

## Just a thought ...

He who lives in a glass house  
should never invite over he who  
is without sin.

Anon

Tourist: One who travels to  
see things that are different and  
then complains when they aren't  
the same.

Dublin Opinion

## The Naked Lunch

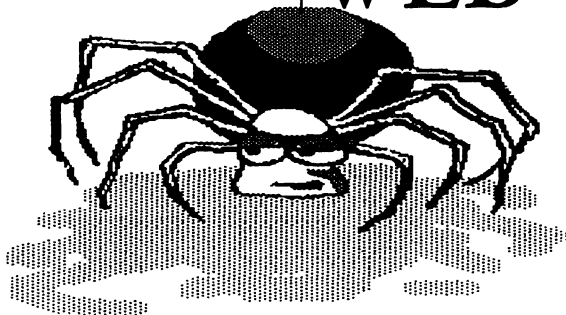
Mr Monte Shoemaker shot to  
the top of his league in 1976. Wishing to  
photograph a solicitor in a compromising  
position, Mr Shoemaker hid in a  
bedroom cupboard.

His girlfriend accomplice led the  
legal expert into the room and Mr Shoe-  
maker waited a couple of minutes for a  
suitable indiscretion to be arranged. He  
then burst out, took a photograph and  
demanded money.

When developed, the photograph  
showed not a solicitor disrobed, but a  
refrigerator in the corner of the room.

Stephen Pyle, *Heroic Failures*, 1968

## THE SPIDER'S WEB



## This town's too small

First in best dressed in the  
*Guess Who* from March *Balance*  
was Magistrate Anthony Gillies,  
who, we are told, had a distinct  
advantage in knowing the mysteri-  
ous one (John Neill of Ward Keller)  
when he was the young gallant  
depicted. Rumour also has it that  
John's staff took great delight in  
papering the office with blown-up  
versions of the photo to greet him  
on his return after the Easter break.

## Decoded

*Last month's limerick was not just  
a worse typo than usual. Salisbury  
used to be known as Sarum; Hamp-  
shire is familiarly called "Hants"; now  
read the limerick*

There was a young lawyer of Salisbury,  
Whose manners were Halisbury-Salisbury.

He wandered round Hampshire

Withoutout any Pampshire

Till the judge compelled him to Walisbury

## Food for thought?

"This is a book which should be  
referred to not on occasion only but on  
a continuous basis by Magistrates and  
Lawyers. The new Magistrate dispens-  
ing justice in his salad days will benefit  
by a deep delving into it for his efforts  
will be rewarded when he taps the dis-  
tilled wisdom contained within its  
pages."

*Review of Magistrates' Court Handbook  
Infoline, Bar Council, Malaysia, Dec 1995*

# Sensitising the judiciary

Judges are to undergo "sensitivity  
training" to try to prevent them making  
off-the-cuff remarks that insult women  
and racial minorities and cause a public  
outcry. The Judicial Studies Board,  
which oversees the training of judges, is  
to examine how to school the judiciary  
in sensitivity or "human awareness".

In particular the Board, chaired by  
Court of Appeal judge Lord Justice  
Henry, is looking at how to stop the kind  
of comment by judges in rape or other  
sexual offence cases which imply that  
the woman was to blame or "got what  
she deserved". Following a highly  
praised training programme in racial  
awareness, the Board has set up a work-  
ing group under Mr Justice Potter, a  
High Court Judge, to see how such train-  
ing might be broadened.

The aim is to teach judges how not to  
offend and to ensure that they are sensi-  
tive to people's feelings and help them  
"be at ease in court". The idea at first  
was to tackle "gender awareness". How-  
ever, the view among judges was that

the training should not be limited to  
dealing with women but should extend  
to all groups who are, or perceive them-  
selves to be disadvantaged.

The two-year programme of racial  
awareness training for all full-time judges  
in England and Wales, which has the  
approval of Lord Taylor of Gosforth,  
the Lord Chief Justice, has just begun  
after successful pilot programmes. Some  
1,750 circuit judges, recorders and as-  
sistant recorders will attend seminars or  
training days, involving an overnight  
stay, in which they will meet members  
of ethnic minority communities and be  
instructed by specialist tutors.

Judges will be involved in practical  
exercises designed to combat racial  
stereotyping and prejudice, and given  
background papers on how to address  
people from different ethnic groups, on  
oath-taking, body language and cross-  
cultural communication.

Black people, they are reminded,  
may dislike being called "coloured" and  
non Christians may be offended if their

first names are called Christian names.

The working group on human aware-  
ness - which again has Lord Taylor's  
approval - is expected to report in about  
nine months with recommendations on  
how to take such awareness training  
forward and extend it to equal treatment  
generally.

A number of judges do not consider  
they need such training, but most accept  
that it may help eradicate the occasional  
but unacceptable blunder which can  
cause disproportionate damage to the  
image of the bench.

Remarks by judges which have pro-  
voked an outcry include that last year of  
Judge Starforth Hill that an 8-year-old  
victim of a sexual attack was not "en-  
tirely an angel". Judge Prosser let a 15-  
year-old rapist go free after ordering  
him to pay for a £500 holiday for his  
schoolgirl victim while Judge Myerson  
told a man accused of rape that he  
"showed concern and consideration for  
his victim by wearing a contraceptive."

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