

Cheats losing big game

ORDER

presently fail to support could be licences under Secretary Mr yesterday. Support, Pensions Security Bill will be a system of support rates with a latter system, he second Reading said and the old Agency had

from youngsters only 300,000 insurance paid - 10 of these saw was due.

system, mother children will get and quickly said: "Where delays in their children, impose a new of up to 25 money due until

making powers to arrangements difficulty in getting people.

if somebody will not co-courts will be, not only to but if necessary discretion, to licence."

withdraws or to offenders community to reform the related Pensions

State Second aid specialist be appointed from the self-interests refused to

body who is uses to tell us ring, we will less to inland he said.

source courts to dance was "not could cost some year. There was head Legal Aid.

over half of income support since. By 1990, getting money that figure.

"Income Supports, are some don't know helped.

by allowing to £10 child out losing any

to work and families' be able to finance.

he was deter- the reforms able, but only nation technol-

place. Lynne Jones (by Oak) wel- of child earned. "When

the Gov- ing reforms make the sys- simplified," reducing pen-

on means- could be "oke" by mak- a state retire- set above the num pension.

encouraging could afford late pensions are a type of

Labour MPs themselves state second placement for

replacing the pension and we try to look at

ns

Manufacturer, said the small purchased by just meant Mr was "pretty

of what is to countries controversy," the move as had policy" the overseas industry.

ries have the fees, but Mr busily under- stand Shadow ent Secretary

NATIONAL



The real victims: Children look for help through the barbed wire of Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland.

Author denies rewriting the history of Holocaust

By IAN COLLEY and CATHY GORDON
The Birmingham Post

Controversial historian David Irving was branded a liar yesterday as he launched his High Court libel action over a claim that he was a "Holocaust denier".

The 62-year-old author of *Hitler's War* and *Goebbels: Mastermind of the Third Reich* claims that Penguin Books and academic Deborah Lipstadt were part of "an organised international endeavour" to destroy his career and "vandalise" his legitimacy as a historian.

He says that the "waves of hatred" generated by his book, *Dying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*, had robbed him of financial security for the future.

But Penguin and Prof Lipstadt, holder of the Dorot Chair in Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, deny libel and plead justification.

Their counsel, Richard Rampton QC, told Mr Justice Gray, who is hearing the case without a jury: "Mr Irving calls himself an historian. The truth is, however, that he is not an historian at all, but a falsifier of history. To put it bluntly, he is a liar."

"Lies may take various forms and may as often consist of suppression or omission as of direct falsehood or invention, but in the end all forms of lying converge into a single definition: wilful, deliberate mis-statement of the facts."

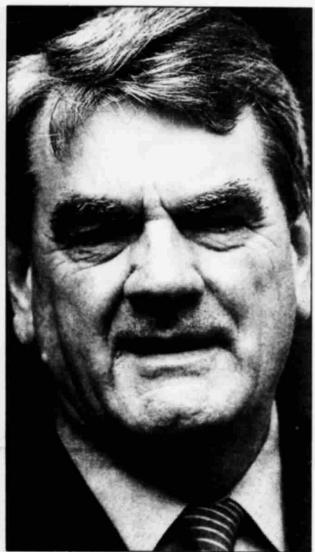
Counsel continued: "Mr Irving has used many different means to falsify history: invention, misquotation, suppression, distortion, manipulation and - not least - mistranslation."

"But all these techniques have the same ultimate effect: falsification of the truth."

"Moreover, the lies which the defendants in this case will show that Mr Irving has told concern an area of history in which, perhaps, it behoves any writer or researcher to be particularly careful of the truth: the destruction of the Jews by the Nazis during World War Two - the Holocaust - and Adolf Hitler's role in that human catastrophe."

"Or, as Mr Irving would have it, alleged catastrophe. For Mr Irving is nowadays a Holocaust denier."

By this I mean that he denies that the Nazis planned and carried out the systematic murder of millions of Jews, in



Accused: Historian David Irving.

particular - though by no means exclusively - by the use of homicidal gas chambers, and in particular - though by no means exclusively - at Auschwitz in southern Poland."

