

Property guard hit man with truncheon

ON A SUNDAY afternoon Mr Fred Davies, aged 50, took his dog for a walk across a patch of land in Netherley.

He went along a well-trodden path next to a firm called Hemmings Plastics, watched the golf on a course nearby, and started training his dog to obey commands.

Suddenly a man appeared in a blue boiler suit. He said he was a property guard, and told him to "get off this fucking land."

Mr Davies said he would first have to put his dog on the lead. An argument developed.

Then the property guard stepped back. From his right trouser pocket he drew a three-and-a-half foot long metal truncheon.

One end was loaded with lead and there was a small nail protruding. Also scrawled on it was the word "Ouch!"

Weilding this weapon, the property guard hit Mr Davies on the left side of his head.

Mr Terence Shields, a young man who saw everything, said: "There was a horrible sound. The guard knocked him clean off his feet."

Mr Davies had a three-inch cut on his head, and was unconscious when taken to hospital.

The casualty doctor found Mr Davies had a fractured skull, and that his brain had been damaged causing the right side of his face to become



HEADQUARTERS of Alsa Securities

paralysed.

At first during his five days in hospital Mr Davies couldn't talk and couldn't read.

The incident happened on May 25. Today Mr Davies is still having speech therapy lessons. He talks slowly and with a stutter, and reads with difficulty.

The case highlights the dangers of the private police forces which are

used to protect property.

On November 13 the guard, Mr Stephen Sawyer, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

Yet Mr Sawyer wasn't the only person to blame.

In court one police officer pointed out that private security guards are often armed with weapons such as pick-axe handles.

And Mr Sawyer said he was given his lethal truncheon by his employer ... Alsa Securities.

Alsa Securities is a small, mysterious firm. Its office — if the firm still exists — is a semi-boarded up terraced house in Joliffe Street, Toxteth. A Mr Osborne runs the firm.

No doubt Hemmings Plastics employed Alsa Securities just because it was a cheap operation with cheap rates.

And it was said in court that Hemmings had given orders that no-one should be allowed on their land which surrounds their factory.

Not only can anyone set up these property guard firms, but anyone can be employed.

The guard, Mr Sawyer, was hardly an ideal choice. He had previous convictions for a number of small offences. And there was even one for assault on a police officer. And at his trial he was sentenced to another year's jail for two other offences.

Mr Sawyer had a number of personal problems which made him tense. He was split up from his wife and children.

He also said he was nervous because just before he had seen Mr Davies he had been bothered by some men who said they would return later.

But more importantly, Mr Sawyer had been unemployed for four years. He had become a property guard as this was the only job he could get.



EMBARRASSING times for Judge Neil McKinnon, presently presiding over the 14 conspirators at the Old Bailey.

One of his daughters earns a living as the kind of model the News of the World loves to expose.

The Festival of Lighters seem to think this disqualifies her father from judging pornography cases.

Begs the question of whether six years in the RAF doesn't disqualify daddy from judging an incitement to disaffection case?



UNDERTAKERS in Sydney, Australia, have refused to bury anyone whose death is advertised in the Sydney Daily Telegraph. This follows a report in the paper of the undertakers' annual picnic. It said that the 300 men drank "some thousands" of cans of beer.

The undertakers' union complained: "People will think we're just a bunch of social misfits."

Name will be preserved

The old name of Thermopylae Pass is to be preserved in the naming of a development of 24 flats off Vyner Road South, Oxton, although planners feel it is not the easiest word to spell.

The flats are in six blocks on the site of The Cottage, fronting onto hermopylae and Wirral Borough Council planning committee has agreed that the development should be called Thermopylae Court.

Birkenhead News

WHEN teacher Pauline Dunhill went to Bow Street police station to offer to stand bail for a man friend, she was turned down on the grounds that, being a woman, she "would not have the physical strength to drag him into court if he did not want to go."

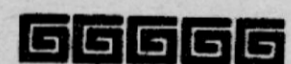


A MAN was attacked by a lion as he was making a business call at a house in Fradley Heath, near Dudley.

The lion, weighing 220 pounds, pounced on Mr Arthur Thompson, pinning him to the ground and ripping his clothes.

He managed to crawl to safety under a parked van and was later treated for scratches and shock.

