

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

NEWS

generation

ROCK veterans The Who have announced a reunion tour.

Pete Townshend, Roger Daltrey and John Entwistle are to begin touring the US in June as part of a package bill including former Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page performing with the Black Crowes.

The tour is scheduled to start on June 25 in Chicago and will continue until October, according to on-line magazine CDNow.

Drummer Zak Starkey, son of The Beatles' Ringo Starr, will take the place of Keith Moon who died in 1978.

The band, famed for such rock classics as Pinball Wizard and Substitute, will be playing mostly old material.

"When we play new songs, half the audience goes to the bathroom or to the bar," said Daltrey.

Meeting call over ship yards

UNIONS are to demand a clear-the-air meeting with the Ministry of Defence amid mounting fears that British shipyards could lose out to Germany for a lucrative order.

Reports that Germans are undercutting British yards by as much as 50% have alarmed workers at a Glasgow shipyard which is part of a consortium bidding for the order to build and operate six ferries, potentially worth £1 billion in total.

Engineering union official Danny Carrigan said unions would meet in Glasgow tomorrow, and he is to meet Trade and Industry Secretary Stephen Byers in London on Thursday.

The former Govan Shipbuilders yard in Glasgow, formerly part of the Norwegian-based Kvaerner group but owned by BAE Systems, is part of a consortium bidding for a six-ship order to be awarded under the successor to the Private Finance Initiative.

The £1 billion order is for four roll-on/roll-off ferries for both military and civil use.

LOCAL SHARES

Atlantic Telecom 402
598
Forth Ports 550
Aberdeen Asset 600

UPDATE

Pound/dollar: at 0458
1.5800 Dow Jones index up
3,2304 75.08 at 1118.56
FTSE 100 down 75.4 Gold: \$281.2

POPULAR SHARES

Abbey Nat 803 1/2 XD 10 1/4
Alliance & L 067 1/2 XD + 1 1/2
Anglian 532 + 17
BP Amoco 553 + 10 1/2
Brit Aero 380 XD + 3
Brit Airways 358 1/2 XD
British Energy 182 - 2
Centrica 250 + 4 1/2
Corus 103 XD
Eurotel 70 1/2 XD
Hellas 696 XD + 13 1/2
Hydrex 234 + 4
Kiddie 337 + 32
M&S 270 1/2 + 2 1/2
Nat Grid 544 - 1 1/2
Nat Power 337 + 1 1/2

FROM HOME & ABROAD

● **SECOND RUN:** The BBC has commissioned a second season of new Reeves and Mortimer show Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased).

Rover deal 'conflict' allegation

THE venture capital company proposing to take over car giant Rover from BMW was today reported to have withdrawn co-operation from Trade Secretary Stephen Byers' Longbridge taskforce.

Alchemy Partners claims there is a potential conflict of interest between taskforce chairman Alex Stephenson and his brother Nick, who the company said was involved in a rival bid for the plant.

A national newspaper today said Alchemy managing partner Jon Moulton wrote to Mr Byers claiming Nick Stephenson, a former Rover design and engineering director, was involved in an alternative bid fronted by ex-Rover chief executive John Towers.

The letter, partly printed in the newspaper, said: "This is obviously an unacceptable basis for us to continue with the taskforce and we will not be doing so."

A Department of Trade and Industry spokeswoman said today: "The Department does not believe that there has been a conflict of interest."

Tension rises in Zimbabwe

ZIMBABWE'S parliament was set to be dissolved today amid rising political tensions over illegal occupations of white-owned farms.

President Robert Mugabe has spoken of an election date next month but the preparations are far from complete.

There are fears that with parliament no longer sitting, the land ownership dispute could escalate.

Attacks by supporters of Mugabe's Zanu-PF party have led many of Zimbabwe's white farmers to abandon their homes. Since February thousands of squatters — many of them war veterans — have occupied hundreds of farms.

Opponents of the president say he is using the issue to attract support after his unprecedented defeat two months ago in a referendum on a new constitution.

Actor dies

LARRY LINVILLE, best known for his portrayal of the power-hungry and neurotic Maj Frank Burns on the TV show MASH, has died at a New York cancer hospital at the age of 60.

