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1 September 2005

SAVED BY POSEIDON

MOMENT UNDERWATER CAMERA STOPS GIRL FROM DROWNING

By **Brendon Williams**

THIS is the moment when a hi-tech computer alarm system saved a 12-year-old girl from drowning in a swimming pool.

Lifeguards didn't spot the child in the busy pool as she sank to the bottom of the deep end after apparently blacking out.

But the pool is fitted with a £65,000 camera system called **Poseidon**, which alerts staff if swimmers stop moving.

Poseidon paged lifeguard Karen Gibson and gave her the girl's exact location. She dived in to rescue her with seconds to spare.

The youngster made a full recovery Brian Evans, manager of the pool in Bangor, Wales, said: "The system spotted her quicker than the human eye.

"Any longer and her heart would have stopped. We got there right in time.

"The pool at the time was very busy. The lifeguards were at full stretch. We can say the extra pair of eyes identified her."

Brian said **Poseidon** raised the alarm within 10 seconds of the girl sinking and the rescue took just 87 seconds in total. He added: "The lifeguards would have seen her but perhaps not within 10 seconds.

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A lifeguard could have taken a minute, maybe two or three."

Lifeguard Karen added: "Poseidon is amazing, fantastic. It really does help us.

"You can't see people on the bottom when there are people swimming, let alone in the summer holidays when there is so much splashing and activities."

The rescued girl was on a camping holiday with her family when she got in trouble in the pool last Wednesday. She recovered after hospital treatment and returned home to Rochdale, Lancashire.

Last week's rescue is believed to be the first of its kind in Britain.

The Poseidon system cost £65,000 to install in 2003. It uses eight overhead and four underwater cameras, all connected to a central computer.

The cameras can pick up movement, the texture of objects and the trajectory of swimmers

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BLACK MAGIC FIEND

THE evil loner who murdered schoolboy Rory Blackhall had a sick interest in witchcraft and black magic Simon Harris, 37, who hanged himself after killing Rory, 11, even joined a coven close to his home.



1000 KILLED IN 'SUICIDE BOMBER'

STAMPEDE

UP to 1000 Iraqis died yesterday after a suicide bomber rumour triggered a stampede.



BUSH SLUMPS IN POLLS OVER IRAQ

GEORGE Bush's approval rating has slipped to an all-time low.



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X FACTOR star Rowetta reveals her fear of the drug dealing

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RIFKIND'S TEAM FOR TORY RACE

FORMER Cabinet minister Sir Malcolm Rifkind yesterday unveiled his campaign team for the Tory party leadership race - even though he has yet to declare that he will run.

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