

PHANTOM OF THE COURT

Did you know the Department of Law "discovered it had three magistrates available in Alice Springs"? So saeth the *NT News* in late May. This third person, the learned tabloid tells us, is the reason Mr Hook SM convened a special sitting in Elliott. Identifiable magistrates in Alice Springs (namely Deland SM and Hook SM) require that the discovered magistrate be produced: they have work they can fob off onto the new kid on the block...

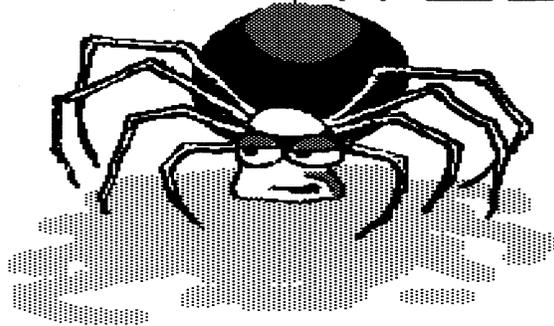
WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Mr Stubbs: Your Worship, my client's name, whilst it doesn't form any part of the allegation against him was - I think I'll deal with the fact that he's known as Chain Saw. That's a name that flows from his period working with the forestry in Darwin, and many other areas around the Territory, as a chain saw operator. It's one further facet of the employment record that I stress before Your Worship that he actually became known as Chain Saw because of his facility with the instrument, and because of his good work habits.

So rather than being counted against him in the context of an offence of violence, it's indirectly complementary of the positive matters that I'm putting to Your Worship.

His Worship: It hadn't even

THE SPIDER'S WEB



occurred to me that his name might have had some special significance.

Mr Stubbs: No, Your Worship. It's a striking name.

His Worship: I suppose if his name was Peter Hit Man Najpurki it might be a bit different, but I didn't see any significance in Chain Saw.

Re: Peter Chain Saw Nagpurki -- submissions during sentence (6/5/93). Mr Gillies SM presided. The matter went on appeal to the Supreme Court.

THAT'S A NO-NO

And wasn't there an excellent local example of defamation to use for the first media law seminar in June? Who'd've think it would be so timely...

PARTY HOUSE

Re last issue's story about the surfing competition in a pool and the naked ride in the Moke. Members of the same household were shouted at by neighbours in the wee small hours during an all-night party and were referred to as "honky bastards."

NICE LINE

Extracted from *The Bulletin* of 22.6.1993, itself extracted from *The Bulletin* of 17.6.1893 was this: "At Melbourne the other day, when the divorce case of Tobias v Tobias was in progress, Mrs Tobias fainted under a violent cross-examination and fell backwards, head first out of the witness-box. As the box was about two feet higher than the floor, her brains would probably have been knocked out by the concussion if someone had not caught her just in time. Next day, two pieces of clothes-line were stretched across the entrance to prevent the lady falling out any more, and the case proceeded. Considering the dreadful manner in which the average counsel bellows at a nervous witness, and the kind of questions he asks her, this precaution seems distinctly advisable. Another piece of clothes-line tied round the neck of the barrister would also be beneficial in many instances."