Counsel said it was an important case - the essence of which was Mr Irving's honesty and integrity as a "chronicler".

"For if it be right that Mr Irving, driven by his extremist views and sympathies, has devoted his energies to the deliberate falsification of this tragic episode in history, then, by exposing that dangerous fraud in this court, the defendants may properly be applauded for having performed a significant public service, not just in this country,

but in all those places in the world where anti-semitism is waiting to be fed."

Earlier, Mr Irving, who is representing himself, said that his career was destroyed by a "cumulative, self-perpetuating, rolling onslaught from every side, engineered by the same people who have propagated the book which is the subject of this action."

He intended to show that "far from being a Holocaust denier", he had repeatedly drawn attention to major aspects of the Holocaust, had described them, and had "selflessly" provided historical documents both to scholars and the general public of which they had been previously unaware.



Accusers: Deborah Lipstadt with Penguin Books chief executive Anthony Forbes Watson

He said that to justify her allegations of manipulation and distortion, it was not enough for Prof Lipstadt to show that he had misrepresented what happened but that he knew what happened and "perverted and deliberately" portrayed it differently.

Mr Irving said that the phrase "Holocaust denier" had become "one of the most potent phrases in the arsenal of insult."

"The word 'denier' is particularly evil because no person in full command of his mental faculties, and with even the slightest understanding of what happened in World War Two, can deny that the tragedy actually happened,

however much we dissident historians may wish to quibble about the means, the scale, the dates and other minutiae."

He continued: "It is a poison to which there is virtually no antidote, less lethal than a hypodermic with nerve gas jabbed in the neck, but deadly all the same, for the chosen victim, it is like being called a wife beater or a paedophile."

"It is enough for the label to be attached, for the attaché to find himself designated as a pariah, an outcast from normal society. It is a verbal *Wahle*."

The hearing, which is estimated to last 12 weeks, continues today.

Man bullied by female boss wins stress claim

A council official yesterday became the second man in two days to receive a £200,000 pay-out for claims of stress caused while working for a local authority.

Roderick McLeod accepted a £200,000 settlement at the High Court after he suffered serious psychiatric problems, which he claims were caused by his bullying female boss at Test Valley Borough Council in Andover, Hampshire.

Mr McLeod's pay-out comes just a day after a record £203,000 was awarded to a former Midland gypsy site warden for stress.

Yesterday, Mr McLeod, aged 42, blamed Susan Claydon, his line manager at Test Valley council for the stress which led to his mental breakdown and psychiatric injuries.

Kirsty Boyd, representing the former senior housing benefits officer, told Mr Justice Brian Smedley that her client was "subjected to abuse, bullying and harassment" at the hands of his manager and was now a hospital patient.

She said Mr McLeod had worked for a number of councils before joining Test Valley in March 1993. Within a year he had a nervous breakdown, which he said was caused by Mrs Claydon's attempts to have him dismissed or demoted.

He has now suffered from chronic depression for five-and-a-half years.

She said Mr McLeod had accepted £200,000 in full and final settlement from the council, which had not admitted any liability.

Mr Alan Jeffreys QC, representing the council, said the allegations of bullying and harassment "had never been accepted" by Test Valley and would have been disputed if the case had gone to full trial.

He said Mr McLeod had suffered from psychiatric problems before joining Test Valley but his senior managers did not know of this. The judge said both sides in the dispute faced substantial litigation risks and the agreed settlement was in all their interests.

He said the money, less £25,000 in benefits already paid to Mr McLeod, would be paid into the Court of Protection to provide for his needs.

A spokesman for Test Valley said an industrial tribunal had previously upheld that the council had acted properly in retiring Mr McLeod on health grounds.

Mr McLeod, who now lives in south London, was not prepared to comment.

● An out of court settlement of £135,000 was yesterday agreed for two council officials who complained of sex discrimination by the authority's legal department.

South Lakeland District Council in Cumbria will pay £125,000 to its head of legal services Anne Mayo and £10,000 to Jane Sandham, a former solicitor.

Mrs Mayo complained that her job was undermined after she returned to work following maternity leave in 1997.

