

IRISH MEDIA REPORTS MEDIA EVENTS

Following his visit to Caux last year, William Stainsby, President of the Newman Institute in Ballina, County Mayo in the Irish Republic, invited several people from MRA to speak at the launching last month of the new Catholic 'Mayo Centre for Media and Communications'.

Bishop Finnigan, Chancellor of the Newman Institute; Mike Turnbull, President of the National Union of Journalists; Christy Loftus, NUJ President-Designate and the Catholic writer Mary Kenny were among those taking part in the day-long seminar on 'Creating a climate of confidence in the media'.

They were moved to hear from Polish journalist Jan Pieklo and Senad Kamenica, head of international affairs at the television of Bosnia-Herzegovina in Sarajevo, about their coverage of the war in the Balkans. Actresses Ann Buckles-Orteig and Christine Channer, publishers Bill Porter and Hugh Nowell, author Peter Hannon and Lady Fiona Hannon, and journalist Mike Smith also spoke.

'Media not supportive of those with Christian values' was the headline in *The Irish Times* the next day, quoting Mary Kenny who said that 'the newspaper industry is about the fallen nature of man, in which we all share'. The paper quoted her as saying that any Christian media forum should focus on the moral and ethical debates which will confront us in the new millennium.

Under the headline, 'Conference told media has major role in shaping society', the *Cork Examiner*, now a national newspaper, led its report by quoting Mike Smith, managing editor of *For A Change* magazine, who said that 'journalism had raised public awareness and developed a public conscience towards the great social, moral and ethical issues as well as the great evils confronting humankind'. The event was also reported in the *Irish Independent*.

In a moving climax to the day, Peter Hannon spoke of his vision that Ireland, north and south, could restore faith for the world, 'by the way we live in our relationships'.

Two days earlier the MRA group had taken part in a day-long media conference in Derry/Londonderry, organised by Stainsby's sister, Faustina Starrett, and two of her colleagues. BBC TV news reader Martyn Lewis and Guardian correspondent Roy Greenslade came from London for the conference, which included eminent local journalists from across the political spectrum, and media students. Bill Porter, Jan Pieklo and Ann Orteig were interviewed on BBC Radio Foyle, Orteig telling in amusing and

moving terms about her role as a journalist in *The Crowning Experience* in Atlanta, Georgia, and its impact on race relations. Asked if it was possible to be objective in war reporting, Pieklo said that it was virtually impossible but, above all, journalists needed compassion. Starrett said that one aim of the conference was to 'ask Northern Ireland to look at itself as part of the bigger picture and then it would begin to understand its own motivations'. The *Derry Journal* devoted a double-page spread of photos to the conference, whilst *The Belfast Telegraph* carried four photos with its page two report.

WALES LOOKING OUT

On May 6 Wales will hold elections for its new National Assembly. Over the past two years, some of us have organised a series of national 'Dialogues on Wales' Role', aiming to find a uniting vision for Wales as it takes greater responsibility for its own affairs. The fourth of these dialogues was held last month at Nant Gwrtheyrn on the north-west coast of Wales. It took as its theme, 'Wales - one community, looking out'.

The talk by Archbishop of Wales Alwyn Rice Jones was covered in Monday's *Daily Post* under a five-column headline: 'Retiring Archbishop's vision for the new Principality'. Another speaker, Richard Livsey MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats in Wales, called for 'an open and accessible Assembly, inclusive and diverse, representing all'. John Osmond, Director of the Institute for Welsh Affairs, said the Assembly could bring a new civic sense of identity to replace the necessarily divisive 'identities' of place and language. A session on 'Wales reaching out to the world' was led by Stephen Thomas, Director of the Welsh Centre for International Affairs.

We decided to produce a leaflet offering a vision for Wales and the new Assembly. It will comprise statements from people in public life and from the Dialogues. Under the title, 'A vision for Wales', it will be sent to all Assembly members as soon as they have been elected.

