

Crystal balls ... US style

Glossy, glamorous American Lawyer magazine has turned 15. Its anniversary issue, like most anniversary issues, is tedious self-congratulation for the most part. But it also makes some interesting predictions of what the legal world will be like in another 15 years:

* The largest supplier of legal services in the world will be an accounting firm.

* Genetic screening of embryos, allowing parents to choose children with "desirable" characteristics, will lead to a wave of negligence suits.

* International legal action will be under way to determine who should pay for cleaning up pollution left by the former Soviet empire.

* Microsoft will have become complacent with success, lose its market dominance and be seeking bankruptcy protection.

We shall see.

(The Gist, The Law Institute Journal of Victoria, June 1994)

When mimicry is not flattery

An articled clerk who had been working in her first job for one week was having a little bit of a difficult time getting on with the secretaries at work.

She appeared to be having some social success one afternoon with an entertaining impersonation of the senior partner of the firm.

The senior partner was apparently a rotund fellow with hair thinning up the top and something of a stutter.

The articled clerk had taped a piece of yellow paper to her head, had three files shoved up her jacket and was apparently droning on in a fairly reasonable impersonation of the senior partner's voice (which Fledglings' Foibles was told is much like the voice of Porky Pig).

She noticed that the secretaries

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who had never liked her before were encouraging her to new heights of humour.

Heartened, she continued to speak louder and become more outrageous in her impersonation of the said partner.

Imagine her horror when she discovered that the senior partner was standing some three feet behind her and that the secretaries' laughter was the sole result of seeing the articled clerk about to lose her job.

(Fledglings' Foibles, Brief, The Law Society of WA, May 1994)

'Monkeys in the toilet'

This intriguing item, titled "Monkeys in the toilet", comes all the way from Malaysia:

*Monkeys in the toilet
I have never seen
And free holidays
There have never been
Truth has ever been twisted
To make the history books clean
And good people
have been murdered
By vested interests using
any other means*

Moustache

The item is listed under the Poems section of a recent edition of Infoline — the monthly magazine of the Bar Council of Malaysia.

Food for thought

Here's good news for stressed out lawyers: a simple seven-day treatment with yoghurt and antibiotics may cure stomach ulcers for life! The yoghurt, containing a cocktail of bacteria naturally found in the human gut, is the latest and most novel weapon developed by Monash University researchers in the 10-year quest for an ulcer cure. The most common treatment for ulcers is

administration of acid-suppressing drugs. Although the ulcers may heal, they recur in more than 80 per cent of patients within a year.

An alternative and more effective therapy with few side-effects is available — one that kills a bacteria thought to cause the ulcers. Associate Professor John Lambert, of the Faculty of Medicine, said "900 people die of duodenal ulcers each year, more than the number from AIDS or motor accidents. All people with these ulcers should have the bacteria treated".

(Univation, March/May 1994)



Thought for the month:

MY JOB

**It's not my place
To run the train
The whistle I can't blow
It's not my place
To say how far
The train's allowed to go
It's not my place to
Shoot off steam
Nor even clang the bell
But let the damn thing
Jump the track ...
AND SEE WHO
CATCHES HELL!**