

## A strange practice

The following passage is from a letter in the UK Solicitor's Journal.

It reads: "Madam, will somebody please explain to me what the Office of Fair Trading has to do with solicitors or indeed doctors? We do not trade. We practise." Ohhhhhh, I see.

*(From The Gist - Law Institute Journal, March 1994)*

## Remembering secretaries

Hands up all practitioners who are in the doghouse for failing to remember Secretaries Day (Friday, 25 March). If it's any consolation, you've got 12 months to think of a way to redeem yourself next year. Three cheers from Balance to all of the NT's legal secretaries.

## 'Let down' by implant

From the "Only in America" file

... A 49-year-old Los Angeles bank executive was awarded almost \$500,000 in damages following the failure of a penile implant, according to the Herald Sun.

William Neuser had a silicon tube, designed to inflate when pumped full of saline solution, inserted into his penis.

However, the tube carrying the saline became disconnected, with a "devastating effect" on Mr Neuser's sex life.

The end result was damages of \$458,310.

While sympathising with Mr Neuser, observant scribes have noted that this case values the American penis at some \$100,000 more than

## THE SPIDER'S WEB



rugby league star Andrew Ettingshausen's - a gross insult to Australian manhood?

*(From The Gist - Law Institute Journal, March 1994)*

## Territorians big behind bars

Australia's rate of imprisonment, per 100,000 adults in the general population, was 115.1 in 1991, according to a report in the Independent Monthly. However, the national figure is somewhat misleading, as it conceals marked disparities between jurisdictions.

The breakdown is as follows (all figures are per 100,000 adults).

Victoria	68.8
Tasmania	77.8
South Australia	93.3
Queensland	94.4
Western Australia	139.6
New South Wales	159.6
Northern Territory	425.3

*(From The Gist - Law Institute Journal, March 1994)*

## It's all in the mind

A British judge hearing a damages claim by a journalist, Rafil Mughal, against his employer, the Reuters newsagency, has said that repetitive strain injuries (RSIs) have

"no place in the medical books" and that the term would "only serve to confuse". Judge John Prosser said the RSI was all in Mughal's mind and was caused by his lack of confidence and feelings of victimisation.

British lawyer Brian McConnell has written a scathing attack on the decision in the New Law Journal, saying it demonstrates appalling ignorance on the part of the trial judge. "What our courts do not know would make a library of which any civilisation would be proud," he said.

*(From The Gist - Law Institute Journal, March 1994)*

## New Faces at the Bar?

"I toughed I thaw a puddy tat..." Is there any truth to the rumors that Tweety Pie's friend and a nobleman will both be joining the ranks of the Independent Bar?

Watch this space for further details.



**Thought for the month:**

**We the unwilling  
Led by the  
unknowing  
Are doing the  
impossible  
For the ungrateful.  
We have done so much  
For so long  
With so little  
We are now  
qualified  
To do anything  
With nothing!**