

## ARBITRARY JUSTICE

Our man in New Guinea sent some clips from the national daily, the Murdoch-owned *Post Courier*. One clip deals with a judge of the National Court who jailed his driver for a month for contempt. The judge said the driver embarrassed him and put his life at risk by not turning up at an airport on time. Fortunately, the hapless driver was released on a bond a day or two later by the Chief Justice.

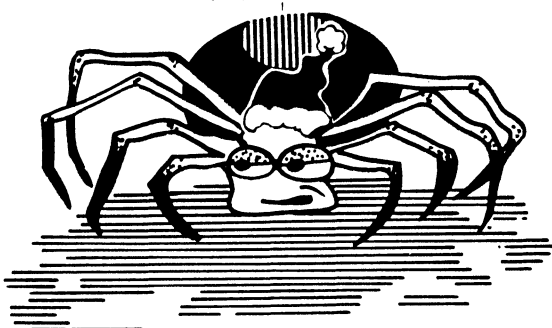
## LEGAL ALTERNATIVE

Another clip deals with a fellow who was gaoled for practising sorcery outside the National and District Court building in Rabaul. It says: "He told the District Court that he was paid K40 by another man, who was standing trial...to use sorcery to free him from conviction. Very early on Wednesday while the town still slept, Tonako spilt lime from a limepot, mixed together with crushed human bones outside the court house."

## OUT, OUT, OUT

A third article deals with an expatriate lawyer from Blake Dawson Waldron whose application for a judicial review of his deportation order has been refused by Foreign Affairs Minister, Sir Michael Somare.

# THE SPIDER'S WEB



## FLAT WHITE?

Crossed wires in a restaurant. Five of the six diners ordered coffee. Coffee duly arrived, the waiter having forgotten who ordered what. Said to the sixth person: "Flat white?" Diner said: "Yes, please." Coffee placed in front of diner. Diner said: "I didn't order coffee." Waiter not amused. Confusion: Waiter referring to coffee; diner referring to the type of wine she was consuming in lieu.

## REMINDER

*Redback* would like it noted that he received only one box of chocolates last festive season (and much appreciated they were, too). Surely more is deserved by the dedicated staff of the Law Society for their hard work throughout the year. Preferences run to smoked salmon, caviar and fine champagne. And on the issue of the festive season, *Redback* wishes everyone a very jolly season, a damn fine break and lots of taxi travel.

## NATURAL TALENT

'tis the festive season, we know. 'tis also the silly season, by all accounts. Specifically, the season has seen the Solicitor-General, Tom Pauling QC, at the Marrara Indoor Stadium assuming the role of the evil magician in a wacky version of *Aladdin & the Magic*

*Lamp*. Richard Coates (Director, NT Legal Aid) and Jon Tippet (James Muirhead Chambers) play Eunuchs (!!). The rather rotund John Spellman (Mississippi Queen and Sister of Perpetual Indulgence fame) plays the Genie of the Lamp. Peter Morgan (also an SPI) plays *Sunsilk*, the magician's wife's hairdresser. The magician's wife is played by former lawyer and now Exec Officer of Brown's Mart, Ken Conway. The season has also seen the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate, Ian Gray, assuming the role of a snotty-nosed media guru at a performance reading of David Williamson's *Money and Friends*.

## HAVE YOU SEEN A FORD...LATELY?

He's done it again. Cameron Ford appears to be missing in action. Despite his protestations that he was back and would remain until late January, no one can find him. Once again, rumours abound. Where for art thou?