

EL scholars keen after Boraine visit

THE possibility of starting a "school interaction" programme for scholars of all races in East London was raised recently when IDASA's Executive Director, Dr Alex Boraine, addressed a group of scholars at Selborne College.

Dr Boraine had been invited to the school by the pupils' Current Affairs Society to outline IDASA's role and to give his vision of South Africa's future.

Dr Boraine's vision is of a South Africa where one is judged on ability and not on skin colour, language, religion or any other grounds. He told the pupils about the non-racial youth programmes that had started in Cape Town and how further contact had developed spontaneously. He also spoke of the need to have a Bill of Rights, and used the Freedom Charter as one example of a starting point.

The scholars' questions to Dr Boraine covered a variety of topics including the economic future of South Africa in a post-apartheid situation. There was much discussion on free enterprise and the possible nationalisation of key industries such as mining.

The youth programmes in Cape Town created a lot of interest and the scholars were left to decide among themselves if they would like to take this initiative further, possibly with IDASA facilitating their first meetings.

We spent nearly two hours with the members of the society, a group of 50 young men on the brink of school leaving. They realised that South Africa was for all and not for the privileged few only, and felt that they needed to get to know their fellow South Africans to be able to build a future for all South Africans.

I look forward to helping the Selborne College students get this initiative off the ground and hope that there will be no unnecessary stumbling blocks thrown in their path. Both Dr Boraine and I were impressed with the insight shown by the boys and their frankness about the need for more contact with black South Africans.

Cindy Deutschmann
Border Regional Co-ordinator

New co-ordinator for Pretoria

LOU-MARIE Kruger has been appointed as IDASA's regional co-ordinator in the Pretoria region.

Formerly a researcher with the South African Institute of Race Relations, Lou-Marie completed her schooling at Kuils River and spent a year as an AFS exchange student in Minnesota before enrolling with the University of Stellenbosch where she obtained a BA honours degree.

Her work for that degree included two mini-theses titled "A history to alternative thinking at Stellenbosch" and "A discussion of the position of the woman in the modern urban African household".

She is working on a masters degree in political philosophy on a part-time basis.

Lou-Marie joined the Institute of Race Relations as a researcher in January last year. She wrote the chapters on employment, the Group Areas Act and the economy in the institute's latest annual survey.

Media-mense byeen op Stellenbosch

'N MEDIA werkswinkel het op 28 Januarie in Stellenbosch plaasgevind. Die werkswinkel het voortgevloei uit 'n vorige soortgelyke werkswinkel wat in Oktober verlede jaar daar gehou is.

Die werkswinkel was 'n gesamentlike projek van IDASA, die Stellenbosch Advies en Informasiegroep (SAIG), lede van Saamstaan, die Stellenbosch Youth Congress en die Community Video Unit.

Die oogmerk was om te fokus op persvryheid in Suid-Afrika, die nuutste beperkings op die media en om te kyk na die invloed van dié beperkings op die gemeenskap van Stellenbosch. 'n Verdere doel van die werkswinkel was om plaaslike media-mense in die omgewing geleentheid te gee om inligting en ervarings te deel. Lede van Saamstaan, 'n Suid-Kaapse gemeenskapsblad, het ook by die geleentheid die geskiedenis, ontstaan en groei van 'n gemeenskapsblad aan die betrokke deelnemers uiteengesit.

Ongeveer 25 mense het die daglange werkswinkel bygewoon en dit het lede van gemeenskapsorganisasies, onderwysers en studente ingesluit. Die werkswinkel het daarin geslaag om Afrikaans, Engels en Xhosa sprekende persone byeen te bring. Dit het gelei tot 'n gesamentlike proses van uitruil van inligting, kundigheid en wedersydse ervarings. In die opsig

was die werkswinkel nie net 'n toonbeeld van 'n nie-rassige werkswyse en gemeenskaps-optrede nie; die werkswinkel het ook deelnemers se vasberadenheid gesterk om te werk vir 'n vrye, nie-rassige en demokratiese Suid-Afrika. Daarby het dit bygedra tot die deelnemers se verbreding van gedagtes en ook om te soek na maniere om die idees aan mense in hulle gemeenskap oor te dra.

Hoewel die betrokke werkswinkel grootliks 'n SAIG inisiatief was, en slegs met beperkte IDASA bystand aangebied is, het dit ook gewys dat verskillende instansies kan saamwerk om die ideaal van 'n nie-rassige en demokratiese samelewing prakties gestalte te gee. En tot die bereiking hiervan kan die media (plaaslik en andersinds) 'n onskatbare rol vervul deur die breë gemeenskap in te lig en ingelig te hou in 'n tyd wanneer baie inligting hulle ontnem word deur represiewe en onderdrukkende maatreëls.

Ian Liebenberg
IDASA Navorsingskonsultant

Two IDASA offices in Transvaal again

IDASA once again has two offices in the Transvaal.