Paul Williams

KAYAKING AND INSPIRATION AT FAMILY CAMP

How many pieces of chocolate cake can 34 children and 40 adults eat? Much chocolate cake, grapes and pies were consumed at the MRA family camp in Warburton, Victoria, Australia. Families enjoyed

kayaking (many taking unintended dips in the Yarra River), having a mud bath in the commando course and times for the adults to share the challenges, demands, joys and pain of life. Two themes were, 'How to find balance between career and family life' and 'How to discover a sense of meaning in life'. A mother shared the conflict between her work, which she enjoyed, and wanting to be at home for the children; a father felt that he needed to listen to the rest of the family; a mother told of often putting on a cheerful face which she didn't feel; and a single mum spoke of feeling trapped by her children's demands. It was a precious, energising 36 hours, and many went away with new decisions and inspiration.

Cheryl and Rob Wood

GLOBAL CLUB '99 – A CHANCE TO RETHINK

So – what does the millennium mean to you? Domes, bugs, decadence, Robbie Williams...? Thirty young people converged on Tirley Garth, March 26-28, reflecting on these and other issues.

Saturday began with the personal – a panel based loosely on the Clean Slate Campaign – and worked up to global problems. The honesty of all present made for a valuable discussion.

We moved on to the difficult topics of relationships, marriage and sex, with an insightful and sometimes provocative address by the unembarrassable Ian Gregory, a BBC news producer and author of 'No sex please, we're single'. 'Without vulnerability there can be no relationships', was a message from Ian which stuck in my mind.

Not being business-minded, I was apprehensive when John Carlisle, consultant in cooperative relationships, announced his topic as time, date and efficiency. But I was quickly convinced of their relevance. A thought from John's address: 'Never expect to be loved for what you stand for. Expect opposition.'

Amongst views expressed at this session were:

- relief at the chance to discuss with peers issues not often tackled, and for the space and time out from hectic schedules;
- gratitude to everyone for making the effort to postpone those schedules for the weekend;
- many, many thanks to the organisers – Bhav Patel, Christine Kenny, Christine Karrer, Howard Grace and all at Tirley – and especially to Laura Trevelyan, the energy behind Global Club.

Nicci Long

VISAS FOR VISITORS TO TANZANIA

Eileen Mavura writes that she has been receiving visa enquiries from would-be participants in next month's conference in Tanzania whose countries do not have a Tanzanian Embassy or High Commission. She says that those who face such a

CLEANING THE SLATE

For two years I've been using e-mail but have never received an account from my server. This month I decided to ring and let them know. The clerk investigated and replied that my details must have been lost last year during a change over of computers. In any case she said I would not be charged for these two years.

When I said that I had decided to ring the company because I was involved with a 'cleaning the slate campaign' she replied 'Thankyou very much. That will be good for your "karma"!'

Lindsay Cartwright

On the night that my husband died, I called on a neighbour to take me to the hospital. It was bad weather. I felt more and more uneasy and, on arrival at the hospital grounds, asked if the neighbour could drop me off as we passed the entrance. I could not get out of the car as my neighbour insisted on parking first. This eventually took ten minutes.

During those minutes, in the hospital, my husband died, I arrived just after this happened, only seconds really. I felt rather bitter at my neighbour (though I said nothing at the time) that I had not been there to say goodbye. Then I thought of Clean Slate and took it to God, and forgave my neighbour wholeheartedly. My attitude to him has changed completely and he knows he is forgiven. I feel better too and I know my husband understands.

I have had a very cool attitude towards a young niece (unmarried) who has had a baby and is consequently living on Social Security in a nice flat – all paid for of course by taxpayers! I have enough sins of my own in past years to be aware of without such criticism of my niece. I have yet to see her to arrange a meeting and correct my hypocritical attitude – and wipe my slate clean.

problem will be granted a visa upon arrival at Dar es Salaam international airport. However, she will need to have their particulars at least two weeks before the conference to make arrangements with the Immigration Director.

