

A Window Of Opportunity?

Experienced Net devotees will be aware of the Darwin Club site. This has little or nothing to do with our fair city; rather membership is conferred on those of our species who ensure survival of the fittest by taking themselves out of consideration - usually by some act of mind-boggling stupidity.

The story of a US lawyer who joined this exclusive club by shoulder-charging the windows of his new premises on the xth floor of a high rise building in an attempt to demonstrate to his staff how safe they were in their new abode caused some amusement.

Needless to say he plunged to his death and the reaction of the local legal profession was that this was a great pity as he had been a very good lawyer.

Mirror, Mirror, On My Foot...

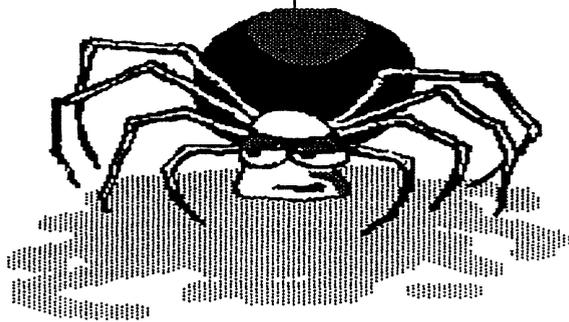
From The Gist, writing in the October edition of the Law Institute of Victoria's Journal, comes the following story:

"Out west, where they breed 'em different, the *West Australian* reports that a man used a mirror attached to a pair of thongs to look up women's dresses.

Midland Magistrates' Court heard that the 39-year-old man had embedded a mirror in the base of a thong and then covered it up with a layer of rubber. He would then position his foot close to a woman and then expose the mirror by tugging on a length of fishing line tied to the rubber flap.

The ingenious voyeur pleaded not guilty but was fined \$250 and ordered to forfeit the device."

THE SPIDER'S WEB



Headline Horrors

Regular readers of our local organ, the NT News, will by now be immune to perplexing headlines but may be pleased to know that the NT is not alone in its enjoyment of subbies' foibles.

The following bona fide headlines come courtesy of the Victoria Skeptics' (sic) Association via The Law Institute Journal of October 1997:

- Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
- Man Minus Ear Waives Hearing
- Man Struck by Lightning Faces Battery Charge
- Drunk Gets Nine Months in Violin Case.

Thanks, too, to Jonathon Nolan for this selection of similar offerings from the Internet:

- Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
- Miners Refuse to Work After Death
- Chef Throws His Heart Into Feeding Needy
- Steals Clock, Faces Time
- Some Pieces of Rock Hudson Sold at Auction
- Teenage Sex Problem is Mounting
- Lung Cancer in Women Mushrooms
- Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
- Prosecutor Releases Probe into Undersherriff.

(And yes, there are many more.)

Where There's a Will...

In 1871, the last will and testament of John Aylett, hit out at an adversary in the following manner:

I hereby direct my executors to lay five guineas in purchase of a picture of a viper biting the benevolent hand of the person who saved him from perishing in the snow, if the same can be bought for the money; and that they do, in memory of me, present it to Edward Bearcroft, Esq., a King's Counsel, whereby he may have frequent opportunities for contemplating on it.

This I direct to be presented to him in lieu of a legacy of three thousand pounds which I had, by a former will, now revoked and burnt, left to him.

A Philadelphia industrialist who died in 1947 made these bequests:

To my wife, I leave her lover, and the knowledge that I wasn't the fool she thought I was.

To my son I leave the pleasure of earning a living. For twenty-five years he thought the pleasure was mine. He was mistaken.

To my daughter I leave \$100,000. She will need it. The only piece of business her husband ever did was to marry her.

To my valet I leave the clothes he has been stealing from me for ten years. Also the fur coat he wore last summer while I was at Palm Beach.

To my chauffeur I leave my cars. He almost ruined them and I want him to have the satisfaction of finishing the job.

To my partner, I leave the suggestion that he take some clever man in with him at once if he expects to do any business.

Giles Brandreth, *The Law Is an Ass*