Port Elizabeth

Contributed by Peter Kroon, Port Elizabeth

Pupils

At the time of the writing of this report the results of the Bar examination were not available. The three pupils are anxiously awaiting their fate.

Acting appointments

There have been no members of the Port Elizabeth Bar who have taken up acting appointments.

Social

A farewell party was arranged for Fred Nel on 31 March 2002.

Fred Nel

It is with a deep sense of sadness that the Port Elizabeth Bar says goodbye to one of its favourite members and indeed, at the time of his retirement, the most senior practising junior advocate in the country.

Johan Adriaan Frederik (Fred) Nel was born on 18 June 1920 in the Eastern Cape. He had a varied and spirited career. He was admitted as an advocate in 1951 and took up chambers in Port Elizabeth in that same year. He, however, dabbled in teaching, was a member of parliament (at the youthful age of 33) and was the clerk of the late Judge Oscar Hoexter. He practised at both the Cape Town and Johannesburg Bars before returning to Port Elizabeth in 1978. Until the date of his retirement Fred remained a popular, if not an automatic, choice of the judges when it came to the selection of assessors in criminal trials.

Younger members of the Bar were amazed at how the blue flame of youth still burned brightly in Fred's eyes when nearing the end of his long career. I recall the occasion of Fred's 80th birthday, celebrated in the common room, and the way in which he regaled his audience with stories in the manner of a seasoned raconteur.

Having spoken to a number of the more senior members in our Bar, I settled on the following quote from De Bruyn SC:

"Fred was baie gesondheidsbewus, en het op die ouderdom van 75 jaar nog lidmaatskap by die Health & Racquet Klub vir 'n tydperk van tien jaar hernieu.

Fred is 'n plat-op-die-aarde mens, en sy wonderlike sin vir humor, sy hulpvaardigheid teenoor sy kollegas, en sy onkreukbare eerlikheid sal baie deur sy kollegas gemis word."

No doubt Fred will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Miscellaneous

On a lighter note, the leader of our Bar, Van der Linde SC, recently had the misfortune to have both his motor vehicles stolen on the same night. There have been (unconfirmed) reports of fleeting glimpses of Van der Linde SC speeding through the traffic on a mountain bike. If nothing else, such behaviour should help to maintain the tradition of longevity at our Bar, of which Fred Nel was a perfect example.

Noord-Kaap

Bygedra deur Japie Schreuder

Nuwe aanstelling

Lacock SC is aangestel vanaf Mei 2002 as regter van die Noord-Kaapse Afdeling van die Hooggeregshof. Regter Lacock het sedert November 2001 verskeie keer as regter waargeneem. Sy aanstelling volg op die aftrede van regter-president Appie Steenkamp. Regter Lacock is op Vrydag 3 Mei 2002 amptelik verwelkom. 'n Kort agtergrond van sy loopbaan verskyn op bl 20.

Sosiaal

Gedurende die naweek van 3-5 Mei 2002 het die jaarlikse Baliejag plaasgevind. Soos elke jaar was dit 'n hoogtepunt op die kalender wanneer dit kom by die Balie se buitelug-bedrywighede.

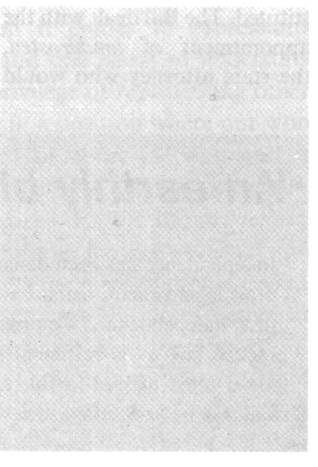
Daar sal nog lank gepraat word oor die Vrydagaand se beesstert-pot en die Saterdagaand se lewerpot. Kortliks gestel: dit was onverbeterlik, veral vir diegene wat dit met 'n glasie rooiwyn geniet het. En al wil 'n mens nie onnodig name noem nie, kan dit gesê word dat Olivier se pap, wat met Van Niekerk se spesiale instruksies tot eetbaarheid, en selfs tot 'n aanbrandsel, gevoer is, ook uit die boonste rakke was. Geen wonder dat Schreuder daarop aanspraak gemaak het dat die meel wat hy aangekoop het, dan ook nie te sleg kon wees nie.

In die jagveld self is springbokke en rooibokke platgetrek. Verder het Botha 'n afspraak gehad met 'n likkewaan wat onverwags op hom afgekom het. Wie die grootste geskrik het, sal ons nooit weet nie.

Ons onthou....

Gewese regter-president JJ Kriek

Regter JJ Kriek (72) is op 24 Mei 2002 oorlede. Tydens 'n huldeblyk in die hooggeregshof in Kimberley het verskeie oud-kollegas gewys op sy besondere intellek, sy vermoë om as regter onmiddellik die kern van 'n saak raak te sien, asook sy goeie menseverhoudinge.

Teenwoordig by die geleentheid was die president van die Hoogste Hof van Appèl, regter Joos Hefer, twee voormalige regter-presidente, regters Ernst Lichtenberg (OVS) en Appie Steenkamp (Noord-Kaap), asook die huidige regter-president van die Oranje-Vrystaatse Provinsiale Afdeling van die Hooggeregshof, regter Koos Malherbe.

Regter Kriek is gebore op 1 Desember 1930 in Bethlehem. Hy matrikuleer aan die Hoërskool Greytown Hy is op 42-jarige ouderdom as regter en op 1 Junie 1990 as regter-president van die Noord-Kaapse afdeling van die Hooggeregshof aangestel. Hy het op 1 Desember 1999 afgetree.