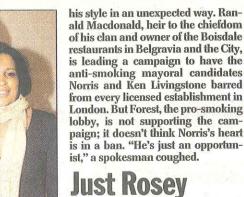
forestreet@telegraph.co.uk





THAT Stuart Rose doesn't half get about. The new boss of Marks & Spencer was billed on the guest list for 3i's swanky party at Claridge's on Thursday night, although we spotted him guzzling bubbly at the private view of the Royal Academy's summer exhibition.

It will be a comfort for M&S shareholders that the pressures of fighting off Philip Green's takeover are not interfering too much with Stu's downtime. But the oddest sighting was of a couple of silver-haired chaps squaring up to each other outside M&S's head office early on Friday morning. Eye-witness accounts of their banter are not suitable for a family newspaper.

Brief's shot at the No1 spot

NEIL MURRAY, the banking partner at Travers Smith Braithwaite, hopes to stun the City by becoming the first corporate lawyer to record a number one hit record (at least, we think it's a first).

Murray has teamed up with TalkSPORT, the radio station, to ape Dexy's Midnight Runners' tune Come on Eileen, retitled Come on England. The maddeningly catchy song has become the unofficial anthem to England's bid for Euro 2004

football glory. Murray, who's lead singer of a band called 4-4-2 when he's not holding bankers' hands, is hoping to replicate the success of comedians David Baddiel and Frank Skinner, whose Three Lions was the de facto theme tune of the 1996 championships.

"Whatever you think about the cheesiness of this song, it has the edge over the others I have heard. And even the average fan will be able to remember at least three words," Murray says.

He has the backing of the Sun and its Page 3 girls (right). His record company thinks the song will shift 30,000 "units" in the first week, giving it a possible spot in the UK Top 10. Who said that lawyers have run out of new ways to annoy us?





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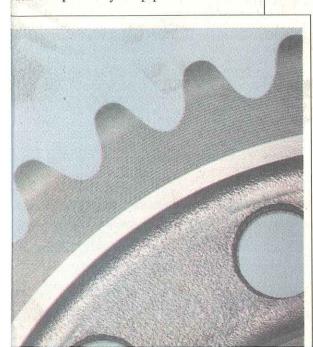
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Papering over the cracks in Green's bid

PUNDITS are saying that Philip Green needs to offer crucially on what sort of dominant shareholders one