

Love blooms for one lawyer

Was the practitioner who sent some rather expensive flowers every week during January making a big effort to get out of trouble ... or into it?

Horsing with the VCR

Here's a great story from *Drover's Dog* (Brief, *The Law Society of WA*, December 1994) about a local family law firm which the dog won't name. We'll call it P & D instead.

At Melbourne Cup time all the crew sat down in the boardroom to watch the race — just like the rest of the country.

As they're so organised, they also decided to tape the race, the same way they do every year.

Buttons were pressed and the race run and won.

No-one was surprised that Vintage Crop won again — let's face it, it's a fine horse.

However, while some people had not expected their horses to win they did, in general, expect them to run.

Amid some confusion, it was eventually established that the play rather than the record button had been pressed — and the whole firm had excitedly watched last year's race.

Leading by example

The Law Institute of Victoria's Executive Director, Rob Cornall, bumped into the Attorney-General in the middle of a city street recently.

"She was smiling broadly," Rob reported. "She stopped long enough to explain: 'I'm running late for a meeting. I was going to cross against the red light, but then I said to myself: 'You are the Attorney-General' ...' ."

(*The Gist*,
Law Institute Journal,
The Law Institute of Victoria,
January 1995)

THE SPIDER'S WEB



Standing room only

Sometimes even being at the top just isn't enough.

At a recent Law Society function, a large head table was established for dignitaries, guests and officials from the Society.

Regrettably, the esteemed President Terry Gardner was not among them.

Spider's Web wonders what you have to do to get a decent seat in some places...

Psychotic catalogue

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM to its friends) has gone into its fourth edition, reports *Scientific American*.

The DSM — IV catalogues the behavioural traits of 290-odd different psychoses and neuroses.

While it has long been controversial, courts give great weight to its criteria in compensation cases, so the new edition is good news for sufferers of inhalant-induced anxiety disorder — one of eight new entries.

(*The Gist*,
Law Institute Journal,
The Law Institute of Victoria,
January 1995)

Proceed with caution

Darwin Magistrate Alisdair McGregor has sent *Spider* a few interesting snippets on police cautions from the UK's *Guardian Weekly* newspaper.

December's version states:

"The new 60-word police caution for suspects to be introduced in March is so complicated that 42 per cent of A level students cannot understand it."

But in its edition this month:

"The much-criticised 60-word police caution announced by the Home Secretary last year has been cut to 37 words, to the relief of police officers, lawyers and actors in TV's *The Bill*.

No finger food for this jury

With the sort of anticipation that professional tennis players would sell their souls for, Judge Mike Wilkinson interrupted a prosecuting attorney in mid-stride as he approached the jury with an exhibit ... and called time out for lunch.

The *National Law Journal* (US) reports that it was a kidnapping trial involving the wife of a police officer who was abducted in a car by two men.

The woman put up a fight which resulted in the car crashing, the men being arrested and the trial before Judge Wilkinson.

Asked about his sudden diversion of the trial, his Honour said of the evidence that the prosecutor was about to show the jury: "I didn't want them to have to see that before they ate."

The evidence? The tip of a little finger of one of the defendants.

Bitten off by the woman in the fracas in the car, it had been printed by the police and then preserved in a bottle of formaldehyde.

(*Outside View*,
Law Society Journal,
The Law Society of NSW,
December 1994)