The council said it had decided to settle the claims without admitting liability and on condition that Mrs Mayo resigns from her job. Miss Sandham has already left.

God and cod earn praise for long lives

The quest for the world's oldest living person was under way last night in nursing homes the length of Britain and beyond.

It began with a false start by the Guinness Book of Records, who claimed a woman aged 107 from Brechin, Scotland, was the oldest person in the world whose age could be authenticated.

But it emerged that Margaret McHowat had died in September and the title passed to another Scotswoman, Agnes Kinneir - 108 and going strong.

But even as Mrs Kinneir marvelled over her moment of fame - "I can't be the oldest person. It doesn't make me feel good at all" - the title was slipping out of her hands.

Guinness researchers said a new contender, Elizabeth Abbot, 109 and born in September 1890, had been authenticated as the world's oldest. The centenarian from Ottershaw, Surrey, attributed her long life to her work in domestic service and eating lots of cod and porridge.

But then a residential home in Sevenoaks, Kent, entered the fray with Lottie Elliott - and Mrs Abbot, too, was about to see her moment of glory slip by.

Former missionary Mrs Elliott is also 109 but was born in June, 1890, said staff, who claimed they had the birth certificate to prove it.

"She is very happy," said social worker Louisa Bonnell.

"She is a bit deaf but she likes listening to the radio and watching Countdown on TV."

Her daughter often comes and sits with her and they watch it and try to work out how many words they are getting.

"She puts her longevity down to God - she is very religious."

The title of the world's oldest authenticated living person became vacant on December 30 with the death of an American woman, Sarah Clark Knauss, 119.

Pc 'on wrong side of road' when he hit newsreader

By KAREN EDWARDS
Special Correspondent

A constable driving a police van involved in an accident with Channel 4 newsreader Sheena McDonald was on the wrong side of the road as he answered an emergency call, a court heard yesterday.

Pc Glenn Whiteley believed McDonald had seen him as she waited to cross the road - but instead she stepped out and was knocked down, suffering serious head injuries, London's Horseferry Road Magistrates Court was told.

Pc Whiteley (27) denies driving without due care and attention.

The accident happened on February 27 last year near McDonald's home in Islington, north London.

The court heard that she was trapped under the vehicle, which had to be reversed before first aid could be administered.

McDonald was in a coma for 72 hours and had major facial surgery, during which a titanium staple was inserted into her head.

Miss Helen McCormack, prosecuting, told the court that the case rested on Pc Whiteley's standard of driving falling below satisfactory standards as he drove along the southbound carriageway of St John's Street.

Miss McCormack said: "He must have been aware that when he moved on to the opposite side of the carriageway that pedestrians and drivers are not going to expect him to be there."

Police driving expert Pc Malcolm Cumberland said that if Pc Whiteley had adopted a different position on the road he would have had a better chance of avoiding the accident.

He said: "A position more to the right would have given him more time to react and more opportunity of missing Miss McDonald."

But Pc Cumberland said that if McDonald had taken advantage of one of the two



Accident: Sheena McDonald and Pc Glenn Whiteley

pedestrian crossings the accident would never have happened.

He said: "The vehicle was clearly visible and it was showing blue lights and sirens."

"I can't account for the fact that Miss McDonald failed to see it and walked on."

However, Miss McCormack said Pc Whiteley failed to ensure McDonald knew the van was there.

She said: "His fellow police officer noted that she appeared to be looking away from the direction they were coming from."

"He said she was always looking away from the police van."

"He cannot simply rely on the fact that he was sure she could see them."

The defence claim McDonald made eye contact with Pc Whiteley which made him think it was safe to continue.

Pc Paul Cubbon, who was a passenger in the van, told the court that the newsreader stepped out in front of the vehicle, giving the impression to stop in the wet conditions.

He believed she was "under the effect of alcohol" he had watched her weaving through stationary traffic on the northbound carriageway before stopping at the central reservation.

Pc Cubbon said: "She just stepped out in front of the vehicle and Pc Whiteley braked and tried to stop. However, due to the road conditions it slid and hit the pedestrian."

The case continues.

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