



Shark Attack

More from the Bench and Bar games in Kuantan. This time, on the programme for accompanying persons and supporters from Team Singapore. While lawyers and judges were battling it out on the fields, accompanying persons were treated to a tour of the local produce at cottage industries such as batik and basket-weaving.

We wondered if the stop at the salted fish farm was a mere coincidence when we were treated to a spectacle of a toothy kind. Instead of sharkfin, the locals have salted shark fish on the menu and with only the remnants of 'jaws' to speak of when they get through the fish. It was notable though that the lawyers in the group refrained from making any purchase of shark.

Professional courtesy, perhaps?

The Ex-Terminator



Former Hollywood actor and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger wants a bobblehead doll terminated. Schwarzenegger's attorney has threatened to sue a small northeast Ohio company unless it stops selling a bobblehead doll featuring the governor's name and likeness. The bobblehead sells for \$19.99 and features a grinning Schwarzenegger wearing a suit and bandolier, and holding an assault rifle.

But Todd Bosley, president of Ohio Discount Merchandise, said he has the right to sell the bobblehead because Schwarzenegger is a public official.

'He's public domain. He's a public official. We can't portray him as an actor, but as a governor we feel we have the right to portray him'. Bosley's six-employee company has been making bobbleheads for about five years. He said proceeds from the Schwarzenegger bobblehead are going to sarcoma cancer research.



Bearing the House Brand

The House of Lords, that is.

A new Supreme Court could dilute the House of Lords' brand and would involve considerable expense at a time when the court system is already under-resourced, the Lord Chief Justice Lord Woolf said this week at a public discussion with Professor Richard Susskind, held at Gresham College in London: 'The House of Lords has huge prestige because of the quality of its judgments over the years. I wonder whether it is a good idea to lose the brand.'

On other issues, his Lordship noted his concerns about prison overcrowding and lent support to restorative justice and community sentencing: 'Sometimes, seeing how a real person has been affected [by a crime] can make a real difference to the offender ... There are real punishments that do not involve youngsters lying on their beds doing nothing for 20 hours a day. Prison is the easy solution, the popular solution, but it is not always the best.'

You Have Been Warned!

In 1997, Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch (M-LAW) began a contest to expose how frivolous lawsuits, and a concern about potential frivolous lawsuits, have led to a new cultural phenomenon: the wacky warning label.

Over the years, M-LAW has received hundreds of warning labels from people around the world. M-LAW verifies the authenticity of each label and selects the 'Top 5' for each year.

The following are Obiter's favourites from the first five contests:

- A warning label found on a baby stroller cautions the user to 'Remove child before folding'.
- A prescription of sleeping pills says: 'Warning: May cause drowsiness.'
- A dishwasher carries this warning: 'Do not allow children to play in the dishwasher.'
- A label on a hand-held massager advises consumers not to use 'while sleeping or unconscious'.
- A household iron warns users: 'Never iron clothes while they are being worn.'
- A can of self-defence pepper spray warns users: 'May irritate eyes.'
- A warning on a pair of shin guards manufactured for bicyclists says: 'Shin pads cannot protect any part of the body they do not cover.'