Linville, part of a cast which included Alan

Author faces ruin

Irving loses Holocaust libel

HISTORIAN David Irving was facing ruin today after a High Court judge rejected his libel action and branded him a "Holocaust denier".

The 62-year-old author had sued American academic Deborah Lipstadt and publishers Penguin over her 1994 book, Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory.

Irving claimed the book had destroyed his livelihood and generated waves of hatred against him.

But delivering judgment today, Mr Justice Gray said "Irving has for his own ideological reasons persistently and deliberately misrepresented and manipulated historical evidence."

The judge said that "for the same reasons he has portrayed Hitler in an unwarrantedly favourable light, principally in relation to his attitude towards and responsibility for the treatment of the Jews."

Irving sat red-faced and shirt-sleeved, staring at the desk in front of him, as the judge said he also

found that the author "is an active Holocaust denier; that he is anti-Semitic and racist and that he associates with right-wing extremists."

The judge said there were certain defamatory imputations which he had found to be defamatory of Irving, but said that in his judgment the charges against him which have been proved to be true were of "sufficient gravity" for it to be clear that the failure to prove the truth of other matters did not have any material effect on Irving's reputation.

He said that "in the result therefore the defence of justification succeeds."

The publishers and Professor Lipstadt, 53, holder of the Dorot chair in Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, denied libel and pleaded justification.

Irving, of Duke Street, Mayfair, who represented himself in the 32-day action, had told Mr Justice Gray that there was no basis for the book's claim that he had distorted statistics and documents to serve his own ideological purposes and reach historically untenable conclusions. Professor Lipstadt hugged and kissed her supporters as the session began.

Irving, who claims he is facing financial ruin and was backed by 400 supporters, is now likely to face costs of £2 million.

Eldred Tabachnik, QC, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, welcomed today's judgment.

Mr Irving was refused leave to appeal although



● **UNDER FIRE:** David Irving tries to avoid eggs thrown at him as he arrived at the High court in London today.

he can pursue his application directly with the Court of Appeal. Costs will be decided at a later date.

Deborah Lipstadt said afterwards: "I feel exceptionally vindicated in what has been five years of excruciating effort on my part."

Dad, 25, held in baby case

THE father of a five-month-old child is being questioned by police about an assault which left his son critically ill with head injuries, it emerged today.

The 25-year-old man is still in custody after being arrested by Northumbria Police officers in connection with the assault at a station on the Tyne and Wear Metro network.

Police released three youths on bail pending further inquiries.

Today the child remained "very gravely ill" in the intensive care unit at Newcastle's General Hospital, a police spokeswoman said.

Dr Robert Bullock said the child was unlikely to survive.

The boy was found in his pram by police officers on Sunday afternoon at Manors Metro station.

BRITAIN IN BRIEF

Man shot

● **ULSTER:** A 23-year-old man was in hospital today after being shot in a paramilitary-style attack in Northern Ireland. The RUC said the victim was in a bedroom at his family's home in Elwer Avenue, Toomebridge, Co Antrim, at 9.15pm last night.

A spokesman said: "Two men entered, ran up the stairs and dragged him on to the landing where they shot him in the left ankle."

The gunmen fled the scene in a silver-coloured car.

Great Scottish Run

● **GLASGOW:** Sir Jimmy Saville was in Glasgow today to help launch this year's Mothers Pride Great Scottish Run.

The event, which will take place on August 20, has become the second biggest half marathon in the UK and this year will include a full marathon to mark the millennium.

Since it was first run in 1982, the event has raised almost £20 million for charity.

13 pupils hurt

● **BEDFORD:** At least 13 children were injured, one seriously, when their school bus was involved in a collision with a lorry, police said today.

The youngsters, aged 13-15, were believed to have been on their way to St Gregory's Roman Catholic School in Bedford when the accident happened at 7.40am in Gypsy Lane, Broom, south east of the town.

The injured children were taken to Bedford General Hospital, but details of injuries were still sketchy, said a Bedfordshire Police spokeswoman.

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