

## GLOBAL NEWS



### 17-Year Old Beauty Attacks Oz Cabby With Hammer!

It was a case that drove an Australian District Court judge to the verge of tears and left a beautiful 17-year-old model behind bars against the wishes of her victim – a taxi driver!

Only Lorraine Candido can know the pressures that drove her to commit what she described as the most horrible, stupid, scary thing she had ever done – a brutal hammer attack on 68-year old Australian taxi driver Robert Santon, in order to steal his night's takings. Judge John Newley admitted that he couldn't believe his eyes when willowy blonde Lorraine entered the dock to face the charges. He said that he couldn't imagine a less likely perpetrator of such a violent crime. Even the taxi driver argued against the pretty teenager going to jail.

Yet this girl with stunning looks and a loving, stable family, recently received her first visitors at the prison that will be her home for the next four months.

A three-page, hand-written letter of apology from Ms Candido to her victim gave an insight into what Judge Newley called a most remarkable case. In it, she begged Mr Santon to forgive her, adding that she hoped to apologise face-to-face if he would agree to meet her.

"As soon as it happened I freaked out, I didn't have any idea what was going on," she wrote, recalling how she had directed Mr Santon to a cul-de-sac where she hit him with the hammer three times as the driver read the fare on the meter. "I felt like it was a really, really bad dream, all the blood and the screaming. I just wanted to go away and hide. Afterwards, all I could see was your face and what I did and I kept saying what have I done to that poor man? God, I am so sorry." The letter went on: "What I did was wrong and will haunt me for the rest of my life, which probably sounds selfish because I am sure it will for you too. I am so grateful that your physical injuries are not worse. I know that God was watching over you that day and will be forever more."

Her parents had an emotional reunion with their daughter in prison, recognising the driver had suffered at her hands and believed she should be punished for her crime. But they will appeal against her four-month sentence and seek to have her conviction not recorded because it will hurt her long-term employment prospects as a model. "She has done wrong," Mr Candido said, "but everyone should be given a second chance. Jail is really a criminal education centre." In her first few weeks in prison, she has started a literacy and numeracy course and has also asked jail authorities that she be allowed to complete a first-aid course. Her barrister explained to the court that she hadn't really comprehended the enormity of what she did. "She thought just a tap on the head and that would be it. When she saw the blood, she was terrified," he explained.

The driver has so far declined requests by Candido to meet him so she can apologise in person and her letter was left with his cab company. But Mr Santon opposed a jail term because he believed it would only expose Candido to hardened criminals. Some have already attempted lesbian approaches. "I don't understand," said the cabbie, "the judge himself said she didn't need rehabilitation. She knows what she did was wrong. I don't have many feelings for her at all, just sorrow. I'm sorry she got so mixed up that she would do this."

Taxi Globe's reporter has no such emotion and believe that the four-month sentence should have been four years. That she didn't kill this elderly cab driver was down to pure luck...

### Canadian Cabbie Kicks "Messy" Baby Out Of Taxi!

A mother says she and her sick baby were kicked out of a cab on the way to the hospital because the driver didn't want his taxi soiled. Catherine Soldan, who is 25, told Taxi Globe via the Internet that the driver left her and her sick son Corbitt stranded at 6am on a Sunday morning while on their way to the hospital. "It was awful," said Catherine, "Corbitt is only 6 months old. It's not as though he was out drinking all night long, he's just a young, sick baby."

Ms Soldan said her baby vomited twice at home around 5.30am. She called a help line for advice and a counsellor told her they would call a cab and pay for a trip to the hospital. A Yellow Cab picked them up and was over halfway when the child began vomiting again. "I was scared," said Catherine, "all I was thinking about was why he was vomiting? That's when the driver told us to get out after asking if he was being sick? When I said yes, he just said get out. I was crying and said that he was just a baby, but the driver said that he didn't care, he didn't want his cab soiled."

A Yellow Cab spokesperson told this newspaper that the driver only asked the mother to step outside temporarily and added that Ms Soldan didn't have a blanket or cloth to cope with vomit. She definitely wasn't thrown out of the cab. The spokesperson added that the driver fully intended to continue the fare after the vomiting was over. Ms Soldan denies that version.

She then ran with Corbitt down to a cab rank where another taxi immediately took them the last few blocks to the hospital. He also refused to accept any fare. This cabbie recommended she file a complaint against the first driver. "I wish I knew which cab company the second driver was with," said Catherine, "he was just so nice and calmed me right down."

Yellow Cab told the Globe that their company considered it to be very important for cabbies to preserve a clean vehicle, because they lose business and money when they have to clean seats in the middle of a shift. She said there was a policy to charge \$50 if a passenger vomited on the seats. This wasn't charged to Catherine Soldan.

Ms Soldan told Taxi Globe that her baby was diagnosed with stomach flu at the hospital and was now at home doing much better. Taxi Globe can see the driver's point of view, but we believe that there are times when commonsense must go out of the window and caution thrown to the wind. The driver should have done what the second driver did straight away – get the baby to hospital quickly. Neither of the two drivers could be reached for comment...

## LONDON RATED BEST CITY FROM WHICH TO GLOBALISE

Independent research by PricewaterhouseCoopers shows London is the most attractive city for businesses to locate. The research for the report "The World via London: Where Will Your Company Be in 2012?" asked over 200 senior executives outside the UK, in the process of expanding their business beyond home borders, to rank 21 cities in terms of the best location from which to set up international operations.

Using a range of criteria from skills through to quality of life, London came out as the overall winner. The independent research was commissioned by Think London, the foreign direct investment agency for London, which regularly evaluates the key drivers for foreign direct investment in the capital. Michael Charlton, Chief Executive of Think London said: "The research confirms London is still the investment city of choice, even as we face a tougher economic climate. This is great news for the UK's capital and we must support, encourage and maintain investment, ensuring that London remains a global financial and commercial powerhouse. Although we have a unique business opportunity with the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, we must not be complacent if we want to maintain our competitive edge over other cities."

## WIDE RED LINE - BUCKINGHAM PALACE ROAD

A Wide Red Line has been introduced in the Bus Stop cage in Buckingham Palace Road immediately to the south of the junction with Terminus Place at Victoria. The PCO are reminding taxi drivers that the restrictions are similar to those that are in place on the Wide Red Line at the bus stop in nearby Wilton Road. Taxis, as well as private hire vehicles, (including those showing the "Pre-booked only" signs) are not allowed to stop or pick up or set down passengers where the Wide Red Line is marked. Setting down or picking up may take place further down Buckingham Palace Road to the south of the Wide Red line.

Other sites where Wide Red Line restrictions are in force or likely to be introduced are on Euston Road eastbound in front of Kings Cross Station, and Bishopsgate northbound outside Liverpool Street Station.