

Brain damaged in hospital, man claims

A man treated at a private psychiatric hospital at Pennant Hills had suffered permanent brain damage because of temporary deprivation of oxygen, it was claimed in the Supreme Court yesterday.

The patient, Barry Francis Hart, 44, is claiming damages from a psychiatrist, Dr John T. Herron, and from FHCH Pty Ltd (Fairfield Heights Community Hospital Pty Ltd).

FHCH Pty Ltd is the proprietor of the hospital which, at the time (1973) was known as Chelmsford Private Hospital.

Mr Hart is a former gymnasium owner, model and actor, but is now unemployed.

In his opening address to the jury and Mr Justice Fisher, Mr Edward St. John, QC (for Mr Hart) said that in 1972 Mr Hart underwent plastic surgery to remove bags under his eyes.

Mr St John said the surgery had been unsuccessful, resulting in hollows under his eyes, particularly his right eye.

He consulted Dr Herron about depression and, on February 28, 1973, was admitted to Chelmsford Hospital for treatment.

Mr St John alleged that as a combined result of deep sleep treatment and electric shock treatment, both performed at Chelmsford Hospital, Mr Hart suffered permanent brain injury.

"The man who walked into

Chelmsford Hospital and emerged from it three weeks later was basically two different people," Mr St John said.

"So far as his memory, learning skills and personality are concerned he was a different man due to a temporary deprivation of oxygen, both from the deep sleep treatment and shock treatment."

Mr Hart, of Woodburn Avenue, Panania, said that in 1972, after plastic surgery to remove bags from under his eyes but which he claimed left him with hollows under his eyes, he became "very concerned, anxious and worried."

He saw Dr Herron on five or six occasions between October and December, 1972.

Mr Hart said he spoke to Dr Herron on the phone in February, 1973, when the doctor said: "The best thing for us to do is put you into hospital for a couple of weeks and we will get rid of that depression once and for all."

He said that when he went to Chelmsford Hospital on February 28, 1973, he refused to sign a form which a receptionist told him would give permission for him to receive shock treatment.

Mr Hart said a nurse gave him a tablet which she said would "settle him down" and he took it.

Mr St. John: What happened then?

Mr Hart: Everything went black.

The hearing will resume today.

Stadium plan wins backing of union

By PETER KENNEDY, Industrial Correspondent

The Liquor Trades Union has supported the controversial proposal for a \$12 million football stadium at Cumberland Oval in Parramatta Park.

The Union's State secretary, Mr John Morris, said yesterday that the union executive had supported the plan unanimously.

The NSW Government has approved in principle plans by the Parramatta Rugby Club to redevelop the oval to cater for up to 50,000 spectators.

The issue has split Labor Party branches in the area and Mr Tom Uren, the Federal Opposition front-bencher, opposed it.

But Mr Morris, who is also a State Labor MP, said the plan had the support of his union's members employed in surrounding clubs and hotels and he could not understand why there should be any opposition.

"It will provide more employment for our members and be a significant venture for the area," he said.

Mr Uren said in an earlier letter to Labor Party members in the area that he recognised that Parramatta badly needed sporting and cultural facilities.

But he was deeply concerned that the stadium would have long-term environmental and political implications.

A rather frightening preview



The La Claca Theatre Company of Catalonia rehearsed outside the Opera House yesterday while its sets were erected. The company starts *Death to the Bogeyman* in the Opera Theatre tonight.