get one every hour'. Enterprise also met Peter Gilmore aged 30 and his wife Amanda aged 23 who were going to visit a relative in Kings College Hospital. 'They are reliable and do come along frequently' stated Peter 'but we do not really use them because we live in Basildon'. 23 year old Doulf, a local shop keeper stood firm on his comment 'Its horrible using the bus because the drivers drive badly. Train and bus are the easiest ways for me to travel to work but I need to get to work at 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning so I bought a car. I hate buses, I never use them' A chuffed and beaming David Calvin a driver of the 149 bus 'stated you have made my day'. And when asked for his comments on our London buses he stated 'Its unreal, no two days are ever the same, that's the most interesting area of this job'. 'The buses are always warm and carry nice people who smile a lot. 'Stated Nicola Williams who was waiting for her bus in North London with friends Aneke Camp-



(l-r) Nicola Williams, Kenny and Aneke Campbell



Two students on their way to college

bell and Kenmo 26 who was on his way to Bounds Green. Kenmo stated that 'the London bus service was quite quick and efficient'. Well I must say it's been an interesting day for me because I got to observe individuals more closely. I encountered an old man who, I think, was trying to smoke himself to death or something. He was

on his cigarettes non stop. In the time that we waited for our bus he smoked 3 cigarettes straight one after the other, and we only waited for about 20 minutes. All I needed then was for a big busty girl to start busting some moves similar to the girl dancing at the bus stop in the Capital Radio television advert



David Calvin, bus driver

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Grand Ella still active

Big Family And Healthy Living Sees Ella Reach 102

ELLA THOMAS, from Frankley, Birmingham recently celebrated her 102nd Birthday in fine style when some of her seven children, 14 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren get together at the home of her youngest daughter Pat to honour such a milestone being reached.

Ella Who was born in Guyana, in South America didn't come to Britain until she was 65 years old.

She flew to England shortly after her husband, Manni died so she could be with two of her daughters and to look after their children.

When she celebrated here 100th birthday two years, six generations of her family came from as far a field as America to be with her. This time, in addition to the family members mentioned before, Ella also has four great great grandchildren and five great great grandchildren.

Every week Ella still keeps active by travelling to Wolverhampton to attend the South African Apostolic Church, which she joined seven years ago.

And her recipe for long life? 'I walk and keep busy and I think that has helped me'



Witness fears for life



Michael Lindsay

A former witness in a murder trial is a step closer to bring forced to return to a death sentence' in his native Jamaica after being refused political asylum.

Home Office immigration officials refused the did by 23 year old Michael Lindsay, who gave evidence two cases relating to the murders of Daniel Brown and Michael Senior in Handsworth, Birmingham

Lindsey, who was a prosecution witness for the police in both cases, fears for his life if he returns to Jamaica because of his role in the two hearings and his partner Theresa Robinson of Dudley said 'I fear that if he goes back to Jamaica he would be shot. He's already distraught about it, and he was in tears'

His cousin has already met that fate on his return back to the Caribbean.