

Would the real Pacino please stand up

Anyone who attended the recent *Trial of the Century* would be familiar with Alf Pacino. Pacino was one of the accused on trial for a range of offences, including unlawful entry, stealing and unlawful use of a motor vehicle.

Russell Perry, Juvenile Prosecutor with Summary Prosecutions, brought Pacino to life in the mock trial component of the Trial at the Supreme Court in Darwin on 6 October. Wearing thongs, ripped blue short and a dose of attitude, Russell made Pacino was very convincing.

A very amused Russell wrote to the *Trial of the Century* team on the Monday after the Darwin event to inform them that "amongst other luminaries on today's Court list there is a Giovanni Pacino — I tell no lies!"

Muster Room presumes it was the real Giovanni in the witness stand, and not another recruit from Cavenagh Theatre in disguise!

It pays to be beautiful

A study of 400 law graduates carried out by US academic Professor Daniel Hameresh found that attractive lawyers were better paid.

The study, reported in the *Lawyers Weekly* (28 September 2001), found that attractive people were more productive and able to bill higher rates.

The reasons for this productivity, according to Professor Hamesh, are twofold:

"The first is the desire [of consumers] to indulge a taste for spending time with better looking people; the second is the belief that better-looking lawyers will generate greater financial gains for them as a result of discriminatory attitudes of judges, juries and adversaries."

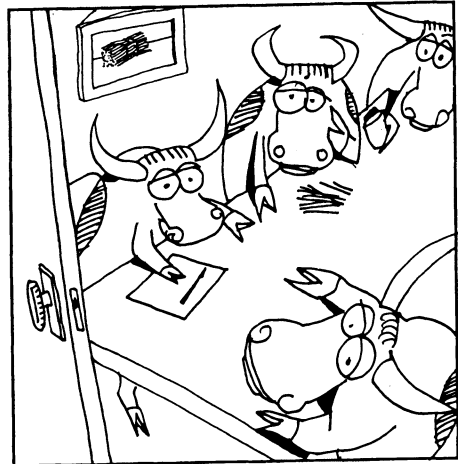
Muster Room wonders how much of that extra billing money is spent on hairdressers, fashion boutiques and shoe shiners...

They don't mince words in Texas

A transcript of a civil action before United States District Judge Samuel B Kent makes for amusing reading. Obviously unimpressed with the motion before him in Galverton, Texas, Kent J cut straight to the chase:

Manifestly, any person even with a

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correspondence level understanding of federal practice and procedure would recognise that Defendant's Motion is patently insipid, ludicrous and utterly and unequivocally without any merit whatsoever.

Unsurprisingly, the judge dismissed the motion before him, saying that the "defendant's obnoxiously ancient, boilerplate, inane motion is emphatically denied."

Kent J was even less impressed with the defendant's counsel, who he referred to as "blithering" and subsequently disqualified him for "submitting this asinine tripe."

PEOPLE AND THE LAW

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Steve Southwood QC

Steve Southwood was reelected to the Law Council of Australia Executive at the Law Council's Annual General Meeting on Saturday 13 October 2001.

Steve Southwood is a barrister at James Muirhead Chambers.



Darwin magistrate Dick Wallace resting on a very intriguing sign. Balance is assured by the anonymous photographer that the picture was taken in France, with the sign advertising bread not literally "bodily or mental suffering or distress" as it suggests at first glance.