QC accuses author of books about Nazis of falsifying history while driven by extremist views

Hitler book writer called liar

WRITER David Irving was called 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* claimed Penguin Books and academic Deborah Lipstadt were part of an organised attempt to destroy his career and "vandalise" his legitimacy as a historian.

He said the hatred generated by their book *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory* had robbed him of financial security.

But Penguin and Professor Lipstadt, holder of the Dorot Chair in Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, denied libel and pleaded 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."

Mr Rampton 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."

Mr Rampton said Mr Irving denied that the Nazis planned and carried out the systematic murder of millions of Jews.

The essence of the case 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, described them, and selflessly provided historical documents both to scholars and the general public of which they had been previously unaware.

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 perversely 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."

The hearing was adjourned until today.

In brief

Tenth on abuse charges is sent for jury trial

A TENTH person charged after a police investigation into abuse at a former National Children's Home in Harrogate during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s is to be tried before a judge and jury.

Cynthia Chandler, 69, who is accused of cruelty and violence at the home in Pannal Ash Road and in Lincoln was sent on bail to York Crown Court when she appeared before Harrogate magistrates yesterday.

Chandler, of Harrogate Road, Moortown, Leeds, faces seven charges of cruelty to boys under 16 by wilfully assaulting, ill-treating or neglecting them. She also faces two allegations of wounding and one of causing actual bodily harm.

All the offences are said to have occurred between 1964 and 1969.

No pleas were entered by Chandler, who will appear before a judge on February 21. She was granted legal aid on condition she pays £14,000 into court by February 11.

Treat for brave widow

A WIDOW who has forgiven her husband's killers and even sent Christmas cards to them in prison has been voted one of the country's bravest women.

Jo Pollard, 57, of Baildon, near Bradford, was chosen by judges from a women's magazine and won a two-day break in a health farm. Her husband Michael was killed when the couple were robbed in Hungary.

Road rage charge dropped

A charge of dangerous driving which followed an alleged road rage incident was dropped yesterday when the accused appeared before Doncaster magistrates.

Joseph Waudby, 36, of Hampton Place, West Hallam, Derbyshire, is still accused of causing actual bodily harm to Kelly Ball and Sarah Manlove, and damaging Miss Ball's car on October 10 on a slip road linking the A1 and M18 near Doncaster.

Waudby, who denies the charges, was remanded on unconditional bail for trial at Doncaster Magistrates Court on a date to be fixed.

The charges follow a late-night incident in which the women claimed they were attacked in their car. Miss Ball needed hospital treatment.

Police case adjourned

THE case of five police officers who were charged following the death of a man in police custody has been adjourned for an inquest to be held.

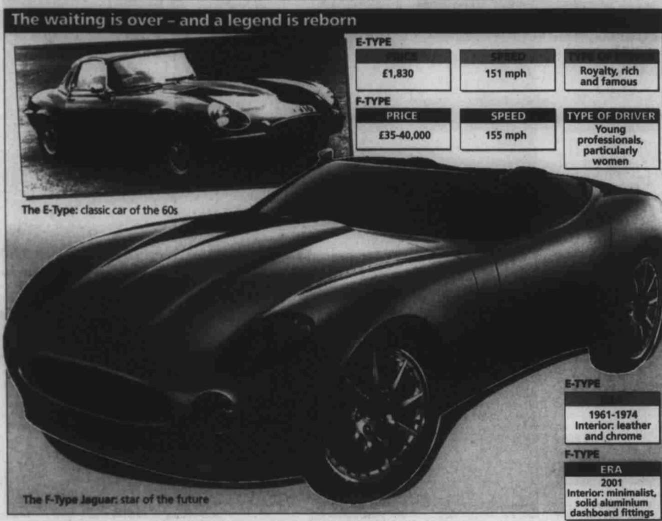
Sgt John Dunn, 38, and PCs Matthew Barr, Nigel Dawson, 37, Neil Blakey, 40, and Mark Ellerington were charged with misconduct in a public office and of failing to take reasonable and proper care of Christopher Alder, who died in Queens Gardens police station, Hull, last April. Mr Alder, 37, had been arrested at Hull Royal Infirmary after an incident in Princes Dock Street in the city.