Many people with whom IDASA has contact felt that our Midrand offices, which served both the Johannesburg and Pretoria areas, were inaccessible and as a result the region has been restructured.

The address of the new Johannesburg office is Fifth Floor, Norvic House, 94 De Korte Street, Braamfontein, 2107 (Telephone 4033580/1/2/3; Telefax 3398301).

The Pretoria office is at 203 Hatfield Forum, 1077 Arcadia Street, Hatfield, 0083. (Telephone 3422334/5/6; Telefax 3421926).

CURRENT AFFAIRS LECTURES

IDASA presentations in Cape Town

● **Dr Peter Moll on GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO ECONOMIC CRISIS** 5 April

● **Prof Sample Terreblanche on CORRUPTION IN THE NATIONAL PARTY** 12 April

Venue: LT1 or 2, New Education Building, Middle Campus, UCT (7.30 pm)

East Cape women explore common ground

A WOMEN'S forum hosted by IDASA in Port Elizabeth in February attracted interest from a wide range of women's groups in Port Elizabeth and East London. The one-day forum, which was designed to open up opportunities for communication and joint action, was attended by 73 women.

The women's organisations present included the Port Elizabeth Womens Organisation, Anglican Mothers' Union, South African Domestic Workers Union, Kontak and the Black Sash. The forum came as a follow-up to last year's Mossel Bay conference but concentrated more on local issues and problems.

After a brief introduction and welcome by IDASA's Liz Motsatse, spokeswomen from the different organisations were asked to briefly introduce their organisations. The women were asked to pair off with someone they didn't know during the tea break and try to get to know as much as possible about them. After tea we divided into groups for discussion.

One group of white women, for example, was shocked to learn that the black bus service doesn't adhere to the printed timetable but that buses leave at whatever time suits the driver. Each group elected a spokeswoman who reported to the meeting on the problems identified by her group. The most common problems were:

- Lack of communication between black and white South Africans
- Group Areas Act
- Lack of crèches and old age homes
- Detentions
- Unemployment
- Homelessness and forced removals
- SADF presence in townships
- Lack of transport
- Lack of skilled persons and skills training
- White fears.

With these areas identified for discussion, we looked set for an exciting afternoon discussion. However, many of the women found the prospect of addressing others very intimidating and so, after working through a few of the above, the groups were re-formed and each given a subject to discuss. Some of the problems were felt to be too large to be dealt with in such a short time period. After discussion on these topics the spokeswomen reported back to the main body.

Some of the ideas were very good and workable, but some delegates felt that there were some issues they could not get involved in without first consulting their organisations, for example the proposal that a petition be drawn up to call for the scrapping of group areas and a campaign to motivate all people to call for the abolition of group areas.

We heard some positive suggestions from the Kontak representatives on self-help projects to combat unemployment. The problems of creating more crèches were highlighted by Angie Hamlet, who has been trying to get factory sponsored crèches established in Port Elizabeth.

All delegates agreed that the Koinonia approach was an excellent one. Koinonia is a project launched by the Dutch Reformed Church to "eat away apartheid". One of its projects involves four couples from different areas

and race groups getting together for a meal in one couple's house. They alternate until all four couples have had an opportunity to host. The group then splits up and the four couples are teamed up with others and the cycle continues. Churches and other groups were encouraged to pursue this idea.

Delegates agreed that forums such as this one were an excellent way of improving communication between black and white South Africans and expressed the hope that further meetings would be held. The possibility of a newsletter was also raised. It was re-iterated that IDASA could only facilitate such meetings and that the delegates should maintain contact with each other, and also encourage on-going contact between their organisations.

Cindy Deutschmann
Border Regional Co-ordinator

Teachers compare 'official' and 'alternative' history

ON 16 February, 13 Port Elizabeth history teachers gathered for the inaugural meeting of the History Teachers Forum. This was the first of six meetings of the forum planned for this year.

South Africa's history has been divided into six periods and each of these meetings will focus on one of the six periods. The topic for the first meeting was "Pre-Colonial South Africa — Up until the 17th Century". The second meeting in March dealt with "The Impact of Colonisation — The Cape in the 17th Century".

Each meeting follows the same format with two speakers giving introductions to the history of the period under scrutiny. One speaker's approach is that of the "official" syllabus as it has been taught in white schools through the ages. The other speaker provides an "alternative" history for the same period concentrating specifically on facts which are either glossed-over, suppressed, ignored or slanted by the "official" syllabus.

The aim of these projects is to produce a more balanced picture of South Africa's history; a picture which will have more relevance to South Africans as a whole rather than to just one small sector of our population. A further objective is to get white history teachers meeting and discussing their mutual interest in history with their counterparts from schools in other communities.

Being aware of the strong call from sectors of the South African community for the implementation of Peoples Education, as well as the resoluteness of many others to maintain at least a semblance of "Christian National Education", we are hopeful that this project might also in a small way promote debate about a compromise which we believe is likely to be the final outcome.

Keith Wattruss
Eastern Cape Regional Director