

Eastern Cape

contributed by Gordon Hartford
Port Elizabeth

The Bench

PILLAY SC and Mpati SC have been appointed permanently to the Bench. (See also p 22 of this issue.)

Bar Council

Buchanan SC has been elected chairman of the Eastern Cape Society of Advocates, with Whitehead SC as deputy chairman. The other members of the Bar Council are: (from Grahamstown) Eksteen SC, Smuts, Paterson, and Cole (honorary secretary); (from Port Elizabeth) Van Rooyen SC, Horn, Van der Linde, Jooste, and Jurgens (honorary assistant secretary).

Membership

Gouws departed and Shelver-Proctor is a new arrival at the Bar. The Port Elizabeth Bar has three new pupils this year: Dyke, Pillay, and Strydom.

Training programme

The advocates' training programme has enjoyed the benefit of admirable effort by Ben Ford of Grahamstown who organised a course there last September. Among participating instructors were Benningfield and Van Rooyen from PE. A further course is envisaged for this year's intake, and is bound to be well at-

tended, not only because of the crop of pupils at the Port Elizabeth Bar, but because several enthusiastic juniors are keen to "take further instruction" on their art.

Sport

There is no official news on the athletic front but gossip sources suspect cryptotraining for the Apple Express Run. The reasons for this go quite deep. "The Mighty Barflyers" team, which has beaten the best that the attorneys have in their *hubris* fielded in competition over the past two years, is a selected band (whether self-selected one dare not say) which takes this contest seriously. That there is a post-race party distinguished for the fineness of its wines, which must be paid for by the losers, is not mere canard. Why else should Nick Mullins and Patrick Scott leave the PE Society AGM with muffled apologies and footwear, i e takkies, sorry, trainers, at 5.15 p m? Boredom could never be a motive in such acute debaters. In vain did our new secretary hint at a case for ties at future meetings, while the immaculate chairman remained tactfully impassive.

Bar dinner

On the Bar dinner we can report more directly. It was held at St George's Club in February, with PE playing host. Among the distinguished guests were Judge President Zietsman, and Judges

Nepgen, Van Rensburg, Liebenberg, Melunsky, Jansen, Pickering, Erasmus and Mpati. A polished and amiable Grahamstown contingent ("a light reconnaissance force") contributed much to the enjoyment of the evening.

Whitehead SC, in introducing Judge Mpati and congratulating him on his appointment, mentioned the widely noticed newspaper report that the Judge, instead of taking the usual primrose path of judicial appointments who acquire a Mercedes, coveted a bakkie (and in Frankfurt Benz shares fluctuated). Whitehead then divulged, presumably in the interests of transparency, that Froneman J, Judge President of the Labour Court, upon seeing the report, had intimated that as he was stationed in Gauteng he could obtain any bakkie with disconcerting ease and would do so provided he could drive it down to Grahamstown for Judge Mpati. Such magnanimity so moved the by then somewhat raucous audience that no-one even breathed the words "unfair labour practice".

If the success of an evening is measured by the lateness of departures I should mention that at one a m there were at least a dozen members of the Bar, genially overseen by Judge Nepgen, indulging in the cut and thrust of anecdote, and later, if report is not false, of snooker cues. 

Johannesburg

bygedra deur Pieter Pauw
Johannesburg

Bar Council

THERE are a number of new faces on the Bar Council this year. The chairman is Johann Gautschi and Gerald Faber is the vice-chairman. The other seniors are Guy Hoffman, Dennis Fine, Paul Pretorius and Hilton Epstein. Other members are Brian Spilg (who obtained

senior status after his election), Ismail Hussain, Colin Lamont, Gerit Pretorius, Pieter Pauw and Margie Victor. The honorary secretary is Richard Moerman and his deputy is André van der Merwe.

Judges

Congratulations to Ivor Schwartzman SC and Surita Snyders SC who were elevated to the Bench. During the past months a large number of members held acting ap-

pointments in the High Court.

Strategic planning

The Bar Council has also appointed a strategic planning committee. The purpose of the committee is to actively pursue a process of consultation with all members of the Society and all groups thereof in order to make recommendations to the Bar Council on long and short term planning. The recommendations of

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 com-

mittee, 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.) 

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:

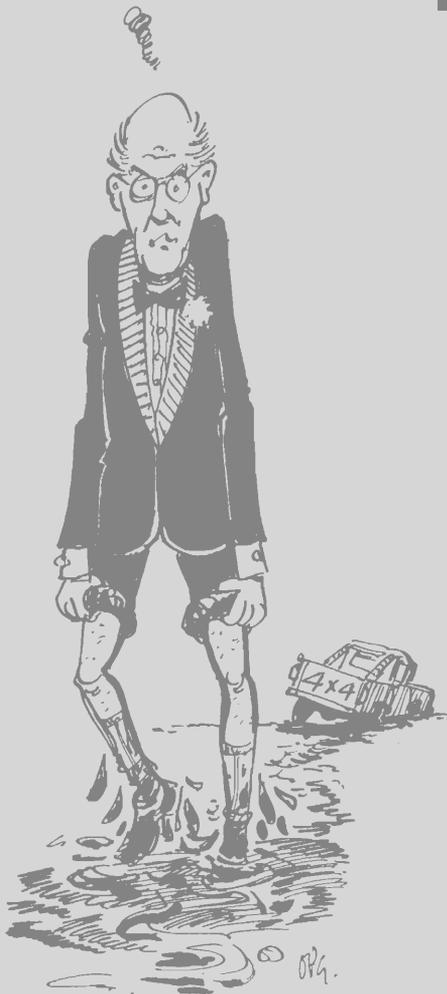
Louw SC vanaf Kaapstad (15 Oktober tot 15 November 1996); Claasen SC vanaf Bisho (18 Oktober tot 15 Desember 1996 en 17 Februarie tot 31 Maart 1997); asook Lacock SC, die leier van die plaaslike Balie (14 November 1996 tot 7 Maart 1997).

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 anders en beslis anders as die normale. Hoewel die funksie sy tradisionele formele vorm behou het, het dit plaasgevind op 'n



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

Noord-Kaap

bygedra deur JB Erasmus
Kimberley

wildreservaat met die naam *Koedoesrand Game Lodge*, 'n paar kilometer buite Kimberley. Dit was voorwaar 'n vreemde gesig om mense in formele aandrag met vierwiel-aangedrewe 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 weggeleë 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 sommige ietwat van die modder besmeer was.

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