

# THE SPIDER'S WEB

## NICE TOUCH...

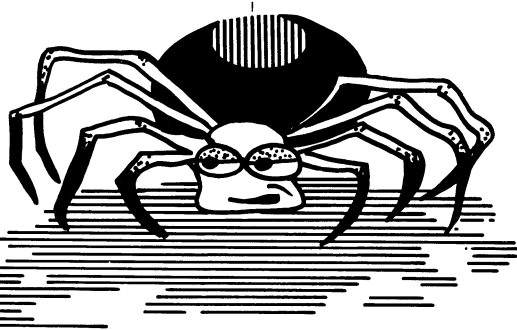
Family law is an odd vocation. The husband caused the wife to be locked in the court cells "for her own protection." Husband then pulled out a very sharp knife from his bag and was brandishing it at the wife in court. Turned out it was the knife with which the couple cut their wedding cake in happier days. Police took possession of the wedding knife. Magistrate handing down verdict and the husband dived into his bag again and emerged with an object that could be described as a marital aid. Colour? Gold. Brandishing that it in the general direction of his wife, he yelled: "You took everything else but you left this."

## NUMBERS GAME

Anyone notice how collective counsel for the defence in a certain case counted the jurors this time?

## CAMERA SHY

Practitioner in the High Court in Melbourne on the day the political advertising decision came down. Spent a great deal of time dodging TV cameras in the precincts. Why? Didn't want his mother-in-law to know he was in town so he could avoid yet another family dinner...



## HOLIER THAN THOU

*Redback* hears that a head honcho of another Society takes his power and position very seriously. Has been reported to have said to several staffers: "I am God!" Oh, dear...

## THAT'S BIG

Victoria last month had a "Spring Offensive" which entailed a callover of every cause and jury list and every personal injury matter which didn't involve a point of law. They were all referred for mediation. This "offensive" is similar to Settlement Week in NSW and Qld. Should clear the courts somewhat...

## UH-OH

And still in Victoria, the Registrar of Probate has discovered thousands of wills which, because they've been witnessed by a partner of the solicitor nominated as trus-

tee, negate the impact of the charge clause because the attesting witness is not eligible for a legacy [basic trust law, *Redback* is informed]. Arguably, this could also extend to employees of the firm on the basis of indirect benefit. Apparently the problem was discovered in NSW some years ago but it's new in Victoria and affects thousands of wills. The Law Institute has set about making all firms aware of the problem and having it rectified where the testator/testatrix is still alive. In the event that a testator/testatrix has kicked off, the charge clause is unenforceable.

## BAMBINO

The Society's longest serving staffer, Jodie Markwell, has commenced 12 months maternity leave. *Redback* wishes Jodie and Peter all the best. The new voice at the end of the phone will be that of Julie Davis.

## LEGEND

Southern road safety campaign slogan: "If you drink and drive home, you're a bloody idiot." T-shirt in response: "If you drink and make it home, you're a bloody legend."