

Silly questions get silly answers

On one exceptional and memorable occasion it was a mild and quiet young man giving evidence who had the last word and scored off EF Smith:

"Who did this man marry?"

"A woman."

"Don't be stupid. Did you ever hear of anyone who didn't marry a woman?"

"Yes, my sister married a man."

*(Victorian Bar News,
No 92, Autumn 1995)*

What's in a word?

The firm Norman Waterhouse puts out a newsletter — "Briefly". In the most recent issue it defines a few rarely used words of the English language.

Goole (n)

The puddle on the bar into which the barman puts your change.

Nad (n)

Measure described as the distance between a driver's outstretched fingertips and the ticket machine in an automatic car park.

Ramsgate (n)

Doors which open the opposite way to the one you expect.

(Bulletin,

*Law Society of SA,
Vol 17, No 4, May 1995)*

There's no fool like ...

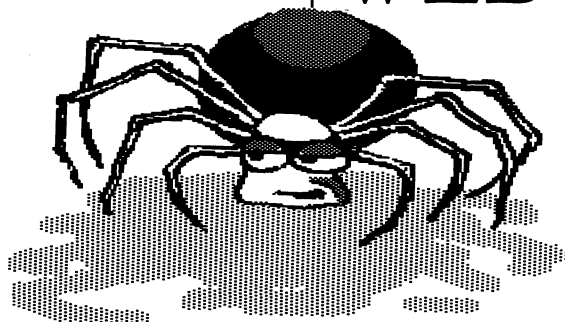
When Robert Hutchins was the Dean of Yale Law School, he had a brief conversation with William Howard Taft, then Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court.

Taft said: "Well, Professor Hutchins, I suppose you teach your students that the judges are all fools."

"No, Mr Chief Justice," replied Hutchins, "we let them find that out for themselves."

*(Victorian Bar News,
No 92, Autumn 1995)*

THE SPIDER'S WEB



Tongue-tied

Clearly in the "oops" department! The transcript from a current Adelaide rape trial records that learned counsel was earnestly ensuring that the jury had a clear understanding of the various technical terms they would encounter. Very seriously he explained that sexual intercourse included "any activity consisting of or involving what's called fellatio". Serious counsel spelt the word out letter by letter — "F E L L A T I O. Sounds a bit of a mouthful," he said. Readers of the Appeal Book have been less than kind to the red-faced resident of the DPP's office.

*(Bulletin,
Law Society of SA,
Vol 17, No 4, May 1995)*

Public service

When it was suggested that a certain library should extend the hours during which the public could make use of it, the librarian objected on the ground that "readers interfere with the work of the library". That is the attitude of the courts and judges today. They give no signs of appreciating that they exist as public servants to serve the public. Everything must be subordinated to their convenience.

*(Victorian Bar News,
No 92, Autumn 1995)*

Family Law

She cried — and the judge wiped her tears with my chequebook.

*(Victorian Bar News
No 92, Autumn 1995)*

Thunderbirds are go!

A Darwin practitioner indulged himself recently and, after a long eight-month wait, took possession of a Triumph Thunderbird motorcycle. In his jovial frame of mind, he allowed a female acquaintance the ride of a lifetime. Unfortunately, the much loved transportation also went for the ride of its life — vertically, when it was inadvertently dropped by the practitioner's Lady Penelope. Nothing that a bit of glue and a dab

of paint won't fix ... but what would Brains say?

An evasive defendant

Engelbert Humperdinck was a difficult party to serve process upon in a suit initiated by a starstruck young woman who alleged that he was the father of her child. According to the plaintiff, Humperdinck's modus operandi was to select an attractive girl in the first few rows of the audience at his concerts and invite her onto the stage with him and thereafter to the privacy of his dressing room.

The plaintiff's lawyer said that "private detectives tried for months to serve [the] court papers". They finally hired a pretty girl to sit in the front row of a Humperdinck concert. When he invited her on stage she handed him a bundle of red roses with the green court papers wrapped around the stems.

Private detective Jim Sarno said: "You should have seen his face when he realised what was happening. It sure spoiled his song."

*(Victorian Bar News,
No 92, Autumn 1995)*



Have you joined the
QANTAS deal?

Contact The Law Society
for details.