

1

CCTV schemes in town centres do not stop drunken street violence breaking out, according to new research.

But cameras do alert police to assaults and reduce the number of people treated at **casualty** departments. Scientists also say CCTV has reduced the severity of injuries suffered in street brawls.

But the study, published in the Injury Prevention journal, concludes there is no evidence of the surveillance systems having a **deterrent** effect.

It says: "The benefit of CCTV might lie less in preventing such offences... but more in facilitating a faster police response to arguments or assaults in public spaces, which limits their **duration** and therefore reduces the incidence and seriousness of injury."

Experts from the University Hospital of Cardiff, who carried out the research, also concluded official police statistics on violent crime were inadequate and "inappropriate".

They found police statistics recorded only a quarter of assaults leading to treatment in casualty departments.

The evidence shows you can't rely on police violence statistics as an accurate measure of violence in the community

The authors of the study say it was the first to compare police and hospital data and that its four year time **span** was longer than other CCTV evaluations.

They studied police reports of street violence from 1995 to 1999 in five **randomly** chosen towns where CCTV was installed in 1997 - Ashford, Eastbourne, Lincoln, Newport in the Isle of Wight and Peterborough.

The data was compared with towns that had no surveillance cameras at the time - Chelmsford, Poole, Derby, Scarborough and Huntingdon.

They then checked casualty department records for the treatments of assaults over the same period.

In the areas with CCTV the number of people treated for injuries after assaults fell by 3%, while the number of violent offences detected by police rose by 11%.

In the towns not **covered** by CCTV the numbers needing treatment rose 11%, but violent offences detected by police remained the same.

Co-author Jonathan Shepherd, a professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery, said: "The evidence shows you can't **rely** on police violence statistics as an accurate measure of violence in the community.

"True measures have got to take into account injury data from local hospitals as well as police information."

The **findings** echo government research published last year that concluded CCTV was not as useful in the fight against crime as was previously thought.

That research also concluded that better illumination could be a cheap way of cutting illegal activity, especially in crime **hotspots**.

2 **Weak trade holds down pay rises**

Pay rises at services and manufacturing firms averaged 3.2% in the past few months, according to the CBI.

That left settlements **pegged** at broadly the same rate throughout 2003. Private sector **deals** were "benign", posing no threat to inflation, the CBI added

"But this should not be **overstated**, at least for the moment, as private sector settlements are currently at a low base."

However, the continuing decline in UK's unemployment rate held the potential to fuel a increase in wages, the CBI **warned**.

3

Opening doors to university

Are the working-classes **storming the ivy-clad walls of British universities or is the door still firmly slammed shut on all but a token few?**

This question - which lies at the heart of the arguments over top-up **fees** - was highlighted by the latest university "league tables" based on student 'access'.

At first sight, they made gloomy reading for supporters of wider access. The top universities still seem to form a social, as well as an academic, elite.

Oxford and Cambridge take just 9% of their students from the lowest three socio-economic groups.

For most of the other leading universities the figure is below 20%.

Yet 40% of the population as a whole is designated to these groups.

The latest figures showed virtually no change on last year, leading some to conclude that the "widening access" door has **jammed** while still only slightly ajar.

But it may not be that bad if you look at longer term social **trends**.

Over the past 30 years or so, Britain has become an increasingly middle-class nation.

While the bottom three socio-economic groups may account for 40% of the population now, as recently as 1970 the figure was 90%.

At this **rate** of change, the percentage of working-class students in universities will eventually match their proportion in society as a whole.

In fact, the gap is closing. In 1970, students from higher social classes were six times more likely to get into university than those from lower classes. Now they are just three times more likely.

So things may be getting better. That certainly is the view of a new **survey** of the state of education, just published by the National Commission on Education.

It makes the sharp observation that British universities are 'trying to do at **breakneck** speed what the USA did over the four decades following World War II".

In other words, trying to become a system of mass higher education.

