

Ackland Ungagged

Richard Ackland, current presenter of the ABC's Media Watch and former speaker at Law Week lunches in the NT provided information for a feature (obliquely referred to by him as a 'mindless questionnaire' but answered in full comprehension of the genre!) entitled In the News and On the Couch, run in the LIV's Journal (April 1998). Bits of it bear repeating;

Describe yourself in three words.

Alive – only just.

Do you have any pets?

Twelve fish, three dogs, three chickens, two cats, an axolotl, a turtle, a Cayuga duck, a peach-face parrot and a rabbit. Oh, and three children.

What words or phrases do you overuse?

"Does anyone else feel like dessert?"

What qualities do you most admire in a judge?

The ability to stay awake.

Have you ever been arrested?

Only by the fashion police.

What is your favourite pizza?

Peck's paste and mettwurst.

Describe the law.

A system for the elevation of the ambitions.

What would you change about the law?

Ambition.

How would you like to die?

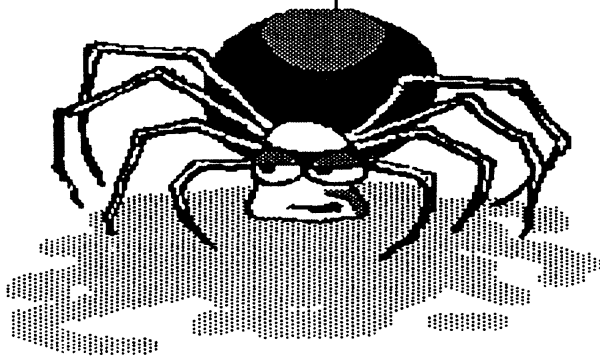
Mid-senten...

Buy Now For Xmas

Wondered why a local bookshop had reduced so dramatically the price of a jigsaw mystery thriller, intriguingly entitled *To Kill a Lawyer*.

Obviously it hadn't sold well and had been 'reduced for a quick sale'. We tried to see this as a testament to the good relations between NT practitioners and their clients, but were eventually forced to put it down to public apathy as we noticed that *To Kill a Husband* and *All Men are Pigs* were also heftily marked down.

THE SPIDER'S WEB



Glowing Work Ethic

In light of the story on page 2 of this month's *Balance* regarding the power blackout in Auckland and reaction of legal offices to the emergency, it was interesting to note how a major Darwin firm dealt with a similar situation when the substation behind their premises blew out this month.

All power to the conscientious who, with electrifying dedication, continued to beaver on to the mellow glow of candle-light, ignoring the lack of air-conditioning.

Computer-driven staff, powerless to continue working, sat out the crisis at *Salvatore's* (engaged, naturally, in illuminating and high-powered work-related discussion).

A leading Law Society luminary, in real life a partner at the firm, arrived at the secretariat's offices to shed some light on matters there.

25, Still Out

Britain's Lord Chancellor's Department released figures on applications for silk in that country. Apparently first-up refusal did not put some off. The record was held by a barrister who applied unsuccessfully 25 times. Another had a better time of it, scoring a hit on his 15th attempt.

From the London Times, via Proctor, QLS, April 1998

Lawyers Behaving Stupidly

The Commonwealth Law Bulletin reports in its latest release (January & April 1997) the following cases from Zimbabwe, both of which were referred to the Law Society for disciplinary action:

1.

"The appellant had been convicted of driving without due care and attention. The State's evidence showed that he had deliberately reversed into a car which was blocking his exit from a reserved place where he had wrongly parked. He denied bumping it at all. The lawyer applied to amend his grounds of appeal to argue he had been wrongly convicted because his act was not careless but deliberate – malicious injury to property.

The Supreme Court, in refusing the application, held that the proposed amendment would allow him to argue that his client must be acquitted because he had committed a more serious offence. It was ingenious but dishonest and improper; it was in conflict (*surprise, surprise*) with his client's repeated sworn testimony; if allowed it would result in a travesty of justice."

2.

"During the trial of a criminal case, the appellant's lawyer had shouted at the Magistrate and made reckless allegations of bias and of deliberate omissions from the record by him, without anything to support this. He had taken his client's word (*what!?*) that the Magistrate was biased, corrupt and had an interest in the case where there was no reasonable possibility that these allegations were true."