GROUP OF ELDERS

The three of us have been asked by the South African Consultation to create the first group of elders whose role and mandate is described in Appendix D of the Consultation Report. We have studied this carefully and recognising the importance of the task have accepted the challenge. We have begun to consult people, and hope to present the list of the first twelve or so members, as requested, by 1 July this year.

We would welcome any thoughts or suggestions by 15 May, including the names of any people you

believe would be suitable candidates. All communications will be confidential. Please direct communications to Philippe Lasserre at 22 Avenue Robert Schuman, 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt, France Tel: + 33 1 41 10 40 51 /Fax: +33 1 41 10 80 67 E-mail: phlasserre@compuserve.com

Joan Holland, Philippe Lasserre, Chris Mayor

'SUSTAINABILITY AND CITIES'

This is the title of a new book by two Australians, Professor of City Policy Peter Newman and Dr Jeffrey Kenworthy. Published by Island Press, USA, it deals with aspects of improving city life, particularly in reducing automobile dependence. It includes a chapter on 'Ethics, spirituality and community', which draws on the experience of 'Hope in the Cities' as an example which 'urban ecologists and environmental activists can build on as they attempt to make their city more sustainable'.

'TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES'

Is a book by Ronald Mann and was published soon after his death last year. Richly illustrated, it is an account of his personal search for faith. It is available from Orchard Publications, 53 Richmond Rd, London SW20 0QD for £10, or £11.50 for orders beyond Europe.

Mary Mann

CAUX WORKSHOPS TO CONTINUE

A planning meeting was held in Utrecht in February to plan the workshops of the Caux 'Hope in the Cities' session (July 30 - August 5) which will be on 'A multi-faith society in a secular Europe – its opportunities and challenges'. It was hosted by Aad Burger, Imam Zeid Kailani and other Dutch friends, and attended by people from the Netherlands, Denmark, France, Germany, Norway and UK.

Rev Martin Eckart Fuchs pointed out that 'we need to see Islam as an enrichment and not a danger'. Omnia Marzouk stated, 'Our diversity is our greatest asset. Rejoice about it and do not feel threatened by it.' We were conscious of our need to listen carefully to one another's genuine fears. Ridha Driss, who edits an Arabic publication in Paris, expressed his concern for the young people torn between cultures. His wife was quoted as saying, 'We find it difficult to live in Europe because we are not treated as equals. The young people do not have the tools to deal with this.'

We decided that the workshops will break up into smaller groups to enable a truly honest conversation among all those taking part. These groups will focus on issues such as youth, family, education, 'multi-faith in a secular society' and 'what are our fears and how to deal with their causes'.

While in Utrecht the Dutch Police in liaison with Muslim community groups arranged an impressive

programme of briefing and visits which reflected the high degree of trust they have built. They expect to be represented in Caux again this year.

A background paper on the session is available from Gerald Henderson or Imam Sajid. They can give further information in English. Frédéric Chavanne and Jean-Jacques Odier can do the same in French, and Martin Eckart Fuchs in German.

Aad Burger, Imam Sajid, Gerald Henderson

DEVELOPMENTS IN CAUX LFF SESSION

Many will have seen the invitation for the Life-Faith-Fellowship session in Caux, 26-29 July, entitled 'How to accompany each other on our spiritual journey'. Some of us who organised last year's 'Special Week' at Caux felt that there was a need in our world fellowship for a specifically spiritual time during the summer conferences. With others, I have taken on to organise these days out of a sense of need to create an atmosphere where we can refine and strengthen the simplicity of our own relationship with God, and where we can together find inner peace for each of our various responsibilities. In developing deeper friendships – which will help our faith grow – we might learn afresh how to pass on this quality of care to others. We decided to invite one speaker for each of the three Abrahamic traditions. Rabbi Dr Julian Jacobs from Israel and Soeur Françoise from a Swiss convent have already agreed to speak on the overall theme. There will be enough space in the programme for reflection, personal talks and sharing in small groups. Please be in touch with me (73 Victoria Road, Oxford, OX2 7QG, UK; e-mail: chkarrer@compuserve.com) for the printed invitation and with any questions. Everyone is welcome and we hope for more younger participants than last year!

