

BEAUTY (To D)  
by Kim Birtles

Two lone glad doves are sighing on the roof,  
Sending in mournful notes to the stars  
A faint tremble of wailing joy; the wind  
Is carolling, too, - on his lute low-crying  
An infinite gladness, echoing round  
The walls...Lie still, dear, and rest awhile,  
Contentedly, our longing now appeased,  
Till we fall, like dreaming snowflakes, far  
Into a void of delightful sleep...  
Like a gentle wind, I feel you breathing,  
And a still joy murmuring,  
dovelikey, through your blood  
In satisfied desire...  
Oh, two hot stars  
Leapt up in your mad clasp and kissed  
The moon, now glowing o'er  
the window ledge,  
And blotted out my mind...  
And now, you warm  
Still things are beautiful as any flower,  
Huddled snug to me...How sweet you are!  
A satisfying relaxation sleeps  
Upon your limbs, all beautifully white  
As ivory, warm as its touch is cold  
Beneath me, and the fragrant roses spill  
Their perfume from the jar.  
Your moonlit hair  
Is on the pillow...Oh, move not, dearest,  
Unfold not your warm limbs about me; let  
Me kiss your mouth, your eyes,  
your forehead  
And your breasts...oh, hold you  
ever in my arms,  
And passionately love your  
beauty not aloof...  
Dearest, you are so GLAD, glad as those  
Two birds, aloft, still sighing on the roof.

RECESS  
by Shale Preston

We found your wife  
Making love to another woman  
In a shower recess  
I was intrigued  
She was alarmed  
You were devastated  
Back in the taxi  
You removed your wooden leg  
Folded it into a concertina shape  
And stuffed it into the glovebox  
Making furious strokes  
Through your hair  
With your large hands  
You regaled me  
With the defects of womankind  
Unconvinced  
I asked  
What could you expect  
You had arrived unannounced  
And changerooms  
Are afterall  
Places of private convenience

*How times change. The poem on the left, written by Kim Birtles to his fiancée Dora, got him expelled and her suspended from Sydney University in 1923. The poem above is the 1991 winner of the Henry Lawson Prize for Poetry, a competition which is open to undergraduates at Sydney University. Both were found in The Gazette, the Sydney Uni Alumni Club magazine.*

## New service for members

Another Darwin business has joined other businesses offering discounts to Law Society members.

*Michaels Motors* have offered a 10 per cent discount on servicing, parts and labour, 10 per cent discount on parts and accessories, excluding sale items, and a 10 per cent discount on windscreens from used cars valued up to \$10,000 and six percent on those valued at more than \$10,000.

They also offer fleet discount on new Subaru, Audi and Volkswagen motor vehicles.

John Nicholls of *Michaels Motors* has also offered a leasing package on an exchange buy-back system.

For example, purchase a new Subaru Liberty Sedan or Station Wagon through *Michaels Motors'* leasing company for three or four years at \$X which is a straight tax deduction.

At the end of the lease, *Michaels Motors* will either (a) take the vehicle back and take on a new lease on a new vehicle with the balance owing on the first vehicle being paid out at no cost; or (b) take the vehicle back at no cost and purchase another vehicle.

Any purchases or leasing agreements must be undertaken in conjunction with the Executive Officer in order to qualify for special rates.

Production of your membership card is required to qualify for discounts. Anyone who would like to know about other discounts on products and services available to members should contact the Society on 815104.

### **BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION LAW IN THE NT**

**CLE SEMINAR  
PRESENTED BY  
IAN BRIGGS OF  
PHILIP & MITAROS  
TUESDAY 5 MAY 1992  
5.00PM  
COURT NO 2,  
NICHOLS PLACE.**

## Tribute paid to Ridsdale

The Minister for Education, Shane Stone, paid tribute to Mary Ridsdale during the last parliamentary sittings. "Tonight," he said, "I pay tribute to a person who commenced her articles of clerkship in the law on 10 February 1942, just nine days prior to the bombing of Darwin.

"What is remarkable about this lady is that, 50 years later, she is still working as a practising solicitor in the Northern Territory.

"That lady is Mary Ridsdale," Mr Stone said.

"Mary pursued a professional career when it was not fashionable for women to do so. She had withdrawn from the workforce to raise a family when she was untimely widowed.

"She worked with Aboriginal Legal Aid to ensure that some of the most disadvantaged in our community were

given a fair shake.

"And she completely ignored the public sector's statutory retirement age of 60.

"Mary has an enviable track record. She has worked in Melbourne, Bairnsdale, and Papua New Guinea where she was the Deputy Public Solicitor in Rabaul.

"She has worked with KRALAS in Katherine and is currently with the venerable but not so old legal firm of Buckley and Stone.

"It requires a person of extraordinary versatility, flexibility and the openness of mind to practise over such a period.

"I am sure she finds this 50th anniversary no big deal. Having passed the age when most people are compelled to retire, she still shows no sign of stopping," Mr Stone said.