It concludes that the universities are doing fairly well. On "access", it says Britain has one of the best records in the world, second only to Finland.

It also notes that **drop-out** rates remain 'astonishingly' low.

And, of course, it is not fair to lay all the responsibility for **widening** access on the universities.

Many youngsters have been **put off** the idea of higher education well before the end of compulsory schooling.

Nor, in fairness to the top universities, could they easily expand access without lowering entry standards.

At a conference on university admissions this week, this was put **starkly** by a representative of one "Russell Group" university.

His students, he admitted, were 'very Home Counties and bourgeois' but there was 'almost nothing' the university could do about it unless they discriminated against the independent schools on a 'big scale'.

At the same conference, run by the Social Market Foundation, the man in charge of the independent inquiry into university admissions made an interesting **appraisal** of what, realistically, can be achieved.

Professor Steven Schwartz said the '10 or so most competitive universities cannot do the job of widening participation'.

Whatever measures his task force **comes up with**, he accepted that while educational achievement is so strongly **linked** to social background, there is only so much universities can do.

However Professor Schwartz did indicate the sort of changes his task force might recommend early next year.

He is interested **in** the potential of additional tests to identify students with academic potential but who may not have done well in traditional exams.

4

Online media rival sues Microsoft

Internet media company RealNetworks has sued Microsoft, accusing it of **unfairly monopolising the growing market for digital music and video.**

Accusing Microsoft of "predatory conduct", RealNetworks has asked for more than \$1bn (£564m) in compensation.

"We believe our business would be substantially larger today if Microsoft were playing **by** the rules," chief executive Rob Glaser said.

Microsoft has denied the allegation, insisting the market was competitive.

Microsoft pointed out that RealNetworks was the number-one provider of digital media technology, **arguing** that it was using antitrust law in order to protect and increase its market **share**.

The RealNetworks lawsuit runs in parallel with an **investigation** by the European Commission into Microsoft's media-playing software.

Brussels is concerned that Microsoft **may have** used its dominant share of the computer operating-system market to force users to adopt its media technology.

In its lawsuit, RealNetworks said Microsoft's monopoly meant that every Windows user had to take its media player, "whether they want it or not".

RealNetworks, **meanwhile**, sells its media player as a downloadable software product or with a monthly subscription.

As broadband internet access proliferates, **downloading** and playing video and music is seen as one of the main growth areas.

The core of RealNetworks' argument is that Microsoft has been able to achieve extraordinary growth.

Since launching its media player in 1997, Microsoft is now nearly neck-and-neck with RealNetworks, and by some measures - notably in the US market - even excels.

5

Pilot in court over drink claim

A Virgin Atlantic pilot accused of attempting to fly a passenger jet while **under the influence of alcohol appeared in a US court on Tuesday.**

He faces up to five years in jail if **convicted** by the Virginia court.

Capt Harwell, of Kirtlington, Oxfordshire, UK, was escorted off the plane after airport staff allegedly **smelt** alcohol on his breath.

They were **put up** in hotels to wait, while a new crew was **sought** for the plane. They left Washington the following night and were offered a free flight each as compensation.

6

Viewers may be paid to go digital

Viewers may be paid to make the switch to digital television, according to an industry expert.

With the Government planning to end all analogue **broadcasts** by 2010, Barry Cox has said that some people may have to be paid to make the change.

Mr Cox, who **advises** both the Government and industry on digital broadcasting said such scheme has been put in place successfully in Berlin.

His views were **backed** by consumer body Voice of the Listener and Viewer.

Mr Cox said there were only two ways of making everyone switch to a digital source, such as a set-top digital box, cable or satellite.

"One is to pay people to switch, the other is to force them," he said.

"My view, and it is only a private one, is that it will be a mixture of both."

He **cited** the recent switch to digital in Berlin, which saw the authorities give financial assistance to those people on benefits.

Jocelyn Hay, chairman of the Voice of the Listener and Viewer, said such a system should be considered for when the UK makes the move.

