

# DEMOCRACY in ACTION



Idasa's goals are:

To promote the development of a democratic culture in South Africa

To address fear, prejudice, anger and other obstacles in the transition to a non-racial democracy in South Africa

To engage influential groups and individuals who may be outsiders to the transition process

To provide, wherever possible, information on critical issues and to explore ways of addressing these

To facilitate discussion of constitutional and developmental issues relevant to Southern Africa

To assist and encourage others to contribute to the attainment of these goals

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Letters and contributions to be addressed to Democracy in Action.

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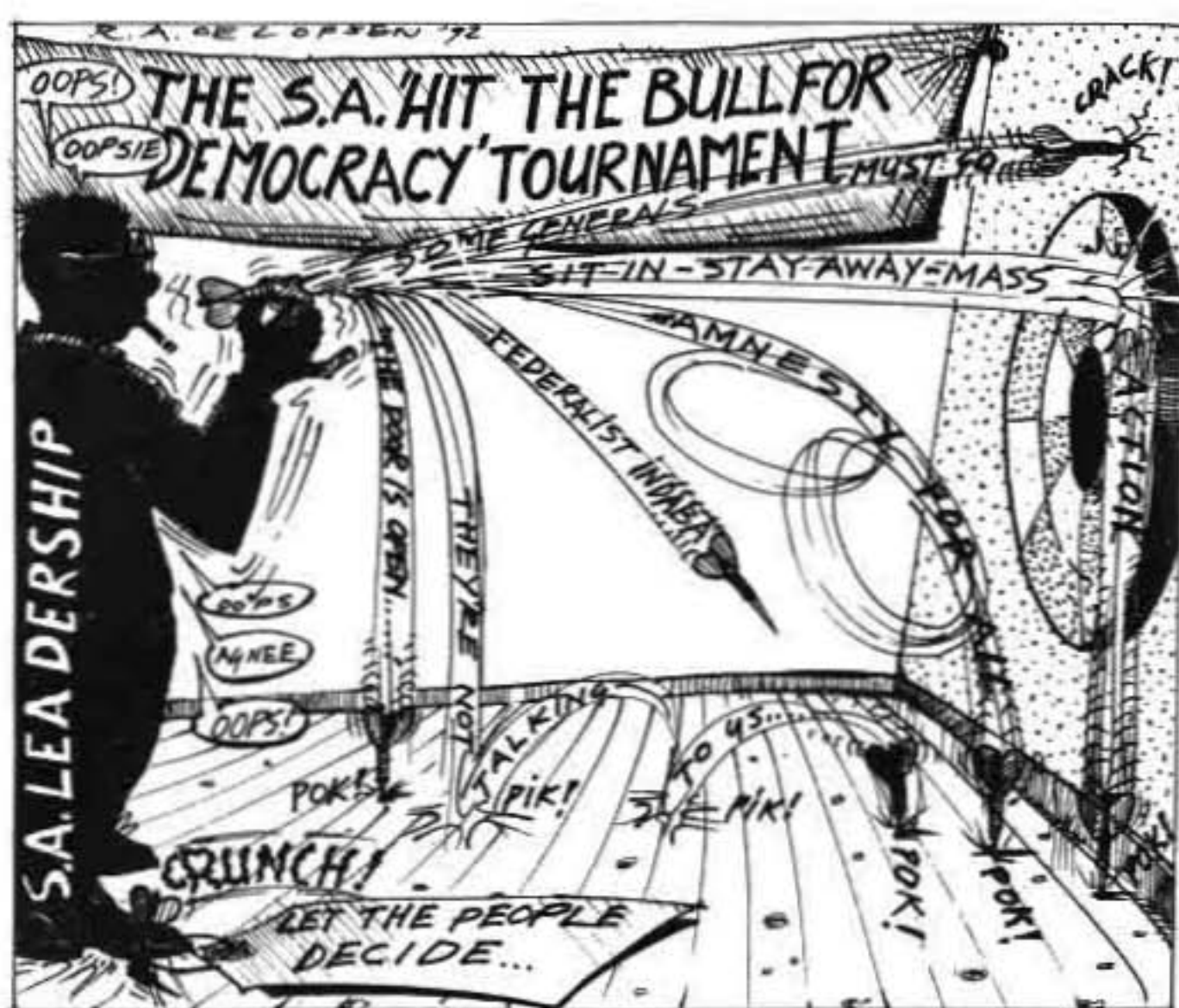
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## Forward to a New SA...

A *Weekly Mail* news report cited Idasa as one of its sources. That's not surprising, but we were a little startled to find ourselves referred to as the Institute for a Democratic Alternative to South Africa. True, we are in the business of seeking democratic alternatives, but we understand the necessity of looking beyond our own doorstep.

*- To the reporter concerned, we are flattered. Signed, the Peoples' Republic of Idasa.*

## Prescription for liberation

A Border civic leader at a rural local government conference made a profound observation: women aren't speaking out or becoming involved in civic structures, he found. Musing out loud, he added: "I wonder what's wrong with them. I wish we could just give them a pill to sort out their trouble."

*- Hard to swallow? Maybe he was thinking of another pill that has sorted out so many troubles.*

## Still on the subject

At a Port Elizabeth conference on population development a man proudly got to his feet and announced his explanation for the overpopulation problem: the men of this country have been working very hard.

*- In that case we'd hate to think what the country's problems might be like if they didn't go off to work each day. Imagine coupling his solution with the problem of unemployment!*

## Ja-Nee

### And more on the pauvre

Dr Ben van Rensburg, chief economist for the South African Chamber of Business, was asked in an interview whether he could predict a timetable for the urgent development of the Economic Forum as people on the ground were restless. Van Rensburg's reply: "Which people are you talking about?"

*- You know the ones. The people he could try telling to eat cake...while they're waiting.*

### Failing that, they could try religion

Only it might not be so easy. Unisa's Institute for Theological Research issued its programme for a seminar, On Being Unemployed and Religious. It offers all kinds of useful lessons on dealing with unemployment. Only thing it doesn't advise is how the unemployed can afford its R150 fee. Students get a discount; no mention of the unemployed when it comes to costs.

*- There's a lesson in this somewhere. Maybe it will be revealed in the paper on "Christian Models towards Addressing the Unemployment Crisis". Or perhaps they could take a song and a prayer as credit.*