

THE SPIDER'S WEB

CHEAP!

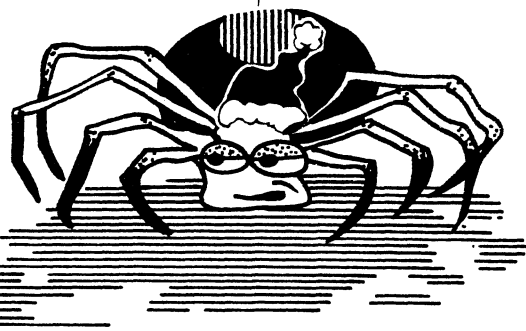
QCs must be a dime a dozen in Hong Kong. A personnel placement organisation advertised for one with 3-4 years experience (presumably as a QC) with a salary of \$HK10-12,000 per month. That translates to \$A2264.15 max. A legal secretary with audio experience was being offered \$HK8-10,000 or \$1886.79.

XMAS WOE

The ultimate Christmas Day tale of woe. Person does the right thing; leaves relatively new car in town and takes cab home on Christmas Eve. Dropped off to retrieve car from back street on Christmas morning. Won't start. Next available day for service quite a way off. Can't take a cab because the person was accompanied by one Rottweiler. Hung over and hot as hell, had to telephone friends for assistance. How to make oneself popular...

WRONG JEWELS

A certain practitioner's girlfriend was singularly unimpressed by the two strings of antique topaz beads she received for Christmas; she wanted an engagement ring.



RICH BUBBLES

Petty Sessions was doing a roaring trade on Christmas Eve. Profits must have been good, too. A glass of champagne (partially displaced by a strawberry) set you back \$7.50!

ENTERPRISE

And then there was the notorious New Year's Eve. Of course, there was the perennial problem of finding a cab. But some enterprising young hawkers were driving around the city and pulling up at cab queues offering to take people to the northern suburbs for \$100 a run. And apparently business was booming.

BIG NIGHT

One practitioner, though, found the \$100 offer a bit much. Couldn't get a cab or one of the courtesy buses put on by TIO and the Darwin Bus Service and was tired from walking from city spots to the casino and back

(twice!). After a refreshing swim in an hotel pool at 4 in the morning (well, it was hot work), he went to sleep in his car and got home at 8am on New Year's Day.

RECESSIONARY

The HMAS Jervis Bay (AKA the Floating Gin Palace because it carries no weaponry) ported in Darwin en route to Somalia. Would you believe they had to acquire bullets from the Federal Police to give VIPs a salute?

STRICTLY VARDIS

The hit film *Strictly Ballroom* was relentless in its send up of the establishment. A constant theme through the movie was the crooked President of the Ballroom Federation getting his cliches wrong. The one that took the cake was: "Quid pro quo vardis."

QUAINT

The programme on the 10th Commonwealth Law Conference in Cyprus in May has a social & cultural events schedule which includes this: "After the speeches there will be a magnificent party..."