

Baby season

Well 'tis the season to have babies - apparently.

The NT legal profession has been awash with new arrivals over the Christmas break.

Lisa O'Donoghue (Minter Ellison)

gave birth to Molly O'Donoghue (above) on 26 December 2006. A very patient Molly waited for Lisa to see Warnie get his 700th Test Wicket before deciding she had had enough.



Jo Pattinson (De Silva Hebron) welcomed Jesse William into the world on Thursday 1 February at 7.55am.

Glen Dooley has proudly welcomed a new edition to the Dooley clan with the arrival of Ramona Joan Dooley at 5.50pm on Sunday 21 January.

Hannah Roe (ASIC) has given birth to a baby boy - Jacob Basil.

MR thinks that judging by the girth of some of the female practitioners around Darwin, there will be more baby announcements in the next edition of *Balance*.

Court welcomes James

James Brohier took up the position of District Registrar of the Northern Territory for the Federal Court in January. The Registry staff would like to welcome James aboard.

Money talks

"How can I ever thank you?" gushed a woman to Clarence Darrow, after he had solved her legal troubles.

"My dear woman," Darrow replied, "ever since the Phoenicians invented money there has been only one answer to that question."

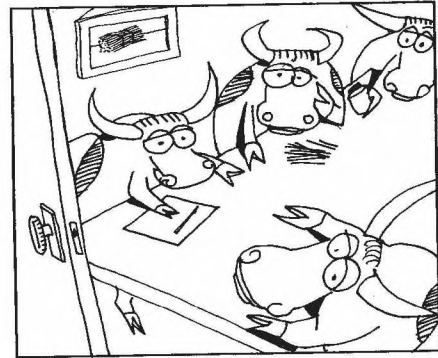
Careful deliberations

The "story" goes that:

A judge in a semi-small city was hearing a drunk-driving case and the defendant, who had both a record and a reputation for driving under the influence, demanded a jury trial. It was nearly 4pm and getting a jury would take time, so the judge called a recess and went out in the hall looking to impanel anyone available for jury duty. He found a dozen lawyers in the main lobby and told them that they were a jury.

The lawyers thought this would be a novel experience and so followed the judge back to the courtroom.

The Muster Room



The trial was over in about 10 minutes and it was very clear that the defendant was guilty. The jury went into the jury-room, the judge started getting ready to go home, and everyone waited.

After nearly three hours, the judge was totally out of patience and sent the bailiff into the jury-room to see what was holding up the verdict.

When the bailiff returned, the judge said, "Well have they got a verdict yet?"

The bailiff shook his head and said, "Verdict? Hell, they're still doing nominating speeches for the foreman's position!"

Missing luggage

One Darwin legal eagle had a surprising brush with stardom after accidentally picking up the wrong bag from the airport luggage carousel. Luckily Jessica Maulboy locked her suitcase!

Ozwords Competition results

The following were the winners of an Ozwords Competition where entrants were asked to take an Australian word, alter it by only one letter, and supply a new & witty definition.

- 1 Billabonk: to make passionate love beside a waterhole.
- 2 Bludgie: a partner who doesn't work, but is kept as a pet.
- 3 Dodgeridoo: a fake indigenous artifact
- 4 Fair Drinkum : good quality Aussie wine.
- 5 Flatypus: a cat that has been run over by a car.
- 6 Mateshit: all your flat mate's belongings lying strewn around the floor.
- 7 Shagman: an unemployed male roaming the countryside in search of sexual activity.
- 8 Yabble: the unintelligible language of Australian freshwater crustaceans.
- 9 Bushwanker: a pretentious drongo who reckons he's above average when it comes to handling himself in the scrub.
- 10 Crackie Daks : hipster tracksuit pants

Kiwi takes out bizarre award

The Times newspaper in London has named New Zealand lawyer Bob Moodie as the winner of the world "award for bizarre conduct by a lawyer in 2006".

According to Times columnist David Pannick QC: "Facing contempt proceedings in the High Court in Wellington, he appeared in women's clothes, asked the judge to call him 'Ms Alice' and explained that this was because he wanted to draw attention to the old-boy network within the New Zealand judiciary".

He said: "I will now, as a lawyer, be wearing women's clothing. The deeper the cover-up the prettier the frocks."

Other cases that Mr Pannick thought were worthy of a mention, include:

- * William Carter, of the Albany City Court in New York, was censured for removing his judicial robe, walking up to a defendant and asking: "You want a piece of me?"
- * Judge Donald Thompson was convicted by a jury in Oklahoma on four counts of indecent exposure by surreptitiously using a penis pump in Creek County Court while sitting as a judge hearing trials in 2002 and 2003.

Mr Pannick also handed out the following awards:

"Judge of the Year" is Judge Florentino Floro Jr, whom the Philippines Supreme Court sacked for:

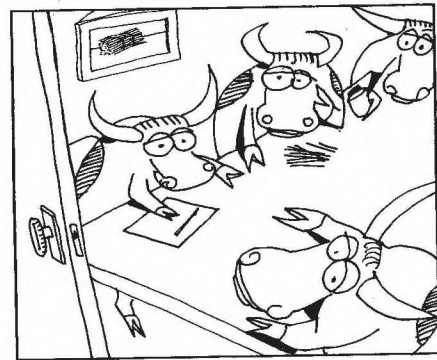
- * regularly opening proceedings with the statement that he was "a Bar top-notch" who passed the 1983 Bar examinations "with an average score of 87.55 percent";
- * for changing from blue court robes to black each Friday "to recharge his psychic powers" as "the No5 psychic in the country"; and
- * for claiming to have three invisible dwarf friends named Luis, Armand and Angel, who assisted him in court.

"Judicial email of the year" was sent by the UK immigration judge Mohammed Ilyas Khan to his lover, Roselane Driza, a Brazilian cleaner, telling her she was "real chilli-hot stuff".

Ms Driza was later imprisoned for 33 months for blackmailing a female immigration judge by threatening to send to the Lord Chancellor videos of the Judge having sex with Judge Khan, and another three months' imprisonment for theft of videos.

"Witness of the year" went to Gail Sheridan in giving evidence for her husband, Tommy, in his successful libel action against the *News of the World* for alleging that he had taken part in orgies.

The Muster Room



Mrs Sheridan told the jury that her husband was so "boring" that his only interest on weekend evenings was to search through dictionaries to find long words to boost his scores at Scrabble.

"Hopeless lawsuit of the year" was German lawyer Jens Lorek, who wants to hear from people who believe they were abducted by aliens so that he can bring, on their behalf, compensation claims against the state.

"The trouble is, people are afraid of making fools of themselves in court," Mr Lorek said.

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