

Fewer jobs for grads

Fewer of Australia's law graduates are finding jobs in the profession, according to a recent report in *The Age*.

The newspaper reported the proportion of graduates joining firms had fallen for the third year in a row, but added that many were finding work in other areas, such as administration, accounting and the like.

Despite this news, law and medicine were the only two areas displaying consistently strong job figures last year.

In 1993, 91.6 per cent of all law graduates who were available for full-time work found employment, which was down from 96.3 per cent in 1992. The proportion who reported their occupation as lawyer was 78.1 per cent, down from 85.1 per cent in 1992 and 85.9 per cent in 1991.

Seeing red over black civil rights

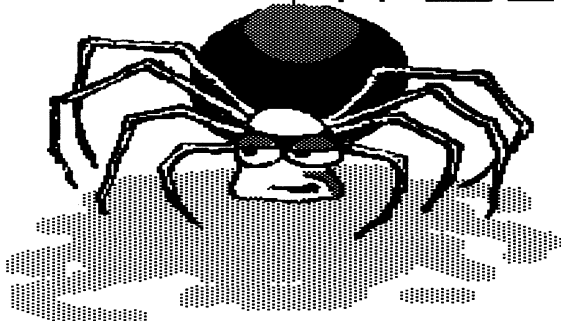
The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) have similar concerns with civil rights.

Black American lawyer Anthony Griffin never thought he would be forced to choose between them.

Griffin, a member of both the NAACP and the ACLU, was asked by the ACLU to represent a branch of the Ku Klux Klan against the State of Texas, which wanted to possess the Klan's membership list and by-laws. Staunch civil libertarian Griffin took on the job, reports the *ABA Journal* (US). "Because it was the Klan I was defending, I thought about it, but came to the conclusion that the Bill of Rights applies to everyone, even the people or groups you dislike or oppose," Griffin said.

The shock to the system of the Klan's grand dragon when he discovered he was to be represented by a black man was matched by the

THE SPIDER'S WEB



outrage of the black community in Galveston, Texas. Griffin managed to convince the Klan he would fight for its rights but, for his troubles, the NAACP sacked him from his position as its general counsel.

(from NSW Law Society Journal, March 1994)

Budget blow-out

Raymond and Mary-Lou Cook recently filed for bankruptcy in Michigan, USA. Their plan was duly approved ... then they won \$6 million in the State lottery.

The Court was prepared to hold that this was a substantial change in circumstances (understatement of the year), so modified their plan so that the creditors received all their money. Ouch!

(Brief, The Law Society of WA, March 1994)

Dead scent

The Law Society of WA recently received an inquiry from solicitors in Ireland, who act for the next of kin of the deceased Edward Guinan.

The letter asks if The Law Society can let them know the solicitor or firm who took over the practice of the person to whom probate was granted, who is no longer practising.

The letter advises that Mr Guinan died on 29 June ... 1924. Good luck fellas!

(Brief, The Law Society of WA, March 1994)

Lawyers tackle vital issues — NOT!

New Idea magazine reports that a group of 40 Brisbane lawyers, aged between 25 and 35, have formed the Sofie Formica Appreciation Society.

The group believes that Sofie, 21, who appears on several TV shows, including *Home and Away*, "represents all that is good and nice in the world" and laud her "charm, innocence and honesty". The Society held a dinner in her honour, which she actually attended. "It was wonderful," Sofie told New Idea. "They really turned it on. They all wanted me to autograph the placemats, which were enlarged pictures of my face." *(Law Institute Journal, via Proctor, Queensland Law Society, 1994)*

New Barrister

Tony Young will practise as a Barrister at William Forster Chambers from 3 May, 1994.



Thought for the month:

HOW TO GET ALONG AT THE OFFICE

- If it rings, put it on hold;
- If it clanks, call the repairman;
- If it whistles, ignore it;
- If it's a friend, take a break;
- If it's a boss, look busy;
- If it talks, take notes;
- If it's handwritten, type it;
- If it's typed, copy it;
- If it's copied, file it;
- If it's Friday, forget it!