



■ Katie Price and her ghostwriter have racked up sales of 3.5 million.

## Jordan's a model of literary success

KATIE PRICE begins her annual assault on the book charts this Thursday with the release of her latest novel, *Paradise*.

As glamour model Jordan she's more associated with lingerie than literacy, but with sales approaching two million for her previous four novels booksellers are hoping for more of the same.

It's described as a "glamorous and glitzy" insight into the celebrity world.

Like her previous efforts, *Paradise* has been written in partnership with Rebecca Farnworth, a collaboration that began with her autobiography.

The pair's sales now total 3.5 million.

Price's previous book, *Sapphire*, topped one best-seller list for three weeks last year.

## Scooby snacks

THERE'S nothing better on a warm day than a refreshing ice cream.

And now man's best friend can tuck in too, with the arrival of what's hailed as the first ice cream van for dogs.

The van was unveiled at the Boomerang Pets Party in London's Regent's Park.

Instead of a Cornetto or 99, it was offering a "K99" — a "delicious" gammon and chicken flavoured sorbet in a cone. Instead of the usual chocolate flake, the treat was adorned with a doggie biscuit.

There was also the Canine Cookie Crunch of dog biscuits and ice cream.

A spokesperson said, "We wanted to let our furry friends enjoy their own refreshing snack."

So what tune does the van's chimes play? The *Scooby Doo* theme of course!

# Massive telescope that brings past into focus

By Bob Smyth

**LAST week astronomers using the Very Large Telescope discovered the biggest star ever seen.**

So just imagine what they could do with an Extremely Large Telescope!

But that's just what boffins in Edinburgh are planning to use to find life on distant planets.

While it might not have the most inventive name, scientists hope the European Extremely Large Telescope will be exactly what it says on the tin.

“We will be able to see farther into the history of the universe”

Costing £800 million, the world's biggest optical telescope will probe the secrets of the universe from a mountain in Chile and could be operating by 2018.

"It will be four times bigger than any telescope today," says Professor Colin Cunningham, project director for the British end of the international initiative.

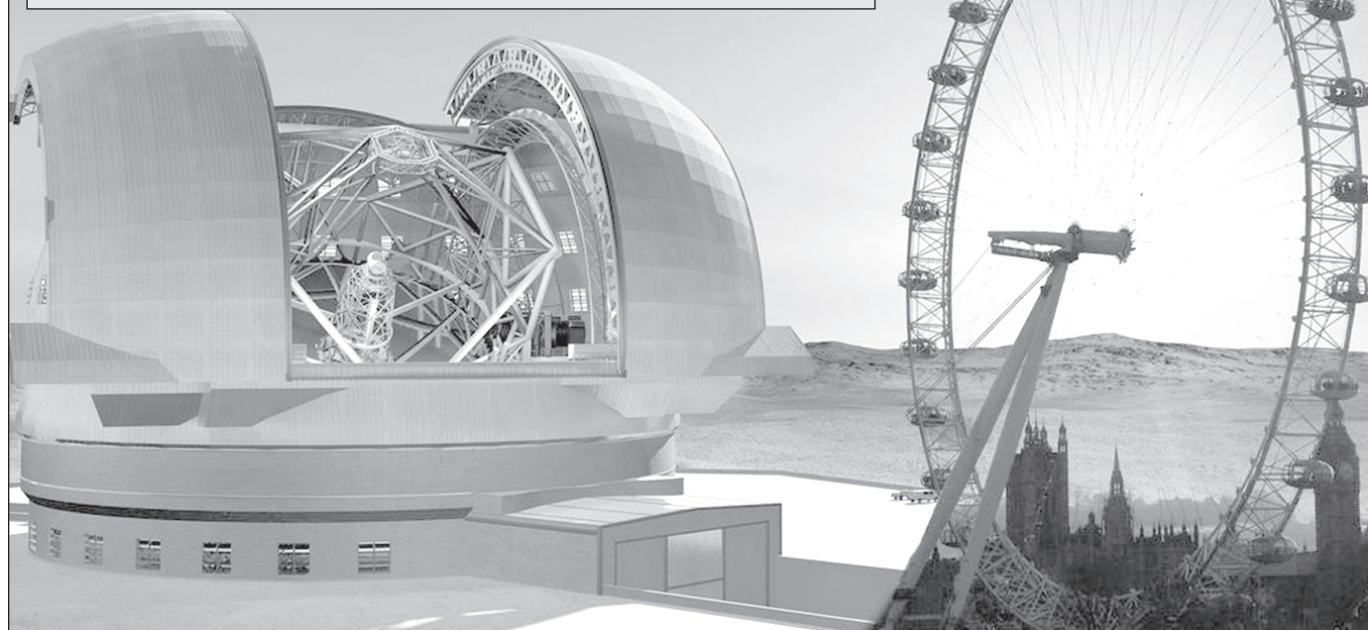
Colin (58) is an engineering expert at the UK Astronomy Technology Centre at the Royal Observatory Edinburgh where they design and build instruments for major telescopes.