Christine Karrer

CAUX SESSION UPDATE:

The Caux conference session on 'Aims & Values for the 21st century' intends to look at three groups of topics:

1. Aims and values in public life
2. Aims and values for the economy
3. Tools for private and professional decision-making

Please consult the Caux website for the full programme supplement, or ask your document distributor for it on paper.

*Christoph Spreng on behalf of the
Aims & Values Crew*

CAUX CONFERENCE APPLICATIONS

May we introduce to you Mrs Lilliane Schertenleib who is looking after conference applications from this month on. She came to work for Mr Eric Jaeger, our new manager at Mountain House, last

year, and now has increased responsibilities. She is also answering the MRA and Caux expo telephone.

Lotty has had great fun these last few days working her in and she is a rapid learner. However, there is a lot to learn.

Which is why we ask your help in making her task easier, especially by registering early enough, using the conference application form from the printed programme or the online version on the web (www.caux.ch) and by supplying as much information as possible.

Any compliments go to her. Please send queries, suggestions or complaints to us as soon as you think of them. Many thanks indeed.

It will be a joy to see you this summer.

Lotty Wolvekamp and Marianne Spreng

UK CO-WORKER OPPORTUNITIES

Those of us responsible for the UK Co-workers' Programme have started planning for 'next' year, which begins on 1 September, 1999. This year (our fourth) we have had seven co-workers from five countries. The Programme provides an opportunity for young people (minimum age 20) to work with MRA in and from Britain. It offers experience and perspective intended to help the individual discern more clearly his or her life directions and goals. Co-workers participate in outreach activities such as Foundations For Freedom, the Schools' Programme, Global Express magazine, Agenda For Reconciliation and For A Change magazine. Their

programme includes a monthly meeting for further training, and studies of specific subjects. Their year usually ends assisting with the conferences at Caux.

May I encourage you to think about who might be interested in a year doing this. Please be in touch (chkarrer@compuserve.com) with your ideas. I am happy to provide brochures and application forms.

Christine Karrer

CORRECTION TO REPORT APPENDIX

There was an error in the text of the 'MRA worldwide' document included with the report of the international consultation in South Africa last month. Appendix B, 'Organisation of global consultations', should read: 'Each global consultation will nominate a preparation committee to undertake the practical arrangements for the following consultation. They will liaise with the International Council about the agenda, and make final decisions to ensure a balanced representation.'

FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES

United Kingdom: Edward Peters' office phone number has changed to +44 1865 316922

Austria: Correction to MRA World Address List: the phone number of the Hartl family is: +43 1 774 5757

Australia: Ian and Karin Parsons have moved to 44 Ruthven Street, Macleod, VIC 3085
Tel: +61 3 9459 9583

Calendar of Events

APR '99	<u>Simperofol Crimea</u>	'Foundations For Freedom' Visiting Course - Crimean American University	Apr	10 - 21
APR '99	<u>To be announced</u>	Spring planning meeting for Caux 1999	Apr	30 - May 3
MAY '99	<u>Dar es Salaam Tanzania</u>	All Africa consultation/conference	May	12 - 17
MAY '99	<u>Odawara Japan</u>	22nd annual conference: 'Working as a World Family for a better 21 st Century'	May	22 - 23
JUN '99	<u>Novosibirsk Russia</u>	'Foundations for Freedom' Visiting Course	Jun	T B A
JUL '99	<u>Caux Switzerland</u>	Summer conference: 'Cleaning the slate, the promise of a new start'	Jul	10 - Aug 22
DEC '99	<u>Collaroy Sydney Australia</u>	A conference to mark the new century	Dec	3 - 7

The deadline for the next Bulletin is Saturday, May 15th, 1999

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