"In the end there will be some people that the Government will have to pay or help to pay," she said.

"If people are paying a licence **fee**, for instance, they have a right to receive something in return."

7

Garbage to greenery in New York

Began receiving **waste** in 1948

Originally 3,000 acres, now 2,200

Closed in March 2001

Section reopened to **handle** wreckage and remains from World Trade Center attacks

First **load** of debris from Ground Zero arrived soon after 0200 on 12 September 2001

Recovery ended 15 July 2002

Much was **recovered** from the debris but particles too fine to be identified were left on the ground when the recovery was completed.

Tom Meehan, whose daughter Colleen died in the Twin Towers, told BBC News Online that the residual ash was bulldozed into the ground across 40 acres of the landfill.

He believes some of that ash came from his daughter's body and had wanted it all collected and taken away from the dump, perhaps returned to Ground Zero or buried at another site where friends and relatives could visit.

And while he is sure that the remodelled site will be an attractive park, he says it will be too little and too late for him, his wife and other relatives.

The landfill is not open for families to go to whenever they want and it could be decades before it is **deemed** safe and ready for visitors.

Mr Meehan said the thought that some remains were left at Fresh Kills were hampering him and other relatives **from** taking a step in the **grieving** process where mourners can say goodbye after **ensuring** a proper burial.

8

US Democrats in first key battle

Democrats wanting to challenge George W Bush are facing their first major test, with a **tight race in the state of Iowa.**

Candidates are making final efforts to sway voters before what may be a record turnout for the local caucus gatherings which start at 1830 (0030 Tuesday GMT).

Results from the caucuses **emerge** within hours, with implications more important than the mere allocation of delegates who go on to pick the Democrat nominee.

As the first closely watched test, results may **boost** or bury candidates.

Opinion polls from the midwestern state, traditionally the first to make its choice for presidential nominee, show the race between Howard Dean, John Edwards, Richard Gephardt and John Kerry is too close to call.

A win for Mr Dean would add to his status as **front-runner**, while anything but a strong showing could spell doom for the Gephardt campaign.

Mr Gephardt is a congressman for the neighbouring state of Missouri and has played **up** his own midwestern **credentials**.

9

Vatican concert unites faiths

The Vatican has **hosted a concert of classical music aimed at **fostering** reconciliation among Christians, Muslims and Jews.**

Pope John Paul II, Israel's two chief rabbis and leading Muslim clerics were among the audience for a first performance of a new **choral** work by an American composer.

The Vatican says the musical evening was intended to promote the **commitment** to peaceful co-existence among all the children of Abraham.

The title of the choral work receiving its premier at the Vatican on Saturday night was, very appropriately, Abraham, the name of the biblical patriarch revered **by** members of all three faiths.

10

Italian national airline Alitalia **cancelled 364 flights on Monday as its staff began a one-day strike against job losses.**

Alitalia said it expects about 18,000 passengers to face disruption to their journeys as a result of the **walk-out**.

Alitalia's management wants to shed 2,700 jobs to stem the **state-run** airline's financial losses, and prepare it for a partial privatisation.

Check-in desks at Rome's Fiumicino airport were deserted on Monday morning as the strike started to **bite**, Reuters news agency reported.

"We want the plan withdrawn and discussions to start again from **scratch**," said Stefano Pietrini, a spokesman for Fit-CISL trade union.

The layoffs are part of a management **blue** print to return the airline to profit in 2005, in the hope that it may then be able to form a three-way **tie-up** with Air France and Dutch airline KLM.

The Italian government removed one **hurdle** to the potential alliance in November 2003 when it passed a decree permitting the privatisation of Alitalia, which is currently 62.3% state-owned.

But the Italian airline's finances remain a **stumbling** block. The carrier has forecast an operating loss of more than 400m euros (\$495m; £275m) this year.

Air France and KLM announced they were joining forces in September 2003.