

## 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

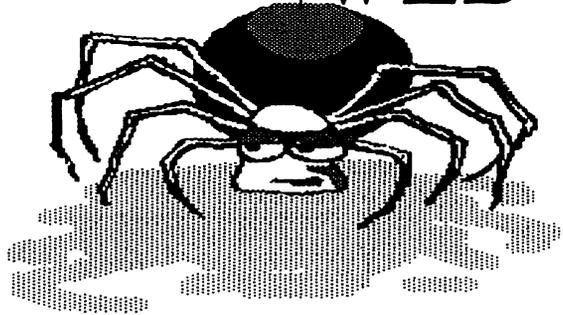
Mr Monte Shoemaker shot to the top of his league in 1976. Wishing to photograph a solicitor in a compromising position, Mr Shoemaker hid in a bedroom cupboard.

His girlfriend accomplice led the legal expert into the room and Mr Shoemaker 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



## Decoded

*Last month's limerick was not just a worse typo than usual. Salisbury used to be known as Sarum; Hampshire 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

## 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 mysterious 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.

## 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 dispensing justice in his salad days will benefit by a deep delving into it for his efforts will be rewarded when he taps the distilled 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 working group under Mr Justice Potter, a High Court Judge, to see how such training might be broadened.

The aim is to teach judges how not to offend and to ensure that they are sensitive to people's feelings and help them "be at ease in court". The idea at first was to tackle "gender awareness". However, 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 themselves 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 assistant 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 awareness - 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 provoked an outcry include that last year of Judge Starforth Hill that an 8-year-old victim of a sexual attack was not "entirely 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."

*(Commonwealth Law Bulletin Vol 20, No 4  
October 1994)*