Emma Noble pregnant

EMMA NOBLE, actress wife of James Major, son of the former Prime Minister, is expecting a baby in June.

The couple were celebrating with her parents at their home in Sidcup last night. Dame Norma Major, who returned with her husband three days ago from South Africa, where they had been watching the cricket, said: "We are all delighted. Emma is very well."

Jaguar takes wraps off 'the new E-type'



The E-Type: classic car of the 60s

The F-Type Jaguar: star of the future

Jane MacDonald

THE E-type Jaguar was the quintessential motoring classic which encapsulated the hedonistic spirit of the 1960s.

And for more than 26 years the big question on motoring enthusiasts' lips has been could the swish car manufacturer do it again.

It would seem so.

Yesterday, at the North American Motor Show in Detroit, Jaguar finally took the wraps of its sleek successor for the new millennium and beyond – the F-type.

Jaguar executives described the new car as the "spiritual successor" to the E-type, which was ahead of its time aerodynamically and capable of 150mph.

The F-type is expected to be in production by 2002 and will cost about £35,000, a similar price tag to that for a Porsche Boxster or a Mercedes SLK.

Jaguar is targeting younger drivers, particularly women, hoping to introduce a new generation to the legendary styling and pace of the original.

The F-type's interior is "minimalist" with switches and controls fashioned from solid aluminium. Its top speed will be artificially limited to 155mph "for safety reasons".

It will have a 240hp AJ-V6 engine, as used in the S-type saloon, with a supercharged 300hp version likely to follow.

Smaller than the XK180, the F-type has the characteristic long bonnet and short rear overhang of the E-type to give equal weight distribution and excellent handling.

Although still at concept stage, there is unlikely to be a shortage of buyers once the car goes into production.

David Sowden, general manager, of Minster Jaguar in York, said yesterday: "I think Jaguar are testing the water to see what the reaction will be but, judging by the amount of inquiries we've had so far, I think there will be a heck of a lot of interest. The price tag also opens up a whole new market."

It was in 1961 that Jaguar created a sensation at the Geneva Motor Show when it unveiled a road-going E-type with a top speed of 150mph. It was designed to satisfy company founder Sir William Lyons's wish for a car that combined sports performance with the comfort of a luxury saloon.

E-types, with a price tag of £1,830, became the car of choice for celebrities and royals. A total of 72,520 rolled off the production line over 10 years, with 60 per cent going to America. Production stopped in 1974 when the gas-guzzling 5.3-litre V12 engine fell foul of the petrol crisis and exhaust emission tests.

The car has become a collector's item, with prices soaring to £100,000 in the 1980s before falling back.

In 1996 the Museum of Modern Art in New York displayed an early E-type in its permanent collection.

Jail, fines and driving bans for child support offenders

PARENTS who persistently fail to pay their child support could face jail or fines or have their driving licences taken away under new legislation unveiled by Social Security Secretary Alistair Darling yesterday.

The Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Bill would scrap the current complicated system of calculating child support rates and replace it with a fairer, faster and simpler system, he said.

During the Second Reading debate, Mr Darling said the old Child Support Agency had "failed children". Of the 1.5 million youngsters on its books, only 300,000 gained from maintenance paid and only 100,000 of these saw all the money that was due.

"Under the new system, mothers and their children will get what they are due, and quickly," he said.

"This Bill will abolish the existing complex formula and introduce simpler rates and more predictable decisions.

"Decisions will be made within days of an application, rather than within months. Money will get faster flowing and everyone will know where they stand."

Mr Darling stressed: "Where someone deliberately delays in paying money to their children, then we will impose a new penalty of a charge of up to 25 per cent of the money due until they actually pay it.

"We are also taking powers to make a temporary arrangement where there is difficulty in getting information from people."

