TOUPEE OR NOT TOUPEE



Great to hear that Japanese scientists have identified a specific gene connected to hair loss in a discovery that could help them develop treatments and ascertain early on who is likely to lose their hair.

Scientists blocked the gene's activity in mice and found the animals started losing hair on their heads about 15 days after birth and became totally bald a week later.

Rumour has it the rodents are split on whether to rat on the scientists to anti-vivisectionists, join **Elton John's** backing band or apply for one of **Phil Spector's** wall of wigs.

Toupee, or not toupee: that is the question.

STEAKING HIS REPUTATION

Did you read about hairdresser **Adee Phelan** who, according to *The Mail on Sunday,* tried cutting *enfant terrible* **Marco Pierre White's** hair with a 12 inch carving knife?

Hearty congratulations to Phelan for what must have been a tricky job and, by all accounts, one he did well.

Backwash wonders whether White would be able to cut a roast of beef with a pair of hairdressing scissors if the shoe were on the other foot.

A rare event, indeed.

HAVE A HAIRCUT ON US

It has been interesting to note that while MPs or their spouses have bought duck houses, cleared their moats and rented porn courtesy of taxpayers, none have claimed for haircuts.

However, all is not lost because, if any end up doing time, we could be coughing up for their barnets, too, as evidenced by murderer **Charles Hanson**, who won the right to have his hair cut at taxpayers' expense while on day release from open prison.

Government solicitors conceded there was a duty of care including "provision for health and hygiene" which included haircuts.

So MPs could end up having another laugh at our expense should any of them do time at Her Majesty's pleasure.

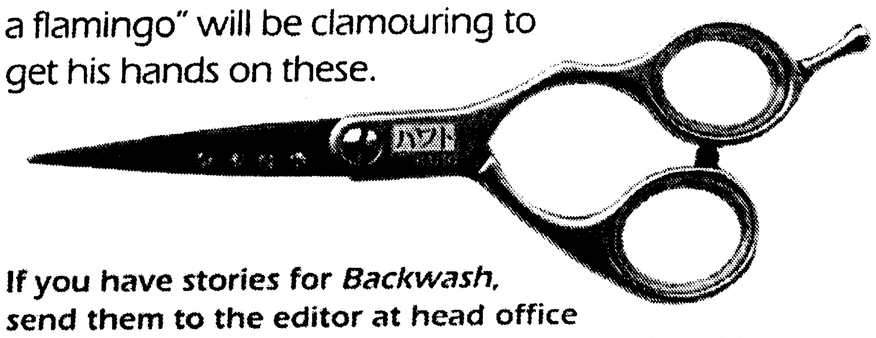
PRETTY IN PINK

Backwash has heard it said that the scissors hairdressers use are a window to their soul.

And all have their personal favourites from simple and functional to extravagant and colourful. Those who prefer the all-singing, all-dancing models, will love The Haito Pink Sparkle collection from **Hair Tools** which includes a 5.25inch offset scissor with titanium-coated blades and four pink rhinestone inlays.

Both the scissor and thinner is supplied with removable pink sparkle insert rings and removable finger rest with pink rhinestone inlay.

Backwash reckons **Herbert Howe**, whom *The Times* once described as "flamboyant as a flamingo" will be clamouring to get his hands on these.



If you have stories for *Backwash*, send them to the editor at head office or e-mail to *sfeditor@salonfocus.co.uk* putting Editor *Backwash* in the subject line.

WHO'S WHO

NHF Inspire members Helen Ainsworth and Joanne O'Neill



Helen Ainsworth, owner of **Crème Hair Management**, in Pickering, North Yorkshire, has been passionate about hairdressing since the age of 12 and has been a professional hairdresser for 10 years. She enjoys "making a difference to people's confidence, self-awareness and lives through their hair". Her own work, and that of the salon, has appeared in the Yorkshire press and she often gets involved in regional competition judging. Ainsworth has coached many of her own students to success in the competitive arena and frequently encourages them to enter their work into competitions.



Joanne O'Neill, owner of **Joanne O'Neill Hair Designs**, in Dunloy, County Antrim, has been hairdressing for 18 years and has owned her salon for 12 years. She has undertaken a variety of makeovers, photoshoots and demonstrations and cites a photoshoot for **the British Hairdressing Awards** and working with wedding magazines such as *Beautiful Weddings*, as highlights. She enjoys using wigs and extensions to create avant-garde and hair-up styles. Among awards she has won are the **Schwarzkopf** Regional Colour Award, the Visionary Award at **Alternative Hair Show** (2005) and she has been a finalist for the **L'Oreal** Colour Trophy, **Goldwell** Trend Zoom Award and the Northern Ireland British Hairdressing Awards. O'Neill is a member of the Irish World Championship Team and a member of the **Fellowship for British Hairdressing**.