Mr Thompson had failed to see the "Beware of the Lion" sign outside the house.



SOUTH WALES police were informed that a man was taking pictures of himself with his trousers off in one of those 'photograph yourself' kiosks.

When they apprehended him he said: "I thought it was a public lavatory".

Smyth seeks safer seat

BILL SMYTH is on the move again. The Leader of the Liberal Party has never been a man to put his Party before himself.

He fled to the Liberal Party soon after failing to get the nomination for a safe Labour seat.

And, once again, he's decided to desert a sinking ship.

Smyth is up for re-election next May and he knows his council seat in Childwall will be swept away. The Tories have already captured the two other seats in the ward.

So Smyth is sniffing round for a nice safe seat.

He's fixed his beady eyes on the plumb Liberal seat of Broadgreen.

But voters in Church ward beware! Smyth has also thought of taking a bite at this, the oldest Liberal ward in the city.

And what if the Liberal organisations in these two wards didn't wholly admire Smyth's primitive instinct for self-preservation?

Well, of course, there's still the Tory Party...

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'No work' claim as painters are sacked

ONE of the reasons given by Sefton Council for sacking 27 painters was that there was not enough work for them.

Strange, then, that a week after the redundancies were announced, Housing Manager K.R. Parkinson wrote to a councillor about the "backlog of external painting."

Parkinson was answering a query from Independent councillor Dave Dent about a particular council house.

But the main reason for sacking the painters was, of course, that the council have to curb spending by order of the Labour Government. So 27 out of their 93 painters will be thrown onto the dole.

The redundancies were agreed without a fight from the men's union, UCATT.

And UCATT convenor Don McConnochie even went so far as to issue a joint statement explaining the cuts with Sefton's Chief Executive, John "Papa Mac" McElroy.

Engineers resist telephone cuts

LIVERPOOL telephone engineers are resisting Post Office plans to economise by cutting the service to telephone users.

The Post Office want to save money by taking longer to correct faulty telephones. This would mean less overtime for the engineers involved.

Until recently the Post Office aimed to correct 75% of all major faults the day they were reported.

But recently they have agreed with the Post Office Engineering Union nationally that this would be spread over two days — not counting weekends.

Under the agreement, a telephone fault reported on a Friday could wait until the following Tuesday to be fixed.

And, of course, there would be no need for any engineers to work overtime on Saturdays, as at present.

But so far the Liverpool men have refused to go along with the national agreement. They say the telephone service must be maintained — at a

time when 600,000 subscribers a year are giving up their phones.

The Post Office economy drive follows last year's record losses of £307 millions — the biggest losses in Britain. Similar losses are expected this year.

But, as the Liverpool telephone engineers explain in a pamphlet, there is a lot more to these figures than meets the eye:

● Post Office Telecommunications is the largest investor in the country. To finance this investment, money is borrowed at high interest rates. Last year, interest amounted to £311 millions — more than the total losses.

● Unlike private firms, the Post Office use the replacement cost of equipment (instead of the original cost) to work out the depreciation in its value — which has to be set against any profits.

But none of this will stop the Post Office management trying to use their losses to justify cutting both their wages bill and the level of service to customers.

Man goes for trial

JOHN LANNON, the Kirkby man who over a dozen witnesses saw kicked and punched by police when he was arrested at the Woodpecker pub, Northwood, is to appear in Liverpool Crown Court on nine charges.

He was committed to the Crown Court by Kirkby magistrates on November 10.

The charges are: Theft of four dozen tins of dog food; criminal damage to a car; three charges of damaging policemen's shirts; three charges of assaulting police; and trespassing with intent to steal.

He pleaded not guilty to all the charges. The defence asked for a full oral committal. This meant that the evidence of the prosecution witnesses was noted down and signed by them.

The witnesses were Mr Thomas Conway, former licensee of the Wood

pecker, and his wife Gladys Conway, who said they now lived in Leigh. Their daughter Jane and Collette Hamid.

The three police who arrested John Lannon also gave evidence. They were Constables Alistair Thomas Frew (No. 3890), Norman Wilcock (3268), and David Roberts (4540), all in the Merseyside Police stationed at Kirkby.

An application by the defence for two counsel to represent Mr Lannon at the trial was refused.

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