this committee will enable the Bar Council to act pro-actively in positioning the Society in the furthering of the interests of our members in a changing society. Matters to be addressed by the committee include planning for future accommodation, the accommodation of the diversity of interests (especially gender and race), the promotion of the services of the Bar to the general public and a comprehensive review of the rules of the Society (especially regarding to advertising, publications by counsel, broadcasting, lectures, appearances on television, interviews, photographs and so on). Hilton Epstein is investigating the feasibility of a legal aid clinic to be run under the auspices of the Bar. This will benefit not only members, but also society as a whole.

Accommodation

At a general meeting the Bar resolved that the consultation facilities at Arbitration House, Sandton, would become permanent chambers. Members would be permitted to have chambers there on a full-time basis, provided they have accommodation in the CBD and comply with the rules of the Society. The result of this is that the Society now has members in four buildings, namely Innes Chambers, Schreiner Chambers, Colman Chambers and Arbitration House.

CBD Chambers

Although there is not general satisfaction with chambers within the CBD, the Bar will have its principal chambers there until the year 2002. In order to make practice in the CBD more attractive, a committee, chaired by Paul Pretorius, has been involved in negotiations with the Central Johannesburg Partnership on the prospect of including a legal precinct in an existing business improvement district. (The latter refers to areas controlled by private security organisations and cleaners.) Negotiations have also taken place with members of the provincial government. It is hoped that this would make practise in the CBD more pleasant.

New silks

Nellie Cassim, Theo Beckerling, Martin Brassey, Tony Franklin, André Gautschi, Norman Kades, Gilbert Marcus, Jossie Medalie, Essop Patel, Surita Snyders, Brian Spilg, Willem van der Linde and Jurie Wessels have all taken silk. (See also p 14 of this issue.)

Noord-Kaap

bygedra deur JB Erasmus
Kimberley

Regbank

REGTER-PRESIDENT Kriek moes aan die einde van Augustus 1996 'n ernstige nekoperasie ondergaan. Die operasie blyk 'n sukses te wees en ons wens "Judge" – soos hy by die Noord-Kaapse Vereniging bekend staan – sterkte toe. Regter Steenkamp het as waarnemende regter-president opgetree.

Die afgelope tyd het die volgende persone ook as regters waargeneem in die Noord-Kaapse Afdeling:

Louw SC vanaf Kaapstad (15 Oktober tot 15 November 1996); Claasen SC vanaf Bisho (18 Oktober tot 15 Desember 1996 en 17 Februarie tot 31 Maart 1997); asook Lacock SC, die leier van die plaaslike Balie (14 November 1996 tot 7 Maart 1997).

Lede

Johan Cloete, wat in 1996 sy studies aan die Universiteit van die Vrystaat voltooi het, doen tans sy pupilskap.

Sosiale nuus

Die Baliedinee wat plaasgevind het op 6 Desember 1996, was werklik iets besonders en beslis anders as die normale. Hoewel die funksie sy tradisionele formele vorm behou het, het dit plaasgevind op 'n wildreservaat met die naam *Koedoesrand Game Lodge*, 'n paar kilometer buite Kimberley. Dit was voorwaar 'n vreemde gesig om mense in formele aanddrag met vierwielaangedrewe voertuie by die funksie te sien opdaag. Die gaste het eers die pragtige natuurskoon en dreigende wolke bewonder voordat die geleentheid 'n aanvang geneem het. Terwyl 'n heerlike donderbui uitgesak het, het almal weggelê aan keurgeregte eie aan die omgewing.

Die geleentheid het so amper 'n rampspoedige einde vir sommige gehad. Sommer met die wegtrekslag het die eerste voertuig in die modder vasgeval en het een van die eregaste summier besluit hy ry nie saam met so 'n onbehendige bestuurder nie. Op ietwat onwaardige wyse het die regter deur die modder in sy aandpak teruggestap en 'n ander geleentheid gesoek huis toe. Uiteindelik het almal veilig en gelukkig in Kimberley aangekom, alhoewel sommiges ietwat van die modder besmeer was.

Voorwaar 'n geleentheid waaroor agterna baie gepraat is en nog lank onthou sal word!

"...'n vreemde gesig..."