He declared: "As a last resort, if somebody will not pay, if they will not co-operate, then the courts will be given the power not only to imprison people but if necessary, at the court's discretion, to remove their driving licence."

The Bill also withdraws or reduces benefit to offenders who breach their community sentences.

And it reforms the State Earnings Related Pensions System with the State Second Pension.

On pensions, Mr Darling said that by 2050, if nothing was done to reform Serps, one in three people risked depending on means-tested benefit in retirement. The State Second Pension would, in some cases, "triple the amount of additional pension low-earners will be entitled to".

"We are helping 4.5 million low-paid, six million moderate earners, two million carers and two million disabled people with broken work records by reforming Serps, making it better through the introduction of the State Second Pension," said Mr Darling.

Serps was designed to supplement the Basic State Pension, but it did not do enough for the low-paid, carers and disabled people with broken work records, he said.

"Under Serps, a person on £6,000 a year, after a lifetime of employment, will get £14 a week on top of their basic state pension.

"Under the State Second Pension, that sum will rise to £54 a week. That's a full £40 a week extra."

Mr Darling insisted that "everyone who can save should save".

Mr Darling said he was determined to introduce the reforms as quickly as possible, but only once a new information technology system was in place.

Burglar claims sex 'by consent'

A BURGLAR accused of raping a woman whose house he broke into insisted in court that she had had sex with him willingly.

"That is the truth, that was the way it happened," Christopher MacDonald told Leeds Crown Court yesterday.

Under cross-examination by Christopher Attwooll, prosecuting, MacDonald maintained that the woman was lying when she claimed he had raped her at knifepoint and subjected her to a terrifying sexual ordeal while her five-year-old daughter was in bed beside her.

He said he saw no child in the bed at the time he had sex, and when he left the woman was tidying the bed, not screaming for help as she claims.

MacDonald, 40, of Recreation Mount, Holbeck, Leeds, denies raping the woman at her home in north Leeds on March 31 last year. He has admitted burglary.

He told the jury he was an alcoholic and intended to steal drink or money but made a noise when he got in.

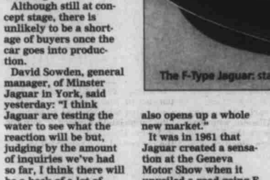
He realised someone was in the flat when he saw the door handle being turned. He grabbed hold of it to prevent anyone getting into the kitchen. He later went into the living room and saw the woman sitting on her bed. He told her he was a burglar and would not hurt her.

MacDonald said he took £20 from the woman's purse and then they began talking together and she asked him to sit down.

She kissed him, he got on to the bed and the two of them had sex. He claimed she became irritated and called him a bastard when he refused to return her money.

The trial continues.

Held-up Millennium party-goers offered free trip to the Dome



Star attraction: Queues of people wait to enter the Millennium Dome's top draw, the Body Zone.

THOUSANDS of guests who took hours to reach the Millennium Dome's opening party on New Year's Eve are to receive compensation, Dome organisers said yesterday.

All 6,500 people who travelled from Stratford station in east London will be offered a free Dome visit as well as vouchers worth £15 to be spent on food, drink and merchandising at the attraction in Greenwich, south London.

The chief executive of the New Millennium Experience Company, Jennie Page, said: "People will be able to come back and see the zones and the Millennium Show in happier circumstances."

The company said yesterday that 3,000 people were delayed at Stratford but that the offer was open to all 6,500 who travelled via the station.

Delays in sending out invitations by post meant many guests had to pick up their tickets at Stratford. This added to the chaos created by the need for everyone to pass through security screening at the station.

Some guests did not reach the Dome until after 10.30pm.

NMEC said the voucher scheme would cost it £130,000, which would come from the company's marketing and customer service budget.

Ms Page said: "We recognise that many people coming through Stratford on New Year's Eve did not arrive in time to see the zones.

"The ticket vouchers we are providing mean they will be able to come back, with their guests and see the zones and the Millennium Show in happier times."

Those taking up the offer will be provided with a souvenir brochure on arrival and they will also be able to reserve a seat for the Millennium Show performance of their choice.

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