



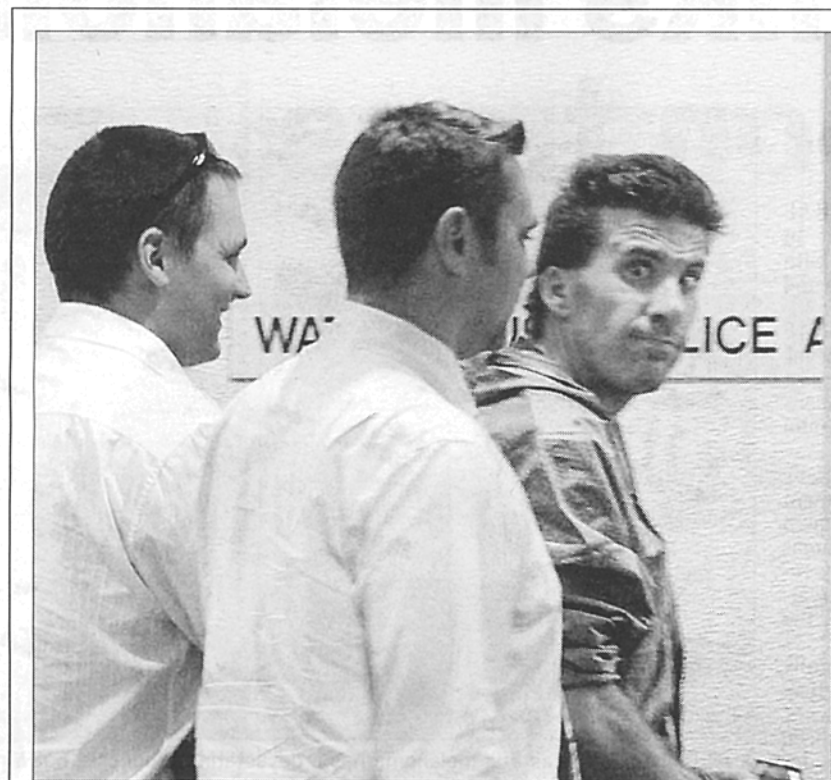
## Court cases show shocking surge in domestic violence

**Profile** cases such as the one involving a television star Matthew ... put the spotlight on domestic violence. But a major problem right now is the high profile cases that are being reported in the media. Spend a few minutes with any magistrates' court and you will see the same old, same old. Here is just a cross-section of the domestic violence cases that are coming through the courts from the past week. Under the new laws, when domestic violence orders are breached for the sixth time, a man can be ordered to leave his former partner's house to do his own thing. In one case, a man's wife choked her husband's new girlfriend in front of one of their children. In another, a man bashed his wife after his partner said she had had an affair with his friend "dad". In a third case, an obsessed man killed his new girlfriend when they broke up. They were going out for a walk. The man was arrested while driving drunk on his partner's couch. It was the fourth time he had been charged with a DVO.

concern with SPER (State Penalties and Enforcement Agency) suspending drivers' licences without a court order. It occurs when someone falls behind in fine payments. Despite the Government refusing to step up a campaign to fine-tune the laws.

**One of the largest legal conferences** held in Brisbane gets under way today. The National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference, at the Queensland Law Centre, will be opened by the Chief Justice Paul de Jersey. About 50 guest speakers including the US ambassador Jeffrey L. Bleich will address the two-day conference.

**Quote of the week** when prosecutor Chris Minnery explained to District Court Judge Greg Koppenol the layout of a Fortitude Valley hotel. Judge Koppenol remarked that Mr Minnery had a very detailed brief. "No, your honour. Unfortunately, this isn't the first time I have prosecuted an incident from this establishment," Mr Minnery replied.



CHILLING CASE: Convicted killer Maurizio Perini. Picture: Peter Wallis

**We thought** this may have been the lowest act of the month when a man fronted a magistrates' court for stealing his doctor's car. To make it even worse the doc was in a shop buying him new clothes! But it was topped by a story from Townsville about the couple who stole a woman's wallet from a hospital ward bedside table and went on a spending spree while she was unconscious.

**Court "highlight"** of the week came from a magistrates' court where a repeat drink-driver told the beak a new woman in his life would put him on the straight and narrow. But the very next defendant in the court was his new girlfriend, facing drugs charges.

**No names file:** A repeat drink-driver offender (he was in court again this week) has an identical name to one of the state's top prosecutors. But we can assure you they are different people as the prosecutor has not had an alcoholic drink in 30 years!

finally getting a mobile phone, we are told a QC is now the only lawyer in town without one. But we won't name him as he loves the peace and doesn't want to draw attention to it.

**Leading lawyers** Caite Brewer and Tracy Geysen were lunching at the Aria restaurant when a staff member said it was nice they let their chauffeur dine with them. It was in fact a prominent SC!

**Strangest excuse** for a while when man caught using the internet to procure a child for sex claimed it was a "puerile prank" inspired by a ...

## Public sp on kill fil

**THE case of Maurizio Perini**, who was jailed for 13 years for the manslaughter of Catherine Wuth, an elderly assisted care facility resident, has been a topic all week. It brought several mental health issues into the crosshairs. However, there was also a major debate after television networks showed Perini's chilling "walk through" with police where he described the killing in detail. Many thought it too graphic while many others believed it was in the public interest. However, Earsay can confirm the decision to release the footage was not done lightly and followed the legislation to the final full stop.

**Jackass.** District Court Judge Greg Koppenol rejected the claim: jailed the man. Me the judge paid tribute Queensland's Open Argos as among the world's best in fighting computer child sex.

**The high cost** of glassings continues as a District Court judge ordered a man to pay the victim \$67,500 after a southside RSL. The victim was struck the face by a throw. The compensation public fund, may be the biggest glassing award Queensland legal history.

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