A massive mirror 140 feet in diameter will capture 15 times more light than any previous telescope and let astronomers focus on planets beyond the solar system.

"We should see much more detail and be able to track

■ Construction of the E-ELT is being funded by the European Southern Observatory, an international research organisation made up of 14 European countries including Britain.  
■ It will be housed in a rotatable dome, 260 feet high and 330 feet round.

■ The telescope will be located on a mountain in Cerro Armazones, Chile, where the sky is cloudless at least 320 nights a year and there's little water vapour in the atmosphere.  
■ It's so powerful that it could spot a bee at John O'Groats from Land's End.



■ An artist's impression of the proposed Extremely Large Telescope next to the London Eye for scale. Below — Prof. Cunningham.

down rocky, Earth-like planets orbiting stars 'nearby' — 10 to 20 light years away."

By analysing light from these planets it should be possible to determine if they have water or even vegetation.

"We might be able to measure the atmosphere to distinguish between methane and water vapour. That doesn't tell you there's life but could mean there's a fighting chance of it."

The telescope will also look at objects towards the edge of the universe.

Because their light has been travelling for billions of years we see them as they were in the past, so can work out what the universe looked like.

Colin says, "The telescope will mean we can see farther



into the history of the universe to study the way stars formed."

The ELT is now completing the design stage and the go-ahead to build it should be given later this year.

Some of the most important and complicated parts are the detectors, which transform light into images.

"In Edinburgh we've been involved in three of the eight studies for possible instruments," says Colin, who's from Leeds but has been here for 23 years.

"We're hoping at least two will be chosen for the telescope so that a significant number of the instruments are built here.

"Our partners at Oxford and Durham universities are doing the same sort of things."

Meanwhile a Welsh company has made prototypes in the hope of winning the contract to make the main mirror, comprising nearly 1000 hexagonal segments.

"They're in competition with France for the deal which could be worth £80 million," says Colin.

There will also be a smaller adjustable mirror and teams from the University of the West of Scotland, Glasgow University and University College London are working on that.

Colin explains, "The challenge for the telescope is to get rid of distortion from the atmosphere. The adjustable mirror can compensate for that so we get an almost perfect image.

"It's an exciting project, especially with such an involvement in Scotland and the rest of Britain.

"We hope around 15 per cent of the money spent on building the telescope will come to the UK."



■ Justin Timberlake and Cameron Diaz before their split. But will they soon be back together?

## Simon's a better star-maker than match-maker

By Steven Bowron

AS Cheryl Cole's divorce to footballer husband Ashley rumbles through the courts, let's hope the singer isn't asking *X Factor* colleague Simon Cowell for relationship advice.

In his 2003 autobiography *I Don't Mean To Be Rude*, Simon devoted a section to "Simon As Cupid — Predictions for Today's Top Celebrity Couples".

Under "True Love" he included Brad Pitt and

Jennifer Aniston, Paul McCartney and Heather Mills and Guy Ritchie and Madonna.

Brad and Jen announced their split in 2005 after seven years. Brad is now with Angelina Jolie.

Paul and Heather separated in 2006 and their divorce was acrimonious, with Heather demanding £125 million of the ex-Beatle's fortune. She eventually received £24 million.

Guy and Madonna called it a day in 2008 after she allegedly grew

tired of "constantly arguing". They had married in December 2000 at Skibo Castle near Dornoch.

### Civilised

Their split was civilised for the sake of the three children — Lourdes (now 13), Rocco (9) and adopted David (4).

To add insult to injury, Simon predicted actress Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher's relationship "wouldn't last a year".

The couple started dating in 2003, married

in 2005, and are still an item.

Simon pronounced singer Beyonce's relationship with rapper Jay-Z "dubious". The couple tied the knot in 2008 and in February were spotted cuddling up together at a basketball game.

True, one celebrity couple he labelled "dubious". Actress Cameron Diaz and pop singer Justin Timberlake did part in 2007, but in April they were enjoying each other's company on the set of a film and it's

rumoured a reunion might be on the cards.

There's just the small matter of Justin's current girlfriend, actress and model Jessica Biel.

Yet Simon did have one "hit". He included David and Victoria Beckham in his true love list. Posh and Becks have been together since 1997 and their marriage has weathered allegations of infidelity.

But all in all, maybe it's best if Simon sticks to star-making rather than match-making.