

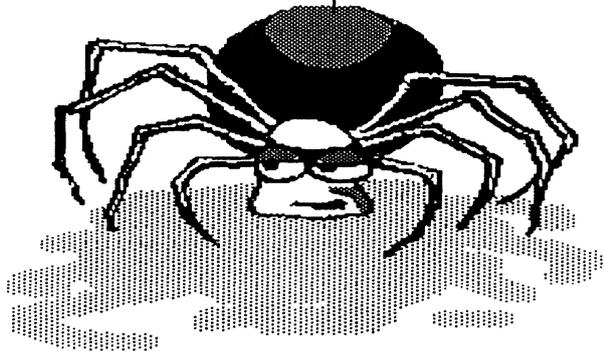
# If the Name Fits... THE SPIDER'S WEB

Comforting to note that one of the Directors at the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research is a Dr Peter Brain (at least, according to the *NT News*).

## Dancing In the Dark

*The Law Institute of Victoria's Journal, in its April issue, carried some excerpts from the Island of Nauru Administration Order No. 1 of 1936, supplied to them by Mr Anthony E Holmes, a medico-legal consultant who had previously been a member of the Justice Department of Nauru. Mr Holmes believed that the Order has since been repealed, but suggested that it would be interesting to contemplate the intellectual and evidentiary challenges which awaited counsel representing recalcitrants charged under these provisions:*

### REGULATION UNDER NATIVE ADMINISTRATION ORDINANCE



#### 1922 - TO CONTROL NATIVE DANCING ON NAURU

1. No native shall be forced to dance.
3. Dancing is only allowed on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Public Holidays of a non-religious nature.
4. (a) Dancing before 6pm and after 9.30pm is forbidden.  
(b) At 9.30pm on dancing days, the District Constable shall sound his conch shell beside the Meeting House and the dance shall cease.
5. No dancing shall take place in the darkness. All males attending a District Dance shall carry lamps (not electric

torches). Any man attending the Dance without a lamp shall be sent home with his womenfolk. This applies to spectators as well as dancers.

7. Anything of an indecent nature is forbidden including indecent words, gestures or movements of the body. Songs which appear at first sight to be clean but convey an indecent meaning are also prohibited.
8. Any person who acts in an indecent manner described in section 7 shall be deemed to have committed an offence. Any Chief or District Constable who is negligent in preventing indecent dancing or in charging offenders under this section shall be deemed to have committed an offence.

11. Dancing rehearsals are allowed in private houses on Mondays and Thursdays from 6pm to 9pm provided the number of persons does not exceed four. It is an offence to chant in a loud voice at rehearsals.

*The regulation goes on to advise that the fine for any of these misdemeanours is 10 shillings (almost worth it, really), or imprisonment of up to one month AND the Dance may be suspended on account of the offence of an individual. Makes you wonder what prompted imposition of these draconian measures.*

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