

Greek Mythology

Charged with a \$42 million social security fraud, 153 Australian Greeks, plus their wives, their children and their lawyers assembled in a Sydney court only to be informed that the team of prosecutors had asked for a further year's adjournment because the police had been unable to sort out which of the accused was which.

Prior to the adjournment being granted, Mr Clive Evatt, QC rose to his feet and admitted that he could not pronounce his client's name. Several women shouted the client's name out, one of them adding, "he committed suicide six months ago".

During the pandemonium that followed this announcement Mr Walter George and Miss Erika Clooney, both solicitors, found they had been briefed to defend the same man and, harangued by a group of the accused, began to fight each other for the papers.

Leaping into the well of the court, another man, who identified himself as 'Achilles X', floored Mr George and held Miss Clooney's hand aloft, shouting, "This is the one for me!"

When things had calmed down, Miss Clooney said she had never seen the man before although she 'had known him well for over a year'.

'I would have done my best to get the trial under way', said Judge Griffin. 'However, among the accused we found a Mrs Chong Wah Wong Diamantopoulos who admitted that her husband was among the crowd but was unable to identify him at short notice.'

Age, 13 June 1978 in Christopher Logue, Bumper Book of True Stories, 1980

Have they no shame?

Balance notes that the Newly Admitted Lawyers of South Australia are prone to holding cocktail parties - unlimited cocktails, champagne, beer, the works.

And the venue? The Old Methodist Meeting Hall. Wonder how the Old Methodists feel about that.

He's right, you know

A verbal contract isn't worth the paper it's written on.

Samuel Goldwyn

THE SPIDER'S WEB



Only in America?

- Women in Morrisville, Pennsylvania are required by law to purchase a permit before wearing lipstick in public.
- Laws in Indianapolis, Indiana and Eureka Nevada make it a crime to kiss if you wear a moustache.
- If your horse is ugly, the law prohibits you from riding it down the street in Wilbur, Washington.

The Third Bathroom Reader, 1990



Recognise the mustachioed one? The lotus-eating lifestyle of Darwin may have caused some minor changes in appearance, but the twinkle in the eye is undiminished.

The Fon's caused a flap

Readers will note that the letter appearing in the May edition of *Balance* (p 14) from His Royal Highness, the Fon of Andek-Ngie asking for financial assistance to fund his studies in Britain is by no means officially endorsed by the Law Society of the Northern Territory.

We published it merely to amuse and interest readers and to share a snippet of the wealth of correspondence that crosses these desks.

We wish His Royal Highness well in his studies, but to be truthful, did not really expect that publication of this letter would cause a flurry of cake stalls or the emptying of life savings accounts.

Apologies for any confusion.

Communication breakdown

A lawyer is interviewing a woman about a divorce case, and he says, "Now, to begin with, do you have any grounds?" "Yes," she says, "nearly two acres".

"No, no," says the lawyer, "do you have a grudge?" "No," she says, "we've got a carport".

"Dear, dear, dear", says the lawyer, "let me put this simply to you: does your husband beat you up?" "No", says the woman, "I'm always up first".

"Oh, this is hopeless", says the lawyer. "Tell me, do you really want a divorce?" "No, I don't want a divorce", says the woman, "My husband does. He says we've got a communication problem."

The Jon Faine Joke Book, ABC 1994